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INDIA IS THE FASTEST GROWING ECONOMY:
AMBASSADOR JAISWAL PAGE 11

74TH REPUBLIC DAY OF INDIA CELEBRATED AT THE INDIAN CONSULATE IN NEW YORK



Consul General of India at New York, Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, hoists the Indian National flag on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day of India at the Indian Consulate on January 26, 2023

JANUARY 26, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): The 74th Republic Day of India was celebrated at the Consulate General of India, New York with a flag hoisting ceremony on Thursday, January 26th 2023.

Consul General Randhir Jaiswal unfurled the national flag after which the national anthem was sung. Consul General then read out the address of the President of India. A short cultural program of patriotic songs was presented by Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, USA. A large number of members of Indian diaspora and friends of India participated in the celebration. The event was webcast live through the Consulate's social media platforms.

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A vibrant parade marked Celebration of the 74th Republic Day of India

I.S. SALUJA

JANUARY 26, 2023

NEW DELHI (TIP): The ceremonial boulevard of the national capital, the newly-christened Kartavya Path that has witnessed the country free itself from the clutches of colonial rule played host to the 74th Republic Day on January 26, 2023. President Droupadi Murmu led the nation in celebrating Republic Day, and Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was the chief guest at the ceremonial event. This is the first time an Egyptian head of state has been invited to the ceremony. The invite also marks 75 years of diplomatic ties between Cairo and New Delhi.

A total of 23 tableaux - 17 from States and Union Territories and six from various Ministries and departments depicting India's vibrant cultural heritage, and economic and social progress were a part of the parade on the Kartavya Path.

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MORE REPUBLIC DAY STORIES ON P-14

NATION'S MILITARY PROWESS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, AND OTHER UNIQUE INITIATIVES DISPLAYED



President Droupadi Murmu takes salute at the 74th Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26, 2023. Screenshot

Short seller Hindenburg accuses billionaire Gautam Adani of 'largest con in corporate history'



Gautam Adani's rise in wealth was fueled by a variety of illegal misdeeds, alleges Hindenburg.

Photo / Wikipedia

instance in which the company faked a video that

JANUARY 25, 2023

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): It may be the biggest scandal in corporate history in India in recent times. The Hindenburg report on Adani conglomerate has created shockwaves in the financial world. Nobody can wish away or wash away the findings of the Hindenburg investigation. It is not the first time that Hindenburg has investigated a corporate.

Earlier, in 2020, Hindenburg published a report detailing malfeasance at the electric vehicle firm Nikola Corp. Hindenburg said Nikola had engaged in an "intricate fraud," including an

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Mayor Adams Outlines "Working People's Agenda" for NYC in Second State of the City Address

JANUARY 26, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): New York City Mayor Eric Adams, on January 26, outlined a "Working People's Agenda" in his second State of the City address, delivered at the Queens Theatre in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Mayor Adams' agenda is built on four pillars that are essential to building a city that meets the needs of working New Yorkers and represent the focus of his administration's work in 2023: jobs, safety, housing, and care.



Mayor Adam's agenda rests on "Four Pillars That Uphold Strong and Sustainable Society: Jobs, Safety, Housing, and Care"

Photo / press office, City Hall

Mayor Adam's agenda rests on "Four Pillars That Uphold Strong and Sustainable Society: Jobs, Safety, Housing, and Care"

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GUEST COMMENT

Founding ideals: On President Murmu's first Republic Day address to the nation

ADHERENCE TO BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION IS WHAT UNIFIES INDIA

In her first and customary Republic Day address to the nation, President Draupadi Murmu reiterated the founding ideals of the Republic on the eve of the 74th anniversary of the adoption of its Constitution. As the first tribal woman to occupy the highest office in the country, the 15th President of India is emblematic of the Republic's continuing journey of democracy, pluralism and empowerment of the weaker sections. The values of fraternity and democracy that its founding leaders etched into the genetic makeup of the modern nation were derived from the learnings of an ancient civilization. Ms. Murmu underscored this quality of the Republic - the amalgamation of the old and the new, the traditional and the modern. A unified and unifying struggle against British imperialism, as the President noted, was "as much about winning Independence as about rediscovering our own ideals".

Ms. Murmu laid emphasis on the "essence of India" - which is profound and predictable at once. "We have succeeded... because so many creeds and so many languages have not divided us, they have only united us." A commitment to this creed has sustained the modern nation, and the long and ancient civilization that evolved and reformed over millennia.

It can be argued that the Republic is continuously in formation, as thoughts and ideas emerge. As new ambitions inspire the country, some foundational principles must remain the timeless codes for survival and success. Ms. Murmu's address reiterated those, while celebrating India's successes in various fields, particularly the economy. While noting India's emergence as an influential leader in global affairs, she underscored the principles of Sarvodaya and Atmanirbhar Bharat - uplift of all, and self-reliance - which are guiding the

government as they have the earlier ones. Oppression and debilitating poverty continue to shackle vast sections, and India must constantly remember this fact, and certainly on occasions when it reflects on its progress. At various points, challenges to the ideals of the Constitution and the national movement arose in the form of political authoritarianism, sectarian extremism, and separatism, but India overcame them - a reason for satisfaction but also a call for constant vigil. Ms. Murmu's reiteration of the founding principles of the Republic, and her reassurance to fellow citizens come at a time when the sanctity of the Constitution is under attack. While debate about the Constitution is also part of the democracy it establishes, adherence to its basic principles is what unifies the people of India. Ms. Murmu made that point.

(The Hindu)

Big Tech layoffs: Chance to turn adversity into opportunity

Thanks to the enormous balance sheets, Big Tech has historically been a resilient industry, absorbing most of the economic shocks. It is also considered a bellwether for decisions on corporate spending and hiring. As the growth-oriented technology industry confronts one of its worst contractions, with mass layoffs over the span of a few months, there is a sense of panic and anxiety. The shakeout is being viewed as an instance of social contagion - companies imitating what others are doing. Facing criticism, the tech giants are projecting the staff sackings as a course correction following a period of aggressive scaling up and bolstering of workforce during the pandemic. Amid predictions of a

recession and a severe economic downturn in the West, the belt-tightening, it is argued, sends a message to shareholders of putting the brakes on any needless spending. The jury is out on whether the approach is prudent or myopic.

When the world's most valuable and cash-rich firms resort to large-scale job cuts, worries of a ripple effect are inevitable. Knock-on consequences are expected in the consulting, marketing, advertising and manufacturing spaces. The developments are also bound to have an impact on India's export prospects, especially in the information technology sector. The consolation, if any, is that most people losing jobs are highly employable professionals, given their

education and work experience credentials. Salaries may deflate, but the tech industry is still a big employer. Competitive re-hiring may be back with a vengeance sooner rather than later.

There are calls in the US Congress to offer assistance to immigrants who have been laid off. As things stand today, it's a grim scenario, but adversity can be turned into opportunity. For the Indian techies bearing the brunt abroad and the firms based in the country, it's a chance to explore new beginnings and collaborations. It's an opportune time to attract the talent back home, offer a slew of incentives and gain an impactful foothold in the global tech space.

(Tribune, India)

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74th Republic Day of India celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

In the evening, the Consul General hosted a reception which was attended by prominent members of the diaspora, elected officials, members of the diplomatic corps, friends from the media and people from different walks of life. The leading lights of Indian diaspora graced the occasion, including Prof. S. R. Srinivasa Varadhan, the recipient of Padma Vibhushan this year - the second highest civilian award. State Senator Kevin Thomas, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Deputy Permanent Representative of India to the UN Ambassador R. Ravindra, Consuls General of Japan, Bangladesh, Mexico, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, Peru, Malaysia and Germany, besides diplomats from several other Consulates participated in the reception. More than 150 guests graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Jaiswal said: "Speaking to the nation on the eve of Republic, the Honorable President of India said and I quote: "With hope and confidence, we began an experiment unique in the history of humankind. Such a vast and diverse multitude of people coming together as one nation remains unprecedented. We did so with the belief that we are after all, one, that we are all Indians. We have succeeded as a democratic republic, because so many creeds and so many languages have not divided us; they have united us, that is the essence of India." The

ambassador added: "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India continues to march on with speed and scale and more importantly, with humility and confidence. Our story today is both inspiring and assuring provided by transformative reforms, next generation infrastructure and empowering digital public goods. We are the fastest growing major economy. We recently became the fifth largest economy in the world and remain on course to achieve our targeted spot in the not so distant a future."

The evening function began with singing of Indian and US national anthem by Master Ishaan Tangirala, a young talented singer of Indian origin from New Jersey. Consul General welcomed the guests and thanked everyone for their participation. He underlined the growing partnership between India and the US, the oldest and the largest democracies in the world and the key role of diaspora in strengthening these ties. Congratulatory video messages from Congresswoman Susan Wild and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick were played, followed by reading out of a citation from Congressman Michael Lawler. State Senator Kevin Thomas and Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar delivered remarks conveying their greetings on the 74th Republic Day of India. This was followed by a video on the Consulate's activities. Later, Grammy Award winning singer Falguni Shah gave an enthralling performance of patriotic songs. Guests were then invited for an Indian dinner where they were treated to a wide variety of regional cuisines. A special attraction on the menu was cuisines of millets from different parts of India, in celebration of International Year of Millets - 2023.

The event had a distinct flavor of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - the celebration of 75 years of India's independence. Enthusiastic participation from the



Grammy Award winning singer Falguni Shah enthralled with patriotic songs



The welcoming trio. From L to R: Shahana Bagban, Aastha Srivastava, Sandhya Parajuli



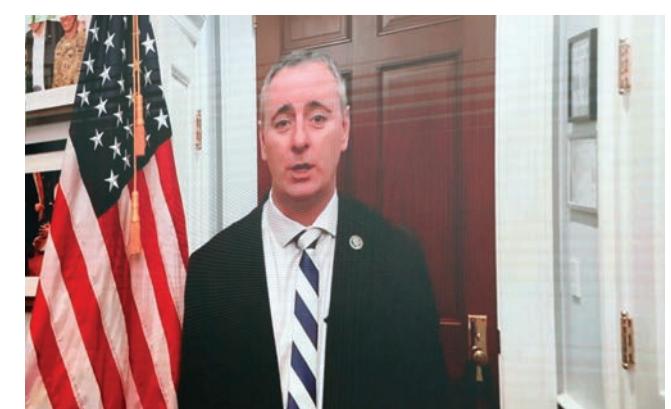
Celebrating "The Year of the Millets". The hosts had delicious millets dishes served.



The distinguished gathering which included prominent members of the diaspora, elected officials, members of the diplomatic corps, friends from media and people from different walks of life



Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal welcomes the guests to the reception in celebration of the Republic Day of India



The dignitaries who extended greetings on the occasion. Congresswoman Susan Wild, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick, NY State Senator Kevin Thomas, and NY Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar

diaspora ensured Jan Bhagidari - or people's participation in the celebration of 74th Republic Day.

British-Sikh engineer wins PM Rishi Sunak's Points of Light Award for low-cost invention

JANUARY 27, 2023

LONDON (TIP): A British Sikh engineer behind an energy-efficient manual washing machine for low-income groups around the world, inspired by his volunteering work in India, has won Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Points of Light Award.

Navjot Sawhney, who set up his Washing Machine Project around four years ago, was honored for his hand-cranked machine invention which can be operated in regions without electricity.

Sawhney described the experience of winning the award from Sunak, announced earlier this month, as "surreal" after the British Indian leader praised his "ingenuity and compassion".

"You have used your professional skills as an engineer to help thousands of people around the world who don't have access to electric washing machines," Sunak wrote in a personal letter to Sawhney.

"Your innovative, hand-cranked washing machines are giving families the dignity of clean clothes and the time you are saving them is empowering many women who have been held back from education and employment," he said.

"I know that your machines are also helping Ukrainian families who have been forced to flee their homes and are currently living in humanitarian aid centers. Your ingenuity, compassion and



Navjot Sawhney, who set up his Washing Machine Project around four years ago, was honored for his hand-cranked machine invention which can be operated in regions without electricity.

Twitter/@thewashorg

dedication to improving the lives of others is an inspiration to us all," he added.

Previously employed by Dyson, the technology firm well known for vacuum cleaners, Sawhney wanted to use his skills to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged communities.

It was while volunteering in southern India with "Engineers Without Borders" that he saw the disproportionate burden

placed on women to carry out handwashing, inspiring him to design a manual, off-grid and fully sustainable machine which saves 50 per cent on water compared to handwashing, and 75 per cent on time.

He named his first machines after his neighbor Divya and the Washing Machine Project was created to manufacture the "Divya" devices on a wider scale, with over

300 machines so far distributed worldwide to places including refugee camps, schools and orphanages.

"Winning the Points of Light award and getting recognized by the Prime Minister is a phenomenal privilege," said London-born Sawhney.

"The Washing Machine Project's mission is to alleviate the burden of unpaid labor, mainly on women and children. I'm so proud that giving back the dignity of clean clothes to those who hand wash them is getting the recognition it deserves.

"Thank you to our team, volunteers, partners and beneficiaries who work tirelessly daily to make our mission a success," he said.

According to Downing Street, his hand-cranked washing machines have benefitted over 1,000 families without access to an electric machine in underdeveloped countries or refugee camps, including humanitarian aid centers in Poland for Ukrainian refugees.

The Washing Machine Project's Go Fund Me crowdfunding campaign has raised over 91,000 pounds since July 2021.

Points of Light are outstanding individual volunteers and people seen as making a change in their community and are regularly honored by the British Prime Minister to recognize their inspirational work. (Source: PTI)

Indian American City Council member Kshama Sawant introduces first law to ban caste discrimination



Kshama Sawant has introduced first-in-the-nation legislation for the city to ban caste-based discrimination, in solidarity with its South Asian and other immigrant communities.

JANUARY 25, 2023

SEATTLE, WA (TIP): Seattle City Council's lone socialist Indian American member Kshama Sawant has introduced first-in-the-nation legislation for the city to ban caste-based discrimination, in solidarity with its South Asian and other immigrant communities.

If approved by the City Council, the legislation will ban caste-based discrimination in our city," Mumbai born Sawant, 46, who has represented District 3, Central Seattle in the council since 2013, stated Tuesday, January 24.

The legislation will prohibit businesses from discriminating based on caste with respect to hiring, tenure, promotion, workplace conditions, or wages, she stated.

It will ban discrimination based on caste in places of public

accommodation, such as hotels, public transportation, public restrooms, or retail establishments. The law will also prohibit housing discrimination based on caste in rental housing leases, property sales, and mortgage loans.

"Caste discrimination doesn't only take place in other countries. It is faced by South Asian American and other immigrant working people in their workplaces, including in the tech sector, in Seattle and in cities around the country," Sawant stated.

"That's why my office is proud to bring forward first-in-the-nation legislation for our city to ban caste-based discrimination, in solidarity with our South Asian and other immigrant community members, and all working people," she stated.

"With over 167,000 people from South Asia living in Washington, largely concentrated in the Greater Seattle area, the region must address caste discrimination, and not allow it to remain invisible and unaddressed," Sawant added.

Sawant said that caste discrimination has been growing in the United States across many industries, including technology, construction, restaurants and the service industry, and in domestic work.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Five Indian Americans amongst 40 finalists in Regeneron Science Talent Search

JANUARY 25, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Five Indian American students are among 40 finalists in the Regeneron Science Talent Search, America's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition for high school seniors, vying for over \$1.8 million in prizes.

Finalists were selected by a national jury of professional scientists from a pool of 300 scholars from 34 schools across 14 states, based on their projects' scientific rigor and their potential to become world-changing scientific leaders, according to a press release from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and Society for Science.

The 2023 finalists' research projects showcase their breadth of knowledge, their commitment to addressing issues important to modern society, and their passion for STEM, the release said.

Five Indian American students -Ambika Grover from Connecticut, Neel Moudgal from Michigan, Ishika Nag and Lavanya Natarajan from Florida and Siddhu Pachipala from Texas - will now compete with other finalists for a top prize of \$250,000. Grover of Greenwich High School, Greenwich, Connecticut, had a project titled: Design of a Novel, Dual-Functioning, Tissue Plasminogen Activator and Factor XI-Inhibiting Anticoagulant Therapeutic for Rapid Ischemic Stroke Treatment.

Moudgal of Saline High School, Saline, Michigan, had a project titled: Using



Ambika Grover from Connecticut, Neel Moudgal from Michigan, Ishika Nag and Lavanya Natarajan from Florida and Siddhu Pachipala from Texas - will now compete with other finalists for a top prize of \$250,000.

Unassigned NMR Chemical Shifts to Model RNA Secondary Structure.

Nag of Oviedo High School, Oviedo, Florida, had a project titled: Development of an Engineered Face Mask with Optimized Nanoparticle Layering for Filtration of Air Pollutants and Viral Pathogens. Lavanya Natarajan of Viera High School, Viera, Florida had a project titled: A Prescriptive IoT Solution to Detect and Mitigate Fugitive Methane Gas in Landfills via a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System.

Siddhu Pachipala of The Woodlands College Park High School, The Woodlands, Texas had a project titled: SuiSensor: A Novel, Low-Cost Machine Learning System for Real-Time Suicide Risk Identification and Treatment Optimization via Computational Linguistics.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian-origin mathematicians from US, Canada for Padma awards



S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan has been honored with the Padma Vibhushan while Indo-Canadian Sujatha Ramdorai received the Padma Shri for their stellar contributions in the field of science and engineering.

JANUARY 26, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Two Indian-origin mathematicians are among the 106 recipients of the prestigious Padma awards, one of the highest civilian honors of the country, announced on the eve of the Republic Day.

Indian American S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan has been honored with the Padma Vibhushan and Indo-Canadian Sujatha Ramdorai received the Padma Shri for their stellar contributions in the field of science and engineering.

Born in Chennai on January 2, 1940, Srinivasa Varadhan is known for his fundamental contributions to probability theory.

The mathematics professor was awarded the 2007 Abel Prize by the

Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters "for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations".

Armed with a master's degree (1960) from the University of Madras, Varadhan earned his doctorate (1963) from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta.

In 1963, Varadhan came from India as a postdoctoral fellow to the Courant Institute in New York and never left. He is currently Professor of Mathematics and Frank J Gould Professor of Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

He was awarded the Birkhoff Prize (1994), the Margaret and Herman Sokol

Award of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University (1995), and the Leroy Steele Prize (1996).

In 2008, the Indian government awarded him the Padma Bhushan.

Associated with the University of British Columbia, Canada, Sujatha Ramdorai is an algebraic number theorist known for her work on the Iwasawa theory.

She is the first Indian to win the prestigious International Centre for Theoretical Physics Ramanujan Prize in 2006 and also a winner of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 2004.

She is also the recipient of the 2020 Krieger-Nelson Prize for her exceptional contributions to mathematics research.

Having served at the National Knowledge Commission from 2007-2009, Ramdorai is currently a Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India and a Member of the National Innovation Council.

She completed her B.Sc. in 1982 from St Joseph's College, Bengaluru, and then got her MSc from Annamalai University in 1985.

Ramdorai did her Ph.D in the area of Quadratic forms over function fields and Witt rings of varieties from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

The Padma Awards are conferred by the President of India usually around March/April every year.

This year, a total of 106 Padma awards will be conferred on personalities across varied disciplines.

The Awards are given in three categories: Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).

INDIAN-ORIGIN PROF. GANESH THAKUR TO LEAD 'BEST AND BRIGHTEST' SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS IN TEXAS



Ganesh Thakur has been appointed as the vice president of the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology (TAMEST)

JANUARY 26, 2023

HOUSTON (TIP): Ganesh Thakur, an Indian-origin professor in the US, has been appointed as the vice president of the Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science and Technology (TAMEST), an organization that brings the state's top scientists and researchers to advance research, innovation and business in Texas.

The TAMEST board of directors on Tuesday, January 24, appointed Thakur, a Distinguished Professor of Petroleum Engineering at the University of Houston (UH), vice president alongside Brendan Lee, who will serve as the president.

Originally from Jharkhand, Thakur is the first UH faculty member to lead TAMEST.

During his two-year term as vice president, he will help coordinate and guide the board of directors with strategic planning, programs and communication.

He will eventually be named the president of the organization in 2025.

"Texas is home to some of the most brilliant minds in the world, and I'm honored and excited by this opportunity to strengthen collaboration and advance innovation across the state in fields critical to our continued growth and development," said Thakur, who has been a member of the organization since 2016, most recently serving as treasurer.

"TAMEST is a scientific and biomedical intellectual engine for the state, and I am passionate about its mission to benefit public good and business," he added.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors, Thakur is a globally recognized pioneer in Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS). His patent on forecasting the performance of water injection and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) using a hybrid analytical-empirical methodology provided a much faster approach that served as an alternative to more time-consuming reservoir simulation.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN-AMERICANS CHARGED WITH FRAUD, CONSPIRACY



Indian-Americans charged with fraud, conspiracy in US
Photo for representation

businesses.

According to court documents, the 12 individuals operated and participated in a series of dental practices and related companies (the Savani Group) that engaged in visa fraud, health care fraud, wire fraud involving federal tax evasion, and money-laundering.

Six of them have been charged with being part of a racketeer-influenced corrupt organization (RICO) conspiracy based on their roles in the Savani Group, and another three charged with obstruction of justice, according to the US Department of Justice press release issued on Wednesday.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American astronaut nominated by Joe Biden for appointment to grade of Air Force brigadier general

JANUARY 27, 2023

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American astronaut Raja J Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general. The nomination was announced on Thursday and will have to be confirmed by the Senate which approves all senior civilian and military appointments, according to the US Defense Department.

Air Force Colonel Chari, 45, was nominated for the appointment to the grade of brigadier general, it said in a statement.

Chari is currently serving as the Crew-3 commander and astronaut, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Johnson Space Centre, Texas. He earned a master's degree in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and graduated from the US Naval Test Pilot School in Patuxent River, Maryland. Chari served as the commander of the 461st Flight Test Squadron and is the director of the F-35 Integrated Test Force at Edwards Air Force Base in California.



Raja J Chari has been nominated by President Joe Biden for the appointment to the grade of Air Force brigadier general.

The South Asian Times celebrated felicitation of Anil Bansal as Person of the Year 2022 at the Indian Consulate



Acknowledging felicitations from dignitaries, friends and family, Anil Bansal shared lessons from his own life with the audience.



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal presented the plaque honoring Anil Bansal as The South Asian Times Person of the Year 2022 on behalf of the newspaper Chairman Kamlesh Mehta.



Kumud and Anil Bansal posing with son Avin and daughter Neha's families

JANUARY 21, 2023

NEW YORK (TIP): Anil Bansal, Past President of FIA, a successful serial entrepreneur, ambassador and promoter of Indian arts and culture, and a great humanitarian, was felicitated as The South Asian Times Person of the Year (POY) 2022 at the Consulate of India here on January 21. The event was oversubscribed with the presence of who is who of the Indian diaspora of the New York metro area.

At the graceful event, immediate past Person of the Year Mohan Wanchoo presented a shawl and Consul General Randhir Jaiswal presented the crystal plaque honoring Anil Bansal POY-2022 on behalf of Forsythe Media Group. Joining in the presentation were Kamlesh C Mehta (Chairman, Forsythe Media), Ankur Vaidya (Chairman, FIA), Dr Nirmal Mattoo (Chairman, IAAC), Chintu Patel (CEO, Amneal Pharmaceuticals), and Haridas Kotahwala (Chairman, Navika group). Mrs. Nimmi Mehta presented a floral bouquet to Mrs. Kumud Bansal.

As a surprise but memorable moment of the evening came when on request of FIA, Consul General Jaiswal presented to Bansal the Pravasi Bharatiya Medal conferred on FIA, which was honored by the Indian government for its commendable service in India and the US during Covid during Bansal's presidency. Noticeably, Anil Bansal was president of FIA during the peak of COVID-19, and he was instrumental in sending over \$50 Million worth of aid from FIA to India during the pandemic.

Speaker after speaker praised the publication and Bansal's accomplishments and services to the community and society. Kamlesh Mehta highlighted Bansal's humility and selflessness, mentioning that it



Consul General Randhir Jaiswal presented PBD medal to Anil Bansal. The Indian government conferred PBD Samman award on FIA for 2020 when Bansal was its president.

was hard to convince him to accept POY honor. Ankur Vaidya spoke on behalf of FIA (Federation of Indian Associations - NY-NY-CT-NE) and Rakesh Kaul and Dr Mattoo for IAAC (Indo-American Arts Council). POY Bansal has supported both organizations for decades.

Bansal's extended family, friends and colleagues were present in full strength at the event. His son, Avin Bansal, CFO and investor, and daughter Neha Hannan, a lawyer, expressed their love and admiration for him. Nephew Dr Sharad Sahu, an internist, shared some family anecdotes involving Anil Bansal.

Anil Bansal in his acceptance speech expressed gratitude for the honor and went on to share his life experiences. He concluded by sharing the life lesson of 'giving back': "I and Kumud felt that we have enough financial resources for the rest of our lives for what we want to do and how we want to live."

The newspaper featuring Anil Bansal as POY 2022 was also launched at the event by the Consul General. Copies of the issue were distributed to the attendees and coffee mugs gifted by lotusinthemug.com web magazine.

The South Asian Times could not formally felicitate

Mohan Wanchoo, POY 2021 because of Covid, so he was honored with a shawl by Kamlesh Mehta and crystal plaque by Haridas Kotahwala. Other past POYs who were honored and who spoke at the event included Chintu Patel (2017), Haridas Kotahwala (Navika - TSAT Organization of the Year 2018), and Ankur Vaidya (FIA was Organization of the Year 2015 during his presidency). Pam Kwatra, a renowned community leader, Shailesh 'Sam' Jain, Chairman of Cheapoair, and prominent community leaders Karamjit Singh Dhaliwali, Jasbir Jay Singh, Alok Kumar Dr. Avinash Gupta, Rajeev Kaul, Sunil Shah, Saurin Parikh, and Sujata Seth were among the attendees.

The event was emceed by the famous Bollywood & Hollywood actor Prashant Guptha.

A sumptuous vegetarian dinner created by Michelin Star decorated chef Hemant Mathur was served.

The proceedings of the event were supported by Eric Kumar, Totee Wadhwa, Nicky Jagda and Parveen Chopra. Chopra's wellness and spirituality website, lotusinthemud.com was launched after the felicitation.

(Press release)

Parveen Chopra's web magazine alotusinthemud.com launched: Charting a path to wellness and spirituality



India's Consul General in New York, Ambassador Randhir Kumar Jaiswal (left) and alotusinthemud.com founder Parveen Chopra (right) at the launch of alotusinthemud.com.



Lotus team, supporters and guest speakers

Lotus web magazine, he added, include short meditations with soothing music, personality quizzes and space for visitors to share their experiences of healing and personal/spiritual growth.

Guest speakers who provided context for the Lotus site along with words of praise for Chopra included Nitin Ajmera, Chairman of the Parliament of the World's Religions (through video message); Arvind Vora, founder of Shanti Fund that promotes Mahatma Gandhi's ideals among school children on Long Island, NY; Tom Goodhue, Executive Director Emeritus of Long Island Council of Churches; and Dr Bhaswati Bhattacharya, author of the bestselling book 'Everyday Ayurveda'.

Supporters attending the event included Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, editor-publisher of The Indian Panorama, John Di Leonardo, founder of Humane Long Island, real estate tycoon Darshan Singh Bagga, and Julian Lines, President of Matagiri Sri Aurobindo Center in upstate New York.



Nitin Ajmera, Chairman of the Parliament of the World's Religions gave a video message



Guest speakers holding bouquets at the launch: Dr Bhaswati Bhattacharya, Reverend Tom Goodhue, and Arvind Vora

Some unique interactive features of the

Supporting his claim, Chopra pointed to the articles posted on the site which range from 'Children and teens can do with some meditation too' and 'The 4 happy hormones and how to boost them' to 'Practical uses of faith-A Zoroastrian perspective' and 'Beware the frozen food convenience'.

Some unique interactive features of the

Lotus site

Lotus founder Parveen Chopra is a seasoned media professional who has specialized in wellness, personal growth and spirituality. A trained teacher of meditation, he founded Life Positive, India's first body-mind-spirit magazine from New Delhi in 1996. Here in the US, he edited The South Asian Times for over a decade and One World Under God interfaith journal.

The Lotus magazine is published by American Center for Wellness & Spirituality Inc, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Chopra incorporated with prominent people as directors, donors and advisers.

We at The Indian Panorama endorse Parveen Chopra's noble venture, and request our readers to regularly visit alotusinthemud.com to better their lives, subscribe to it (free), and support it in any way you can.

Constitution as 'North Star'

CJI TURNS SPOTLIGHT ON ISSUES CRITICAL TO DEMOCRATIC ENDURANCE OF INDIAN STATE

" In a democracy, the winning of elections is not a license to dispense with the rule of law. Nor does it mean rule by the majority, because then this would violate the principle of equality before law. Secularism is part of the basic character of the Constitution, because ours is a multi-religious country and only secularism can ensure equality, irrespective of religious beliefs. Fraternity, which is a principle enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution, is also part of its basic character, because without empathy and sense of togetherness, how can there be national unity and solidarity?

"The framers of the Indian Constitution acknowledged the diversity of India but sought to build a united country, not by suppressing its multiple identities but by transcending them in a larger and overarching brotherhood of equal citizenship. This is why we have individual-based rights which cannot be abridged by community identities. The temptation to appeal to communal identities for political and electoral gain can only undermine democracy in the long run by fragmenting society.

Fraternity is as key an attribute of democracy as are liberty and equality. It is also the basis of national unity."



Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's remarks should put to rest the controversy about whether the notion of 'basic character' of the Constitution has any validity.
Photo credit / PTI

It was reassuring to hear the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, unreservedly defend the 'basic structure' of the Indian Constitution as the 'North Star' which 'guides and gives direction to its interpreters and implementers, when the path is convoluted'. This rejects the argument that Parliament, which itself is a creature of the Constitution, has the authority, by virtue of being representative of the people's will through popular elections, to alter, amend and modify the Constitution in any manner it deems fit.

As India is celebrating 75 years of Independence, it is a good time to reflect upon the many triumphs of our democracy and its vulnerabilities as well.

I derived three key takeaways from his remarks: One, that the Constitution is supreme and the three organs of the State - the legislature, executive and judiciary - each derives its status and authority from the Constitution. Two, that while the Constitution could be amended through the procedure laid down in its various provisions, its 'basic character' could not be infringed. The basic character derives from the nature of the Indian State as a secular democracy assuring justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all its citizens; and three, that only an independent judiciary can uphold the basic character of the Constitution.

These are important remarks by the Chief Justice and should put to rest the ongoing controversy over whether the notion of 'basic character' of the Constitution has any validity and the related question of the role of the executive in judicial appointments, which may compromise the independence of the judiciary. The notion of the basic character of the Constitution has become the bastion of

citizens against a constant erosion of her fundamental rights by both the legislature and the executive. In a democracy, the winning of elections is not a license to dispense with the rule of law. Nor does it mean rule by the majority, because then this would violate the principle of equality before law. Secularism is part of the basic character of the Constitution, because ours is a multi-religious country and only secularism can ensure equality, irrespective of religious beliefs. Fraternity, which is a principle enshrined in the Preamble to the Constitution, is also part of its basic character, because without empathy and sense of togetherness, how can there be national unity and solidarity?

The Constitution has assured its citizens certain fundamental rights, such as right to freedom of expression and association, equality, religion and privacy. Since the Constitution came into force in 1950, there have been repeated attempts by successive political dispensations to limit, if not, erase these rights, either in the purported pursuit of social or economic goals or in the name of national security or defense. The notion of the basic character evolved to check this attempted erosion of the rights of citizens against a predatory state.

Justice Chandrachud's remarks were made in a speech honoring the memory of one of India's great jurists, Nani Palkhivala.

Palkhivala was a passionate defender of the fundamental rights of citizens, and to him goes the credit for the doctrine of the basic character of the Constitution becoming an accepted legal principle. In his arguments in favor of the doctrine, Palkhivala pointed to the post war constitutions of both Japan and Germany, which had made fundamental rights of citizens, eternal, inalienable



BY
SHYAM SARAN

and inviolable. This was done, he pointed out, to prevent in future the 'extreme amendments' which had enabled the snuffing out of democratic institutions and processes, for example, in Nazi Germany. Another eminent former judge of the SC, Justice Rohinton Nariman, had in a speech a few years ago, given an example of the danger of similar 'extreme amendment' in India. When the Emergency was declared by Indira Gandhi in 1975, she proposed a constitutional amendment which would have made the President, PM and Speaker of Lok Sabha exempt from any judicial proceedings for their lifetime by virtue of the office they occupied. A later version added Governors to this list. While these were dismissed as being incompatible with the principle of equality before law, one can see how this danger to democracy is always lurking.

What is heartening is that though there have been several instances when India's democracy has been under threat, there were eminent political, legal and civil society figures who emerged as sentinels of the rights of our citizens. Palkhivala was one of them. If PM Modi is able to rightfully proclaim India as the 'mother of democracy' today, the credit must also go to the brave defenders of the constitutional order.

We live in a globalized world where the density of engagement and interaction among people of different ethnicities, speaking different languages, adhering to different religious and cultural identities and professing different ideologies, is unprecedented. The future will belong to societies that are able to handle immense diversity, which celebrate plurality and possess an innate cosmopolitan temperament. India is one such society and its success in managing diversity is inseparable from its democratic dispensation.

The framers of the Indian Constitution acknowledged the diversity of India but sought to build a united country, not by suppressing its multiple identities but by transcending them in a larger and overarching brotherhood of equal citizenship. This is why we have individual-based rights which cannot be abridged by community identities. The temptation to appeal to communal identities for political and electoral gain can only undermine democracy in the long run by fragmenting society. Fraternity is as key an attribute of democracy as are liberty and equality. It is also the basis of national unity.

India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence. This is a good time to reflect upon the many triumphs of our democracy and its vulnerabilities as well. We should thank the Chief Justice for turning the spotlight on issues which are critical to the democratic endurance of the Indian State.

(The author is Former Foreign Secretary and Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research)

A betrayal of the very idea of the Mahatma

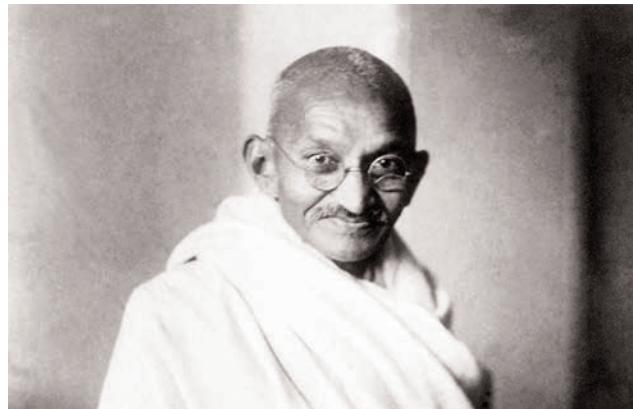
THE PRINCIPLES GANDHIJI STOOD FOR REPRESENT AN IDEAL THAT IS BEING WEAKENED EVERY DAY BY THOSE IN POWER WHO ARE PUSHING THEIR AGENDA OF BIGOTRY

"The contradiction is mirrored in the attitude of the Hindutva-inspired Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi was schooled, like other Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) pracharaks, in an intense dislike of Mahatma Gandhi, whose message of tolerance and pluralism was emphatically rejected as minority appeasement by the Sangh Parivar, and whose credo of non-violence, or ahimsa, was seen as an admission of weakness unworthy of manly Hindus. Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, whom Mr. Modi has described as one of his heroes, had expressed contempt for Gandhiji's 'perverse doctrine of non-violence and truth' and claimed it 'was bound to destroy the power of the country'. But Prime Minister Modi, for all his Hindutva mindset, his admiration of Savarkar and his lifetime affiliation to the Sangh Parivar, has embraced Gandhiji, hailing the Mahatma and even using his glasses as a symbol of the Swachh Bharat campaign, linking it to a call to revive Gandhiji's idea of seva through the recent 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination (January 30, 1948) by a Hindu fanatic who thought the Mahatma was too soft on Muslims. The momentous anniversary comes at a time when his legacy, the very idea of Gandhi, stands challenged by the prevailing ideological currents. At a time when the standing of his historic detractors, whose descendants now form the ruling dispensation in the country, is at an all-time high, Gandhiji has been criticized for weakness, for having bent over too far to accommodate Muslim interests, and for his pacifism, which is seen by the jingoistic Hindutva movement as unmanly.

The Mahatma was killed, with the name of Rama on his lips, for being too pro-Muslim; indeed, he had just come out of a fast he had conducted to coerce his own followers, the Ministers of the new Indian government, to transfer a larger share than they had intended of the assets of undivided India to the new state of Pakistan. Gandhiji had also announced his intention to spurn the country he had failed to keep united and to spend the rest of his years in Pakistan, a prospect that had made the government of Pakistan collectively choke.

But that was the enigma of Gandhiji in a nutshell: idealistic, quirky, quixotic, and determined, a man who answered to the beat of no other drummer, but got everyone else to march to his tune. Someone once called him a cross between a saint and a Tammany Hall



January 30 this year marks the 75th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

politician; like the best crossbreeds, he managed to distil all the qualities of both and yet transcend their contradictions.

Explaining a contradiction now

The contradiction is mirrored in the attitude of the Hindutva-inspired Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Modi was schooled, like other Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) pracharaks, in an intense dislike of Mahatma Gandhi, whose message of tolerance and pluralism was emphatically rejected as minority appeasement by the Sangh Parivar, and whose credo of non-violence, or ahimsa, was seen as an admission of weakness unworthy of manly Hindus. Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, whom Mr. Modi has described as one of his heroes, had expressed contempt for Gandhiji's 'perverse doctrine of non-violence and truth' and claimed it 'was bound to destroy the power of the country'. But Prime Minister Modi, for all his Hindutva mindset, his admiration of Savarkar and his lifetime affiliation to the Sangh Parivar, has embraced Gandhiji, hailing the Mahatma and even using his glasses as a symbol of the Swachh Bharat campaign, linking it to a call to revive Gandhiji's idea of seva through the recent 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign.

This may, or may not, represent a sincere conversion to Gandhism. The Prime Minister is hardly unaware of the tremendous worldwide reputation that Mahatma Gandhi enjoys, and is too savvy a marketing genius not to recognize the soft-power opportunity evoking Gandhiji provides, not to mention the global public relations disaster that would ensue if he were to denounce an Indian so universally admired. There may, therefore, be an element of insincerity to his newfound love for the Mahatma, as well as a shrewd domestic political calculation.

But the ambivalence speaks volumes: when many members of Mr. Modi's BJP call for replacing Gandhiji's statues across the country with those of his assassin, Nathuram Godse, the Prime Minister seeks to lay claim to the mantle of his fellow Gujarati for his own political benefit. At the same time, there is also a tangible dissonance between the official governmental embrace of Gandhiji and the unofficial ideological distaste for this icon, that is privately promoted by members and supporters of the present ruling dispensation, some of whose members have not hidden their view that his assassination was, in their eyes, a patriotic act.

The vision of the Mahatma

It is a well understood reality that the vision of Gandhiji, an openly practicing Hindu, differed greatly



BY
SHASHI THAROOR

HINDUISM AND HINDUTVA, AS I HAVE ARGUED IN MY BOOK WHY I AM A HINDU, REPRESENT TWO VERY DISTINCT AND CONTRASTING IDEAS, WITH VITALLY DIFFERENT IMPLICATIONS FOR NATIONALISM AND THE ROLE OF THE HINDU FAITH. THE PRINCIPLES GANDHIJI STOOD FOR AND THE WAY IN WHICH HE ASSERTED THEM ARE EASIER TO ADMIRE THAN TO FOLLOW. BUT THEY REPRESENTED AN IDEAL THAT IS BETRAYED EVERY DAY BY THOSE WHO DISTORT HINDUISM TO PROMOTE A NARROW, EXCLUSIONARY BIGOTRY.

from that of Veer Savarkar and M.S. Golwalkar, the principal ideologues of the Hindu Mahasabha and its more militarized alter ego in the post-Independence era, the RSS and eventually, the BJP (formerly the Jana Sangh).

Gandhiji embodied the central approach of Advait Vedanta, which preached an inclusive universal religion. Gandhiji saw Hinduism as a faith that respected and embraced all other faiths. He was profoundly influenced by the principles of ahimsa and satya and gave both a profound meaning when he applied them to the nationalist cause. He was a synthesizer of cultural belief systems: his signature bhajan of 'Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram' had another line, 'Ishwara Allah Tero naam'. This practice emerged from his Vedantic belief in the oneness of all human beings, who share the same atman and, therefore, should be treated equally.

Such behavior did not endear him to every Hindu. In his treatise on 'Gandhi's Hinduism and Savarkar's Hindutva', the social scientist Rudolf C. Heredia places his two protagonists within an ongoing debate between heterogeneity versus homogeneity in the Hindu faith, pointing out that while Gandhi's response is inclusive and ethical, Savarkar politicizes Hinduism as a majoritarian creed.

But Gandhiji's own understanding of religion, in Heredia's words, "transcended religiosity, Hindu as well as that of any other tradition. It is essentially a spiritual quest for moksha but one rooted in the reality of service to the last and least in the world". Unlike Savarkar, who believed in conformity, Gandhiji was a synthesizer like no other who took care to include Indians of other faiths in his capacious and agglomerative understanding of religion. He took inspiration from not just Advaita Vedanta but also the Jain concept of 'Anekantavada' - the notion that truth and reality are perceived differently by different people from their own different points of view, and that, therefore, no single perception can constitute the complete truth. This led him to once declare that 'I am a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, a Parsi, a Jew'.

Hinduism and Hindutva, as I have argued in my book Why I Am a Hindu, represent two very distinct and contrasting ideas, with vitally different implications for nationalism and the role of the Hindu faith. The principles Gandhiji stood for and the way in which he asserted them are easier to admire than to follow. But they represented an ideal that is betrayed every day by those who distort Hinduism to promote a narrow, exclusionary bigotry.

(The author is a former senior UN official and a senior Congress leader)

Punjab has to move on to a New Model



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

"MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES LIKE HINDUSTAN LEVER THAT HAD A MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN RAJPURA CONVENIENTLY MOVED ALL ITS MANUFACTURING TO BADDI AND NALAGARH. A NUMBER OF MAJOR HOISIERY COMPANIES, INSTEAD OF EXPANDING IN PUNJAB, LOOKED FOR GREEN PASTURES ELSEWHERE WHERE THE HILLY STATES, SUPPORTED BY BJP-LED COALITION GOVERNMENT TO REELED OUT A WHOLESOME PACKAGE OFFERING A PLETHORA OF CONCESSIONS, INCLUDING RELAXATION IN CENTRAL DUTIES AND INCOME TAX. IT WREAKED HAVOC WITH INDUSTRY IN PUNJAB. THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE TIMES DID PROTEST BUT WERE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PERSUADE THE CENTRE TO ADOPT AT LEAST "EVEN PLAY FIELD FOR ALL" POLICY SO THAT IT COULD PREVENT FLIGHT OF INDUSTRIAL HOUSES TO THEIR NEW HILLY ABODES."

Change, they say, is the only thing that is permanent. And to usher in change, it needs a lot of courage, initiative and planning. Only those who are bold and ready to take challenges of tomorrow progress.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has shown those traits of courage and initiative to put the State firmly back on its rails. His recent visit to Mumbai and interaction with three leading industrial houses - Mafatlals, Hindustan Lever and Mahindra and Mahindra - besides the young and enterprising cyber security icon Trishneet Arora - look steps in the desired direction.

Besides seeking their patronage and lavish investments in the State, he has extended to them personal invitations for the INvestPunjab conclave scheduled to be held in Mohali next month.

Punjab, once the most progressive and number one State in the country, has been grappling for a long time with serious social and economic problems. Its agrarian model of economics has been blunted, reminding one of an old machine that eats up a lot of money in repairs and upkeep rather than serving the master as his earning tool.

Debates over reviving the sagging economy have been both animated and inconclusive. The State has to take some hard decisions to open new vistas of development and economic prosperity. One most quoted and accepted argument has been to move at a firm and affordable pace from agrarian model to mixed model of economics. It would need all-out support not only from the government of the time but also from the populace as the future lies only in economic viability.

If Punjab is at fiscal crossroads, it is primarily because of two reasons. First and foremost has been its failure to keep its industry firmly rooted. And the second it also failed to read what was written on the wall - change its economic model to changing needs of time.

It goes without saying that agriculture will remain the mainstay of Punjab. To sustain it, it needs firm and solid support from the industry.

Besides the flight of the industry, the State is caught in a quagmire situation.. It is faced with endless brain and brawn drain. Hundreds of thousands of young men and women are heading for advanced Western nations for secure their future.

When young Trishneet Arora, founder and Chief Executive Officer of TAC security, a US-based company with offices in Mumbai, Mohali and other places, met Chief Minister Mann during his recent visit, bonhomie marked their interaction. Bhagwant Mann profusely hugged him and invited him to the 2023 Mohali InvestPunjab summit. It was not invitation alone but the earnest desire of the Chief Minister to seek help and guidance of one of the youngest Cyber security experts to help his home State not only to check brain and brawn drain but also suggest alternatives, especially in the IT and cyber sectors that can



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's recent visit to Mumbai and interaction with three leading industrial houses - Mafatlals, Hindustan Lever and Mahindra and Mahindra - besides the young and enterprising cyber security icon Trishneet Arora - look steps in the desired direction.

gainfully employ the youth.

Convinced that the future of the State lies in its rapid industrialization, the Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, has been frequenting industrial hubs, both within and outside the country, to convince captains of the industry to invest in Punjab.

Working in earnest, he was in Mumbai early this week to speak to top executives of select industries that suit best to the needs of the State.

If the State has abundance of Cotton in its Malwa belt, it wants big cotton giants to set up their milling units in Fazilka and adjoining areas. It is unfortunate that efforts to set up ginning and spinning units in the cotton belt in the post State's Reorganization period did not get or produce the results expected of them. There were limitless reasons for the public sector undertaking Spinfed to be wound up. A couple of other big names in the textile industry also chose to say goodbye to the State rather than struggle through the troubled times for problems well known to everyone.

CM Bhagwant Mann called on Arvind Mafatlal of the Mafatlal group to consider setting up a cotton mill in Fazilka by promising him all out support of the State Government. No industry can survive in the present competitive times without the support of the State.

Punjab was once known as the home of power presses, agricultural implements, motor parts, bicycles and bicycle parts, machine tools and hosiery. Since the state struggled through a dark phase of terrorism, it lost most of its industry to neighboring States, including Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh.

Multinational companies like Hindustan Lever that had a major industrial complex in Rajpura conveniently moved all its manufacturing to Baddi and Nalagarh. A number of major hosiery companies, instead of expanding in Punjab, looked for green pastures elsewhere where the hilly States, supported by BJP-led coalition government to reeled out a

wholesome package offering a plethora of concessions, including relaxation in central duties and income tax. It wreaked havoc with industry in Punjab. The governments of those times did protest but were not strong enough to persuade the Centre to adopt at least "even play field for all" policy so that it could prevent flight of industrial houses to their new hilly abodes.

Bhagwant Mann met top executives of Hindustan Lever to assure them that tomatoes needed for the ketchup processing industry in Nabha would now onwards be supplied by farmers of the State. At present, the unit is getting its raw material - tomatoes - from Nashik in Maharashtra.

Punjab has a huge potential for promoting tourism in general and pilgrimage tourism in particular. It is why Bhagwant Mann made it a point to call on the top brass of Mahindra and Mahindra for taking some initiative in the tourism sector in Punjab. Mahindra and Mahindra run a massive holiday homes service that creates and provides accommodation to holiday revelers at reasonable rates.

Besides, Mahindra and Mahindra is also all set to roll out tractors from its new manufacturing and assembly line in Lalru, near Chandigarh. The company executives wanted the Chief Minister to be guest of honor at the launch ceremony. In return, the Chief Minister solicited Mahindra and Mahindra participation in the INvestPunjab conclave.

The Mumbai visit needs a close and sincere follow up. The hype so created has to be converted into opportunities that can help Punjab to get back into the lead role as both industrial and agricultural leader in the country.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience of 14 years with Reuters News and 30 years with The Tribune Group, covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows.)

India is the fastest growing economy: Ambassador Jaiswal



Consul General Randhir Kumar Jaiswal

Photo / Courtesy Anjali Sharma

Consul General of India at New York Mr. Randhir Kumar Jaiswal, a few days after joining the present position on 19th July 2020 in an interview with The Indian Panorama, had spelt out in brief his priorities which included nourishing and strengthening the already strong bonds between India and the US, and exploring new areas of cooperation and relationship in diverse fields of economy, trade, technology, and culture etc. Ambassador Jaiswal added that serving the Indian Diaspora remained the primary focused concern of the Consulate. The strengthening of multi-stakeholders relationship will be another priority, he said.

The Indian Panorama interviewed him a couple of times, and each time, Mr. Jaiswal was forthcoming on all issues raised, and questions asked.

Three days to the end of the year 2022, Mr. Jaiswal agreed to sit with the editor of The Indian Panorama to share for the readers of the publication his thoughts. It was a long interview in which Ambassador Jaiswal touched upon all the aforementioned areas.

In the first of the interview published two weeks ago, Ambassador Jaiswal focused on the vibrant Indian American community and its contribution.

In the second part of the interview, we brought to readers Ambassador's perspective on Indian students as a powerhouse of knowledge, catalysts of national integration, and promoters of Indian arts, culture and values.

In the third part of the interview, Ambassador Jaiswal spoke about promoting economic relations between the two nations as one of the important functions of the Consulate, besides reiterating what he had said in the first part of the interview that the Consulate is "committed to public service".

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

In this fifth and concluding part of the interview, Ambassador Jaiswal speaks of the growth of India at a fast pace which will enable the nation to become the third largest economy in the world.

"I'm sure with the kind of support we have from our friends here, partners here, we will continue on that path and soon will become the third largest economy in the world overtaking Germany and Japan. So that will be a huge change, huge impact. It will have a huge impact globally. And finally, to all your readers: stay healthy, stay together. stay united. Let's think as one, for therein lies our welfare, our wellbeing. The motto of India's G 20 presidency is "One World, One Family, One Future". Let's live it together." - Ambassador Jaiswal

Here are some excerpts from the interview.

TIP: DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD BE DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL ON THE COMING AUGUST 15TH?

AMBASSADOR: 15th August will be special one way or the other because it will be culmination of the 75th year of Independence.

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

TIP: WHAT ELSE IS ON THE CALENDAR?

AMBASSADOR: We have Holi coming up in early March. It's a popular festival of colors. Don't miss out on 21st June International Yoga Day. Each time we do a huge celebration at Times Square. And we also use that occasion to promote a more sustainable and healthy way of living. We promote a lot of Indian products. We have a one district one product project, and a lot of superfoods, a lot of wellness products are available on the side of the yoga sessions that we hold. We will try to do International Yoga Day in style this time. Apart from Times Square, we'll also look for some other innovative ways of celebrating International Yoga Day. We want to reach out and do International Yoga Day in universities so that we can bring the youth closer to yoga. Yoga is something which is helpful to everybody. We are It helps you to look inside. All your senses are directed outwards. Yoga helps to you to look inwards, and that is a harmony that brings greater happiness and bliss in life.

TIP: I WAS IN GUATEMALA. IT WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO FIND YOGA BEING TAUGHT AND



Yoga at Times Square, June 21, 2022. Indian Consulate senior staff leads. Front row, from L to R: Consul (Pol & PIC) Vipul Dev, Mrs. Dev, Mrs. and Ambassador Jaiswal, Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph, Head of Chancery Suman Singh, Mrs. Jeph

TIP Photo

PRACTICED. INDIA'S AMBASSADOR MANOJ MOHAPATRA HAD ME WITNESS ONE OF THE YOGA SESSIONS. LATER ON, I AM TOLD A YOGA CAMP WITH 5000 WAS HELD SUCCESSFULLY. THIS SPEAKS FOR ACCEPTANCE AND POPULARITY OF YOGA IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD.

AMBASSADOR: So, you know, today yoga has a true global embrace. Everybody understands the benefits of Yoga. It's an attraction for people and it has helped them. And, for that reason, we have, regular classes on yoga, because we want to connect with the yoga community here. Look at the number of Yoga Studios. You go to any gym in New York, or any part of the United States, or any part of the world, there will be a session on yoga on a daily basis.

TIP: I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST, SIR, I WISH INDIA ALL THE BEST IN THE COMING YEARS AND WE HAVE SEEN HOW THE GRAPH OF INDIA HAS BEEN RISING ACROSS THE WORLD IN TERMS OF POLITICS, IN TERMS OF DIPLOMACY, IN TERMS OF ECONOMY, IN TERMS OF INVENTION, IN ALMOST EVERY FIELD, AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE BETTER NEWS IN 2023 FROM YOU AGAIN, AND WITH THAT ONLY ONE LAST THING AS WE ALWAYS DO. WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO GIVE A MESSAGE TO READERS OF THE INDIAN PANORAMA.

AMBASSADOR: Before I give the message I would like to highlight four data points. One, India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. We should be signing off the year at 6 to 7%. Vaccination of 2.2 billion. 14 million bank accounts. 60 million get clean tap water connections, and so on so forth. Second data point. 40% of digital payments globally is happening in India. That itself will tell you the kind of vibrancy that is there. Third data point. We have seen a huge expansion as far as connectivity is concerned both on the physical and digital sides- Roads, expressways. But just to give you an example, in 2014 or thereabout we had 70 airports. Today we have doubled that capacity. We are looking at around 440 airports in India's huge expansion. Fourth data point. Recently, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world, overtaking UK. I'm sure with the kind of support we have from our friends here, partners here, we will continue on that path and soon will become the third largest economy in the world overtaking Germany and Japan. So that will be a huge change, huge impact. It will have a huge impact globally.

And finally, to all your readers: stay healthy, stay together. stay united. Let's think as one, for therein lies our welfare, our wellbeing. The motto of India's G20 presidency is "One World, One Family, One Future". Let's live it together.

CONCLUDED

Remembering Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary

Martyrs' Day is observed on January 30 to commemorate the death of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on the same day in 1948

Born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, he is widely regarded as 'Bapu', or 'Father of the nation' in India. Gandhi, regarded as one of the most iconic figures of the 20th century, bravely led his country to freedom — but was killed by the bullets of violent extremists. Indians commemorate the day by remembering his ultimate sacrifice to the nation and preaching his values of non-violence, unity, and morality.

Martyrs' Day is observed on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who successfully led his country to freedom from the British Empire. Born in the small town of Gujarat, Gandhi studied to become a barrister and lived a pretty austere life, until he made his first trip to South Africa, and everything changed.

Life in South Africa exposed him to the deep class divisions of society and the evils of inequality. Gandhi's life experiences shaped his worldviews. The discrimination he suffered in South Africa inspired him to fight for equality, the pain of losing his first child at the age of 16 made him a furious opponent of child marriage, and so on.

During India's struggle for freedom, Gandhi advocated for peaceful demonstrations and inspired everyone to lead by example. He negotiated many peace treaties with the Britishers, before giving them the final ultimatum of departure. As the Indian constitution came into ratification, Gandhi took on the impossible task of building a country out of many provinces and territories.

Gandhi was vehemently opposed to the idea of partition of India. Even after the declaration of independence, he held regular demonstrations to establish his resistance. Gandhi's objection to the partition was met harshly with Hindu nationalists, who accused him of appeasing the Muslims. On the eve of January 30, Nathuram Vinayak Godse, a notorious Hindu nationalist, shot Gandhi three times at point-blank.

Gandhi's lifelong quest for non-violence ended with a bullet in his chest. On Martyrs' Day, Indians from all around the world come together to celebrate the legacy of a great hero and acknowledge the futile destruction caused by violent extremism.

Monandas Karamchand Gandhi was born in the small town of Porbandar, on the west coast of India, on October 2 1869. He belonged by birth to the Vaishya, or trading caste. His father died when he was 15 years old, and apart from that time, his mother became the greatest influence in his life. Her spiritual teacher was a Jain devotee. Among the Jains in India the central doctrine is the "sanctity of all life," or Ahimsa, which is often translated as "non-violence." This teaching remained paramount with Gandhi.

In South Africa

When 19, he came to London, qualified



as a barrister (being "called" at the Inner Temple), and, returning to Bombay in 1892, set up a practice.

In 1896 he went to the Transvaal to help a client in a legal suit. That visit changed the whole course of his life. Seeing the social and political disabilities of his fellow-countrymen in South Africa, he decided to stay and help them and soon he had become their political leader and adviser. Meanwhile a religious conflict was taking place in within him. He read Tolstoy and corresponded with him: the result was an experiment in the simple communal life conducted by a small band of enthusiasts whom he had gathered together. He became an ascetic of the most rigorous type, setting great store by fasting and every form of self-denial. To the end of his life he remained a devout Hindu, but declared if ever "untouchability" were made part of Hinduism he would cease to be a Hindu. Perhaps the greatest religious effort of his life was to break down "untouchability."

He went on steadily preparing his followers in South Africa for the struggle which was to end the indignities under which they suffered. Three times he went to prison. Little by little, the Indians gained the respect of the Europeans in South Africa by the faith with which they obeyed their leader in his campaigns of passive resistance. The summer of 1914 brought victory for the cause, and in July of that year the

Gandhi-Smuts Settlement was signed.

When the war of 1914-18 broke out he came to Britain to organise an Indian ambulance corps (he had done ambulance work in both the Zulu campaign and the Boer War), but was taken so seriously ill the doctors sent him back to India. He founded a religious retreat on Tolstoyan lines near Ahmedabad, the Viceroy conferred on him the Kalsar-Hind Gold Medal for distinguished humanitarian work in South Africa, and, by general consent, he began to be called by the name Mahatma, which means literally "Great Soul."

Non-Co-operation

A series of events quickly following each other at the end of the war brought him back into political leadership. The first was the passing of the Rowlatt Act, the second the tragedy of the Punjab and Amritsar, the third was what was regarded in India as the betrayal of the Indian Moslems by the Treaty of Sevres. He launched a non-co-operation movement in September, 1920, but the non-violence which he demanded from his followers was broken. Congress revolted against his authority and the government selected the moment for eliminating him from the political scene. He was arrested, brought to trial for promoting disaffection, and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

On his return to politics he found himself a stranger in the existing

atmosphere of disillusioned realism. He yielded the leadership to C.R. Das and Motilal Nehru, and retired to hand-spinning and the editing of his weekly paper. He showed no desire to resume his old position as dictator, and for that reason his moral supremacy was recognised even by his political rivals. So when at the time of the Simon Commission the old Congress leaders found that the young men were heading for revolution they decided that the only remedy was to call him back. The last phase

The last phase

His internment ended in April, 1945. He was then 76 and though his hold over the country was unshaken, he allowed the leadership in policies to pass increasingly into the hands of Mr. Patel and Nehru. After the election of the Labour Government, Great Britain made absolutely clear that it would lay down its power in India, and the principal question was whether it should transfer power to a unitary India or to two separate Governments of Hindu and Moslem India. Mr. Gandhi was known to believe that the division of India would be a calamity. At one time in the negotiations between Congress and the British he seemed to acquiesce in division, as the price of freedom, but later he reverted to unqualified opposition. Opinion in the Congress Working Committee was, however, for division as the only solution, and Mr. Gandhi therefore stood aside and left the decision to the younger men, believing that they were taking a disastrous course, but believing too that the leadership must now be in their hands.

His last few months he spent in continuous and not unsuccessful attempts to restore peace in one area after another as communal hostility flared up into massacre and calamity after the withdrawal of the British power. With a number of disciples he made a progress through the disturbed parts of Bengal, awing the excited masses into peace by the prestige of his name and his asceticism. His reply to a renewal of violence in Calcutta in September was a complete fast from everything but water. After three days peace was restored and his fast was broken. Again early this month he met communal disturbances in Delhi with another fast - of five days - which had great moral effect and led to solemn assurances of consideration for the Moslem minority. Less than a fortnight later he was to meet his death while engaged in religious observances.

Thus at the end of his career he appeared more than ever before in his life a being strayed out of the Middle Ages. And these last few months of his life, a kind of coda, may have touched the Indian imagination more creatively than any previous actions and have larger consequences.

Short seller Hindenbug accuses billionaire Gautam Adani of 'largest con in corporate history'

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

appeared to show one of its electric trucks driving down a highway. In actuality, the company "simply filmed it rolling down the hill."

Nikola founder Trevor Milton was later found guilty of securities fraud after Hindenbug's allegations prompted an investigation.

A New York Post report of January 25 quoted Hindenbug Research Group as alleging that Gautam Adani, Asia's richest man, is pulling "the largest con in corporate history" through his India-based conglomerate Adani Group.

HINDENBURG - whose previous targets have included electric truck makers Nikola and Lordstown Motors - revealed in a research note late Tuesday it had taken a short position in Adani Group and alleged that Adani's rise in wealth was fueled by a variety of illegal misdeeds, The New York Post said.

"We have uncovered evidence of brazen accounting fraud, stock manipulation and money laundering at Adani, taking place over the course of decades," Hindenbug claimed in the note.

Adani, 60, amassed a fortune estimated by Forbes at \$125.5 billion before the Hindenbug report - overseeing a sprawling network of companies with holdings across several industries, including control of major ports and airports, energy, real estate and cement.

"Adani has pulled off this gargantuan feat with the help of enablers in government and a cottage industry of international companies that facilitate these activities," the firm added.

He began Wednesday, January 25, trailing only French luxury goods magnate Bernard Arnault and Tesla CEO Elon Musk in overall wealth, according to Forbes. But Adani lost an estimated \$6.5 billion during the day after the Hindenbug report, dropping him to fourth behind Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

The firm noted that Adani Group has "previously been the focus of 4 major government fraud investigations" alleging money laundering, corruption and theft of taxpayer money.

Hindenbug said it conducted a two-year investigation of the Adani business empire - with research that included dozens of interviews, including some with former company executives, as well as an analysis of internal documents and due diligence visits at company-controlled sites.

The report alleged that Adani, several family members and other company executives oversee a network of offshore shell companies located in tax havens across Mauritius, the United Arab Emirates and the Caribbean.

Hindenbug alleged that some of the shell companies appeared to be hastily cobbled together, with websites "featuring only stock photos, naming no actual employees and listing the same set of nonsensical services."

He alleged that many of the shell companies are reportedly operated by Adani's older brother, Vinod, or his "close associates."

"The Vinod-Adani shells seem to serve several functions, including (1) stock parking / stock manipulation (2) and laundering money through Adani's private companies onto the listed companies' balance sheets in order to maintain the appearance of financial health and solvency," Hindenbug said.

Hindenbug included a list of 88 questions about company operations that "we hope the Adani Group will be pleased to answer."

"Even if you ignore the findings of our investigation and take the financials of Adani Group at face value, its 7 key listed companies have 85% downside purely on a fundamental basis owing to sky-high valuations,"

Hindenbug said.

The short seller stressed that its report "represents our opinion and investigative commentary" and urged readers to draw their own conclusions about Adani Group.

Adani Group has dismissed the report as baseless. Adani Group CFO Jageshwar Singh said the company was "shocked" by Hindenbug's allegations and issued a firm denial.

"The report is a malicious combination of selective misinformation and stale, baseless and discredited allegations that have been tested and rejected by India's highest courts," Singh said.

"The timing of the report's publication clearly betrays a brazen, mala fide intention to undermine the Adani Group's reputation," Singh added.



Billionaire investor Bill Ackman was all praise for U.S. short-seller Hindenbug Research's report on Indian conglomerate Adani Group, calling it "highly credible" and "extremely well researched."

Billionaire investor Bill Ackman was all praise for U.S. short-seller Hindenbug Research's report on Indian conglomerate Adani Group, calling it "highly credible" and "extremely well researched."

Hindenbug's report on Wednesday accused the conglomerate of improper use of offshore tax havens and stated it held short positions in the company via its U.S.-traded bonds and non-Indian-traded derivative instruments.

Adani group loses \$48 billion since January 25; FPO takes a hit in light of Hindenbug report

Enterprises Ltd began a record \$2.45 billion (?20,000 crore) secondary share sale for retail investors on Friday, as a heavy selloff in Adani group companies intensified after an attack by a U.S.-based short seller.

Seven listed companies of the Adani conglomerate - controlled by one of the world's richest men Gautam Adani - have lost a combined \$48 billion in market capitalization since Wednesday, January 25, and saw falls in its U.S. bonds after Hindenbug Research flagged concerns in a report about debt levels and the use of tax havens.

Adani Enterprises aims to use the share sale proceeds for capital expenditure and to pay debt. The anchor portion of the sale saw participation from investors including the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority on Wednesday.

Bidding for the Adani Enterprises share sale for retail investors started on Friday and will close on January 31. The firm has set a floor price of ?3,112 (\$38.22) a share and a cap of ?3,276. But on Friday the stock slumped to as low as ?2,721.65, well below the lower end of the price offering.

Adani group stocks took a beating, falling up to 20% after Hindenbug Research's damaging allegations. The group's flagship Adani Enterprises, which launched the ?20,000 crore FPO on Friday, tanked 18.52%. Adani Ports plunged 16%, Adani Power by 5%, Adani Green Energy by 19.99%, and Adani Total Gas by 20%.

In two days, the Adani group firms have lost a whopping ?4,17,824.79 crore from their market valuation. The market valuation of Adani Total Gas plummeted ?1,04,580.93 crore while that of Adani Transmission by ?83,265.95 crore. Adani Enterprises market capitalization fell by ?77,588.47 crore, Adani Green Energy lost ?67,962.91 crore and Adani Ports by ?35,048.25 crore.

The market valuation of Ambuja Cements declined by 23,311.47 crore, Adani Power by ?10,317.31 crore, ACC by ?8,490.8 crore and Adani Wilmar by ?7,258.7 crore. The rout took shares of Adani Enterprises, the group's flagship company, well below the offer price of its secondary sale, which had initially been offered at a discount.

In its report, Hindenbug said key listed Adani Group companies had "substantial debt", putting the conglomerate on a "precarious financial footing", and that "sky-high valuations" had pushed the share prices of seven listed Adani companies as much as 85% beyond actual value.

Billionaire U.S. investor Bill Ackman said on Thursday, January 26, that he found the Hindenbug report "highly credible and extremely well researched".

Hindenbug said it held short positions in Adani through its U.S.-traded bonds and non-Indian-traded derivative instruments, meaning it is betting that their price would fall.

The Hindenbug report has encouraged political parties in India to demand a thorough investigation into the working and practices of the Adani Group.

Congress has demanded a 'serious investigation' by RBI and SEBI into allegations levelled against the Adani Group.

In a strongly worded statement, Congress general secretary in-charge of communication Jairam Ramesh asserted that exposure of financial institutions like the Life Insurance Company of India (LIC) and the State Bank of India (SBI) to the Adani Group would have implications for the country's financial stability and crores of depositors "whose savings are stewarded by these pillars of the financial system".

"Normally a political party should not be reacting to a research report on an individual company or business group prepared by a hedge fund. But the forensic analysis by Hindenbug Research of the Adani Group demands a response from the Congress party," Ramesh said, adding, "This is because the Adani Group is no ordinary conglomerate: it is closely identified with Prime Minister Narendra Modi since the time he was Chief Minister".

The ports-to-power conglomerate, however, had said the charge against the Adani Group was "malicious, unsubstantiated, one-sided, and was timed to ruin the public listing of its shares".

"The allegations require serious investigation by those who are responsible for the stability and security of the Indian financial system, viz. the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)," Ramesh said.

"The allegations of financial malfeasance would be bad enough, but what is worse is that the Modi government may have exposed India's financial system to systemic risks through the liberal investments in the Adani Group made by strategic state entities like LIC, SBI and other public sector banks," he added.

The Congress leader said as much as 8% of LIC's equity assets under management, amounting to a sum of ?74,000 crore, are invested in the Adani Group of companies, while public sector banks have lent to the Adani Group twice as much as the private banks, with 40% lending being done by SBI.

CONT'D ON PAGE 44

Glimpses of 74th R-Day parade

As India celebrated 74th Republic Day on January 26, a grand parade was seen at the Kartavya Path in Delhi highlighting the military prowess and cultural diversity of the country. The Republic Parade 2023 included a march by a contingent of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Indian military forces, tableaux from different states and other key moments.



India celebrated its 74th Republic Day on Thursday. A grand parade was organised at the Kartavya Path in Delhi that showcased the military prowess and cultural diversity of the country. (AP)



The parade highlighted India's defence capability and cultural and social heritage on a long revamped marching ceremonial boulevard from British colonial rule. (Reuters)



Chief guest Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi with Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi were seen at the 74th Republic Day Parade at the Kartavya Path. (PTI)



A total of 23 tableaux – 17 from states and Union territories and six from various ministries and departments were showcased during the parade. (Reuters)



During the parade, Uttar Pradesh's tableau depicted Lord Ram and Goddess Sita being welcomed by the people of Ayodhya on their return from exile. (AP)



The tableau of the ministry of culture showcased the works and achievements of the country in the last few years. (AP)

From Beijing to Dushanbe, how the diaspora marked 74th R-day

The Indian diaspora in Sri Lanka, China, Saudi Arabia and several other nations on Thursday, January 26, marked the 74th Republic Day with various events.

The Indian High Commission in Colombo, Sri Lanka, shared glimpses from the unfurling of the tricolour ceremony. "High Commissioner unfurled the #tricolour at #India House in Colombo to mark the 74th #RepublicDay of India," tweeted the official handle of the High Commission of India in Colombo.

At the Indian embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Ambassador Viraj Singh unfurled the national flag and was joined by the Indian community in singing the national anthem. Singh also read out excerpts from President Droupadi Murmu's maiden address on the occasion. The function also included a cultural event by students from Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Tajikistan and Avicenna Tajik State Medical University.

"EoI Dushanbe celebrates 74th Republic Day with the unfurling of the Tiranga by Ambassador Viraj Singh IFS and singing of the National Anthem by Indian Diaspora and friends of India present on the occasion," the embassy wrote.

The Indian High Commission in Maldives marked the occasion with events conducted by Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) students. India's high commissioner to the Maldives Ambassador Munu Mahawar unfurled the tricolour.

"74th #RepublicDay of India was celebrated @HCIMaldives with the unfurling of the national flag by HC Munu Mahawar. He read out extracts from Hon'ble President of India's address to the nation and conveyed warm greetings on the occasion," the Indian High Commission in Maldives tweeted.

Celebrations at the Indian Embassy in Nepal included the unfurling of the national flag by the Ambassador Naveen Srivastava, who read out President Murmu's speech. He also felicitated war widows, disbursed compensation to the next of kin of deceased soldiers and distributed books worth ₹10 Lakh to 23 institutions.

The Indian-Australian community joined in for the 74th Republic Day celebrations at India's Consulate in Sydney.

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, more than 700 Indians took part in the patriotic celebrations with "great enthusiasm" as Ambassador Dr. Suhel Khan unfurled the tiranga and read out the President's address to the nation.

The Indian embassy officials in Beijing and members of the diaspora members attended the tricolour unfurling ceremony while Ambassador Pradeep Rawat addressed the gathering, reading out the important parts of the President's speech. The cultural programmes included the screening of G20 video, a performance by Bharatanatyam dancer Jin Shanshan and a Hindi play.



Indian High Commission in Maldives celebrates India's 74th Republic Day.



Embassy of India in Dushanbe Celebrates 74th Republic Day.



Republic Day celebrations in Nepal.



R-Day celebrations in Ottawa, Canada.



The Indian-Australian community joined in for the 74th Republic Day celebrations at India's Consulate in Sydney.

The High Commission of India in Islamabad, Pakistan, also shared visuals from their celebrations from this year's Republic Day.

At the India House in Suva, Fiji, the High Commissioner P.S. Karthigeyan unfurled the flag and appreciated the soldiers guarding India's borders in his address to the gathering.

President Murmu led the 74th Republic Day celebrations from Kartavya Path with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi as the chief guest. A total of 23 tableaux showcasing India's cultural heritage, and economic and social progress were part of the parade.

Source: HT

India Celebrates 74th Republic Day in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): Embassy of India, Guatemala celebrated the 74th Republic Day with great fervor. Ambassador Manoj Kumar Mohapatra unfurled the tricolor on 26th January 2023.



As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Ambassador Manoj Kumar Mohapatra unfurled the tricolor in Xela, the second-largest city in Guatemala in the presence of Mr. Juan Fernando López, Mayor of Xela on 24th January 2023.

Ambassador Mohapatra unfurled the tricolor in the eastern Guatemalan city, Chiquimula in the presence of Hon'ble Governor, Mr. Ferlandy Caceres, Mayor, Mr. Rolando Guerra, & other regional mayors on 25th January 2023.



Indian Embassy in Guatemala celebrated 'India Day' in Synergy International School in Guatemala City, with unfurling of the Indian flag, a lecture on Indian history and Yoga Session with more than 200 students on 25th January 2023.



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India's Minister Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi discusses with Guatemala and El Salvador leaders avenues for mutual cooperation



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi participates in Yoga Event at the Iconic Cuscatlán Park in San Salvador in Presence of more than 150 local yoga enthusiasts.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi greeting Hon'ble Minister of Energy and Mines of Guatemala, Mr. Alberto Pimentel and Vice ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Ava Atzúm Arévalo and Ms. Shirley Aguilar.

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP) : India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi visited Guatemala from 15-17 January and El Salvador from 17-19 January 2023. During her visit to Guatemala, MOS met with the Acting President of Guatemala, H.E. Mr Guillermo Castillo Reyes; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Mario Bucaro; Minister of Culture of Guatemala, H.E. Mr. Felipe Aguilar; Minister of Health, H.E Dr. Francisco José Coma Martín; and Minister of Energy and Mines, H.E. Mr. Alberto Pimentel Mata.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi greeting Hon'ble President of El Salvador, H.E. Mr. Nayib Bukele.

During the meeting with the Acting President, MOS discussed cooperation in the fields of Science and Technology, Women Empowerment and Capacity Building in the interiors of Guatemala. In the meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs, both sides reviewed the entire bilateral relations and decided to hold the next Foreign Office Consultations on a mutually convenient date in New Delhi. MOS handed over a symbolic key to the Foreign Minister for the donation of ten pickup trucks by the Government of India to the Government of Guatemala. To mark the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relationship, both Ministers inaugurated the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the premises of the Foreign Ministry.

On 15 January 2023, MOS inaugurated the warehouse of Indian companies in Technopark, Escuintla which will help in reducing the delivery times resulting in increase in Indian exports to Central America, in the presence of Vice Minister of Economy. MOS inaugurated the Indian Film Festival and participated in a Yoga Festival in Antigua. On 16 January, MOS participated in a Business dinner hosted by the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations (CACIF) in the presence of top Guatemalan business leaders. MOS delivered talks on '50 Years of India-Guatemala Relations' at the University del Valle (UVG) in Guatemala City, on 16 January. MOS virtually inaugurated the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in the eastern Guatemalan City of Livingstone where around 80 families of Indian origin people reside, who traveled to Guatemala from Belize in the middle of nineteenth century. On 17 January, MOS visited the world heritage site of Tikal, Petén at the invitation of the Government of Guatemala and participated in a tree plantation drive. MoS also interacted with the members of the Indian Community in Guatemala during her visit.

During the visit to El Salvador, MOS called on H.E. Dr. Nayib Bukele, President of El Salvador; and met with H.E. Ms. Alexandra Hill Tinoco, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Ms. Mariem Pleitez, Minister for Culture; and H.E. Mr. J. Miguel Kattan, Secretary of Commerce and Investment.

During the meeting with President, MOS discussed ways to further enhance bilateral relations especially India's development cooperation with El Salvador, growing bilateral economic relations and cooperation at the multilateral level including at the UN. MOS also invited El Salvador to join the Coalition for Disaster



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi greeted by Hon'ble Foreign Minister of El Salvador, Ms. Alejandra Hill and Vice Foreign Minister, Ms. Adriana Mira.

Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI). During the meeting with Minister Hill, both the Ministers reviewed the entire bilateral relations and decided that the next Foreign Office Consultations would be held soon on a mutually convenient date in New Delhi. Minister Hill lauded India's supply of COVID vaccine and essential medicines to the countries during the challenging times of the pandemic. Secretary Kattan and MOS discussed enhancing trade relations between two countries and opportunities for Indian companies for investment in El Salvador. In the meeting with Minister Pleitez, MOS discussed growing cultural relations. As India celebrates its 75 years of Independence, both the Ministers inaugurated Indian Film Festival in the University to mark Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi delivering a lecture on "75 Years of India's Growth Story" at José Matías Delgado University in San Salvador

MOS delivered a talk on '75 years of India's Growth Story' at the Dr Jose Matias Delgado University in San Salvador. MOS participated in a Yoga Event and a tree plantation drive at the iconic Cuscatlán Park in the capital city. MOS also interacted with the members of the Indian Community and business leaders in El Salvador during her visit.

The visit of the MOS to Guatemala and El Salvador shows the importance India attaches to the bilateral relations with both the countries. The visit is expected to provide further momentum to bilateral partnership and enhance mutual goodwill among the people.

Go First airline fined Rs 10 lakh for leaving 55 flyers behind at Bengaluru airport

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on January 27 imposed a Rs 10 lakh fine on Wadia-Group-owned airline GoFirst (formerly known as GoAir) for failure to ensure adequate arrangements for ground handling for the flight.

"The airline failed to ensure adequate arrangement for ground handling, preparation of load and trim sheet, flight dispatch and passenger/cargo handling," the aviation regulator said in a notice.

On January 9, 55 passengers who were bound for New Delhi from Bengaluru on a 0630 IST GoFirst flight G8 116 were left behind in a bus. The stranded passengers were later accommodated on another flight a few hours later.

The DGCA on January 10 sent a show cause notice to the carrier, highlighting "multiple mistakes" that could be easily avoided.

Following the incident, GoFirst announced that the airline will offer one free ticket to all affected passengers for travel to any domestic sector in India in the next 12 months.

Further, the airline pointed out that all concerned staff (would be) off the roster till the inquiry is going on.

GoFirst submitted a response to DGCA's show cause notice on January 25.

The airline also issued an apology saying that the shocking error occurred due to an "inadvertent oversight".



Two IAF aircraft crash near Madhya Pradesh's Morena

Two Indian Air Force fighter aircraft crashed in Pahadgarh area of Morena in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Morena additional superintendent of police Rai Singh Narwariya said, "An air force team is reaching the spot to confirm about the plane and number of people present in it. Police found a hand near the plane."

News agency ANI reported citing defence sources that a Sukhoi-30 and Mirage 2000 aircraft were involved in the crash.

The two aircraft had taken off from the Gwalior air base in Madhya Pradesh where an exercise was going on.

India issues notice to Pak for modification of Indus Waters Treaty

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India has issued a notice to Pakistan for modification of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in view of Islamabad's "intransigence" in the implementation of the pact, inked over six decades back for matters relating to cross-border rivers, government sources said on Friday, January 27.

The notice sent on January 25 through respective commissioners for Indus waters, is set to open up the process for making changes to the treaty that was inked on September 19, 1960, they said.

India and Pakistan signed the treaty after nine years of negotiations, with the World Bank being a signatory of the pact which sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two sides on the use of waters of a number of cross-border rivers.

"The objective of the notice for modification is to provide Pakistan an opportunity to enter into intergovernmental negotiations within 90 days to rectify the material breach of IWT. This process would also update IWT to incorporate the lessons learned over the last 62 years," said a source.

It is learnt that India issued the notice in view of Pakistan's "intransigence" on a solution to the differences over the Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects. The notice was sent as per provisions of Article XII (3) of IWT.

India has always been a steadfast supporter and a responsible partner in implementing IWT in letter and spirit, sources asserted.

"However, Pakistan's actions have adversely impinged on the provisions of IWT and their implementation, and forced India to issue an appropriate notice for modification of the pact," said another source.

In 2015, Pakistan requested the appointment of a neutral expert to examine its technical objections to India's Kishenganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs).

In 2016, Pakistan unilaterally retracted this request and proposed that a Court of Arbitration adjudicate on its objections, the sources said.

They said this "unilateral action" by Pakistan is in contravention of the graded dispute settlement mechanism envisaged by Article IX of IWT.

Accordingly, India made a separate request for the matter to be referred to a neutral expert.

"The initiation of two simultaneous processes on the same questions and the potential of their inconsistent or contradictory outcomes creates an unprecedented and legally untenable situation, which risks endangering IWT itself," the



The confluence of the Indus river and the Zanskar river at Sangam near to Leh in Ladakh, India. Photograph: Getty Images

source said.

"The World Bank acknowledged this itself in 2016, and took a decision to 'pause' the initiation of two parallel processes and request India and Pakistan to seek an amicable way out," it said.

According to sources, despite repeated efforts by India to find a mutually agreeable way forward, Pakistan refused to discuss the issue during the five meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission from 2017 to 2022.

They said that at Pakistan's continuing insistence, the World Bank has recently initiated actions on both the neutral expert and Court of Arbitration processes.

The sources added that such parallel consideration of the same issues is not covered under any provision of IWT.

"Faced with such violation of IWT provisions, India has been compelled to issue a notice of modification," the source cited above said.

Under the Indus Water Treaty, all the waters of the eastern rivers - Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi -- amounting to around 33 million acre-feet (MAF) annually are allocated to India for unrestricted use.

The waters of western rivers - Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab - amounting to around 135 MAF annually have been assigned largely to Pakistan. India is permitted to construct the run of the river plants on western rivers with limited storage as per criteria specified in the treaty.

Under the provisions of Article VIII(5) of the Indus Waters Treaty, the Permanent Indus Commission is required to meet at least once a year.

Source: PTI

Egypt considering allocating land to Indian industries in Suez Canal Economic Zone

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India and Egypt have reaffirmed their commitment to the founding values of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), international law and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states.

It was mentioned in a joint statement released on Thursday, January 26, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi held wide-ranging talks covering bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. On economic ties, the statement mentioned that the Egyptian side is considering the possibility of allocating a special area of land for the Indian industries in the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCEZ), adding that "the Indian side can arrange for the master plan".

The Suez Canal, connecting the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, is one of the world's busiest trade routes. About 12 per cent of the global trade passes through the canal each day.

The statement said India would encourage its companies, which have the potential to establish overseas investments, to make use of the available investment opportunities in Egypt.

"In this context, the Egyptian side considers the possibility of



PM Narendra Modi with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

allocating a special area of land for the Indian industries in the (SCEZ) and the Indian side can arrange for the master plan," it said. The Egyptian president, who arrived here on a three-day visit on Tuesday, attended the Republic Day celebrations as the chief guest.

Source: PTI

Strongly oppose unilateral bids to advance territorial claims at LAC: US

The United States (US) has said it opposes any "unilateral attempts" and incursions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), days after Chinese President Xi Jinping met People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers stationed at the India-China border to "inspect combat readiness".

In response to a question by HT at a regular State Department press briefing on Friday on Xi's comments to PLA troops, the Department's principal deputy press spokesperson Vedant Patel said that the US is closely monitoring the situation.

"We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to advance territorial claims by incursions, military or civilian, across the border or the established Line of Actual Control," said Patel.

The US encourages India and China to utilise "existing bilateral channels to discuss disputed boundaries", Patel added.

Ahead of the first high level dialogue of the initiative on critical and emerging technology between the national security adviser Ajit Doval and his US counterpart Jake Sullivan in Washington DC next week, the State Department also highlighted the importance of the tech cooperation with India. Technology-sharing has been a contentious issue in the past in the relationship.

Source: HT

Mehbooba Mufti joins Rahul Gandhi in Bharat Jodo Yatra day after 'security lapse'

AWANTIPORA (TIP)

Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra resumed from Awantipora in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, January 28, with PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti joining Rahul Gandhi and other Congress leaders, a day after the yatra was halted due to alleged security lapses.

Mufti, along with a number of women, are walking with Rahul Gandhi from Chursu. There will be a tea break near the Birla International School, Pampore and the night halt will be at the truck yard in Pantha Chowk in the outskirts of Srinagar.

On January 29, the Yatra will resume from Pantha Chowk and walk up to Nehru Park on the Boulevard Road. Rahul Gandhi will address a press conference there.

Rahul Gandhi had to cancel his walk on Friday after it entered Kashmir Valley, as the party alleged a security lapse and claimed the police arrangements by the Union territory administration "completely collapsed".

The Gandhi scion, who began his yatra from Banihal in Jammu region on Friday, crossed the Jawahar Tunnel into the valley in Qazigund in a bulletproof vehicle. While the yatra got a rousing reception on this side of the tunnel, the security forces found it difficult to control and manage the crowd of hundreds of party supporters. The yatra was cancelled for the day.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police rejected the Congress charge and said there was no security lapse at the Bharat Jodo Yatra and that the organisers had not informed the police about a large crowd joining the



Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi with NC vice-president Omar Abdullah.

march from Banihal. The Congress, however, put out a video purportedly showing police personnel withdrawing from the site.

Now Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Home Minister Amit Shah seeking adequate protection on the day of the culmination of Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra on January 30 in Srinagar.

In his letter, Kharge said the party welcomed the Jammu and Kashmir Police statement on ensuring complete security and said a huge gathering is expected on the day the yatra ends in Srinagar.

BBC documentary on PM Modi: Delhi Police detains 24 students from DU for planning to screen film

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Delhi Police on Friday, January 27, detained 24 students from the Delhi University's Arts Faculty for planning to screen the controversial BBC documentary on the 2002 Godhra riots. The action comes days after similar protests occurred at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University and Jamia Millia Islamia over the documentary's screening.

Reacting to the detaining of students over the screening of the BBC documentary in DU, Rajni Abbi, Delhi University proctor, said, "Whatever the course the Police have to take, they will take it. No permission had ever been sought from us, no permission was given."

In a statement, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Sagar Singh Kalsi said, "Around 4 pm, some 20 people came outside the Arts Faculty gate to screen the banned BBC documentary. As it can cause disturbance of peace and tranquility in the area, they were asked to disperse from there... When they did not, they were peacefully detained. A total of 24 people were detained."

When asked, another official said Section 144 was imposed on the campus in December. "Section 144 was imposed in December till February 28 to prevent any law and order problems at the university," the official told PTI.

Police officials, however, said they were visiting all college and university campuses in the district to ensure peace and tranquility in the area.

Earlier in the day, the varsity authorities had also written to the Delhi Police about the proposed screening. Delhi University Proctor Rajni Abbi said they would not allow the screening and stressed that the students' outfits had not sought the administration's permission.

The Left-affiliated SFI alleged that the screening could not be held as the administration of the government-run varsity disconnected power supply. However a QR code with a link to the film was shared with students so that they could watch it on their personal devices.



Tharoor targets people in 'secular camp' over 'move on' charge

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said he never asked people of India to "move on" from the 2002 Gujarat riots as a BBC documentary on Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought the violent chapter back in news. Tharoor said the wounds of Gujarat riots have not fully healed but stressed there was little to gain from debating the issue "when so many urgent contemporary matters need to be addressed."

Speaking to an online news portal, the Lok Sabha member from Thiruvananthapuram had said that India has "moved on from this tragedy" and people feel the matter should be "put behind" as two decades have passed and the Supreme Court has also given its judgment. The Congress leader, however, added that he was not "casting aspersions on those who believe that the full truth was not indeed revealed by the official investigations."

ISI pushing militancy in India with US arms left behind in Kabul: Intel

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Security and intelligence agencies have flagged concern over the illegal arms market along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Most of the arms sourced from there are US-made and are being dropped with the help of drones on the Indian side in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab.

Sources in the government said the agencies in their report revealed that when the US forces left Afghanistan, they left behind a major chunk of their arms and ammunition. "The weapons left behind are being sold in the illegal arms market that has come up in the north-west part of Pakistan along its borders with Afghanistan," a source in the know of the development said.

The sources said the ISI was buying weapons from the black market and giving them to Khalistani and Islamic terrorists present in Pakistan. In turn, such elements (handlers) were providing weapons and ammunition to their operatives in India. Security agencies have found that in the majority of cases of drones dropping arms in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, the weapons were made in the United States. Incidentally, apart from Islamic terrorist organisations active in Pakistan and exporting terrorism in India, several Khalistani terrorists like Wadhwa Singh Babbar, Harvinder Singh Rinda, Ranjit Singh Neeta and Lakhbir Singh Rode were roaming freely in Pakistan and the ISI was using them to fan trouble in India, particularly in Punjab, the sources said.

Drugs are also being supplied to India with the help of Khalistani terrorists living in Pakistan, the sources said, adding that conspiracies are also being hatched for anti-India activities in the US, Canada and the UK. Source:TNS

Zakir Hussain, Sudha Murty among 106 Padma awardees

A total of 106 Padma awards have been announced — six

Padma Vibhushan, nine Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party (SP) patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, former Karnataka Chief Minister S M Krishna, Gujarat architect and educationist Balkrishna Doshi, tabla player Zakir Hussain, mathematician S R Srinivasa Varadhan, and ORS treatment pioneer Dilip Mahalanabis have been conferred the Padma Vibhushan this year. A total of 106 Padma awards have been announced — six Padma Vibhushan, nine Padma Bhushan and 91 Padma Shri. Among the Padma Bhushan awardees are Sudha Murthy, chairperson of Infosys Foundation and wife of Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy; industrialist Kumar Mangalam Birla; linguistics scholar Kapil Kapoor; Kannada novelist and screenwriter S L Bhyrappa; yesteryear playback singers Vani Jayaram and Suman Kalyanpur; physicist Deepak Dhar, and Telangana spiritual leaders Swami Chinna Jeeyar and Kamlesh D Patel. The prominent names among Padma Shri awardees include stockbroker Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, Rasna founder Areez Khabatta, former union minister and Manipur BJP president Thounaojam Chaoba Singh.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN (6)

Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)



Others - Architecture
Gujarat
Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi OAL (born August 26, 1927, Pune, India—died January 24, 2023, Ahmedabad, India) was an Indian architect. He is an important figure in Indian architecture and noted for his contributions to the evolution of architectural discourse in India. Having worked under Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn, he was a pioneer of modernist and brutalist architecture in India.

Zakir Hussain



Art
Maharashtra
Ustad Zakir Hussain is an Indian tabla player, composer, percussionist, music producer and film actor. He is the eldest son of tabla player Alla Rakha. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1988, and the Padma Bhushan in 2002, by the

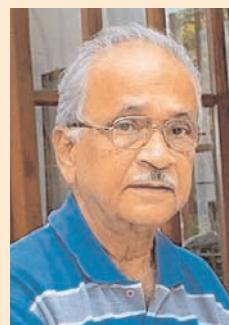
Government of India presented by President Abdul Kalam.

S M Krishna



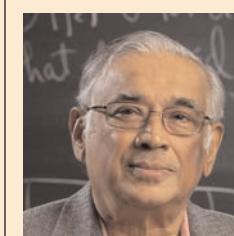
Public Affairs
Karnataka
Somanahalli Mallaiah Krishna is an Indian politician who served as Minister of External Affairs of India from 2009 to October 2012. He was the 16th Chief Minister of Karnataka from 1999 to 2004 and the 19th Governor of Maharashtra from 2004 to 2008.

Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)



Medicine
West Bengal
Dilip Mahalanabis was an Indian paediatrician known for pioneering the use of oral rehydration therapy to treat diarrhoeal diseases.

Srinivas Varadhan



Science & Engineering
United States of America
Sathamangalam Ranga Iyengar Srinivasa Varadhan FRS is an Indian American mathematician, widely recognised as one of the most influential mathematicians of the 20th century. He is known for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for creating a unified theory of large deviations.

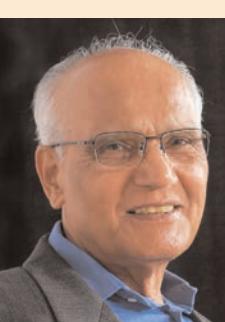
Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)



Public Affairs
Uttar Pradesh
Mulayam Singh Yadav was an Indian politician, a socialist figure and the founder of the Samajwadi Party. In the course of his political career spanning more than six decades, he served for three terms as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, and also as the Minister of Defence in the Union Government.

PADMA BHUSHAN (9)

S L Bhyrappa



Literature & Education
Karnataka
Santeshivara Lingannaiah Bhyrappa is an Indian novelist, philosopher and screenwriter who writes in Kannada. His work is popular in the state of Karnataka and he is widely regarded as one of modern India's popular novelists.

Kumar Mangalam Birla



Trade & Industry
Maharashtra
Kumar Mangalam Birla is an Indian billionaire businessman, philanthropist, Chartered Accountant and the chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, one of the largest global conglomerates in India.

Deepak Dhar



Science & Engineering
Maharashtra
Deepak Dhar is an Indian theoretical physicist who is widely respected for his research on statistical physics and stochastic processes.

Vani Jairam



Art
Tamil Nadu
Vani Jairam, also credited as Vani Jayaram, is an Indian singer. She is best known as a playback singer in South Indian cinema. Vani's career started in 1971 and has spanned over five decades. She has done playback for over one thousand Indian movies recording over 10,000 songs.

Swami Chinna Jeeyar



Others - Spiritualism
Telangana
Chinna Jeeyar, more formally known as Sri Tridandi Srimannarayana Ramanuja Chinna Jeeyar Swami, is an Indian religious guru and yogi ascetic known for his spiritual discourses on Sri Vaishnavism. He subscribes to Thenkalai tradition of Sri Vaishnavism.

Suman Kalyanpur



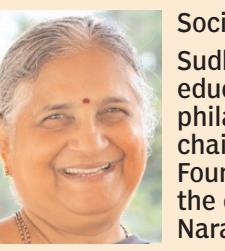
Art
Maharashtra
Suman Kalyanpur is an Indian playback singer, one of the best-known and most respected playback singers in India. Her voice was often mistaken to be that of Lata Mangeshkar. Suman Kalyanpur's career started in 1954 and was very popular singer in the 1960s and 1970s.

Kapil Kapoor



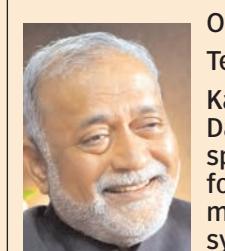
Literature & Education
Delhi
Kapil Kapoor is an Indian scholar of linguistics and literature and an authority on Indian intellectual traditions. He is former Pro-Vc of JNU.

Sudha Murty



Social Work , Karnataka
Sudha Murty is an Indian educator, author and philanthropist who is chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She is married to the co-founder of Infosys, N. R. Narayana Murthy.

Kamlesh D Patel



Others - Spiritualism
Telangana
Kamlesh D. Patel also known as Daaji among his followers, is a spiritual leader, author and the fourth in the line of Raja yoga masters in the Sahaj Marg system of spiritual practice.

PADMA SHRI (91)

Dr. Sukama Acharya Others - Spiritualism Haryana	Literature & Education Kerala	Art Karnataka	Shri C V Raju Art	Social Work Rajasthan
Ms. Jodhaiyabai Baiga Art Madhya Pradesh	Literature & Education Punjab	Shri Ajay Kumar Mandavi Art Chhattisgarh	Shri Bakshi Ram Science & Engineering	Shri Mohan Singh Literature & Education
Shri Premjit Baria Art Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu	Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia Social Work Tripura	Shri Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande Literature & Education Maharashtra	Haryana Cheruvayal K Raman Others - Agriculture	Jammu & Kashmir Shri Thounaojam Chaoba Singh Public Affairs
Ms. Usha Barle Art Chhattisgarh	Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene Social Work Assam	Gajanan Jagannath Mane Social Work Maharashtra	Kerala Ms. Sujatha Ramdorai Science & Engineering	Manipur Prakash Chandra Sood Literature & Education
Shri Munishwar Chanddawar Medicine Madhya Pradesh	Shri Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous) Trade & Industry Maharashtra	Shri Antaryami Mishra Literature & Education Odisha	Canada Shri Abbareddy Nageswara Rao Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh Ms. Neihunuo Sorhie Art
Shri Hemant Chauhan Art Gujarat	Shri Ratan Chandra Kar Medicine Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa Art Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh Shri Pareshbhai Rathwa Art	Nagaland Dr. Janum Singh Soy Literature & Education
Shri Bhanubhai Chitara Art Gujarat	Shri Mahipat Kavi Art Gujarat	Prof. (Dr.) Mahendra Pal Science & Engineering Gujarat	Gujarat B Ramakrishna Reddy Literature & Education	Jharkhand Shri Kushok Thiksey Nawang Chamba Stanzin Others - Spiritualism
Ms. Hemoprova Chutia Art Assam	Shri M M Keeravaani Art Andhra Pradesh	Uma Shankar Pandey Social Work Uttar Pradesh	Telangana Shri Mangala Kanti Roy Art	Ladakh Shri S Subbaraman Others - Archaeology
Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma (Posthumous) Public Affairs Tripura	Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous) Trade & Industry Gujarat	Shri Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar *(Duo) Art Madhya Pradesh	West Bengal Ms. K C Runremsangi Art	Karnataka Shri Moa Subong Art
Ms. Subhadra Devi Art Bihar	Shri Parshuram Komaji Khune Art Maharashtra	Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi Medicine Puducherry	Mizoram Shri Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi Sadaiyan *(Duo) Social Work	Nagaland Shri Palam Kalyana Sundaram Social Work
Shri Khadar Valli Dudekula Science & Engineering Karnataka	Shri Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara Science & Engineering Andhra Pradesh	Shri Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti Medicine Telangana	Tamil Nadu Shri Manoranjan Sahu Medicine	Tamil Nadu Ms. Raveena Tandon Art
Shri Hem Chandra Goswami Art Assam	Shri Maguni Charan Kuang Art Odisha	Shri Ramesh Patange Literature & Education Maharashtra	Uttar Pradesh Shri Patayat Sahu Others - Agriculture	Maharashtra Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari Literature & Education
Ms. Pritikana Goswami Art West Bengal	Shri Anand Kumar Literature & Education Bihar	Ms. Krishna Patel Art Odisha	Odisha Shri Ritwik Sanyal Art	Uttar Pradesh Shri Dhaniiram Toto Literature & Education
Shri Radha Charan Gupta Literature & Education Uttar Pradesh	Shri Arvind Kumar Science & Engineering Uttar Pradesh	Shri K Kalyanasundaram Pillai Art Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh Shri Kota Satchidananda Sastry Art	West Bengal Shri Tula Ram Upreti Others - Agriculture
Shri Modadugu Vijay Gupta Science & Engineering Telangana	Shri Domar Singh Kunvar Art Chhattisgarh	Shri V P Appukuttan Poduval Social Work Kerala	Andhra Pradesh Shri Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar Social Work	Sikkim Dr. Gopalsamy Veluchamy Medicine
Shri Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain *(Duo) Art Rajasthan	Shri Risingbor Kurkalang Art Meghalaya	Shri Kapil Dev Prasad Art Bihar	Andhra Pradesh Shri K Shanathoiba Sharma Sports	Tamil Nadu Dr. Ishwar Chander Verma Medicine
Shri Dilshad Hussain Art Uttar Pradesh	Ms. Hirabai Lobi Social Work Gujarat	Shri S R D Prasad Sports Kerala	Manipur Shri Nekram Sharma Others - Agriculture	Delhi Ms. Coomi Nariman Wadia Art
Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate Social Work Maharashtra	Shri Moolchand Lodha Social Work Rajasthan	Shri Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri Art Karnataka	Himachal Pradesh Shri Gurcharan Singh Sports	Maharashtra Shri Karma Wangchu (Posthumous) Social Work
Shri C I Issac	Ms. Rani Machaiah		Delhi Shri Laxman Singh	Arunachal Pradesh Shri Ghulam Muhammad Zaz Art

INDIA GETS THREE NOMS FOR 95TH OSCARS®

By Mabel Pais

The 95th Oscars® nominations were announced on Tuesday, January 24 by Oscar®-winning actor-producer Riz Ahmed and actor Allison Williams live from the Academy's (The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) Samuel Goldwyn Theater via a global live stream on Oscar.com, Oscars.org and the Academy's digital platforms, an international satellite feed and broadcast media.

For a complete list of nominees in all 23 categories, visit [oscar.com](#).

This year, the Academy saw its highest ever voter participation in the organization's history, with members submitting ballots from 80 countries.

Active members of the Academy are eligible to vote for the winners in all 23 categories beginning Thursday, March 2, through Tuesday, March 7. The 95th Oscars will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at the Dolby® Theatre at Ovation Hollywood and will be televised live on ABC television and in more than 200 territories worldwide.

India was honored with nominations in three categories: Documentary Feature Film, Documentary Short Film, and Music (for Original Song).

DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM**ALL THAT BREATHES**

Director: Shaunk Sen | Producers: Shaunk Sen, Aman Mann & Teddy Leifer |



All That Breathes

Photo Credit / [allthatbreathes.com](#)

In Shaunk Sen's 'All That Breathes' the film-viewer gets an insight to one of the world's most populated Indian cities where cows, rats, monkeys, frogs, and hogs jostle cheek-by-jowl with people. Here, two brothers fall in love with a bird - the black kite.

From their makeshift bird hospital in their tiny basement, the "kite brothers" care for thousands of these mesmeric creatures that drop daily from New Delhi's smog-choked skies. As environmental toxicity and civil unrest escalate, the relationship between this Muslim family and the neglected kite forms a poetic chronicle of the city's collapsing ecology and rising social tensions.

"The city itself - replete with the many human-animal ensembles in it - features in the film as a character," says Shaunk Sen. "As a method, I am deeply interested in looking at everyday banal phenomena that usually occupy the fringes of our vision, as objects of rigorous study. Through this film, I want to harness the enchantment of the sky. I want audiences to leave theatres and instinctively look up - to think of the sky and the birds in it as novel, wonderfully alien things."

Nadeem Shehzad and his younger brother Mohammad Saud featured in the film are former bodybuilders from the Chawri Bazar area of New Delhi. They started treating black kites in 2003. Since then, they have together treated more than 20,000 injured birds. Nadeem was recently appointed as an Honorary Wildlife Warden of Delhi, and in 2021 spent three months in the U.S. for training with bird rescue organizations. Today, Nadeem and Saud continue to work tirelessly to treat black kites and other birds of

prey through the organization they set up in 2010: 'Wildlife Rescue.'



All That Breathes.

Photo Credit / [allthatbreathes.com](#)

'All That Breathes' has received the following awards
2022 Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for Documentary

2022 Cannes Film Festival Prize for Best Documentary (L'Œil d'Or)

2022 BFI London Film Festival Grierson Award for Best Documentary

2022 Hong Kong International Film Festival Golden Firebird Award in Documentary Competition

2022 IDA Documentary Awards for Best Feature Documentary, Best Director, Best Editing, and Pare Lorentz Award

2022 Cinema Eye Honors Awards for Outstanding Nonfiction Feature, and Outstanding Cinematography

2022 Gotham Award for Best Documentary Feature **

2022 Asia Pacific Screen Award for Best Documentary Film

'All That Breathes' was nominated against

'All the Beauty and the Bloodshed' - Producers: Laura Poitras, Howard Gertler, John Lyons, Nan Goldin and Yoni Golijov

'Fire of Love' - Producers: Sara Dosa, Shane Boris and Ina Fichman

'A House Made of Splinters' - Producers: Simon Lereng Wilmont and Monica Hellström, and

'Navalny' - Producers: Daniel Roher, Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller and Shane Boris

DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM**THE ELEPHANT WHISPERERS**The Elephant Whisperers. Photo Credit / [sikhyaeentertainment.com](#)

Director: Kartiki Gonsalves | Producers: Kartiki Gonsalves & Guneet Monga | India | 2022 | Color | PG | 41m

Bomman and Bellie, a couple in Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (South India), devote their lives to caring for an orphaned baby elephant named Raghu, forging a family like no other that tests the barrier between the human and the animal world.

'Elephant Whisperers' was in competition with
'Haulout' - Producers: Evgenia Arbugaeva and Maxim Arbugaev

'How Do You Measure a Year?' - Producer: Jay Rosenblatt

'The Martha Mitchell Effect' - Producers: Anne Alvergue and Beth Levison

'Stranger at the Gate' - Producers: Joshua Seftel and Conall Jones

MUSIC (ORIGINAL SONG)

India has made history with 'Naatu Naatu' (film, 'RRR') as the first Asian song in 2022 to win a Golden Globe Award in the category!

NAATU NAATU (FROM FILM 'RRR')

RRR: 'Naatu Naatu' dance.

Photo Credit / DVV Entertainments

Director: S.S. Rajamouli | 2022 | India | Telugu w/ Eng subs | 13h 2m

Music: M.M. Keeravaani | Lyric: Chandrabose

From writer-director S. S. Rajamouli (*Baahubali*) comes the international blockbuster that has enchanted movie audiences of all ages with its jaw-dropping action sequences, swooning romantic intrigue, infectious musical numbers- particularly, the sensation 'Naatu Naatu'-and rousing central friendship between two pre-Independence revolutionaries, played by Telugu-language megastars Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao, Jr. (better known as Jr. NTR).

"The emotions have to be grounded and real, they can't be over the top. If you can capture your audience with emotion, you can fictionalize any part of history, anyone or anything," says S.S. Rajamouli.

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

In the movie, Raju comes to represent fire, while Bheem symbolizes water; their coming together as friends makes them an indomitable force. The plot explores the undocumented period in the lives of two very different freedom fighters during the height of the Raj-but R.R.R. is at its heart a story about India coming into its own.

'Naatu Naatu' won the nomination in competition with

'Applause' from 'Tell It like a Woman' - Music and Lyric by Diane Warren

'Hold My Hand' from 'Top Gun: Maverick' - Music and Lyric by Lady Gaga & BloodPop

'Lift Me Up' from 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' - Music by Tems, Rihanna, Ryan Coogler and Ludwig Goransson; Lyric by Tems and Ryan Coogler

'This Is A Life' from 'Everything Everywhere All at Once' - Music by Ryan Lott, David Byrne and Mitski; Lyric by Ryan Lott and David Byrne.

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

REMEMBERING THE HOLOCAUST JANUARY 27

By Mabel Pais

Discover the incredible true story that inspired the film 'PLAN A' in the new non-fiction book 'NAKAM' from Prof. Dina Porat, former Chief Historian for Yad Vashem (Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust - yadvashem.org).

"This meticulous and empathetic study gives an overlooked chapter of Jewish history its due" writes Publishers Weekly.

What if your family was murdered: your brothers, sisters, parents and children. Everyone. Murdered. For no sane reason at all. Ask yourself... What would you do?

In 1945, hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors answered that question by getting as far from Europe as possible. But a small group refused to leave without extracting a full measure of vengeance - not only against SS guards and Nazi leaders but on the German people themselves by poisoning the water supply.

'PLAN A' is a powerful English-language drama based on the incredible true story of these "Avengers" - a



PLAN A poster

Photo credit / Menemsha Films

group of Jewish vigilantes, men and women, who vowed to avenge the death of their people - "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

Based on the book 'Nakam' by Prof. Dina Porat, chief historian at Yad Vashem (yadvashem.org), PLAN A asks the impossible question of how survivors plagued by such memories struggled with conflicting feelings about lust for justice and the desire for payback.

PLAN A

Dirs: Doron & Yoav Paz 1 2022 1 Germany, Israel 1 Drama 1 English 1 h 49m

'PLAN A' is based on the incredible true story of the "Avengers". A group of Jewish vigilantes, men and women, who after surviving the holocaust are vowing to avenge the death of their people - "an eye for any eye, a tooth for a tooth" - as is written in the Bible. As far as they were concerned, there was no need for warnings, arrests or trials.

Max, a holocaust survivor, has lost all his family in the camps. Full of rage and with nothing left to live for other than revenge he helps the Jewish Brigade, soldiers under British command, to off the record find and execute Nazis accused of leading positions in the Nazi system. When the brigade is called off, Max follows Anna and a group of former partisans to Nuremberg, where they soon realize that they will not find redemption in the upcoming Nuremberg trials.

Led by charismatic leader Abba Kovner, they formulate the biggest revenge operation in history - "Plan A". They infiltrate German water companies as undercover engineers with only one goal: to poison the drinking water in Nuremberg, Munich, Cologne, Weimar and Hamburg and "to kill six million Germans, one for every Jew slaughtered by the Germans".

Opening: Available on major streaming platforms. Available on Blu-ray

FILMMAKERS FOR THE PROSECUTION

Dir: Jean-Christophe Klotz 1 2022 1 USA/France 1 English & French w/Eng Subs 60m

The Thrilling Story of How Motion Pictures Were Used to Convict the Nazis at the First Nuremberg Trial

Adapted from a monograph by Sandra Schulberg, Filmmakers for the Prosecution retraces the hunt by brothers Budd and Stuart Schulberg for film evidence used to convict the Nazis at the first Nuremberg trial. Seventy-five years later, Jean-Christophe Klotz uncovers never-before-seen footage and interviews key figures to unravel why the resulting film about the trial was intentionally suppressed by the U.S. government.

Opening: January 27 at DCTV's Firehouse Cinema, New York.

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



Filmmakers for the Prosecution

Photo credit/ Kino Lorber





Newlyweds Masaba Gupta and Satyadeep Misra party with Neena Gupta, Vivian Richards

Actor, fashion designer Masaba Gupta and actor Satyadeep Misra made their first public appearance as husband and wife after tying the knot in secret. The newlywed couple was also joined by their family members in front of the paparazzi. Among them were Masaba's mom Neena Gupta, her father Vivian Richards, Neena's husband Vivek Mehra, Satyadeep's mother Nalini and his sister Chinmayi.

The family hosted a party in Mumbai to celebrate Masaba and Satyadeep's wedding. In a video, Masaba is seen arriving at the venue with dad Vivian. She wore a black full-sleeve top, paired with a blue draped skirt with a slit. Vivian arrived in a dark grey suit.

On Friday, January 27, morning, Masaba and Satyadeep announced their wedding on social media. *Source: HT*

Kangana Ranaut calls film industry 'crass and crude'

Considered an outlier in Bollywood who doesn't hold back when it comes to expressing her opinion on the Hindi film industry, Kangana Ranaut is back raising eyebrows with her tweets.

The actor dropped a series of cryptic tweets, calling the film industry "Crass and crude."

"Film industry is so crass and crude that whenever they want to project success of any endeavour/creation/art, they throw flashing currency digits in your face, as if art has no other purpose.. it exposes their lowly standards and the kind of deprived lives they live...", the actor tweeted.

"Primitively art blossomed in temples and reached literature/theatres and eventually inside cinemas. It is an industry but not designed for major economic gains like other billion/trillion dollar businesses, that's why art/artists are worshipped not industrialists or billionaires," Kangana added.

Kangana's comments come on the day of release of Shah Rukh Khan's much-awaited 'Pathaan', which opened to a bumper response.

The Thalaivii actor further wrote, "So even if artists indulge in polluting the very fibre of art and culture in the nation, they must do it discreetly not shamelessly..." *Source: ANI*

Athiya & KL Rahul wedding gifts: From Rs 1.64 cr Audi by Salman to Suniel Shetty's 50 cr apartment

Suniel Shetty's daughter Athiya Shetty who also followed in her father's footsteps and debuted in Bollywood with the film Hero. Even though she hasn't been very active on the big screen much, she is an avid social media user and enjoys a massive fanbase. She had never kept her relationship with the Indian cricketer KL Rahul hidden from the media, and now on January 23, 2023, the madly-in-love couple tied the knot. It was rather an intimate wedding ceremony. However, do you know what gifts the newlyweds receive from their close ones? Scroll below to get the scoop which might leave you spellbound!

Athiya and KL Rahul looked magical at their wedding ceremony where they can be seen wearing gorgeous shaadi ka joda. Athiya donned a pastel pink coloured self-embroidered lehenga choli with polki jewellery, while Rahul looked dashing in a soft cream coloured sherwani suit.

The newlyweds Athiya Shetty and KL Rahul received a lot of luxurious gifts from their friends, family and relatives. It included an Audi worth Rs 1.64 crore that they received from Salman Khan. Suniel Shetty gifted his daughter and son-in-law a lavish apartment of Rs 50 crores as reported in ETimes. Jackie Shroff who is a close friend of Suniel Shetty gifted Athiya Shetty a Chopard Watch worth Rs 30 Lakh. On the other hand, the actress's close friend Arjun Kapoor gave her a diamond bracelet of whopping Rs 1.5 crore.

While KL Rahul's cricket team mate and Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli gifted the newlyweds a BMW car of Rs 2.17 crore, Mahendra Singh Dhoni gave Rahul a Kawasaki Ninja bike that comes with a whopping price of Rs 80 lakhs.



Sunny Deol wields a hammer in first poster of 'Gadar 2'

The makers of 'Gadar 2' on the occasion of Republic Day unveiled the first look of Sunny Deol, one of its lead stars in the upcoming romantic period action drama.

A sequel of the superhit 2001 film 'Gadar: Ek Prem Katha', the movie will also see other original stars Ameesha Patel and Utkarsh Sharma reprise their roles.

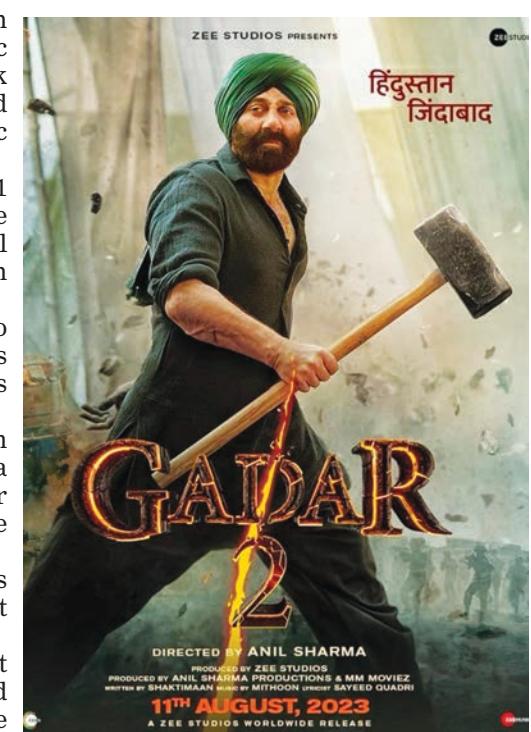
Filmmaker Anil Sharma, who also helmed the original, has directed the follow-up which is produced by Zee Studios.

The first poster of the film shows Deol as the muscular Tara Singh wielding a big hammer amid destruction, with the tagline 'Hindustan Zindabad'.

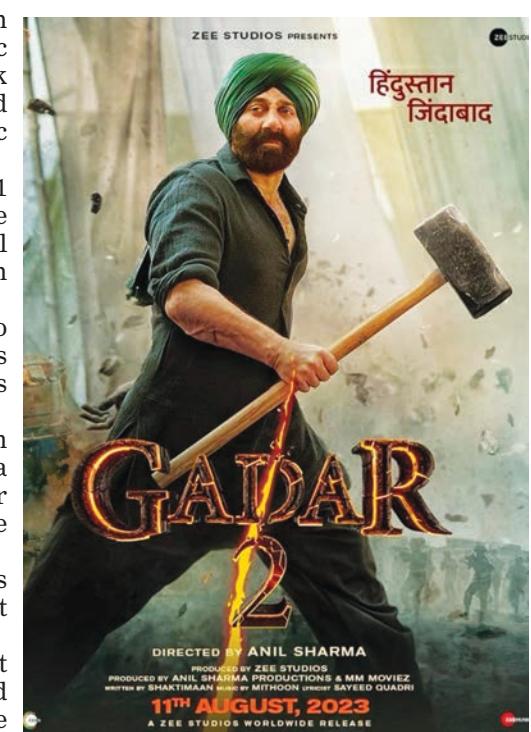
Sharma said the team is "thrilled" to launch the first poster of 'Gadar 2'.

"'Gadar - Ek Prem Katha' isn't my film but it's a people's film and dynamically shifted the paradigm of the Indian film industry. It went on to become a cult icon wherein people breathed Tara Singh and Sakina's love story," the director said in a statement.

The first movie followed the love story of Tara Singh (Deol), an Indian Sikh man, and Sakina (Patel), a Pakistani Muslim woman, during the turbulent times of Partition.



हिंदुस्तान
ज़िंदाबाद



हिंदुस्तान
ज़िंदाबाद





Paris Hilton is now mom to a baby boy

Socialite and entrepreneur Paris Hilton, 41, has welcomed her first child with her husband Carter Reum. The diva took to Instagram to share the joyous life update. She posted an adorable picture featuring her newborn son and wrote, "You are already loved beyond words."

In the picture, Hilton is seen holding her little baby's tiny hands.

The social media mogul confirmed the arrival of her baby son to People magazine and said, "It's always been my dream to be a mother and I'm so happy that Carter and I found each other. We are so excited to start our family together and our hearts are exploding with love for our baby boy." Soon after she shared the Instagram post, it was flooded with congratulatory messages. Kim Kardashian also took to the comments section and expressed joy. "So happy for you guys," she wrote. The new mom, however, did not share any further details about the birth of their first child. Several media reports suggest that the baby boy has been born via surrogate. Paris Hilton has previously opened up about the couple's plan to have a baby. In an interview in December, she revealed that she and Reum began the IVF process during Covid-19.

Beyonce sparks pregnancy rumors after Dubai concert

Grammy-winner Beyoncé Knowles continues to make headlines following her concert in Dubai, but this time is for a different reason.

The R&B diva is rumoured to be pregnant with her and rapper Jay-Z's child again after photos and videos from the show at Atlantis The Royal resort leaked online, reports aceshowbiz.com.

For a portion of the private show, the mother of three rocked a short pink dress with bejeweled details completed with matching gloves and stockings. While she looked relatively fit and trim throughout her body, her belly appeared to stick out a little more than usual, prompting the pregnancy speculation.

"Is Beyoncé pregnant... or has she just gained weight?" a curious fan asked on Twitter.

Another user tweeted, "There has been opinions circulating that people think Beyoncé is pregnant during performance in Dubai. Is Beyoncé baking a bun?"

Many others have since weighed in on it, with one wishing the best for Bey and her supposed pregnancy.

"Yes she looks baby bump healthy bless her," the said fan wrote.

Another simply commented, "pregnant," while another agreed as saying, "Yes I agree looks like she is pregnant."

Some others begged to differ though.

"She's said in the past her weight fluctuates, so we'll just have to wait and see," one person argued. Another claimed, "Probably just holiday weight."

Someone quipped, "That's that Popeyes chicken," as another brought up reports of Bey's reported recent foot surgery as the possible cause of her sticking out belly, "At first I thought so too, but after hearing about her foot surgery, it's probably just a little extra weight because she can't exercise. Still looks great."

The pregnancy rumours aside, Beyoncé faced backlash following her performance in Dubai, a country that has zero tolerance to LGBTQ+.

The 71-year-old insisted that his daughter has "always stood for inclusiveness" and would never do anything to "deliberately hurt someone".



Marlee Matlin and other Sundance jury members leave Magazine Dreams screening after captions fail

Sundance Film Festival jurors Marlee Matlin, Jeremy O Harris and Eliza Hittman walked out of the world premiere of Magazine Dreams in Park City, Utah after the closed captioning device for Marlee, who is deaf, malfunctioned on Friday night. The boxing drama, starring Jonathan Majors, was shown in part of the US Dramatic Competition of the festival. The device was fixed a few hours later and the festival reported that the jurors will screen the film again before it ends on January 29.

Directed by Elijah Bynum, Magazine Dreams revolves around Jonathan's character, a Black bodybuilder with self-destructive qualities. The actor has already received raves for his performance and commitment to the role. In a statement shared with The Associated Press, Sundance Institute CEO Joana Vicente said on Saturday, "Our team immediately worked with the devices in that venue to test them again for the next screening and the device worked without any malfunction. Our



goal is to make all experiences (in person and online) as accessible as possible for all participants. Our accessibility efforts are, admittedly, always evolving and feedback helps drive it forward for the community as a whole."

"We are committed to improving

experiences & belonging for all festival attendees," the statement continued. "We consider accessibility as one of the primary drivers of institutional excellence and this work is done in partnership with film teams."

Joana shared that captioning device,

which works on Wi-Fi, had been tested prior to the screening, but malfunctioned during the screening nonetheless. The movie will be screened again for the jurors before the festival ends.

Marlee, who lost her hearing as a toddler, has not yet commented on the incident. She won the Oscar for Best Actress for her acting debut in Children of a Lesser God (1986). She also starred in last year's coming-of-age drama CODA which also won the Best Picture Oscar.

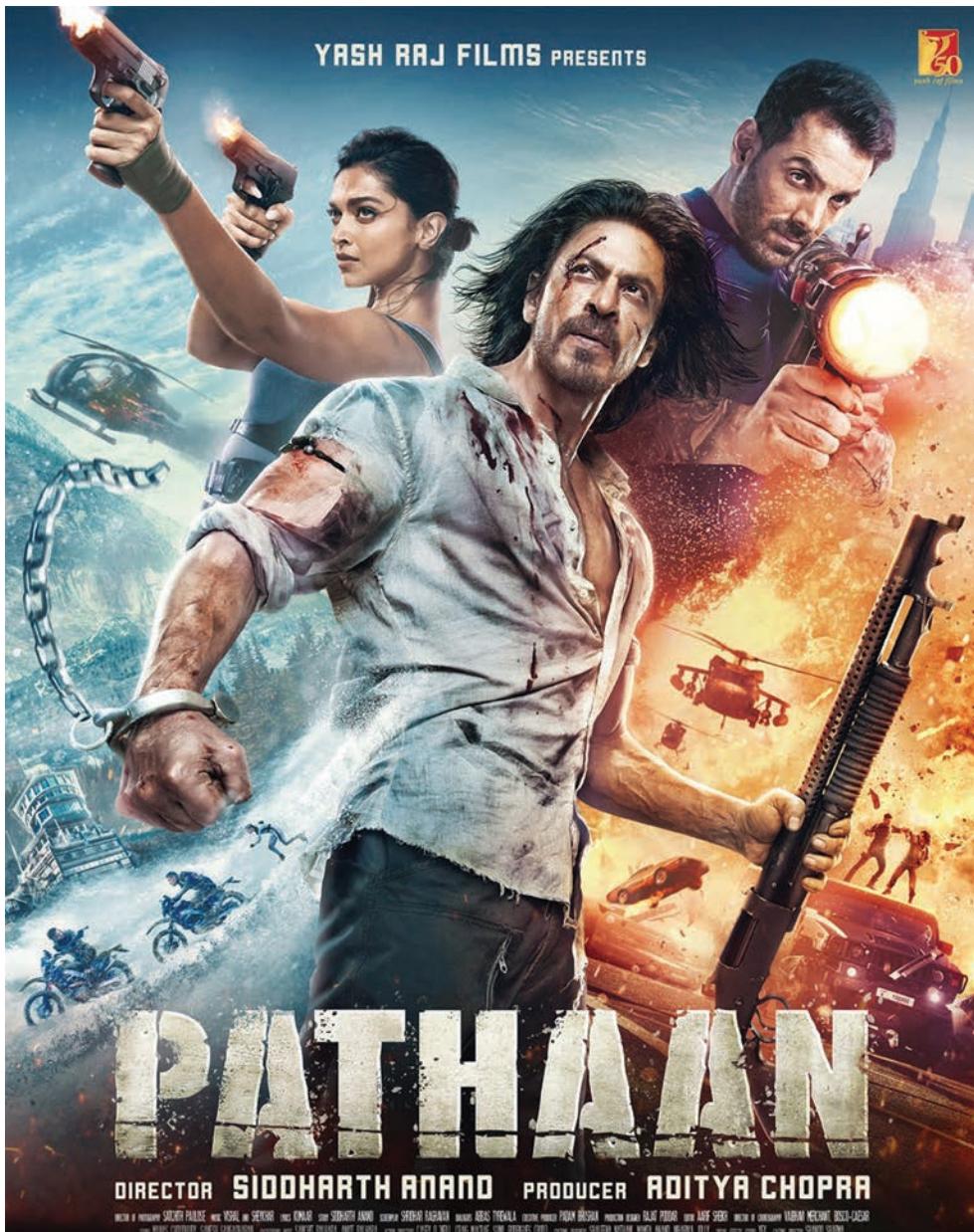
The Hindustan Times review of Magazine Dreams stated, "Bynum, who also wrote Magazine Dreams, conjures up an excruciatingly intense character study that is almost unbearably hard to watch at times. More than the violence, its the anticipation of it that powers the narrative, as Maddox's obsession takes a full swing over him. The last 20 minutes in specific become agonizing to sit through - as Bynum dares the audience to leave his side. It all works because of Jonathan Majors, who gives the performance of a lifetime as Killian Maddox."

Source: HT

The soaring success of Pathaan is set to change the face of Indian cinema

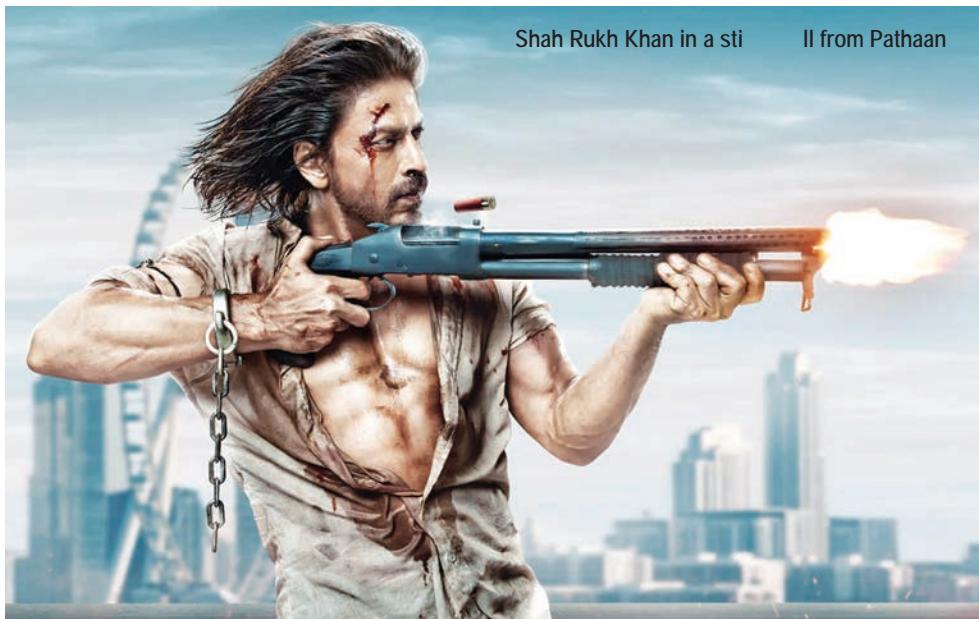


BY
MURTAZA ALI KHAN



Pathaan poster

After a long smear campaign that tried to put it down, the highly-anticipated Shah Rukh Khan starrer Pathaan has finally hit the theatres the world over. For the fans of Shah Rukh Khan, it is nothing less than a carnival. They are coming to the theatres in huge numbers which is reflected by the long queues that can be seen outside the theatres everywhere. All this has resulted in a huge opening for Pathaan (with the domestic collection crossing the 55-crore mark on Day 1, making it the biggest opener ever for Indian cinema). The total India collection on Day 2 was 70.50 crore nett (82.94 crore gross). It thus became the first Hindi film to breach the 70 crore nett collection on a single day. Meanwhile, overseas collection was also incredible as it collected 30.70 crore gross.



Shah Rukh Khan in a still from Pathaan

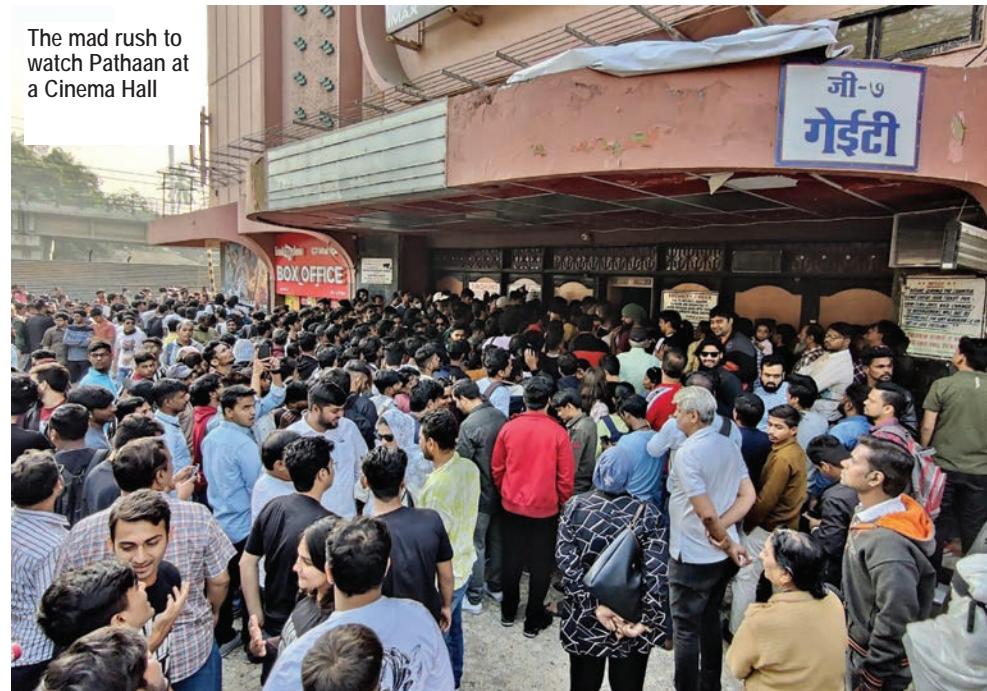
'Pathaan' created more history on its second day when it beat its own record for the highest day ever which it set on the opening day -- Rs. 55 crore in Hindi format + Rs. 2 crore in dubbed formats -- amounting to a total of Rs. 57 crore nett on Day 1.

Pathaan is a paean to the unsung heroes of India who day in and day out put their lives on the line in order to protect the glory of the motherland by guarding it against its countless enemies and forces that are trying to weaken it. These are spies, soldiers on covert operations, members of the intelligence network, whose sacrifices often go unnoticed. The Siddharth Anand-directed Pathaan in its unique own way takes us on a whirlwind global adventure with these selfless soldiers committed to the highest ideals of duty and sacrifice.



Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone in a still from Pathaan

In terms of massy cinematic entertainment, Pathaan has everything that anyone can ask or hope for: adrenaline-pumping action, non-stop thrill and adventure, endless twists and turns, exotic locations, a-list actors at the top of their game, cutting edge CGI and VFX, and jaw-dropping stunts. Also, both the film's songs are already chartbusters. The time-tested pairing of SRK and Deepika Padukone is another major crowd puller. Not to mention, John Abraham's return to playing antagonistic badass characters after a long hiatus. Also, watch out for a surprise cameo from someone very special.



The mad rush to watch Pathaan at a Cinema Hall

The soaring success of Pathaan is set to change the face of Indian cinema. It will encourage more filmmakers to make big budget action extravaganzas and multi-starrers shot across very many different locations across the world, not unlike the James Bond, Fast and Furious, and Mission: Impossible films. Also, the birth of the YRF Spy Universe is set to usher in a new era of franchise-based storytelling unpinned by not just sequels but also crossovers and spinoffs. Henceforth, whenever we look at the Hindi cinema, it will always be marked by the following dichotomy: Bollywood before Pathaan and Bollywood after Pathaan.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering the world of entertainment for over 10 years. He tweets at @MurtazaCritic and can be mailed at: murtaza.jmi@gmail.com)

Pakistani currency depreciates to record low

JANUARY 27

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistani rupee on January 27 fell to its lowest-ever level of Rs 262.6 against the US dollar ahead of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation's visit to Islamabad to discuss resuming disbursements from a bailout package.

On January 26, the Pakistani rupee had suffered the largest single-day depreciation of Rs 24.54 and settled at Rs 255.43, adding to its woes of heightened violence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, high prices and even shortage of essentials and electricity blackouts.

A devastating flood that affected large parts of the country preceded by the ravages of the Covid pandemic had already put pressure on the Pakistani economy, which was already affected by an unstable polity.

As a result, foreign exchange reserves are at rock bottom with reports of 9,000 containers stuck at the Karachi port for want of payment. Some of the containers reportedly contain essential commodities, petroleum products, LNG and soybean.

The steep devaluation that put pressure on essentials was itself an IMF formula which had asked for the removal of an unofficial cap on the dollar-Pakistani rupee rate to revive its loan programme.

Pakistan is seeking a \$1.1 billion IMF bailout after getting off the Financial



Action Task Force's grey list. It had negotiated a \$7 billion package secured in 2019, but the IMF now wants Pakistan to take several tough and unpopular measures to get the next round of funding. These include an increase in electricity rates, widening the tax base and ending the artificial control on the exchange rate. The partial implementation of the last step has led to a plunge in the value of the Pakistani rupee.

The IMF delegation is slated to visit Islamabad for 10 days from January 31 to

discuss the ninth review of the \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility. Then Imran Khan government had negotiated a loan of \$6 billion loan in 2019, which was increased to \$7 billion last year.

Meanwhile, the foreign exchange reserves of the central bank continued to slide and hit a new nine-year low of USD 3.678 billion during the week ended on January 20. The State Bank of Pakistan on January 26 said that its forex holdings decreased by USD 923 million during the week due to external debt repayments. (TNS)

MYSTERIOUS ILLNESS KILLS 18 IN PAKISTAN

JANUARY 27

KARACHI (TIP): A mysterious illness has killed 18 people, mostly children, in Karachi's Kemari area this month with health officials in this southern Pakistani port city still unable to find the cause of the deaths.

Director Health Services Abdul Hameed Jumani said 14 kids were among the dead.

"A health team is working to find the cause of the deaths but we suspect it may be related to the sea or water as the village is close to the coastal belt," he said. (PTI)

INDIAN WOMEN'S RANGOLI ENTERS SINGAPORE BOOK OF RECORDS

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian mother and her daughter have made it to the Singapore Book of Records by creating a 6-by-6 metre rangoli artwork using 26,000 ice cream sticks which depicts notable Tamil scholars-poets. Sudha Ravi and her daughter Rakshita presented the rangoli during Pongal festivities last week. Sudha Ravi is already listed in the record book for creating a 3,200 sq ft rangoli in 2016. PTI

EARTHQUAKE JOLTS WESTERN NEPAL, 1 DEAD

JANUARY 24

KATHMANDU (TIP): A 5.9-magnitude earthquake jolted western Nepal on January 24, killing one person and damaging a number of houses in the region, officials said.

The earthquake, with epicentre in the Mela area of Bajura district in Sudurpaschim province, hit the region at 2.43 PM local time, said Lok Bijaya Adhikari, head of Earthquake Measurement and Research centre.

A 35-year-old woman was killed in Gaumul Rural Municipality-2 when a falling rock hit her while she was cutting grass in the nearby forest, police said.

According to local police, the earthquake damaged a number of houses in Bajura and Bajhang districts.

A landslide triggered by the earthquake resulted in the death of over 40 sheep, the police said, adding that one person was injured.

Monika Dahal, who is head of the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre, said the quake was felt in areas of Western Nepal. It was also felt in some parts of India. — PTI

Need to fully implement law for Tamils' political autonomy: Sri Lankan President

JANUARY 27

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lankan (SL) President Ranil Wickremesinghe has underlined the need to fully implement the India-backed 13th Amendment to the Constitution to grant political autonomy to the minority Tamils in the country.

Addressing an all-party meeting, Wickremesinghe also said that if anyone opposed the full implementation of 13A, the Parliament must take steps to abolish the law.

India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987.

This law provides for the devolution of power to the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. Colombo has had a history of failed negotiations to end the Tamil claim of discrimination.

The 13A provides for the devolution of power to the Tamil community in Sri Lanka. India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13A which was brought in after the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement of 1987.

Wickremesinghe, who took over as the



Rajiv Gandhi and Lankan President JR Jayewardene.

Wickremesinghe in mid-December had initiated talks with the minority Tamil political groups in order to achieve reconciliation by February 4, the 75th anniversary of the independence of Sri Lanka from Britain.

Sri Lanka has had a long history of failed negotiations to end the Tamil claim of discrimination by allowing some form of political autonomy.

Over the years, the Sri Lankan government has been aggressive against Tamilian groups following its war with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The LTTE ran a military campaign for a separate Tamil homeland in the northern and eastern provinces of the island nation for nearly 30 years before its collapse in 2009 after the Sri Lankan Army killed its supreme leader Velupillai Prabhakaran.

According to Sri Lankan government figures, over 20,000 people are missing due to various conflicts including the three-decade brutal war with Lankan Tamils in the north and east which claimed at least 100,000 lives. (PTI)

AS FIGHTING INTENSIFIES, KYIV SEEKS MORE ARMS

JANUARY 27

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine on January 27 battled Russian troops trying to pierce its lines in the east and northeast before Kyiv takes delivery of tanks from its Western allies, saying the fighting showed it needed more weapons to repel the invaders. Kyiv said fierce battles were under way, a day after at least 11 people were killed in missile and drone strikes which were widely seen in Ukraine as a response to the promises by important allies to send it tanks. After weeks of wrangling, Germany and the US this week said they would send Ukraine dozens of modern tanks to help push back Russian forces, opening the way for others to follow suit.

Poland gave Ukraine a further boost on Friday by promising an additional 60 tanks on top of 14 German-made Leopard 2 tanks it had already pledged.

Both sides in the war are widely expected to launch spring offensives though Washington has advised Ukraine against doing so until the latest weapons are in place and training has been provided - a process expected to take several months.

Russia said the US was "pumping weapons into Ukraine", which Moscow says does Washington's bidding, and chided President Joe Biden, saying he held the key to ending the conflict but had not used it. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy thanked allies for their support but renewed calls for tougher sanctions on Moscow and more weapons in the twelfth month of the war. Millions of Ukrainians faced electricity shortages after missile and drone strikes. Russia said the strikes focused on "facilities that operate Ukraine's defence industrial complex and transport system," and limited Ukraine's ability to repair hardware and transport arms provided by its allies. — Reuters

UK HOME SECRETARY PLANNING TO CUT POST-STUDY STUDENT VISA STAY

JANUARY 25

LONDON (TIP): British Home Secretary Suella Braverman is said to be on a collision course with the country's education department over plans to cut the period of stay allowed for overseas students under a post-study visa route, according to a UK media report on January 25. The new graduate visa route, which allows foreign graduates — including Indians — the chance to stay on to job hunt and gain work experience for up to two years without the requirement of a specific job offer, is expected to be cut under the proposed review. The Indian-origin home secretary has reportedly drawn up a plan to "reform" the Graduate Visa route requiring students to obtain a work visa by getting a skilled job or leave the UK after six months.— PTI

JANUARY 26

KYIV (TIP): Ukrainian officials said on January 24 that Russia launched a wave of missile and self-exploding drone attacks on the country.

Air raid sirens wailed nationwide. There were no immediate reports of the targets, but Kyiv's mayor said a Russian missile strike killed one person, the first death from an attack in the capital since New Year's Eve. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said two other people were injured in the strike.

The head of the Kyiv city administration said 15 cruise missiles were shot down. Serhii Popko said the missiles were fired "in the direction of Kyiv" but did not clarify if the capital itself was a target.

Odesa regional governor Maksym Marchenko reported that several facilities of energy infrastructure were damaged not just in the Odesa region, but other regions of Ukraine. That caused "significant problems with electricity supply." The attacks came after Germany and the United States announced Wednesday that they will send advanced battle tanks to Ukraine, offering what one expert called an "armored punching force" to help Kyiv break combat stalemates as the Russian



invasion enters its 12th month.

Germany said it would supply Ukraine with dozens of Leopard 2 tanks from European countries, while the US said it share Abrams M1 tanks.

Training for Ukrainian troops will begin in the coming days. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius said Ukrainian crews will start their

training on German-made Marders, which are infantry fighting vehicles, and training on the heavier Leopard 2 tanks would start "a little later." "In any case, the aim with the Leopards is to have the first company in Ukraine by the end of March, beginning of April," Pistorius added. "I can't say the precise day." (AP)

London Mayor issues high air pollution alert, calls to avoid car journeys

JANUARY 24

LONDON (TIP): Mayor of London Sadiq Khan issued a high air pollution alert for January 23 and called on Londoners "to be careful over the next few days" and avoid unnecessary car journeys.

The UK capital has experienced moderate air pollution since the weekend as a result of continuing cold, still, and foggy conditions creating poor dispersion of vehicle emissions.

Pollution alert messages will be displayed across the Transport for London (TfL) public transport network and schools in the city will also be notified as part of actions planned by the Mayor's office.

"On Tuesday, alongside the extreme cold temperatures we've been experiencing, we are also expecting high levels of air pollution," said Khan.

"We know how dangerous toxic air is for Londoners — that's why I'm doing everything in my power to tackle it," he said.

"We all need to be careful over the next few days. I'm urging Londoners to look



after each other by choosing to walk, cycle or take public transport where possible, avoiding unnecessary car journeys, stopping engine idling and not burning garden waste, all of which contributes to high levels of pollution. This is particularly important in order to protect those who are more vulnerable to high pollution," he added.

The London Mayor's air pollution forecasts are issued by Imperial College London as combined forecasts based on a number of public forecasts, including the government's Department for

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Meteorological Office.

The Mayor's office said London has the "world's largest air quality monitoring network", which provides free live and archived air quality data to anyone who wants it as well as supporting pollution forecasting and London's air quality alert service.

The Mayor said the latest alert shows why it's important to expand the capital's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) London-wide to reduce toxic air pollution in the city.

The ULEZ, targeting the most polluting vehicles with a daily surcharge, is set to be expanded London-wide from August this year as part of measures to clamp down on the city's air pollution.

Under the ULEZ scheme, introduced in 2019, drivers are charged 12.50 pounds to enter the area within London's north and south-circular orbital roads, to be applied to all London boroughs from later this year. (AP)

Germany agrees to provide Ukraine with Leopard tanks

JANUARY 25

BERLIN (TIP): After weeks of hesitation that saw growing impatience among Germany's allies, Chancellor Olaf Scholz announced on January 24 that his government would provide Ukraine with Leopard 2 battle tanks and approve requests by other nations to do the same.

In a statement, the government said it would initially provide Ukraine with one company of Leopard 2 A6 tanks, which comprises 14 vehicles, from its own stocks. The goal is for Germany and its allies to provide Ukraine with a total of two battalions, or 88 tanks.

Scholz said Germany was "acting in close coordination" with its allies.

The long-awaited decision came after US officials said a preliminary agreement had been struck for the United States to send M1 Abrams tanks to help Kyiv push back Russian forces entrenched in the east almost a year since the start of the war.

Scholz had insisted that any move to provide Ukraine with powerful Leopard 2 tanks would need to be closely coordinated with Germany's allies,



chiefly the United States.

Ekkehard Brose, head of the German military's Federal Academy for Security Policy, said tying the United States into the decision was crucial, to avoid Europe facing a nuclear-armed Russia alone.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov described German and US intentions with the tanks as a "a rather disastrous plan."

"I am convinced that many specialists understand the absurdity of this idea," Peskov told reporters.

The far-right Alternative for Germany called the decision "irresponsible and dangerous." The Left party, which also has historic links to Moscow, warned of a possible escalations in the ongoing conflict. — AP

Cargo ship sinks between South Korea and Japan; 2 dead, 8 missing

JANUARY 25

SEOUL (TIP): Ships searching in wind-whipped waters between South Korea and Japan have picked up at least 14 of the 22 crew members from a cargo vessel that sank early on January 24, killing at least two, officials said.

South Korean officials said nine of those rescued remain unconscious, but they did not immediately confirm any deaths. Ten crew members were later airlifted to Nagasaki in southern Japan for treatment, but two of them were confirmed dead on arrival, Japanese officials said.

South Korean and Japanese coast guard vessels and aircraft as well as two commercial cargo ships were continuing to search for the eight missing crew members but the efforts were being slowed by strong winds and waves, South Korean officials said.

The Japanese coast guard confirmed the rescue of at least 13 crew members and said five of them – all Chinese nationals – were still alive.

The 6,551-ton Jin Tian sank about 3 ½ hours after it sent a distress call around 11.15 pm on Tuesday in Japan's exclusive economic zone, Japanese coast guard spokesperson Shinya Kitahara said.

The vessel, which was Hong Kong registered and carrying lumber, sank



about 160 kilometres (100 miles) southwest of Nagasaki, Japan, and about 150 kilometres (93 miles) south of South Korea's Jeju island.

The captain last communicated with the coast guard through a satellite phone around 2.41 am, saying the crew would abandon the ship, minutes before it sank, Jeju island coast guard officials said.

Six crew members were picked up by South Korean coast guard vessels, while a cargo ship picked up five and Japanese aircraft picked up three, according to Jeju's coast guard.

Officials said 14 crew members are Chinese and eight are from Myanmar. According to maritime transport websites, the vessel left Malaysia's Port Klang on December 3 and was headed for South Korea's Incheon port.

The ship is owned by Long Bright Shipping Limited, a Hong Kong-registered company that is a subsidiary

of Shenzhen Shekou Shipping Transportation Co., Ltd., according to a July 2022 filing made by the parent company to China's National Equities Exchange and Quotations.

The filing says the Jin Tian was used as collateral for a loan that was later repaid.

Calls to a number listed for Shenzhen Shekou Shipping Transportation in mainland China went unanswered on Wednesday during the weeklong Lunar New Year holiday.

South Korean officials didn't immediately say whether the nine who were unconscious were likely to survive. They said the five other crew members who were rescued were either conscious when found or regained consciousness.

Kitahara said the cause of the ship's sinking was not immediately known and there were no signs that it collided with another vessel. He said the arrivals of Japanese patrol boats and aircraft were delayed by difficult weather.

Officials at Jeju's coast guard said a strong wind warning was issued for the area earlier on Wednesday but was later lifted. Winds were blowing at around 56 kilometres (35 miles) per hour, creating waves 3-4 metres (9-13 feet) high.

The Japanese coast guard said the water in the area remained rough with a temperature of 14 degrees Celsius (57 degrees Fahrenheit). (AP)

CANADA'S JOB VACANCIES DECLINED IN NOVEMBER 2022

JANUARY 27

OTTAWA (TIP): The number of job vacancies across all sectors in Canada decreased by 20,700 to 850,300 in November 2022, down from the peak of more than 1 million recorded in May 2022, the national statistical agency said. Statistics Canada said on January 26 that job vacancies decreased in the professional, scientific and technical services as well as the healthcare and social assistance sectors, reports Xinhua news agency.

Job vacancies were up in construction, and little changed in accommodation and food services, retail trade and manufacturing, according to the agency.

The job vacancy rate, which corresponds to the number of vacant positions as a proportion of total labour demand, was 4.8 per cent in November 2022, the lowest rate since June 2021, the agency said.

There were 1.2 unemployed persons for every job vacancy in November 2022, virtually unchanged since August, but up slightly from the low of 1.0 in June.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the unemployment-to-job vacancy ratio hovered around 2.2 from January 2019 to February 2020, Statistics Canada said. IANS

92% POPULATION IN BEIJING TO GET COVID BY JANUARY END: STUDY

JANUARY 24

HONG KONG (TIP): Around 92 per cent of the population in the Chinese capital of Beijing will have Covid by January 31, a new study published in peer-reviewed journal Nature Medicine has revealed.

Nearly 76 per cent of people in Beijing had contracted Covid-19 as of December 22.

It was expected to reach 92 per cent by January 31, according to researchers from the University of Hong Kong, reports South China Morning Post.

For the study, the researchers tracked the reproduction rate of Omicron variant BF.7 in Beijing in November and December, after China eased its zero-Covid policy.

There was a surge in cases across the country after the policy changes.

The study estimated that the reproduction rate jumped from 1.04 on November 11 to 3.44 a week later – meaning that "one person with the virus could infect 3.44 others".

Their modelling had shown an estimated peak of 1.03 million daily cases on December 11.

"Surveillance programmes should be rapidly set up to monitor the spread and evolution of Sars-CoV-2 infections, and further work should be done to track the transmissibility, incidence and infection rate of the epidemic," the

India in history this Week

JANUARY 27, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 2, 2023

27 JANUARY

2008 Bird flu spread in 13 districts of West Bengal.
 1974 President VV Giri dedicated the Nehru Memorial Museum at Teen Murti in New Delhi to the nation.
 1988 In 1988, the helicopter postal service was inaugurated for the first time.

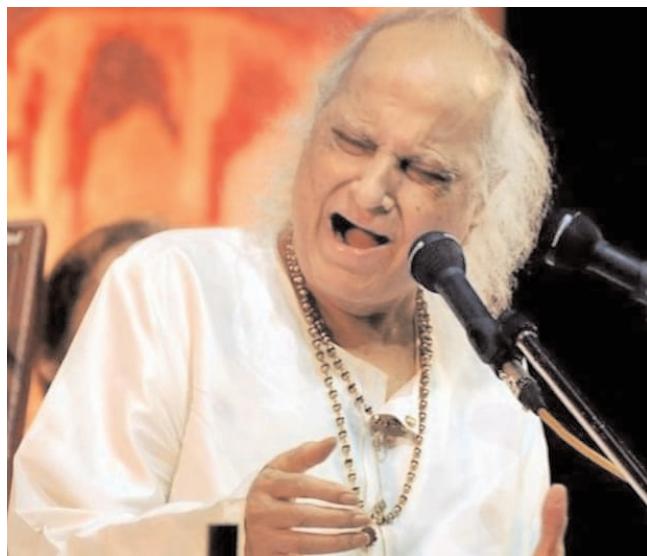


1922 Famous Indian actor Bharat Bhushan passed away in 1992.
 2009 The eighth President of India, R. Venkataraman (Ramaswamy Venkataraman) died in 2009.



28 JANUARY

2009 Calcutta Medical College started in West Bengal.
 1928 King Ramanna, the leading physicist of the country, was born.



1930 The classical singer Pandit Jasraj, who belonged to Mewati Gharana, was born.
 1999 Lamb was born from a protected embryo for the first time in India.

2007 Famous musician OP Nayyar died.



1961 The first factory of HMT watches was started in 1961 in Bangalore.
 1988 The former prime minister of India was given the death penalty in 1998 for the 26 accused in the 'Rajiv Gandhi murder case'.

29 JANUARY

1597 Maharana Pratap was born.

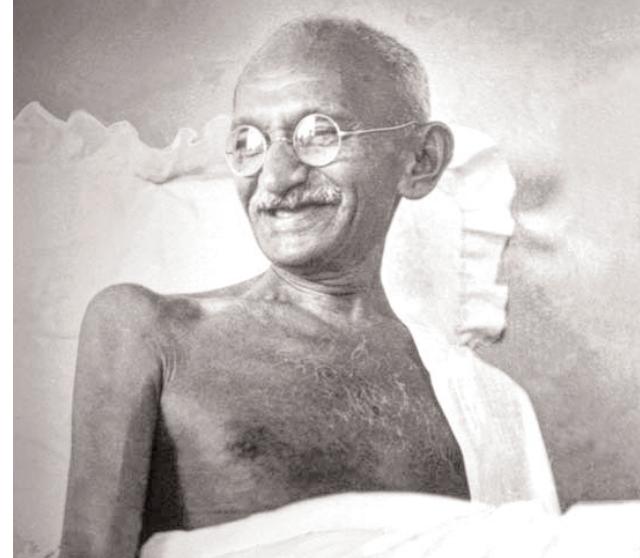


1780 India's first English newspaper Bengal Gazette was first published.
 1780 Publication of the country's first newspaper Hikki Gazette or Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser from Calcutta (now Kolkata) began.

1994 Government of India repealed the Air Corporation Act 1953.

30 JANUARY

1948 Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, was assassinated.



1530 Rana Sangram Singh of Mewar passed away.

31 JANUARY

1561 Bairam Khan, who played an important role in making the Mughal emperor deserving of a throne, was killed.
 1963 The peacock was declared the national bird of India in 1963.
 2007 Indian steel company Tata became the fifth largest company in the world in 2007 after the acquisition of Anglo Dutch steel company Corus.



1923 Birth of Major Somnath Sharma, the first braveheart to get 'Paramveer Chakra'.

01 FEBRUARY

1881 St. Stephen's College, the oldest college in Delhi, was established.



2003 Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian-American astronaut, died.
 1930 The Times published the crossword puzzle for the first time.

1977 Indian Navy Coast Guard is formed.

02 FEBRUARY

1814 Calcutta (now Kolkata) Museum established.



1915 Khushwant Singh, a well-known writer, poet and columnist of the country, was born.
 1952 India wins the first Test cricket in Madras.

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Benefits of oiling your hair

Oiling is perhaps the best thing you can do to your hair. In the long run, this practice is your key to healthier and stronger hair.

Natural goodness for hair

The first benefit is that natural hair oil, meaning the least processed, comes packed with several of the vitamins and micro-nutrients that are found in food. So hair oil is basically hair food.

Revitalises hair tissues

The second benefit of a hair oil massage is the way it penetrates the skin. A shampoo-conditioner, no matter how good its components, can't match the way hair oil goes deep into the skin and does its job revitalising the skin tissue.

Relaxing massage for healthy scalp

The third benefit of a thorough hair oil massage is that it boosts blood circulation in the scalp. The oil is spread evenly around the scalp, sending nutrients directly to all the hair roots.

Fights hair fall

Hair oil does the job of fighting hair fall and of aiding hair regrowth. Therefore, whether you've got a hair loss problem or not, you can use a hair thickening oil, and the results can only be good.

Tames frizz

Using hair oil is a great way to control frizzy hair. On days when your hair seems all out of control and frizzy, rub some hair oil on your



palms and run through the hair lightly. This will cause the frizz to settle immediately and also provide nourishment to the hair.

Tips for oiling your hair

- Ideally, your scalp should be clean for the hair oil to work really well.
- Wash hair with a degreasing shampoo and let the hair dry out completely.
- Then apply hair oil the same day or the next day (before dirt builds up again on the scalp).
- Massage the oil in gently for about 10 to 15 minutes but thoroughly, covering every inch of the scalp. If you can warm the hair oil slightly before applying, it will spread better.
- Leave this on for at least 3 hours before washing off. You could even leave the hair oil on overnight, if you're so inclined. Keeping it more than 24 hours will make the hair weak as it will start accumulating dirt.

Appreciate your partner openly

Who does not like to be appreciated? Human beings thrive on it, and even the tiniest of acknowledgements put wide smiles on our faces. When you are working day in and day out on your relationship, every once in a while it pays to let your partner know he's appreciated, rather than assuming he already knows it. Here's why.

It makes him happy

People enjoy doing things for others, and in a relationship, partners are no different. When your partner does something or thinks about the smallest detail for you, of course he is happy that he eased your work. This happiness will only multiply if you let him know how much it means to you. Just drop him a text on it, and see him grin away as he reads it.

He will reciprocate

When your partner realises that you thank him for every small aspect and always acknowledge his help, he will start appreciating similar things that you do for him. It will lead to a healthier and more communicative bond.

He will know his opinion matters

Factoring in his suggestions, asking him for ideas because you trust him, and valuing his inputs will provide him with the impetus to be more supportive. He



knows his thoughts matter to you and he will share them in an uninhibited manner.

It will make his day

It's not just about being grateful and showing it. It is also about looking at how he reacts to your gratitude. Leave him a note, send him a text, call him and surprise him in the middle of the day with these thank yous, and just see how his mood brightens up.

FOOD



Spring chicken

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil, 1 onion chopped, 500g boneless, skinless chicken thigh, 300g small new potato, 425ml low-salt vegetable stock (such as Kallo low-salt vegetable stock cubes), 350g broccoli, cut into small florets, 350g spring green, shredded, 140g petits pois, bunch spring onion, sliced, 2 tbsp pesto

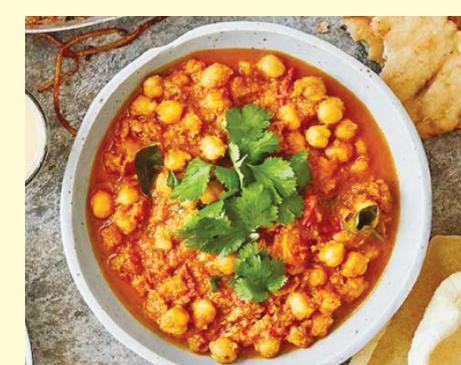
Method

- Heat the oil in a large, heavy pan.
- Add the onion, gently fry for 5 mins until softened, add the chicken, then fry until lightly coloured.
- Add the potatoes, stock and plenty of freshly ground black pepper, then bring to the boil.
- Cover, then simmer for 30 mins until the potatoes are tender and the chicken is cooked.
- Can be frozen at this point.
- Add the broccoli, spring greens, petit pois and spring onions, stir well, then return to the boil.
- Cover, then cook for 5 mins more, stir in the pesto and heat through.

Chana masala

Ingredients

800g canned chickpeas or 720g jar giant chickpeas, 3 onions, quartered, 3 garlic cloves, 5cm piece of ginger, 2-3 green chillies, roughly chopped, 1½ tbsp ghee, ½ tsp ground coriander, ½ tsp ground cumin, ½ tsp chilli powder (Kashmiri if possible), 1 tsp turmeric, 1 tsp garam masala, 1½ tsp amchoor powder (optional), 3 medium tomatoes, around 300g, roughly chopped, or 400g can chopped tomatoes, 1 lemon juiced, ½ small pack coriander leaves, to serve



Method

- Drain the chickpeas, add to a large pan with 400ml of water and season. Bring to the boil, then turn off the heat and set aside to allow the chickpea flavour to infuse the water.
- Blitz the onions with the garlic, ginger and green chillies. Melt the ghee in a large saucepan, then add the onion mix with a pinch of salt and cook for 8-10 mins, until softened.
- Stir in the spices, and cook for 3 more mins, adding a splash of the chickpea water to stop them sticking to the bottom of the pan. Add the tomatoes and another splash of water and cook for 5 mins, squishing the tomatoes with a spoon as they soften. Tip in the chickpeas, along with their cooking water. Cook for 10 mins. Season well, add the lemon juice, and a splash of water if you like a looser curry. Scatter with the coriander, to serve.

Vegan sources of calcium to maintain strong bones

Osteoporosis can make your bones weak and fragile so much so that even a mild fall is enough to fracture a bone or two. Osteoporosis-related fractures most commonly occur in the hip, wrist or spine. Maintaining a healthy weight, saying no to alcohol and tobacco, eating a balanced diet and staying active can prevent one from this disease.

A diet rich in calcium, magnesium, Vitamin K and zinc can help maintain bone health. Besides, regular exercise is important for improving bone density. According to recent statistics from the International Osteoporosis Foundation, worldwide, 1 in 3 women over the age of 50 years and 1 in 5 men will experience osteoporotic fractures in their lifetime. Symptoms of osteoporosis may not appear until a bone fracture occurs. Risk factors include age, being female, family history, low body weight, smoking, and excessive alcohol consumption.

"Osteoporosis continues to be a major and common health issue. Bones are made up of calcium and store 99% of the calcium in the body while the remaining only 1% is stored & utilised in blood, muscles, and tissues. If you are not getting calcium from your daily diet, your body pulls it from your bones to sustain other functions that are very important for immediate survival. Also, some amount of calcium is continually excreted in the urine. So, if your dietary intake does not compensate for what is lost, your bones will lose calcium over time, which will lead you to the risk of developing osteoporosis," says nutritionist Lovneet Batra in her recent Instagram post.

"Maintaining adequate calcium, which is at least 1,000 mg of calcium intake per day through dietary sources or supplements is widely regarded as a safe and effective strategy for the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis. However, too much calcium can also cause issues such as constipation, gas, and bloating.

Plant-based sources of calcium

Batra says dairy is often thought of as the only source of calcium as 1 cup of milk gives 290 mg of calcium, but there are also plenty of plant-based sources that should be a part of your vegan diet as all of them are packed



with several other nutrients needed to maintain healthy bones.

1. Your body needs magnesium to maintain bone health and not getting enough magnesium in your diet could increase your risk of developing osteoporosis.
2. Vitamin K is necessary for the function of proteins involved in bone formation and maintenance.
3. Zinc is needed for proper bone growth and maintenance, and it also promotes bone regeneration. Low levels of zinc have been associated with postmenopausal osteoporosis.

Top vegan sources of calcium

- 1 cup turnip greens = 200 mg of calcium
- 1 tbsp, sesame seeds = 146 mg of calcium
- 1 cup soy bean = 175 mg of calcium
- 1 cup mustard greens = 120 mg of calcium
- 1 cup okra = 120 mg of calcium

It is important to take care of your calcium intake along with vitamin D as it is necessary for maintaining strong bones, especially in older adults. It's important to get enough calcium through diet or supplements, especially during childhood and adolescence when bones are still developing.

Source: HT

Antidepressants may cause 'emotional blunting': Study

Common antidepressants can cause many users to feel emotionally 'blunted', according to a study that offers new insights into how the drugs work and their possible side-effects.

The research, published on Monday in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*, shows that the drugs affect reinforcement learning, an important behavioural process that allows us to learn from our environment.

A widely-used class of antidepressants, particularly for persistent or severe cases, is selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs). These drugs target serotonin, a chemical that carries messages between nerve cells in the brain and has been dubbed the 'pleasure chemical'.

One of the widely-reported side effects of SSRIs is 'blunting', where patients report feeling emotionally dull and no longer finding things as pleasurable as they used to, the researchers said.

Between 40-60 per cent of patients taking SSRIs are believed to experience this side effect, they said.

"Emotional blunting is a common side effect of SSRI antidepressants," said Professor Barbara Sahakian, senior author of the study from the University of Cambridge in the UK.

"In a way, this may be in part how they work -- they take away some of the emotional pain that people who experience depression feel, but, unfortunately, it seems that they also take away some of the enjoyment," Sahakian said.



The study shows that this is because people become less sensitive to rewards, which provide important feedback.

Most studies of SSRIs to date have only examined their short term use, but, for clinical use in depression these drugs are taken chronically, over a longer period of time.

Researchers at Cambridge in collaboration with the University of Copenhagen, Denmark recruited healthy volunteers who were administered escitalopram, an SSRI known to be one of the best-tolerated, over several weeks.

Source: PTI



Study finds how pembrolizumab helps in cervical cancer treatment

Chemotherapy and pembrolizumab have been approved for the treatment of women with metastatic, recurring, or persistent cervical cancer whose tumours express PD-L1. Chemotherapy can be administered with or without bevacizumab. Whether pembrolizumab in this combination provides patients with an added benefit in contrast to other treatments has now been investigated by the German Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Healthcare (IQWiG) in an early benefit evaluation.

According to the findings, there is a hint of major added benefit for pembrolizumab when it is used as first-line therapy in patients who have not yet been treated with chemotherapy. The added benefit was shown in patients for whom chemotherapy with cisplatin or carboplatin - in each case plus paclitaxel with or without bevacizumab - has so far been the suitable therapy of physician's choice.

First early benefit assessment for the therapeutic indication of cervical cancer According to the Robert Koch Institute, around 4,575 women in Germany were diagnosed with cervical cancer in 2019. About 1,600 women die from this disease every year.

Pembrolizumab is a monoclonal antibody which is used to treat many cancers. Since this year, it has also been approved for the treatment of women with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer whose tumours express PD-L1 - in combination with chemotherapy with or without bevacizumab.

The Federal Joint Committee (G-BA) now commissioned IQWiG to conduct a dossier assessment of pembrolizumab for this therapeutic indication, specifying treatment of physician's choice as the appropriate comparator therapy. The G-BA distinguished between two options of use: for first-line therapy and after first-line chemotherapy, if further drug treatment of the cancer is an option Hint of major added benefit in first-line therapy In its dossier on pembrolizumab for advanced cervical cancer, the drug manufacturer submitted data from the KEYNOTE-826 study - an ongoing, randomized, double-blind study.

Source: ANI

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Worst impacts of sea level rise will hit earlier than thought: Study

The biggest increases in inundation will occur after the first two metres of sea level rise, covering more than twice as much land as older elevation models predicted, according to a study.

The current models of sea level rise suggest the most widespread impacts will occur after sea level has risen by several metres. The study, published in the journal *Earth's Future*, used high-resolution measurements of land elevation from NASA's ICESat-2 lidar satellite, launched in 2018, to improve upon models of sea level rise and inundation.

Previous assessments typically relied on radar-based data, which are less precise, the researchers said. "Radar is unable to fully penetrate vegetation and therefore overestimates surface elevation," said Ronald Vernimmen, a researcher at the research firm Data for Sustainability in The Netherlands.

Many coastal areas are lower than scientists thought they were. The underestimates of land elevation mean coastal communities have less time to prepare for sea level rise than expected, with the biggest impacts of rising seas occurring earlier than previously thought.

The researchers found that after those first few metres of sea level rise, the rate at which land area falls below mean sea level decreases.

They started using these more accurate measurements of land elevation when he realised that existing land elevation estimates were not suitable for quantifying coastal flooding risk.

Using the new measurements of land elevation, Vernimmen and study co-author Aljosja Hooijer found coastal areas lie much lower than older radar data had suggested. Analyses of the new Lidar-based elevation model showed two metres of sea-level rise would cover up to 2.4 times the land area as observed by radar-based elevation models.

Source: PTI

Jeff Bezos' girlfriend prepares for all-female flight on Blue Origin mission

Lauren Sanchez, girlfriend of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, can soon be known as the first person to lead an all-woman space mission on Blue Origin.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal, she revealed that Bezos is encouraging her to put together a five-member female crew to fly on a Blue Origin rocket to space.

The Emmy-winning TV host-turned-helicopter pilot became a well known name when her relationship with the Amazon founder was made public in January 2019.

"It's going to be women who are making a difference in the world and who are impactful and have a message to send," Sanchez was quoted as saying.



"I'm going to have to hold him (Bezos) back. He'll be cheering us all on from the sidelines," she added.

Apart from recreational flights, the Bezos-founded private space company has performed missions for NASA that include taking up scientific equipment.

Blue Origin last year successfully launched its fifth tourist flight to space.

Six people were carried to space above the Karman line—an internationally recognised boundary of space that lies 62 miles (100 km) above the Earth's surface—in a typical 11-minute flight.

The flight was the 21st overall for Blue Origin and New Shepard. It was the second crewed flight for the company this year, following NS-20, which launched and landed on March 31, 2022.

WhatsApp rolls out new shortcuts for group admins on iOS San

Meta-owned messaging platform WhatsApp has reportedly rolled out some new shortcuts for group admins to quickly and easily perform actions for a certain group participant, on iOS.

The new shortcuts simplify interactions with group members as now the platform supports large groups of up to 1024 participants, reports WABetainfo.

The new update will help group admins to quickly manage and communicate with such a large number of participants in private.

The feature is available for all users that install the latest update of WhatsApp for iOS from the App Store.

With the new update, the phone numbers are now highlighted in group events when group participants join or leave a group and group admins can easily interact with them.

If admins tap and hold a phone number, they can use new shortcuts that include the ability to quickly call and chat with participants in private and they can also add group participants to their contacts book and copy their phone numbers.

"This feature can save group admins a significant amount of time as they no longer need to navigate through the group info screen to find contact information," the report said.

Meanwhile, last week, it was reported that the messaging platform was rolling out a new 'voice status updates' feature on iOS beta, which will allow users to share voice notes via status updates.

Microsoft shutting down VR platform AltspaceVR

Microsoft has announced plans to shut down its social virtual reality platform AltspaceVR, which offered immersive social spaces for people to interact with friends and colleagues as 3D avatars.

In 2017, Microsoft stepped in and acquired the platform after AltspaceVR decided to shut it down, and now the company said it will shut down the service on March 10, 2023.

The tech giant will shift its focus to support immersive experiences powered by Microsoft Mesh (a platform which enables presence and shared experiences from anywhere -- on any device -- through mixed reality applications).

"With Mesh, we aspire to build a platform that offers the widest opportunity to all involved, including creators, partners and customers," Microsoft said in a blogpost.

"We look forward to what is to come, including our



launch of Microsoft Mesh, a new platform for connection and collaboration, starting by enabling workplaces around the world," it added.

Moreover, the company mentioned, in the near term, it will be focusing its VR efforts on workplace experiences, learning from and alongside its early customers and partners, and ensuring that it delivers a foundation that enables security, trust and compliance.

The news of the shutdown comes after Microsoft confirmed it would lay off 10,000 employees through the end of March.

Higher priced subscription for ad-free Twitter

Twitter Boss Elon Musk has announced that a higher-priced subscription to the microblogging platform with no ads will be available in the coming weeks.

"Ads are too frequent on Twitter and too big. Taking steps to address both in coming weeks," Musk tweeted.

"Also, there will be a higher-priced subscription that allows zero ads," he added.

Moreover, a Twitter user known as "The Rabbit Hole" commented on Musk's tweet, asking, "Can individual users opt to monetise accounts through ads? Currently, advertisers reach out individually to users; creating a solution integrated with the platform will let Twitter take a cut and give creators a pathway to monetising our content". To which Musk replied: "Maybe there's a way to do this by placing an ad below tweet details".

Meanwhile, fighting hard to stay afloat, Twitter offered a new incentive to skeptical advertisers where the micro-blogging platform will match advertisers' ad spending up to \$250,000.

Google says will allow users in India to choose default search engine on Android phones

After failing to get a court order to block an antitrust ruling, Google on Wednesday said it will allow users in India to choose default search engine on Android-based smartphones.

Last week, the Supreme Court refused a stay a Competition Commission of India (CCI) order slapping a Rs 1,337.76 crore fine on Google for exploiting its dominant position of its popular Android operating system, which powers 97 per cent of around 60 crore smartphones in India.

CCI imposed another Rs 936 crore penalty on the US tech giant in a case related to its Play Store policies.

"We take our commitment to comply with local laws and regulations in India seriously. The CCI's recent directives for Android and Play require us to make significant changes for India, and today we've informed the CCI of how we will be complying with their directives," Google said in a blog.

US economy slowed but still grew at 2.9% rate last quarter

The US economy expanded at a 2.9% annual pace from October through December, ending 2022 with momentum despite the pressure of high interest rates and widespread fears of a looming recession.

Thursday's, (January 26) estimate from the Commerce Department showed that the nation's gross domestic product — the broadest gauge of economic output — decelerated last quarter from the 3.2% annual growth rate it had posted from July through September. Most economists think the economy will slow further in the current quarter and slide into at least a mild recession by midyear.

The economy got a boost last quarter from resilient consumer spending and the restocking of supplies by businesses. Federal government spending also helped lift GDP. But with higher mortgage rates undercutting residential real estate, investment in housing plummeted at a 27% annual rate for a second straight quarter.

For all of 2022, GDP expanded 2.1% after growing 5.9% in 2021.

The economy's expected slowdown in the months ahead is an intended consequence of the Federal Reserve's aggressive series of rate increases. The Fed's hikes are meant to reduce growth, cool spending and crush the worst inflation bout in four decades.

As Big Tech is firing employees by thousands, what is driving layoffs and how worried should we be

DURHAM (TIP)

Tech companies are always in the news, usually touting the next big thing. However, the tech news cycle recently hasn't been dominated by the latest gadget or innovation. Instead, layoffs are in the headlines.

In the last year, more than 70,000 people globally have been laid off by Big Tech companies – and that doesn't count the downstream effect of contractors (and other organisations) losing business as budgets tighten.

What exactly led to this massive shakeout? And what does it mean for the industry, and you?

What's the damage?

Since the end of the pandemic hiring spree, large numbers of employees have been fired from major tech companies, including Alphabet (12,000 employees), Amazon (18,000), Meta (11,000), Twitter (4,000), Microsoft (10,000) and Salesforce (8,000). Other household names share the spotlight, including Tesla, Netflix, Robin Hood, Snap, Coinbase and Spotify - but their layoffs are significantly less than those mentioned above.

Importantly, these figures don't include the downstream layoffs, such as advertising agencies laying off staff as ad spend reduces, or manufacturers downsizing as tech product orders shrink – or even potential layoffs yet to come.

And let's not forget the folks leaving voluntarily because they don't want to

India a 'bright spot' in world economy right now: Top UN economist

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

India is a "bright spot" in the world economy currently and is on a "strong footing", projected to grow at 6.7 per cent next year, a very high growth rate relative to other G20 member countries, a top UN economist said.

These remarks were made by the Chief of the Global Economic Monitoring Branch, Economic Analysis and Policy Division, UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs Hamid Rashid.

"I think India is a bright spot in the world economy right now," Rashid said at a press conference here Wednesday at the launch of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2023 report.

The flagship report said that India's GDP is projected to moderate to 5.8 per cent in 2023 as higher interest rates and global economic slowdown weigh on investment and exports.

India's economic growth is expected to remain "strong" even as prospects for other South Asian nations "are more challenging." India is projected to grow at 6.7 per cent in 2024, the fastest-growing major economy in the world.

Rashid said, "we believe the Indian economy is on a strong footing given the strong domestic demand in the near term." Noting that India's economic growth is expected to pick up in 2024 to 6.7 per cent, he said this is "very high growth relative to other G20 member countries."

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union. "This is a sustainable growth rate for India. India also has a significant number of people living in poverty. So this would be a great boost. If India can sustain this growth rate in the near term, that would be good for the Sustainable Development Goals, good for poverty reduction globally," Rashid said.



Responding to a question on the Indian economy, Rashid, who is the lead author of the report, attributed three factors to India's current economic strength.

He said India's unemployment rate has come down significantly in the last four years to 6.4 per cent and is lower than what it was around 2017. "That means the domestic demand has been pretty strong," he said.

India's inflation pressure also has "eased quite significantly" and it is expected to be about 5.5 per cent this year and 5 per cent in 2024.

Rashid said this means that the country's central bank would not have to aggressively go for monetary tightening.

The third factor benefitting India is that its import bills have been lower, "especially energy import cost has been lower than in the previous years. That has also helped India's growth prospect in 2022 and 2023," he said.



come into the office, hate their managers, or aren't keen on Elon Musk's "hardcore work" philosophy.

The knock-on effects of all of the above will be felt in the consulting, marketing, advertising and manufacturing spaces as companies reduce spending, and redirect it towards innovating in AI.

So what's driving the layoffs?

The canary in the coal mine was reduced advertising spend and revenue. Many tech companies are funded through advertising. So, for as long as that income stream was healthy (which was especially the case in the years leading up to COVID), so was expenditure on staffing. As advertising revenue decreased last year – in part due to fears over a global recession triggered by the pandemic – it was inevitable layoffs would follow.

Apple is one exception. It strongly resisted increasing its head count in recent years and as a result doesn't have to shrink staff numbers (although it hasn't been

immune to staff losses due to work-from-home policy changes).

What does it mean for consumers?

Although the headlines can be startling, the layoffs won't actually mean a whole lot for consumers. Overall, work on tech products and services is still expanding.

Even Twitter, which many predicted to be dead by now, is looking to diversify its streams of revenue.

That said, some pet projects such as Mark Zuckerberg's Metaverse likely won't be further developed the way their leaders had initially hoped. The evidence for this is in the layoffs, which are concentrated (at least at Amazon, Microsoft and Meta) in these big innovation gambles taken by senior leaders.

Over the past few years, low interest rates coupled with high COVID-related consumption gave leaders the confidence to invest in innovative products. Other than in AI, that investment is now slowing, or is dead.

And what about the people who lost their jobs? Layoffs can be devastating for the individuals affected. But who is affected in this case?

For the most part, the people losing their jobs are educated and highly employable professionals. They are being given severance packages and support which often exceed the minimum legal requirements. Amazon, for example, specifically indicated its losses would be in tech staff and those who support them; not in warehouses.

Boeing plans to hire 10,000 workers in 2023 as it increases jetliner production

Boeing expects to hire 10,000 workers in 2023 as it recovers from the pandemic and increases jetliner production, but will trim some support jobs, the U.S. planemaker said Friday, January 27.

The Arlington, Virginia-based company boosted overall employment by about 14,000 workers in 2022 to 156,000 as of Dec. 31, up from about 142,000 in 2021. Boeing employs about 136,000 workers in the United States.

Boeing acknowledged it will "lower staffing within some support functions" - a move meant to enable it to better align resources to support current products and technology development. It declined to comment on how many jobs it will cut in 2023.

Most of the growth will occur in Boeing's business units, as well as engineering and manufacturing, to meet airlines' growing demand.

The company plans to increase deliveries of the 737 MAX from 374 aircraft in 2022 to between 400 to 450 planes this year, with deliveries of the 787 expected to hit between 70 and 80 aircraft.

European rival Airbus said this week it plans to add 13,000 employees this year. About 7,000 of those jobs are set to be newly created positions, with about 9,000 of the new hires based in Europe.

Boeing did not comment on how many net new jobs would be created in the United States in 2023.

Source: Reuters

Shree Ganeshaya Namah



ARIES : Ganesha says that the first half of this month is going to be a struggle for the people of Aries. There may be some obstacles in the finished works. In this case, act carefully. It will be fine for those working in partnership to handle money-related matters in the right way. During this, one has to be especially careful of the secret enemies. Spend money wisely, otherwise, there may be financial problems. In the second half of the month, conditions will gradually start becoming favourable, due to which self-confidence will increase. During this, keep control over the problems coming in financial matters, otherwise you can get into more trouble. With the help of a senior, there will be a success in solving property-related disputes. Talking about married life, there may be some problems in the first half of the month. During this, instead of dispute, try to handle the situation through dialogue. However, by the middle of the month, the situation will become somewhat normal and there will be an increase in conjugal happiness and cooperation between husband and wife. During this, there will be strength in love relations. Will get opportunities to spend time with family. You will have to take great care of your stomach this month, otherwise health problems related to the digestive system may emerge. The mind will also be worried about the health of the father.



TAURUS : Ganesha says that this month will prove to be mixed for you. At the beginning of the month, where there will be progress in your career business and you can get much-awaited promotion, whereas in the middle of the month, due to excessive work, both physical and mental fatigue will remain. During this time, you will have to maintain patience and courage while handling important tasks. At the same time, you have to avoid taking any big decisions by being misled by someone. New acquaintances will increase in the social sector in the second week of the month. In the second half of the month, some difficulties may be faced in the workplace. People associated with a business will need to make positive improvements in their behavior. Avoid doing distant losses for nearby gains. During this, sign any paper carefully. The beginning of the month will prove to be auspicious from the point of view of love affairs. Where happiness will remain in the married life of married people, there will be strength in love relations. At the beginning of the month, you can go on an outing with your spouse or love partner. In the second half of the month, there will be a big concern regarding the child side. During this time, the mind of the students may get distracted from studies.



GEMINI : Ganesha says that in the beginning of the month itself, there will be chances of profit from various sources for the people of Gemini. Obstacles in career business will be removed. Only by making a little effort, the already stalled works will gain momentum. Hastiness has to be avoided in the middle of the month. During this time your opponents may try to bring you down, however, they will not be able to succeed in it. Employed people should try to improve their working style. During this, for success in tasks, you have to do smart work along with hard work. Take the decision of buying and selling land and building very carefully. At the beginning of this month, positive changes will be seen in your love relationship. Misunderstandings will be cleared with the help of a female friend and the relationship with the love partner will be strengthened. Marital happiness will increase. Avoid unnecessary interference of others in personal life. Keep your daily routine organized and engage your mind in worshiping God.



CANCER: Ganesha says that the beginning of the month will prove to be very auspicious for the Cancerians. In the beginning of the month, there is a possibility of desired promotion or transfer for employed people. The money stuck in the market of occupation people will come out unexpectedly. New sources of income will be created. Any stalled work can be completed with the help of close friends. However, you will always have to be careful about your personal honor and reputation. You may have to go on a long-distance journey in the middle of the month. During this, you have to have complete control over your speech, otherwise, your work in progress may get spoiled. You will have to take full care of your mother's health along with your health this month. There may be complaints of pain in the joints of the body. A plan to buy or sell property can be made in the second half of the month. Do not forget to take the opinion of a senior while taking any major decision. There will be intensity in love relations and mutual coordination with a love partner will be good. Positive behavior with relatives will increase.



LEO : Ganesha says that the month is going to open new doors of good fortune for the people of the Leo zodiac. At the beginning of the month, those working abroad may get an opportunity to work in a big scheme or a new source of profit will be created. During this, harmony and cooperation with family members will increase. Money can be spent on amenities. Vehicle happiness can also be attained. In the middle of the month, some big religious work can be done with the family. If you want to buy or sell any land or house, then the second half of the month will be better for this. During this, keep pace with your closest associates. People working in business will be likely to get general benefits. Take health-related problems seriously and try to solve them soon. Move ahead in love relationships respecting each other's feelings, otherwise, there may be a knot in the string of love. Move ahead by solving family problems one by one and make time for your life partner.



VIRGO : Ganesha says that this month is going to be full of ups and downs for the people of Virgo. At the beginning of the month, you may face opposition from colleagues in the workplace. During this, you will have to try to prove your work by working with diplomacy. Overall, try to change your working style. Don't take any big decisions by being misled by people and have full faith in yourself. People associated with the art world will have to leave laziness and take full advantage of the opportunity, otherwise, nothing will be left except regret when things go out of hand. This month, you will have to solve some problems coming into married life with a calm mind. In the middle of the month, you need to keep things clear and avoid any confusion. However, in the second half of the month, the conditions will become favorable for you and the harmony between husband and wife will start increasing. The pre-existing dilemmas in love relationships will end. Trust in each other will increase. Do not ignore health-related problems even by mistake. Stay away from drugs etc. and do exercise and meditation daily. Participating in religious activities will also give peace of mind.



LIBRA : Ganesha says that the people of the Libra zodiac will need to be more alert and positive in the first half of the month. At the beginning of the month, secret enemies may conspire to sabotage your plans. You must rely on your own wits and strategy to overcome any difficult challenge. At the same time, you have to keep your strategy a secret. In the middle of the month, success will be possible only after working hard. During this time there will be a lack of confidence within you and you will be somewhat confused while taking any major decision. Take such a big decision only on the advice of a well-wisher or postpone it for some time. Avoid taking the risk of investing huge capital in a scheme. This month, your love affairs may get noticed by someone. Single people will not get the desired love during this period and for this, you may have to make a lot of effort. People who are already in a love relationship may have misunderstandings about something with their love partner. However, by the third week of the month, the mutual differences will be resolved to some extent and once again your love partner will start getting attracted to you. To maintain sweetness in married life, avoid ignoring the feelings of your spouse.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says that at the beginning of this month, the people of the Scorpio zodiac will have to leave laziness and try to complete all the tasks on time, only then there will be chances of getting the desired success in the works, otherwise, the work made may also get stuck. Businessmen may face some difficulties in getting the money stuck in the market. It will be beneficial to settle a big matter outside the court. In the second week of the month, misunderstandings may arise with siblings or friends regarding something. During this, do not forget to neglect old friends in the affair of new friends. In the middle of the month, once again time



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

Shree Ganeshaya Namah

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

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JANUARY 30TH TO FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023



ARIES : Ganesha says, this week, the seventh sector of your horoscope is in crucial equilibrium, signaling happiness in your kids' education. Additionally, you'll be utterly happy with what you've achieved so far in this. This week, you could not be in the right state of mind to make important choices, which could provide a little obstacle. You will be let down by the Saturn influence because there is a risk that you may dispute with an individual who holds special importance for you. Give oneself permission to worry a bit about things, but this week is a hopeful one for you.



TAURUS : Ganesha says, you will need to change some things on your schedule. You won't have any trouble doing it this week, though. You'll feel energized and improved this week. Technology innovation will also be on the schedule this week. You won't be able to express your thoughts more honestly. Which will be a benefit this week. The turbulent situation in love will eventually give place to serenity. Maintain a healthy diet and imbibe this week since you could develop a headache or fever. Maintain a positive outlook; the week is your own.



GEMINI : Ganesha says, you're going to close the divide inside of yourself. last week. Any problem you encounter in life will have a remedy. This week, the folks in your vicinity will stop giving you bad vibes. You'll have a terrific time if you're a native Gemini. last week. You'll notice this week that you're becoming a touch too hard on oneself, which will hurt a bit. Your family will try to get you to get married quickly, but if you clarify why, they will understand. Although the condition of your wellbeing may momentarily deteriorate, this will pass quickly.



CANCER : Ganesha says, this week, you will be in command of almost all of it. You'll find joy in the tiniest activities this week. You will be free of Shani's evil power this week, so be ready to embrace joy. Your tolerance will be pushed to the limit this week, and you'll probably be disappointed. You'll need to practice restraint this week. This week, your spouse can feel nervous but not express it, so you should show them even more love and care. Your wellness needs additional consideration. Take extra attention of oneself this week since you could be more bothered by your migraine and back discomfort.



LEO : Ganesha says, Individuals who have ignored you in the past will get in touch with you this week. "The week is ideal for forging social connections and mending broken ones. While stretching yourself a bit won't make you any weaker, it will give you one more spot in the world to turn to when things become tough. You'll feel rather lethargic this week. You'll be working pretty slowly this week. You will engage in communal activities with your life companion, which will enable you to better appreciate your compassionate nature. If you're trying to find your life partner this week, don't rush into a potentially dangerous connection.



VIRGO : Ganesha says, this week, you will interpret things entirely differently since you will possess a fresh outlook on things. Sagittarius and Aries-born individuals will also support you. You could feel a little bit worn out this week since it will take you longer than normal to do all of your chores. The best time to bring up wedding with your partner is this week. You could feel that the time isn't right, but don't feel worried; become a great companion. This week, your condition will significantly improve.



LIBRA : Ganesha says, your opponents will think you are a true manager. the conference this week. You'll avoid getting furious at situations, and this anger control will enable you to seal many successful commercial deals. Additionally, you'll start to like the work you formerly hated. This week, you might be coping with a little medical issue that will put you on your toes for a bit. Ensure that you take care of yourself. Your partnership will have a little hiccup this week. This week, you'll need to take additional precautions with your wellness.



SCORPIO : Ganesha says, he will bless you abundantly this week. You'll formally swear to uphold certain duties. You'll get the confidence to undertake opportunities this week. Have faith in your actions to establish the atmosphere for the remainder of the week. Someone you thought you could trust will probably deceive you. This week, be careful not to divulge any private details to anyone. Your connection will be OK this week since you'll feel competitive with your companion. This week, there won't be any concerns about your wellness.



SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says, your wellness will improve greatly last week. Your energies will be recharged. You'll also give your confidence a new lease of life. You'll get more confident in your job. This week, all of your uncertainties will vanish. This week, you'll make a decision based on overconfidence, which will have unfavorable effects. Your connection facades will be OK this week, and you won't have any significant disagreements with your spouse. Regarding your wellness, you must exercise extreme caution when the environment changes.



CAPRICORN : Ganesha says, somebody will give you several amazing suggestions this week. You'll be energized by the energy this week. You'll accomplish better than in the past. Children born underneath this sign have a great week to participate in athletics this week. You'll need to be more conscious of your uncontrollable feelings. this week. Due to the moon's waning aspect, your capacity to make your companion think great about themselves will be limited this week, thus your connection will only require little effort. You'll be in good condition. Do not be concerned this week.



AQUARIUS : Ganesha says, you will be happy that this week will allow you to devote additional leisure with your household. You'll have a good week altogether this week. The favorable passage of Saturn this week will also help you. This week, your faith in destiny is going to be dashed. Try to read any religious book or conduct Katha this week. As they work to draw out the finest in you, your partner will showcase a new side of you. You will be capable of delivering this week what your relatives have been waiting for from you for a prolonged period. Set up regular appointments as soon as your condition demands further care.



PISCES : Ganesha says, you could make this week memorable. Consider showing some kindness this week. You'll treat yourself with the greatest respect. You will come across as smart and clever due to your drive to participate in things. It's possible that you won't be ready to finish all of your to-do list this week, which will increase your burden going forward. In addition, strive to adhere to your rest routine as precisely as you can because insufficient slumber might harm your wellness. Some disagreements at home could result in a little fight but things will turn out great by the end of the week. Don't let it worry you. Everybody should unwind.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JANUARY 30TH TO FEBRUARY 5TH, 2023

BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

January 30

Ganesha says your friends and family will be spellbound with your kindness in addition to being entranced by you. Favors from the government and judiciary are favorable in the upcoming time. Your life will take on a fresh and intriguing turn if a person of the opposing sex suddenly enters it. Avoid strangers who are overly pleasant and give everyone the benefit of doubt when they ask you for short-term loans or financial aid. Long-standing disagreements will be resolved, and significant relationships will play a significant part in enhancing your financial situation.

January 31

Ganesha says you will constantly have confidence in yourself and rely significantly on the choices you make for yourself. You'll be in good financial shape and won't need parental encouragement. Action speaks louder than words, which implies your actions speak for you. There will be happiness at home, but you might feel the strain of slight variations in other people's health. Even if you might have to spend more time by yourself, the prospect of an office affair will help you feel better. It's time to capitalize on your openness and clear concentration. You might make a good counselor.

February 1

Ganesha says you can modify your behavior to fit the circumstance. You spend too much time

working at your boring job, leaving you with little time to pursue your goals. You have a strong desire for acceptance, and you will make plans to achieve your goals. Before it's too late, you need to mould your family's pessimistic outlook into a different shape. Your loved ones' love and affection for you will increase daily. You might need to get your health checked again if your medication is lopsided. You constantly ask yourself what more you could be doing to make your relationship more passionate.

February 2

Ganesha says you will constantly want a respectable, prosperous existence and want to carve out a space for yourself in both society and the job. To achieve all of your goals and aspirations in life, you must work tirelessly and continuously. Money and property-related matters will go well in the upcoming time. By adding a second source of income or a family member who will help you out, you would be able to boost your possessions. Your position will be upgraded, and you'll receive a generous compensation package.

February 3

Ganesha says on crucial matters, you are encouraged not to put your faith in others. It won't be to your best advantage to divulge private details. A spiritual person's rapid influence will cause significant alteration in your life. Your partner and family will be understanding of your worries and

show you love and affection. Long distance travel, even overseas travel for some, will yield positive results. You will need to take on greater responsibility for critical tasks at work due to the environment.

February 4

Ganesha says everyone will be charmed by your captivating nature. You must present your finest self in your field of endeavor. The energy graph displayed a declining trend before abruptly rising. Your business plan's ideas and opinions will probably make your wallet bigger. Be mindful of any additional costs you may incur. You will advance if you maintain a conversation about your company. You can experience some pressure to maintain your personal relationships. You've always believed in using your freedom to uplift and bless others.

February 5

Ganesha says you will be about to go on an adventure that has been in your dreams for a long time. You are a useful and successful resource for your business. Wherever you go, your staff will always be pleased with you. When you talk to your blood relations, you need to be open and expressive. All types of resentments between family members will be avoided by this action. Your sensible and practical outlook will serve as a model for others. You have a strong affection for destitute and poor folks.

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Horoscope for the month of Feb 2023

will turn, and you will get the help of both seniors and juniors in the workplace. New sources of income will be created with the help of a friend. People associated with politics can get some big responsibility till the second half of the month. However, avoid traveling long distances during this time. If it is very important, then take special care of your health and belongings, etc. during the journey because during this time you can become a victim of seasonal diseases. In such a situation, take special care of food and your body. Your attraction towards the opposite sex will increase this month. The dream of getting the desired life partner or love partner can be fulfilled. Relatives can stamp marriage on love affairs. Sweetness will remain in married life and there will be plenty of opportunities to spend happy moments with your spouse.

SAGITTARIUS : Ganesha says that this month will be very hectic for Sagittarius. This month you will have to come forward to discharge many responsibilities. The beginning of the month can be a struggle for you. During this time, problems can increase due to the emergence of differences among family members. Be aware of social honor and prestige. Avoid doing distant losses for nearby gains. Try to solve matters related to land building with the help of a senior. By doing this, you will definitely get the right success late. In the middle of the month, most of the youth's time will be spent in fun. This time will not be auspicious for the students preparing for higher education. There may be obstacles in their studies. Your study work may also get hampered due to health problems. Work honestly with your heart in the workplace. People associated with business will get benefits from taking strategic decisions. In terms of health, in this month, the people

of Sagittarius may have to face problems like physical fatigue or weakness and insomnia. Take careful steps in love affairs, otherwise you may become a victim of defamation. Avoid getting misled by others. Spouse will remain with you in difficult times of life. Mutual happiness and harmony will increase between husband and wife.



Capricorn

CAPRICORN : Ganesha says that the beginning of the month will be a bit more struggle for the people of Capricorn. During this, many ongoing works can get stuck. Beloved, the mind will be upset due to not being able to keep pace with friends. Avoid flirting or loose talk with anyone in the office, otherwise, someone can turn your words into sesame seeds by applying chili spices.

During this, the students who are preparing for the examination competition will have to do their preparation with a concentrated mind. Compared to the first half, the second half can be a bit respite. However, during this time also have to be extremely careful in matters of money. Before signing any paper in the field, do read it properly once. Be it a love affair or a married life, avoid bringing ego into your mind. If there is a possibility of going two steps forward by taking one step back, then feel free to do so. Do not ignore the feelings of the spouse at all. Father's health can be a matter of great concern for you this month. In the last week of the month, you may see unexpected progress in your career or business. During this, there will be chances of profit from the ruling party as well.



Aquarius

AQUARIUS : Ganesha says that the conditions will be somewhat favorable for the people of Aquarius in the first half of the month. There will be chances of getting the tasks that were already stopped. However, in the latter, your struggle to achieve your goal may increase. However, in the second week of the month, new acquaintances will be made in the social sector. There

will be unexpected, desired progress in career business. People associated with government jobs can get a stuck promotion. During this time more money can be spent out of pocket on things of comfort. In the middle of the month, you have to control both your behavior and speech. During this, you have to avoid pride and anger, otherwise, you may have to face a big loss. In terms of love affairs, the second half of the month can be more challenging than the first half. During this, a third person may try to create a rift between you and your love partner. This time cannot be called very good even for married people. During this time there can be a rift with the spouse regarding something. During this, along with the health of your spouse, you will have to take special care of your health as well, otherwise, you may have to go to the hospital.



Pisces

PISCES : Ganesha says that the people of Pisces will get the support of seniors in the workplace, and they will be able to complete their goals on time. During this, health will be almost fine. Success in tasks will increase morale.

More interest in religious acts will increase due to which mental peace will be experienced. In the second week of the month, you can also go on a pilgrimage with your family. In the middle of the month, avoid trusting anyone blindly, and instead of taking any big decision suddenly, take it very carefully. In the second half of the month, you have to keep your lifestyle right, otherwise, your health may deteriorate. During this, there will be a need to avoid seasonal diseases. Any old disease can also emerge. There is a need to be very cautious about love affairs this month. There can be a rift in your relationship on some small matter. This month, avoid taking any decision or making any promise by being carried away by emotions, otherwise, you may get into trouble later. Mutual love and harmony will increase between husband and wife.

Magha Ganesh Jayanti

Ganesha Jayanti is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha. As per the Hindu calendar, it is observed on Shukla Chaturthi during Magha lunar month. Ganesha Jayanti is observed in Maharashtra and coastal regions of Konkan during Magha month. In most parts of India, Lord Ganesha's birth anniversary is observed during Bhadrapada month, known as Ganesha Chaturthi.

As per Drik Panchang, it is Ganesha Jayanti during Magha month which is considered the birth anniversary of Lord Ganesha. In Maharashtra, Ganesha Jayanti is also known as Magha Shukla Chaturthi Varad Chaturthi and Tilkund Chaturthi.

To mark the auspicious occasion, devotees tend to observe a day-long fast and offer prayers to Lord Ganesha to seek wisdom. Just like Ganesh Chaturthi, many worshippers also install idols of the Lord Ganesha in their homes to seek prosperity. Lord Ganesha, who is also known as Vighnshudhi, the remover of all obstacles, is also offered sweets including Modak which is deemed to be his favourite.

History and significance

Ganesha Jayanti differs from the more popularly celebrated festival of Ganesh Chaturthi which is celebrated across India in the Hindu month of Bhadrapada (August/September). According to some traditions, Ganesh Chaturthi is also considered the birthday of Lord Ganesha.

Ancient customs dictate that on the occasion of Ganesh Jayanti, devotees are prohibited to look at the moon as it supposedly brings the viewer bad luck and suffering. If any person accidentally views the moon on this day, they have to observe a fast for the rest of the day and offer prayers to Lord Ganesha.

Legend has it that on this day, Chandra Dev, the Moon God, mocked Lord Ganesha's appearance and teased him about his elephant's head. Chandra Dev also boasted about his own good looks, which greatly angered Lord Ganesha and led him to curse Chandra Dev. Lord Ganesha told him that from that moment on no one would be able to witness the beauty that Chandra Dev so egotistically boasted of.

Shamed by his behaviour and fearful of the curse, the Moon God begged for mercy. Lord Ganesha then said that it would be impossible for him to take the curse back, but he could alter it. Lord Ganesha instructed Chandra Dev that from that point on, he will have to wax for 15 days and wane for the other 15, ensuring that the moon could only be witnessed in its complete glory for a short time.

Celebrations

In order to celebrate the auspicious occasion, devotees observe a day-long fast and offer prayers to the God of wisdom. Some even bring in new and adorned idols of Lord Ganesha into their home to ensure the prosperity of themselves and their family. Lord Ganesha, who is also known as the remover of obstacles is offered red cloth and sweets. Devotees as the Lord to remove any obstacles from their lives and allow them to follow Lord Ganesha in the path of the light.

On the festival day, an image of Ganesha, in symbolic conical form is made out of turmeric or sindoor powder or some times of cowdung and worshipped. It is later immersed in water on the fourth day after the festival. A special preparation made of til (sesame seeds) is offered to Ganesha and then distributed to the devotees as prasad for eating. A fast is observed during worship during the day time followed by feasting in the night as a part of the rituals.

In addition to fasting on this day, before observing the puja rites for Ganesha (also known as "Vinayaka"), devotees take bath with water mixed with til seeds, after smearing a paste made out of til (sesame) on their body. The fast observed on this day is stated to enhance the name and fame of the individual.

Even though Ganesha is considered a celibate god in Uttar Pradesh (in other places, he is considered as "married"), but on the occasion of the Ganesh Jayanti celebrations, couples worship him to beget a son.

On Ganesh Jayanti, devotees flock to the Moreshwar temple in Morgaon, Pune district, Maharashtra - in



Important information

Ganesha Jayanti 2023

Wednesday, 25 January 2023

Chaturthi Tithi Begins - 24 January 2023 at 03:22 pm

Chaturthi Tithi Ends - 25 January 2023 at 12:34 pm

Madhyahna Ganesha Puja Muhurat - 11:29 am to 12:34 pm

devotees every year. The Ganesha deified in this temple is popularly known as the Paschim Dwaradevta ("Western sentinel god of India"). Ganesh Jayanti is also celebrated at this Konkan coastal temple.

Shri Aniruddha House of Friends, Mumbai, India also celebrates Maaghi Ganesh Utsav (celebrations) every year on Ganesh Jayanti. Lord Ganesha is believed to activate and operationalize eight important centres in our body representing each Ashtavinayak (8 sanctums of Lord Ganesha) for which thousands of devotees across India participate in Maaghi Ganesh Utsav and take blessings of Shree Brahmanaspati (Lord Ganesha's name as mentioned in Rigveda) and Shree Ashtavinayak.

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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."

large numbers. The temple is starting and ending point of a pilgrimage of eight revered Ganesha temples called Ashtavinayaka. Legend has it that Ganesha killed demon Kamalasur at this place, riding a peacock (in Sanskrit, a mayura, in Marathi - mora) and thus is known as Mayureshwar or Moreshwar ("Lord of the peacock"). Another temple on the Ashtavinayak circuit is the Siddhivinayaka temple at Siddhatek, Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra. Large crowds visit the temple on the occasion of Ganesh Jayanti. This ancient temple located on the eastern bank of the Bhima River - has an idol of Ganesha, seated in a crossed leg posture flanked by his consort Siddhi. The Ganesha image is adorned with saffron paste and has its trunk turned to the right, which is considered a rare depiction. Thus, it is held in deep reverence and a strict set of religious vows are observed to please the deity. Devotees take a pradakshina (circumambulation) of the hill seven times in the rough hilly terrain to seek favour of Ganesha. Legend states that god Vishnu invoked the blessings of Ganesha at this venue before killing the demons Madhu-Kaitabha to put an end to their depredations.

On the Konkan Coast, at Ganpatipule, a beach temple houses a swayambhu (self-manifest) idol of Ganesha, which is much venerated and visited by thousands of

Sikh History This Week

JANUARY 27, 2023, TO FEBRUARY 2, 2023

27th January



1682 Janam Din Baba Deep Singh Ji. Known as Deepaa in his childhood, he was born on 14 Magh Sunmat 1737 to mother Mata Jeeonee and father Bhai Bhagtoo at Paahoowind, Amritsar. He is remembered as one of the most revered martyrs of Sikh history.

1846 Anglo-Sikh war was fought at village Aliwal, Tehsil Jagraon. The Sikhs suffered severe losses due to internal dissensions.

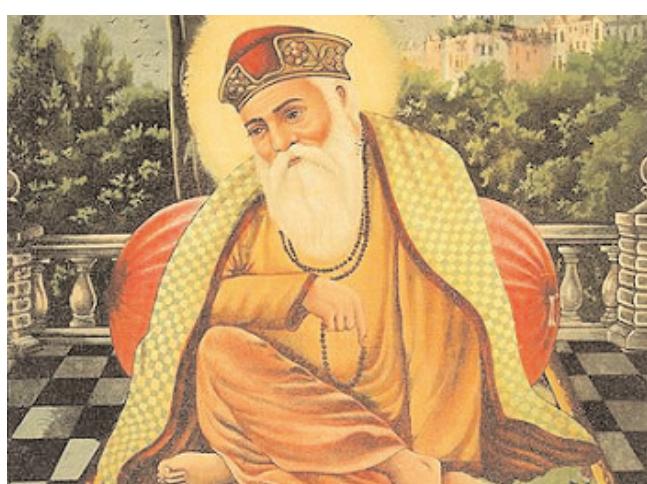
1921 Gurudwara Sudhar Dal was named Akali Dal and Sarmukh Singh Jhabal was elected its first President. This body was to serve as a central body controlling and directing various Akali Jathas that had mushroomed from mid-1920.



1923 The Kar-Sewa of Amritsar Sarowar was initiated. All participant Sikh sangats gathered at Gurdwara Sri Putali Sahib to do their ardas before proceeding for kar-sewa at Sri Harmandir Sahib.

1983 Akali members of Parliament and Assembly resigned in support of Sikh's righteous demands.

28th January



1520: Guru Baba Nanak Dev in the course of his udasis (travels) arrived at Mecca, the Centre of Islam, accompanied with his GurSikh Bhai Mardana. Here he convinced the Hajies and other dignitaries that God is omnipresent. His abode is not confined to Mecca alone. He preached the Message of Universal love and brotherhood.

1757: Baba Aalla Singh and Sardar Chadhat Singh together attacked the forces of Abdali and rescued the Hindu women that were being forcibly taken from their residence. The Sikh forces safely returned each woman to her rightful home.

29th January

The Babbar Akali conspiracy case, Supplementary I, was brought before the committing magistrate.

1925 14th Shahidi Jatha of 500 valiant Akali Satyagrahies, led by Saradar Darshan Singh Pheruman courted arrest upon reaching Ghangas, Jaito.

1928 All Party Sikh Conference held at Amritsar.

1970 Indira Gandhi announced the so-called award on Chandigarh. It was to be given to Punjab in exchange for 114 villages to Haryana. It was like buying a white elephant to save the life of Fateh Singh. Though Fateh Singh would not have died even otherwise; a coward, as he was.

1976 Articles of Organization for the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood were promulgated.

1986 The Panthic Committee, appointed by Sarbat Khalsa on Jan. 26, 1986, announced the Declaration of Independence, from Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Amritsar.

1989 The US Congress condemns India for its prosecution of the Sikhs. The Congressmen expressed their sympathies for the Sikh national cause and condemned Indian Nazism.

30th January

1850: Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Calcutta from Jalandhar.



1855: Baba Dayal Singh Nirankari passed away.

1892 Lal Singh, a Bar Student charged with an offence, insisted to give his evidence on oath by saying: I am a Sikh. I have a religion. When he was examined on solemn affirmation and not oath, the matter went up in appeal. It was held by Justice Hawkins that it was wrong to let Lal Singh make a solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath. Wills, Charles, Lawrence, and Wright JJ all concurred.

31st January

1630 Seventh Patshash, Guru Har Rai Ji came to this planet. He was born at Kirtapur in the house of Baba Gurditta, eldest son of Guru Hargobind, and Mata Nihal Kaur. He was the second grandson of Guru Hargobind, the first being Baba Dhir Mal. Today is the

actual date of birth, although it is observed on a different date by Guru Khalsa Panth (Please NOTE the contention on the actual date. Some have suggested Jan. 16, 1630.)

1922 The management of Gurudwara Guru Ka Bagh was handed over to the Sikhs after a long agitation.



1927 Saint Attar Singh passed away.

1st February



1998 The British Army announced a revolutionary dress code, which is aimed to allow Sikh members wear their traditional dresses. The Sikhs will be able to carry a miniature version of the kirpan in their wallets. They would also be permitted to wear army-issue special design knee-length underpants.

2nd February

1534 Bibi Bhani Ji, was born at Basarkae.



1807 Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked Kasur, as Qutbuddin had sided against him in the battle of Bhasin. Qutbuddin was caught while fleeing. However, he was pardoned with a jagir at Mamdot. Kasur was annexed to Lahore Darbar. Pasrur town was also annexed.

1958 Sikhs held a Protest March in Delhi against numerous acts of the sacrilege of their Gurdwaras by the Hindus.

Renowned Indian Physicist Prof. Hardev Singh Virk honoured with FRAY International Sustainability Award



BY DR. DEVINDER PAL SINGH

Prof. Hardev Singh Virk, a pioneer in interdisciplinary research in India, has been honoured with FRAY International Sustainability Award for his ground-breaking research in irradiating minerals, glasses, polymers and other insulators using heavy ion beams. His outstanding contributions to understanding the health hazards by measuring Radon concentration in air, soil and groundwater and earthquake prediction in the Himalayas have led to the development of applications for sustainable development of the region. Fray International Sustainability Award, named after Prof. Derek Fray of Cambridge University, is conferred, since 2011, to prominent academics, CEOs, Politicians and Institutions globally.



Fray International Sustainability Award was conferred to Prof. Virk by Dr. Florian Kongoli, the Chair of the symposium and President of SIPS 2022, The Sustainability Through Science and Technology/Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit, held in Phuket, Thailand, from 27 Nov. to 1 Dec. 2022. The award ceremony, held on 29 November 2022, was attended by many eminent international scientists, CEOs, and nine Nobel Laureates.

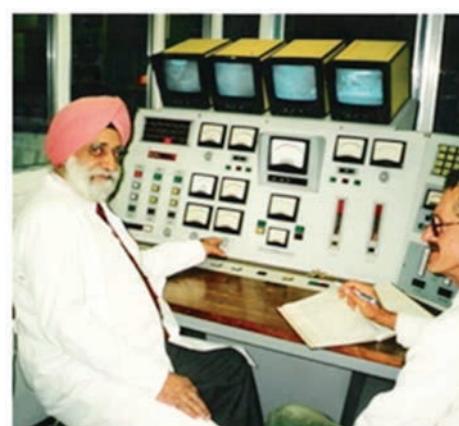


Given Prof. Virk's excellent contributions to science and technology, Virk International Symposium on Physics, Technology & Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development was also organized as part of SIPS 2022, in which twenty eminent scientists presented their research findings.

Prof. Hardev Singh Virk is the First Punjabi Sikh and First Indian (from India) to be conferred with this prestigious award for his scientific research in diverse areas of Radiation Physics, Earthquake and Radon Studies, Nanotechnology, Environmental Sustainability, and Heavy Metal contamination in Groundwater of Punjab.



The Sustainability Through Science and Technology/Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit (SIPS), a multidimensional and multidisciplinary summit, is being organized by FLOGEN STARS OUTREACH, a not-for-profit international organization annually since 2003.



Professor Hardev Singh Virk, born in 1942, at Kamo Ke, District Gujranwala (now in Pakistan), is an international Physicist, renowned academician, and a profound scholar of Sikhism. After receiving his M. Sc. (Physics) degree in 1963, from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, he started his teaching career at G. N. E. College, Ludhiana. In 1965, he joined Punjabi University, Patiala, wherein he served till 1979. In 1970, he was selected for French Govt. Scholarship to pursue his research interests in Nuclear Physics at Marie

Curie University, Paris. Therein, for his outstanding research work, the university awarded him a Doctoral degree in 1972.

On joining, as Head, Dept. of Physics, at Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), Amritsar, in July 1979, he played a vital role in laying the infrastructure for the promotion of educational/research activities at the university in many diverse fields, e.g., Radiation Physics, Geophysics, Geochemistry, Heavy Ion Physics, Thin Film Technology, Acoustics, and Plasma Physics. He retired from GNDU Amritsar in 2002 after serving as Founder Head, Dept. of Physics, and Dean (Academics). Later on, he served as Director (Research) at DAVIET, Jalandhar (2008-11); Adjunct Professor at Eternal University, Baru Sahib (HP); Visiting Professor at SGGS World University, Fatehgarh Sahib (2013-17); and Professor of Eminence, Punjabi University, Patiala (2017-19).

the truth of Gurbani, logically, rationally and scientifically. He has published about one dozen books related to Sikhism. He has been honoured for his services to the Sikh cause by several Sikh and non-Sikh organizations, e.g., SGPC, Amritsar; ICCR, Govt. of India; and Templeton Foundation, USA. He has also been honoured with Shiromani Award for Scientific Literature in Punjabi (1993) by Govt. of Punjab.

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- The Sustainability through Science and Technology/Sustainable Industrial Processing Summit: <https://www.flogen.org/sips2022/>
- Virk International Symposium on Physics, Technology & Interdisciplinary Research for Sustainable Development: https://www.flogen.org/sips2022/Hardev_Singh_Virk.php



In his long career as a Physicist, he is credited with the publication of about 425 research papers in national and international journals, 41 books in areas of science, religion, and literature; 150 articles on science policy, education, and reviews of books. Besides, he has served on many national and international advisory boards. For almost five years (2011-15), he had the honor of working as Editor of Solid State Phenomena series, published by TRANS TECH Switzerland. During his long unblemished professional career, Professor Virk has traveled over 50 countries, to pursue his academic/research activities, and to promote science in many developing countries.

Having served as an educationist and administrator for over forty-two years at various prestigious educational institutions in India, he has also established himself as an eminent writer in the field of Sikh theology. Prof. Virk, a founder member of the School of Scientific and Logical Interpretation of Gurbani, is committed to bringing out

- Flogen Stars Outreach: <https://www.flogen.org/>
- Fray International Sustainability Award: <https://www.flogen.org/?p=36>
- Award Ceremony of Prof. Virk: https://youtu.be/Ucb_uyPJ9PI
- Award website: <https://www.flogen.org/?p=38&bio=Virk>
- Singh, D. P. (2020, Feb 27). An International Physicist and A Dedicated Proponent of Sikhism- Prof. Hardev Singh Virk. Sikh Philosophy Network. Chandigarh, India. <https://www.sikhphilosophy.net/thread/interview-of-prof-hardev-singh-virk-by-dr-d-p-singh.51442/>

(Dr. Devinder Pal Singh, M.Sc., Ph. D., is a Physicist by training, an academician by profession and an author by choice.

Website: <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Devinder-Singh-4>

JAIPUR LITERATURE FESTIVAL- A MAHAKUMBH OF MEN OF IDEAS

JAIPUR (TIP): Described as the 'greatest literary show on earth', the Jaipur Literature Festival is a sumptuous feast of ideas. The past decade has seen it transform into global literary phenomenon having hosted nearly 2000 speakers and welcoming over a million book lovers from across India and the globe.

Over the past 15 years, JLF's core values remain unchanged, and the festival brings together a diverse mix of world's top writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue.

As the fear and threat of pandemic Covid-19 minimized this time, the 15th edition of iconic JLF was back at its customary city of Jaipur from January 19-23 with its characteristic flavour, substance and scale, bringing together writers, readers, connoisseurs, influencers and thinkers.

The magnificent and diverse programme for the much awaited 16th edition featured some of the most celebrated and extraordinary minds of the world. It displayed 21 Indian and 14 International languages with sessions spread across five venues.

The festival hosted 350 speakers from across a vast array of nationalities, as well as recipients of major awards such as the Nobel, the Booker, International Booker, the Pulitzer, the Sahitya Akademi, Baillie Gifford, Pen America Literary Awards, the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature and JCB Prize for literature.

In this season there was luckily no political, social and religious controversy that could attract fanatic people to create hurdles and media hype.

Rajasthan Education Minister Dr B D Kalla conferred the 8th Kanhiyalal Sethia Award to K Satchidanandan for his best poetry. A cash Prize of Rs. One lakh and memento of appreciation along with a felicitation was gave away by Dr Kalla and its organizer Siddharth Sethia of Mahakavi Kanhaiyalal Sethia Foundation, said, "MKSA Sethia Poetry award in association with JLF is a platform which brings the versatility of Indian poetry to a global audience."

Recipient of Nobel Prize in Literature 2021, Abdulrazak Gurnah has inaugurated the JLF with his key note address 'writing as a form of resistance'. In another session devoted to him, the Tanzanian-born British author of 10 novels Gurnah said, "I was young, untraveled, unskilled and poor 18-year-old boy in this country (UK) which does not want me. The need to understand that feeling of having lost, the hostility, adventure, all of these, I was trying to work all that out that started me off writing. But I was not writing, it was not writing, rather trying to work things out and reflecting, not intended for anybody to see. Sometimes, writing starts like that".

Saying that he never thought of publishing when he started writing, Gurnah said, "When you start fictionalizing, you innovate, enhance, diminish, or whatever. But none of these were intended for writing. But then slowly, the ambition stirred, and I wanted to do something with these writings".

Noted Politician-Author Shashi Tharoor had the maximum sessions for interaction on wide variety of subjects including politics, history, and current topics. Media always awaited Tharoor's press briefing every year, and this time on the grand success of Bharat Jodo Yatra (BJY), he announced that he would write a book on this as this has very significantly rehabilitated the image and success of Rahul Gandhi who is walking on the roads from Kanyakumari to Srinagar. Saying that he is already writing a column on BJV in a Malayalam newspaper's website, Tharoor said that it has been confirmed that Yatra has a huge success in the entire country.

"It has very significantly rehabilitated the image of Rahul Gandhi. After all, a caricature of Pappu business



Shashi Tharoor

was erased. The older caricature was based on three charges: One, he is a politician who sits on small dharna, and participates in protests only. Now it is proven that he has been marching on roads not for a day, but for 150 days on 3570 kms. Now you cannot put this first charge anymore", Tharoor said.

"Second charge: RaGa was arrogant, inaccessible, etc. What do you see now, he meets all sorts of people, from all walks of life, shakes their hands or holds them, and marches with them", he elaborated.

"Third charge: RaGa is not serious and cannot talk on politics. Now, he has dozens of press conferences. How many PM Narendra Modi has till now?", he asked, adding "He is totally transformed by his Yatra. The public has seen the outcome".

"RaGa's BJV has energised the party and its workers. Inspired everyone and given new energy", Tharoor confidently said, adding, "If the party wants to win the next LS polls 2024, then the party workers, who feel motivated should go for an energetic campaign to have it".

Renowned poet, lyricist, author and screenwriter Gulzar also addressed a few sessions. In an interaction Gulzar said poetry was not just a matter of textbooks but it is connected with everyday life and things.

"Today's generation feels that poetry is a matter of textbooks. They are not able to see it by connecting it with everyday life and things. So I have added these 365 contemporary poems (Nazam) for them only in my book : A Poem A Day. Through them, they will also

be able to understand the pulse of the changing times", Gulzar told the audience. 'A Poem a Day' is a collection of 365 Nazms compiled by Gulzar Sahib. He has collected contemporary poems of 365 poets from 1947 to 2017 and translated them into Hindustani. He strongly said no language was small and that all languages with scripts can be considered as national languages.

In 'Daira and Dhanak' session two famous poets of their time, Jaan Nisar Akhtar and Kaifi Azmi, were mentioned. 'Daira' and 'Dhanak' are collections of poems by Jaan Nisar Akhtar and Kaifi Azmi respectively, edited by Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi. Through these two great poets who were born at the same time, some pleasant things of that period and nazms were shared with the audience. Akhtar saheb mentioned the progressive movement in 1930 and its impact on the writings of both the poets. There are many similarities between these two poets but mentioning a big difference, famous actress Shabana Azmi said, "The picture of women in both the poems is completely different. Such interesting



BY
DR YASH GOYAL
Special Correspondent TIP



Javed Akhtar and Shabana Azmi

Photos / courtesy JLF Media

discussions are nothing less than a 'treat' for the listeners".

Former NDTV anchor and senior journalist Ravish Kumar engaged in a riveting discussion about 'fear' and its role in politics today. He began by discussing the fears he has had as an individual, and then related these to the fear that has been instituted by the state. He spoke at length about political prisoners, the rich and judges-and how all of them are afraid of the government today. In that sense, the undergirding theme of the talk was the all-encompassing nature of fear.

Sudha Murty, an Indian educator, author and philanthropist said about how writing has changed her. Murty told everyone that her first book got published when she was 29 in Kannada. She further emphasised on the importance of her mother tongue and the culture of the land. She started writing in English at the age of 52.

"I connect to the people because I tell the truth. I don't act. What you see, you only get that much. Nothing extra... What I say, I walk." She said, "Normally, if you're truthful when you write, then you can establish a relationship. That's what I believe."

Biologist and author Merlin Sheldrake talked about his book Entangled Life and shed light on the enchanting world of fungi and how they are intrinsic to our existence. The focus of Sheldrake's book is on how fungi play a role in shaping our futures and making our worlds. Sheldrake also talked about how deeply linked the arts and the sciences are and that the passion for both emerges from a place of wonderment and curiosity.

Speaking at the session "The Elephant and the Dragon", Former Indian Army Chief J J Singh said, "The situation of the Indian Army is not the same as it was in 1962. I want to reassure you that they got bloody noses in Galwan Valley, they were made to stop in Doklam and similarly, they were told to go back to Twang valley. This is the New India they are facing and they must understand India is no longer the same". He anticipated that India and China can get into a constructive and positive engagement which is only through dialogue and discussions.

Professor of Mathematics at the University of Oxford, Marcu Du Sautoy stressed on how math lets us do more with less and attempts to solve the age-old question of hard work truly being the only key to success.

Renowned classical musician, Padma Bhushan Hariprasad Chaurasia and author Sathya Saran, in conversation with Managing Director and Festival Producer Sanjoy K Roy, discussed anecdotes from Chaurasia's childhood and his journey with the bansuri.

Namita Gokhale, JLF's co-director, noted woman writer, and recipient of Sahitya Akademi award for his book "Things to Leave Behind" in 2021 also talked on "A Life in Books" and her latest book "JAIPURNAMA".

Among others who figured & attracted audiences in many sessions included actor Deepti Naval, veteran TV journalist Vir Sanghvi, former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, and Deputy Executive Director United Nations Women, Anita Bhatia.



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contd from page 1

A vibrant parade marked Celebration of the 74th Republic Day of India

Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force along with other security forces presented a spectacular show in front of the nation as they marched past the dais where the President along with other dignitaries took the salute.

World leaders conveyed Republic Day wishes to India on Thursday, January 26, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanking them for their greetings and pledging to work together to further strengthen ties.

Replying to the French president, PM Modi tweeted, "Grateful for your warm greetings my dear friend Emmanuel Macron on India's Republic Day. I share your commitment to working together for the success of India's G20 Presidency & 25th anniversary of the India-France Strategic Partnership. India and France together are a force for global good." Macron said he looked forward to the two countries setting new ambitions together for the G20 and for the Indo-French strategic partnership as it turns 25 this year. Thanking his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu, Modi said he looked forward to further strengthening the strategic partnership.

He tweeted to Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering that India is committed to its unique partnership with his

country for progress and prosperity of both the nations.

PM Modi echoed similar sentiments in tweets to leaders of Nepal, Mauritius and Maldives among other countries. (With inputs from PTI)

Mayor Adams Outlines "Working People's Agenda" for NYC in Second State of the City Address

"Without a strong working class, this city cannot survive. That's why, today, I've outlined how we plan to build a city for working people, one that is more affordable, safer, cleaner, and more livable," said Mayor Adams. "You need good jobs and pathways to get those jobs, and those jobs need to be able to support a home for you and a family. You need to be safer, and you need care - not just in crisis but throughout your lives. These are the things that our administration is working for every day to sustain the workers who make this city possible and build a better city for all."

When he took office a year ago, Mayor Eric Adams vowed to make New York safe again. Gun violence is down, but other crimes are proving challenging.

There are few things Adams is more passionate about than public safety, but public criticism of cops taking pictures of people for a social media post provoked an unscripted moment of passion.

"Let's stop starting off hating each other and start embracing each other. This is what we want to do," Adams said.

The mayor was defending cops against public criticism of their decision to take pictures of people leaving a Drake concert at the Apollo to post on social media, angry that an effort at community involvement was misconstrued.

It was a moment of passion as he talked about new public safety initiatives for year two of his administration, including:

- An expanded focus on preventing shoplifting,
- More violence prevention programs,
- A most wanted list of the 1,700 criminals responsible for a disproportionate amount of violent crime,
- A push in Albany for criminal justice reforms,
- And more neighborhood safety teams to get guns off the street.

"We're going to use proven methods and intensive community support to keep gun culture from taking root and taking over," Adams said.

The mayor also vowed to end traffic violence, saying, "2023 is the year we are going to tighten the screws on reckless drivers, holding them accountable for their actions before they harm others."

The mayor said he would go to Albany to seek a package of six bills called R.O.A.D.S.: Removing Offenders and Aggressive Drivers from our Streets.

It would:

- Increase penalties for serious crashes, running red lights and impaired driving;
- Ensure swift penalties for those who drive with suspended or revoked licenses;
- And revoking the privileges of driving on city streets and suspending the registration of cars that get five or more red light camera violations in a 12-month period.

"We must treat traffic violence the same way we treat other dangerous crimes," Adams said.

There will also be more tow trucks to ticket and tow abandoned and illegal parked cars, and a new focus on Vision Zero.

"New Yorkers should not have to fear for their lives every time they cross the street or bike to work," Adams said.

The mayor is also going to create a new city position called "Director of the Public Realm" to create more open spaces in the city.

It's unknown what the salary for that position is, but the new rat czar will get \$170,000 a year.

contd from page 13

Short seller Hindenburg accuses billionaire Gautam Adani of 'largest con in corporate history'

"Indians are increasingly aware of



how the rise of Modi's cronies has exacerbated the problem of inequality, but need to understand how this has been financed by their own hard-earned savings. Will the RBI ensure that risks to financial stability are investigated and contained? Are these not clear-cut cases of "phone banking"?" asked Ramesh.

Asking if there is a quid pro quo between the Modi government and the Adani Group, the Congress leader alleged, "In perhaps, the most egregious case of crony capitalism, the previous operator of Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, India's second busiest airport, was raided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Board of Investigation (CBI) after it rejected an offer by the Adani Group".

"The operator agreed to sell the airport to Adani a month later and it is a mystery what happened to the ED and CBI cases thereafter," Ramesh added.

Lok Sabha member Manish Tewari said on Twitter that if the Hindenburg report was even partially correct, "it merits both a Joint Parliamentary Committee-much like the 1992 JPC & a Supreme Court Monitored investigation to get to the bottom of the matter. The Budget Session of Parliament begins 31st Jan 2023".

Congress Rajya Sabha member Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "Exposure of #LIC in Adani Group is ?77,000 CR. LIC has today lost ?23,500 CR in invest value in Adani Group i.e. at ?53,000 CR against ?77,000 CR. LIC is money of People of India. In any other country, heads would have rolled including that of FM# HindenburgReport."

(Source: New York Post, Agencies)

THE PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UN, NEW YORK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HIRING/ PURCHASE OF IT EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICIAN SERVICES

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York, invites proposals for purchase/ hiring of IT equipment, and technician services.

**The detailed RFP document can be accessed at:
<https://www.pminewyork.gov.in/tenderarchive>**

Interested companies are requested to submit their proposals, strictly in accordance with the instructions contained in the RFP document, latest by the close of business on Friday, 10 February 2023

Popularly known as the 'Coffee Land of Karnataka', Chikmagalur is situated in the foothills of the Mullayangiri Range and is one of the most beautiful hill stations in Karnataka. Chikmagalur has a perpetual fragrance of coffee lingering in the air with plenty of coffee plantations. Famous for its tall mountains, lush green forests and its tranquil environment (apart from its coffee production), Chikmagalur is a very popular tourist destination and is a quick retreat for the people of Karnataka.

COFFEE CULTURE

Perfect for a traveller who is happy sauntering between the thick undergrowth of the wild coffee bushes, eyes peeled for exotic birdlife and animals, Chikmagalur is the ideal pick. Most of the accommodations lie in the backdrop of coffee plantations, giving the traveller an opportunity to stay in the middle of a million shades of green. Coffee plantation walks organised by the owners are an essential orientation to understand the variety, seasons, wildlife around the area, history of coffee making, processes and what a planter's life might be like. Coffee plantations of Chikmagalur offer a brilliant atmosphere for both outdoor junkies and those who like to switch off and do nothing. Outdoor enthusiasts during their short hikes to the top of a plantation often make their way through forest streams and spot an array of local avian and animal occupants.

Birding enthusiasts should remember to carry their binoculars. For those who need to unwind without a packed itinerary or an activity should grab a book or an i-pod and sink into a lounging chair or a hammock, and succumb to the sound of nature around. Miles of stunning views, ludicrous amount of green and the whiff of coffee accompany the copious amount of mugs you can down.

MOUNTAIN CIRCUIT

The main highlight of Chikmagalur for most travellers lies in covering the three main peaks of the town?Sheethalagiri, Baba Budan Giri and Mullayanagiri. Head towards Kaimara junction to start at the foothills of this loop and head first towards Sheethalagiri. This is an ancient temple whose history can be traced back to 1000 years and is dedicated to Mallikarjuna Swamy. The temple itself is not very elaborate but is worth your while for its history and the 'prasadam', a fistful of water from a natural trickle of waterfall inside. Next on the same route is Baba Budan Giri hill, also known as Dattagiri Hill Range or Inam Dattatreya Peetha after the famous saint who brought coffee to India. This small shrine is propped at 1895 m offering a breathtaking view of the valley below. The shrine is visited by people of all religions. The next stop is Mullayanagiri, the highest peak (1930 m) in the state of Karnataka. Predictably windy and bone chilling cold, it's apt to stay for a short time to enjoy the view. Many trekkers take on the mammoth mountain despite the winds and near invisible paths due to the mist. The trio are known as the Chandradrona Parvatha Shreni.

KEMMANAGUNDI

Even though Kemmanagundi lies

Chikmagalur: The coffee land of Karnataka



almost 500 m below the highest Karnataka peak, Mullayanagiri, the views from here are equally riveting as the hills cascade down, draped in coffee bushes. It is more accessible than the higher mountain loop and is embellished by pit stops for tourists; an unimpressive rock garden and a government run children's park are part of Kemmanagundi area but can be avoided. This does not hamper dozens of camera happy tourists enjoying the lush green environs as a backdrop to perfect pictures. What is not to miss is the few spots from where you can see the clouds fill up the valley for a mesmerising view.

This was the very reason King Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV chose this as a summer retreat. There are a handful of restaurants, viewing decks and even a place to stay maintained by the Karnataka State Tourism Development Board. Raj Bhavan is one of the most popular viewing points of the hill top. If you're running short of time, stick with the Sheethalagiri-Baba Budan Giri-Mullayanagiri circuit and give this one a miss. The only veritable reason why one should visit Kemmanagundi, is because it is the only access point to Hebbe Falls. Local four wheel jeeps can be hired from here to get to the beautiful untouched waterfalls.

HEBBE FALLS

Adventure lovers are promised a bone rattling yet thrilling drive of 13 km, through forested paths (sometimes no paths at all) from Kemmanagundi to Hebbe Falls. A four wheel experience is the only way to manoeuvre through the bumpy road. There are local jeeps available at the base of Kemmanagundi that charge anywhere around Rs 300-500 for a return trip on a sharing basis. After the 13 km ride, one has to reach the falls on foot, after crossing two shallow streams. The effort is absolutely worth your while as you watch the 551 ft drop from the base. There are two stages of the waterfall: Dodda Hebbe (Big Falls) and Chikka Hebbe (Small Falls). The white frothy water cascades down with gusto but even though it looks tempting to go stand under it, it is not recommended. The falls are slightly cut off and isolated. It is likely that no medical help can reach soon. It is recommended to remain at its fringes. This is most voluminous after or during monsoons, but this also means that the area is likely to be infested with swift leeches. Carry a small packet of salt to get rid of them soon.

KALHATTI FALLS

Given that Chikmagalur has a large forest cover and entire hillsides covered with plantations, it is not uncommon to see many small and big waterfalls and rivulets around the area. One of the most popular amongst the religious travellers is the Kalhatti waterfall, even though it is far smaller than the nearby Hebbe Falls. From Kemmanagundi, the drive to Kalhatti is only 10 km. The spot can be recognised with a swathe of people, buses and cars on the main road itself. Stop here, and walk a short distance to the base of the falls. Even though it does not match up to the impression of Hebbe Falls, it makes for a great stop for those who like to tick things of the list when visiting a destination. A temple of Lord Veerabhadra stands at the base of the 122 m drop. The falls are also known as the Kalahasti falls by the locals. There are a few local shops here where one can stop for a quick snack. The waterfall lies on the same loop of Mullayanagiri, Baba Budan Giri and Seethalagiri hills along with Kemmanagundi. It is easy to pack this in one day of sightseeing, in the same direction.

History This Week

JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 02, 2023

JANUARY 27

Russian Army General Gvorov

January 27, 1944 - Russian Army General Gvorov announced the lifting of the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. During the 900-day siege, an estimated one million Russian civilians inside the city died of disease, starvation and relentless German shelling.

January 27, 1945 - The Russian Army liberated Auschwitz death camp near Krakow in Poland, where the Nazis had systematically murdered an estimated 2,000,000 persons, including 1,500,000 Jews.

January 27, 1967 - Three American astronauts were killed as a fire erupted inside Apollo 1 during a launch simulation test at Cape Kennedy, Florida.

January 27, 1973 - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

Birthday - Labor leader Samuel Gompers (1850-1924) was born in London. He emigrated to America at age 13, worked in a cigar factory, eventually becoming head of the Cigar Workers' Union. He later brought together several national unions under the name American Federation of Labor and became its first president.

Birthday - German Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941) was born. He was a grandson of England's Queen Victoria and ruled Germany from 1888 through

World War I. Although he had military training, he left conduct of the war mainly in the hands of Generals Paul von Hindenburg and Erich von Ludendorff. In 1918, amid the defeat of Germany, he abdicated and fled to the Netherlands

where he lived in seclusion until his death. He was given a military funeral by Hitler.

JANUARY 28

January 28, 1915 - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

January 28, 1935 - Iceland became the first country to legalize abortion.



African American student Harvey Gantt

January 28, 1963 - African American student Harvey Gantt entered Clemson College in South Carolina, the last state to hold out against integration.

January 28, 1986 - The U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight, killing seven persons, including Christa McAuliffe, a teacher who was to be the first ordinary citizen in space.

Birthday - Explorer Henry Stanley (1841-1904) was born in Wales. As a newspaper correspondent for the New York Herald, he was given the challenging assignment of finding missionary-explorer David Livingston in Africa. Upon locating Livingston near Lake Tanganyika in 1871 after an exhausting search, Stanley simply asked, "Dr. Livingston, I presume?"

JANUARY 29

January 29, 1919 - The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition Amendment) was ratified. For nearly 14 years, until December 5, 1933, the manufacture, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages were illegal in the United States. The Amendment had the unexpected result of causing enormous growth of organized crime which provided bootleg liquor to thirsty Americans.

Birthday - Common Sense author Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was born in Thetford, England. His pamphlet, published in 1776, provided inspiration to undecided Americans that a new nation, independent from Britain,

might eventually become "...an asylum for mankind!" He served in the Continental Army and observed the hardships of American troops fighting the world's most powerful army. He then published The Crisis series pamphlets which began by stating, "These are the times that try men's souls." He refused to accept the profits from his writings and wound up destitute after the Revolution.



William McKinley (1843-1901)

Birthday - William McKinley (1843-1901) the 25th U.S. President was born in Niles, Ohio. He was elected in 1896 and re-elected in 1900. Early in his second term, on September 6, 1901, he was shot and mortally wounded by an anarchist at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and died eight days later.

Birthday - Russian playwright Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) was born in Taganrog, Russia. His works included Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters and The Cherry Orchard.

JANUARY 30

Adolf Hitler

January 30, 1933 - Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany by President Paul von Hindenburg. Hitler went on to become the sole leader of Nazi Germany. He then waged a war of expansion in Europe, precipitating the deaths of an estimated 50 million persons through military conflict and through the Holocaust in which the Nazis attempted to exterminate the entire Jewish population of Europe.

January 30, 1948 - Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in

New Delhi, India, by a religious fanatic. Gandhi had ended British rule in India through nonviolent resistance. "Non-violence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being," he had stated in 1926.

January 30, 1968 - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential palace. Although U.S. forces eventually fended off the massive surprise attack and achieved a military victory, Tet became a propaganda victory for the Vietnamese due in part to graphic news reports on television which helped turn U.S. public opinion against continuation of the war.

January 30, 1972 - In Londonderry, Northern Ireland, 13 Roman Catholics were killed by British troops during a banned civil rights march. The event became known as Bloody Sunday.

January 30, 1973 - During the Watergate scandal, Gordon Liddy and James McCord were convicted of burglary, wire-tapping and attempted bugging of the Democratic headquarters inside the Watergate building in Washington, D.C.

January 30, 1992 - Argentina allowed access to numerous files of Nazis who had fled to South America from Germany after World War II, thus aiding the hunt for Nazi war criminals.

JANUARY 31

January 31, 1943 - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Germans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.



Eddie Slovik

January 31, 1945 - Eddie Slovik, a 24-year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing

squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.

Birthday - Jackie Robinson (1919-1972) was born in Cairo, Georgia. He was the first African American to play professional baseball. He played for the Brooklyn Dodgers from 1947 to 1956, was chosen as the National League's most valuable player in 1949 and elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

FEBRUARY 1

February 1, 2003 - Sixteen minutes before it was scheduled to land, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart in flight over west Texas, killing all seven crew members. The accident may have resulted from damage caused during liftoff when a piece of insulating foam from the external fuel tank broke off, piercing a hole in the shuttle's left wing that allowed hot gases to penetrate the wing upon re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere. This was the second space shuttle lost in flight. In January 1986, Challenger exploded during liftoff.



Hollywood director John Ford

Birthday - Hollywood director John Ford (1895-1973) was born in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Known for The Grapes of Wrath and The Searchers, he also served in World War II as chief of the Photographic Unit of OSS, and earned two Academy Awards for documentaries made during the war.

FEBRUARY 2

February 2, 1990 - In South Africa, the 30-year-old ban on the African National Congress was lifted by President FW de Klerk, who also promised to free Nelson Mandela and remove restrictions on political opposition groups.

Birthday - Irish novelist and poet James Joyce (1882-1941) was born in Dublin, Ireland. His works include; Dubliners, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Ulysses, and Finnegans Wake.



Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna lost in straight sets. AP/PTI

Happy tears for Sania Mirza as Grand Slam journey ends with loss in mixed doubles final

Indian tennis star Sania Mirza capped her trailblazing Grand Slam career with a runners-up finish alongside "best friend" Rohan Bopanna in the Australian Open mixed doubles final in Melbourne on January 27.

With Sania pairing up with her first-ever mixed doubles partner Bopanna, the duo went down 6-7(2) 2-6 to Brazilians Luisa Stefani and Rafael Matos in the final at the Rod Laver Arena. "If I cry, these are happy tears. That's just a disclaimer. I'm still going to play a couple of more tournaments but my journey of my professional career started in Melbourne," an emotional Sania said as she struggled to hold back tears. "Rohan was my first-ever mixed doubles partner when I was 14 and we won the Nationals. It was 22 years ago and I couldn't think of a better person — he's my best friend and one of my best partners — to finish my career," Sania said, thanking Bopanna, who has one French Open mixed doubles title to his credit.

The 36-year-old, who had announced that the WTA event in Dubai next month would be her swansong, is India's most decorated woman tennis player, having won six Grand Slam doubles titles, including three mixed doubles trophies.

She won the mixed doubles titles at the 2009 Australian Open and 2012 French Open with Mahesh Bhupathi, and the 2014 US Open with Brazilian Bruno Soares. The Rod Laver Arena has been a happy hunting ground for the Hyderabadi. She has won a women's doubles title and a mixed doubles title at the Australian Open, and finished as runners-up four times. "It started in 2005 when I played Serena Williams in the third round as an 18-year-old, and that was scary enough 18 years ago. I have had the privilege to come back here again and again, win some tournaments here and play some great finals amongst you all," she added.

Source: PTI

It's Belgium vs Germany in Hockey World Cup final

BHUBANESWAR (TIP)

Defending champions Belgium had to use all their experience to overcome a young and inspired Netherlands side and set up the title clash with Germany, who again saved their best for last to stun world No. 1 Australia.

For the second game in a row, Germany fought back from 0-2 down. Having chased the game for almost 40 minutes, Germany scored two goals in the final three minutes to beat a below-par Australia 4-3.

The win took Germany to their first major final in over 10 years. They are looking for their first major title since the gold medal at the 2012 Olympics.

A famed rivalry in the first decade of the new millennium, the Australia-Germany tie is known more for its battles of attrition than tactics.

The first semifinal was no different today as it became a tussle for territorial dominance from the starting whistle. If Germany were the more



aggressive and motivated, and had more possession and attacks, Australia were the more clinical.

Jeremy Hayward scored from their second penalty corner in the 11th minute and Nathan Ephraums

doubled their lead 15 minutes later.

Rather than breaking their morale, the goals further energised Germany. For Australia, the goals had a reverse effect. Already losing most of the battles, Australia became a bit complacent because of the two-goal cushion.

With Germany wasting their penalty corner chances, Australia felt a false sense of security.

Missing a top-grade penalty corner specialist has been the missing link for Germany for some time. The inclusion of Gonzalo Peillat, who led Argentina to the Olympics gold in 2016, raised the German hopes. After seven missed penalty corners, Peillat struck in the 42nd minute. Nine minutes later, he made it 2-2. A stunned Australia found their purpose again, and Blake Govers gave them the lead again from a penalty corner in the 57th minute. A minute later, Peillat shot his drag-flick into the roof of the goal, through the keeper's gloves, bringing back memories of the Rio Games.

Source: TNS

WOMEN U-19 WORLD CUP

India beat New Zealand by 8 wickets to enter final

POTCHEFSTROOM (TIP)

Opener Shweta Sherawat smashed an unbeaten fifty after Parshavi Chopra's triple strike as India notched up a comprehensive eight-wicket win over New Zealand to storm into the final of the inaugural Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup here on Friday, January 27.

India restricted New Zealand to 107 for nine with Parshavi (3/20) leading a disciplined bowling effort after skipper Shafali Verma won the toss and elected to bowl in the first semifinals.

The 16-year-old leg-spinner broke the backbone of the Kiwi batting line-up with three successive wickets to leave them at 74 for 5 in 13th over.

Titas Sadhu, Mannat Kashyap, Shafali and Archana Devi also scalped one wicket each.

For NZ, Georgia Plimmer (35), Isabella Gaze (26) and Izzy Sharp (13) and Kayley Knight (12) reached double figures as they struggled to score runs at the Senwes Park.

Chasing 108, the women in blue romped home comfortably after Sehrawat produced a scintillating 45-ball unconquered knock which was studded with 10 hits to the fence.

Following the early exit of Shafali (10), who has not performed as per expectations in the tournament, Sehrawat and Soumya Tiwari (22) added 62 runs to take them to the threshold of victory.

Sehrawat and Gongadi Trisha (5) then completed the job with the former bringing up the winning runs with a four off Browning as India scored 110 for 2 in 14.2 overs.

Parshavi was adjudged the Player of the Match for her three-wicket haul.

India will face the winner of the



other semifinal between England and Australia.

T20I: New Zealand outplay India by 21 runs in first T20I

RANCHI: Opener Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell struck half-centuries to guide New Zealand to a comfortable 21-run win in the first T20I of the three-match series in Ranchi on Friday, January 27.

Conway made a 35-ball 52, while Mitchell smashed a 30-ball unbeaten 59.

For India, Washington Sundar (2/22) scalped two wickets, while Kuldeep Yadav (1/20), Shivam Mavi (1/19) and Arshdeep Singh (1/51)

accounted for one batter each.

Washington later came up with his maiden half-century in T20Is, scoring 50 off 28 balls and in-form batter Suryakumar Yadav scored a 34-ball 47 but it was not enough.

Left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner chocked India in the middle overs, giving away just 11 runs in his four overs and dismissing two batters.

Brief Score:

New Zealand: 176 for 6 in 20 overs (Daryl Mitchell 59 not out, Devon Conway 52; Washington Sundar 2/22).

India: 155 for 9 in 20 overs (S Yadav 47, W Sundar 50; Mitchell Santner 2/11).

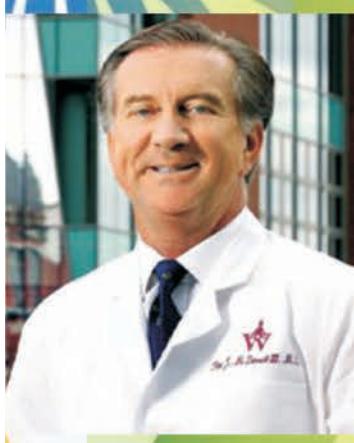


A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



**Message from
Peter J. McDonnell,
M.D. Director Wilmer Eye
Institute, Johns Hopkins
University, USA on the
occasion of laying the
foundation stone on
December 10, 2020**

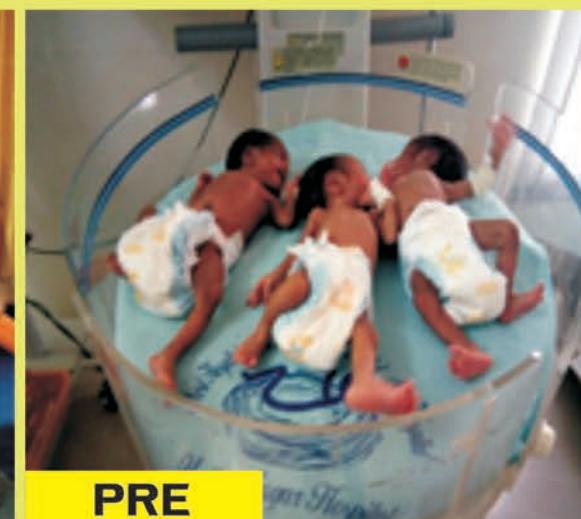


"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO ,I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener
revelation of a society's soul
than the way in which it treats
its children". - Nelson mandela



**POST
SURGERY**



**PRE
SURGERY**

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

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ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः: Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,

सर्वे सन्तु नरिमया: Sarve Santu Niramaya

May all be prosperous and happy!

May all be healthy!

**The Eye Foundation of America
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www.eyefoundationofamerica.org**