



INSIDE :-

RAHUL GANDHI SPEAKS HIS MIND ON HIS VISIT TO THE US SEE PAGES 16-18

The INDIAN PANORAMA EVER TRUTHFUL



will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark the 4th of July. Articles and advertisements for the special edition may please be emailed to Salujandra@gmail.com latest by June 28, 2023. For any questions, email at Salujandra@gmail.com or call 646-247-9458.

US CONGRESS AVERTS HISTORIC DEFAULT, APPROVES DEBT-LIMIT SUSPENSION



The Senate voted 63-36 to approve the bill that had been passed on Wednesday, May 31 by the House of Representatives

JUNE 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. Senate on Thursday, June 1 passed bipartisan legislation backed by President Joe Biden that lifts the government's \$31.4 trillion debt ceiling, averting what would have been a first-ever default, reports Reuter.

The Senate voted 63-36 to approve the bill that had been passed on Wednesday, May 31 by the House of Representatives, as lawmakers raced against the clock following months of partisan bickering between Democrats and Republicans.

The Treasury Department had warned it would be unable to pay all its bills on June 5 if Congress failed to act by then.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

238 people killed and more than 900 injured in a train crash in India

PM MODI TO VISIT TRAIN ACCIDENT SITE, HOSPITAL IN ODISHA



The site of the train crash

Photo / PTI

JUNE 3, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday, June 3 visit the site of the train accident in Odisha and also the Cuttack hospital where the injured are being treated.

At least 238 people were killed and around 900 were injured in a horrific three-train collision in Odisha's Balasore, officials said Saturday, June 3, the country's deadliest rail accident in more than 20 years. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a high-level committee will be set up to investigate the train crash.

The crash involved the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, and a goods train.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

Indian democracy is a 'global public good'; its 'collapse' will have an impact on world, says Rahul Gandhi



"It's our job, it's our business, and it's our work to fight the battle for democracy in India", said Rahul Gandhi at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. on June 1

JUNE 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Asserting that Indian democracy is a "global public good", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that its "collapse" will have an impact on the world and is not in America's national interest.

At the same time, Gandhi, who is currently on a six-day tour of the United States, said in multiple settings that the issue of democracy is an internal matter of the country, and he is committed to fighting against it.

"It's our job, it's our business, and it's our work to fight the battle for democracy in India. "And it's something that we understand, we accept, and we do," he told reporters at a news conference here at the National Press Club on Thursday, June 1.

"But the thing to remember is that Indian democracy is a global public good. contd on page 44

PM Modi invited to address joint session of U.S. Congress on June 22

JUNE 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited to address a joint session of the U.S. Congress on June 22, during his state visit to the U.S.

The leaders of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate from both parties invited Mr. Modi to share his vision of India's future and the global challenges faced by both countries.

Mr. Modi first addressed the legislative bodies in June 2016 on an earlier visit to Washington.

The invitation to Mr. Modi was co-signed by House Speaker (Republican) Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority (Democrat) Leader Chuck Schumer, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries.

"Your historic address to a Joint Meeting of Congress seven years ago left a lasting impression and greatly deepened the friendship between the United States and India," the letter said. contd on page 44



Prime Minister Narendra Modi File Photo Credit / PTI

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COMMENT

The agitating wrestlers deserve better standards of justice



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

Neither Indira was India and India was Indira, nor will Modi be India and India be Modi. No individual is more than the nation. No party is more than the nation. No ideology is more than the nation.

It is pathetic to find that those who until yesterday were critical of the Congress slogan: Indira is India and India is Indira are vigorously marketing the idea of Modi being India and India being Modi. When Anurag Thakur the other day accused Rahul Gandhi of giving India a bad name because he was criticizing Prime Minister Modi, he only reinforced the synonymy of Modi and India.

It may not be forgotten that it is the job

of a politician from the opposition to evaluate the government policies. In a democracy, one allows people the right to question government policies and actions. Rahul Gandhi, though no more a member of parliament, nevertheless is an Indian individual who has all the right to express his views on men and matters and demand course correction. It is interesting to see the reaction of the present rulers of India to any criticism of their policies and actions. For them all such people are anti-national. It is unfair on the part of the government to stifle the voice of the people who are their master, constitutionally. It is a violation of the oath of office of ministers, including

the Prime Minister, to discriminate and deny justice. It is a shame that this government has failed to do justice to the women wrestlers who brought glory to the nation. They made India and Indians proud with their achievements. The rulers want to shield a criminal with a rather "brilliant" record of crimes just because he is "their man". And those in government who are given to reacting to the most harmless comment are dumb. Prime Minister Modi has once again proved that he is not to be trusted to live up to the oath of his office of not discriminating and doing justice to all. The agitating wrestlers surely deserve better standards of justice.

GUEST COMMENT

What is wrong with Punjab boys?



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

In 1970 when the newly set up Punjab School Education Board (PSEB) conducted its first ever Matriculation examination, Rajinder Singh Bhatia of Government Model High School, Cemetery Road, Ludhiana, stood first in the State. He scored 753 marks out of a maximum of 900.

Twenty-seven students, including nearly 50 percent boys of the same school, figured in the State Merit list. Lot of water has flown down the Sutlej since then. Number of boys, especially those from Government schools, on the merit list has since then been on the downslide.

How many times since 1970, a boy has topped the Matriculation examination in Punjab. The number may be close to reaching a double figure. In 53 years, the State has not produced even 10 boys as toppers in one of the prime examinations conducted by the State Board. Several hundred thousand students appear in the exam.

Recently, when the Central Civil Services examination results were announced, Punjab, once a front runner, drew a poor consolation. Representation of the State not only in Civil Services but other areas, including defense forces,

Railways, and education is shrinking fast. It is why a section of eminent Punjabis, including politicians, bureaucrats, technocrats, writers and businessmen, have shown their serious concern at diminishing Punjab's face from the national horizon. Who is responsible for this downslide?

Perhaps, we, the people.

Senior secondary education has come to such a pass that the State that once used to pride itself with institutions like SC Dhawan Government College (Ludhiana), Government Mahendra College (Patiala) and Government College (Hoshiarpur). They long ago lost their status as exclusive men or boys' colleges. These institutions, that used to produce top bureaucrats, technocrats, doctors, academicians, writers and captains of trade and industry, would have closed down but for the change of their nomenclature. From exclusive men, they have conveniently become co-educational institutions.

Interestingly, there may be no example of any women college in the State becoming co-educational for want of students.

Where are Punjab boys going? What

are they doing? These are some of the questions that are uppermost on the minds of parents of Punjab boys. Parents have been taking bank loans, selling their agricultural land and investing their lifetime savings only to make sure their son goes abroad and earns while he learns. It is a sad story that those entrusted with the governance and shaping the future of the youth of the State have "more important things to work on." What are those important things that keep them overly occupied?

Controlling and combating the end results of this exodus of youth, shrinking job opportunities and deteriorating standard of education is what they collectively pretend to be doing. Drugs, domestic violence and pollution are the byproducts that have assumed dangerous proportions.

Yes, it is time to feel proud of the achievements of our girls as Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said in his tweet. But at the same time boys, too, need attention and careful handling. Time is up for serious introspection. Otherwise, it will be too late.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist)

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INDIAN AMERICAN MULTI SPORTS COACH JATIN PATEL GETS CRICKET HALL OF FAME LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Jatin Patel is set to become the eighth individual since 1981 to receive Cricket Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award

MAY 30, 2023

WASHINGTON D.C. (TIP): Indian American multi sports coach Jatin Patel is set to become the eighth individual since 1981 to receive Cricket Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award, according to a media report.

Patel will join a list that includes West Indies legendary all-rounder Sir Garfield "Gary" Sobers and Michael Holding, Lloyd Dixon, Roy Sweeney, Denzel Powell, Tony Becca, and Mahammad Ahmad Qureshi, popularly known as Maq Qureshi, who have received the Hall of Fame's Lifetime Achievement Awards.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PUNJAB-ORIGIN GANGSTER AMARPREET SAMRA SHOT IN CANADA



Punjab-origin gangster Amarpreet Samra was shot dead at south Vancouver in Canada when he was coming out of a wedding reception on Sunday, May 28 morning

MAY 29, 2023

VANCOUVER, CANADA (TIP): In a suspected case of gang war, Punjab-origin gangster Amarpreet Samra was shot dead at south Vancouver in Canada when he was coming out of a wedding reception on Sunday, May 28 morning. The 28-year-old Samra was also called 'Chucky'.

'Chucky' Samra was shot dead outside Fraserview Banquet Hall near Fraser St & Southeast Marine Dr. It was a targeted shooting related to the ongoing gang conflict. Samra was on the dance floor at Fraserview Banquet Hall with other wedding guests less than 30 minutes before he was shot on Fraser Street just before 1:30 am.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Four Indo-Canadian Punjabis win Alberta provincial poll



Rajan Sawhney, Jasvir Deol, Parmeet Singh Boparai, and Gurinder Brar are among the winners of Alberta provincial poll

MAY 30, 2023

ALBERTA, CANADA (TIP): Four Punjabis have been elected to the provincial legislature of Alberta on Monday. A total of 15 Punjabis contested in Calgary and Edmonton.

Sitting cabinet minister from United Conservative Party (UCP) Rajan Sawhney won from Calgary Northwest. Sawhney defeated Michael Lisboa-Smith of the New Democratic Party (NDP).

Incumbent NDP MLA Jasvir Deol again won from Edmonton Meadows. He defeated Amritpal Singh Matharu of the UCP.

Parmeet Singh Boparai of the NDP defeated sitting MLA Devinder Toor of the UCP from Calgary Falconridge. In Calgary Northeast, NDP's Gurinder Brar defeated Inder Grewal of the UCP.

Amanpreet Singh Gill lost from Calgary-Bhullar-Mccall, Raman Athwal from Edmonton Mill Woods, R Singh

Bath from Edmonton Ellerslie, Gurinder Singh Gill from Calgary-Cross, Harry Singh from Drayton Valley-Devon, Aman Sandhu from Calgary-Cross, Jeewan Mangat from Innisfail-Sylvan Lake and Braham Luddu from Lethbridge-West.

As per the 2021 Census, more than half of Canada's Sikhs can be found in one of four cities-Brampton (1,63,260), Surrey (1,54,415), Calgary (49,465) and Edmonton (41,385).

Chaman Lal becomes first British-Indian Lord Mayor of Birmingham

MAY 29, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Birmingham has got its first British-Indian Lord Mayor in Councilor Chaman Lal after the local councilors of the West Midlands city of England chose him to represent it as its first citizen.

Lal, who is from the Ravidassia community of British Sikhs, was born in the village of Pakhowal in Hoshiarpur before he moved to the UK, where he has served as a local councilor for many years.

The Labor Party politician was first elected in 1994 and in the most recent local elections was re-elected Councilor for the Soho and Jewelry Quarter Ward.

"It is a very proud moment for me and our family, as a son of an army officer born in India, but made in Birmingham," Lal said in his acceptance speech at a mayoral ceremony last week.

"I am an adopted Brummie, and I never thought that one day I would become the Lord Mayor of my adopted city. I would like to thank my fellow councilors for electing me as their first citizen and of our great city which happens to be the highest civic role entrusted to a serving councilor," he said.

According to the Birmingham City Council, Chaman Lal's father, Sardar Harnam Singh Banga, was a British Indian army officer who served in the Italian campaign during World War II. Lal's father came to England in 1954 and



Birmingham Councilor Chaman Lal has become the first British-Indian Lord Mayor

settled in Birmingham, taking employment in various industries including several years with British Steel. Chaman Lal came to England with his mother, Sardarni Jai Kaur, to join his father in 1964 and has lived in Birmingham ever since. He attended Wattville Secondary Modern School and continued with his studies in evening classes at Sandwell and Matthew Boulton Colleges.

"He believes in lifelong learning and continued his academic studies in economics and law on part-time degree courses at the local Polytechnic. He qualified as an engineer in electronics and became an apprentice with an electronics company. He progressed to becoming their youngest chief engineer in the service department and was later

promoted to the post of manager of the service department," Birmingham City Council said.

Lal went on to set up his own electronics business as well as other businesses. He married Vidya Wati in 1971 and the couple have three daughters and two sons.

His interest in politics dates back to 1989 when he joined the Labor Party and took part in many social justice campaigns to challenge inequality and discrimination.

He has served on most of the local council's committees in the past 29 years, including as a cabinet advisor for major transport projects and recently as the Chair of the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

"He has served many years on the West Midlands Transport Authority and has a keen interest in improving public transport. As Chair of the Transport Scrutiny Committee, he led several Task and Finish Groups including making the recommendations for the best e-ticketing solution for the WMPTA which led to the introduction of the contactless travel (Swift Card) in the West Midlands area," the local council noted.

His other policy reviews resulted in more late night and early morning bus services to meet the needs of the night economy as well as early morning workers, it said.

Indian American Dev Shah wins 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee by correctly spelling 'psammophile'

JUNE 2, 2023

OXON HILL, MD. (TIP): Dev Shah, an eighth-grader from Largo, Florida, spelled "psammophile" correctly to win the 95th national Bee and the \$50,000 prize on Thursday, June 1. Charlotte Walsh, the hometown kid from just across the Potomac River in Arlington, Virginia, could not nail "daviely" in the preceding round. Walsh's prize was \$25,000 for the second-place finish, while the third-place finishers ? Shradha Rachamreddy and Surya Kapu ? each won \$12,500.

With time running out on Scripps' intended broadcast window, the judges could have called for a "spell-off," a 90-second window for competitors to spell as many words as they can. Instead, they allowed Shan and Walsh to duke it out in one final orthographic volley.

"It's surreal," Shah said onstage after confetti fell on his head and he lifted the trophy high above. "I don't know if it's settled in. My legs are still shaking."

Minutes later, still onstage, Shah felt the same way.

"I made a lot of sacrifices these last three months and I'm glad I made them," Shah said. "I'm glad to now get back what I sacrificed."

Shah cut back on his extracurricular activities to dedicate more time to the dictionary. Some days he would not even go to school since exams were over. He'd



Dev Shah, 14, from Largo, Fla., reacts as he wins the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Photo / USA Today

be better off studying, Shah figured.

"I knew I had to study," Shah said. "It paid off."

What was the winning word at 2023 Spelling Bee?

Shah's spelling bee-clinching word was "psammophile."

According to Merriam-Webster, a psammophile is "an organism that prefers or thrives in sandy soils or areas."

Other words that Shah correctly spelled during the competition include: bathypitometer, tolsester, rommack,

aegagrus, schistorrhachis, poliorcetics, Perioeci, exhortation, cocomat and ardoise.

The moment he heard the word, Shah knew he had the Bee in his pocket.

Rachamreddy and Kapu could not make it through the fifth round of the evening and finished tied for third. It was a heartbreaking outcome for Kapu, who finished tied for fifth last year. He was the lone repeat finalist from the previous year and received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Due to time constraints of a two-hour broadcast window and the eight-way tie for the title in 2019, Scripps two years ago invented the spell-off, which debuted in last year's championship, won by Harini Logan.

That didn't stop Bee organizers from bringing out the buzzers in anticipation. With a new prop in her way, Walsh correctly spelled "collembolous" to secure her spot among the final two. A half hour after Shah won, she returned to the stage to offer a congratulatory hug.

"I don't feel like I was competing against anyone," Shah said. "In between rounds, and even during rounds, we would congratulate each other. That's what separates the Spelling Bee from other competitions. Everyone's in there together."

(Source: USA Today)

INDIAN AMERICAN ENTREPRENEUR ANU SEHGAL HONORED FOR BOOSTING CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Anu Sehgal was honored by New York City Mayor Eric Adams for her pioneering efforts to foster cross-cultural exchange and contribution to the city's vibrant South Asian community.

MAY 25, 2023

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): A leading India-born entrepreneur and author has been honored by New York City Mayor Eric Adams for her pioneering efforts to foster cross-cultural exchange and contribution to the city's vibrant South Asian community.

Anu Sehgal, founder and president of The Culture Tree, was honored with a citation by Adams at the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Reception 2023 here on Tuesday.

Sehgal was one of six honorees and the only South Asian awarded during the special commemoration attended by prominent members of the diaspora and AAPI communities.

The citation applauded Sehgal for her "efforts to foster cross-cultural exchange while uniting our vibrant South Asian community. Together, we look forward to the many ways she and all AAPI New Yorkers will continue to make a positive difference as we take bold steps to 'Get Stuff Done' and forge a brighter, safer and prosperous future for our global city".

In the citation, Adams said he is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Sehgal, "a proud Indian American who has strengthened New York for nearly two decades".

Sehgal said she is honored to be recognized by Adams and his office for the work she has been doing for cultural enrichment and in representing New York's South Asian community.

Anu said about herself: "I grew up in India and moved to the US more than 20 years ago. After the move, I was starved for authentic Indian experiences and community and devoured anything that came my way: film festivals, exhibits, book readings etc. Once I became a mother, the lack of quality and authentic Indian programs and classes became even more evident.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American teen Saathvik Kannan wins \$50,000 Young Scientist award



Saathvik Kannan of David H Hickman High School in Columbia has won the prestigious Regeneron Young Scientist Awards of \$50,000 for his research relating to the mpox virus

JUNE 1, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

A 17-year-old Indian-origin student in Missouri has won the prestigious Regeneron Young Scientist Awards of \$50,000 for his research relating to the mpox virus.

Saathvik Kannan of David H Hickman High School in Columbia was awarded for using biocomputational methods to understand the causes of heightened infectivity in the disease mpox after it re-

emerged in 2022. Saathvik's approach, named Bioplex, uses a combination of machine learning and three-dimensional comparative protein modelling to decode structures like those that enable the mpox virus to replicate.

This allowed him to identify the mutations in the virus that likely made it more infectious as well as other mutations that could make it resistant to antibiotics.

He credited his mentor, Kamlendra Singh, an assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology at the University of Missouri. "I was overjoyed and incredibly excited!" Saathvik wrote in an email to the Columbia Daily Tribute about the prize. "I felt that it reflected our work with Dr Singh's mentorship and guidance over the last few years culminating in my project from this year."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian Americans nominated Superior Court judges in California



Sweena Pannu and Marsha Bipin Amin have been nominated as Superior Court Judges in California

in the Stanislaus County Superior Court, Marsha Bipin Amin will serve as a Judge in the San Diego County Superior Court. Their nominations were announced by the Governor's office in Sacramento on May 19 with a slate of three Court of Appeal Justices and 27 Superior Court Judges.

STANISLAUS COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT : Pannu of Stanislaus County has served as a Deputy County Counsel in the Stanislaus County Counsel's Office since 2020. She served as a Deputy Public Defender at the Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office from 2006 to 2020. Pannu, a Democrat, was an Attorney at M.L.SARIN from 1996 to 2004. Pannu earned a Master of Laws degree from the University of Aberdeen School of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Thomas D. Zeff.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT : Marsha Bipin Amin of San Diego County, also a Democrat, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the San Diego County Superior Court.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PARMINDER AUJLA

MAY 30, 2023

SACRAMENTO

(TIP): California

Governor Gavin

Newsom has

nominated two Indian

Americans as

Superior Court judges.

While Sweena Pannu

will serve as a Judge



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Middlesex County returns historic cultural material to Peru, strengthening cultural preservation efforts

JUNE 2, 2023

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP): Middlesex County Arts Institute has taken a significant step toward cultural preservation by repatriating historic cultural material from its museum collection to Peru. As an integral part of the American Alliance of Museum accreditation process, the Division of History and Historic Preservation meticulously identified culturally significant objects to be voluntarily returned to their country of origin.

Recognizing the ethical, moral, and legal concerns surrounding the artifacts, the County's curators collaborated with the Consulate General of Peru to facilitate their repatriation. The Middlesex County Board of Commissioners demonstrated unanimous support for this endeavor, authorizing the deaccession through a resolution presented on Thursday, June 1. The official repatriation ceremony followed shortly thereafter.

"Middlesex County takes immense pride in returning these historically and culturally significant artifacts to their rightful place in Peru," said Director of the Board of County Commissioners, Ronald G. Rios. "On behalf of the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners, I would like to extend



our gratitude to the County's Division of History and Historic Preservation for their efforts in identifying the ethical and problematic issues with having these artifacts in our collection and working diligently to repatriate them. We are committed to returning these cultural items to their rightful owners, while safeguarding the world's cultural history and knowledge of past civilizations for future generations."

"Middlesex County stands firmly committed to cultural stewardship, acknowledging the importance of

returning these artifacts to their rightful owners," said Middlesex County Commissioner Chanelle Scott McCullum. "This collaborative effort sets an exemplary precedent for ethical cultural preservation initiatives worldwide."

Working in collaboration with Consul General Patricia Raez Portocarrero of the Consulate General of Peru in Paterson, museum staff meticulously identified the materials in question. Photographs of several clay artifacts were sent to the Ministry of Culture in

Lima, Peru, where they were confirmed to belong to the pre-Hispanic Culture "Chimu" with "Lambayeque and Casma" styles, originating from the North Coast of Peru during the Middle Horizon (600 AD - 1000 AD) and Late Intermediate (1000 AD - 1476 AD) periods. These clay vessels feature incised geometric patterns, with some adorned with animal motifs.

"This repatriation effort marks an important milestone in preserving Peru's cultural heritage," said Middlesex County Historian Mark Nonestied. "Through collaboration and mutual respect, we ensure the rightful owners reclaim their rich history, while allowing future generations to appreciate and learn from these remarkable artifacts."

"Thank you very much to the Arts Institute of Middlesex County and the County and the County Commissioners for acknowledging and returning these artifacts to the People of Peru, as this is an integral part of who are as Peruvians and where we come from, as part of our identity and National History," said the Consul of Peru for New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Patricia Raez Portocarrero.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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BY RAJESH
RAMACHANDRAN

"YET, THE GOVERNMENT OF A PARTY THAT SWEARS BY HINDU FAMILY VALUES AND TRADITIONS REFUSES TO ASK THIS ALLEGED MOLESTER TO EVEN STEP DOWN. WHY? CUSTODIAL INTERROGATION IS A SIGN OF AN ACCUSED LOSING HIS IMMUNITY OR POLITICAL CLOUT. SINCE HE HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY THE DELHI POLICE, IT CAN BE SAFELY ASSUMED THAT HE HAS NOT FALLEN FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S GRACE. SO, THOSE VICTIMS WAITING TO SEE WHAT TURN THE CASE TAKES WOULD OBVIOUSLY HESITATE TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR COMPLAINTS. ALL THIS LEADS TO THE MOST OBVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT BRIJ BHUSHAN?"

When Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr threw his Olympic boxing light heavyweight gold medal into the Ohio river, it was an act of rebellion, followed by the rejection of his Christian identity, which did not guarantee him basic human dignity and equality. He embraced Islam and as Muhammad Ali, remained one of the greatest sporting icons; his 1960 Rome medal was restored and replaced in 1996 as a mark of universal respect. He achieved what he set out to do. When the protesting Indian wrestlers decided to throw their medals into the Ganga, they were upholding their Hindu identity against injustice. There is nothing more holy, sublime or revered than the Ganga for the average Indian. After a parent's death, a handful of ashes is immersed into the river as a ritual of purification for the departed soul in its eternal journey. And of all places, Haridwar holds the utmost significance for this ritual.

The wrestlers' protest is not a Jat issue, but a fight against naked patriarchy which will have resonance all over the country.

Agitating women wrestlers should not have dithered on the Haridwar ghats at the last minute. They should have hired a boat, gone into the river and reverentially 'immersed' their medals in an act of Gandhian satyagraha, symbolically purifying their sport of the grave sins of its administrators. According to the Hindu tradition, Mother Ganga purifies everything and hence the offering of the medals would have helped the wrestlers purify society of the evil deeds of a demon, who was once jailed for harboring Dawood Ibrahim's sharpshooter. Such an act would have shaken the nation's conscience, leaving a lasting impact on the politics of religious symbolism - victims of sexual harassment making a ritualistic offering of their most precious possessions to Ganga Ma.

Unfortunately, khap leaders intervened, thereby turning into a caste issue a non-denominational gender struggle for women's rights against a sexual predator in a position of power. The khaps are caste-based organizations of the Jat community of Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh, often accused of extreme patriarchy and even supporting honor killings. They are not champions of women's empowerment or modernity. In fact, all that these upholders of the old order could achieve was to proclaim to the world the caste of the women wrestlers and to reduce them to their Haryanvi Jat identity. These athletes - role models for the entire nation - have now been made part of a reductive, exclusionary cattiest performance by khap leaders, who after their intervention in Haridwar met at Muzaffarnagar and Kurukshetra, reinforcing their regional and caste identities.

The khap's intervention has helped the government wriggle out of an extremely difficult situation by



Wrestlers should have 'immersed' their medals in the Ganga in an act of Gandhian satyagraha

Photo / ANI

painting the protest as that of a single community which is angry with the ruling party, whereas the whole country is appalled by the Central government's response to the allegations made by sports celebrities, including a minor. The practice in all such cases, particularly involving a minor, is to register a First Information Report and arrest the person immediately. However, all the norms have been violated to shield Wrestling Federation of India president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Why? Obviously, this ruling party MP representing UP's Kaiserganj constituency is more equal than other Indian citizens and the norms of custodial interrogation in cases registered under the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act do not apply to him.

In fact, investigators seem to be keen to recheck the minor complainant's age. Such leeway is not normally offered to an accused whose defense lawyer can always take up discrepancies, if any, in the complainant's age certificates during the trial. Then, Brij Bhushan is not a regular politician accused of a sexual offence, but the head of the country's wrestling fraternity, expected to nurture, groom and inspire generations of athletes. A 66-year-old person holding such a position of guardianship of India's wrestling fraternity has been accused of demanding sexual favors, stalking young women and touching them inappropriately. A criminal breach of trust has happened. This ought to be treated like an accusation of incest in a society that tries to bring in familial metaphors in all kinds of administrative situations. A man accused of incestuous advances loses his moral right to head the family.

Yet, the government of a party that swears by Hindu family values and traditions refuses to ask this alleged

molester to even step down. Why? Custodial interrogation is a sign of an accused losing his immunity or political clout. Since he has not been taken into custody by the Delhi police, it can be safely assumed that he has not fallen from the government's grace. So, those victims waiting to see what turn the case takes would obviously hesitate to come forward with their complaints. All this leads to the most obvious question: what is so special about Brij Bhushan? Politicos who perennially search for logic in illogical situations claim that the BJP central leadership is nurturing him as a counterpoise to UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath within the party in a possible power struggle as both belong to the same caste. But such a far-fetched reasoning only proves the utter lack of reason for anyone to protect Brij Bhushan's interests.

The Central government has handed over an emotive gender issue on a platter to the Opposition in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. The government is badly mistaken if it thinks this is a mere Jat issue. It is not a Jat issue, but a fight against naked patriarchy which will have resonance all over the country. The wrestlers may well have political ambitions, may be supported by the Opposition, may even be motivated by the lure of high offices and post-retirement sinecures. But all that does not take anything away from their accusations that have been amplified by international wrestling bodies. It is India's pride that is getting hurt; Indian womanhood that is getting demeaned. This could well become something akin to the then UPA government's Commonwealth Games fiasco, which marked the beginning of its unravelling.

(The author is editor-in-chief of Tribune Group of Newspapers)

A critical juncture in Manipur

AS SUSPICION AND DISTRUST IN MANIPUR RUN DEEP, RETURNING TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE IS NOW WIDELY SEEN AS AMOUNTING TO A HOBSON'S CHOICE



BY KHAM KHAN
SUAN HAUSING

In a press statement issued on May 12, 10 Kuki-Zo legislators of the Manipur Assembly, seven of whom belong to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), called for a "separate administration". They said that the Government of Manipur tacitly supported the "unabated violence" by the majority Meiteis "against the Chin-Kuki-Mizo-Zomi hill tribals," which has "already partitioned the State and effected a total separation from the State of Manipur." Not surprisingly, in response, a new valley-based Meitei committee staged a rally in Thoubal on May 20 urging for protection of the State's "territorial integrity". Of late, media and public debates have centered around the "sacrosanctity" and "inviolability" of borders.

The demands for a separate administration and for the protection of the territorial integrity of Manipur override the differences within and across the segmented Kuki-Zo and Meitei societies. The road to a separate administration will naturally be a bumpy one. And despite the grandstanding of the Biren Singh-led BJP government and the position taken by Meitei frontal organizations on the "inviolability" of borders, effecting a change of Manipur's border lies outside the exclusive preserve of the State. For, it is Article 3 of the Constitution that gives unilateral power to the Centre on a State's border change.

A POPULAR DEMAND

The central question then is: how will this demand for a separate administration constitute a critical juncture in effecting or resisting border change? The answer is that this demand enjoys unprecedented popular support among the Kuki-Zo groups. Earlier demands by tribal communities for a separate administration in the form of a Union Territory or a Territorial Council or the Sixth Schedule were what the report of the National Commission to review the working of the Constitution, constituted by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance government in 2000, called "non-serious" as they did not have popular support. Also given dissension within and across different segments of the Kuki-Zo groups in the past, a sustained mobilization for a separate administration remained elusive. Now, faced with a common antagonistic "other," whose position on this demand is not likely to change in the short term, popular support for this edition of the demand for a separate administration is likely to be sustained and gain more political traction.

Thus, this moment may well constitute a critical juncture in the demand by Kuki-Zo groups for a



Security personnel stand guard at Kangchuk, Manipur, in view of the security situation in the State.

Photo Credit/ ANI

separate administration. The extensive erasure of lives and land titles, destruction of property, and the unprecedented displacement of the population across the hills and the valley suggest that the Rubicon of living under one political roof has already been crossed. As suspicion and distrust in Manipur run deep, returning to the status quo ante is now widely seen as amounting to a Hobson's choice. Given that the violence and ethnic cleansing unleashed against both sides of the divide since May 3 has resulted in complete "demographic" and "geographical separation," to borrow from what W.L. Hangshing, the general secretary of the Kuki People's Alliance, told *The Wire*, the demand for a separate administration has become a fait accompli.

SHIFTING OF CONSTITUTIONAL GEARS

This may require a radical shifting of constitutional gears. Three possible institutional architectures are plausible. The first is to grant a separate administration in the hill areas of Manipur for not only the Kuki-Zos, but also the Nagas. The roadblocks to this are the reluctance of some Naga groups to compromise on their expansive territorial project under the rubric of a sovereign 'Nagalim' and the staunch opposition by the State and Meitei groups.

The second is to grant a separate administration for the Kuki-Zo in districts where they are dominant, and resolve the Naga's demand in due course. Invoking administrative convenience and economic viability, the two cardinal principles of State reorganization in India, as counterpoints against this demand may not work in this case. This is because the institutional and administrative blueprints for this have already been laid down by the extant sub-State constitutional arrangements

under the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Councils Act, 1971, where the territorial boundaries of District Councils broadly overlap with ethnic boundaries. In 2016, seven new districts were created out of the existing nine districts in Manipur, which further sharpened this overlap.

Given that Pherzawl and Churachandpur, the two districts where the majority are Kuki-Zo, sit on a rich natural gas belt (the Assam-Arakan basin), effective exploration and harnessing of these resources may offset any counter argument about the economic non-viability of this demand for a separate administration. The Kuki-Zo-dominated districts have two important strategic gateways to Southeast Asia (Behiang and Moreh). This makes the demand for a separate administration a compelling economic proposition. The challenges to this blueprint are districts such as Chandel, Kamjong and Tengnoupal, which are marked by a mixture of populations and have seen long-standing territorial disputes between the Kukis and the Nagas. However, this may not be insurmountable if a combination of territorial and non-territorial autonomy is crafted in the future.

The third possibility is to maintain the status quo ante where the territorial integrity of Manipur is secured. Given the increasingly hardened integrationist position taken by the State and frontal Meitei groups, this may entail dissolution of extant sub-State constitutional asymmetrical arrangements under Article 371C, the district councils and tribal land rights. This will, of course, require not only amendment of the Constitution, but also a revisit to the normative and political foundations of Manipur. The position of the Kuki-Zo groups, to no longer accept the powerless sub-State constitutional asymmetrical arrangements or any political solution

within the existing State of Manipur, suggests that this impasse is likely to continue.

This means that Manipur will remain a deeply divided society. If the experience of other such societies including Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, and Switzerland are to be used as any guide, the holding together of federal polity or polities requires genuine recognition and accommodation of territorially mobilized groups - not as a matter of strategic convenience of the majority but as a matter of enduring value. The reluctance to do this and the lack of democracy and federalism in East European states in the 1990s had led to state break-ups which Manipur may not like to emulate.

THE JURY IS OUT

The debates to protect the territorial integrity of Manipur are likely to lead to spawn a competing constellation of agendas, ideas and interests without any immediate resolution. Or these may align in complex ways to effect or resist change in the State's border. This is likely to resuscitate the point that defenders of the rights of States and democracy, such as K.T. Shah, raised during the Constituent Assembly debates against Article 3, which B.R. Ambedkar envisaged as a flexible and democratic constitutional provision. Shah argued that to "place power and authority in the Centre" to effect a change of State boundaries without requiring the "consent" of the said States would amount to "the serious prejudice not only of the Units, but even of the very idea of democracy." In their overweening ambition to protect the rights of States and democracy, Shah and others forgot what K. Santhanam, another influential member, cautioned, that mandating "consent" of the States would leverage "absolute autocracy of the majority in every province and State" when they vote down a minority's demand for merger with an adjacent State or for formation of a separate State of their own.

This debate continues to remain unresolved. The jury is out on whether the constellation of agendas, ideas and interests of multiple actors across India's multi-level federal polity and processes align to foster institutions which protect the "absolute autocracy of the majority" or promote and accommodate the rights of territorially mobilized minority groups within and across Indian States.

(The author is Professor and Head, Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad, and Senior Fellow of the Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. Views are personal)

Much ado about the inauguration



BY
JULIO RIBEIRO

OPPN PARTIES WHICH BOYCOTTED THE EVENT SHOULD JOIN HANDS TO OPPOSE CENTRE'S ORDINANCE ON DELHI

"MODI HAS HIS NOSE IN FRONT ON THESE CONSIDERATIONS AND ALSO BECAUSE OF HIS COMMUNICATION SKILLS. BUT IF HE NEEDLES HIS POLITICAL RIVALS TO THE POINT OF DESPERATION, LIKE WHAT HE IS DOING WITH THE AAP IN DELHI, DISPARATE FORCES WILL STACK UP AGAINST HIM FOR SHEER SURVIVAL. MISUSING POWERS TO DETER CRITICS, WHILE GOING EASY ON SUPPORTERS BY RELEASING JAILED CONVICTS PREMATURELY OR ALLOWING PROLONGED RELEASE ON PAROLE, WILL BE NOTED BY THOSE VOTERS WHO ARE WEDDED TO THE IDEALS OF JUSTICE AND EQUITY. RELUCTANCE TO ACT AGAINST A PARTY STRONGMAN ACCUSED BY RENOWNED WOMEN WRESTLERS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT CAN INFLUENCE FEMALE VOTERS."

The controversy over the inauguration of the new building to house our Parliament was totally unnecessary. What is more relevant is whether the spanking new premises will be useful or not. The trend, of late, is to argue over issues outside Parliament on the streets, where the language used can be more colorful and lies can be bandied about without an instant challenge.

If Opposition politicians want to emulate Modi, they will first have to displace him from his pedestal in 2024.

What exactly did the Opposition gain by boycotting the inauguration by our nation's most 'Prominent Citizen'? It is true that our Prime Minister utilizes different vehicles to remind citizens of his omnipresence. What is wrong with that? He is a politician, extremely adept at popularizing himself. It will be difficult to



The inauguration of a highway, a fast train or a Parliament building will not change the equation.

Photo / PTI

compete with him as he occupies a commanding position on the popularity index. If Opposition politicians want to emulate him, they will first have to displace him from his pedestal in 2024, and that will not be easy.

The main Opposition parties agreed on which dignitary was appropriate for doing the honors on May 28 - the nation's first tribal President. The selection of an Adivasi woman to occupy that exalted, albeit ceremonial, position was hailed as a coup of sorts when it was announced. But everyone in India, including the President herself, knew that whenever it would be politically expedient to showcase the Prime Minister instead of the President, the choice would be preordained.

The BJP has never made a secret of its wish for a unitary form of government. The Sangh Parivar, influenced strongly by the importance of discipline and obedience to the ruler or the presiding elder - as it was in the days of the Ramayana - is happy with Modi's sole presence on the political stage. Droupadi Murmu would have understood this by now. She has not disputed her benefactor's right to assert his popularity during inaugurations even where the President should have been showcased by right.

The BJP feels that the inauguration of the new Parliament building will contribute to its prospects in 2024. I do not think it will matter. The voter in 2024 will ponder more on his or her own well-being. Economic well-being will naturally be the top priority, followed by security of the homeland and security of life and property around his home.

Modi has his nose in front on these considerations and also because of his communication skills. But if he needles his political rivals to the point of desperation, like what he is doing with the AAP in Delhi, disparate forces will stack up against him for sheer survival.

Misusing powers to deter critics, while going easy on supporters by releasing jailed convicts prematurely or allowing prolonged release on parole, will be noted by those voters who are wedded to the ideals of justice and equity. Reluctance to act against a party strongman accused by renowned women wrestlers of sexual harassment can influence female voters.

The inauguration of a highway, a fast train or a new Parliament building will not change the equation, even though such events are organized at the expense of the exchequer and not from the party's coffers. Our peripatetic PM has been traipsing around the country throughout the year almost, inaugurating one construction or the other. The end result is that people have stopped looking at the remarkable progress in infrastructure development and, instead, started concentrating on the august persona of the Prime Minister himself. That does help the party.

Twenty-one Opposition parties boycotted the inauguration of the Parliament building. It made no difference. It cut no ice with the electorate, whose attention was turned to the Sengol, which is intended to signify the Speaker's authority in the Lok Sabha. It was constructed by a jewelry firm in Tamil Nadu, which had also made the Sengol that was ceremonially handed over to Nehru by the last British Viceroy, Lord Louis Mountbatten, on August 14, 1947.

The Opposition parties which came together to boycott the inauguration should unite to oppose the ordinance that the Central government has promulgated to nullify the Supreme Court's judgment on the powers of the Delhi government over its bureaucrats. The ordinance attempts to overturn the mandate given by Delhi's people to AAP. The ordinance vests authority to govern the National Capital Territory in bureaucrats despite

the clear wishes of the people to the contrary.

If this move succeeds, the Central government could invent ingenious ways to negate the people's mandate in other states where the double-engine government is not installed by popular will. And that is a disturbing thought. The Congress should beware of this possibility. Its dislike of Arvind Kejriwal should not come in the path of opposing the ordinance in the Rajya Sabha.

An ordinance has to be cleared by both Houses of Parliament within six months. The government faces no problem in the Lok Sabha, but there is one in the Rajya Sabha. If all Opposition parties unite, there is no way the BJP can push through an Act on the lines of the ordinance. The danger to state governments in non-BJP-ruled states is stark. It should be obvious to even the most trusting of the NDA's allies that their installed governments will not be safe should this ordinance prevail. The headlong rush for a unitary, 'Opposition-mukt' government at the Centre as well as BJP governments in every state will turn this 'mother of democracy' (Modi's term for our existing system of governance) into a 'child of autocracy'.

From all indications at present, Modi will not find the going as easy in 2024 as it was in 2019 if the Opposition parties really unite. But I doubt if such unity is possible, considering the egos and aspirations of various leaders. I doubt if they will agree to put up a common candidate against a BJP nominee in every Lok Sabha constituency. If they agree to do so in a majority of the constituencies, they can expect to have a much stronger Opposition in the Lok Sabha than at present. That in itself should prevent this democracy from sliding into autocracy.

(The author is a retired Indian Police Officer and a former governor)

"Hasya Kavi Sammelan" UPANY - Uttar Pradesh Association of New York



Lighting of the lamp

BY PRADEEP TANDON

NEW YORK (TIP): The magic of Hindi poetry was seen in the "Hasya Kavi Sammelan" of UP Association of New York.

The auditorium at Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School in Oakland Gardens, New York reverberated with laughter and applause on Saturday evening, May 20, 2023. The occasion was the 'Hasya Kavi Sammelan' organized by the Uttar Pradesh Association of New York. In the jam-packed auditorium, the audience delved into the sea of laughter and emotion on the recitation of four imminent, renowned poets from India.

Dr. BK Mehta, President of Akhil Vishwa Hindi Samiti New York, former National President of International Hindi Association, Major Sher Bahadur Singh, President of New York Chapter Mrs. Kamla Panchal, Hindi lover and philanthropist Indrajit Sharma and President of Uttar Pradesh Association of New York Pradeep Tandon inaugurated the event by lamp lighting ceremony; with the chanting of Mantras by Pandit Ram Niwas Dixit, the priest of the Hindu Center.

Saraswati Vandana was performed by Esha Mishra in a beautiful Kathak dance performance.



Esha Mishra in a beautiful Kathak dance performance



Famous poet Surendra Sharma made the audiences go into peels of laughter



Members of UPANY with the poets

Smt. Sushma Kaushik, President of Bharatiya "Pravasi" Sahitya Sangam, started the Kavi Sammelan with the recitation of a poem by her father late Dr. Om Prakash "Pravasi", the founder of her organization.

On this occasion, international poet Padma Shri Surendra Sharma was honored with 'Kavikul Shiromani Samman', Mr. Ramesh Muskan was awarded 'Vyangya Bhushan Samman', renowned poetess of 'Shringar Ras', Dr. Anu Sapan was awarded

'Shabd Sadhna Samman' for her poetic talent and Mr. Chirag Jain was honored with 'Sarthak Srijan Samman'.

Despite the heavy rains the Kavi Sammelan was attended by more than 440 persons. There was tea and snacks in the beginning and sumptuous dinner after the 'Kavi Sammelan'.

The poets recited poems for about three hours, reminding the audience of Indian culture and India. Kavi Sammelan started with humor and sarcasm of Ramesh Muskan. Dr. Anu Sapan recited her poems of 'Shringar Ras' in her beautiful melodic voice. Chirag Jain was at his best with his mischievous and emotional poems. Padma Shri Surender Sharma enthralled the audience with his comic talent, as well as his special poem 'Radha-Krishna'.

The president of the Uttar Pradesh Association of New York, Mr. Pradeep Tandon coordinated the entire program. Dr. Usha Tandon proposed the vote of thanks.

The Kavi-Sammelan was a great success, due to the hard work of all the members of the association.

The audience congratulated Pradeep Tandon by saying that such a 'Kavi Sammelan' has never happened before in New York.

Murphy opposes senior tax cut plan pushed by top N.J. Democrat, would shut down state over it

JUNE 1, 2023

TRENTON, NJ (TIP): Gov. Phil Murphy is opposed to a broad tax cut plan for New Jersey's seniors being pushed by a top state lawmaker and is willing to shut down the state government over the proposal, NJ Advance Media has learned.

Murphy would veto the proposal if it's sent to his desk as is, over concerns that it's "irresponsible" because it would benefit even the richest residents 65 and older, as well as worries over how the state would pay for it at a time when tax revenue is dropping, according to two senior administration sources.

The sources spoke on the condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to discuss the matter in public.

The development adds a large layer of uncertainty and new drama during the final month of negotiations between Murphy and his fellow Democrats who control the state Legislature as they

hammer out a final state budget, due by July 1.

If they don't come to an agreement by the deadline, Murphy could order a shutdown of the state government - something that has happened only twice in state history. The last time was 2017.

State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, D-Middlesex, introduced the tax cut plan Monday. Dubbed Stay NJ, it would establish a property tax credit program for all seniors in the Garden State.

"It's time to be there for our seniors, to make our state a better place to retire," Coughlin, a 65-year-old who recently welcomed his first two grandchildren, wrote in a corresponding op-ed published on NJ.com.

State Senate President Nick Scutari, D-Union, said he is working with Coughlin on the measure and suggested the state could help pay for it by extending a corporate business tax surcharge that Murphy and top Democrats have agreed

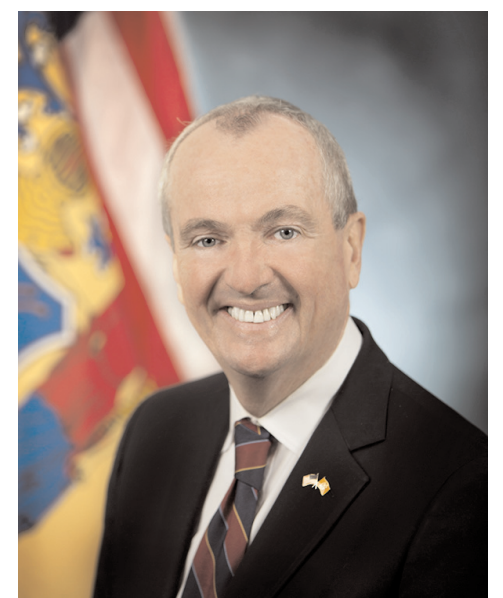
to let expire at the end of the year.

But Murphy still plans to let the surtax expire, sources said, despite pushback from progressive advocates and experts who warn against such changes at a time of plummeting revenue and economic uncertainty.

The governor is also concerned about the senior tax cut plan because it's "uncapped," benefitting even wealthy residents despite seniors already receiving property tax relief from the state, according to the sources.

Murphy's administration is preparing a "contingency" plan for a government shutdown if lawmakers stand firm on the proposal, sources said.

That could mean Murphy closes state government services, as well as state parks, just before the July 4 holiday. That's what happened in 2017, when then-Gov. Chris Christie shut down the government over a budget fight - one that included those famous photos of Christie on the beach.



Gov. Phil Murphy

File photo

Spokespeople for Coughlin and Scutari did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment Thursday morning.

39 YEARS ON

Wounds that never heal: Remembering Operation Blue Star

The military action at the Golden Temple in 1984 has left a lasting impact on generations of Sikhs, leaving many to try and piece together fragments of painful pasts

It's been 39 years since the Indian Army conducted an operation to flush out militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in June, 1984. Operation Bluestar had a huge impact on Indian politics in the '80s. It happened 39 years ago but it feels as if it was yesterday – the heart, body and mind still feel the tremors of the emotional earthquake it caused. The force of those tremors intensifies every year when June 6 approaches.

Operation Blue Star (saka neela tara), a name given to a dreadful military action at the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was launched on June 2, 1984, with a 'national broadcast to the nation' by then prime minister Indira Gandhi. It was claimed to have been completed successfully on June 6 with the ending of the last resistance by Sikh combatants to the army's entry at the Temple. State media (TV and radio) and other non-state media outlets praised the operation for saving India's 'unity and integrity' from 'anti-national' Sikh secessionism.

The most reliable estimates of the total number of deaths during Operation Bluestar range from 5,000 to 7,000. It was a tragedy that could have been avoided if – and it is a big if – Indira Gandhi had had the vision to reach a political settlement with the moderate Akali leadership. Most Akali Dal demands – regarding federal decentralisation, river water rights, territorial readjustment and the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab as its capital – could have been negotiated. Rajiv Gandhi did agree to each of these demands, and many more besides, in the 1985 Rajiv-Longowal Accord. He implemented none.

Operation Blue Star was a military operation that was carried out in June 1984 to flush out armed militants who were holed up in the Golden Temple. The operation had to be carried out in order to get back the control of the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib) from the



The damaged Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs.

militants.

The Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden Temple, is considered as the holiest site for Sikhs.

In the first week of June, 1984, the Indian military carried out an operation within the premises of the Harmandir Sahib or Golden Temple. The operation, which was carried out under the orders of then prime minister Indira Gandhi, was done so to save the sanctity of the holy site by flushing out the Sikh extremist religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his armed militant group.

Bhindranwale, who was reportedly backed by Pakistan's ISI, had made his demands clear - he wanted the Indian government to pass a resolution which would allow India to be divided, thereby creating a new country for Sikhs called 'Khalistan'.

Radical separatist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale had started laying the

groundwork for his demand in 1982, and by mid-1983 managed to gain support for his plan to divide India. His operations and plans were reportedly supported by Pakistan's ISI, which helped him in spreading militancy in the state, and also provided him with arms and ammunition.

In mid-1983, Bhindranwale and his armed militant group entered the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib complex) and took over its control. They then set up a base inside. Taking back the control of the Golden Temple from armed militants and preserving its sanctity was not easy. Being the holiest site for Sikhs made the decision even tougher to take. But after nearly a year of consultations and trying to negotiate, then prime minister Indira Gandhi decided that the only option left was to carry out a military operation. This led to the Operation Blue Star.

Late at night on June 2, 1984, the Indian Army carried out Operation Blue Star.

Curfew was imposed across Punjab. No one was allowed to travel to or from the state. All channels of communication were blocked as well. The operation was considered a success, at the end of which Bhindranwale and his group of militants were killed. However, there were casualties among civilians and armed forces personnel as well.

Though the Golden Temple was restored and made free of militants and arms, the operation was criticised by Sikhs the world over, since it was carried out at their holiest site of worship.

Background of the Khalistan Movement

Since the early 1970s, radical separatists spearheaded a bloody campaign to carve out an independent, radical Sikh state known as Khalistan or commonly as the "Land of the Pure" in Punjab and other parts of Northern India.

The roots of the Khalistan movement lie back in the British colonial policies of the late 1800s as well as the early 1900s which sought to divide the Sikhs and Hindus. Sikhs were recruited into the British army in large numbers and were used against Hindu rulers that rebelled against the British Raj.

After the Indian independence in 1947, tensions between the state of Punjab and the central Indian government started taking place, leading to grievances amongst many Sikhs against the Indian government.

Punjab was trifurcated into the states of Haryana, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh in 1966, along linguistic lines which created resentment amongst many Sikhs that the historic borders of Punjab were being further divided after it had already been divided between India and Pakistan in the partition of 1947.

Many Sikhs also resented sharing the joint capital of Chandigarh with the nearby Haryana, and viewed the water-sharing agreements with Haryana as unjust and unfair and favoring farmers



Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale entering Golden Temple Complex.



Lt. Gen. K.S. Brar led Operation Blue Star inside the Golden Temple from 3 to 7 June, 1984.

in Haryana to the detriment of those in Punjab.

Sikh religious leaders were getting apprehensive about the Sikh community losing its identity and culture, and wanted a greater share of state powers for Punjab.

These policies were perceived by the Sikh community as religiously motivated policies of discrimination against them and were further exploited by radical leaders, who built a perception that Sikh interests could only be in safe hands in an independent Sikh region of Khalistan.

The Khalistan movement further peaked in the decades of 1980-1990s and the violent campaign included bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, as well as selective killing and massacres of civilians.

In response to this movement, and in an attempt to end militancy in Punjab, the Indian security forces and local Punjab police responded with force.

It left a deep scar on the political, social, and cultural landscape of Punjab.

Key Points of Operation Blue Star

Operation Blue Star consisted of a two-stage operation: the first one was known as Operation Metal, which was restricted to the elimination of the armed militants present inside the Golden Temple complex. This was followed by another operation called Operation Woodrose, which was carried out across the state to ensure that all suspects were either captured or killed. Following was the turn of events in the operation Bluestar:

- The Golden Temple complex, or commonly the Harmandir Sahib, is a revered religious site for Sikhs and is considered the holiest shrine in the Sikh religion.
- In 1984, a group of militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale took refuge inside the complex, along with a large number of armed supporters around him.
- Operation Blue Star, which began on June 3, 1984, involved the deployment of thousands of Indian Army troops, tanks, as well as artillery around the Golden Temple complex.
- Operation Blue Star was commanded by Lt. General Kuldeep Singh Brar, operating under General Sundarji.
- On 3rd June, a 36-hour curfew was imposed in Punjab, detaching the state from all modes of communication, electricity, and transport.
- Thousands of Sikhs had gathered inside the complex of the Golden Temple to celebrate the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev, however, they all were trapped inside the Gurudwara after the said curfew was imposed on 3rd June.
- The Indian Armed Forces stormed the Harmandir Sahib complex on the night of June 5, and operation Blue Star lasted for another 5 days, during which heavy gunfire and explosions rocked and affected the complex, causing significant damage to the temple and surrounding buildings.
- The Akal Takht was heavily equipped with sandbags and gun emplacements in its windows and arches from where the dissidents were able to fire at any commandos who made their way in front of the



Gurudwara.

- The forces had full control of Harmandir Sahib by the morning of June 7. Sikh leaders JS Bhindranwale and Shabeg Singh were killed in the operation.
- Operation Blue Star cleared terrorists from the Golden Temple compound but it received backlash from the Sikh community worldwide.

The Aftermath of Operation Blue Star

The operation was considered to be a controversial one as it had severe ramifications for many sections. In the long term, the Sikh community became more assertive about their identity and their place in Indian society. However, there was a series of violence across the country against Sikh people immediately after the incident.

In 1985, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee filed a damages suit for Rs 1000 crore in relation to Operation Blue Star.

Operation Blue Star has been the subject of several inquiry commissions and investigations, including the 1984 Misra Commission and the 2005 Nanavati Commission, both of which sought to uncover the events leading up to the operation, deaths, and its aftermath.

The aftermath of operation Blue Star also saw an increase in militant activities as well as violence in Punjab, leading to a decade-long insurgency followed by a brutal crackdown by the Indian security forces.

The operation sparked widespread protests and anger among the Sikh community in India as well as abroad, who viewed it as an attack on their religious and cultural identity.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who gave a nod to Operation Blue Star was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards later in the year.

The 1984 Sikh Riots broke out, which lasted for 3 days and led to a number of deaths which is estimated by various independent sources at around 8,000-16,000.



One of the damaged dome with bullet marks inside the complex of the Golden Temple.

In 1986, the Chief of Army Staff at the time of the operation- General AS Vaidya was assassinated by Sikh militants in revenge.

The bombing of Air India Flight 182 from Canada to Delhi in 1985 is believed to have been another act of revenge for Operation Blue Star.

Many Sikh army men in the Indian Army mutinied because of the operation. Many Sikhs resigned from administrative positions in the government.

On July 24, 1985, the then-Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Punjabi Akali leader Harchand Singh Longowal signed the Rajiv-Longowal Accord or simply, the Punjab accord.

Rajiv- Longowal Accord

PM Rajiv Gandhi initiated negotiations with the Akali leaders in the belief that a settlement with them would provide a lasting solution to the Punjab problem. Finally, in Aug 1985, Rajiv Gandhi and Longowal signed the Rajiv-Longowal, or commonly the Punjab Accord.

Under the agreement, it was agreed

that Chandigarh would be transferred to Punjab.

A commission was sought to be constituted which would then determine what Hindi-speaking territories would be transferred from Punjab to Haryana.

An independent tribunal was to be set up which would adjudicate the river water dispute. Elections for the state assembly as well as the national parliament were to be held in September 1985. It stated that merit will remain the sole criterion for enlistment in the Indian army and except for the Sikh regiments, it would be open for all sections of the society.

Compensation was sought to be provided to the families of the innocent persons killed in agitation or any related action after 1st August 1982.

Jurisdiction of the Rangnath Mishra Commission enquiring into the 1984 Delhi riots was extended to Bokaro and Kanpur.

The part of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution dealing with the Centre and State relations will be referred to the Sarkaria commission. Central

Society has 'polarized' during last nine years: Congress leader Sam Pitroda



"I think in the last nine years over a period of time, our society has been polarized": Sam Pitroda
File photo

JUNE 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In the last nine years, the country has "polarized" and a very small percentage of people have really concentrated power and wealth, senior Congress leader Sam Pitroda has alleged.

Pitroda is the chairperson of the Indian Overseas Congress and he is

accompanying Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on his six-day US tour.

"I think in the last nine years over a period of time, our society has been polarized. Polarized by focusing on religion. On the one hand, there is Hindu, on the other hand, there is everything else," Pitroda told PTI.

Senior BJP leaders, including Union ministers and chief ministers, highlighted the achievements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government in a nationwide outreach on Monday to mark its nine years in office.

The BJP said in a statement that India has witnessed "unprecedented" development in every sector with the mantra of "nation first" guiding Modi's policies.

However, Pitroda said the growth has been twisted. "It is uneven. And that's a great cause of concern. When you don't have democratic institutions functioning normally, you don't feel secure. So, there's a fear in the mind of the people that somebody will come and attack me. So, they don't speak," Pitroda, who is

based in the US, said.

"We all know that 85 per cent of India's population is Hindu or whatever the number is, maybe 82. But within the Hindu community, a very small per cent of high-level people have really concentrated power and wealth. And in the process, a large number of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, artisans, carpenters, blacksmiths, plumbers, Dalits, have not really progressed as well as they should have," he said.

"So, the fight is not about Hindu and non-Hindu. The fight is about the underprivileged and privileged. In the nine years, I think wealth is concentrated. We brag about so many billionaires, which is fine, I'm happy with it. But we have not lifted a large number of people out of poverty," he said.

"The trolls on social media just harass people. They harass women. They harass reporters, they harass media people, whether it is typically Ravish Kumar of the world or anybody else, they attack your family, they attack your mother...

this is out of control. And it cannot be tolerated. The trolls cannot be tolerated," he said.

"Somebody in the government has to stand up and say, look, anybody who trolls and attacks somebody unnecessarily will be punished as opposed to we are encouraging parole. That is a worry for a lot of us. Look at the violence. Violence has increased. Look at violence against women. It has increased," Pitroda said.

People who are worshipped today are corrupt, dictatorial, and abusive, he alleged.

"(They) use all kinds of language against everybody. Promote hate. And I'm saying, where did we go wrong? What's going on? And it bothers me not that you're gonna change it overnight, but at least you can raise your voice and have an honest conversation about how I feel. You don't have to agree with me. But can I get a chance to talk and we don't have that space," Pitroda said.

(Source: PTI)

'Will work on issue of immigration says Neera Tanden ahead of taking over as new White House Domestic Policy Advisor



Neera Tanden has said her experience as a daughter of immigrants is akin to many immigrants in the US and she will work on the issue of immigration in her new role as the White House Domestic Policy Advisor.
Photo - Twitter/ @NeeraTanden46

MAY 27, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian-American public policy expert Neera Tanden has said her experience as a daughter of immigrants is akin to many immigrants in the US and she will work on the issue of immigration in her new role as the White House Domestic Policy Advisor.

Tanden, 52, on Saturday, May 27 replaces former US National Security Advisor Susan Rice as the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, which is considered to be one of the most powerful positions inside the White House.

"Currently I'm Staff Secretary, and

tomorrow I'm going to...I'm extremely enthusiastic about taking over as Domestic Policy Council Advisor. My experience is like many immigrants in the United States as children of immigrants," Tanden told PTI on Friday.

"My father came here from India in the early 1950s, and my mother came in the 1960s. They moved to Bedford, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston. They were the only Indian family in that community. So, I felt a part of that community, but also a little bit different," she said.

Tanden, a close confidant of President Joe Biden, was named by Biden as his Domestic Policy Advisor this month to help him craft and implement his domestic policy agenda, making her the first Asian-American to lead any of the three major White House policy councils in history.

"My mom would occasionally wear sarees. I was different from other families in Bedford. I had that duality of being the child of immigrants. But also, being part of America.

"What I'm really incredibly enthusiastic about in this role and excited about is one of the issues that I will take on as domestic policy advisor is the issue of immigration," she said on the last day of her being senior advisor and staff secretary to President Biden.

President Biden has a strong record of expanding legal immigration in the United States, as well as a whole host of other issues, she said.

"I'm looking forward to working on

those issues as well. And it really does feel like it comes full circle given the journey my parents made to come here, and to give me the opportunities I've had and that is effectuated now when I'm in this new role," Tanden said.

She said that the president has important principles which is to ensure that they are expanding legal immigration and legal pathways.

"We have a lot of complicated issues on immigration at the border, other issues, but it's a touchstone to ensure that America's role as a beacon for the world, a place where there are people like my parents who made that great leap of faith to go to a place very different, live in a different world, a different culture, and try to really reach for the American dream," she said.

"And I know that 50, 60 years ago, 70 years ago, they would never imagine that their short daughter would be working at the White House one day. But that is one of the great aspects of our immigration policies, and we have to keep true to that, which is, fighting against efforts to restrict legal immigration and really ensure that our immigration policies reflect our values for the 21st century," she said.

Tanden began her career as an associate director for domestic policy in former president Bill Clinton's White House and senior policy adviser to the first lady.

She received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and her law degree from

Yale Law School. She also served as legislative director in Clinton's office and deputy campaign manager and issues director for Hillary Clinton's 2000 Senate campaign.

She was the director of domestic policy for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign, where she managed all domestic policy proposals.

She also served as policy director for Hillary's first presidential campaign, where she directed all policy work and oversaw the debate preparation process for then-Senator Hillary.

During the Obama administration, she served as senior adviser for health reform at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

In that role, she developed policies around reform and worked with Congress and stakeholders on particular provisions of then-President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act.

She was also the president and CEO of the progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).

"What I'm particularly excited about is, there are so many issues that have been really part and parcel of the president's longstanding views and principles," she said.

Tanden said the Domestic Policy Council champions issues around policing reform and reducing crime and ensuring that "we are working on both of those issues".

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Dr. Harbans Lal honored by Al-Noor International Texas

BY SARDUL SINGH, PH.D

Ek Shaam, Dallas ke Roshan Charaghon ke Naam. That was the evening of May 12, 2023 - filled with joy and excitement when over 200 guests gathered to honor Dr. Harbans Lal and eleven other luminaries (Roshan Charag), persons who act as beacons of light to the society around. These luminaries have attained outstanding achievements in their chosen fields and are involved in other community affairs and philanthropic efforts, in helping people in distress, and in advancing mutual understanding among people of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, among others. Dr Harbans Lal was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by the Al-Noor International Texas organization for his outstanding contributions to science as an internationally acclaimed pharmacologist and neuroscientist, for being an eminent scholar on Sikhism, and for promoting interfaith and multicultural understanding.

Dr. Harbans Lal is an accomplished scientist in the field of pharmacology and neuroscience and has published over 400 research papers and 28 books. He has served on the advisory boards of several national and international institutions including National Institute of Health, National Science Foundation, US Food and Drug Administration, and National Institute of Aging. He has been involved in developing longevity drugs that lengthen human life-expectancy (I guess he has been using them judiciously to be healthy and fit at 92!) He was honored with the Distinguished Neuroscientist Award by the Society of Neuroscience.

Besides being an eminent scientist, Dr. Lal is a well-known scholar on Sikhism. This is how he got his love for Sikhism. He says his parents told him that they got him as a gift from Guru Nanak and then raised him to serve the causes of Guru Nanak. So, from the childhood, he had deep interest in Sikhism and Gurbani. He served as the President of All India Sikh Students federation (AISSF) for 1954-56. For his contributions to the Sikh causes, he has been honored by the SGPC with the title of Bhai Sahib, and the Anandpur Sahib Foundation honored him with the Order of Nishan-e-Khalsa. He is the founder of Academy of Guru Granth Studies where effort is made to understand the true message of Gurbani, and a founding member of the School of Scientific and



Dr. Harbans Lal (holding a bouquet) arrives to receive the award

Logical Interpretation of Gurbani. In the new scientific age, it is imperative that the message of Gurbani is interpreted logically and correctly, and broadcast accordingly so that the new generation can relate to it and find sustenance from it. And Dr. Lal's credentials of being a scientist with incisive insight, dispassion, and candor make him eminently qualified to do that. I have known Dr. Lal for nearly thirty years and benefited from his deep understanding of Gurbani. In his talks in our gurdwara, we often hear something from him that is new and provocative and something that relates Gurbani to real life. He believes that the planet earth will live or die as per the Cosmic Plan or Hukam. With the biggest telescopes available today, we are now discovering how little we know about Creation. Dr. Harbans Lal writes a blog, "Seeking Wisdom", which I have found stimulating and insightful.

Dr. Harbans Lal is also well known for his leading roles in Interfaith organizations. As such, he is a household name in the Asian community in Dallas; any adult you talk to seems to know him, whether he is a Sikh, Hindu, Muslim, or Christian. This is because he has been a true believer in the Guru's saying "manas ki jaat sab ek hi pehchanbo" (Regard all humans as one race). Every so often there are interfaith gatherings where people of different religions mingle and pray together in order to foster harmony among people of diverse faiths. In one such gathering, he mentioned



Dr. Harbans Lal with his wife, family members and friends

that Guru Nanak was the first religious leader who started interfaith dialog. We are aware that Guru Nanak travelled to Hindu and Muslim places of worship and had dialogs with religious leaders of those faiths in order to foster mutual understanding among the different faiths. Perhaps touched by Guru Nanak's ideology, Dr. Lal always has a peaceful and smiling face; it seems hate and anger have not touched him! He can listen to and relate to people of different faiths and nationalities as if they were part of his family, as if there was no "otherness". This is what Guru Nanak would have loved him and us to be like, and Dr Lal has been treading on that path- Guru Nanak's path- his entire life. He has lived an honest life full of love for others and God - the life of a Sachiaar! He represents a true ambassador of Guru Nanak's philosophy!

The award ceremony took place in Roma Palace in the Dallas metroplex. The well-decorated hall had big round tables for awardees and their supporters. Each table had a beautiful picture of the awardee on some wooden surface. And there were specially designed mugs with "We Love You" messages. Each awardee was ushered into the hall to the beat of Dhol and excitement, while the organizers of the Al-Noor International Texas offered flower bouquets to the awardees. There was a slide show that showcased the achievements of the awardees, while the awardees themselves had time to say something about their personal lives. The event lasted about four hours.

Indian American math teacher Nikhil Bhatia to run for US Congress from Illinois

MAY 29, 2023

ILLINOIS (TIP): Nikhil Bhatia, an Indian American math teacher from Illinois, has announced his run for the US Congress from the state 7th District challenging Democrat Representative Danny Davis who intends to seek a 15th term.

"I'm excited to share a big new step in my life: I am officially a candidate for Congress in Illinois' 7th Congressional District," Bhatia stated LinkedIn. The district covers the South and West Sides of Chicago as well as the western suburbs.

Bhatia, a teacher in Grand Crossing and an elected Local School Council member at Galileo Scholastic Academy on Chicago's Near West Side, has

"worked in urban education for 11 years, including five years as a middle school principal," according to his website.

He "recently received" his master's from University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy "in order to study how we can tackle the systematic issues that oppress many of our communities," it adds.

"I would like to combine my passion for social justice and expertise in leadership and data analysis to make a social impact."

Explaining the reasons for running for the US Congress on his LinkedIn profile, Bhatia said that although he's spent his "entire career in urban education, the obstacles all of our kids face - underfunded schools, gun violence,

climate change, and rolling back rights for women and LGBTQ students - are overwhelming. We need a solution that goes well beyond the classroom. And to do that, we need to change who we are sending to Washington. Change can't wait."

Bhatia notes that providing a better future for our children means "we can't keep sending the same career politicians to Washington and hope for a different result. We need leaders who can relate to today's challenges and have fresh ideas for creating a better tomorrow."

"My issue isn't with Danny's age (81 years), but with his lack of action," he says of the long-term representative currently holding the seat.

Bhatia's parents moved from India to



Nikhil Bhatia has announced his run for the US Congress from the state 7th District

the US and worked as physicians. He and his wife Alison are parents of two young children.

RAHUL GANDHI SPEAKS HIS MIND ON HIS VISIT TO THE US



Rahul Gandhi gets a warm reception on arrival at the San Francisco airport on May 30, 2023. Seen among others is IOC USA President Mohinder Gilzian in white turban
Photo / PTI

JUNE 2, 2023
I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): On his first visit abroad after being disqualified from the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi spoke candidly on a number of national and

international issues at a number of events which included a National Press Club appearance in Washington, D.C., meetings with students at universities, and with the public in California and Washington D.C.

On a six-day visit to the US, Rahul Gandhi was in California on May 30 and 31 on the first leg of his tour where he spoke at the 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' event organized by Indian Overseas Congress USA in Santa Clara on Tuesday, May 30.

On May 31, he held interactions with Silicon Valley AI experts and startup entrepreneurs.

Rahul Gandhi was in Washington, D.C. on June 1 and 2 where he appeared at a number of events including the National Press Club appearance, held meetings with students, business and trade representatives, the Indian Diaspora organizations and with US lawmakers.

He would arrive in New York on June 3 on the last leg of his tour where the Indian Overseas Congress USA has planned a huge public meeting at the Javits Center in Manhattan on Sunday, June 4, and before that, on June 3, a dinner has been organized where Rahul Gandhi will meet people in an informal setting.

During his stay in New York, he will be meeting with representatives of

various organizations and have interactions with a number of delegations. He will also speak to students.

Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda said Gandhi's visit is aimed at promoting shared values and a vision of "real democracy".

"The purpose of his (Gandhi's) trip is to connect, interact and begin a new conversation with various individuals, institutions and media, including the Indian diaspora that is growing in numbers in the United States and abroad to promote the shared values and vision of the real democracy with a focus on freedom, inclusion, sustainability, justice, peace and opportunities world over," Pitroda said in a statement on Sunday, May 28.

The Indian Panorama brings you below the media coverage of Rahul Gandhi's visit to the US from May 30 to June 2, 2023.



@RahulGandhi Interacts with activists, academics and civil society at University of California, Santa Cruz
Twitter photo

MAY 31, 2023

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): The ruling BJP can be defeated if the Opposition is "aligned properly" and the Congress party is working towards it and it is "coming along very nicely", Rahul Gandhi has told Indian Americans here, citing his party's emphatic victory in the recent assembly elections in Karnataka.

Responding to questions from the moderator and the audiences at an event at the Silicon Valley Campus of the University of California in Santa Cruz on Tuesday, Gandhi said he can clearly see "vulnerabilities" in the BJP.

"As a political entrepreneur, I can clearly see vulnerabilities in the BJP... The BJP can be defeated if the Opposition is aligned properly," he said.

"If you look at the Karnataka elections, the general sense is that the Congress

BJP can be defeated if Opposition is 'aligned properly': Rahul Gandhi

Party fought the BJP and defeated the BJP. But what is not well understood is the mechanics that we used," he said.

The Congress party used a completely different approach to fighting an election and building a narrative, Gandhi said, adding that elements of what happened in Karnataka came out of the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

In the May 10 elections to the 224-member Karnataka Assembly, the Congress won 135 seats, while incumbent BJP and the former prime minister H D Deve Gowda-led Janata Dal (Secular) got 66 and 19, respectively.

Gandhi said in the Karnataka elections, the BJP spent 10 times more money than the Congress party.

He said the country needed an alternative vision to defeat the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in addition to having a united Opposition in the 2024 general elections.

"On the matter of opposition unity, we are working towards it and it is coming along very nicely. But I think in order to defeat the BJP, you need more than just opposition unity. Just opposition unity, in my opinion, is not going to be enough to do the job. I think you need an alternative vision to the BJP," he said.

"Part of Bharat Jodo Yatra was the first step in proposing such a vision. It's the vision that all opposition parties are aligned with. No opposition party would disagree with the idea of the Bharat Jodo Yatra," he said.

Bharat Jodo Yatra (Unite India March) was a Gandhi-led mass movement aimed at uniting India. The yatra began on

September 7 from Kanyakumari, passed through 12 states and culminated in Jammu and Kashmir on January 31.

During the course of the yatra, Gandhi, 52, addressed 12 public meetings, over 100 corner meetings and 13 press conferences. He had over 275 planned walking interactions and more than 100 sitting interactions.

"So, I think bringing the opposition together is important, but also aligning the opposition and making the people of India understand that there is not just a group of opposition parties that have combined but a proposed way forward for the country. And we're working on those things," Gandhi said.

The ex-Wayanad MP said it is the president of the Congress party who will decide the prime ministerial candidate.

"We believe that everybody in India, regardless of who they are, whichever part of the society they come from, they should have a voice that voice should be respected, to be listened to be appreciated. And I think that voice is an asset," he said.

In his address, Gandhi also took a dig at the ruling BJP government, saying it is "threatening" the people and "misusing" the country's agencies.

"The BJP is threatening people and misusing government agencies. The Bharat Jodo Yatra started because all the instruments that we needed to connect with the people were controlled by the BJP-RSS," he said.

"We were also finding that in some way, it had become quite difficult to act politically. And that's why we decided to

walk from the southernmost tip of India to Srinagar," he said.

Gandhi said the yatra carried the spirit of affection, respect and humility.

"If one studies history, it can be seen that all spiritual leaders - including Guru Nanak Dev ji, Guru Basavanna ji, Narayana Guru ji - united the nation in a similar way," he said.

Gandhi said India is not what is being shown in the media which likes to promote a political narrative that is far from reality, asserting that there is a "huge distortion".

"It was very clear to me in the Yatra that it's in the media's interest to project these things, it helps the BJP. So, don't think that everything you see in the media is the truth," he said.

"India is not what the media shows. The media likes to show a particular narrative. It likes to promote a political narrative that is actually not what is going on in India," he said.

The Congress leader arrived here on Tuesday, May 30 on a three-city US tour during which he will interact with the Indian diaspora and meet American lawmakers.

He had a first-hand experience of the American immigration system as he had to wait for about two hours along with his other co-passengers on the Air India flight because of the common shortage of staff at the US airports.

People were seen taking selfies with him and asking him questions. He was seen interacting and mingling with other traveler's at the San Francisco airport.

(Source: PTI)

Rahul Gandhi says PM Modi thinks he knows more than God, calls him 'specimen'

MAY 31, 2023

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP): There are people in India who think they know more than God and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is "one such specimen", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said.

Speaking at the 'Mohabbat Ki Dukaan' event organized by Indian Overseas Congress USA in Santa Clara in the US state of California on Tuesday, May 30, Gandhi said these people are "absolutely convinced" that they know everything and can explain history to historians, science to scientists and warfare to the army.

"The world is too big and complicated for any person to know everything. That is the disease... There is a group of people in India who are absolutely convinced they know everything. They think they know even more than God.

"They can sit with God and explain to him what's going on. And of course, our prime minister is one such specimen. If you sat Modiji with God, he would explain to God how the universe works and God will get confused about what have I created," he said, evoking peals of laughter from hundreds of his Indian American supporters.

"They think they can explain history to historians, science to scientists and warfare to the army. But at the core of it is mediocrity. They're not ready to listen!" he said.

Gandhi's event was attended by community members not only in Silicon Valley but also from Los Angeles and Canada.

Gandhi told the Indian Americans that the idea of India was under attack and is being challenged.

He applauded the Indian Americans for holding up the Indian flag in America, showing the American people

what it means to be an Indian by respecting their culture and learning from them while also allowing the Americans to learn from them.

"You make us all proud. When we think of our country, you are all our ambassadors. When America says Indian people are extremely intelligent. Indian people are masters of IT, Indian people are respectful. All these ideas that have come, they've come because of you and because of your actions and your behaviors," he said.

(Source: PTI)

Rahul Gandhi says his disqualification from Lok Sabha has given him huge opportunity



Congress @INCIndia : Scenes from @RahulGandhi ji's interaction with the Indian diaspora in San Francisco, California, in the United States. Twitter photo

JUNE 01, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that he did not imagine his disqualification from Lok Sabha was possible when he joined politics but asserted that it has given him

a "huge opportunity" to serve the people.

Gandhi, who is in the US for a three-city US tour, made the remarks on Wednesday, June 31 night in response to a series of questions from Indian students at the prestigious Stanford

University Campus in California.

The Wayanad (Kerala) Member of Parliament was disqualified from Lok Sabha earlier this year after he was convicted by a Surat court in a 2019 criminal defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

In his remarks, Gandhi said that when he joined politics in 2000, he never imagined this is what he would go through. What he sees is going on now is way outside anything that he had thought when he joined politics.

Referring to his disqualification from Lok Sabha as a Member of Parliament, Gandhi, 52, said he didn't imagine that something like this was possible.

"But then I think it's actually given me a huge opportunity. Probably much bigger than the opportunity I would have. That's just the way politics works," he said.

"I think the drama started really, about six months ago. We were struggling. The entire opposition is struggling in India. Huge financial dominance. Institutional capture. We're struggling to fight the democratic fight in our country," he said, adding that at this point in time, he

decided to go for the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

"I am very clear, our fight is ours fight," he said. "But there is a group of young students from India here. I want to have a relationship with them and want to talk to them. It's my right to do it," he said during his interaction with Indian students and academicians of Indian origin at the University here.

He also emphasized in his frequent foreign trips like this, he is not seeking support from anybody.

"I don't understand why the prime minister doesn't come here and do it," Gandhi asked amidst applause from the audience who had packed the entire auditorium at Stanford.

The moderator said that the Prime Minister is welcome to come to Stanford anytime and interact with the students and academicians.

Some of the students were denied entry as the auditorium was packed. Students started queuing up two hours before the event started.

In the last one and a half years, several Indian ministers have interacted with Indian students.

(Source: PTI)

Rahul Gandhi holds interactions with Silicon Valley AI experts, startup entrepreneurs

MAY 31, 2023

SUNNYWALE, CA (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi Wednesday, May 31 spent the first half of his day with Silicon Valley-based startup entrepreneurs, known for doing path-breaking work in the field of Artificial Intelligence and cutting-edge technologies.

Sitting in the front row of the Plug and Play auditorium along with Indian Overseas Congress chairperson Sam Pitroda and some other key aides who have been travelling with him from India, Gandhi was seen engrossed in the panel discussion of experts on various aspects of artificial intelligence, big data, machine learning and their implications on

mankind in general and on issues like governance, social welfare measures and also disinformation and misinformation.

Based out of Sunnyvale in California, the Plug and Play Tech Centre is one of the largest incubators of startups. According to its CEO and Founder Saeed Amidi, more than 50 per cent of the startups founder at Plug and Play have been Indians or Indian Americans. Amidi told PTI after the event that Gandhi has shown a deep understanding of the IT sector and his knowledge of the latest and cutting edge technologies are quite impressive.

Participating in a fireside chat with Amidi and Shaun Shankaran, founder of FixNix Startup, Gandhi tried to link all the

technologies with the impact this would have on the common man in the remote villages of India.

"If you want to spread any technology in India, you have to have a system where power is relatively decentralized," he said in response to a question and then went on to share with the select group of invited entrepreneurs about his personal experience of drone technology and its regulation, which, according to him, "faced massive bureaucratic hurdles".

Data, Gandhi said, is the new gold and countries like India have realized the real potential of it. "There is need to have appropriate regulations on data safety and security".

However, on the issue of Pegasus spyware and similar technologies, Gandhi told the audience he is not worried about it. At one point of time he said he knows his phone is being tapped. And jokingly said, "Hello! Mr Modi" on his iPhone.

"I presume my iPhone is being tapped. You need establish rules with regard to privacy of data information as a nation and also as an individual," he said.

"If a nation state decides that they want to tap your phone, no one can stop you. This is my sense," he said. "If the nation is interested in tapping phone, then this is not a battle worth fighting. I think whatever I do and work, is available to the government," he claimed.

Shankaran, who hosted Gandhi for the AI event at Plug and Play, said he is very much impressed about the knowledge he has shown about the latest developments in technology.

(Source: PTI)

India, China relationship is going to be 'tough', says Rahul Gandhi

MAY 31, 2023

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has asserted that India cannot be pushed around by China as he underlined that the relationship between the two neighbors is going to be "tough" and not an easy one.

Gandhi, who is in the US for a three-city US tour, made the remarks on Wednesday, May 31 night in response to a question from Indian students at the Stanford University Campus in California.

"How do you see the India-China relationship evolving in the next 5-10 years?" he was asked.

Gandhi replied, "It's tough right now. I mean, they've occupied some of our territory. It's rough. It's not too easy (a relationship)." "India cannot be pushed around. That something is not going to happen," Gandhi said.

India and China are also locked in a lingering border standoff in eastern Ladakh for three years.

The bilateral relationship came under severe strain following the deadly clash in Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh in June 2020.

India has maintained that the bilateral relationship



Rahul Gandhi speaks at a gathering during his US visit.
Photo / ANI

cannot be normal unless there is peace in the border area.

During his interaction at Stanford University, Gandhi supported New Delhi's policy of having its relationship with Russia in the context of the Ukrainian war, despite the pressure it feels from the West.

"We have a relationship with Russia, we have certain

dependencies on Russia. So, I would have a similar stance as the Government of India," Gandhi said in response to a question when asked does he supports India's neutral stance on Russia.

At the end of the day, India has to look for its own interest. India, he said, is a big enough country whereby it generally will have relationships with other countries.

It's not so small and dependent that it will have a relationship with one and nobody else, he added.

"We will always have these types of relationships. We will have better relationships with some people, evolving relationships with other people. So that balance is there," the former Congress president said.

Supporting a strong relationship between India and the United States, Gandhi underscored the importance of manufacturing and both countries collaborating in emerging fields like data and artificial intelligence. Simply focusing on the security and defense aspect of this bilateral relationship is not enough he said.

(Source: PTI)

Indian democracy is a 'global public good'; its 'collapse' will have an impact on world says Rahul Gandhi



Rahul Gandhi at the National Press Club in Washington D.C.
Photo / PTI

JUNE 02, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Asserting that Indian democracy is a "global public good", Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that its "collapse" will have an impact on the world and is not in America's national interest.

At the same time, Gandhi, who is currently on a six-day tour of the United States, said in multiple settings that the issue of democracy is an internal matter of the country, and he is committed to fighting against it.

"It's our job, it's our business, and it's our work to fight the battle for democracy in India. "And it's something that we understand, we accept, and we do," he told reporters at a news conference here at the National Press Club on Thursday, June 1.

"But the thing to remember is that Indian democracy is a global public good. Because India is large enough that a collapse in democracy in India will affect...will

have an impact on the world. So that is for you to think about how much you have to value Indian democracy. But for us, it's an internal matter, and it's a fight that we are committed to, and we are going to, we are going to win," Gandhi said.

He gave a similar answer to questions on democracy at a reception hosted for him by eminent Indian American Frank Islam.

Responding to a question, Gandhi said that there is a need to broaden the India-US relationship and it should not be restricted to just defense relationships alone.

"India has to do what's in its interest. And that's what will guide us... So, I am not entirely convinced about the sort of autocratic vision that is being promoted. I think that it's very important that democracy is protected on the planet. So, India has a role there. India, of course, has its view on things, and I think that that view should be put on the table, but I don't think one should think about these things as the center of things. I think that's, that would be arrogant," he said.

"We understand the strengths that we bring to the table: democratic values, data, these are some of the things that technology, a highly educated, technically educated population. These are our strengths. I think we have to chart our course based on these strengths," he said in response to a question on the India-US relationship.

During an interaction with the media at the National Press Club, Gandhi said that "the US and India have synergies, that if they come together can be very powerful. What we are facing is a particular vision of the world, the Chinese vision of the world that offers productivity, and prosperity, but under a non-

Democratic field."

"That's not acceptable to us, because we simply cannot thrive under non-democratic. So, we have to think about productive production and prosperity in a Democratic field. And I think that's where the bridge between India and the United States can play a very important role for us and for you," he said.

Responding to a question on China, at a dinner reception, Gandhi said the Chinese system offers prosperity, but under a non-democratic system.

"I feel that an alternative vision needs to be put on the table. I think that's the real challenge facing the United States and India and other democracies. What exactly does a countervailing vision look like and what are the core elements of that vision?" he said.

"I think we are in the midst of a number of transitions. We are in the midst of a transition in mobility, a transition in energy, a transition in communication. How do we, how do we think about those transitions? I think those are really the big questions. Of course, uh, with regards to the United States, we have cooperation on defense, and that's very important, but I think it's equally important to widen the relationship and make it broader so it's more secure," Gandhi said.

is occupying Indian territory, the former Congress party chief claimed.

"It's an accepted fact. I think 1,500 square kilometers of land the size of Delhi is occupied by them. It's absolutely unacceptable. The Prime Minister seems to believe otherwise. Maybe he knows something that we don't know," he said at the National Press Club.

(Source: PTI)

BJP will be 'decimated' in the next three-four assembly elections: Rahul Gandhi

JUNE 2, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Rahul Gandhi has said that the BJP will be "decimated" in the next three-four assembly elections by the Congress, emphasizing that they have the basic requirements that are needed to defeat the ruling party which do not have the support of the vast majority of the Indian population.

These remarks were made by Gandhi, who is in the US for a three-city US tour, on Thursday, June 1, at a reception hosted for him by eminent Indian American Frank Islam.

"There is a tendency of people to believe that this sort

of juggernaut of the RSS and the BJP is unstoppable. This is not the case. I'll make a little prediction here. You will see that the next three or four elections that we fight directly with the BJP will be decimated," Gandhi said in response to a question at the reception.

"I can give it to you right now, that they're gonna have a really tough time in these assembly elections. We'll do to them the very similar stuff that we've done in Karnataka. But if you ask the Indian media that's not going to happen," he said.

The Congress secured a comfortable majority and ousted the BJP from power in Karnataka in the May 10

assembly elections. The visiting leader told the invited group of Indian Americans, members of the think-tank community and lawmakers that the Indian press is currently giving a highly favorable version of the BJP.

"Please realize that 60 per cent of India does not vote for the BJP, does not vote for Narendra Modi. That's something you have to remember: The BJP has the instruments of noise in their hand, so they can shout, they can scream, they can distort, they can yell, and they are much better at doing that. But they do not have the vast majority of the Indian population (supporting them)," he said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Adani group pulls out of M&As; plans to focus on debt prepayments

As part from calling off buying Macquarie's road assets, the Adani group has withdrawn from a series of acquisition opportunities, including of power plants, a retail firm, a power trader and road projects since January this year, say bankers. The focus of the group is to conserve cash and prepay debt rather than acquiring new assets.

"Till early this year, bankers would pitch every asset for sale with the Adani group. But now, the group is keen to expand their existing businesses, rather than acquiring stressed assets, so it is going slow on new acquisitions," an investment banker said.

Since January this year, the group withdrew from the race to acquire SKS Power, a stressed coal-based power plant in Chhattisgarh. In February, the group called off a plan to acquire DB Power's thermal power assets at an enterprise valuation of Rs 7,000 crore. In the same month, it pulled out to make an offer to PTC India, a power trader. Later, the group did not make an offer for Future Retail after submitting its expression of interest to buy the asset via a joint venture company. On Thursday, Adani Enterprises announced that it will not go ahead with acquiring Macquarie group's two road companies at an enterprise valuation of Rs 3,100 crore.

Bankers said the group's absence from the acquisition race has given an opportunity to foreign private equity players, which are keen to buy into Indian infrastructure projects. Top officials of American private equity giants Blackstone and KKR said they were keen to invest in the Indian infrastructure projects which gives good returns.

After HC grants interim relief, Sisodia reaches home to meet ailing wife

Former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia arrived at his residence from the Tihar jail on Saturday, June 3, after getting interim relief to meet his ailing wife.

The Delhi High Court on Friday allowed the AAP leader, arrested in cases related to alleged irregularities in the city government's excise policy, to meet his wife.

Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma directed the Tihar jail superintendent to take Sisodia to his residence where he has been allowed to meet his wife from 10 am to 5 pm.

A senior jail official said Sisodia was taken to his residence around 9 am under security cover. He will have to report back at 5 pm.

Sisodia was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on February 26 for his alleged role in the scam and has been in custody since.

238 dead in triple train collision in Odisha



At least 238 people died in a major rail accident in Balasore district of Odisha on June 2. Around 900 injured passengers have been taken to the Hospitals of Gopalpur, Khantapara, Balasore, Bhadrak and Soro.

BALASORE (TIP)

At least 238 people were killed and around 900 were injured in a horrific three-train collision in Odisha's Balasore, officials said on May 3, the country's deadliest rail accident in more than 20 years. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said a high-level committee will be set up to investigate the train crash.

The crash involved the Bengaluru-Howrah Superfast Express, the Shalimar-Chennai Central Coromandel Express, and a goods train.

The accident saw one train ram so hard into another that carriages were lifted high into the air, twisting and then smashing off the tracks. Another carriage had been tossed entirely onto its roof, crushing the passenger section.

"Everything was shaking and we could feel the coach toppling," Sanjay Mukhia, a daily wage worker travelling to Chennai on the Coromandel-Shalimar Express, told NDTV, showing his injuries.

According to another survivor, severed limbs were scattered over the ripped metal wreckage.

"I was sleeping when the train derailed. Some 10-15 people fell over me. When I came out of the coach, I saw limbs scattered all around, a leg here, a hand there...someone's face was disfigured," the survivor said.

"The rescue operation has been completed, now we are starting the restoration work," Amitabh Sharma, Railways Spokesperson, said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik

How the tragedy unfolded

The Coromandel Express train accident in Balasore district of Odisha, in which as many as 238 persons have died so far, could have been a driving error, initial reports emerging from the signaling control room of the railways stated.

The video of the signaling control room shows that the Chennai bound Coromandel express train took the loop line where the goods train was parked just after crossing Bahanagar Bazar Railway station at about 6:55pm on Friday, June 2, instead of the main line. The Coromandel express train running at the speed of 127 km per hour collided with the goods train and derailed on the main line, an official said.

Within minutes of the collision, the

railway official quoted above said that the Howrah bound Yashwantnagar Express coming from the opposite side collided with the Coromandel Express.

"How it happened and why it happened, will be found in the detailed inquiry that the railway had ordered. But prima facie it appears to be a human error," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

The officials recalled that a similar type of accident happened in 1995 in Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh, where three trains collided because of a mistake by the driver.

Around 350 persons were killed in that tragedy and the rescue operations lasted for three days.

Source: HT

has declared one-day state mourning in view of the horrific train crash.

The Railway Minister visited the accident site this morning to take stock of the situation. "Restoration work will take place immediately. Staff and equipment is ready for restoration work, but our first priority is rescue and medical aid to those injured. We will know details only after a detailed inquiry. An independent inquiry will be done," he said.

Vaishnaw has also announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh for those who have died, Rs 2 lakh for those

seriously injured and Rs 50,000 for those who sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed his distress over the accident, and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the family of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured from the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

48 trains have been cancelled, 39 diverted and 10 trains have been short terminated due to the accident, which happened on the Howrah-Chennai main line in the Kharagpur division of the South Eastern Railway. Source: NDTV



98 killed, 310 injured in Manipur ethnic violence: Government

At least 98 people lost their lives and 310 others were injured in the ethnic violence in Manipur that broke out a month ago, the government said in a statement on Friday, June 2.

A total of 37,450 people are in 272 relief camps at present, said the statement, issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

In all, 4,014 cases of arson have been reported since the violence broke out in the state on May 3, it said.

"The number of deaths is 98 and the number of injured reported is 310," it said.

Over the last one month, the state police has registered 3,734 cases and arrested 65 people for their involvement in the violence, the statement said.

"Sporadic incidents of firing or torching of houses by miscreants are becoming rare now as coordinated effort is made by different security agencies," it said. The Army, Assam Rifles, CAPFs and local police have been deployed in vulnerable places, it added.

Till now, 84 companies of central armed forces have been deployed, the statement said.

"More companies are being deployed. Flag march and area domination exercises are being carried out widely. Search operations will be conducted from today to recover snatched arms and ammunition," it said.

1983 cricket World Cup heroes back wrestlers

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's 1983 World Cup-winning squad extended its support to top wrestlers protesting against sexual harassment on Friday, June 2, the loudest endorsement of the ongoing stir and one that added to mounting pressure for action against six-time parliamentarian and former wrestling federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh after grisly allegations against the strongman by the complainants became public.

In a joint statement, the world champions said they were distressed after seeing the visuals of wrestlers being manhandled but also hoped that the law of the land will prevail. The statement came on a day leaders from 170 khaps or clan-based bodies gave the government a week's ultimatum to take action against Singh, and said they will march to Delhi and launch a fresh agitation.

"We are distressed and disturbed at the unseemly visuals of our champion wrestlers being manhandled. We are also most concerned that they are thinking of dumping their hard-earned medals into river Ganga," said the statement released by the players.

"We urge them not to take any hasty decision in this matter and also fervently hope that their grievances are heard and resolved quickly. Let the law of the land prevail," it added.

The backing of the legendary team — led by Kapil Dev, and with Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, K Srikanth, Roger Binny, Syed Kirmani, Yashpal Sharma, Madan Lal, Balwinder Singh Sandhu, Sandeep Patil, Kirti Azad, Dilip Vengsarkar, Ravi Shastri, Sunil Valson — is the most high-profile endorsement so far of the stir led by Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Bajrang Punia, Rio Games bronze medallist Sakshi Malik, and double World Championship medallist Vinesh Phogat.

"Wrestlers have done so much for the country. They deserve respect. We feel this issue should be resolved swiftly. Both parties should come together and resolve it amicably," Roger Binny, a member of the iconic team who is also the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chief, told HT.

Madan Lal said the team decided to issue a statement after the dramatic developments on Tuesday, when the wrestlers made an emotional appeal and decided to immerse their medals in the Ganga. "Athletes should not be treated in this way. There has to be a better way to deal with this. To the wrestlers, I want to say, please continue your fight," he added.

Despite growing demand for the arrest of Singh on charges of intimidation, sexual harassment and assault, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has remained defiant. *Source: HT*



Arrest WFI chief by June 9, Khap Mahapanchayat gives ultimatum to Centre

Leaders of different Khaps from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh who held a meeting at Kurukshetra in Haryana on Friday, June 2, in support of the top wrestlers' protest, gave an ultimatum to government to arrest wrestling federation of India's (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh by June 9 else they would launch a fresh agitation at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

"We have taken a decision that the government must address the grievances of wrestlers and he (Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh) should be arrested. Otherwise, we will go with the wrestlers to Jantar Mantar in Delhi on June 9 and hold panchayats across the nation," farmer leader Rakesh Tikait, who led the meeting, said. "The cases against the wrestlers should be withdrawn

and the arrest of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh must happen," Tikait said.

Khap leaders said that they would wait till June 9 for the government to arrest Singh and that they would also hold talks with the government in the context.

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait said that the Khaps had taken five days' time from the wrestlers who felt disappointed because of the inaction of the government on their complaints. Tikait said that the Khap leaders had also sought time from the wrestlers as the government wanted to talk to them (Khaps).

Stating that their agitation would continue peacefully, the Khap leaders would also hold meetings with people across the country to unite the people on the issue.

Keep sedition law, hike jail term: Law Commission

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Law Commission of India has recommended that the 153-year-old colonial law on sedition in India be retained, insisting that "repealing the legal provision can have serious adverse ramifications for the security and integrity of the country". Instead, the Commission favoured amending Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (sedition law) "so as to bring about more clarity in the interpretation, understanding and usage of the provision".

The operation of Section 124A in the IPC — a non-bailable offence punishable with life imprisonment or up to three years in jail, and one that activists and jurists have alleged is often misused to muzzle dissent, is currently on hold due to a continuing interim order of the Supreme Court passed on May 11, 2022. The court said at the time the colonial-era law is not in tune with the social milieu.

According to the Commission, headed by former Karnataka high court chief justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Section 124A should be amended to align it with the Supreme Court's 1962 verdict in the Kedar Nath Case, which underlined that the presence of a pernicious tendency to incite violence is a precondition to invoke the sedition clause, and that the penal provision cannot be used to stifle free speech.



It added that the sedition law, which carries a maximum punishment of life imprisonment or a punishment of three years, should be further amended to enhance the alternative punishment to seven years, giving the courts greater room to award punishment for a case of sedition in accordance with the scale and gravity of the act.

Hours later, Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said the government will take an "informed and reasoned" decision on the report after consultations with all stakeholders. "The law commission report on Sedition is one of the steps in the extensive consultative process. The

recommendations made in the report are persuasive and not binding," Meghwal said on Twitter.

"This report is one of the steps in the extensive consultative processes. The government's priority is to protect the interest of all stakeholders. We will now consult all stakeholders so that a decision can be made in the public interest at an appropriate time," he tweeted in Hindi.

Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body, working under the aegis of the Union ministry of law and justice. Following definite terms of reference from the department of legal affairs, the Commission carries out research in the field of law and makes recommendations to the Centre in the form of reports. These recommendations are not binding on the government, though they may have some persuasive value.

Considered by legal experts as among the vaguest of penal provisions, Section 124a was introduced by the British to stymie the freedom struggle. After independence, too, the provision has been misused by various administrations against citizens, fuelling allegations of intimidation. Conviction rates stagnate in low single-digits, underlining that many cases have little material evidence. This is why the authorities should consider scrapping the law. *Source: HT*

India in history this Week

JUNE 02, 2023, TO JUNE 08, 2023

02 JUNE



1988 Bollywood's legendary actor, director, producer and showman Raj Kapoor died on this day.

2014 Telangana officially became the 29th state of India.

1908 Sir Aurobindo was arrested in the Maniktole bombings.

1956 Mani Ratnam was born in Tamil and Hindi cinema's finest filmmakers. Very few people know that his full name is Gopal Ratnam Subramaniam.

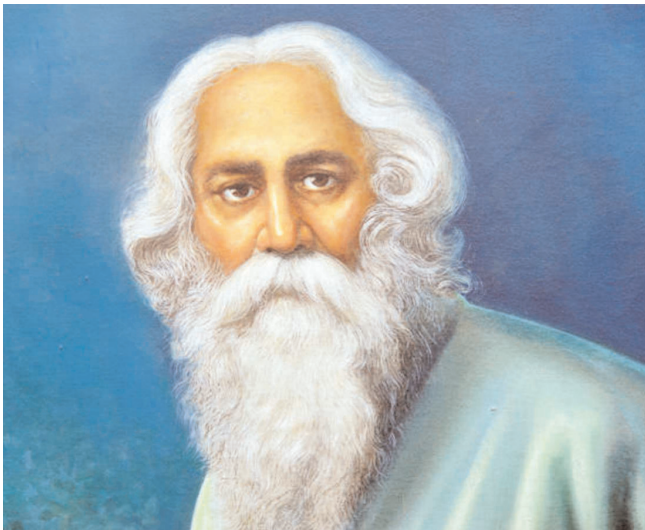
1756 British stronghold Fort William in Bengal was surrendered to Siraj-ud-Daulah

1900 The demise of Shri Ram Sharma Acharya, a freedom fighter, social reformer and leader.

03 JUNE

1867 Birth of India's famous educationist, politician, social reformer, jurist and writer Harvilas Sharda.

1901 Birth of first winner of Jnanpith Award Mahakavi Ji Shankar Krup.



1915 The British government conferred the title of knighthood on Rabindranath Tagore.

1918 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' was organized in Indore under the chairmanship of Mahatma Gandhi and based on a resolution passed in it, Hindi was considered as the official language.

1924 The birth of M Karunanidhi, five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

1930 The birth of George Fernandes, the historic railway strike organizer in India.

1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India under the British Raj, announced the partition of India.

1972 The country's first modern warship, the Nilgiris, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi.

1974 Death of Bihar Chief Minister and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahay.

1985 The Government of India started a five-day working day week.

2014 Former Union Minister Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi.

04 JUNE



1936 India's unmatched actress Nutan was born on 4 June.

1959 C. Rajagopalachari announced the formation of the Swatantra Party.

1997 Telecom satellite reached 2D chamber.

2008 In 2008, the Haryana government also announced the benefit of family pension to girls below 25 years of age.

1931 Hindi film actress Bina Rai was born in 1931.

1959 Anil Ambani, president and famous businessman of Reliance Group, was born in 1959.

1947 Hindi and Marathi film actor Ashok Saraf was born in 1947.

1962 Achanta Lakshmi pati, famous for the propagation of Ayurvedic medicines, died in 1962.

1984 Operation Bluestar was carried out by the Indian Army in the Golden Temple located in Amritsar, Punjab, the religious site of Sikhs.

05 JUNE

1659 Aurangzeb, the ruler of the Mughal Empire, officially ascended the throne of Delhi in 1659.

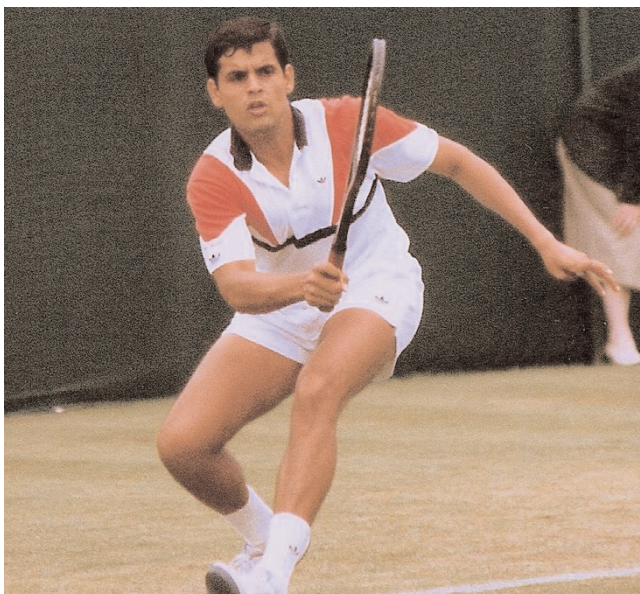
1882 In Bombay (now Mumbai), about one lakh people died in 1882 due to storms and floods.

2001 In 2001 the work of investigating the royal family in Nepal was blocked by the resignation of Madhavan, a member of the royal assassination inquiry commission.

2002 In 2002 Pakistan rejected the proposal of a joint patrol along the Indian border.

2017 Successful launch of the heaviest rocket "GSLV Mark-3D-1" in 2017.

1972 Yogi Adityanath, the 21st Chief Minister of the state of Uttar Pradesh, was born in 1972.



1961 India's famous tennis coach and former tennis player Ramesh Krishnan was born.

1879 The originator of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India. M. Joshi was born.

06 JUNE



1929 Actor, politician and social activist Sunil Dutt was born in Jhelum (present-day Pakistan), West Punjab.

1674 Kshatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was crowned.

1981 A train fell in Bihar's Bagmati river, killing 800 of the 1000 people on board.

1997 In Bangkok, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand formed an economic cooperation group called 'Bistek'.

1999 Indian tennis duo Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the Grand Slam title.

07 JUNE

1893 Mahatma Gandhi used civil disobedience for the first time in South Africa.

1914 Film director, writer and journalist Khwaja Ahmed Abbas was born on June 7 in Panipat.

1974 Indian tennis superstar Mahesh Bhupathi was born on 7 June in Chennai.

1975 The first match of the first World Cup was played between India and England at Lord's Stadium. India lost in this match.

1631 Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife Mumtaz Begum died at the age of 39 in Burhanpur.

1989 India's second satellite Bhaskar I was launched with a Soviet rocket.

2006 India decides to give one billion rupees to Nepal for economic reconstruction.

2008 The Uttar Pradesh government declared 4% VAT on LPG to be completely abolished.

08 JUNE

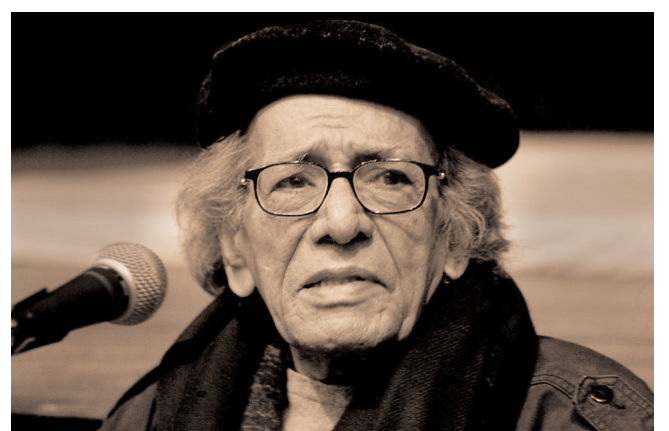
1948 India's first airline, Air India, started air service between India and Britain.

1658 Aurangzeb captured the fort of Agra and Shah Jahan was imprisoned.

1936 The Indian State Broadcasting Service, the official radio service of India, was renamed All India Radio.

2004 After 122 years, the amazing sight of Venus transit was seen again in many countries of the world including India.

2009 Famous screenwriter, theatrical director, poet and actor Habib Tanveer passed away.



Wrestlers' protest: Spotlight on rampant sexual abuse in sports

Indian wrestlers have been protesting since January after they accused the wrestling federation chief, Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, of sexual harassment. Singh is a member of parliament from the governing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and has denied the allegations.

They should be practising for the Olympics scheduled for next year. But India's ace wrestlers, led by Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, are fighting the battle of their lives against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who has been accused of sexual harassment by seven female wrestlers, including a minor.

May 30 was another day of high drama for the protesting grapplers, who vowed they would 'immerse' their medals in the Ganga river. It was only after a talk with Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) president Naresh Tikait that they decided to defer their decision by five days.

The wrestlers have been protesting since January, demanding that the government take action against the WFI chief. Their protest has also seen them being dragged and pulled and being detained by the Delhi Police last Sunday when they attempted a silent march to new Parliament building.

The matter has gained the attention of the Supreme Court, which described the allegations as "serious" and ordered the police to register a case against Singh. And on Tuesday, the matter went international with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) stepping in. An IOC spokesperson, responding to a query from The Indian Express said, "treatment meted out to the athletes over the weekend, when they were manhandled and detained for hours, was very disturbing." "We urge that the safety and well-being of these athletes is duly considered throughout this process and that this investigation will be speedily concluded."

The United World Wrestling (UWW) has also issued a statement condemning the detention of wrestlers during a march to the new Parliament building on Sunday. "UWW firmly condemns the treatment and detention of the wrestlers. It expresses its disappointment over the lack of results of the investigations so far. UWW urges the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations," the world wrestling body said in a statement.

The recent complaint, though shocking, isn't new for women in sports in India. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has recorded 45 complaints of sexual harassment between 2010 and 2020. Of these, 29 were filed against coaches.

In fact, this is the fifth instance in the last nine months where cases of women athletes being sexually exploited have been publicly and formally recorded in India.

In January, wrestlers gathered at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, accusing Singh and other national coaches of sexual harassment that took place over several years. The Union Ministry of



Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia and his wife Sangeeta during their protest against Wrestling Federation of India chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, on Sunday morning. Photograph: PTI

Youth Affairs and Sports took notice of these allegations and sought an explanation from the WFI. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was then informed, with a complaint letter being written by the wrestlers demanding Singh's resignation as the president of the WFI. The working of the WFI was suspended till an oversight committee was formally appointed.

An oversight committee was formed by the IOA to conduct an enquiry into the allegations. The members of the committee were sporting heavyweights including boxer and former Rajya Sabha member M.C. Mary Kom, wrestler and politician Babita Phogat, and badminton player Trupti Murgunde.

Singh was to step aside till the inquiry was concluded. The protests, in that regard, were at least put off for the time being.

What recent developments led to the filing of FIRs against Singh?

With almost three months passing since the formation of the committee, it was announced that the WFI would be holding fresh elections, with Singh stating that he would not contest the president's post. The waters got muddied when it turned out that the oversight committee had concluded its inquiry, but the sports ministry chose not to make the inquiry report public. This led to



Protesting wrestlers at Har Ki Pauri ghat in Haridwar. Photo: PTI

resumption of the protests at Jantar Mantar.

It had also come to light that several complaints (by a total of seven wrestlers, including one minor) were filed with the Delhi Police against Singh. It was alleged that Singh had sexually harassed and molested them during both national and international tournaments. For some reason, the Delhi Police did not register a single first information report (FIR) against Singh.

This led to the complainants

approaching the Supreme Court with a petition seeking registration of the FIRs against Singh. The Supreme Court issued notice to the Delhi Police, terming the allegations as serious.

The Delhi Police, on April 29, after the Supreme Court had issued notice, registered two FIRs against Singh, with the FIRs being registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 as well as for provisions regarding outraging the modesty of women under the Indian

Penal Code, 1860. On May 4, the Supreme Court closed proceedings in the matter, taking note that FIRs had been registered against Singh.

Investigation has commenced and the Delhi Police have recorded Singh's statement. The Delhi Police have also informed a special court constituted to deal with the matter in Delhi that a special investigation team (SIT) has been constituted to look into the matter, with the Delhi Police purportedly visiting four different states to collect evidence against Singh.

Singh, a five-time member of Parliament on a Bharatiya Janata Party ticket, for his part, has denied the allegations, going so far as to say that they are politically motivated and that he would hang himself if a single allegation was proved.

He, however, has a history of being accused of criminal activities, having faced as many as 38 criminal cases so far. He has previously been charged for multiple offences, including theft, kidnapping, criminal intimidation and even attempted murder.

What does all this mean, and what lies ahead?

"Earlier, they were saying that I had sexually abused 100 children. Then they started saying that it happened to 1,000 children. Did I eat roti made of Shilajit?" Singh told ABP News Channel during a recent televised interview, as quoted by the Hindustan Times.

This is a parliamentarian, and a man who has been entrusted with running a national sports federation in our country. Whether guilty or not, he seems to be trivialising an issue as serious as sexual offences against children.

While the protests have been lauded, and rightly so, Indian athletes are severely handicapped when it comes to reporting such incidents against figures of authority. The British Broadcasting



Corporation reported in February that as per the response to an application filed under the Right to Information Act, there had been 45 complaints of sexual misconduct against coaches and officials of the Sports Authority of India. From those, five coaches had suffered pay-cuts, one was suspended and later reinstated, and two had their contracts terminated. Most of India's sports federations also do not have oversight committees, such as the one formed in the instant case, and which are also otherwise mandated by law.

A lot of our national sports federations are headed by powerful people such as Singh, and so it is no surprise that athletes tend to back off when it comes to pursuing complaints against such people in power—out of fear of potential repercussions on their career, which they have worked tirelessly to develop.

In the instant case, despite there being protests at a national and televised scale,

things are moving at a snail's pace, and it took intervention from the Supreme Court to get the Delhi Police to even file a complaint against the alleged perpetrator.

Political parties, especially the ruling party (the ones who appoint these goons as presidents of national sports federations) tend to turn a blind eye towards issues plaguing those sections of society who do not constitute a vote bank. Sports and our athletes have historically been neglected and made to suffer at the hands of people not fit to be in administrative positions within sports.

As this scandal unfolds, a lengthy battle awaits the wrestlers.

If Singh is found guilty, it shall serve as a wake-up call to the top brass to appoint competent people who care for the well-being of sports to run national sports federations, rather than random politicians who only want to abuse

positions of power. If he is acquitted, however, going by his statements, he is going to continue to serve as president of the WFI, which I believe is only going to be one step forward and two steps back for the sport.

Khaps And Farmer Outfits Come Out In Support Of Wrestlers

Haryana's khaps and farmer organisations came out in support of protesting wrestlers and prevented them from immersing their medals in Ganga River.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) chief Narseh Tikait reached Har ki Pauri at Haridwar on Tuesday, May 30, evening and intervened and prevented the protesting wrestlers from immersing their medals in Ganga River.

Throwing their weight behind the protesting wrestlers, Phogat Khap leader Balwant Nambardar had said, "We request them that these medals are the results of their hard work, sacrifices of their families and support from society. They should not take this step."

"It is unfortunate that those who represented the nation in top international tournaments are forced to take such decisions. The government should be ashamed and give justice to them in the case."

Nambardar also said Haryana's khaps and farmer organisations stood with the wrestlers in their struggle for justice.

"Charkhi Dadri is ready to spill its blood for them," said Nambardar.

Haryana BKU (Charuni) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni had also requested the protesting wrestlers not to immerse their medals, saying the awards were part of national heritage and future generations would take inspiration from these.

Kandela Khap leader Ramphal Kandela had also appealed to the wrestlers not to immerse their medals.

Vinesh Phogat



Vinesh Phogat (born 25 August 1994) is an Indian wrestler. She became the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold in both Commonwealth and Asian Games. She is the only Indian woman wrestler to win multiple medals at the World Wrestling Championships. Phogat became the first Indian athlete to be nominated for Laureus World Sports Awards in 2019.

Phogat comes from a successful family of wrestlers, with her cousins and being international wrestlers and Commonwealth Games medalists as well. She is one of the leaders of 2023 Indian wrestlers' protest against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh.

Vinesh is the daughter of wrestler Rajpal Phogat and cousin of wrestlers Geeta and Babita. Both her cousins have won gold in 55 kg category in Commonwealth Games.

Sakshi Malik



Sakshi Malik (born 3 September 1992) is an Indian freestyle wrestler. At the 2016 Summer Olympics, she won the bronze medal in the 58 kg category, becoming the first Indian female wrestler to win a medal at the Olympics. She is a part of the JSW Sports Excellence Program, along with fellow female wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Babita Kumari and Geeta Phogat.

Malik had previously won the silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, and the bronze medal at the 2015 Asian Wrestling Championships in Doha. She is one of the leaders of 2023 Indian wrestlers' protest against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh.

Malik was born at Mokhra village of Haryana's Rohtak district to Sukhbir, a bus conductor with Delhi Transport Corporation, and Sudesh Malik, a supervisor at a local health clinic.

Bajrang Punia



Bajrang Punia (born 26 February 1994) is an Indian freestyle wrestler, who competes in the 65-kg weight category. At the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, Punia won a bronze medal by defeating Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov with a 8-0 margin. Punia is the only Indian wrestler to win 4 medals at the World Wrestling Championships. He is protesting at Delhi Jantar Mantar against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh.

Punia was born in Khudan, Jhajjar, Haryana. He began wrestling at the age of seven and was encouraged to pursue the sport by his father. Punia grew up in rural area. His family did not have money for traditional sports. Instead, he had to partake in free sports like Wrestling and Kabaddi. Punia's father was a wrestler as well and at a young age, his family enrolled him in a local mud wrestling school. Punia started to skip school to go to wrestling practice.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh



Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh (born 8 January 1957) is an Indian politician who is serving as Member of Parliament from Kaiserganj as a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He is the current president of the Wrestling Federation of India.

His political career is marked by many controversies, as he was one of the prominent names who got arrested in the demolition of the Babri Masjid case and was also booked under the anti-terrorism law TADA for harboring shooters of the Dawood Ibrahim gang. However, he was later acquitted for lack of evidence.

He is currently at the center of the accusations of sexual harassment by India's top female wrestlers, including Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat, in the ongoing wrestlers' protest.

As per police records, 38 criminal cases were lodged against Brij Bhushan Singh between 1974 and 2007.

DESI FILMS & EVENTS ARRIVE AT 2023 TRIBECA FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

MIDNIGHT SECTION - ESCAPE FROM TRIBECA

ADIPURUSH - World Premiere

Director: Om Raut | India | Action, Drama | 2h 54m | Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu w/Eng Subs



Adipurush.

Photo/ tribecafilm.com

One of India's most expensive film productions of all time, 'Adipurush' is a fun, family epic brought to life with song and lavish special-effects. Heroic Raghav (The Telugu Film Industry (slang: Tollywood) megastar Prabhas) hails from a royal lineage in the city of Ayodhya. When his beloved wife, Janaki, is kidnapped by the vicious Raavan, the demon king of the island of Lanka, Raghav must go on an epic adventure to save her, aided by an incredible army of monkey warriors.

"Directed by award-winning filmmaker Om Raut, this action-heavy 3D spectacle has been one of India's most talked-about and anticipated films in years. Brought to 'Escape From Tribeca' as a way of introducing our audience to the joys of popular Indian Cinema, we are both honored and ecstatic to host the World Premiere of 'Adipurush' right here in New York City this June. Best experienced with a crowd of adventurous cinema lovers, this will surely be a Tribeca Festival night for the ages."--Matt Barone and Jonathan Penner.

Escape from Tribeca

Tribeca's new, Psychotronic Sidebar, dedicated to movies that make audiences stomp their feet and shout out loud. Presenting the most fun horror, action, and fantasy films from around the globe, with giveaways, guests and contests that turn the screenings into one of a kind events unavailable anywhere else. Sure to please even the rowdiest movie lovers, 'Escape from Tribeca' celebrates the joys of the communal filmgoing experience.

For Key Credits, Cast & Crew, visit tribecafilm.com/films/escape-from-tribeca-adipurush-2023

SCREENINGS IN PERSON:

Thu June 15 - 8:00 PM @ AMC 19th St. East 6, and

Sat June 17 - 12:00 PM @ SVA Theatre

Check out tribecafilm.com for ticket availability.

SHORTS SECTION: ANIMATION

AMERICAN SIKH - WORLD PREMIERE

Directors: Ryan Westra and Vishavjit Singh | USA | English | Short | 10m

New York, Animation, Documentary, Politics, Biography, Journalism

The true and unlikely story of an American born, turban-wearing Sikh man, Vishavjit Singh, who after a lifetime of facing prejudice, self-doubt and violence, finally finds acceptance in a superhero costume.

Due to the lack of representation and the statistically small global population of Sikhs as a whole, the vast majority of Americans and the world at large know almost nothing about Sikhs. Lack of knowledge is not



American Sikh

Photo / sikhtoons.com

only an education and awareness issue, but historically is the root of many issues such as xenophobia, intolerance, racism and violent hate crimes.

What little knowledge people may have about Sikhs most often boils down to two things: a turban and a beard. This is the image that needs to be transformed - and that's exactly what Sikh Captain America, Vishavjit Singh, is set out to do.

Sikh Captain America is changing the narrative on Sikhs (and anyone else who may not look "traditionally American") - creating a new American hero that challenges societal expectations and norms. This film also follows his journey of accepting his own identity.

People have grown up idolizing superheroes for decades. Sikh Captain America may not fight evil monsters, but he takes on hate and intolerance that are sadly still very much part of our contemporary society. That's why an animated documentary, much like the superhero cartoons we've all grown up watching, is such a unique way to raise awareness about Sikhs domestically and internationally in a style that people of all cultures and ages can enjoy.

VISHAVJIT SINGH : Vishavjit Singh is a New York City based illustrator, writer, performance artist, diversity speaker and creator of Sikhtoons.com. He got his spark for cartooning in the post 9/11 tragedy when Americans with turbaned and bearded countenance became targets of hate/bias crimes.

"I am a radical listener, status quo disruptor & social narrative innovator. I have tapped into my own vulnerabilities as a genocide survivor and a constant target of hate/bias into a transformational force," Singh says.

For the past few years Vishavjit has been traveling across the U.S. with his Sikh Captain America persona armed with a turban, beard and humor to tackle fear, anxiety, bigotry and intolerance. He uses storytelling as a tool to create a space for challenging conversations around identity, race, bias, vulnerability and how to be agents for change. Vishavjit hosts talks & keynotes in schools, universities, government agencies and companies including Google, Apple, NASA & Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic he has been working with the city of NYC Test & Trace Corps and a local NGO UNITED SIKHS on COVID-19 suppression and relief efforts. His message and work have been covered by a number of news outlets, including the New York Times, NPR, BBC, The Atlantic, Huffington Post, The Guardian and Time Magazine.

For Key Credits, Cast & Crew, visit tribecafilm.com/films/american-sikh-2023

SCREENINGS: IN PERSON

Sat June 10 - 5:15 PM @ AMC 19th St. East 6, and

Sun June 11 - 2:15 PM @ AMC 19th St. East 6

Sat June 17 - 12:15 PM @ AMC 19th St. East 6

Tribeca At Home: Streaming June 19 - July 2

SOUTH ASIAN HOUSE (SAH)

SOUTH ASIAN HOUSE makes its TRIBECA DEBUT

TRIBECA PROGRAM

Panels: Friday, June 16 @ 1 & 3 pm

SAH PROGRAM

Celebrations (Venue & Time: To Be Decided)

Friday, June 16 evening, StoryLounge Variety Show, and

Saturday, June 17, Desi Drag Brunch

The South Asian House (SAH) will present events at the Tribeca Festival (SAH @ TF) for the first time on June 16th to highlight, recognize, and appreciate South Asians in film and television.



SAH Co-Founders (Left to Right) - Kirtana Banskota, Jitin Hingorani, Rohi Mirza Pandya & Monika Samtani.

Photo / Satwic Mudigulam

The brainchild of veteran producers, curators, and programmers: Jitin Hingorani (Jingo Media & DFW South Asian Film Festival), Rohi Mirza Pandya (Box Office Guru Media & Desipina), Monika Samtani (Ms. Media & The Fem Word), and Kirtana Banskota (Banskota Productions & Nepal America Film Society), SAH @ TF will showcase programming focused on the funding, creation, and distribution of uniquely South Asian stories for a global audience. The day will consist of two panel discussions (1 p.m. and 3 p.m.) focused on content creation in the diaspora and the Indian film industry, respectively, featuring actors, directors, and producers and will be part of the AT&T Untold Stories Lounge at Spring Studios.

"Following on the heels of the success of the South Asian House at South by Southwest (SXSW) in March, we are truly thrilled to be commissioned to curate SAH at this iconic New York-based festival that has been home to many of us for years," said lead co-producers Hingorani and Mirza Pandya. "Our filmmakers are making tremendous headway in Hollywood, while the Indian film industry is creating content that is winning Oscars. It's time to celebrate these major achievements as a diaspora and a fraternity!"

In addition to the co-branded programming with Tribeca Festival, SAH will host two unique celebrations around Manhattan that weekend (venues TBD). On Friday, June 16th, NYC comedians and musicians will take center stage at the StoryLounge Variety Show to celebrate the power of the spoken word, and on Saturday, June 17th, a Desi Drag Brunch, conceptualized by One Minute Saree, will bring together Bollywood drag performances paired with the staple of Indian fashion - the forever-fashionable saree.

"South Asians content creators are in the global spotlight for raising the bar through their ingenuity and passion," said David Speer, Director of Operations at Tribeca Enterprises. "Tribeca is proud to showcase ground-breaking South Asian storytelling; this year, we are especially thrilled to welcome the South Asian House to celebrate the diaspora."

For details on the programming and how to claim your spot at any of the events, follow @southasianhouse on Instagram or visit southasianhouse.com.

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

NORTH 2 SHORE FESTIVAL INAUGURAL DOUBLES IN SIZE

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

More than 60 new events featuring hundreds of New Jersey artists added to the lineup of three-city festival in Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City

Theatricals, comedy performances, visual arts exhibits and workshops, hip hop concerts, spoken word poetry readings, dance performances, storytelling events, fashion shows, street fairs and more added to expanding calendar of events for the NJPAC-produced June mega-festival.

Hundreds of New Jersey artists will take center stage at more than 60 new events added to the lineup of the inaugural North to Shore Festival, the three-city, three-weekend summer celebration of the arts, film and tech slated for June 2023.

An extraordinarily diverse roster of artists who've built their creative careers in three of the state's most iconic and culture-rich cities - Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City - will perform thanks to grants from the North to Shore Festival. This unprecedented festival is designed to illuminate the breadth of New Jersey's cultural offerings and provide a unique window into the thriving arts scenes in each city.

Dozens of North to Shore grants have been awarded to artists and groups in each city to enable them to bring this spectacular tapestry to life on each weekend of the festival.

Listen to the announcements of the Governor & First Lady Tammy Murthy:
youtu.be/yJtrwwZnJU0

Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy 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



Architects of N2S NJ Summer Festival: (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
Photo / NJPAC

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."

ATLANTIC CITY (JUNE 7 - 11)

Partner Venues:
Boardwalk Hall | Adrian Philips Theater
Resorts Superstar Theater
Tropicana
El Charro
Kelsey's Supper Club
Rhythm & Spirits
Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall
The Anchor Rock Club
Union Hall Arts
6/8 - Comedy and Open Mic Night with Michelle Tomko - Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall
6/8 - Joe McGinty & The Loser's Lounge - Anchor Rock Club
6/9 - Whole Health Pavilion - Stockton University, Atlantic City Campus
6/9 - Anthony Krizan (Spin Doctors) -

Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

6/9 - Miss Cantaloupe/Molly Ringworm - Anchor Rock Club

6/9 - Colbie Caillat + Gavin DeGraw - Boardwalk Hall - Adrian Philips Theater*
6/10 - Jay Wheeler - Tropicana

JAY WHEELER

Saturday, June 10, 2023 - Tropicana
Considered the new urban music superstar, Puerto Rican reggaeton singer/songwriter Jay Wheeler is his fans' "La Vox Favorita."

6/10 - Remember Jones: BAT OUT OF HELL LIVE - Resorts Superstar Theater

REMEMBER JONES

June 10, 2023 - Resorts Casino Hotel, Superstar Theater

You're sure to remember the spectacular showmanship of NJ's own soul/pop singer/storyteller Remember Jones

6/11 - Ladies Night Out Comedy Tour: Loni Love, Jess Hilarious, B. Simone, Jackie Fabulous, Nene Leakes - Boardwalk Hall - Adrian Philips Theater

Ladies Night Out Comedy Tour: Loni Love, Jess Hilarious, B. Simone, Jackie Fabulous, Nene Leakes

Sunday, June 11, 2023 - Boardwalk Hall, Adrian Phillips Theater

Four queens of comedy tear it up in AC this summer with The Ladies Night Out Comedy Tour, featuring Jess Hilarious, B. Simone, Jackie Fabulous + special guest Loni Love.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

DJ Chiko and DJ Shino
June 9-11, 2023 - El Charro

Grab a margarita and dance the night away with DJ Chiko and DJ Shino, two of the hottest DJs in town.

Jazz Brunch: Tony Day Trio
June 11, 2023 - Kelsey's Supper Club

Fancy a bit of jazz with your Sunday Brunch? Head over to Kelsey's Supper Club for a morning of great music and

delicious food.

Quizzo

June 7, 2023 - Tennessee Ave Beer Hall
Are you ready to get your trivia on? Grab a team and get yourself over to the Tennessee Ave Beer Hall for Quizzo.

Open Mic with Live Band

June 8, 2023 - Kelsey's Supper Club
Head to our weekly open mic (featuring a live backing band) and show off your musical skills!

Yuengs, Wings, & Zings Comedy and Open Mic with Michelle Tomko

June 8, 2023 - Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

Get laughing and share a song at Yuengs, Wings, and Zings Open Mic, hosted by Michelle Tomko.

Amanda and Teddy Duo

June 9, 2023 - Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

The Amanda and Teddy Duo provide just the right amount of smooth with their original soul + rock tunes.

North 2 Shore Opening Night Dance Party | Featuring Joe McGinty & The Losers Lounge

Saturday, June 9, 2023 - The Anchor Rock Club

Bust out your best moves at the N2S opening dance party with The Loser's Lounge performing the top pop music from 60s, 70s + 80s

Miss Cantaloupe / Molly Ringworm

June 9, 2023 - The Anchor Rock Club
Catch Miss Cantaloupe and Molly Ringworm, two female-fronted indie rock acts that will blow your mind.

Anthony Krizan Band

June 10, 2023 - Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

Anthony Krizan (The Spin Doctors) goes solo with soulful, swampy rock & roll.

Resurrextion: Allman Brothers Tribute Band

June 10, 2023- Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

Ready for some classic Allman Brothers? Head down to the Tennessee Beer Garden for tribute band Resurrextion.

Weir Wolves Bob Weir Tribute

June 11, 2023 - Tennessee Avenue Beer Hall

Head on down to the Tennessee Beer Garden for the Bob Weir tribute band, Weir-Wolves

TICKETS & UPDATES

Learn more about the North 2 Shore Festival at NorthtoShore.com.

Tickets for the North to Shore Festival are available at NorthtoShore.com.

Get Festival updates most quickly on social media.

Follow North to Shore on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and TikTok.

(More listings to follow in the coming issues for Asbury Park & Newark)

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

AUSTIN CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF CINE LAS AMERICAS

BY MABEL PAIS

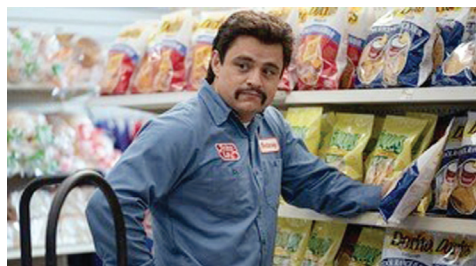
Featuring NARDEEP KHURMI'S
LAND OF GOLD
And many more

The Austin (Texas) based Cine Las Americas International Film Festival (CLAIFF) presents films and events for its 25th Anniversary edition, featuring more in-theater screenings and programs than ever before, and filmmaker awards totaling \$8K in cash prizes. The Festival takes place June 7-11 at several locations. Cine Las Americas is set to take place at AFS Cinema (6259 Middle Fiskville Rd.), Galaxy Theatre (6700 Middle Fiskville Rd.), and Austin PBS (Clayton Lane/Wilhelmina Delco Dr.), including two days of free-to-the-public screenings at Galaxy Theatre on Saturday, 6/10 and Sunday, 6/11.

2023 Cine Las Americas Film Lineup

OPENING NIGHT

Flamin' Hot



Opening Night, 'Flamin' Hot.'

Photo / cinelasamericas.org

Director: Eva Longoria | USA | 1h 39m
'Flamin' Hot' is the inspiring true story of Richard Montañez (Jesse Garcia) who as a Frito-Lay janitor disrupted the food industry by channeling his Mexican American heritage to turn Flamin' Hot Cheetos from a snack into an iconic global pop culture phenomenon.

CLOSING NIGHT

Amor y matemáticas (Love and Mathematics)

Director: Claudia Sainte-Luce | Mexico | 1h 25m

Having known fame as a former boy band member, Billy now lives a monotonous existence as a married man in a suburban Mexican city. Yet, an encounter with an ex-fan will make him confront his life decisions.

SHOWCASE: NARRATIVE FEATURES

Chile '76

Director: Manuela Martelli | Chile/Argentina/Qatar | 1h 35m

Domingo y la niebla (Domingo and the Mist)

Director: Ariel Escalante Meza | Costa Rica/Qatar | 1h 32m

El Castigo (The Punishment)

Director: Matías Bize | Chile/Argentina | 1h 25m

Finde

Director: Nano Garay Santaló | Argentina | 1h 25m

Girasoles silvestres (Wild Flowers)

Director: Jaime Rosales | Spain | 1h 47m

La civil

Director: Teodora Ana Mihai | Mexico/Belgium/Romania | 2h 25m

La hija de todas las rabias (Daughter of Rage)

Director: Laura Baumeister | Nicaragua/Mexico/Netherlands/Germany/France/Norway | 1h 27m

La jauría

Director: Andrés Ramírez Pulido | Colombia/France | 1h 26m



Land of Gold (Narrative Feature).

Photo / cinelasamericas.org

Land of Gold

Director: Nardeep Khurmi | USA | 1h 45m

No quiero ser polvo (I Don't Want to be Dust)

Director: Iván Löwenberg | Mexico/Argentina | 1h 25m

Nuestros días más felices (Our Happiest Days)

Director: Sol Berruezo Pichon-Rivière | Argentina | 1h 40m

Paloma

Director: Marcelo Gomes | Brazil/Portugal | 1h 44m

SHOWCASE - DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

The Illusion of Abundance

Directors: Erika Gonzalez Ramirez, Matthieu Lietaert | Colombia/Honduras/Peru/Belgium/Brazil/Germany/Indigenous | 1h

NARRATIVE FEATURES - COMPETITION

Bones of Crows

Director: Marie Clements | Canada | 2h 9m

Manuela

Director: Clara Cullen | Argentina/United States | 1h 30m

Martínez

Director: Lorena Padilla | Mexico | 1h 33m

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES - COMPETITION

El Equipo (The Team)

Director: Bernardo Ruiz | Argentina/Mexico/United States | 1h 21m

Kenya

Director: Gisela Delgadillo | Mexico | 1h 30m

Miwene: Reclaiming the Amazon

Directors: Keith Heyward, Jennifer Berglund, Gange Anita Yeti Enomenga, Obe Beatriz Nenquimo Nihua | Ecuador |



'Miwene, Reclaiming the Amazon' (Documentary Feature - Competition).

Photo / cinelasamericas.org

1h 46m

NARRATIVE SHORTS - COMPETITION

La Torta

Director: Carlos Novella | Venezuela | 19m

Llueven las flores, los piratas y el tesoro de la bruja

Director: Faustino Alanís | Mexico | 17m

Naquele Dia Escuro

Director: Daniel Guarda | Brazil | 30m

Una Eva Más

Director: Daniela Hernández | Chile/Venezuela | 21m

Votamos

Director: Santiago Requejo | Spain | 13m

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS - COMPETITION

El Ojo Comienza En La Mano (The Eye Begins in the Hand)

Director: Yehuda Sharim | USA | 16m

Imelda Is Not Alone

Director: Paula Heredia | El Salvador/USA | 30m

Pemón

Director: Brandon Pestano | UK/Brazil | 15m

Tres Almas en Busca de un Abrazo (Three Souls in Search of an Embrace)

Directors: Tom Donohue, Greg Shaya | USA | 15m

Who She Is

Directors: Jordan Dresser, Sophie Barksdale | USA | 38m

HECHO EN TEJAS SHORTS

A Life in Technicolor

Director: Alex Ramirez | USA | 19m

El Gato Feo

Director: Daniel Fabelo | USA | 15m

La Cosecha

Director: Samuel Díaz Fernández | USA | 13m

**In Tow

Director: Sharon Arteaga | USA | 21m

**NOT IN COMPETITION

Raúl R Salinas and the poetry of liberation: un trip

Directors: Anne Lewis, Laura Varela | USA | 25m

Sin lágrimas para llorar

Director: Luis Fernando Puente | USA | 13m

7TH ANNUAL FEMME FRONTERA SHOWCASE LINE-UP

Barter

Directors: Ziba Karamali, Emad Arad
Blue Veil

Director: Shireen Alihaji
Homesick

Director: Valeria Contreras
La Bi-Vencia

Directors: Mariana Gongora-Reyes,
Analaura Cardenas

Lioness

Director: Molly E. Smith
Mommyland

Director: Aijian Chen
Seeds

Directors: Morningstar Angeline,
Ajuawak Kapashesit

Shipping Them

Director: Ryan Rox

PANORAMA SHORTS

Little Red Drone

Director: Michael Kirchoff | USA | 15m

Alejandro Jimenez: The Ground I Stand On

Directors: Raúl Paz Pastrana, Alan Domínguez | USA | 12m

Metal Belt

Director: Blackhorse Lowe | USA | 14m

Paralelos

Director: Paula Scalona | Mexico | 14m

Art as Means of Breath

Director: Celi Mitidieri | USA | 6m

John Leguizamo Live at Rikers

Director: Elena Francesca Engel | USA | 26m

EMERGENCIA - ALL AGES

Alexei Sinyavin - Speedcuber

Director: Aaron Anidjar | USA | 5m

Better Late Than Never

Director: Estevan Evaristo Garcia | USA | 2m

Don't Froget

Director: Mariana McKenzie | USA | 1m

Entre Faros No Hay Competidores (No Competition Between Lighthouses)

Director: Cira Garza | USA | 3m

Game Night

Director: Cadence Grace Barreda | USA | 3m

Prosperity of Tomorrow

Director: Diego Rodriguez | USA | 7m

Spiral

Director: Isabella Wren Tealey | USA | 18m

EMERGENCIA - 14+

Phototaxis

Director: Juan Castro | Spain | 5m

Towerfall

Director: Bjorgvin Arnarson | USA | 9m

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Farzi actor Bhuvan Arora to star in Kabir Khan's next

Actor Bhuvan Arora, who shot to prominence after starring in crime thriller series *Farzi*, is set to feature in director Kabir Khan's upcoming film.

Produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the currently untitled movie is based on a true story and is fronted by Kartik Aryan.

Arora said he is looking forward to working with the filmmaker, best known for *Ek Tha Tiger*, *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* and *83*.

"I am very excited and happy to work with Kabir sir. I have always admired his films and the selection of stories he wants to tell.

"This one too is a very challenging film which requires a lot of prep work. The film is based on a true story with a larger-than-life canvas. I will also be seen in a new role that I have never played before," the actor said in a statement.

Prior to Prime Video's *Farzi*, Arora featured in supporting characters in films such as *Shuddh Desi Romance* and *Naam Shabana*.

In *Farzi*, the actor stars as Firoz, the slightly gullible but loyal friend to Shahid Kapoor's Sunny, a talented painter who turns to currency counterfeiting.

Alia joins Julia Roberts, Idris Elba and more Hollywood stars in new Gucci video

Alia Bhatt joined some of the biggest Hollywood stars on a recent video by fashion house Gucci. The celebrities championed gender equality as part of a new campaign. Alia was recently announced as the face of the brand not just in India, but internationally.

Alia took to Instagram and Twitter to share the Gucci video. With it, she wrote in the caption, "Excited to be chiming in for Gucci Chime's 10th Anniversary Campaign! Gucci chime for gender equality. Chime in."

The video begins with Ozark star Julia Garner introducing herself, followed by Halle Bailey, John Legend and Salma Hayek Pinault, who says that she 'chimes for gender equality'. Then Daisy Edgar Jones, Alia, Serena Williams, Julia Roberts and Idris Elba show their support for 'education, strength, dignity'. "We chime as one," Idris says in the end.

Alia's fans left comments for her on the Gucci video on Instagram. "Bollywood queen Alia Bhatt," wrote one. "Alia and Salma, my favourite. Alia with someone of my nationality is my win," wrote another. Alia got the most attention in the comment section compared to others.

The actor recently attended the Gucci Cruise 2024 show in Seoul, South Korea. The Gangubai Kathiawadi actor donned a mini black dress with polka dotted cutout. She completed her look with black platform heels and a Gucci Jackie 1961 transparent bag.

Last month, Alia was announced as the first Indian global ambassador of the luxury fashion brand, Gucci. Taking to Instagram, the fashion brand shared the news and captioned it, "Alia Bhatt is the House's newest Global Brand Ambassador. To mark the occasion, the actress, producer, and entrepreneur were captured with the Gucci Bamboo 1947 bag."



Karisma Kapoor, Madhuri Dixit leave fans nostalgic with new dance video

Bollywood divas Karisma Kapoor and Madhuri Dixit, who have worked together in the film *'Dil To Pagal Hai'*, recently reunited and treated fans with their "dance of Friendship" video.

On Wednesday, Karisma dropped a video featuring Madhuri and captioned it, "Dance of Envy Friendship." In the video, Karisma and Madhuri can be seen grooving to Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone's *'Balam Pichkari'* from the film *'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani'*.

Not only they danced but posed for selfies.

In the pictures, Karisma can be seen dressed in a brown printed kurta pyjama set while Madhuri opted for a yellow printed summery dress enhancing the look with a belt. The video reminded fans of *'Dil To Pagal Hai'* iconic face-off between Karisma and Madhuri.

As soon as the videos and pictures were posted, the actor's fans and industry friends chimed in the comment section. Kareena Kapoor wrote, "The OG SuperStars."

Tamannaah Bhatia commented, "Icons."

Seeing the reunion of *'Dil To Pagal Hai'*, one of the users wrote, "Sharukh ki kami hai bass beautiful to see them together." Another commented, "dil to Pagal h" 2 ban jati"



Arjun Kapoor on Malaika pregnancy rumors: 'Check with us once in a while'

Arjun Kapoor and Malaika Arora's relationship has often made headlines. With the increased attention comes a share of rumours that has no inkling of truth attached to it. One such rumour that prompted the couple to break their silence was that of Malaika's pregnancy, which gained momentum last year. The reports were refuted by the couple, with Arjun Kapoor putting out a statement asking that their personal lives not be played with. Now, in a new interview with *Bollywood Bubble*, Arjun Kapoor has reacted to the impact of such false reports and how it affects them. "Negativity is easier to do. I think it gets people to pay attention because that's been building for a while. Listen, we are actors, our personal life is not always very private. There is a certain amount that exists and you have to be okay with it already joining the profession," he was quoted as saying.





Johnny Depp fractures ankle ahead of his Hollywood Vampires show

Actor Johnny Depp has said that he has fractured his ankle and has been advised by medical professionals to 'avoid any and all activity for the moment'. Taking to his Instagram Stories on Monday, Johnny shared a note saying that the injury 'began as a hairline break'. He added that 'somewhere between Cannes and Royal Albert Hall, it got worse rather than better'. He also apologised to his fans as he and his band, Hollywood Vampires, won't be able to perform in several cities in the US.

Johnny's statement read, "Dear friends, I am sorry to say that I have fractured my ankle, which is a drag!!! It began as a hairline break but somewhere between Cannes and Royal Albert Hall, it got worse rather than better. Several medical professionals have strongly suggested I avoid any and all activity for the moment and so am sadly unable to travel at this time."

Kylie Jenner and Timothée Chalamet enjoying each other's company, but 'It's nothing serious'

The Kardashians star Kylie Jenner and *Dune* star Timothée Chalamet, continue to enjoy each other's company without any official labels attached.

According to a source close to the 25-year-old reality TV star-businesswoman, they still spend time together when both are in Jenner's hometown, Los Angeles.

While there have been speculations about their relationship, the insider clarified "Kylie enjoys dating, but her main focus is being a mom," and their connection is "not serious" at the moment.

Representatives for both Jenner and Chalamet have not provided any comments regarding the matter, when reached out.

In mid-April, eminent PEOPLE Magazine reported that Jenner and Chalamet crossed paths earlier this year at an event in Europe. Sources confirmed that they were getting to know each other and spending time together. Their bond seemed to grow stronger as they continued to meet up "Every week," engaging in meaningful conversations.

However, it is evident that the famous reality star wants to keep things casual and without any pressure. Sources confirmed that the duo were "hanging out and getting to know each other." The insider also revealed that she enjoys dating but prioritizes her role as a mother to her two children.



Jenner shares her 5-year-old daughter Stormi Webster and 15-month-old son Aire with rapper Travis Scott, with whom she has had an on-again, off-again relationship since 2017.

As fans eagerly follow the developments in their relationship, both the Kylie Cosmetics founder and *Dune* star remain focused on their respective

careers. Kylie is busy with her highly successful Kylie Cosmetics brand, while Chalamet has gained acclaim for his performances in films like "Call Me by Your Name" and "Little Women." He has upcoming projects including "Dune: Part Two" and an original story film about the iconic character Willy Wonka, both slated for release later this year.

Leonardo DiCaprio hangs out with model Neelam Gill in London

Hollywood superstar Leonardo DiCaprio was seen dining with British model of Indian origin, Neelam Gill in London. DiCaprio's mom, Irmelin Indenbirken and other friends also accompanied the pair, as per a report by Page Six.

The "Titanic" actor was photographed wearing a black cap, black jacket, blue jeans and white sneakers while leaving the Chiltern Firehouse. DiCaprio had his face covered with a mask.

Notably, DiCaprio was spotted leaving Hotel Martinez in Cannes, France with Gill and other women, a week ago. However, as per a report by The New York Post, Gill is not dating DiCaprio.

In the start of May, DiCaprio dined with supermodel Gigi Hadid and it sparked rumours about their romance. The former couple was photographed leaving separately at Cipriani Downtown in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood on the morning of May 5. DiCaprio's dating rumours with Hadid gets mileage as the pair have been spotted hanging out together on several occasions in recent times.

DiCaprio and Hadid were seen partying at Darren Dzienciol and Richie Akiva's pre-Oscars bash in March.

"There was no PDA, but they were together nearly the entire night and barely moved from their spot," a source was quoted as saying by people.com at the time.

Since parting ways from Camila Morrone last year,



DiCaprio has been spotted spending time with several celebrity women.

Neelam Gill is a 28-year-old model who was born in Coventry, Warwickshire, England, United Kingdom on 27 April 1995.

Kim Cattrall is returning as Samantha Jones in 'And Just Like That...'

Kim Cattrall, known for her portrayal of Samantha Jones in *Sex and the City*, is set to return to the beloved franchise in the second season of 'And Just Like That...'. MAX confirmed that the 66-year-old actress will make a cameo appearance, reprising her iconic character. Although Cattrall previously expressed disinterest in being part of the reboot, her unexpected return has sparked excitement among fans.

Cattrall's appearance as Samantha Jones will reportedly occur in the season 2 finale of 'And Just Like That...'. The character is said to have a phone conversation with Carrie Bradshaw, played by Sarah Jessica Parker. The cameo was filmed on March 22 in New York City, with Cattrall not interacting with the other stars of the series or the show's creator, Michael Patrick King. However, she was styled by the renowned *Sex and the City* designer Patricia Field for her appearance.



AMID SHRINKING FREEDOMS, HONG KONGERS COMMEMORATE TIANANMEN

ANNIVERSARY PRIVATELY

HONG KONG (TIP): As the 34th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square crackdown approaches on June 4, many in Hong Kong are trying to mark the day in private ways in the shadow of a law that prosecuted leading activists in the city's pro-democracy movement.

For decades, Hong Kong was the only place in China where people held large-scale commemorations about the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in which tanks rolled into the heart of Beijing and hundreds, and possibly thousands, of people, were killed.

People gathered in Hong Kong's Victoria Park annually to mark the June 4 anniversary with a candlelight vigil.

In 2020, thousands defied a police ban to hold the event.

This Sunday, Victoria Park will be occupied instead by a carnival organised by pro-Beijing groups to celebrate Hong Kong's handover to Chinese rule in 1997.

Organisers say it will feature a bazaar with food from across China.

As the government arrested activists, publishers and opposition politicians under the sweeping 2020 National Security Law, public shows of the opposition have mostly vanished.

As authorities erase reminders of the massacre, some Hong Kongers are fighting to keep memories alive by distributing LED candles, writing about the crackdown, or buying books about it. In previous years, Richard Tsoi, a former vigil organiser, would have been having a busy week, preparing for the event and coordinating with police.

This year, the 55-year-old says he has not decided what he'll do on Sunday.

"Over some 30 years, we carried on our work in a struggle of memory against forgetting," said Tsoi, who wore a black T-shirt with the slogan "The people will never forget." "Now, maybe we will have to think about how to keep this message from being drowned out in Hong Kong." Asked whether it is legal to mourn the crackdown in public privately, Hong Kong leader John Lee said that if anyone breaks the law, "of course the police will have to take action."

The group that formerly organised the Victoria Park vigil disbanded in 2021, after police informed it that it was under investigation for working on behalf of foreign groups, an accusation the group denied, and three of its leaders were charged with subversion. The Tiananmen crackdown left a deep mark on a generation of liberal-minded Chinese people. Tsoi, who was in college during the 1989 democracy movement, said the protests gave him hope for the future of China. (AP)

Boris Johnson offers unredacted WhatsApp messages to UK Covid inquiry

LONDON (TIP): Boris Johnson, who was the British prime minister during the height of COVID, on June 2 offered to hand over all his unredacted WhatsApp messages to the public inquiry set up to investigate the government's handling of the pandemic.

The latest move further complicates matters as it bypasses the Rishi Sunak-led government's decision to seek a judicial review into inquiry chair Baroness Heather Hallett's order for all such messages to be handed over.

After missing a deadline on Thursday for the handover of the documents which include Johnson's messages, the UK Cabinet Office said in a statement that government officials should not be required to provide material that is "irrelevant".

"While I understand the government's position, I am not willing to let my material become a test case for others when I am perfectly content for the inquiry to see it," said Johnson in a letter addressed to Baroness Hallett.

The 58-year-old former prime minister said he was handing over "all unredacted WhatsApps" he provided to the Cabinet Office and said he has asked it to hand over his notebooks, which he no longer has access to.

He also said that he would "like to do



the same with any material that may be on an old phone, which I have previously been told I can no longer access safely".

Johnson says he has asked the government for help to turn on the device securely to hand over the material. It relates to security concerns raised during his time as prime minister after it emerged that the particular phone number had been freely available on the internet for 15 years, which led to him acquiring a new phone. The Opposition Labour Party has accused the government of a cover-up over its refusal to hand over all the messages demanded by the public

inquiry.

The UK Cabinet Office has insisted that it is "fully committed" to its obligations to the inquiry, but that it was "firmly of the view that the inquiry does not have the power to request unambiguously irrelevant information that is beyond the scope of this investigation".

"It represents an unwarranted intrusion into other aspects of the work of government. It also represents an intrusion into their legitimate expectations of privacy and protection of their personal information," the Cabinet Office said in its letter to the inquiry. (PTI)

Blinken says no Ukraine cease-fire without a peace deal that includes Russia's withdrawal

KYIV (TIP): U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on June 2 that there can be no cease-fire in the war in Ukraine unless it is part of a "just and lasting" peace deal that includes Russia's military withdrawal.

Blinken said that "a cease-fire that simply freezes current lines in place" and allows Russian President Vladimir Putin "to consolidate control over the territory he has seized, and rest, rearm, and reattack — that is not a just and lasting peace."

Russia must also pay a share of Ukraine's reconstruction and be held accountable for launching its full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022, Blinken said in a speech during a visit to Finland, which recently joined NATO and shares a long border with Russia.

Allowing Moscow to keep the one-fifth of Ukraine territory it has occupied would send the wrong message to Russia and to "other would-be aggressors around the world," according to Blinken.

Washington is ready to support peace efforts by other countries, including recent overtures from China and Brazil,

he said. But any peace agreement must uphold the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence.

The United States is a leading Western ally and supplier of arms to Kyiv to help it push back against the Kremlin's forces.

China, which says it is neutral and wants to serve as a mediator but has supported Moscow politically, on Friday urged countries to stop sending weapons to Ukraine.

In Ukraine, air defences shot down more than 30 Russian cruise missiles and drones Friday in Moscow's sixth air attack in six days on Kyiv, local officials said.

The Ukrainian capital was simultaneously attacked from different directions by Iranian-made Shahed drones and cruise missiles from the Caspian region, senior Kyiv official Serhii Popko wrote on Telegram.

A 68-year-old man and an 11-year-old child were wounded in the attack, with private houses, outbuildings and cars sustaining damage from falling debris, according to Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office.

A recent spate of attacks on the capital

has put a strain on residents and tested the strength of Ukraine's air defences while Kyiv officials plot what they say is an upcoming counteroffensive to push back the Kremlin's forces 15 months after their full-scale invasion. Kyiv was the target of drone and missile attacks on 17 days last month, including daylight attacks.

Moscow's strategy could backfire, however, according to the Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank.

The air campaign aims to "degrade Ukrainian counteroffensive capabilities, but ... the Russian prioritization of Kyiv is likely further limiting the campaign's ability to meaningfully constrain potential Ukrainian counteroffensive actions," it said in an assessment late Thursday.

Ukrainian air defences intercepted all 15 cruise missiles and 21 attack drones, Ukraine's chief of staff, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said.

Ukraine's presidential office said Friday that at least four civilians were killed and 42 wounded over the previous 24 hours. (AP)

Australian decorated hero resigned from Seven West Media after Afghanistan war crime revelations

CANBERRA (TIP): Australia's most decorated living war veteran Ben Roberts-Smith quit his corporate job on June 2 after a civil court blamed him for unlawfully killing four Afghans, escalating calls for the tarnished national hero to be stripped of his revered Victoria Cross medal.

Roberts-Smith, who retired from Australia's elite Special Air Service Regiment a decade ago, quit his job as state manager of Seven West Media after losing a landmark defamation suit on Thursday against newspapers that had accused him of an array of war crimes.

The 44-year-old had taken leave since 2021 to focus on his federal court case, which has been financed by the company's billionaire executive chair Kerry Stokes.

"Ben has been on leave whilst the case was running and today has offered his resignation which we have accepted," chief executive James Warburton said Friday in a staff email.

"We thank Ben for his commitment to Seven and wish him all the best," Warburton added.

Roberts-Smith has been fighting to salvage his reputation through a defamation suit in the federal court since Australian newspaper articles in 2018 accused him of an array of war crimes including culpability in six unlawful killings.

A judge dismissed the defamation claims on Thursday, finding the articles were substantially true.

The judge also found Roberts-Smith



was responsible for four of the six unlawful deaths he had been accused of.

Media lawyer Justin Quill said Roberts-Smith's lawyers would have been shocked by the extent of his loss.

"Ultimately there is a judge's finding that he committed four murders and that's about as bad as you could possibly get," Quill said.

"I'd say even in his worst nightmares he didn't expect yesterday to go quite as badly as that."

Roberts-Smith remains under Australian police investigation for criminal prosecution for war crimes.

A former SAS soldier March became the first charged with a war crime from Australia's 20-year campaign in Afghanistan.

Roberts-Smith's SAS colleagues are among those calling for him to become the first of Australia's Victoria Cross winners to be stripped of the highest

award for gallantry in battle.

The Australian government refused to comment on the case.

Minor Greens Party Senator David Shoebridge said Roberts-Smith should be stripped of his honours and the Australian War Memorial should remove memorabilia including portraits, medals and a uniform display.

"At a minimum, we should be seeing action by the Australian War Memorial to remove the display that is now there for Ben Roberts-Smith. His uniform and his medals, which thousands of people will attend tomorrow to view and witness," Shoebridge said.

"The Australian War Memorial has an obligation to tell the whole truth about Australia's involvement in Afghanistan," he added.

The memorial said the civil court context could be added to the Roberts-Smith display. (AP)

CHINA BACKS EXPANSION OF BRICS GROUPING WITH 'LIKEMINDED PARTNERS'

BEIJING (TIP): China on June 1 said Beijing views the BRICS as an "open and inclusive" platform and it backs moves to expand the five-member grouping with "like-minded partners."

Asked at a media briefing here about reports saying that India wants an agreement to be reached on the process of expanding BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said she had not seen the report but "in principle, China always holds that BRICS is open and inclusive."

"We support BRICS expansion and welcome more like-minded partners to join the BRICS family," she said.

As BRICS countries proposed to hold the next summit in South Africa in August this year, media reports say several countries have evinced interest in joining the grouping of emerging markets.

According to reports, 19 countries -- Argentina, Nicaragua, Mexico, Uruguay, Nigeria, Algeria, Egypt, Senegal, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkiye, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Bangladesh -- have evinced interest in joining the BRICS grouping.

The BRICS brings together five of the largest developing countries of the world, representing 41 per cent of the global population, 24 per cent of the global GDP, and 16 per cent of the global trade. (PTI)

How Turkiye's President Erdogan has maintained a tight grip on power in the country

ANKARA (TIP): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a populist with increasingly authoritarian tendencies, is scheduled to take the oath of office and start his third presidential term on June 3 following his latest election win.

Erdogan, who has led Turkiye as prime minister or president for 20 years, prevailed in a runoff race last weekend despite the country's ongoing economic crisis and his government's criticised response to a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Known as "reis" or "the chief" among his fans, the 69-year-old Erdogan already is the longest-serving leader in the Turkish republic's history.

His reelection to a five-year term that runs until 2028 extends his rule into a third decade, and he could possibly serve longer with the help of a friendly parliament.

Here is a look at Erdogan's career and some of the reasons for his political

longevity.

IT'S NOT THE ECONOMY

Many experts agree that Turkiye's severe economic woes result from Erdogan's unorthodox fiscal policies - most notably, depressing interest rates against rampant inflation despite the warnings of economists.

However, the majority of voters - he received 52 per cent of the runoff vote - did not seem to hold it against him.

Erdogan's endurance amid the cost-of-living crisis - inflation in Turkiye hit a staggering 85 per cent in October before easing to 44 per cent in April - might have resulted from many people preferring stability over change as they struggle to pay skyrocketing prices for rent and basic goods.

The president has demonstrated an ability to turn the economy around in the past.

And he has never shied away from

spending and deploying government resources to his political advantage.

Over the past two decades, his government has spent lavishly on infrastructure to please constituents.

In the period leading up to last month's parliamentary and presidential elections, he increased wages and pensions to cushion the blow from inflation and disbursed electricity and gas subsidies.

One point of pride for many voters is Turkiye's ballooning military-industrial sector.

Throughout the campaign, Erdogan frequently cited domestically made drones, aircraft and a warship touted as the world's first "drone carrier".

ON THE WORLD STAGE

Erdogan has swayed many Turks to his side with the way he navigates the world stage.

Supporters see in him a leader who has



shown that Turkiye can be a major player in geopolitics while displaying an independent streak as it engages with the East and West.

Turkiye is a key NATO member because of its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it controls the alliance's second-largest army. (AP)

SRI LANKA DRAFTING BILL TO CURB GROWING INCIDENTS OF RELIGIOUS SLANDER ON SOCIAL MEDIA

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka is drafting new legislation to curb the growing incidents of religious slander and online vitriol, according to the country's religious affairs minister.

The move comes after a stand-up comedian Nathasha Edirisooriya allegedly made certain derogatory remarks on religions, which she uploaded online.

Edirisooriya offered an apology, but a complaint was filed and she was taken into custody on May 31 while trying to fly out of the country.

Sri Lanka's Minister of Buddhahasana, Religious, and Cultural Affairs Vidura Wickramanayaka on Sunday said the legislation would soon be passed to curb the growing incidents of religious slander in the country.

"This will stop all incidents of demeaning religion on social media," he asserted.

The controversy surrounding Edirisooriya's comments is not a one-off incident. Earlier this month, Pastor Jerome Fernando, a self-styled Godman, was accused of derogatory comments on Lord Buddha, which went viral on social media.

On May 15, President Ranil Wickremesinghe ordered the Criminal Investigation Department to launch an immediate investigation into the matter, arguing that such statements could create religious conflicts in the country.

Like Edirisooriya, Fernando also offered an apology. He has, however, fled to Singapore and filed a fundamental rights petition to block his impending arrest.

In January, a popular Youtuber Sepal Amarasinghe was sent to police custody for making disparaging comments on the Sacred Tooth relic of Lord Buddha.

The Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic is a Buddhist temple in Kandy. It is located in the royal palace complex of the former Kingdom of Kandy, which houses the relic of the tooth of the Buddha. The arrest came after parliamentarians across the aisle unanimously condemned Amarasinghe's comments on his YouTube channel.

Amarasinghe's YouTube channel has nearly 80,000 subscribers and the outspoken man is well-known on social media for his unorthodox views that challenge what he claims are parochial traditions and customs.

Over 74 per cent of Sri Lanka's 22 million population are Buddhists.

Sri Lanka's Constitution accords Buddhism as the "foremost place" among the country's religious faiths and commits the government to protecting it, while also respecting the rights of other religious minorities. (PTI)

Stop giving coverage to ex-PM Imran Khan, Pakistan govt tells media houses

LAHORE (TIP): The Pakistan government on June 2 urged the country's media houses to refrain from publishing or broadcasting speeches, statements, tweets or pictures of former prime minister Imran Khan.

The government said it was making sure that the 70-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief's social media activities are also blocked.

According to a government official, both print and electronic media have been directed not to publish or broadcast Khan's speeches, statements, tweets or display his pictures.

"We will make sure that media blackout of Imran Khan is completely enforced," the official said.

An informed source told PTI that the Pakistani media houses have been categorically told by the 'powerful circles' to give no coverage to Khan.

He said Khan's media blackout was enforced from Friday.

The government order comes a day after the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) directed all satellite TV channels not to promote the perpetrators of the May 9 violence.

It also directed them to ensure that coherence and national harmony are promoted and "hate mongers, rioters, their facilitators and perpetrators" are completely blacked out from the media.

Without naming Khan, PEMRA said: "Refrain from providing airtime to those



who propagate hate speech and provoke public sentiments against the federation and state institutions".

It said the hate mongers, representing political outfits, are abusing their power against Pakistan and state institutions by instigating the public.

"All such anti-state activities were orchestrated by the politically charged-up zealots of a political party behaving largely as hate mongers to instigate political activists," it said.

There has been a crackdown on the PTI leaders and workers after their alleged involvement in attacking army installations in the country following the arrest of Khan.

Violence erupted across Pakistan on May 9 when cricketer-turned-politician

Khan was arrested from the premises of the Islamabad High Court in a corruption case.

Khan was released on bail two days later.

Over 20 military installations and government buildings including military headquarters in Rawalpindi were damaged in the unrest that ensued.

Over 100 vehicles of police and other security agencies were also set on fire in the violence that left more than 10 persons dead.

Khan has said over 25 PTI workers were killed in the violence and that law enforcement agencies arrested over 10,000 PTI workers across Pakistan.

As many as 4,000 of them are from Punjab. (PTI)

India, Nepal agree to tackle boundary dispute amicably; ink raft of pacts to broad-base ties

KATHMANDU / NEW DELHI (TIP):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart Pushpakamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on June 1 vowed to resolve the vexed boundary dispute in the spirit of friendship even as the two sides signed several major pacts including one on increasing New Delhi's import of power from the neighbouring country to 10,000 megawatt in the next 10 years from the current 450 megawatt.

In the wide-ranging talks between Modi and Prachanda, the Indian side agreed to the first trilateral power trade from Nepal to Bangladesh through India for up to 40 megawatt of power, a move that is seen as a significant step towards ensuring greater regional cooperation.

In his media statement, Modi said both sides will continue to strive in taking the India-Nepal partnership to the "Himalayan heights" and that the important decisions taken at the talks are to make the ties 'superhit' in the future.

In total, the two sides signed seven pacts which included a revised treaty of transit that was described by Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra as "once in a generation kind of an agreement" as it would provide Nepal access to inland waterways of India for the first time and expected to



contribute very significantly to the expansion of trade and investment linkages.

The two sides also firmed up several new initiatives to expand cooperation in areas of hydroelectric power, petroleum infrastructure, railway connectivity, cross-border payment systems and trade and investment as part of a futuristic approach to strengthen the overall trajectory of ties.

"We will continue to strive to take our relationship to Himalayan heights. And in this spirit, we will solve all the issues, whether it is of boundary or any other issue," Modi said in his media statement in presence of Prachanda.

In his comments, the Nepalese prime

minister, who arrived here on Wednesday on a four-day visit to India, said he and Modi discussed the boundary matter. "I urge prime minister Modi-ji to resolve the boundary matter through the established bilateral diplomatic mechanism," he said.

The ties between the two countries came under severe strain after Kathmandu published a new political map in 2020 that showed three Indian territories -- Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipulekh -- as part of Nepal.

India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and cautioned Kathmandu that such "artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it. (PTI)

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Try workout sans equipment

Running late for work? Missed your gym routine too? Working professionals find it difficult to accommodate time as they get busy with work, family and children. We help you with a lowdown on the exercises that can be done at home just before one leaves for work.

No equipment workout not necessarily means trying anything at random. These workouts have a proper chronology and must be discussed with a trainer before performing them.

Experts suggest home workouts to women. It is a best alternative when on vacation or during busy schedules. I always insist that they should follow the sequence as instructed.

Aping Internet videos can be dangerous. Usually people who are in such exercise videos are really fit; therefore they are at ease while performing a difficult routine, they make it seem very easy. In reality, the situation is different. Many people lack the necessary stamina, and if you try any workout at random, you might end up with a serious injury. So, even for a home fitness routine, consult a fitness trainer first.

This workout routine involves common exercises such as jumping jack, squats, push-ups, lunges and plank. Slow jogging and marching are good for warm-up. Different combinations and variations of these common exercises make your no equipment workout worthwhile.

Pick a cardio routine

Go for cardio workouts. These



workouts are best to build body stamina, which helps you to undertake more extensive routines. The workouts can be altered according to your age, strength and stamina.

Benefits of a no equipment workout

The most important benefit: they are cheap. You don't need to enrol in an expensive gym or buy fancy equipment; all you have to do is remain focused.

Another benefit is they are time savers. You can squeeze them in your schedule any time, just before getting ready for office in the morning or before you hit a party in the evening. The variations of the routine keep you entertained.

No equipment workout routine

- Warm up for 10 minutes including stretching, marching and jogging
- 20 body weight squats
- 10 push ups
- 20 walking lunges
- 15 second plank
- 30 Jumping Jacks
- Repeat the cycle for four-eight rounds. Don't forget to stretch once you finish. You can increase the number of cycles once your stamina builds. And yes, it's okay if you can't get the perfect push-up in the first try. Mid push-ups or stand push-ups against the wall will also do good.



Orange peel pack for glowing skin

Orange peels are a superb skincare ingredient for acne-prone skin. They house key minerals like calcium, potassium and magnesium that promote youthful glow and smooth appearance.

Benefits

Clears the skin

Orange peel exhibits excellent anti-inflammatory properties. They can suppress inflammation like a natural source of indomethacin, an anti-inflammatory drug. Also, the flavonoids in orange peels are known to permeate membranes and heal inflammation.

Exfoliates dead cells

The rind of orange is considered a boon for the skin as it treats blackheads and blemishes. It works as an effective exfoliating agent that helps in removing blackheads and unclogging the skin pores. Dried orange peel beads act as natural exfoliators and remove dead cells and blackheads gently and naturally, bringing a glow to the skin.

Brightens up

The peels will bring a bright glow to your face. In addition, they help to lighten the dark spots. If you are suffering from acne scars, dark spots or even pigmentation, orange peel powder's rich content of citric acid will take care of the issue.

How to make an orange peel ubtan

As the name suggests, we need air-dried orange peels. For this, you can spread the orange peels on a parchment paper and leave it indoors. It may take 3 to 6 days to dry them evenly. Once dried, grind them into a fine powder. Tip: Don't use the same grinder jar you use to grind masalas. Or your face may feel the burning sensations.

Scoop out the orange peel powder into a glass jar. Store this mix in the refrigerator for upto a month.

How to make and use this orange peel ubtan

- Take a teaspoon of orange peel powder in a mixing bowl.
- Add 2 teaspoons of raw milk to it.
- Add a pinch of turmeric for extra antioxidants benefits
- Mix it all to combine.
- Let it sit for 5 minutes to let the mixture thicken.
- Apply a thin layer of this ubtan on your skin.
- Let it semi dry for 8-10 minutes.
- Now, gently rub in circular motions like a scrub.
- Rub the ubtan off from your skin completely.
- Rinse with lukewarm water.

FOOD CORNER

Paneer pasanda

Ingredients

Paneer - 200 gms, cut into small cubes, Green Capsicum - 1, cut into long, thin strips, Oil - 2 tbsp, Garlic Paste - 1 tbsp, Tomato Puree - 2 tblsp, Garam Masala Powder - 1/2 tsp, A pinch of Sugar, Red Chilli Powder - 3/4 tsp, Cumin Powder 1 tsp, Salt to taste



Method

- Heat oil in a frying pan and add the garlic paste.
- Stir for about 30 seconds and add the tomato puree, salt, sugar, red chilli powder and garam masala.
- Mix well.
- Add capsicum and saute for a minute on medium heat.
- Turn off heat and add the paneer and mix well.
- Transfer to a microwaveproof bowl and microwave uncovered on high for three minutes. 7.
- Serve hot with rotis.

Chocolate cake

Ingredients

Plain Chocolate - 50 gms, Butter - 50 gms, Dark Brown Sugar - 50 gms, soft, Maida - 50 gms, Egg - 1, beaten, Vanilla Extract - 1/4 tsp, Cocoa Powder - 1 tsp + extra for sprinkling, Salt - a small pinch, Icing Sugar (optional)



Method

- Line a microwaveable glass bowl with greaseproof paper.
- Add the chocolate, butter and sugar into it.
- Place it in the microwave and cook on full power for 30 seconds or until melted.
- Add the remaining ingredients and mix well.
- Pour into the bowl and microwave on full power for 3 to 4 minutes or until just set.
- Allow it to cool.
- Sprinkle cocoa powder (or icing sugar) on top.

Exercise may lower Parkinson's disease risk in women by 25%

Women engaging in regular exercise such as cycling, walking, gardening, cleaning and participating in sports may have about 25 per cent lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease, suggests a study.

The study, published in *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, does not prove that exercise lowers the risk of developing Parkinson's disease. It only shows an association.

"Exercise is a low-cost way to improve health overall, so our study sought to determine if it may be linked to a lower risk of developing Parkinson's disease, a debilitating disease that has no cure," said study author Alexis Elbaz, of the Inserm Research Center in Paris, France.

"Our results provide evidence for planning interventions to prevent Parkinson's disease," Elbaz said.

The study included 95,354 female participants, with an average age of 49, who did not have Parkinson's at the start of the study. Researchers followed participants for three decades during which 1,074 participants developed Parkinson's.

Over the course of the study, participants completed up to six questionnaires about the types and amounts of physical activity they were getting.

They were asked how far they



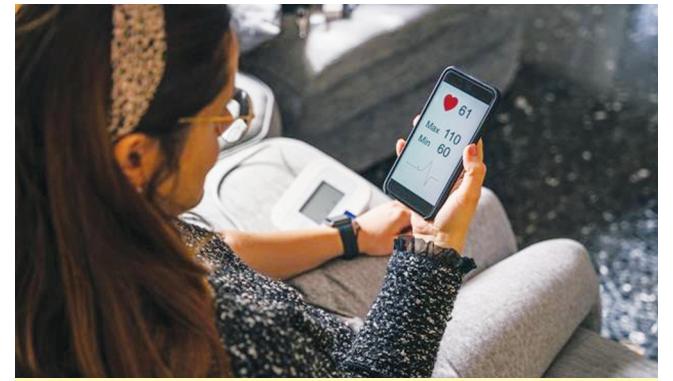
walked and how many flights of stairs they climbed daily, how many hours they spent on household activities as well as how much time they spent doing moderate recreational activities such as gardening and more vigorous activities such as sports.

Among the participants in the highest exercise group, there were 246 cases of Parkinson's disease or 0.55 cases per 1,000 person-years compared to 286 cases or 0.73 per 1,000 person-years among participants in the lowest exercise group. Person-years represent both the number of people in the study and the amount of time each person spends in the study.

After adjusting for factors such as place of residence, age of first period and menopausal status, and smoking, researchers found those in the highest exercise group had a 25 per cent lower rate of developing Parkinson's disease than those in the lowest exercise group when physical activity was assessed up to 10 years before diagnosis; the association remained when physical activity was assessed up to 15 or 20 years before diagnosis.

Results were similar after adjusting for diet or medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Source: IANS



New low-cost smartphone attachment to monitor blood pressure at fingertip

Scientists have developed a simple, low-cost clip that uses a smartphone's camera and flash to monitor blood pressure at the user's fingertip.

The clip developed by researchers at the University of California (UC) San Diego, US, works with a custom smartphone app and currently costs about 80 cents (5.6 rupees) to make.

The researchers estimate that the cost could be as low as 10 cents (0.7 rupees) apiece when manufactured at scale.

The technology, described in the journal *Scientific Reports*, could help make regular blood pressure monitoring easy, affordable and accessible to people in resource-poor communities, they said.

It could benefit older adults and pregnant women, for example, in managing conditions such as hypertension, according to the researchers.

"We have created an inexpensive solution to lower the barrier to blood pressure monitoring," said study first author Yinan Xuan, a Ph.D. student at UC San Diego. "Because of their low cost, these clips could be handed out to anyone who needs them but cannot go to a clinic regularly," said study senior author Edward Wang, a professor at UC San Diego and director of the Digital Health Lab.

Another key advantage of the clip is that it does not need to be calibrated to a cuff, the researchers said. "This is what distinguishes our device from other blood pressure monitors," said Wang.

Other cuffless systems being developed for smartwatches and smartphones, he explained, require obtaining a separate set of measurements with a cuff so that their models can be tuned to fit these measurements.

"Our is a calibration-free system, meaning you can just use our device without touching another blood pressure monitor to get a trustworthy blood pressure reading," Wang said.

To measure blood pressure, the user simply presses on the clip with a fingertip. A custom smartphone app guides the user on how hard and long to press during the measurement. Source: PTI

Excessive salt consumption associated with cognitive disorders, high blood pressure

Dementia is described as a loss of cognitive functioning, which included thinking, remembering, and reasoning, and it is quite common in Japan. At the moment, treatment satisfaction for dementia is among the lowest, and no medication therapy to cure the condition is available. With the world's population increasingly ageing, the discovery of dementia prevention and treatment medications is crucial.

Cognitive impairment has been linked to the consumption of excess table salt, a ubiquitous food seasoning. High salt (HS) intake can also lead to hypertension. To prevent adverse health outcomes, the World Health Organization recommends limiting salt intake to less than 5 g per day. The involvement of angiotensin II (Ang II)-a hormone that plays a key role in regulating blood pressure and fluid balance--and its receptor "AT1", as well as that of the physiologically important



lipid molecule prostaglandin E2 (PGE2 and its receptor "EP1" in hypertension and neurotoxicity is well-recognized. However, the involvement of these systems in HS-mediated hypertension and emotional/cognitive impairment remains elusive.

To this end, a recent study published in the *British Journal of Pharmacology* thoroughly evaluated the aspects of HS-mediated hypertension and

emotional/cognitive impairment. The study was performed by a team of collaborating researchers from Japan, and has shown how hypertension, mediated by the crosstalk between Ang II-AT1 and PGE2-EP1 causes emotional and cognitive dysfunction.

Author Hisayoshi Kubota from Fujita Health University's Graduate School of Health Science comments, "Excessive salt intake is considered a risk factor for hypertension, cognitive dysfunction, and dementia. However, studies focusing on the interaction between the peripheral and central nervous system have not sufficiently investigated this association." According to the published data, the addition of excessive phosphates to the protein "tau" is primarily responsible for this emotional and cognitive consequences. The findings are particularly noteworthy because tau is a key protein of the Alzheimer's disease. Source: ANI

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Instagram testing new 'Interested' option for recommended posts

Social networking platform Instagram is testing a new 'Interested' option for recommended posts which will allow users to indicate what they are interested in.

The new option will help the platform to show users more of what they like, the company said in a blogpost.

In the blogpost, the company also explained how ranking works across the platform to help users maximise their experience and also to help creators understand how their content might be shown.

"We use a variety of algorithms, classifiers, and processes, each with its own purpose. We want to make the most of people's time, and we believe that using technology to personalise everyone's experience is the best way to do that," it added.

Each part of the application, including Feed, Stories, Explore, Reels, Search and more, uses a unique algorithm designed to maximise user experience. "We want people and creators to be in control of their Instagram experience, and we're always exploring ways to add even more transparency and control to the app," the company said.

Meanwhile, Instagram is set to take on Elon Musk-run Twitter with a similar micro-blogging text platform that is likely to be launched by the end of this month. *Source: IANS*

Alexa can no longer talk like Amitabh Bachchan

Amazon has confirmed the discontinuation of the celebrity voices feature on Alexa, meaning voices of celebrities like megastar Amitabh Bachchan, American actor Samuel L. Jackson, American former professional basketball player Shaquille O'Neal, among others, will no longer be available to purchase.

The feature is going away globally, plus Amazon will discontinue support for celebrity voices on Alexa-powered devices in the coming days.

While purchasing Bachchan's voice on Alexa, the page stated, "This skill is no longer available for purchase. Customers who previously purchased this experience will continue to have access for one year from the date of purchase".

On purchasing Jackson's voice on Alexa, the page mentioned that the personality voice for Alexa is no longer available for purchase, and the customers who previously purchased the experience may continue to use the skill until April 30, 2023, by saying "Hey Samuel".

Jackson was the first voice to be introduced and could tell users jokes and stories or answer questions.

Artificial intelligence threatens extinction, experts say in new warning

Scientists and tech industry leaders issued a new warning Tuesday about the perils that artificial intelligence poses to humankind.

"Mitigating the risk of extinction from AI should be a global priority alongside other societal-scale risks such as pandemics and nuclear war," said the statement posted online.

Sam Altman, CEO of ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and Geoffrey Hinton, a computer scientist known as the godfather of artificial intelligence, were among the hundreds of leading figures who signed the statement, which was posted on the Center for AI Safety's website.

Worries about artificial intelligence systems outsmarting humans and running wild have intensified with the rise of a new generation of highly capable AI chatbots such as ChatGPT.

More than 1,000 researchers and technologists, including Elon Musk, signed a letter earlier this year calling for a six-month pause on AI development because, they said, it poses "profound risks to society and humanity." Countries around the world are scrambling to come up with regulations for the developing technology, with the European Union blazing the trail with its AI Act expected to be approved later this year.

'Fracturing reality'

Many other experts similarly believe that fears of AI wiping out humanity are unrealistic, and a distraction from issues such as bias in systems that are already a problem.

Arvind Narayanan, a computer scientist at Princeton University, has previously told the BBC that sci-fi-like disaster scenarios are unrealistic: "Current AI is nowhere near capable enough for these risks to materialise. As a result, it's distracted attention away from the near-term harms of AI".

Oxford's Institute for Ethics in AI senior research associate Elizabeth Renieris told BBC News she worried more about risks closer to the present.

"Advancements in AI will magnify the scale of automated decision-making that is biased, discriminatory, exclusionary or otherwise unfair while also being inscrutable and incontestable," she said. They would "drive an exponential increase in the volume and spread of misinformation, thereby fracturing reality and eroding the public trust, and drive further inequality, particularly for those who remain on the wrong side of the digital divide".

Many AI tools essentially "free ride" on the "whole of human experience to date", Ms Renieris said. Many are



trained on human-created content, text, art and music they can then imitate - and their creators "have effectively transferred tremendous wealth and power from the public sphere to a small handful of private entities".

But Centre for AI Safety director Dan Hendrycks told BBC News future risks and present concerns "shouldn't be viewed antagonistically".

"Addressing some of the issues today can be useful for addressing many of the later risks tomorrow," he said.

Superintelligence efforts

Media coverage of the supposed "existential" threat from AI has snowballed since March 2023 when experts, including Tesla boss Elon Musk, signed an open letter urging a halt to the development of the next generation of AI technology.

That letter asked if we should "develop non-human minds that might eventually outnumber, outsmart, obsolete and replace us".

In contrast, the new campaign has a very short statement, designed to "open up discussion".

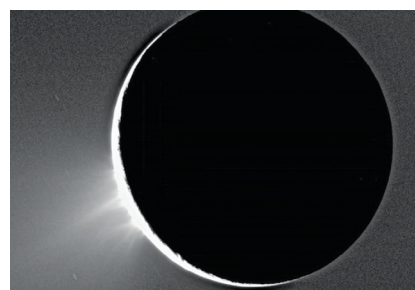
The statement compares the risk to that posed by nuclear war. In a blog post OpenAI recently suggested superintelligence might be regulated in a similar way to nuclear energy: "We are likely to eventually need something like an IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] for superintelligence efforts" the firm wrote.

James Webb Telescope spots 9000 km long water plume erupting on Saturn's Moon Enceladus

The James Webb Space Telescope has spied on Saturn's big Moon, Enceladus, and found water vapour plumes erupting from the surface.

The plumes are over 9,000 kilometers in length, giving a unique view of the source, which was not seen before.

This is the first time that astronomers have directly observed water emissions from the Moon around Saturn over such an expansive distance. Nasa said that the observation could reveal how this emission feeds the water supply for the entire system of Saturn and its rings. Previously, observatories have



mapped jets thousands of kilometers from the moon's surface, but "Webb's exquisite sensitivity reveals a new story".

"When I was looking at the data, at first, I was thinking I had to be wrong. It was just so shocking to detect a water plume more than 20

times the size of the moon. The water plume extends far beyond its release region at the southern pole," lead author Geronimo Villanueva, said in a statement.

Enceladus, the moon around Saturn, is an ocean world and is nearly four percent the size of Earth with a diameter of just over 500 kilometers across. The moon holds a reservoir of salty water, which is sandwiched between the moon's icy outer crust and its rocky core.

"Geyser-like volcanos spew jets of ice particles, water vapor, and organic chemicals out of crevices in the moon's surface informally called 'tiger stripes,' Nasa said.

SBI Life to take over Sahara's insurance arm

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has identified SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd (SBI Life) to acquire the business of Sahara India Life Insurance Corporation (SILIC).

"After due consideration of all facts and circumstances, the IRDAI decided that action is warranted to protect the interest of the policyholders of SILIC. Accordingly, in exercise of its powers under sub-section (2) of Section 52B of the Insurance Act, 1938, the Authority decided to transfer the life insurance business of SILIC to another suitable life insurer with immediate effect," said an IRDAI statement.

IRDAI said SBI Life shall take over the policy liabilities of around two lakh policies of SILIC, backed by the policyholders' assets, with immediate effect.

The regulator said SILIC was provided with ample opportunities and sufficient time to ensure compliance but failed to do so.

"Further, the policy data of SILIC reveals that its portfolio is showing a run-off trend. The financial position has been deteriorating with rising losses and higher percentage of claims to total premium. If the trend is allowed to continue, the situation will worsen and lead to erosion of capital and SILIC may not be able to discharge its liabilities towards policyholders, thereby endangering the interest of its policyholders," said IRDAI.

Musk overtakes Bernard Arnault to become world's richest person again

Elon Musk has retaken the title of world's wealthiest person. The Tesla Inc. chief executive officer surpassed luxury tycoon Bernard Arnault on Wednesday after shares of Arnault's LVMH fell 2.6% in Paris trading.

Musk and the 74-year-old Frenchman have been neck-and-neck for the top spot this year in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a listing of the world's 500 richest people. Arnault first surpassed Musk in December as the tech industry struggled and luxury showed resilience in the face of inflation. LVMH, which Arnault founded, owns brands including Louis Vuitton, Fendi and Hennessy.

Faith in the luxury sector's buoyancy is starting to fade amid mounting signs of slowing economic growth, particularly in the critical market of China. LVMH shares have tumbled about 10% since April, at one point wiping \$11 billion from Arnault's net worth in a single day.

Musk, meanwhile, has gained more than \$55.3 billion this year, largely due to Tesla. The Austin-based automaker — which comprises 71% of his fortune — has rallied 66% year-to-date.

Europe sees inflation drop to 6.1%, but real relief expected to take months

LONDON (TIP)

Europe's inflation took a positive turn with a significant drop to 6.1%, but prices are still posing a pinch to shoppers who are yet to see real relief in what they pay for food and other necessities.

The annual figure in May eased from 7% in April for the 20 countries that use the euro currency, the European Union's statistical agency Eurostat said Thursday.

It was a welcome sign that the explosion in price increases — which peaked in record double digits last October — is heading in the right direction.

But economists warned that it will be many months before disgruntled consumers see more normal levels of inflation reflected on price tags in shops. While prices are rising more slowly, they are coming on top of already-high costs triggered by Russia's war in Ukraine and other factors.

Relief is far off for people like 76-year-old Brigitte Weinbeck, who was shopping this week at an open-air market in Cologne, Germany.

"I shop more consciously — for instance, I always make a plan at the beginning of the week about what I'm going to cook and when and then I go shopping," she said. "Otherwise, you sometimes make impulse purchases."

The food bank at Berlin's St. Wilhelm Roman Catholic Church, meanwhile, has gone from serving 100-120 households before the war in Ukraine to 200.

"Now, there are people coming who are at the limit of their income," coordinator Christine Klar said. "They say the prices have risen so much now. And now they know, or heard, that they



are entitled to use the food bank, so now they come."

Food prices in the eurozone rose by a painful 12.5% in May from a year earlier, but still eased from the 13.5% increase recorded in April.

Key to the lower overall inflation figure was energy prices, which fell 1.7% from a year ago following an increase of 2.4% a month ago.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy, fell to 5.3% from 5.6% in April. That figure is seen as the better indication of price pressures in the economy from demand for goods and higher wages. It's high enough that the European Central Bank is expected to approve another interest rate increase at its June 15 meeting.

Inflation fell in the three biggest

economies where the euro is used: Germany to 6.1%, France to 5.1% and Italy to 7.6%. The decline was "broad based, with food, energy and core inflation all contributing to the easing," economist Rory Fennessy wrote at Oxford Economics.

Inflation took off in mid-2021 as fears that Russia might invade Ukraine sent natural gas and oil prices higher on fears of losing Russian supplies and as the global economy bounced back from the worst of the pandemic, straining supplies of parts and materials.

The energy and supply choke points have eased, but higher prices have kept spreading through the economy as workers demand better pay and companies find they can raise prices to cover increasing costs. *Source: AP*

CBI books IL&FS Transportation Limited for 'causing loss' of over Rs 6,524 Cr to Canara Bank-led consortium

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The CBI has filed an FIR against IL&FS Transportation Network Limited and its then directors for allegedly causing a loss of more than Rs 6,524 crore to a Canara Bank-led consortium, officials said on Friday, June 2.

In its FIR, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Mumbai-based IL&FS Transportation Network Limited (ITNL) and its directors Karunakaran Ramchand, Deepak Das Gupta, Mukund Gajanan Sapre and then chief financial officer (CFO) Dilip Lalchand Bhatia for alleged criminal conspiracy and cheating as well as under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.



It is alleged that the accused entered into a criminal conspiracy to cheat 19

banks under multiple banking arrangements (the Canara Bank being the largest lender).

The loan account was declared a non-performing asset (NPA) in 2018 and subsequently, categorised as "fraud" in 2021.

In its complaint to the CBI, which became the basis for the FIR, the Canara Bank has alleged that the accused misappropriated the sanctioned credit facilities through cheating, diversion of funds, circular transactions between related and sister concerns and misrepresentation of books of income and expenditures.

The CBI has alleged that the accused caused a wrongful loss, amounting to Rs 6,524 crore, to the consortium and wrongfully enriched themselves.

Source: PTI

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 5 TO JUNE 11, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says, your refinement and charisma will draw the right individuals to you. It will not be enough to earn you esteem. You must offer proof of your true intentions and skillful goals. By disregarding little but important operations, you will make a mistake. This week, your relationship is going to leave you uneasy. Since this relationship is unhealthy, you should consider ending it and finding one with a healthier person. As part of the capacity test, your coworkers will try to overpower you, but since Lord Sun has praised you this week, you will be successful and receive good scores. Extolling your accomplishments is appropriate, but it is too soon to have a party. Immediately eliminate artificial supplements.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, your adaptability will allow you to consider many possibilities and make sure that you do not miss anything, maximizing this magnificent Week. You are more inclined to spend time and energy on the incorrect issues. Establishing your own path straight away will prevent you from being late rather than waiting for the perfect moment. Begin concentrating more on each other's shortcomings and assist one another in fostering deeper relationships. This week, you and your spouse will be able to significantly change one another. This week, keep your games close to your heart. There would not be many faithful people among you. Do not allow anyone to influence your already made choices. Working in the retailing and wholesaling industry may enable you to assist yourself to offset your expenses. Your health will suffer as a result of being careless.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, even though this week will not give you much opportunity for contemplation, you will still want to assess your performance and make a checklist of to-do items. Your flaws will be exposed when you are forced to look in the mirror by an insightful acquaintance. This week, you might slightly disgrace your partner. Notwithstanding your greatest attempts, helping them improve their presentational abilities might backfire. You are not receiving any good energy from the planet Venus, so you are probably going to make the right financial decision. Make sure to seek competent advice; your partner's input will also be beneficial. Since they are transmissible, you should grin and be happy as often as you can.



CANCER : Ganesha says, right now, it appears that Venus is having a good effect on both your relationships and your income this week. This week, your business partner will find it easy to trust you. But this week, you will have to deal with an unforeseen expenditure, so you will have to accept it and go on. Your romantic life will be challenging for you this week. How much time you spend dealing with your stresses will have an effect on your love life. This week will not be favorable for you, and your health will also decline. It is probable that you will feel claustrophobic and anxious. It is advisable that you spend some time outside or in temple on each day of the week. However, there will be some downtime in the latter half of the week. You will receive assistance from Lord Ganesha.



LEO : Ganesha says your love and care for children will return with good omens. When you are responsible for looking after the kids this week, your health will suffer. They will teach you significant concepts for life in the most straightforward ways imaginable. As a consequence, your relationship with your lover will grow deeper. You have decided to priorities yourself and take a vacation from relationships because your last one did not work out. This week, you will have a pleasant day, and you should give thanks to the God for your great family. Jupiter will enter a position that will help you progress professionally. It will provide you with innovative ideas that will leave a lasting effect on your target audience.



VIRGO : Ganesha says this week you'll be able to take one step further in your career and your professional life this week will bring you new opportunities and you'll be able to make things right which you were being bothered about since long. As far as your relationship is concerned, this week is really a nice time to make amendments with your partner in order to make things right and better. as far as your marriage is concerned, you will need to walk an extra errand to make your spouse comfortable and provide them space where they can share their emotional issues comfortable in. In the first half of the week, you may need to be very careful regarding your health but by the second half of the week you will be able to make everything fall in place.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, with Lord Shiva's blessings on you and your family, you will be inspired to create wonderful connections with yourself as well as with others this week. People will be aware of your kindness since you will be paying closer attention than normal. In terms of your career avenues, you will create new business connections with those in the governmental sphere. Being around will also be advantageous to the colleagues you work with. This week, you will have a highly grateful companion in the amorous department. An individual's viewpoint on getting married will be heard. It will be troublesome for your well-being. You will get minor headaches this week as a result.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, this week, you are free to have faith in your individual since you are qualified to do so. Your objectives will come into greater clarity, and you will make efficient strategies to achieve them. To your old employer' great delight, you will do the preceding part and go above and beyond what is expected of you in the workplace. A few trustworthy activities will be added to your company, catching the attention of your visitors. Additionally, you will go on an unanticipated excursion. due to work this week. You will be able to help your significant other are accepted for who they truly are in your love connection. When they emerge to consider you a part of their family, a fresh start is about to start.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, this week, it will be simpler for you to keep an eye on all things. This week, you will only take measured chances. If you ignore the particulars on your business's borders, you will also have issues. In terms of enterprise, you will make several of significant decisions that will alter how your earnings grow. Any questions your spouse may have about your love life will be addressed. This week, you will ask for what you require from your existing connection since you frequently go over and beyond. This week, you will put an end to your inconsistent resting habits and get the rest you need for your wellness.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, knowledge that had been considered to be absurd or ignorant will now make sense to you, according to the stars. This week, make relationships between even little knowledge elements. You should be on the

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 5 TO JUNE 11, 2023 BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 5 : Ganesha says you are capable of juggling both your personal and business lives. It's time to apply your prior knowledge and skills learnt in the next new places. You will be followed with admiration and praise. You should possess refined manipulative skills and be a technical person. You will be forced by circumstances to work hard and relocate your company to a country that is constantly growing abroad. Your routine existence will abruptly alter, and you'll embark on a journey.

JUNE 6 : Ganesha says god has given you a tremendous amount of talent, which you must develop through unrelenting effort. Your capacity for retrieval is extraordinary. As your focus shifts to some frolicsome activities, you'll be in good physical and mental health. You have new opportunities if you use them wisely. You decry the degradation of the environment because you love it. Your

friends will assist you as soon as possible. You will be accompanied and congratulated by family and friends.

JUNE 7 : Ganesha says family will provide a long-term investment they made for you. Academically speaking, things will go in your favor, and you probably will enlist. Your area of interest promises to bring you a lot of harmony, support, name recognition, and celebrity in the near future. Your reputation at work is built on how you handle the little things. You make efficient and effective use of your precious time to achieve your objectives. For both you and others, your advice is crucial.

JUNE 8 : Ganesha says you are shrewd enough to create large bugs for both you and your employer. You do the assignment in your own manner. You are a one-man army. By listening to some spiritual and philosophical talks, your mental and physical health will be improved. You hold modern views and

detest bigots. You hold your employees to a very high standard of excellence. You force others to uphold their obligations and rights as you are well aware of your own.

JUNE 9 : Ganesha says your split personality aids in establishing recognition and popularity in all facets of life. You are always there for your family and friends. Your charitable disposition is a strength of yours. Your superiors and coworkers are expected to respect and value you. You probably adhere to the western cultural practices of not worrying about the future. There are many high-end, branded goods in your wardrobe. Everyone's life is made happier by your jovial disposition.

JUNE 10 : Ganesha says you make your decision with the speed of a bullet train, and everyone will probably support you. Your efforts alone will always point you in the direction of achieving your goals. Your natural

tenacity dispels any questions you may have regarding any task given to you. Everyone, including your home and your gaffers, loves the way you work and speak. You will be the perfect role model for your juniors. Everyone's life is made happier by your jovial disposition. You make a positive, friendly impression.

JUNE 11 : Ganesha says you are in high demand at all times. If you practice psychology, you will set standards for others. Your grilling prowess will keep you away from your adversaries and con artists. In a nutshell, you are an expert in your field. Your husband turns out to be lucky for you because after your wedding, you receive several gifts and financial increases. After your marriage, you'll sense a rising light within of you. You make the most of your time by developing your capacity to solve complex problems intellectually.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 5 TO JUNE 11, 2023

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alert for those who were born under the zodiac sign of Pisces and ought to steer clear of since your Venus has sprung up. You and your spouse will prosper this week even if your love connection is rocky. If you manage your hands properly, you might be able to complete the deal. This week, you should certainly accept bets. Your headache will make an effort to keep you from accomplishing your goals this week, but do not give in. Lay down and practice finding inner tranquilly



Aquarius

AQUARIUS :

Ganesha says, even though it may be difficult, this week will be a tipping point and you will know exactly

you need to accomplish. Over the next several days, keep an eye out for Piscean-born people so you can steer clear of them. You are able to understand what your feelings are attempting to say. Trust your gut while making decisions. Enjoy life's little joys. Due to your merit. You and your friend are surrounded by love. You could get a pleasant treat shortly. The position of Moon in your zodiac are advising you to take care of your present companion and are all in the correct places. You could throw away a lot of money this week. Resist making rash judgements that are only motivated by short-term gains. You could be worried about getting by.

PISCES : Ganesha says, if you feel that you are spending too much

time waiting, this week you will make a judgement and stick to it. Recognize that you do not have complete control over your life. Even if they are someone you care about, do not blame them for someone else's error. If you

are not careful, this week will almost certainly result in a terrible situation. When it comes to surprising your partner, go the extra distance or take it a next level of emotional bonding further by doing so. You will be able to

communicate with them again once all of your issues have been handled. Your horoscope begs you to postpone making decisions. Be content with what you now have. This week will be significantly better for you.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Pisces

Sikh History This Week

JUNE 02, 2023, TO JUNE 08, 2023

2nd June



1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces annexed the province of Multan into the Sikh State, after several years of fierce battles. The nawab of Multan, Muzaffar Khan had agreed to pay tribute to the Khalsa army. He had also made a resolution and had agreed that he will not conspire against the Khalsa Darbar. Later, however he gave asylum to Raes Ahmad Khan of Jhang and plotted against the Khalsa army with Kutubdin. He broke his word and never paid tribute on time. As a result the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked Muzaffar Khan who was ready to defend himself with an army of 20,000 and a large number of holy warriors (mujahuddins). The Khalsa army, under the command of several Sikh generals attacked the fort of Multan and broke the wall at two places, but they were repaired quickly. The enemy had put up a stiff resistance. The stand-off continued for three months.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh had partially recovered from his stroke of 1838 yet was very feeble, when he suffered another stroke accompanied by dropsy and fever. Dr. Steel was sent by British to treat the Maharaja.

1984 Indian Armed forces replaced the Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) as a readiness step towards the Operation Bluestar.

3rd June

1947 Mountbatten announced the division of the Punjab.

1984 All communications including phone lines to and from Punjab are cut. Road blocks prevent anyone from entering or leaving Punjab and all journalists are expelled from Punjab. A total curfew is imposed and as many as 10,000 pilgrims are trapped inside the temple complex. Milk vendors from the villages who supply milk to the city of Amritsar are shot dead for violating the curfew orders. Operation Bluestar: Sikh homeland occupied by Indian Army. Curfew declared and undeclared Martial law promulgated.

4th June

1398 Bhagat Kabir was born. Kabir was the most celebrated revolutionary saint of the Bhakti movement. He condemned social and religious abuses and emphasized the fundamental equality and fraternity of all mankind. Kabir was born to a widowed Brahmin on Jaeth Sudi 15 sunmat 1455. However, his mother left the new born baby next to a water pool near Banaras. Ali (Niru), a local weaver found the baby. Ali and his wife Nima together brought up this child as their own son. Child was named Kabir in accordance with the Muslim traditions of the time. Further, Kabir was educated in Islam studies. Kabir married Lohi and a son, Kamaal, was born.

1606 Guru Hargobind arrived in Daroli village near Moga, Ferozepur.

1987 US Congress discusses atrocities against Sikhs.

5th June

1984 Operation Bluestar: Fierce battle in Golden Temple Complex, Sri Akal Takhat is attacked with heavy artillery and tanks. And June 6 nights saw fierce battle between the Indian Army and GurSikhs inside the Golden Temple Complex. The onslaught began around 7pm. 15,000 hand-picked and well-trained solidiers supported by tanks and armoured personnel carriers were involved in the assault. While another 35,000 solidiers tried to put down any internal rebellion. It was rumored that Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalae has gone towards the Golden Temple. In response, the army sent their divers into the sacred tank, but they all were killed at the hands of the GurSikh freedom fighters. Subsequently, 60 commandos were sent to Sri Akal Takhat. 59 were killed in the first attack by the GurSikhs. Army's disappointment led to the deployment of heavy artillery and tanks started firing upon Sri Akal Takhat. By 9:30 AM, the army took control of the Golden Temple complex. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwalae and Amrik Singh received martyrdom in this attack along with many of their companions.

1996 Baldev Singh Chahal passed away suddenly from a heart attack. He successfully campaigned to change the British law that exempted GurSikhs from wearing helmets on motorcycles.

6th June



1628 Guru Har Gobind Sahib fought and won the first battle of Amritsar against the Mughal army.

1663 Janam, Bhai Mohkam Singh, one of the first five GurSikh initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam Singh was born at Dwarka to father Teerath Chand Shanbae and Mata Dev Bhai. Bhai Mohkam Singh was one of the first five GurSikhs initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam died while fighting at Chamkaur.

1711 The Khalsa Dal forces, under the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur, defeated the forces of Delhi emporer, Bahadhur Shah, at Behrampur.

1737 Martyrdom Bhai Mani Singh Ji.

1984 Operation Bluestar: Indian Army occupied the



Sikh Shrines, archives, libraries, museums. Most of them were later set abalze.

The fascist Indian Armed Forces, under the orders of Indira Gandhi (then prime minister) and Zail Singh (then President) launched the final assault on the Golden Temple complex. Today, the whole Sikh Nation salutes all those GurSikh martyrs who gave their lives while protecting the sanctity of Sri Akal Takhat and Sri

Darbar Sahib. So many GurSikhs were killed that although the army paid Rs. 50 for picking up a dead body and loading it onto the awaiting trucks, there weren't enough people to get this work done. People clearing dead bodies were also given permission for retain all valuables recovered from the body. The most notable GurSikhs included Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh. Giani Puran Singh, Darbar Sahib's high priest, was told by the soldiers that the bodies of Bhindranwalae, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh were found in the courtyard of Sri Akal Takhat. Ropes were tied to the body of Gen. Shahbeg Singh. His body seemed to have been dragged from Sri Akal Takht. Additionally, the indian army occupied the Sikh Shrines, archives, libraries, and museums. Most of them were later set abalze. In contrast, the Hindus of Amritsar welcomed the Indian Army with garlands, sweets, and dances.

7th June



1864 Maharaja Dalip Singh married Miss Bamba in Alexandria, Egypt.

1984 GurSikhs from rural Punjab march to defend Sri Darbar Sahib despite the heavy presence of armed forces.

1984 Operation Bluestar: Sikh solidiers rebellion. Several Sikh solidiers killed. Thousands of the Sikh solidiers arrested. The shocks of operation Bluestar were not limited to Amritsar and Punjab. As Sikh solidiers learned of this sacrilege of Sri Darbar Sahib, they anguise resulted in rebellions at several places. However, these rebellions were supressed, several Sikh solidiers killed and thousands of the Sikh solidiers arrested.

1984 Destruction of Sikh Reference Library by Indian Armed forces. The army deliberately set fire to the Sikh Reference Library. Valuable archives and material of significant historical importance were destroyed in this fire. This was yet another extremely sad incident. The army claims that the library caught fire during crossfire. However, according to Government of India's White Paper, the library caught fire because the militants were firing homemade grenades after using a match. Please note, that the exact date on this event is on question.

8th June

1924 Waryam Singh of Dhugga was killed at Chak No. 54, district Lyallpur.

1956 Gian Singh Rarewala announced his intention to join Congress.

1981 Secret meeting of Akali Dal where strong opinions were expressed for Khalsitan.

1984 Operation Woodrose started. Sikh youth from villages picked up and eliminated. MacCarthy style witch hunt led to killing of hundreds of Sikhs and arrest of thousands of Sikhs.

1984 Giani Zail Singh, President of India, visits Darbar Sahib after Indian Amry's assault there.

1984 Khushwant Singh returned his "Padam Sri" in protest of Indian army's attack on Darbar Sahib.

Sant Guru Kabir Das Jayanti

Kabir or Bhagat Kabir was a 15th century Indian mystic poet and saint. Kabir Ji's compositions influenced the devotion of the Hindi state to a deep level. His writings can also be seen in the Adi Granth of Sikhs.

Sant Kabir Jayanti is celebrated at the full moon in the Hindu month of Jyeshtha, between May and June, on the Gregorian Calendar. This year, it falls on June 4.

Saint Kabir did not celebrate any religion. He condemned the social evils, rituals, superstitions and severely criticized social evils. During his lifetime many people of both Hindu and Muslim religions were very critical of him.

Saint Kabir wanted to make Acharya Ramananda his mentor. But Acharya Ramananda refused to make him his disciple. Saint Kabir decided in his mind that I would make Swami Ramanand his mentor. For this, when Kabir went for a bath at four o'clock in the morning, Saint Kabir lay on the stairs of his path. When Ramanand's foot fell on Saint Kabir's body, Ramanand Ji came out of his mouth. Saint Kabir accepted the word Rama from the mouth of Ramanand ji and accepted it as his mentor.

Saint Kabir himself was not educated, so he did not write any scripture himself and spoke from his mouth and his disciple had written it. The glory of Ramnama is echoed in his thoughts. They believed in a god.

Life and teachings

Das Kabir Das, a mystical poet and great Saint of India, was born in the year 1440 and died in 1518. According to Islam, the meaning of the Kabir is something very big and great. Kabir Panth is a huge religious community that identifies Kabir as the originator of the Sant Mat sects. The members of Kabir Panth are known as the Kabir panthis who had extended all over the north and central India. Some of the great writings of the Kabir Das are Bijak, Kabir Granthawali, Anurag Sagar, Sakhi Granth, etc. It is clearly not known about his birth but it is noted that he was raised by a very poor Muslim weavers family. He was very spiritual and became a great Sadhu. He got fame all over the world because of his influential traditions and culture.

It is considered that he got all his spiritual training from his Guru named, Ramananda, in his early childhood. One day, he became a well-known disciple of guru Ramananda. Kabir Das house has been accommodated for students and scholars for living and studying his great works.

There is no clue of the birth parent of the Kabir Das as he was founded in Lehartara, a small town in Varanasi by the Niru and Nima (his caretaker parents). His parents were extremely poor and uneducated but they heartily adopted the little baby and trained him about their own business. He lived a balanced life of a simple householder and a mystic.

It is believed that he received his spiritual lessons from Guru Ramananda of Sant Kabir. Initially, Ramananda did not agree to consider Kabir Das his disciple. Once upon a time, Saint Kabir Das was lying on the steps of a pond and was reciting the mantra of Rama-Rama, Ramananda was going to bathe in the morning and Kabir came under his feet. Ramanand felt guilty for that activity and Kabir Das ji urged him to accept him as his student. It is believed that Kabir's family still lives in Kabir Chaura, Varanasi.

Kabir Matha

Kabir matha is located at the Kabir Chaura, Varanasi, and Lahartara, Varanasi in the back passageways where saints are busy singing Kabir Ke Dohe. It is the place of giving real education of life to the people. Neeru teela was the house of his parents the Neeru and Neema. Now it has become the accommodation for students and scholars who study Kabir's work.

Philosophies

Sant Kabir was prejudiced by the existing religious mood of that time like Hinduism, Tantrism, as well as the personal devotion, was mixed with the imageless God of Islam. Kabir Das is the first Indian saint who has coordinated Hinduism and Islam by giving a



universal path that could be followed by both Hindus and Muslims. According to him, every life has a relationship with two spiritual principles (Jivatma and Paramatma). His view about the moksha was it is the process of uniting these two divine principles.

His great work Bijak has a huge collection of poems that shows Kabir's general view of spirituality. Kabir's Hindi was a dialect, simple like his philosophies. He simply followed the unity in God. He has always rejected the murti puja in Hinduism and shown clear confidence in bhakti and Sufi ideas.

His Poetry

He had composed the poems in a concise and simple style resonating with the admiration of a factual guru. Although being illiterate he had written his poems in Hindi, mixing some other languages like Avadhi, Braj, and Bhojpuri. Although many people insulted him he never gave attention to others.

Legacy

All the poems and songs credited to the Sant Kabir exist in several languages. Kabir and his followers are named according to his poetic response such as banis and utterances. The poems are called dohe, shloka, and Sakhi. Sakhi means to be memorized and to remind the highest Truth. The memorizing, performing, and pondering over these utterances comprises for the Kabir and all his followers a way to the spiritual awakening.

Kabir Das Contribution

Saint Kabir Das, a Bhakti and Sufi movement saint of medieval India, is extensively for his Bhakti movement in North India. His life cycle is centered in the region of Kashi (also known as the Banaras or Varanasi). He was related to the weaving occupation and cast of Julaha. His immense contribution towards the Bhakti Movement in India is considered as a pioneered one along with the Farid, Ravidas, and Namdev. He was a saint of combined mystical nature (Nath tradition, Sufism, bhakti) which made him of a distinctive religion of his own. He said that the path of suffering is the real love and life.

In the fifteenth century, people in Varanasi were strongly influenced by the Brahmin orthodoxy as well as learning centers. Kabir Das worked hard to preach his ideology as he belonged to the low caste, Julaha, and

made people realize that we all are human. He never felt difference among the people whether they are prostitutes, low caste, or of high caste. He preached to everyone by gathering his followers. He was ridiculed by the Brahmins for his preaching activities but he never criticizes them back and that's why he was much liked by the common people. He started reforming the mind of common people towards the real truth through his couplets.

He always objected to the ritualistic and ascetic methods as a means of salvation. He said that goodness's ruby has more value than the ruby mines. According to him, one's heart with goodness includes all the prosperity of the whole world. A person with mercy has strength, forgiveness has real existence of him, and an individual with righteousness can easily attain the never-ending life. He said that God is in your heart and ever with you, so offer inward worship to him. He had opened the mind of common people by one of his examples that, if the traveler is not able to walk; what can the road do for traveler.

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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."

Gehlot's multifaceted public welfare strategies hook up Pilot

JUNE 1, 2023

DR YASH GOYAL

TIP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR (TIP): Was it really a 'unanimous' pact between the Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot before the Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge recently in Delhi to go ahead 'unitedly', or a compulsion of assembly elections on the party High Command to return to power in the state in the December polls?

Ambiguity prevails inside the party and outside in political camps as Congress General Secretary K C Venugopal did not reveal any formula or terms of agreement reached between the veteran CM who is also 'jadugar' and RaGa's young brigade leader Pilot who has brought the Congress party from brink to power in 2018 assembly polls in Rajasthan and offered just a deputy CM post by party high command.

Despite all mudslinging between the two, RaGa has claimed that both were assets to the party. It is still a mystery what would be the future line of role of Pilot at least or would he be given a 'position' (PCC President or Incharge of Election Committee) to walk with the CM's plans ?

There is a great sigh of relief in the government corridors as Pilot's ultimatum to the Gehlot government on his three demands raised at the culmination of his Jan Sangharsh Pad Yatra in Jaipur on May 15 has expired on May 30 without any risk.

On the contrary, the Pilot faction leaders and supporters are keeping mum but they are restless on the three demands which Pilot made to public at the culmination of his Jan Sangharsh Yatra in Jaipur on May 15 and given an ultimatum to the Gehlot regime for the statewide Jan Sangharsh if the demands were not met. Lakhs of suffering students



R to L : Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Sachin Pilot and others

in the competitive examination paper leak cases were left in lurch as no one government would think to compensate for their losses.

Pilot's two other demands of Rajasthan Public Service Commission's reorientation after closure and probe against graft cases during former BJP Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje now hanging in balance.

Gehlot's ten major steps under 'Mehngai Rahat Camp', and handing over Guarantee cards to 6.9 cr beneficiaries and direct benefit of these schemes to over 1.35 cr families as of now have really compelled the party high command to probably ignore all other factors (including Pilot's ultimatum) if the party wanted to return to power for second term consecutively in December this year.

Gehlot's brainchild on implementation of Old Age Pension (OPS) against New Pension Scheme benefitting lakhs of employees also thrilled the nation and thus the Congress had won the Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka assembly polls on this account too. It was Gehlot whose regular and active support in Delhi to Sonia Gandhi and RaGa during the Enforcement Directorate's raids and

interrogation in Delhi also kept the High Command's morale high and favorable to him.

Amidst ifs and buts in the political circle on the success of the pact, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot told the Media in Delhi, 'If he (Sachin Pilot) is in the party then why won't he work together. One who has patience, the party would give a chance to him.'

When Gehlot was asked if he was sure that Pilot would work with him and what would be his role, Gehlot replied softly, "The role is of the high command. Rank doesn't matter to me. I have been the Chief Minister thrice, I have left no stone unturned to work".

"Today it is my duty, I should work in that direction on how the government should repeat, the high command also wants the same. I have made many schemes for the public, I think the public will repeat the government this time", he maintained his claim.

Gehlot further justified, "I myself have said many times that now the post does not matter to me. I have become CM three times, and have become Union Minister. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi have put so much faith in me.

Now it is my duty to do whatever the high command wants me to do, to work for the victory of the party, I am doing that. I left no stone unturned in making plans and implementing them. Every class is taken care of. Now whether Modi comes to Rajasthan or Amit Shah comes, the public knows the reality".

Right before the May 29 accord, in an indirect jibe at Pilot's three demands to compensate the students suffering in the competitive examination paper leak, the Chief Minister, said, "A demand to compensate candidates for paper leak is a '+budhi ka divaliapan' (bankruptcy of mind/intellect). I never heard of such a demand being ever made by any party".

While addressing a new terminal of roadways bus stand in Jaipur, Gehlot further made an indirect attack on him, "Has such a demand been made ever in history? Can a government do that ? Would you not call it a bankruptcy of the brain".

In a retaliation move, a poster depicting Sachin Pilot reads: 'Sirf Ek BANDAA KAFI HAI. One person is enough to shake the roots of corruption, to raise voice against injustice, to give the people their rights'. This poster was being trolled on social media

After every accord between Gehlot & Pilot since 2018, the Congress released a group picture in which they both along with RaGa or Venugopal waved their hands to well wishers and media. Such pictures showing solidarity of the party, and sweetness in relations did not last longer and turned to bitterness 3-times after December 2018, August 2020, and November 2022 agreements.

With a volley of queries and anxiety in the mind of the public and leaders, it is anticipated that the May 29, 2023 agreement of the Congress high command with the duo would last till the assembly elections are over.

Indian-origin wins big in Korean survival drama Squid Game at Singapore company dinner-dance



Selvam Arumugam won SGD18,888 in cash at the company's dinner-and-dance event in the hit South Korean survival drama Squid Game

JUNE 1, 2023

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin has won SGD18,888 in cash at the company's dinner-and-dance event in the

hit South Korean survival drama Squid Game, where players compete to win life-altering rewards, but minus the deadly stakes.

The prize money is equivalent to one and half years' worth of his salary at the heavy vehicle leasing firm Pollisum Engineering which hosted the event last Saturday, reported by media.

Selvam Arumugam, 42, had not heard of the show before.

Selvam works as a rigger and signalman, inspecting and maintaining crane and lifting equipment to ensure the safety of lifting operations at construction sites for Pollisum Engineering which gave out a total of SGD100,000 in prize money during the event.

Selvam, who studied up to Secondary 1 in India and joined the company in 2015, supports 15 family members back home. His parents and two brothers have died, leaving behind their wives and a total of seven children. He also provides for his in-laws.

Selvam said he will use the prize money to build a family home in India - the family currently lives in a rental flat - and help his brothers' children pay for their studies.

"When I found out that I had won, I couldn't believe it... I called my entire family to tell them about this good news," he said in Tamil.

"My wife thought it was a joke at first until (my friend) spoke to her. All of them were celebrating and crying at the

same time. This will be a moment that we will never forget for our entire lives," Selvam added.

In the Netflix series, hundreds of cash-strapped contestants compete in children's games for a huge cash prize while risking their lives in the process.

Players at the dinner and dance sported red tracksuit jackets with number tags, while game masters wore red hooded jumpsuits, like characters in the drama series.

A giant inflatable ball filled with money hung from the ceiling in full view of the players, similar to the show's piggy bank.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Manali, the honeymoon capital

With spectacular valleys, breathtaking views, snowcapped mountains, and lush forests of oak, deodar, and pine, Manali is a magical hill station at the northern end of Kullu valley in Himachal Pradesh. Gifted to the world by the mighty Himalayas, it is known to be one of the most popular destinations for honeymooners. Manali offers magnificent views of the Pir Panjal and the Dhauladhar ranges, covered in a thick blanket of snow for most of the year.

Over the last few years, Manali has evolved into a place loved by young people looking for more extended stays. With ambient cafes, good wifi availability, small eateries, and convenient shops, Old Manali is among the favorite neighborhood for such people. In addition, many homestays and hostels offer dorm beds for cheap for longer durations.

Apart from vacations and workations, Manali is a must-visit for trekkers, as it's an excellent base for exploring this side of the Himalayas. River Beas provides great rafting options in the nearby town of Kullu. Adjoining the Parvati river lies the Parvati Valley, with Kasol, Manikaran, Tosh, and small villages attracting travelers for extended stays. Atal Tunnel allows travelers to reach Sissu within a few hours, making Spiti more accessible.

Old Manali

Located 6589 feet above sea level and 3 km uphill from Manali, Himachal Pradesh, lies the town of Old Manali, a quiet settlement that lays beneath a valley with a vast coverage of apple orchards. Manali is divided into Old Manali and New Manali by the Manalsu River. Old Manali is led by a bridge over the river. In comparison to New Manali, it is cleaner and less crowded, thereby inducing a lot of travellers to visit this place more often than New Manali. The serenity of Old Manali is perhaps unique. The swaying eucalyptus, gently winding roads, gushing waters of the Kullu river and beautiful hills of this destination make it the perfect natural retreat. Indulge in some delicious continental food at low prices here, and shop for knick-knacks from the local markets here. The sunrise and sunsets here are intoxicating, and you will surely love the energy of this place. Old Manali is most famous for its Hidimba temple. Tucked away in the lap of quiet nature, this destination is the perfect place to experience the pure beauty of Himachal Pradesh.

Hadimba Temple

Located amidst the snow-covered hills of Manali, the Hadimba Temple is a unique shrine dedicated to Hidimba Devi, who was the wife of Bhima and mother of Ghatotkach. Surrounded by gorgeous cedar forests, this beautiful shrine is built on a rock which is believed to be in the image of goddess Hidimba herself. Locally known as Dhungari Temple, the construction style of the Hidimba Devi temple is entirely different from that of any of the other temples, with its wooden doorways, walls, and cone-shaped roof. This temple is a fitting dedication to its presiding deity Hadimba.

Naggar Castle

The Castle in Naggar is a medieval mansion of wood and stone that overlooks



the beautiful valley of Kullu. Built-in 1460 A.D, the castle is a unique blend of the Western and Himalayan style of architecture. This property of Raja Sidh Singh was converted into a heritage hotel by the government in 1978.

The ancient masterpiece serves as both a rest house and a tourist attraction. It boasts of an art gallery which comprises of several paintings made by a Russian artist Nicholas Roerich. His private rooms and collectables are also on display. Not only this but the castle has even made an appearance on the silver screen as well. The song 'Yeh Ishq Haye' from the Bollywood movie 'Jab We Met' was shot in the vicinity of this castle. Do try the Garhwali food at the small restaurant located in the Naggar Castle complex.

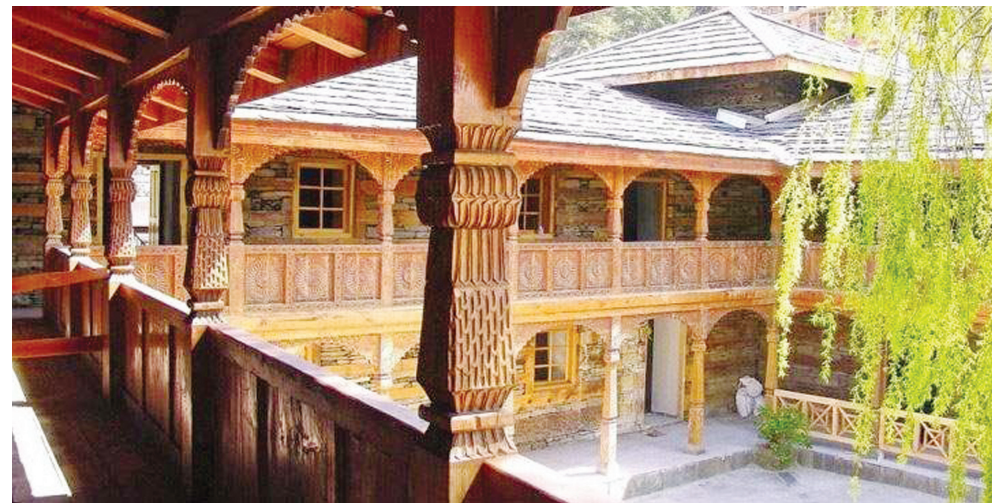
Jogini Waterfall, Manali Overview

Jogini Waterfall is located in the beautiful Valley of Manali, about 3 kilometres away from the bustling town and around 2 kilometres away from the famous Vashisht Temple. What makes it a popular tourist spot is the trek from Vashisht Temple, through pine trees and orchards, to the mesmerising Jogini Waterfalls cascading from a height of 160 feet. The trekkers are enchanted as they cross several smaller streams with a dazzling view of River Beas and the snow-dusted peaks of Rohtang. It takes about 3 hours to climb to the Jogini Waterfall, so make sure to carry a camera to capture the mind stirring beauty of the location. If you want to take a pit stop, there are restaurants on the route serving local snacks with a piping hot cup of Chai.

The captivating waterfall is considered as one of the most romantic attractions in Manali, thronged by couples. However, the region is also famous for adventure and recreational activities and is a favourite picnic spot among tourists.

Vashisht Baths

The Vashisht Rishi Temple is a tranquil and revered Hindu pilgrimage destination located in the scenic hill town of Manali. Just 3 km away from the River



Beas, this 4000-year-old temple is dedicated to the Hindu sage Vashisht and features stunning architecture, intricate carvings, and sulphurous hot springs believed to have rejuvenating benefits for both the body and mind. In addition to the hot springs, the temple complex offers smaller shrines, a yoga and meditation center, and a souvenir shop. Visitors come to experience the rejuvenating benefits of

the hot springs, believed to cure various ailments and relieve stress. In addition to the hot springs, the temple complex features several smaller shrines, a yoga and meditation centre, and a souvenir shop. The nearby village of Vashisht is famous for its apple orchards and traditional handicrafts, making it a perfect stop for those seeking a unique cultural experience.

contd from page 1

238 people killed and more than 900...

The accident saw one train ram so hard into another that carriages were lifted high into the air, twisting and then smashing off the tracks. Another carriage had been tossed entirely onto its roof, crushing the passenger section.

"The rescue operation has been completed, now we are starting the restoration work," Amitabh Sharma, Railways Spokesperson, said.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has declared one-day state mourning in view of the horrific train crash.

Vaishnaw has also announced compensation of Rs 10 lakh for those who have died, Rs 2 lakh for those seriously injured and Rs 50,000 for those who sustained minor injuries in the accident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi too expressed his distress over the accident, and announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the family of the dead and Rs 50,000 for the injured from the PM's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

US Congress averts historic default...

"We are avoiding default tonight," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on Thursday, June 1, as he steered the legislation through his 100-member chamber.

Biden praised Congress' timely action. "This bipartisan agreement is a big win for our economy and the American people," the Democratic president said in a statement, adding that he will sign it into law as soon as possible. He said he would make an additional statement on Friday at 7 p.m. EDT (2300 GMT).

Biden was directly involved in negotiations on the bill with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

While this bitter battle has ended, Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell wasted no time flagging the next budget fight.

"In the coming months, Senate Republicans will continue working to provide for the common defense and control Washington Democrats' reckless spending," he said in a statement.

McConnell was referring to 12 bills Congress will work on over the summer to fund government programs in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, which will also carry out the broad instructions of the debt limit bill.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, meanwhile, issued some pointed advice saying, "I continue to strongly believe that the full faith and credit of the United States must never be used as a bargaining chip," as Republicans did over the past several months.

Before the final vote, senators tore through nearly a dozen amendments - rejecting all of them during a late-night session in anticipation of Monday's deadline.

With this legislation, the statutory limit on federal borrowing will be suspended until Jan. 1, 2025. Unlike most other developed countries, the United States limits the amount of debt the government can borrow, regardless of any spending allocated by the legislature.

"America can breathe a sigh of relief," Schumer said in remarks to the Senate.

'TIME IS A LUXURY'

Republicans had blocked passage of any debt limit increase until they locked in some wide-ranging spending cuts in a move they said would begin addressing a rapidly escalating national debt.

Biden instead pushed for tax increases on the wealthy and corporations to help address the growing debt. Republicans refused to consider any sort of tax hikes.

Both parties walled off the sprawling Social Security and Medicare retirement and healthcare programs from cuts, and McCarthy refused to consider reducing spending on the military or veterans.

That left a somewhat narrow band of domestic "discretionary" programs to bear the brunt of spending cuts. In the end, Republicans won about \$1.5 trillion in reductions over 10 years, which may or may not be fully realized. Their opening bid was for \$4.8 trillion in

savings over a decade.

Treasury technically hit its limit on borrowing in January. Since then it has been using "extraordinary measures" to patch together the money needed to pay the government's bills.

Biden, Yellen and congressional leaders all acknowledged that triggering a default for lack of funds would have serious ramifications. Those included sending shock waves through global financial markets, possibly triggering job losses and a recession in the United States and raising families' interest rates on everything from home mortgages to credit card debt.

The Republican-controlled House passed the bill on Wednesday evening in a 314-117 vote. Most of those who voted against the bill were Republicans.

"Time is a luxury the Senate does not have," Schumer said on Thursday. "Any needless delay or any last-minute holdups would be an unnecessary and even dangerous risk."

Among the amendments debated were ones to force deeper spending cuts than those contained in the House-passed bill and stopping the speedy final approval of a West Virginia energy pipeline.

COBBLED OVER WEEKS

Republican Senator Roger Marshall offered an amendment to impose new border controls as high numbers of immigrants arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border. His measure, he said, would "put an end to the culture of lawlessness at our southern border."

The Senate defeated the amendment, however. Democrats said it would strip away protections for child migrants and rob American farmers of needed workers.

Some Republicans also wanted to beef up defense spending beyond the increased levels contained in the House-passed bill.

In response, Schumer said the spending caps in this legislation would not constrain Congress in approving additional money for emergencies, including helping Ukraine in its battle against Russia.

"This debt ceiling deal does nothing to limit the Senate's ability to appropriate emergency supplemental funds to ensure our military capabilities are sufficient to deter China, Russia and our other adversaries, and respond to ongoing and growing national security threats, including Russia's evil ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine," Schumer said.

The bill was cobbled together over weeks of intensive negotiations between senior aides for Biden and McCarthy.

The main argument was overspending for the next couple of years on discretionary programs such as housing, environmental protections, education and medical research that Republicans wanted to cut deeply.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would save \$1.5 trillion over 10 years. That is below the \$3 trillion in deficit reduction, mainly through new taxes, that Biden proposed.

The last time the United States came this close to default was in 2011. That standoff hammered financial markets, led to the first-ever downgrade of the government's credit rating and pushed up the nation's borrowing costs.

There was less drama this time as it became clear last week that Biden and McCarthy would find a deal with enough bipartisan support to get through Congress.

Indian democracy is a 'global public good'; its 'collapse' will have an impact on world, says Rahul Gandhi

Because India is large enough that a collapse in democracy in India will affect...will have an impact on the world. So that is for you to think about how much you have to value Indian democracy. But for us, it's an internal matter, and it's a fight that we are committed to, and we are going to, we are going to win," Gandhi said.

He gave a similar answer to questions on democracy at a reception hosted for him by eminent Indian

American Frank Islam.

Responding to a question, Gandhi said that there is a need to broaden the India-US relationship and it should not be restricted to just defense relationships alone.

"India has to do what's in its interest. And that's what will guide us... So, I am not entirely convinced about the sort of autocratic vision that is being promoted. I think that it's very important that democracy is protected on the planet. So, India has a role there. India, of course, has its view on things, and I think that that view should be put on the table, but I don't think one should think about these things as the center of things. I think that's, that would be arrogant," he said.

"We understand the strengths that we bring to the table: democratic values, data, these are some of the things that technology, a highly educated, technically educated population. These are our strengths. I think we have to chart our course based on these strengths," he said in response to a question on the India-US relationship.

During an interaction with the media at the National Press Club, Gandhi said that "the US and India have synergies, that if they come together can be very powerful. What we are facing is a particular vision of the world, the Chinese vision of the world that offers productivity, and prosperity, but under a non-Democratic field."

"That's not acceptable to us, because we simply cannot thrive under non-democratic. So, we have to think about productive production and prosperity in a Democratic field. And I think that's where the bridge between India and the United States can play a very important role for us and for you," he said.

Responding to a question on China, at a dinner reception, Gandhi said the Chinese system offers prosperity, but under a non-democratic system.

"I feel that an alternative vision needs to be put on the table. I think that's the real challenge facing the United States and India and other democracies. What exactly does a countervailing vision look like and what are the core elements of that vision?" he said.

"I think we are in the midst of a number of transitions. We are in the midst of a transition in mobility, a transition in energy, a transition in communication. How do we, how do we think about those transitions? I think those are really the big questions. Of course, uh, with regards to the United States, we have cooperation on defense, and that's very important, but I think it's equally important to widen the relationship and make it broader so it's more secure," Gandhi said.

China is occupying Indian territory, the former Congress party chief claimed.

"It's an accepted fact. I think 1,500 square kilometers of land the size of Delhi is occupied by them. It's absolutely unacceptable. The Prime Minister seems to believe otherwise. Maybe he knows something that we don't know," he said at the National Press Club.

The Indian government has rejected Gandhi's claim.

The Indian and Chinese troops are locked in an over three-year confrontation in certain friction points in eastern Ladakh even as the two sides completed disengagement from several areas following extensive diplomatic and military talks.

India has underlined the importance of resolving the eastern Ladakh border row with China and ensuring peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control for the development of bilateral ties. (Source: PTI)

PM Modi invited to address joint session of U.S. Congress on June 22

The lawmakers also said that the two countries' "shared values and commitment to global peace and prosperity" was the basis on which the bilateral partnership was growing.

"We look forward to continuing to work together to build a brighter future for our countries and for the world," the letter said.

Mr. Modi will be in Washington on June 22 and 23.



Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning a point against Alejandro Davidovich Fokina in the third round. AP/PTI

Djokovic survives Fokina scare

Twice champion Novak Djokovic huffed and puffed his way into the French Open fourth round with a 7-6(4) 7-6(5) 6-2 win over Spanish 29th seed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina on June 2.

Djokovic, who is aiming to leapfrog injured champion Rafa Nadal and win a record 23rd Grand Slam title, came into the match on Court Philippe Chatrier having lost to Davidovich Fokina the last time they met in Monte Carlo. "I knew it was going to be a very difficult match, a very physical match," Djokovic said. "We played three hours for only two sets. He contested very well. He is an amazing fighter and an amazing player. He has very few weaknesses in his game. Congratulations to him for fighting. Bad luck, but he played a great match."

The 36-year-old Serbian was given an early reminder of his struggles in that 2022 match by the man-bun sporting Davidovich Fokina, who had the world No. 3 tied up in knots with some heavy hitting and breathtaking drop shots.

Djokovic creaked on serve but hit back when it mattered to level at 3-3 and edged the 83-minute first set with a blistering crosscourt winner that drew huge roars.

A charged-up Djokovic responded to an early break with two of his own but dropped serve again in the wildly swinging second set, before shrugging off three double faults at 5-5 and a time violation to double his advantage in another tiebreak.

He called the trainer onto court for an apparent left leg issue, sparking fears the injury that accompanied his run to the Australian Open title in January had returned, but pulled away in the third set and crossed the finish line in style.

Source: Reuters

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Harmanpreet scores twice as India hammer Belgium 5-1 for first win of European leg

LONDON (TIP)

Captain Harmanpreet Singh struck a brace as India stunned Olympics champions Belgium 5-1 here on June 2 to bounce back after back-to-back defeats in their European leg of the FIH Pro League.

Midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad gave India the lead in the second minute before Harmanpreet (20th and 30th minutes) scored twice from penalty corners. Amit Rohidas (29th) and Dilpreet Singh (60th) were the other Indian scorers. William Ghislain (46th) scored the lone goal for Belgium.

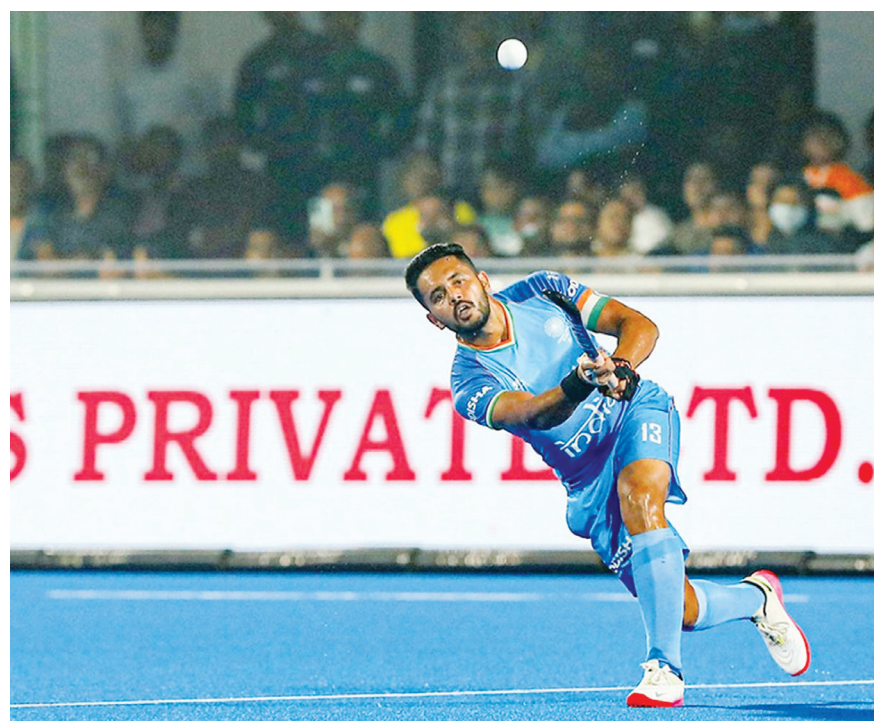
India, who had come to Europe as Pro League table-toppers, had lost the opening game of the European leg to Belgium (1-2) before going down to Great Britain (2-4).

With redemption on their mind, the Indians got off to a rollicking start with a well-executed field goal. It was Gurjant Singh who set up the goal for Vivek with a fine assist from the left flank.

After wasting their first penalty corner, India doubled their lead from the second as Harmanpreet fired a powerful drag-flick into the bottom corner.

With a minute to go in the first half, Rajkumar Pal found Mandeep Singh on the right flank. The striker drove into the shooting circle before sending in a cross, which found Rohidas. With just the goalkeeper to beat, the defender made to mistake and fired in a tomahawk shot.

In the following minute, India



India's captain Harmanpreet Singh.

extended their lead to 4-0 when they won yet another penalty corner. After Rohidas' drag-flick was blocked, the rebound fell to Harmanpreet who broke no sweat in putting the ball past the Belgian goalkeeper.

Finding themselves on the back foot, Belgium tested their opponent's defence when they were awarded back-to-back PCs in the start of the third quarter.

PR Sreejesh showcased some fine goalkeeping skills and eventually cleared the ball to safety.

In the fourth quarter, Belgium finally found the breakthrough when William Ghislain scored a fine field goal. The goal didn't dent India's confidence. Determined to finish well, India stuck to their structure and produced good attacking hockey in the dying minutes which resulted in Dilpreet scoring India's fifth goal.

Former captain Manpreet Singh was named the Player of the Match.

The win took India's tally to 22 points from 11 matches.

Source: PTI

WTC final: Australia fretting over India's bowling line-up

LONDON (TIP)

Australia are expecting Ravindra Jadeja to feature in India's playing XI in the World Test Championship final but are unsure about Ravichandran Ashwin's participation in the marquee contest to be played at The Oval starting June 7. India utilised three spinners during the recent Border-Gavaskar Trophy series with both Ashwin (25 wickets) and Jadeja (22) shinning bright to help their side claim a 2-1 series win.

Talking to local media prior to Australia's training session at the Kent County Cricket Ground in Beckenham on Thursday, June 1, assistant coach Daniel Vettori said the team management had a lot of discussion about India's probable bowling attack.

"We have been debating that," Vettori said. "I think Jadeja will play because of the batting he brings to the table and how successful he has been at that No. 6 position. Then the question will be around that fourth seamer and the all-



rounder in (Shardul) Thakur and Ashwin, but they are (both) pretty good choices," he added.

Vettori, however, feels Ashwin might just lose out on a spot in the playing XI

because of team combination despite enjoying a decent record in England. The experienced off-spinner has a total of 18 wickets at an average of 28.11 from seven matches in England but has played

just one Test at The Oval. "Ashwin is an incredible bowler and he will be first choice in most teams, and just with their combinations it may lead to that (him missing selection)," Vettori said. "We expect The Oval to behave how it always behaves. It is a good wicket, but it can offer a lot to the spinners as the game goes on."

Vettori also expects Cameron Green to play a big part in the WTC final, especially after his superb showing in the just-concluded IPL. "Any cricket is preparation now. He is doing work in the background to make sure his bowling loads are up and he is actually ready for Test cricket," Vettori said of Green. "We look at it like if you are involved in high-intensity, high-class cricket, we are happy with that as it means you are playing cricket. The hardest thing for guys is coming out of nothing and that might be a challenge for a couple of guys who have had an extended break and how they get up to speed as quickly as possible," he said.

Source: PTI



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History This Week

JUNE 02 - 08, 2023

JUNE 2

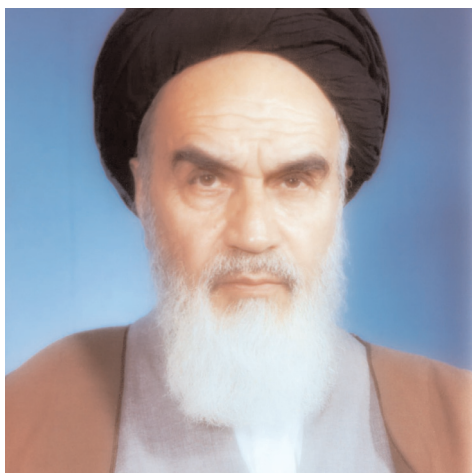


Birthdays - Marquis de Sade (1740-1814) was born in Paris. He was a military leader, governor-general, and author, whose acts of extreme cruelty and violence resulted in the term sadism being created from his name to describe gratification in inflicting pain.

JUNE 3

June 3, 1937 - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson in Monts, France. As King Edward VIII, he had abdicated the British throne in December of 1936 amid tremendous controversy to marry Simpson, an American who had been divorced. Following the wedding, the couple lived in France and had minimal contact with the British Royal family. The Duke died in Paris on May 28, 1972, and was buried near Windsor Castle in England.

June 3, 1972 - Sally Jan Priesand was ordained a rabbi thus becoming the first woman rabbi in the U.S. She then became an assistant rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City.



June 3, 1989 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, died. On February 1, 1979, after 15 years in exile, he had staged a triumphant return to Iran which led to the downfall of the Shah. Khomeini then reorganized the government on Islamic principles. On November 11, 1979, a group of students loyal to Khomeini seized 66 hostages in the American Embassy in Teheran after the former Shah had entered the U.S. for medical treatment. Thus began an international political crisis lasting until January 20, 1981, when they were released.

Birthdays - Confederate president Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) was born at

Todd County, Kentucky. After the Southern states formed the Confederacy in 1861, he hoped to be named commander of the Confederate military forces but was instead chosen to be president, serving until 1865. Following the Civil War, he was imprisoned but never brought to trial. He died at age 81 in New Orleans.

JUNE 4

June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

June 4, 1972 - An express train packed with more than 600 people rammed into a stalled train at full speed in the main station of Jessore, Bangladesh, killing 76 and injuring over 500 persons.

June 4, 1989 - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The protest had started on April 16 as about 1,000 students marched to mourn the death of Hu Yaobang, a pro-reform leader within the Chinese government. Despite government warnings, pro-reform and pro-democracy demonstrations continued for a month drawing ever-larger crowds of young people, eventually totaling over a million persons. On May 13, three thousand students began an eight-day hunger strike. The government imposed martial law on May 20 and brought in troops. On June 2, in their first clash with the People's Army, demonstrators turned back an advance of unarmed troops. However, in the pre-dawn hours of June 4, the People's Army, using tanks, machine-guns, clubs and tear gas, opened fire on the unarmed protesters. Armored personnel carriers then rolled into the square crushing students still sleeping in their tents. The Chinese government later claimed only 300 died in the attack. U.S. estimates put the toll at over 3,000. Following the massacre, over 1,600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.



Birthdays - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American

Revolution was directed.

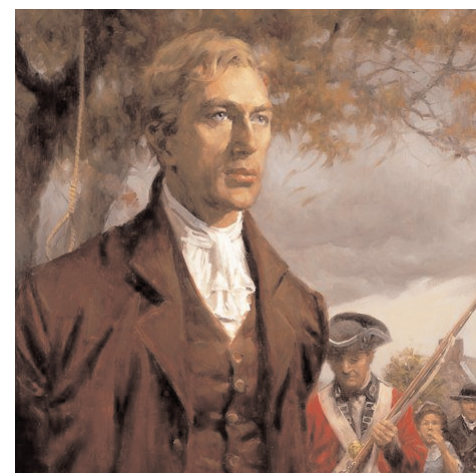
JUNE 5



June 5, 1968 - Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded while leaving the Hotel Ambassador in Los Angeles. The shooting occurred after a celebration of Kennedy's victory in the California presidential primary. He died at 1:44 a.m., June 6, at age 42, leaving behind his wife Ethel and eleven children, the last one born after his death. President John F. Kennedy had named his brother and campaign manager, Robert Francis Kennedy, to the post of U.S. Attorney General in 1961. Robert served as the president's closest confidant. After the assassination of JFK, Robert remained as Attorney General until 1964, when he resigned to make a successful run for the U.S. Senate from New York. Allied with the plight of the poor and disadvantaged in America, he spoke out against racial discrimination, economic injustice and the Vietnam War. In March of 1968, he had announced his candidacy for the presidency. And with the win in California, appeared headed for the nomination.

JUNE 6

June 6, 1978 - By a vote of almost two to one, California voters approved Proposition 13, an amendment to the state constitution severely limiting property tax rates.



Birthdays - American patriot Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was born in Coventry, Connecticut. During the American Revolution, he volunteered for a dangerous spy mission in Long Island and was captured by the British on the night of September 21, 1776. Brought before British General William Howe,

Hale admitted he was an American officer. Howe ordered him to be hanged the following morning. As Hale mounted the gallows he uttered, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

JUNE 7

Birthdays - French painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) was born in Paris. He worked as a stockbroker, then became a painter in middle age. He left Paris and moved to Tahiti where he developed an interest in primitive art. Among his best known paintings; Vision After the Sermon (1888), When Shall We Be Married? (1892), Holiday (1896), and Two Tahitian Women (1899). His style using broad, flat tones and bold colors, inspired artists such as Edvard Munch, Henri Matisse, and the young Pablo Picasso.

JUNE 8

June 8, 1874 - Apache leader Cochise died on the Chiricahua Reservation in southeastern Arizona. After a peace treaty had been broken by the U.S. Army in 1861, he waged war against settlers and soldiers, forcing them to withdraw from southern Arizona. In 1862, he became principal chief of the Apaches. He and 200 followers avoided capture by hiding in the Dragoon Mountains. In June of 1871, Army General George Crook assumed command in Arizona and managed to win the allegiance of many Apaches. Cochise then surrendered. He disappeared briefly in the spring of 1872, but returned and settled on the reservation where he died.



Birthdays - American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. He designed about 1,000 structures and is considered the most influential architect of his time. He became the leader of a style known as the Prairie School featuring houses with low-pitched roofs and extended lines that blend into the landscape. He once wrote, "No house should ever be on any hill or on anything. It should be of the hill, belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other."

Princess Sophia Duleep Singh's UK home honored with commemorative Blue Plaque

MAY 26, 2023

LONDON (TIP): Princess Sophia Duleep Singh, the daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh - the last ruler of the Sikh empire - and the goddaughter of Queen Victoria, was honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London on Friday, May 26.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honors the significance of particular buildings associated with historical figures. In memory of the British-Indian Princess, it now adorns Faraday House, which was granted to Sophia and her sisters as a grace and favor apartment at Hampton Court Palace southwest of London by Queen Victoria.

"As a political journalist, I thought I knew the story of the suffragettes, and then I found this extraordinary woman and she blew me away," said Anita Anand, the author of the biography 'Sophia: Princess, Suffragette, Revolutionary'.

"As the last princess of the Sikh Empire, goddaughter of Queen Victoria, society darling and fashion icon, a life of comfort and celebrity was hers for the taking, but she chose a harder path. Using her international fame and influence, putting herself in physical danger, she fought for the right of women to vote. Campaigning with unrelenting ferocity, loyalty and selflessness, she moved the dial," she said.

Named after another former resident, the eminent English physicist Michael Faraday (1791-1867), Faraday House was Princess Sophia's main residence for over four decades.



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque in London on Friday, May 26.

Furnished to her luxurious taste, the house - or "Apartment 41" to give it its grace-and-favor title - was Princess Sophia's base during the many years she campaigned as a suffragette for women's voting rights.

Peter Bance, a British Sikh historian, art collector and author of 'Sovereign, Squire and Rebel: Maharajah Duleep Singh & the Heirs of the Lost Kingdom' who campaigned for the plaque said, "I came upon the story of the princess when I was researching her father Duleep Singh at a time when no one had heard about her. It was as if her story had been erased from history. But once a forgotten princess, she has now become an icon." Uniquely spanning the very different worlds of the British court and the

movement for women's suffrage in the early 20th century, Sophia Duleep Singh made full use of her royal title and public persona.

"I remember my godmother Princess Sophia telling me about the suffragettes and how women weren't always allowed to vote as we walked through the gardens at Hampton Court together. And then, as a child, I made a solemn vow to her that I would always exercise my right to vote, and I always have," said Drovna Oxley, goddaughter to Princess Sophia.

The princess, who died aged 71 in August 1948, dared the authorities to punish her as she shrewdly chose which political protests to attend, ones they could not ignore. Her residence at Faraday House was not without

controversy as reflected in a much-publicized photograph of her selling 'The Suffragette' paper outside Hampton Court Palace, which led to her eviction from the property being discussed in court and government circles.

The idea was eventually dismissed as it would have dragged the Crown into the parliamentary suffrage debates of the time. Faraday House was also raided by bailiffs seeking redress for her non-payment of taxes after she joined the Women's Tax Resistance League (WTRL) in 1911.

"Princess Sophia was a fascinating and important figure, but her story was not at all well known in the decades following her death. I'm delighted that interest in her has grown in recent years. English Heritage hopes that our blue plaque will help ensure that she's firmly established in the pantheon of great campaigners for women's suffrage," said Anna Eavis, Curatorial Director at English Heritage.

Duleep Singh was the last Maharaja of Punjab as the son and heir of Maharaja Ranjit Singh who was exiled to England as a teenager in 1854. He shared a close bond with Queen Victoria until he grew critical of the British Empire in later life.

It was on his request that the Queen agreed to be the godmother of his daughter Sophia and went on to grant use of Faraday House to the family for the rest of their lives even as her relationship with their father soured.

During her life, Sophia maintained a strong connection with India and her ashes were taken to India by her sister Bamba in 1949.

Incredibly rich diaspora truly an asset to both countries, says Biden's top aide Neera Tanden

MAY 27, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The "incredibly rich" diaspora is truly an asset to both India and the United States, Neera Tanden, a top Indian-American aide to President Joe Biden has said as the White House prepares to host Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an Official State Visit next month.

Indian Americans, who constitute about one per cent of the US population, and are said to be having the highest per capita income among various ethnic groups in the US, over the years have played a key role in strengthening the India-US relationship, a fact that has been acknowledged at the highest level, including by President Biden.

One thing that is truly an asset to both countries is the incredibly rich diaspora here in the United States. I have been engaged with organizations that have really focused on the diaspora in the United States, and the rich connections between Indian Americans, Indians who've been born here, who are first generation, second generation, and their families in India. This is a major asset to the relationship, 52-year-old Tanden, senior advisor and staff secretary to President Joe Biden, told PTI in an exclusive interview.

Friday was her last day as the senior advisor and staff secretary to the President. From Monday, Tanden would



Neera Tanden Photo / courtesy Center for American Progress

take charge as the White House Domestic Policy Advisor, making her one of the most powerful Indian Americans in the White House. She replaces former National Security Advisor and former US Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, as the White House Domestic Policy Advisor.

"I'm excited for the (Indian) State Visit, Tanden said in response to a question. Modi has been invited by President Biden and First Lady Jill Biden for an Official State Visit on June 22.

"I'm really also excited for us to highlight the deep relationships between Indian Americans and their

families in India and really how we learn back and forth. That's not just a one-way conversation. We learn a lot from them, and they learn from us. It's a big asset to the relationship that those organizations' voices are so strong, and they are all throughout the country, not just on the east coast or the West Coast, but really, all throughout the country, Tanden said.

Tanden started working in politics and policy in government in the late 1990s. She has been working in Washington at different levels for the last 25 years.

I am just really proud of the role Indian Americans are playing. There were very few Indian Americans in the Clinton White House. There are very few Indian Americans in the Clinton administration. A lot of families have pushed their children in other directions, sometimes in medicine, business, and other areas. But what's really gratifying is to be in the White House and sit at the table, and see not just Asian Americans, but a lot of Indian Americans, she said.

Tanden has served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations, as well as presidential campaigns and think tanks. Most recently, she was the President and CEO of the Center for American Progress and the Center for American Progress Action Fund.



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