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JOURNAL

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Conflict and Peace Resolutions Explored



L to R: Philanthropist & actor Vivek Oberoi, Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni, AOL's Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, former JAINA President Mahesh Wadher and Ambassador of Sikh Dharma Satpal Singh Khalsa.

India-West Staff Reporter

BUENA PARK, CA – In the wake of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the mass shooting incidents in the US, prominent Indian spiritual leaders gathered here at the Jain Center of Southern California on June 4 and discussed a 'global peace dialog' aimed at resolving world conflicts through

the age-old tradition of Indian cultural and moral values. Organized by the Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati Foundation, the brainchild of eminent Jain leader Acharya Lokesh Muni, it was also attended by Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravishankar and Satpal Singh Khalsa. Philanthropist and well-known actor Vivek Oberoi, fluent in English and Hindi,

Contd. on p14

Madhavan and Nambi Story Touches Hearts



Actor R. Madhavan speaks about his movie 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' based on the life and tribulations of scientist Dr. Narayan Nambi, seen on left at Buena Park, CA.

By BHARTTI KUMAR

BUENA PARK, CA – Before the highly lauded 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' hits screens on July 1, its maker, the famed R. Madhavan, is on a blitzkrieg 12-day promotional tour of the US. Along with the eponymous ISRO scientist, stops have been made from Washington DC to Texas and on

June 8 the fifth promotional happened here, in Southern California. At the Jain Center of Southern California, Dr. Narayan Nambi and Madhavan engaged in an informal conversational style with the star-struck audience. While many may have come to see Madhavan, the actor who has made it big across multilingual screens, those in

Contd. on p15

Rapper Sidhu Moosewala Memorialized in 2 Murals in Artesia

India-West Staff Reporter

ARTESIA, CA – Anish Kumar pulled up on the sidewalk, got off his car armed with a camera and stood for a moment quietly looking up at the murals that commemorated the life and the grief felt by the Punjabi community on the killing of Sidhu Moosewala, a rapper and politician.

On a vacation from Birmingham, United Kingdom, it was akin to a pilgrimage for Kumar, telling India-West, "there's no other way of seeing it, he was like Tupac (Shakur), he brought cultures together." The 28-year-old rapper was gunned down on May 28, sending reverberations across the continents with talk of gangs, red corner notices, ex-

On right: The artistic likeness of the gunned-down rapper moved several who have come by after the unveiling to drop off flowers.



traditions of culprits from Canada, and spotlighting Indian separatists. But the outpouring of grief from fans across the Punjabi world was real and felt in Southern California too, when artists banded together and memorialized the singer and on June 5 unveiled two murals. The artists worked 12 to sometimes 20 hours a day to complete the murals. Sunroop Kaur posted, "Pulling off a mural like this within 3 days would have been impossible if it wasn't for the community support and for that I am eternally thankful...I hope it can provide a space for collective healing." Artist Bodeck Luna Hernandez wrote, that witnessing the community pray together was an unforgettable experience for him. "I'm speechless and thankful for all the support the entire 12 hours I was painting," he said.

Contd. on p15

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LA City Announces India Showcase at Lotus Festival in July

India-West Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES, CA – To mark the 75th anniversary of India, the city of Los Angeles announced that the 41st Lotus Festival will “honor and showcase the people and culture of India.” On June 9, the city of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Lotus Festival unveiled a preview of what was to come on July 9 and 10 at a press luncheon hosted at Echo Park Lake, here. Colorful decorations set off the outdoor space in the backdrop of the exquisite lake and vibrant dance pieces from the classical forms of India were on display.

“Each year as the lotus flowers of Echo Park Lake reach full bloom, we welcome nearly 120,000 visitors to the signature city park,” said Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell, (District 13). This year, we celebrate the rich traditions of India and take time to soak in the rich diversity of Asian arts and culture here in Los Angeles.”



LA City officials and others take the pledge at the start of the event



Sunil Agarwal is interfacing with LA city from the India side.

Michael Shull echoed the sentiments saying, “The celebration of Asian and Pacific Islander ethnicities will showcase India in a communal setting, bustling with entertainment and food, cultivating cultural appreciation and awareness.”

The 41st Lotus Festival, which is going to be in person after the pandemic break, will be opened on July 9 at 12noon and is expected to be attended by the Indian Consul General in San Francisco, Dr. T.V.Nagendra Prasad. During the festival, which ends the following day with closing ceremonies at 8 pm, there will be music, dance, food, boutique booths, a beer garden, and dragon races among other things.

At the press event, Sunil Agarwal of IALA and Ishwar Deedwania of FIA told India-West there would also be an India procession at the popular two-day festival.

The media, as it tucked on food from Pista House was treated to a piece on the onset of spring in Kathak by dancers from the Kathak Kala Academy, Bharatnatyam on the goddess Saraswati and uniquely for Southern California, Kalarippayattu by the Navarasa Dance Theater. The Lotus Festival will be held at: 751 Echo Park Ave, Los Angeles.



Performers with Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell.



Those present celebrate India.

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COMMENTARY

Making Sense of “Senseless” Violence

BY SHAKEEL SYED

The recent murder of the innocent people on both coasts reminds us of the mordant wit of the Sufi mystic who said “I love the moon because it brightens the sky and helps us navigate the dark night. And I hate the sun because it only comes out during the day when it is bright anyway.”

Most of us can miss what is perfectly obvious, especially when we allow our thinking to become fogged with strong emotion.

Yes, we should condemn the murder and mourn the loss of lives from Laguna Woods to Buffalo, but we should also struggle to open our eyes and discern the perfectly obvious patterned behavior here. Why do so many always express utter shocks and fail to see common threads among the mass killings that take place roughly every two weeks in America? Why are we not able to pick out the recognizable patterns in the behavior, however aberrant, of mass murderers like Dylann Roof, Adam Lanza, James Holmes, Jared Loughner, Eric Harris, Dylan Klebold & now Payton Gendron.

Albeit a bit dated but an exhaustive USA Today report called Behind the Bloodshed: The Untold Story of America’s Mass Killings

helps us make some actual sense of all-too-frequent bloodbaths in this country that are usually labeled either “senseless” or else fueled by murderous ideology.

Among other valuable revelations, the report discloses that the majority of mass killers give vent to their murderous rage in the context of depressions, family estrangements and the extremist white supremacist brainwashing on our small and big screens. In a word, our mass killers are almost all profoundly isolated and alienated; they are lost souls who imagine they will “achieve” something through lethal violence.

We know this in part of our brain. We understand how extreme alienation and murderous rage go hand in hand. But almost always we ignore this part of what we know in our rush to find an ideology on which to pin the mayhem, whether that ideology is runaway Islamophobia, twisted anti-Semitism, wacky survivalist paranoia, or poisonous white supremacy against Asian-Americans, Blacks & LatinX. Yes, these toxins are real and need to be countered. We have spent our professional lives trying to counter them. But there is always more. Even when there is no known ideology in play, there is always the fatal isolation

factor. We ignore this factor at our peril.

The other dimension of our willful blindness concerns the ease of access to guns in U.S. culture. Here, too, part of our brain knows perfectly well that widespread bloodshed can be expected in a country that has at least as many civilian-controlled guns as it has people. But the accepted and even encouraged response to reports of yet more gun violence is to go out and heavy up on our own supply of firepower.

More broadly, even as we recoil in horror from the latest shooting[s], we also tend to remind ourselves that “we” are all good and decent, whereas “they” are all deranged haters. In this way, we help to keep the process of alienation and isolation going. In an ever-more interconnected and interdependent world, this is a sure recipe for continuing disaster. There is surely some irony in the fact that we who have learned to see so well in the dark--witness the marvelous billions-mile journey to Pluto & Mars--are still not able to see what is right before us in the plain light of day. We persist in talking about “lone wolves” without really probing their savage loneliness, let alone trying to heal it. We mount dubious

ideology-focused campaigns like the Justice Department’s Countering Violent Extremism while letting the gun lobby and the gun makers block any effort to curb access to lethal weapons.

In an age of connecting the cosmos, America must learn to make connections here on earth between corrosive psychological violence and lethal gun violence, between our tribalism and “their” isolation and alienation, and most obviously between all those bullet-riddled corpses and the smoking guns that any lost soul can so easily buy or steal. Otherwise, we may continue to believe that sunlight is a waste because the days are always bright anyway.



(Shakeel Syed is Executive Director of South Asian Network headquartered in Artesia, CA)

Afghanistan’s Taliban and its Diktats Have to be Feared Still



BY ASAD MIRZA

The latest international conference to discuss the evolving situation in Afghanistan was held in Tajikistan, early this month.

National Security Advisors from Tajikistan, India, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, and China, attended the Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan.

All highlighted the need to find construc-

tive ways to ensure Afghanistan doesn’t become a terror hub again.

This has been a primary concern for India since the Taliban took over the country, besides the rights of Afghan citizens, especially women and minorities.

However, what concerns the international community more are the series of Taliban diktats on social issues, targeting women, Shia and specific Muslim sects.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has ordered women and older girls to cover their faces when in public. The order further said that punishments for violating the decree would be inflicted on their male family members. The Ministry of Vice and Virtue has ordered all women television presenters to cover their faces, stating “the decision was final and that there was no room for discussion”.

This latest order is part of a steady flow of Taliban actions that have blocked girls’ secondary education, pushed women out of most employment, curtailed women’s freedom of movement, obstructed women’s access to health care, and abolished the system designed to protect women and girls from violence. They have gradually imposed more restrictions on Afghan women and the Shia community. All these developments perplex one to wonder as to why the Taliban vowed not to revert again.

Afghanistan might become a nation with contradictory notions of personal freedom

as viewed by them in contrast to the internationally recognized definition of personal freedom. They very well understand that international recognition will bind them to certain western norms and obligations, on human rights, and as those would completely contradict their self-defined ideology or interpretation of Islam, they are ready to ignore it for the time being.

They might have thought that they would be able to deceive the international community by making shallow promises and if the US unfroze their sovereign funds and some key Islamic states formally recognized them, they would go about enforcing their actual agenda. The international observers’ hope was that the members of the Afghan delegation based in Doha might be able to influence their counterparts in Afghanistan, to follow the international demands. But these moderate elements were sidelined in the new government and the hawks amongst them took control based on their ideological beliefs.

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India-West Staff Reporter

ORANGE, CA – A 'Women's Leadership Summit,' was held here on June 3. Organized by the Global Peace Foundation and United Nations Association of USA, Long Beach Chapter helmed by Dr. Manorama Gupta, the theme of the event was, 'Be fearless, Influence, Innovate, and Inspire.'

Gupta began by recognizing community leaders of different backgrounds, including Councilwoman May Zendejas, Rima Nashashibi, Jennifer Loren Neilson, Jen-net Kreitner, and Sherine Zaza. She spoke of how the organizations she leads were helping the community by providing meals and engaging in tasks like beach clean-ups.

Speakers Crystal Lynn Privett, Ike Khamsani, Giovanna Salas, and Steven Ross spoke of how their successes had come through empowering themselves and succeeding hard work. With their inspirational speeches, they invited listeners to plan, take calculated risks and achieve success. A youth speaker, Jasmin Sivakumaran impressed the audience with her powerful speech titled "Why Empowering Teen Girls Matters." The cultural event included Kuchipudi and Shivritya dance by students of Savitri Arts Academy, directed by Dr. Sinduri Jayasinghe; multicultural dance, choreographed by Lalitha Raaj; Bollywood style Kathak dance by Ruchi Lamba and her students; Bollywood songs by Priya Kumar and a recital by sarod player Stephen Day accompanied by Dr. Sukrit Mukherjee on tabla.

The emcee for the event held at Tandoor restaurant was Michelle Mehta.



Dr. Manorama Gupta

Diaspora a 'Living Bridge' to India Says Minister on Visit to SoCal

India-West Staff Reporter

BUENA PARK, CA - The Indian Consulate, San Francisco, on May 21 hosted an event where the SoCal community could meet and interact with the visiting Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan. Those who gathered at the Jain Center of Southern California represented a wide swathe of community organizations.

The minister's visit came on the heels of his stop in New York to participate in the United Nation's first International Migration Review Forum and the US convened meeting on global food security.

Consul General T.V. Nagendra Prasad in his brief remarks praised the Indian American community and said it was a testament to the respect they command in the state of California that Governor Gavin Newsom was among the first to ship oxygen concentrators to India during the pandemic. He said he was also happy to note the trend of more and more people getting into public service. On the prickly consular issue of OCI cards, the Consul General was disarming in saying that complaints were inevitable and simply shared an impressive statistic to point toward progress: Last year alone, 54,000 OCI cards had been cleared and issued; this in comparison with the 27,000 in the years past.

In a pre-thought-out program flow, Deputy Consul General Rajesh Naik began



V. Muraleedharan addresses the audience as Nagendra Prasad looks on.

by taking a set of questions from the audience and after introducing the minister, requested him to weave his answers into his speech.

Before he dove into answering them, Muraleedharan began by acknowledging that the Indian American community was a well-educated, well-heeled one "representing the best of India." In response to a question and referring to the Consul General's stats on OCI, he said the huge interest in OCI, not just in the US but in other parts of the world, was a clear indication of the "strength of the Indian tricolor," whereas in the past there had been no interest in Indian citizenship.

The minister said now that India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi considers the diaspora, "a living bridge connecting India to

the rest of the world," it was only naturally their interests would be addressed. His ministry which used to focus only on bilateral relations is now more focused on helping the community.

Addressing another question, this time pertaining to Ukraine, the minister said "we are neither friendly

toward somebody nor away from somebody. At the core of our hearts, we have our interests but at the same time we have global good in our mind." The banning of wheat exports had led to the perception that India is against global food security but "India is doing what it is supposed to do for India and Indians." He averred, "this is the reality of every country's foreign policy." India might have toed the line of others in the past but that was not the case anymore. He said a tweet he had seen summed it up well, where was slated as not arrogant, but confident.

India, he said, was determined that the same inequity that happened with vaccines would not happen with wheat. "We are not hoarding," he said, pointing to shipments to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and others.

Harking back to his earlier comment on how the diaspora was being viewed differently, Muraleedharan said India no longer considered it a 'brain drain' but has confidence in the youth that whichever part of the world they go to they will make India proud.

Referring to another comment that India should earmark monies for lobbying, he felt that was not the solution to empower India. The aim was to see that in India's 100th year of independence, the nation emerges as a global leader, so the next 25 years were crucial, the minister said. Every Indian citizen whether in India or outside has a role to play in making this happen.

It is not limited to economic growth, but it is about percolating the right narrative about India. The whole perspective is created not just by mainstream media but through digital platforms and every individual can play a role in this. He picked up Modi's slogan to make his point "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" to now include 'Sabka Prayas (everyone's effort).'

He concluded his speech with a push for increasing tourism to India.

After Yogesh Shah President of the Jain Center gave a vote of thanks, the audience mingled and lined up for pictures with the minister. During his SoCal visit, Muraleedharan also made stops at BAPS, Chino Hills, and the University of Southern California, among others.

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India-West Staff Reporter

FREMONT, CA - When it comes to cyber threats, one can't always predict when one will occur. But one can prepare. The American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) hosted a virtual 'Cybersecurity Summit' with 20 speakers on May 21.

Voices representing the cybersecurity industry - software vendors, risk management consultants, cyber industry innovators, emerging technology startups, and government and company board representatives were present, a press release said.

The summit was co-chaired by ASEI National President Piyush Malik who is the Chief Digital & Transformation Officer at Veridic solutions and Bhawna Singh, a Senior Vice President of Engineering at Cybersecurity vendor. They began by contextualizing what and why of cybersecurity and the threat landscape: 59% of Americans have experienced cybercrime, 70% of small businesses are completely unprepared for a cyberattack, 88% of professional hackers can infiltrate an organization within 12 hours and globally, nearly \$7 trillion is lost to cybercrime.

In his keynote, titled 'Enabling Engineers to Build a Secure Future,' Ankur Shah from Palo Alto Networks talked about supply chains being the new targets of malicious actors and gave tips to the engineers in the community. He stressed on security as a shared

Bay Area ASEI Event Makes Clear: Cybersecurity is Everyone's Job



responsibility and presented a solution of breaking silos by prescribing a DevSecOps approach and leveraging automation.

Aastha Verma as Department of homeland security's CISA Branch Chief for Vulnerabilities shared a lot of resources to help the audience understand how the government and public can work hand in hand to curb the cyber risks. She drew at-

tention to the "Shields up" and "Presidents Cup" initiatives which are all available on the CISA website.

Jyotsna Lekkala from Zoom then talked about Software Supply Chain Security and how it has evolved from physical to software more so since the 9/11 attacks.

Moderated by Invigrid CEO Yogita Parulekar, a panel focussed on the daunting

talent gap in the cybersecurity space with panelists Chirag Shah, Nataraj Nagaratnam and Laxmish Bhat. The 'Women in Cybersecurity' panel was led by Chitra Dharmarajan with panelists Rupa Mittapalli, Upasna Saluja and Anusha Vaidhyanathan. With an explosion of sensor infused devices around us from wearables to cameras to even microwaves and refrigerators etc. all estimated to touch 55.7 billion IOT devices by 2025, Agas Somasundaram talked about why IOT security is important.

The geopolitical panel was moderated by author Niharika Srivastav and addressed geopolitical instability caused by threats from Russia-Ukraine war as well as rouge-nations. The panelists were Rita Archrekar, Anshu Gupta, and Vishal Chawla

The Cybersecurity summit closing keynote on 'Insider threats, Information Sharing with Entity Resolution and Privacy' by Design came from former IBM Fellow Jeff Jonas, who was beaming in from France talking about how technologies he invented like Non-Obvious Relationships Awareness have led him to detect and protect Las Vegas Casinos from millions of dollars of fraud.

The vote of thanks by ASEI National director Sam Ladwa, wrapped up the event.

There was the eagerness and enthusiasm through the entire event with over 165 attendees participating, a press release said.

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CRY America's Gala Raises \$1 Million



When we all act together - project partners, donors, volunteers - incredible changes happen. said CRY America's CEO Shefali Sunderlal.

India-West Staff Reporter

Call it the most "feel-good" road movie yet to be made: A Bollywood heartthrob and a salt-of-the-earth social reformer from rural India race coast-to-coast via plane, train and automobile on a two-week fundraising mission benefiting kids in post-pandemic India.

"Heroes for Life," Child Rights and You (CRY) America's annual gala series, returned after a two-year pandemic break to honor the organization's U.S.-based donors and field workers across 30 CRY America-supported projects in villages and slums

throughout India. The gala series ran from May 14-22, with sold-out events in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Diego, New York City and Houston, with a virtual event in Seattle. This year's fundraising total smashed previous records, raising over \$1 million, a press release said.

CRY America is a 501c3 registered non-profit that supports projects in India and the U.S. that ensure access to education and healthcare for underprivileged children, as well as protection from child labor, early marriage, and trafficking.

Galas featured Bollywood actor Vivek Oberoi ("Saathiya", Amazon's Emmy-

nominated "Inside Edge") as celebrity guest who spoke about the importance of supporting the cause of children. Lalithamma, director of People's Organization for Rural Development (PORD), a CRY America-supported project in Andhra Pradesh shared her work during the pandemic.

The pandemic took a particularly cruel toll among underprivileged communities in India. With the ongoing lockdowns and school closings, child marriage, trafficking and child labor rates spiked, accompanied by increased incidence of malnutrition, gaps in learning, and abuse of girl children.

CRY America CEO Shefali Sunderlal noted that project workers were given special permissions by the Indian government as essential workers during the pandemic, and they went the extra mile to ensure that challenges faced by their communities and children were addressed, while CRY America's donors maintained their funding support unabated throughout the crisis.

"We had to pivot from our regular plans for the year and get a grasp on what was happening in the field where our project partners work," said Shefali at the May 20 New York gala, held at the Taj Pierre.

"Our project workers risked their lives to undertake community awareness programs on COVID protocols, distri-



Star and philanthropist Vivek Oberoi spoke of his mother's work which has inspired him to look for social change.



Lalithamma, Director, People's Organization for Rural Development was dubbed a "superhero in a sari," by Vivek Oberoi.

bution of PPE kits, and ensure testing and vaccination efforts across their villages," she continued.

Oberoi brought star power and charisma making his grand entrance nightly with a bevy of dancers and select hit songs from his 20-year film career. In addition to making a special address to the attendees, he led the evening's pledge sessions, telling stories about the importance of philanthropy and appreciating the donors with personal thanks and photo ops.

Oberoi cited his mother's dedication as a palliative care worker as inspiration for his long track record of philanthropy, which he termed as "karmic investment".

"The world is full of two kinds of people - those who need help, and those who can help," said Oberoi, closing his New York City remarks. "

Lalithamma, Director, People's Organization for Rural Development Dubbed a "superhero in a sari," by Oberoi, took the stage nightly to share her story from growing up as a victim of gender discrimination herself to her work today to empower girls in her district. Lalithamma founded PORD in 1992 to focus on girls' education as a means of preventing early marriage.

Lalithamma shared the compelling journey of Revathi, a child who benefited from PORD's help. Just as Lalithamma herself had been discriminated against decades prior, Revathi had been forced to drop out of school but today, thanks to PORD, has become a changemaker herself, earning a college degree in technology, working for Wipro, and continuing her hygiene programs among girls.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Nisha Varughese Among Those Cured of Cancer in Drug Trial

NEW YORK, NY (IANS) – An Indian American patient was among those who had a “miracle” cure using a cancer medication that is being tried out by a research center here achieving an unprecedented healing rate when all 14 patients in the trial had their cancers disappear.

“It’s a miracle”, Nisha Varughese said about the immunotherapy drug’s ef-

ficacy in curing her. In the trial at the Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Cancer Center in New York using dostarlimab, “the rectal cancer disappeared after immunotherapy -- without the need for the standard treatments of radiation, surgery, or chemotherapy -- and the cancer has not returned in any of the patients, who have been cancer-free for up to two years,” the MSK said.

According to researchers, this was the first time that all the patients in a cancer trial were completely healed with a medication, and they did not have serious side effects. The results of the trial were disclosed over the weekend in the New England Journal of Medicine and at a meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology. An editorial in the Journal called it “an early



Nisha Varughese (R) with other patients and doctors is one of the four people who were successfully treated for rectal cancer in a clinical trial at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

glimpse of a revolutionary treatment shift”.

MSK explained that “immunotherapy harnesses the body’s own immune system as an ally against cancer”.

It said, “The Immune cells contain a safeguard called a checkpoint, to prevent them from attacking normal cells. Cancer cells can trip this safeguard and shut down immune cells, allowing a tumor to hide and grow.”

Immunotherapy uses what is called a “checkpoint inhibitor” that frees immune cells to recognize and attack cancer cells.

Varughese recalled discovering she was completely cancer-free: “That day I didn’t see the tumor. So, I was thinking, where is the tumor? Then, maybe I thought it’s hiding somewhere inside. Doctor told me, there is no more tumors. It’s a miracle.”

Dr Vinod Balachandran: Leads Vax Trial for Pancreatic Cancer



Indian American doctor Vinod Balachandran led a ground breaking trial showing patients remained cancer free for eighteen months.

NEW YORK, NY (IANS) - The world’s first trial, led by an Indian American doctor, on a mRNA-based vaccine for pancreatic cancer has shown promise for remission.

The new shot is developed by BioNTech based on the same technology used by the German biotech company along with its US partner Pfizer to develop vaccines against Covid-19.

The groundbreaking trial led by Dr Vinod Balachandran at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) here, showed that half of the patients remained cancer-free 18 months after having their tumors removed and receiving the jabs.

The key to these vaccines appears to be proteins in the pancreatic tumors, called neoantigens, which alert the immune sys-

tem to keep cancer at bay, according to MSK. The promising results were also presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago.

In 8 of 16 patients studied, the vaccines activated T cells that recognize the patient’s own pancreatic cancers. These patients also showed delayed recurrence of their pancreatic cancers, suggesting the T cells activated by the vaccines may be having the desired effect to keep pancreatic cancers in check. According to Balachandran, mRNA vaccines could stimulate the immune system to recognize and attack pancreatic cancer cells.

“Unlike some of the other immunotherapies, these mRNA vaccines do appear to have the ability to stimulate immune responses in pancreatic cancer patients,” Balachandran said of the promising preliminary results.

“So, we’re very excited about that, and the early results suggest that if you have an immune response, you may have a better outcome.”

Balachandran added the results should be welcome news for other cancer patients too, as pancreatic cancer has been very difficult to treat with traditional chemotherapies and immunotherapies.

Quote of the day: “Be ready when opportunity comes. Luck is the time when preparation and opportunities meet.” - Roy D Chplin.

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Arun S. Nominated For Federal Judgeship in New York

India-West Staff Reporter

NEW YORK, NY - Based on Senate Majority Leader Schumer's recommendation, President Biden on June 10 nominated Arun Subramanian for a federal judgeship in the Southern District of New York.

Subramanian is a partner at the law firm Susman Godfrey, for the prestigious U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He once clerked for Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

The nomination must be approved by the Senate to move forward to the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District and Eastern District of New York. His law firm's website said he, "has been actively involved in a variety of landmark matters for Susman Godfrey. No matter the arena, Arun has a proven track record of success."

Subramanian is an appointee of the Chief Justice of the United States to on the Advisory Committee for the Federal Rules of Evidence. Outside of the courtroom, Subramanian contributes to the legal community by taking on pro bono cases and has for years served on the pro bono panel for the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He serves as Chairperson of Susman Godfrey's 2022 Pro Bono Committee and is also a longtime Director of the Columbia Law Review, one of the Nation's pre-eminent legal journals.



Subramanian has degrees in English and computer science from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH and his JD from Columbia Law School, NY.

The Indian American Impact Executive Director Neil Makhija, welcoming the Biden nomination pointed out, "South Asians and Asian Americans have long been underrepresented in the federal judiciary — with less than five percent of Article III district judges being of AAPI descent — but in the past year we have made historic strides. We look forward to celebrating the ultimate confirmation of Mr. Subramanian and the ripple effect his presence will undoubtedly have on young South Asian Americans across the country who aspire to public service."

Campaign Contributions to Harry Sidhu Come Under The Scanner

India-West News Desk

ANAHEIM, CA - As a fallout of the FBI corruption probe of former Mayor Harry Sidhu, the Anaheim City Council on June 7, led by Councilman Jose Moreno, began looking into campaign finance reform to see if members could be stymied from voting on matters related to campaign donors. The objective is not to prevent people and PACs from giving to candidates but to see that they did not benefit from it, the Council was told.

Among other things, Sidhu is facing allegations of corruption related to the sale of the Angel stadium and resigned effective May 24. The FBI has alleged that Sidhu had leaked information to the Angels to get campaign contributions.

The Council sought to evaluate an audit of Sidhu's campaign contributions and related agreements with the city. The city has readied a document that highlights 106 individual campaign contributors to Sidhu and contracts with the city.

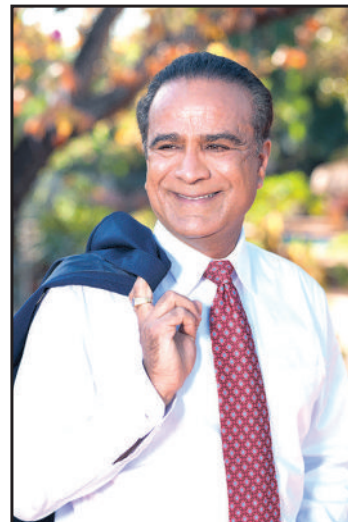
"A fair and impartial review of all campaign contributions related to Harry Sidhu

will confirm every contribution was properly accounted for and in compliance with

campaign finance requirements," Paul Meyer, the former Mayor's attorney said.

The statement added, "An examination of past practices of the former mayors of Anaheim and elsewhere will confirm this as well. We urge the city and everyone to avoid political spin in a matter which is still under investigation with no charges filed. The city should follow the course which the

community of Anaheim deserves act professionally based on fact, not rumor; and apply the law unto others as you would have it applied unto you." Meyer said Sidhu anticipates "the federal investigation to show that Harry did not disclose any closed session or secret information (to the Los Angeles Angels). He never leaked anything in the hopes of a later political campaign contribution. He worked a member of the city's negotiating group to help reach a mutually beneficial agreement between Anaheim and the Angels. The Superior Court has ruled that the group did not violate the Brown Act."



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Dem Asif Mahmood Set to Run Against GOP's Young Kim in CA's 40th Dist.

India-West Staff Reporter

TUSTIN, CA - The newly drawn California 40th Congressional District might see a faceoff between Democrat Asif Mahmood and GOP incumbent Young Kim in the November General Elections.

As primary votes are still being counted after election night on June 7, indications are that Mahmood has received the most votes. The only Democrat in the field, he coasted along boosted by early mail-in votes which typically go blue.

The Pakistani American is a doctor and had recently moved to Tustin for the campaign. "Over these past few months, we defied the odds and built a grassroots campaign from the ground up while not accepting a cent from corporate PACs," he said.

Mahmood reiterated his plat-



Democrat Asif Mahmood with wife Noshaba and their three children

form in a statement, "Working families in Orange County and across the country are facing enormous challenges -- price gouging at the pumps, high prescription drug prices, a broken health care system, an economy that favors the ultra-wealthy over the middle class, and more.

The district which touches

on Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties is considered a swing seat and gains importance in view of control of Congress next year. The redistricting has included portions of two former districts that were swing seats in the past two election cycles.

"I believe our district represents the very best that the United

States has to offer -- a spirit of innovation, inclusivity, and a commitment to the well-being of others. These values are urgently needed if we're going to defeat the crisis of hyper-partisanship that is corrupting our democracy," said Mahmood. That the road

ahead has challenges begins with name recognition and the candidate has his work cut out for him.

Mahmood hails from Punjab's Kharian and got his medical degree from Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center. He is married to Noshaba and has three children.

Google Ads Briefly Suspends Account of Kash Patel's Publisher



India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC - Kash Patel, who was chief of staff to the acting U.S. Secretary of Defense in the Donald Trump administration, released a book on May 16, which defends the former President's untruthful claims that the FBI began looking for collusion between his campaign and Russia because of access to a dossier from Christopher Steele, a former British spy.

As has been widely reported, the FBI opened an investigation into the Trump campaign after his adviser, George Papadopoulos, told an Australian diplomat that Russia had political "dirt" on Hillary Clinton. Published by Brave Books, 'The Plot Against the King' by Patel ignores this completely. Curiously a "children's" book, the Indian American takes the help of illustrations and fictional characters. The allusion of course is to Trump as the king who has been wronged by evil people, ostensibly Democratic chair of the intelligence committee, Rep.

Adam Schiff and protected by the hero, Patel himself. Then there is "Keeper Komey," (former FBI director James Comey) and "Hillary Queenton".

The author who has put in 35 pages of work for children to follow the political plot has been at the receiving end of mostly terrible reviews but once again appeared on the radar of supporters when Google Ads briefly suspended and then reinstated the account of the publishers, Brave Books. It said, "Google doesn't want users to feel misled by the content promoted in shopping ads.... Promotions that represent you or your products in a way that is not accurate, realistic, or truthful." Patel told Fox Business, "Two years ago, the left tried to block the truth about the Russian Collusion Conspiracy, and now they are trying to censor our children from learning the truth." He added, "educating our children about the truth must be free of big tech censorship and politically based ideological shadow banning."

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Kamala Harris Headlines Indian American Impact Summit, Tells Community to Remain Inspired

India-West Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, DC - At the Indian American Impact Project 'Dream with Ambition' summit and gala held at the Willard InterContinental Hotel here, Vice President Kamala Harris praised the high-powered attendees saying, "Every day, in communities across our nation, you are advancing equality, opportunity, and justice. You are inspiring the next generation of leaders, and in particular, the next generation of South Asian leaders."

The opening event on May 18, had all four Indian American Congressional representatives in attendance - Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Pramila Jayapal, (D-WA), Ro Khanna, (D-CA) and Ami Bera, (D-CA) - along with several other philanthropists, business-people, and public opinion leaders from the community.

In her pre-recorded speech, Harris made it personal tying back the theme of the event to her mother. "As you all know, when my mother was 19, she came to the United States from India to become a breast cancer researcher. She raised my sister and me to believe that we could be anything and do anything, if we set our minds to it. She taught us to 'Dream with Ambition' and so many of you gathered here today have

something special in common. You see what can be unburdened by what has been."

She continued, "Today my message to you is this - let us always remember, what brought us to this moment and continue to dream with ambition, continue to lead with conviction, continue to strive to do the impossible. Because you, and we all, are standing on the shoulders of so many who came before and living their dreams. Our nation is counting on you, on Impact, and all of us to lead us forward."

Impact, in its press release, said that the event was aimed to energize and prepare South Asians, the largest growing voting bloc in the country, on how to join and engage the political system. Impact held a slew of informative sessions during the summit toward this end, including running for office, combating misinformation, and mobilizing the pan-South Asian community and women leadership. It also focused on policy making and policy influence on the community including in the areas of climate, healthcare, civil rights, and education.

Neil Makhija, Executive director of Indian American Impact contended that

historically, South Asians had been overlooked, underestimated, and underrepresented politically, "But after witnessing so many com-

munity members and future leaders come together this week, it is clear that is a thing of the past. Countless voices this week proved that our community is stronger when we collaborate and celebrate our intersectionality. It's incredi-



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi who attended the event, tweeted out this image and said, "Thank you to the Indian American Impact Project for inviting me to take part in their panel discussion on the importance of representation and public service, as well as the pressing issues that our country faces today."

On left: Kamala Harris

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Acharya Lokeshji, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Discuss Conflict and Peace

Contd. from p1

moderated the session, wowing the audience with his star power of course, but also his deep compassion and sincerity.

Introduced by Mahesh Wadher, former president of JAINA (Federation of Jain Associations in North America) and sponsor of the event, Vivek Oberoi, it was informed, had a stellar record of community service: he is a Goodwill Ambassador for Habitat for Humanity, the WHO, and the UN and actively helps organizations aiding cancer-afflicted children, rescuing girls from prostitution, aiding poor children with heart

conditions, building affordable homes, universities, etc. An awed Wadher summed it up, "While he may play several characters in films, he really is a world hero. I am honored to welcome someone of his caliber."

Oberoi set things in context saying, "There are two kinds of people in the world, those who can help and those who need help. It has nothing to do with money, status, religion. Imagine you are in an accident, whoever gives you the CPR is the angel. Seva is the most important thing."

Praising the Jain community, he said, in 20 years of social work

he had noticed that even though the Jain community is a minority according to census reports, in terms of selfless work, it is a majority."

He was also laudatory of the Acharya saying, "Lokeshji has incredible energy; if we tapped this instead of solar energy, the world power crisis will be over. He channels that entire energy toward world peace."

The Jain leader is working to establish Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, India's first World Peace Center in Gurugram, and said the current rampant conflict situations could



Sri Sri ravishankar being welcomed into the Jain Center by Mahesh Wadher and JCSC members

be avoided if the tolerant and inclusive Indian culture can be made the world culture. The root cause, he said, needs to be addressed in the education system where the need is to shift to a value-based one. This, the upcoming center will be focusing on.

The bonhomie between him and Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was apparent, with each referencing the work of the other. The AOL leader has been traveling the globe spreading the message of peace and he posited that it began with the individual. He advised that when we voice the simple statement, 'I stand for peace,' that which is hidden deep inside comes to the fore and affects the way we are in the world and will in

turn have positive repercussions on global conditions.

Satpal Singh Khalsa, Ambassador of Sikh Dharma in the US too advised that everyone work on inner peace. "There is a big difference between being a human being and being human. Purpose of religion is not to send each of us to heaven but discover the heaven within," he said.

Inspired by the proceedings, a pledge of \$100,000 for the peace center from Dr. Anil & Preeti Shah was announced. Among other donors was the Sarva Mangal Trust.

Others who spoke at the event include Yogesh Shah, President of JCSC and Nitin Shah who detailed the construction and work of the beautiful center.



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Madhavan and Nambi Promote Film, Many Touched by Story

Contd. from p1

attendance returned also wowed by Nambi and his contributions.

The movie is a biographical portrayal of the life of Nambi, a

2019 Padma Bhushan recipient.

It especially strives to shed light on the period when the 1941-born scientist, who worked as an aerospace engineer at the Indian

Space Research Organization, was falsely accused of espionage in 1994 and four agonizing years later, declared not guilty. Madhavan spoke at length about how he

Madhavan told **India-West** that "This is the first movie I think, that has been shot simultaneously in three languages – English, Tamil and Hindi. It has not been dubbed. So, the actors, shot each scene to suit the colloquial style and spoke the dialog."

As a writer, he told **India-West**, "I had to learn a lot of terminology and being an engineering student myself, I did understand most of it. I bugged Nambi so many times to confirm many terms. After all, this subject could not be dragged into a commercial type of film, I had to stick to the main plot and



Madhavan and Nambi (on top) with KHNA's Ramdas Pillai and Kavitha Panicker and (bottom) KHNA's Ravi Vellatheri.

initially heard about Nambi's courageous journey and was so impressed, that he felt he had to make everyone aware of it. He said he had to condense many incidents for cinematic purposes.

At the event organized by the Kerala Hindus of North America, attempts were made to explain how makeup and effects were used to transform the writer, director, producer, and lead role player Madhavan into Nambi. The actor said it was first time enacting a bio-pic and he said while he got his hair colored, reduced his weight and twisted his jaw to get the right expressions, the crew worked hard to make him look and old, as dictated by the script.

Nambi said it was the scientists of India who have provided such a commendable position for India on the global stage and hoped the story would inspire budding scientists. He also hoped that no one would have to face the ignominy and torture that he himself had unfortunately been subjected to.

character." He acknowledged that there would be shots some might still not get, but he has worked "to balance the terminology for scientists and layperson so they can relate to the emotions, intensity, and occupation of the scientist."

Nambi added to **India-West**, "Madhavan has been a good director, but to me...he listened to what I narrated about the incidents at the research centers, and he has been a good student in that respect. The movie has shown the truth." It could be why the movie, which has been shot across seven countries, was greatly applauded at its premiere at the 75th Cannes Film Festival, earlier this year.

Earlier, the event began with remarks by KHNA officials, guests and organizers including, B.J. Pillai, Ranjit Pillai and Ramadas Pillai.



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Rapper Moosewala



A vacationer from Birmingham, UK, snapping off pictures of the murals.

Contd. from p1

Painted on the outside walls of Artesia's London's Pub and Grill, 11651 Artesia Blvd., organizers and artists told ABC7 and posted on Instagram that they had been promised by the owners of the

pub and the city, that the mural could remain there "forever." Indeed, pub owner Raj Patel is not new to murals and is sensitive to current news, having invited depictions of Kobe Bryant and Nipsey Hussle on his walls.

Spelling Champ Harini Logan Returns Home

India - West
News Desk

SAN ANTONIO, TX – The Scripps National Spelling Bee champ, Harini Logan was given a warm welcome home here at the airport by friends and family on June 7.

"I think it's so unreal to be the winner and to come back home to this. I'm just happy and I feel very grateful to have everybody," the Indian American told local media KSAT, adding with pride, "I'm very proud to be representing my hometown at the national level."

On June 2, the 14-year-old beat out 234 children and won a prize package of \$52,500 which she said she would use toward college, invest in stocks, and give back to the community. Of the 14 finalists who survived three days of grueling contests in Washington, 11 were of Indian origin. The runner up was Vikram Raju, who gets \$25,00, and Vihan Sibal came in third, winning \$15,000.

Since Balu Natarajan won it in 1985, 20 Indian-origin children have won it.

The final elimination round this year had the children select the correct meaning of words from a list of choices, rather than just spell words. Logan was initially knocked out in this round but was reinstated when the judges ruled that her answer was also correct. Logan has told the media in the wake of her triumph that she has been working on the bee for the past seven years, almost from first grade.



Cal State LA Singles Out Nikita Mishra For Praise

India-West Staff Reporter

LOS ANGELES, CA - As new variants of COVID-19 emerged around the globe, Nikita Mishra focused her research on using computer modeling to study mutations of the virus to aid in vaccine and drug development.

The 17-year-old—one of the youngest graduates in Cal State LA's Class of 2022—aimed to examine and describe how different strains of COVID-19 bind to receptors in the human body without the need for laborious laboratory experiments.

Mishra, a Los Angeles resident, graduated summa cum laude on May 24 with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the College of Natural and Social Sciences. In the fall, she will pursue a master's degree in bioengineering at Stanford University and hopes to continue results-driven research, university press release said.

Mishra aspires to become a doctor and to contribute to the future of health care through continued medical research and political advocacy. The science of medicine and the human aspect of the field drew her to the career path.

"Patients' lives change when they meet their doctors, and I enjoyed observing physicians I interacted with who integrated science with what it means to be human," Mishra says.

Mishra was 14 years old when she enrolled at Cal State LA through the Early Entrance Program. The program, which



has accepted highly gifted students as young as 11 years old, is administered by the university's Honors College.

Throughout her time at Cal State LA, Mishra says the university's faculty played a critical part in her academic journey.

"I have had incredible opportunities to work with faculty on various projects related to the health field, and these experiences helped me really fall in love with the power and beauty of science," Mishra says.

Mishra worked under the guidance of faculty mentor Negin Forouzesh on her COVID-19 research, which was also the subject of her senior thesis for the Honors College.

Forouzesh and Mishra co-authored a paper, "An Effective MM/GBSA Protocol for Absolute Binding Energy Calculations: A Case Study on SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein and the Human ACE2 Receptor," which was published in April 2021 in *Molecules*, an international, peer-reviewed journal. During her time at Cal State LA, Mishra also worked as a research assistant in the Metal Organic Framework Lab with Chemistry Professor Yangyang Liu, studying the construction of physiological defense systems against infectious disease.

A Dean's List student, Mishra minored in bioinformatics and computational biology. With a dedication to giving back, Mishra has been a student coordinator for the Sahaay Foundation, a nonprofit organization committed to providing enriching education to children from low-income families.

Mishra also founded a nonprofit organization called, Your World, Our Future: Girls in STEM.

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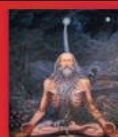
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Swami Mukundananda

San Jose to Get New Temple

India-West Staff Reporter

SAN JOSE, CA – JKYog will inaugurate their new Radha Krishna Temple of the Bay Area and unveil the new deities and hold celebrations from July 4 to 11. Other than the excitement of devotees in having a temple in close proximity, Northern California will be treated to spiritual discourses by Swami Mukundananda. Swamiji, a Vedic scholar, is the founder of JKYog, a unique yogic system designed for holistic health touching all dimensions of the individual: physical, mental, intellectual, and spiritual. The system includes relaxation, meditation, asanas, pranayama, and diet. Organizers said kirtans will be rendered all day and free vegetarian and lunch and dinner served to devotees. The new temple is located at 4411 Hyland Ave, San Jose, CA.

To register for the event: <https://rktbayarea.org/pran-prathistha-1>

To sponsor, be part of puja, abhishek, souvenirs visit <https://rktbayarea.org>

California Assembly Passes Bill Recognizing Swastika as Different From the Nazi Emblem

India-West Staff Reporter

SACRAMENTO, CA – The California State Assembly on May 26, passed AB.2282, taking a historic step and leading the nation as the first state legislative body to legally recognize the difference between the swastika and the Nazi emblem, the hakenkreuz.

Hindu American Foundation's Managing Director, Samir Kalra, based in CA, stated "HAF and Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan both recognize that the passage of AB.2282, as amended, is a significant change that is the first step in reform. We still need to

educate the public, media, and law enforcement about the differences between the hateful Nazi hakenkreuz and the peaceful meaning and sacred use of the swastika as has been done for thousands of years in the Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain communities."

In February 2022, the bill had been

introduced to amend Section 11411 of the Penal Code that



CA Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

deals with crimes and did not differentiate between the Nazi

Hakenkreuz and Hindu Swastika. It had called for punishment against anyone who placed or displayed signs of hate, including the "Nazi Swastika".

After it was introduced, Hindu organizations called for amendments to differentiate between the Nazi symbol of hate and the Hindu holy symbol. Amendments introduced by the authors of the bill on May 19 added the required differentiation between

the two. "The Hindu American Foundation is excited about this historic step and appreciates the leadership exemplified by Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan in overhauling the California Penal Code to ensure all Californians are treated equally, regardless of race or religion" said HAF's California Advocacy Director, Easan Katir, in a press release.

For more visit HAF's website for the explainer: 'The Swastika: Use and Abuse of a Sacred Symbol,' created in partnership with the American Jewish Committee and Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.



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California Man, Jairaj Singh Dhillon, Arrested for Abusive Sexual Contact on Flight from LA to Boston

India-West News Desk

BOSTON, MA - A California man has been arrested for allegedly engaging in abusive sexual contact with two women aboard a redeye flight from Los Angeles to Boston on June 1.

Jairaj Singh Dhillon, 42, of

Modesto, CA, was charged with two counts of abusive sexual contact while in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States. Following an initial appearance before U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Judith G. Dein, Dhillon was held in custody pending a detention hearing.

According to the charging document, during an overnight flight from Los Angeles to Boston on May 31, Dhillon engaged in unwanted sexual contact with two female passengers sitting next to him. The first victim reported that Dhillon, seated in the aisle seat next to her, allegedly touched her thigh and groin area while she was taking care of her infant child who was in a car seat in the window seat next to her. The first victim allegedly called for help and stated

out loud, "this man just groped me."

The second victim, according to the Department of Justice, was seated in the aisle seat opposite Dhillon and reported that Dhillon allegedly reached out with both hands and simultaneously grabbed her groin and buttocks when she was standing in the aisle. Flight crew then intervened and moved Dhillon to another part of the plane for the duration of the flight. When the flight arrived in Boston, law enforcement

escorted Dhillon off the plane and placed him under arrest.

The charge of abusive sexual contact while in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States provides for a sentence of up to three years in prison, up to one year of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes that govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

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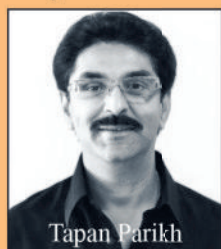
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Murder-Suicide of Pakistani American Family in TX

SPRING, TX (IANS) - A child and three adults have been killed in a murder-suicide incident involving a Pakistani family here, according to a law enforcement official.

Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said the man shot dead his 4-year-old daughter, his estranged wife, and his mother-in-law and killed himself, according to Fox7 TV.

Sheriff's deputies made the grim discovery when they went

to the woman's apartment in the Houston suburb of Spring on May 19 morning in response to a call, he said. ABC13 TV in Houston said that he described the family as Pakistani. Their identities have not been revealed by authorities pending notification of their families.

The station said that the woman worked at a nearby Islamic school.

A police report was filed in April that the little girl told her mother



that her father told her to get into a bathtub and keep her head underwater, the station added.

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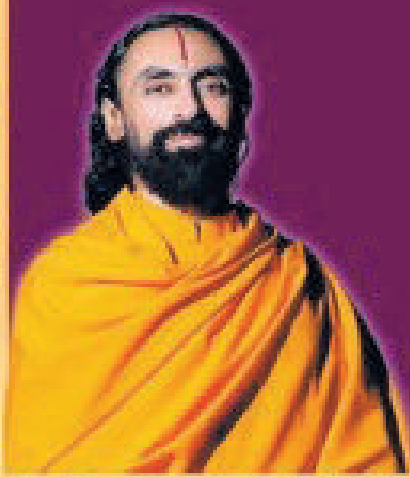
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Punjab's 'Local' Gangs Are Based Primarily in Canada

BY KAVYA DUBEY

When Khalistan flags were found fastened at the entrance of Himachal Pradesh Assembly complex in Dharamshala earlier in May, the state police promptly sealed the borders and beefed-up security. The police were quick to book Canada-based Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun under essentially an anti-terror law. SFJ is a proscribed outfit that with its strong virtual influence, is known for radicalizing people, racking up bygone sentiments and reviving the movement for Khalistan.

Shortly after this episode, a Pakistan-crafted rocket-propelled grenade attack was made at the Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters in Mohali. A security alarm was sure to go off in the wake of these events, and more that followed. A common understanding is that these occurrences gravely point to the efforts of pro-Khalistan elements to provoke disturbance and unrest in India, thereby creating a concern for India's security. But "There's broader governance and political thinking," said A.S. Dulat, former Chief of both Intelligence Bureau and Research and Analysis Wing

(RAW), "There is no security solution to everything," he says.

Dulat recounts that "There wasn't too much Khalistan even when Punjab was disturbed in the early 1980s and remains so after Blue Star. This is only a fringe element-those who believed in Khalistan," he asserts, reiterating that "Security doesn't have all the answers."

As far as the den of Khalistan movement goes, the state of Punjab is the epicenter of the possibility of this revived threat. But to what extent is this a genuine threat? Dulat says that "Punjab is a sensitive state and it needs to be handled sensitively. You can't take Punjab for granted," emphasizing the importance of the border state, "Khalistan is not what worries me, but you can't run Punjab from Delhi."

It came as a shock when popular Punjabi singer and Congress leader, Sidhu Moosewala was shot dead recently, just a day after his security cover was withdrawn. After his murder was acknowledged as an outcome of local inter-gang rivalry, Canada-based SFJ chief



Pannun issued a threat letter at Punjabi singers telling them to support the Khalistan movement. The letter read: "Death is imminent" and that it is time to support the "Khalistan Referendum" for the liberation of Punjab from India.

Pro-Khalistan elements operating in Canada is no secret. The "local" Punjabi gangs have their bases in Canada primarily and such is the reach of their inter-gang rivalries. The criminal gang members have dozens and scores of cases against them in India while they reside in Canada and elsewhere abroad.

The gangs are organized and networked overseas with terrorist intentions to threaten and exhort money from businessmen based

in Punjab. Larger groups like Khalistan Liberation Force and Khalistan Tiger Force are also known to have carried out targeted killings and contributed to communal unrest in Punjab. Anti-India sentiments are known to be harbored in Canada and Khalistani groups such as SFJ contribute significantly to stoke the revival of pro-Khalistan sentiments.

For a movement that petered out in the 1980s and almost became a thing of the past, one might question the purpose of raking up Khalistan in present times. Might the splinter of Khalistan have any bearing on the larger canvas of nationalism?

A retired IPS officer who has served in various policing functions including counter-insurgency and security matters in different capacities, on condition of anonymity, said that "Promoting a perception of rising pro-Khalistani sentiment is seen as a way, by some political parties opposed to AAP, to accuse that party of ineptitude in maintaining law and order and in ensuring the security

and integrity of a border state like Punjab. Whether it is capable in this regard or not is a matter yet to be seen." However, given that Pakistan is more than capable of disturbing India by means of terror funding or terror tactics or outright acts of terror, it is unlikely to create a Kashmir-like situation in Punjab. This is because of a very crucial difference between these two regions-the faiths of people in the Indian system which is conspicuously absent in Kashmir.

Although there are attempts to radicalize the youth from both these regions, the new generation Sikhs in the 1980s were disillusioned with the notion of a separate Khalistan state and moved on from this dangerous political fantasy in time.

However, in the light of Moosewala's assassination and connecting the dots to furthering the militant cause of Khalistan and deploying local gangsters in this regard, Dulat says that it is a "wake-up call". Denying outrightly that the so-called Khalistan movement has any political value, he says that "it has a nuisance value, and if you don't understand Punjab, then this nuisance could become a bigger nuisance."

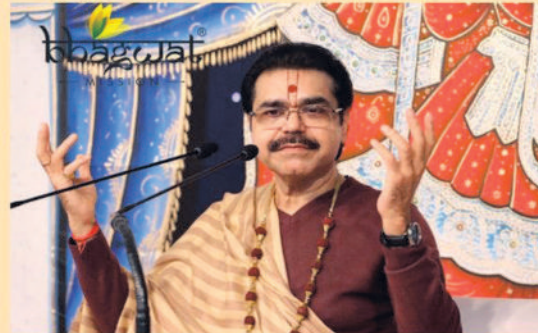
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Intl. Yoga Day Theme 'Yoga For Humanity'



NEW DELHI, (IANS) - The 8th edition of International Day of Yoga will be celebrated with the theme of 'Yoga for Humanity'. The event will be organized in India and across the globe on June 21.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the theme in his 'Maan Ki Baat' address to the nation.

Union Ayush Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "As we are aware, Yoga is a practice that brings joy, health, and peace from within, and it deepens a sense of continuous connection between an individual's inner consciousness and the external world. I will be successful in propagating this

theme appropriately," he said.

The Ayush Ministry said that focusing on Yoga for Humanity, special programs have been designed this year for especially abled people, transgender population, women, and children.

The 8th edition of International Day of Yoga will see many firsts, one of them is an innovative program named 'Guardian Ring', which will showcase the movement of the sun, participation of people performing Yoga will take place along with the movement of the sun from different countries, beginning from east and marching towards west, the Ministry said.



India is World's Largest Supplier of Rice, Huge Reserves of Wheat

NEW DELHI, (IANS) -Notwithstanding the recent ban on wheat, India with the aim of touching a \$5 trillion economy, is set to position itself as a key global food supplier as shortages push prices. India has maintained that it was open to supplying grains to the "needy" and low-income countries.

The deepening food crisis across the world is unlikely to be resolved even after the Russia-Ukraine war. Known as the world's breadbasket, Ukraine has been one of the main food suppliers in the world till Russia's invasion. The worry is that, devastated by the war, it will not be able to return to the export map even after the war, food experts told India Narrative. It will take several years for the country to rebuild its resources.

Elevated food prices will continue to plague the world. The war has also fanned global food infla-

tion amid broken supply chains.

Many countries are facing growing levels of food insecurity, reversing years of development gains, and threatening the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the World Bank said.

"Though India has banned wheat exports, it is temporary in nature. We will open it once the domestic prices and availability stabilize. The exports had led to increased hoarding pushing prices," a person familiar with the development told India Narrative. India has emerged as the largest rice supplier of the world, exporting about 20 million tons of rice in 2021-22.

In 2021 Ukraine was the second largest supplier of grains for the European Union and a large food supplier for low and middle-income countries in Asia and Africa, S&P Global noted.



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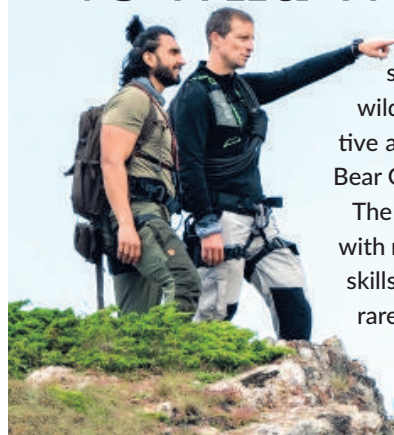
'Ms Marvel' Star Iman Vellani is an Aamir Khan Fan, Loves '3 Idiots'

MUMBAI, (IANS) - Pakistani-Canadian actress Iman Vellani, who is playing the lead role in 'Ms Marvel' revealed that she would love to work with Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan and that her favorite Hindi movies are '3 Idiots' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara'. Tagging '3 Idiots' and 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' her favorite Bollywood movies, Vellani said Bollywood actor Farhan Akhtar is one of the most fascinating people she has worked with.

"My experience working with Farhan was amazing, he has so many stories to share. On set, we'd have quiet moments, and he would just be telling me stories about going skydiving, what it's like filming other movies and his career in general.

"I find him such a fascinating person to listen to and he looks so cool in our show. It's crazy that I grew up watching him, and now I am working with him." Not just this, while her 'Ms Marvel' character Kamala Khan shares her love for Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan's iconic films in the series, Vellani shared that she is an ardent fan of Aamir Khan. When asked about a Bollywood actor she would like to team up with, she again answered Aamir Khan.

Netflix to Stream 'Ranveer vs Wild With Bear Grylls'



MUMBAI, (IANS) - 'Gully Boy' star Ranveer Singh, a self-confessed city-slicker, is all set to get a taste of the wilderness along with Bear Grylls for India's first interactive adventure reality special titled 'Ranveer vs Wild with Bear Grylls', the teaser of which was unveiled on June 10.

The teaser shows the actor taking off on a thrilling date with nature, fending for himself, and learning new survival skills as he ventures into the depths of the wild to find a rare flower for his lady love in the harsh forests of Serbia.

The streaming special, which will be available on Netflix, has been produced by Banijay Asia in association with The Natural Studios.

Monika Shergill, VP-Content, Netflix India, said in a statement, "We are excited to take audiences on the ultimate adventure with the high octane and unstoppable Ranveer Singh and the world's best survival expert, Bear Grylls in 'Ranveer vs Wild. with Bear Grylls'."

"Netflix brings India's first ever interactive adventure special that will give audiences all over the world the controls to test Ranveer Singh, as he pushes his boundaries in this adrenaline-pumping experience of a lifetime," she further said in her statement.

'Ranveer VS Wild with Bear Grylls' will premiere on July 8.



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Indian Feast of Over \$60,000 Was Johnny Depp's Way of Celebrating Trial Win



BIRMINGHAM, (IANS) - Hollywood star Johnny Depp spent over \$62,000 for a special celebratory curry dinner at a restaurant with his friends on June 5 evening here. Depp indulged in a feast of "authentic Indian cuisine," cocktails and rose champagne at the Varanasi restaurant, which serves "heavenly recipes and soothing ambience," according to its website.

The actor scored a big victory when he was awarded a \$10.35 million judgment in his brutal defamation trial against ex-wife Amber Heard, 36. Depp was hanging out with his musician friend and collaborator Jeff Beck, 77, and 20 other people in their party at what's billed as "Birmingham's largest Indian restaurant." Depp and his entourage had arrived at the trendy eatery by 7 p.m. and posed for photos with fans. The 20,000-square-foot restaurant was closed so Depp and his friends could eat in private, and they left around midnight. Mohammed Hussain, operations director of Varanasi, told the outlet. Hussain described how the chefs prepared a feast for the 'Pirates of the Caribbean' star that included delicacies such as shish kebabs, chicken tikka, paneer tikka masala, lamb karahi and tandoori king prawns.



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HOROSCOPE

YOUR FORECAST

June 2022

♈ ARIES (March 21 to April 20): Sudden Travel, Relationship Proposals, Improving Marriages, and Financial Gains. The transit of Rahu and Venus is an indication you control your speech and fulfil your promises. You may need to avoid getting into an argument with family members. The Jupiter and Mars transit may also provide you with an opportunity in a foreign country. Success can be foreseen with foreign deals and projects. It is advisable to help your spouse in personal and professional life, as it may lead your marriage in the right direction. Your marriage is likely to strengthen this month. Prior planning about your expenditures can also save you from the financial crunch.

♉ TAURUS (April 21 to May 20): It'll most likely be a mixed bag of a month. However, the month is favourable for marriage or romantic entanglements. However, there may be some sluggishness in other areas of life. Particularly in the fields of finance and career. The outcomes may not be as desired, but you may not be disappointed if you have the right mindset. However, you may have a lot of support from your family and your cherished partner. Those that are married would understand and even complement one other's needs. Even singles would be content with each other's company. In your personal life, you would bring about the desired bliss. The month is likely to bring to a close a long-running family property battle, usually ending in mutual agreement and complementing each other's choices. This would be a win-win situation for all parties, saving time and money on both ends. The two of you may rejoice at the mutual agreement. Students who study law or work as a business secretary may also do well this month. Your exam would be rewarding since you would receive a good reward.

♊ GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This month is likely to be fruitful if you make wise choices. At work, you may be well-known. Family life may be enjoyable, and there may be plenty of opportunities for quality time. This month could be profitable as well. New business investments might pay off handsomely, but it also indicates that you should seek professional financial guidance to ensure a secure profit. Expenses connected to beauty, cosmetics, and grooming may be incurred. Giving gifts and spending quality time together in a loving relationship is a great way to strengthen your bond. With married couples, there may be some disagreements. Avoid unnecessary arguments. Do not to argue with a female coworker. If you work in the beauty or art industry, this month may present you with an unexpected opportunity in a distant country. You should follow a balanced diet on a daily basis and avoid eating out.

♋ CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The natives are likely to spend their strengths and efforts on their siblings in the family. People with indications may need to be extra proactive with their parents' health this month, as their health may be a source of anxiety. You may have the opportunity to associate with someone from another nation. However, there are hints that the month could be difficult professionally and financially. Lovers may tie the knot with their significant other. Married couples may go through a difficult time in their relationship. To make decent progress, you may need to be cool at all times and focus on your connection. However, the last few days could be a little hard regarding your partner's health. This zodiac sign's students may have a successful month. You may stay focused on your studies and achieve excellent academic success. The monthly horoscope predicts a large amount of unexpected spending. You may need to keep track of your expenses and eliminate excessive spending. It could be fascinating to avoid any form of speculation and instead go for a long-term investment.

♌ LEO (July 23 to August 22): Your natural tendency to leave a relationship once the thrills of a romance have worn off can only cause you mental anguish this time. As a result, avoid injuring others and injuring yourself. You may be humorous, generous,

appealing, and fascinating, making you a personality for others to deal with who is never boring, constantly dynamic, and very alive. Your patience, tenacity, dedication, and goal-oriented personality may more likely make it easier for you to deal with your own and others' difficulties. You truly need someone to help you improve your energy and enthusiasm if you feel insecure. Women may have a good month at work and home. You can have better times if you and your partner have a good chat. Others may perceive you as a powerful individual who makes bold decisions. Spending some time to assess your current physical state could only make you feel more energised and enjoyable. These days, you need a lot of variety and challenges to keep your physical stamina up. You must avoid monotony and lack of excitement at any cost. You may enter into a new contract, which may give you a steady and secure career.

♍ VIRGO (August 23 to September 22): Things aren't looking so good around the middle of this month, so it is advisable to remain cautious. At the beginning of this month, there is a potential that your financial plans may be upset. Stay away from lending and borrowing money. As the month progresses, you may experience a period of good fortune and fortunate events and may fulfil your wishes. You may have plenty of opportunities to spend quality time with your partner. During the middle of the month, you may resolve several concerns concerning your family. However, you may feel as if you are powerless to change your life's pattern. During the last week of the month, you may feel happy on the majority of days. You might be pleased with the academic success you've earned this month as a result of your perseverance and hard work. You might get a lot of opportunities to showcase your talents in the last week of this month. Use what you have during this time wisely.

♎ LIBRA (September 23 to October 22): Libra-bound individuals are likely to have a smooth time ahead. You may need to take care of your health. Be mindful of your diet and your overall fitness this month. Career-wise, the month comes with positive developments for Libra students. As far as your career is concerned, the month might come with positive momentum. Things are beginning to look good and in your favour. You are likely to develop a good image for yourself and bring about a positive transformation in your workplace. Libra natives in the business field are likely to gain positive results. You might add more of the products or services to your list of offerings. This might be a welcoming change for you. This may give you the desired stability and growth in your business. The financial irregularities might bother you in the coming phase. You may immerse your senses in the luxury of things. In terms of relationships, there would be differences of opinion but you are likely to come out of any trouble. Libra natives may experience intimate time with their partners. Seasonal changes may negatively influence your health, and therefore, you are advised to be attentive to your health.

♏ SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22): It appears to bring you positive results in your life. This is an excellent time to make major professional and business decisions. Furthermore, the Sun's passage may give you a sense of purpose in life. This goal may assist you in making the best decisions possible. On the professional front, you're likely to succeed. There's also a good probability you'll get the government's and higher authorities' full support. Your domestic concerns may be settled, and you may be interested in learning more about occult science. Politicians may achieve political success. You may be able to complete any outstanding tasks during this time. You may also have the opportunity to improve your abilities or learn a new language. You can also find fame and money and may be able to fulfil your heart's desires. However, you may need to rein in your purchasing impulses and refrain from overspending. Your career may also take a positive turn in your favour. Money flow would also be in line with expectations. This would be your accomplishment, and you would be ecstatic. Those of you considering forming a partnership may realise that your partner is also on your side. They would be content with each other's help.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (November 23 to December 21): Your professional and financial lives may improve this month, and you may flourish at work. This is going to be a really lucky time for you. However, the planetary placements, on a separate note, point to

some difficulties near the end of the month. You may have the opportunity to renew your enthusiasm throughout this time. This appears to be an excellent time to spice up your sex life. You'll also get the help you need from coworkers and seniors. You'll almost certainly have a fantastic time with your siblings. However, it's possible that your mother or siblings may have health issues during this month. A serious crisis is unfolding around you, and despite how much it irritates you, you may be the only one who can appear cool and objective. A balancing act between growing yourself and your love relationship with your responsibilities to your group associates or initiatives is likely to push your boundaries. As a result, you must spend your energy wisely. Your love signals are shining brightly over you, and this week may be filled with the most wonderful experiences.

♑ CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): You're very sensitive and moderately irritable, and even minor irritations grate on your nerves. Spend some time with your personal journal and write down everything that comes to mind. You may be filled with happiness and delight. You can rise above the stress and pressure of everyday life by engaging in introspection and engaging your thoughts in non-routine activities. So sit back and relax. Your patience, tenacity, dedication, and goal-oriented personality may make it easier for you to deal with your own and others' difficulties. Your feminine nature may allow you to make new acquaintances because your caring and loving touch may give them the impression that you are highly supportive. You can attract love by being as sweet as honey, painting pictures of the future, and communicating with some of them in a private, spiritual, or unselfish manner. This month may be a good one for women. Your loud and boisterous personality may give the impression that, despite being a woman, you are attempting to be a male. This should not deter you because their uneasiness and problems are not yours.

♒ AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): Success Is Illusion, Happiness Is Reality, Love Is Soul, Feelings Are Bonds. Harmony appears to be the theme for you. Everyone you meet, whether at work, at home, with friends, or with your hairdresser, may appear gorgeous to you. Just make sure you don't miss out because of your lack of knowledge. Your successful marriage has been built on a foundation of deep understanding and cooperation between the two of you. Consider yourself fortunate, and do whatever you can to keep your relationship strong. This month, your dream of becoming a mother might come true. A trip to the doctor is almost certain to bring delight and a wonderful new essence to life.

♓ PISCES (February 19 to March 20): Individuals with the Pisces sign are likely to experience uplift in their work or profession this month. Your projects are likely to reach the conclusion part. Pisces students may make their mark in academics. Also, those who are planning to take higher studies may get admission to the top universities. Pisces natives are likely to suffer some sleeping discomfort and stress. This could be probably due to the work pressure piling on you. You may need to make sacrifices to reach your work targets. Moving ahead, you should deal with patience and calm this month. Natives are likely to receive support and help from their siblings in their business. You may plan to take the next steps in your business and offerings. You are likely to be confident and motivated to expand your business on a large scale. Pisces natives are advised to maintain patience while finalizing any deals and contracts this week. Travelling overseas for your business is likely to give you success. These business trips may help you earn monetary gains. Hence, you are advised to keep up with the hard work. Married natives may need to clear their relationship issues if they want to form long term a relationship. You should refrain from aggression and rude behaviour. If you choose your words wisely, you may resolve the conflicts quite amicably. You may have ego clashes with your family members, which may put you amid the tough times.

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NIGHT AUDITOR / FRONT DESK - East Bay San Leandro Hayward. Must be computer literate with hotel software experience, and knowledge of customer service. Email: sfbay1920@gmail.com Phone: (510) 777-6659

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Motel Resident manager needed for a motel in Oakland on Lake Merritt. One bedroom apartment included. Experience required. If you have experience using Choice Advantage or Skytouch property management system, that would be great. Looking to hire as soon as possible. Contact Rajesh Khatri by email at RKKapoor54@gmail.com or by phone 510-461-3915

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Couple needed for housekeeping in a 23 unit motel near Joshua Tree in California. Living accommodations provided please contact Manoj at 909-499-8270

We are looking for a Resident Manager for a 23 unit property in Twentynine Palms, CA . Must be fluent in English. Duties include running front desk, customer service, basic maintenance, and other hotel manager responsibilities. Full living quarters available with this position. For more detail please call Manoj: (909) 499-8270.

Front Desk help needed
Front desk needed for Motel in San Francisco Bay Area. Free Accommodation provided. Students welcome. Text or Call: 510-512-6499 or you can Email at Sfbayarea9@outlook.com

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Seeking Care Giver for both of us, mid 60's couple. Light house-keeping, cooking, and support while we recover from the knee surgery. Need only in evening & night (6 pm-8 am). Just as a care giver as needed. A spacious home in Cerritos CA area. Speaks Gujarati, Hindi, English. Single. References required. Must be vegetarian, non-smoking and fully vaccinated. Compensation negotiable. Text/phone. 562-677-5448

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Matrimonial

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JUNE- JULY 2022 PUJA CALENDAR

DATE	POOJA/EVENT & DESCRIPTION	Category	TIME	AMOUNT
June 16, Thursday	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Lord Ganesha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
June 25, Saturday	Navgraha Shani Tailabhishekam	Abhishekam/Homam	11:45AM	\$54
June 25, Saturday	Shani Pradosh Navagraha Homam and Shiva Abhishekam	Abhishekam/Homam	5:30 PM	\$108
June 25, Saturday	Ayyappa Padi puja and bhajan concert by Sabarigirish Ji	Puja	6:30 PM	\$54
June 30, Thursday	Punarvasu Nakshatram - Rama Parivar Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
July 2, Sat.	Mata Ki Chowki	Satsang	6:30 PM	FREE
July 5, Tuesday	Skanda Shashti - Lord Murugan Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
July 11 Monday	Pradosham Siva Puja - Siva Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
July 13 Wednesday	Guru Pournima-Sri Chakra Navavarana Puja	Puja	10:00 AM	\$116
	Vyasa Puja	Puja	5:00 PM	FREE
July 16, Saturday	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Lord Ganesha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	5:00 PM	\$54
July 17, Sunday	Guru Pournima Celebrations - Laksha Pushpaarchana to All Gurus	Puja	3:00 PM-8:00 PM	\$116

JULY 13, WED. - JULY 17, SUN: SATSANG BY Brahmasri Dr. Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma Garu

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR THIS FREE EVENT

July 13, Wednesday July 14, Thursday July 15, Friday

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Satsang by **Dr. Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma Garu** (in TELUGU) about our Temples and the Glory of Jyotirlingas

July 16, Saturday July 17, Sunday

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Satsang by **Dr. Samavedam Shanmukha Sarma Garu** (in TELUGU) about our Temples and the Glory of Jyotirlingas

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