

INDIA WEST

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JOURNAL

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Droupadi Murmu India's New President



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulating India's 15th President.



Murmu's election has electrified India.

- India's first tribal President
- Youngest occupant of Rashtrapati Bhavan
- Only the second woman to hold the office
- First President to be born after independence
- First President from state of Odisha

India-West News Desk

NEW DELHI - The votes are in and tallied and Droupadi Murmu has been declared the 15th President of India. After a day of counting, Murmu, the National Democratic Alliance's candidate, emerged the winner against the opposition's pick of Yashwant Sinha.

Contd. on p25

- Was first woman Governor of Jharkhand
- Is a Santhal, third largest tribe community
- Father and grandfather were village headmen
- Lost two young sons, husband dies of depression a year later. One surviving daughter, Itishree.

Population: India Set to Surpass China in 2023 Says UN

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY - The global population is projected to reach 8 billion on November 15, with India projected to surpass China as the most populous country in 2023, the UN said on July 11 on World Population Day.

"It is a reminder of our shared responsibility to care for our planet and a moment to reflect on where we still fall short of our commitments to one another," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The growth rate is at its slowest since 1950, having fallen under 1 percent in 2020, according to the World Population

Prospects 2022.

The world's population could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030 and 9.7 billion in 2050 and peak at around 10.4 billion during the 2080s. But the population of the world is expanding unevenly.

More than half of the projected increase up to 2050 will be con-

centrated in eight countries: Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Tanzania, it added.

With one of the lowest fertility rates in the world (at 1.15 children per woman), China has announced that its population is due to start declining next year - much earlier than previously thought. That is

despite the country abandoning its one child policy in 2016 and introducing incentives for couples to have two or more children, the BBC reported.

As India's population continues to grow it will almost certainly overtake China as the country with the biggest population in the world.

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In New Jersey, BAPS Opens Its First Research Center in the US



Mahant Swami Maharaj inaugurates the new research center.



A bird's eye view of the inauguration site.



Mahamahopadhyay Bhadreshdas Swami at the Research Institute.

India-West Staff Reporter

ROBBINSVILLE, NJ - The BAPS Swaminarayan Research Institute, the first such center of learning and research of Indian languages and Hindu scriptures in the Swaminarayan tradition in the US, was inaugurated here, at the site of Swaminarayan Akshardham on June 18.

The event took place in the presence of over 115 representatives from over 50 Hindu temples and organizations, guests and scholars.

Hundreds of swamis and devotees gathered to participate in a 'Satsang Diksha Homatmak Path' which involved offerings in a sacred fire while selected verses from the 'Satsang Diksha' were recited. Children sang Vedic peace prayers and recited Sanskrit verses. Thousands witnessed the historic ceremony in person and via live telecast across North America and worldwide, a press release said.

Mahant Swami Maharaj joined the ceremony virtually from Ahmedabad, and

inaugurated the institute with the lighting of the inaugural lamp symbolizing the spreading of the light of knowledge throughout the world. In his talk, he said, "Yogiji Maharaj had envisioned such an institute and was passionate about youths learning and discoursing in Sanskrit. The research institute has fulfilled this vision. May students excel in their studies and work together to serve society, expanding the circle of unity across the world. In the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

Mahamahopadhyaya Bhadreshdas Swami from India, leading scholar of Hindu philosophy and Sanskrit, presided over the inauguration. He delivered the institute's inaugural lecture and reinforced the messages of global harmony, public service and educational excellence.

The impetus for the institute in Robbinsville has been a growing interest from members of the community to learn Sanskrit and gain a deeper understanding of Hindu scriptures, the press release said.

CA Bay Area Devotees Throng TTD Organized 'Kalyanotsavam'

India-West Staff Reporter

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) organized a 'Sri Venkateshwara Kalyanotsavam' at the Indian Community Centre here, in association with the Siddhi Vinayaka Cultural Center and other community organizations.

The 52nd Chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's trust board Chairman Subba Reddy, as well as other officials and priests flew in from Tirupati to conduct the event.

Over 2,500 enthusiastic devotees thronged the event on June 18.

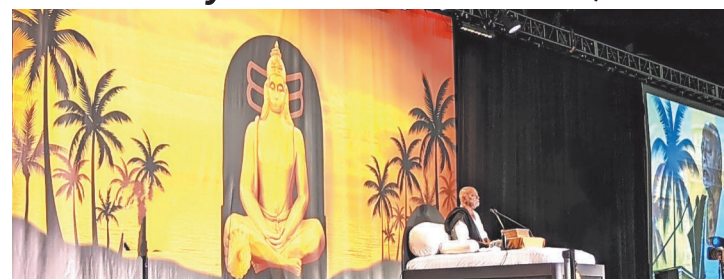
The Consul General of India in San Fran-

cisco, T.V. Nandana Prasad along with his family attended the Kalyanotsavam at the invitation of TTD and other organizers.



Consul General Dr. Prasad and temple officials

Morari Bapu Lectures on the Ramayana in Ontario, CA



India-West News Desk

ONTARIO, CA - Just 35 miles east of downtown Los Angeles, the Ontario Convention Center was the scene of huge crowds of Indian Americans thronging for nine days, July 2- 10 to hear the master Morari Bapu speak on India's great epic, the Ramayana.

The center was packed with devotees not only from the Southern California region but from throughout the US, India, and even Africa.

For Morari Bapu, it was his 899th Ramkatha in Hindi and once again included his universal message of truth, love, and compassion. Drawing from the work of Goswami Tulsidas, Morari Bapu gave a detailed exposition of verses that combined in his talk, philosophy and bhakti, moving the audience. His talks, as ever, pointed toward the practical application of every spiritual learning.

The hosts of Morari Bapu were Rajubhai and Minalben Chollera who were presented a proclamation of appreciation by the city of Cerritos.

(photo: Rajendra Vora)

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LETTERS

It is The Thing to do

From Satwant Khangura, Union City, CA



As you know, given the current economic issues of high inflation, and gas prices, a lot of people are hurting economically, and certainly the ones already on the margins are worst off.

We need to support our citizens in any way we can, and it has been shown that government measures such as the Child Tax Credit payments do help, but those expired recently. Please support the idea of using California's budget surplus to help our most vulnerable citizens.

History Shows Putin's Claims to Ukraine are Dubious

From Dr. Rathnam Indurthy, Retired Professor McNeese State University, Lake Charles, LA

Asserting that Ukraine had no existence as a state and that Ukrainians and Russians are one people, out of hubris, Vladimir Putin ordered an unprovoked and unjustified invasion of a sovereign country, Ukraine in utter disregard of international law. But historians do not agree with Putin's claims to Ukraine. It is true that Kievan Rus, as a loose federation of Russia, Ukraine, and had existed in the medieval ages. However, with the Mongolian empire, it was fragmented into principalities. For the next four hundred years, these territories comprising present Ukraine were ruled by Poland-Lithuania. The Orthodox East Slavic people in these lands developed their own distinct identity and language under Mongol and later Muscovite rule. And from the 16th to 18th centuries, these East Orthodox Slavic hosts of peasant warriors, known as the Cossacks, formed their own de facto statelets.

In 1552, Ivan the Terrible conquered the Mongolian Khanate of Kazan, and later the eastern parts of Ukraine including Kiev, that were under Polish-Lithuanian control were ceded to Moscow in 1667. However, supported by Sweden, the Cossacks fought the Russians in the Great Northern War (1700-1725) during the reign of Peter the Great

but lost and Russia emerged as an empire. With three partitions of Poland as a result of regional wars, the remainder of modern-day Ukraine was absorbed by Czarist Russia except for its extreme western part which came under Austria.

For the next 120 years, Ukraine was a part of Russia which suppressed its people's identity, culture, and language. In the civil war following the October 1917 Bolshevik revolution, Ukraine enjoyed a quasi-independence but was partitioned between the Soviet Union and newly independent Poland. But by December 1922 the two parts of Ukraine were joined to become one of the Soviet Union's 15 republics under Lenin. In Joseph Stalin's regime (1924-53), as Ukrainians had resisted his forced collectivization, he ruthlessly starved them causing deaths between 3.5 to 5 million. He however, permitted Ukraine to be a separate member of the newly founded United Nations in 1945.

It was Nikita Khrushchev a Ukrainian himself, who in 1954 made Crimea as part of Ukraine. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991, President Boris Yeltsin (1990-99) let Ukraine declare itself as an independent nation and recognized it as such. Historically, Ukrainians have sought to be independent contrary to what Putin claims. Putin refuses to recognize Ukraine's existence, and in 2014, he annexed Crimea and has been supporting the Russian rebels in the Donbas region.

Putin desires to restore the former Czarist empire with him being a ruler for life.

Revoke The Second Amendment

From Jagjit Singh, Los Altos, CA

Another mass shooting, in the suburb of Highland Park Chicago grips America. The multiple guns used by the shooter were purchased legally, courtesy of the NRA, Republicans, and radical members of the Supreme Court. No one is safe in America, not schools, grocery stores, not even parades celebrating the birth of our nation.

America is alone in the world with its obsession with guns not the sanctity of life.

Politicians continue to enjoy campaign contributions from the NRA even though the organization is riddled with corruption and was forced to file for bankruptcy protection. Their non-profit status should be revoked immediately.

One welcome news, churches and other arbiters of morality have expressed their

outrage on mass killings and have called for a total ban on assault weapons and a buyback program.

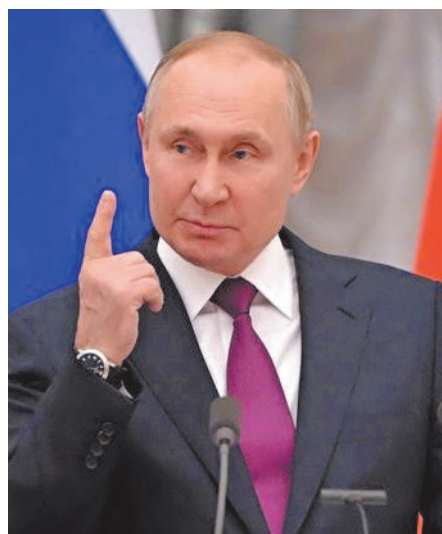
Most mass shootings are carried out by young men fueled by racism, sexism and a "toxic masculinity" that equates gun ownership with manhood. Meanwhile the conservative members of the Supreme Court ruled in favor of allowing guns and weapons of war to be carried openly accelerating the likelihood of more killings.

The right to carry weapons of war has been justified by the "Second Amendment," but former Supreme Court Justices, Warren Berger and John Paul Stevens argued vociferously that individual gun rights was a "massive fraud perpetrated on the American people and should be revoked."

A bevy of scholars agrees, arguing a "well-regulated militia" was only necessary to protect the country during the birth of our nation but has now been replaced by multiple agencies, Homeland Security, the FBI, the National Guard, and US Law Enforcement Agencies. Thus, the Second Amendment clause, "the right to bear arms" is completely outdated and should be revoked immediately. It has been used by the NRA as a cash cow to sell guns and weapons of war.

India Cannot be Taken For Granted!

From Nirmalya Chatterjee, Henderson, NV



The crisis in Ukraine has underscored the new reality that India has changed in the past decade. The country has refused to succumb to the continued pressure of the United States and Western Europe to engage in economic boycott of Russia. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine, in India's view, is a European problem and not a 'world problem'. The current leaders

of India also do not believe that the United States and western European countries can write the book on world order and expect India to abide by that rule book. India sees the world to be bigger than just Europe and America. Consequently, India is not willing to make serious economic sacrifices simply for the sake of complying with the West.

India is a vibrant democracy. Domestic public opinion is a very important factor in guiding India's foreign policy. No different from that of the United States. Indians are acutely aware of the exploitation by the British rulers just as they are aware of the Moghul invaders destroying the Hindu temples to replace them with mosques. Nothing has happened that can help the Indians to forget this painful history and overcome the mistrust of the foreigners. India's governing party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, is built on the strong foundation of nationalism. The country's immensely popular leader, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has very effectively maintained an independent foreign policy which is now guided by its own national interest. India's Hindu majority is very strongly behind the ruling party's commitment to make Hindu civilization the center of Indian cultural and political life. This nationalist India wants to develop the Indian power and not let its sovereignty be dwarfed by the western powers.

India has now become a serious economic power offering a viable alternative to the giant American business enterprises who are becoming increasingly leery of continuing to depend on China. The United States government is concerned about the serious national security risks in having these businesses operating in China.

India's strategic location also makes it extremely vital for the United States to cultivate a strong military collaboration with India to contain China's aggressive moves in the Indo-Pacific region. The role India can play in limiting China's economic and military dominance is very significant.

United States and the other western countries need to recognize the new reality and treat India with much care and respect. The old habits will not work. Many Indians bristle when they feel they are being lectured by the American media while the US is suffering from racial injustice and mass shootings. They consider such lectures as the good old 'western arrogance'. Majority of Indians want to see that India proudly maintains its independent identity. That is the mandate Indians have given to the ruling party. It is that pure and simple.

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South Asians March for Queer Rights in Artesia, CA



India-West Staff Reporter

ARTESIA, CA - The city of Artesia's Pioneer Boulevard, the hub of the Indian American commercial district, on June 26 was the scene of a throng of South Asian activists adding color and queer pride to the

neighborhood. At the behest of the South Asian Network, which organized a 'Visibility & Pride Event,' over fifty people rallied through the street from the crossroads of 183rd to South and back, promoting everything South Asian and queer. The group chanted for justice for all genders and made

calls for a stoppage against homophobia.

SAN's Special Projects Coordinator Tanya Kapila who organized the event in collaboration with SAHARA, Satrang SoCal, and the Center for the Pacific Asian Family in a statement said, "The day was a success, from the community coming together to

chant, to our supporters in the streets and those from collaborating organizations, I don't think we could have asked for a better turn out. The fight for the South Asian LGBTQ+ community's visibility is not over and will never be over until all of us are seen, heard, and free to be who we truly are."

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GiveIndia And Indiaspora Announce Philanthropy Partnership



Indiaspora's Founder and Chairman of the Board MR Rangaswami

India-West Staff Reporter



Atul Satija, CEO of GiveIndia

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - GiveIndia and Indiaspora on July 5 said they had entered into a strategic, long-term partnership to amplify philanthropic giving from institutions, foundations, and high-net-worth individuals from the US to social impact initiatives in India.

"We are delighted to join hands with GiveIndia, given the significant and complementary strengths of both

organizations," said Indiaspora's Founder and Chairman of the Board MR Rangaswami. "Leveraging Indiaspora's network of prominent Indian diaspora leaders and GiveIndia's network of on-the-ground nonprofit partners, we look forward to accelerating global philanthropic giving to India."

Between 2020 and 2021, Indiaspora, along with its partners, mobilized \$15 million in funding to support COVID relief efforts both in India and in the US.

"We are excited about the opportunities that this partnership with Indiaspora brings," said Atul Satija, CEO of GiveIndia in a press release. "U.S. philanthropists played an invaluable role in our COVID response work over the last couple of years. This partnership allows us to bolster these existing relationships and significantly scale our support for India's social sector."

Since its inception, GiveIndia's community of more than 2 million donors and over 250 partners have supported more than 2,500 nonprofits, serving more than 15 million people across India.

The partnership will operate as GiveIndia in the U.S. and will aim to support over 500 nonprofits in India through philanthropic contributions from more than 200 partners over the next three years.

Ashish Shah, formerly Senior Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement at Indiaspora, will lead the new venture as CEO of North America. The partnership will initially be supported by a 3-member team and will look to grow to a team of more than 25 people over the next few years to increase its impact.

India 75



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PM Narendra Modi has launched a 75 weeks long celebration leading to the 75th Independence of India on August 15th, 2022. "75th Independence Day will celebrate the spirit of freedom struggle", says PM Modi. "It will have a glimpse of the pride of Sanatan India and the Glow of Modern India"



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Yantra: A Kitchen That Balances Flavors Perfectly

India-West Staff Reporter

ARTESIA, CA - In the new avatar of Yantra Kitchen in Artesia, CA, the diner gets not a fancy menu with French and Spanish-inspired names but instead, a smart menu. One that is keenly aware of the makeup of the pedestrian traffic in 'Little India' and yet strives to be a step up for those not wanting to simply down a quick chaat washed down by a lassi in a paper cup.

Yantra's papdi chaat, in fact, is a balanced explosion of sweet, sour, salt, and heat in every mouthful. Even the yogurt has been worked on, with an almost airy feeling. And this is the restaurant's calling card - mostly familiar food but brilliantly cooked. Who knew jeera rice did not have to come burdened with ghee but that every forkful could look plump and feel feather light on the tongue?

Then there is the smartly named Portuguese fish fry; Artesia after all has that

nation's antecedents. It really is an Amritsari fish (itself a wonder given that city is landlocked) that again, diners will affirm shows balance in flavors with the tamarind sauce giving the flaky Vietnamese catfish filets a pep. For vegetarians, the fried cauliflower with a sweet undertone and served with bits of colorful peppers is a dish to be savored.

The deliciousness of the appetizers, it is soon learned, is the skilled work of chef Sanjay Jaitly. He steps out of the kitchen to talk to customers and unlike most other Indian restaurant chefs, is crisply dressed in whites without the telltale streaks of turmeric and oil stains.

A short chit-chat later it becomes apparent why - growing up in Austria, he attended an elite hospitality school in Salzburg. He easily drops names of Thomas Keller, Wolfgang Puck, and the like, and speaks of riboflavins and folic acid and the ingredients



from which they can be derived and added to restaurant dishes

able drinks to sip on while eating. But skipping all the drinks in the dine-in menu and looking to the bar, which is a full-service



to make it a healthier experience. He has

brought all this understanding and professional training to bear at jobs in Novotel, Rosenberger Hotels, Cunard, and the Sunset Tower in Los Angeles, among others, and now, Yantra.

From the kitchen he sends out a Goa coconut curry that like a Thai curry can be ordered with the additions of veggies, chicken, or shrimp. The restaurant also offers a roasted Bengal-inspired fish and an interesting lamb chop that has a mango marinade and a basil oil drizzle. Vegetarians have a slew of paneer and dal dishes to pick from as well as the kadhi pakora, not always on Indian restaurant menus.

The regular breads to accompany these dishes are there as well as a malai naan and a truffle one. Then there is the kulcha. Made by Jaitly, it is easy to devour.

Yantra offers a bunch of familiar and comfort-



Chef Sanjay Jaitly

one, is a promising experience. In the event, that alcohol is not a choice on a working day, the mixologist is more than happy to create mocktails that satisfy.

Reshma Makkar, daughter of the new owner Munish Makkar, helps out when he is not there and she points out other stuff not on the menu - the food carts parked on the outside of the restaurant hugging an alley to the parking lot. One serves paan and the other gol gappas, including a vodka-infused one. The lines, she says, are long on the weekend with people reveling in the streetside encounter so evocative of India.

So, dine-in or street food - Yantra might have something for all.

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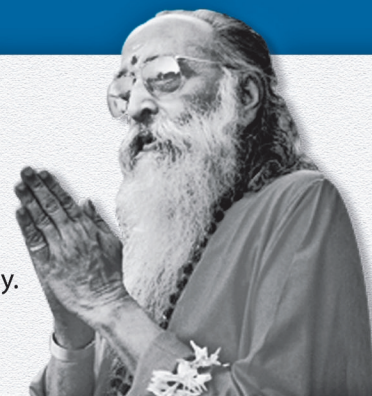


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South Bay	Sunday	3:00pm - 4:15pm	cmla-sb-coordinator@chinmayala.org

Other Activities

- **CHYK** (Forum for Youth)
- **CORP** (For Professionals)
- **Just for Seniors** (For 55+)
- **Adult Study Groups**
- **Bookstore** (Sunday 8:30am - 1pm)
- **Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development** (Service Wing)
- **Chinmaya Outreach Program for Youth** (Special Community Projects)
- **Sevanjali** (Fundraising Initiatives)
- **Kalanjali** (Cultural Wing)
- **Swaranjali** (Adult Bhajan Group)
- **Shlokanjali** (Adult Chanting Group)

Weekly Satsang and Puja Schedule at Chinmaya Rameshwaram

Bhagavad Gita Lecture (Adults) By Swami Ishwarananda
Fundamentals of Vedanta (Adults) By Mahadevanji
Shiva Puja / Rudrabhishek
Devi Puja

Sundays 8:30am & 11:30am
Sundays 8:30am & 11:30am
Mondays 7:30pm
Tuesdays 7:30pm

Upanishad Lecture By Mahadevanji
Rama Puja
Meditation

Wednesdays 7:30pm
Fridays 7:30pm
Saturdays 7:30am

FIRST MONDAY through FRIDAY Every Month, 6:30am: Valmiki Ramayan Lecture By Swami Ishwarananda
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CA Book Launch:

Families From the Court of Ranjit Singh Detailed in New Book

India-West Staff Reporter

PASO ROBLES, CA - The much-awaited book of Bobby Singh Bansal, 'The Punjab Chiefs - The Lost Glory of the Punjab Aristocracy in India and Pakistan' was formally launched in the US on July 16, here.

The book provides an extensive insight into the lives of the aristocratic Muslim, Hindu, and Sikh courtiers who had served the opulent court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the early 19th century.

Post the partition of the Indian sub-continent in 1947, many elite families migrated to India abandoning their vast ancestral

estates. This volume covers the regions of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, Uttrakhand, New Delhi, and Lahore, Pakistan, and bringing alive the families of Majithia, Attariwala, Nakai, Jaijee, Mokal, Bhadaur, Kalsia and even Rai Bahadur Narain Singh who had transformed Delhi in the 1930s.

'The Punjab Chiefs' with pictures that have not been previously published, the book is informative and inspirational for readers looking at it academically, and also a treasure trove for history enthusiasts.

At the launch, held at the home of Mokshinder and Renu Singh Vahali, here, Bansal shared his passion for the subject which he



Guests Ron & Kathryn Hardy with author Bobby Singh Bansal and wife Harvinder Singh



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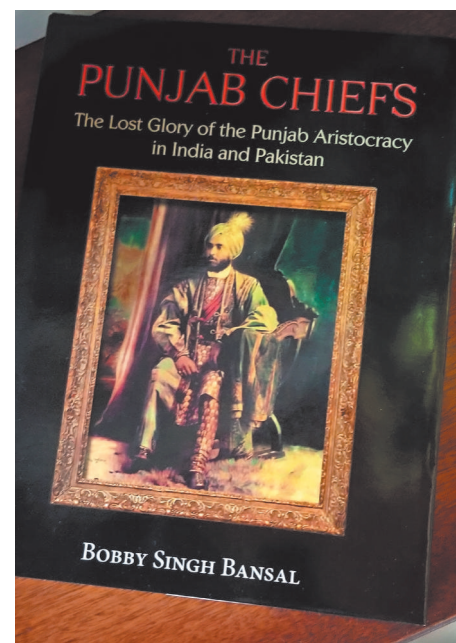
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Mok Singh and author Bobby Singh Bansal



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has painstakingly documented.

Mokshinder Singh's 'House of Vahali' is meticulously detailed in the book. The Vahali name stems from the region of what is now Jhelum District of Pakistan. Vahali was not only once populated by Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus, but its inhabitants were among the wealthiest. These people, known as The Sardars of Vahali, had once been declared the largest land-owning family in all of Punjab.

The evening concluded with guests munching on hors d'oeuvres and fine wines from Vahali Vineyards while Bansal autographed books.

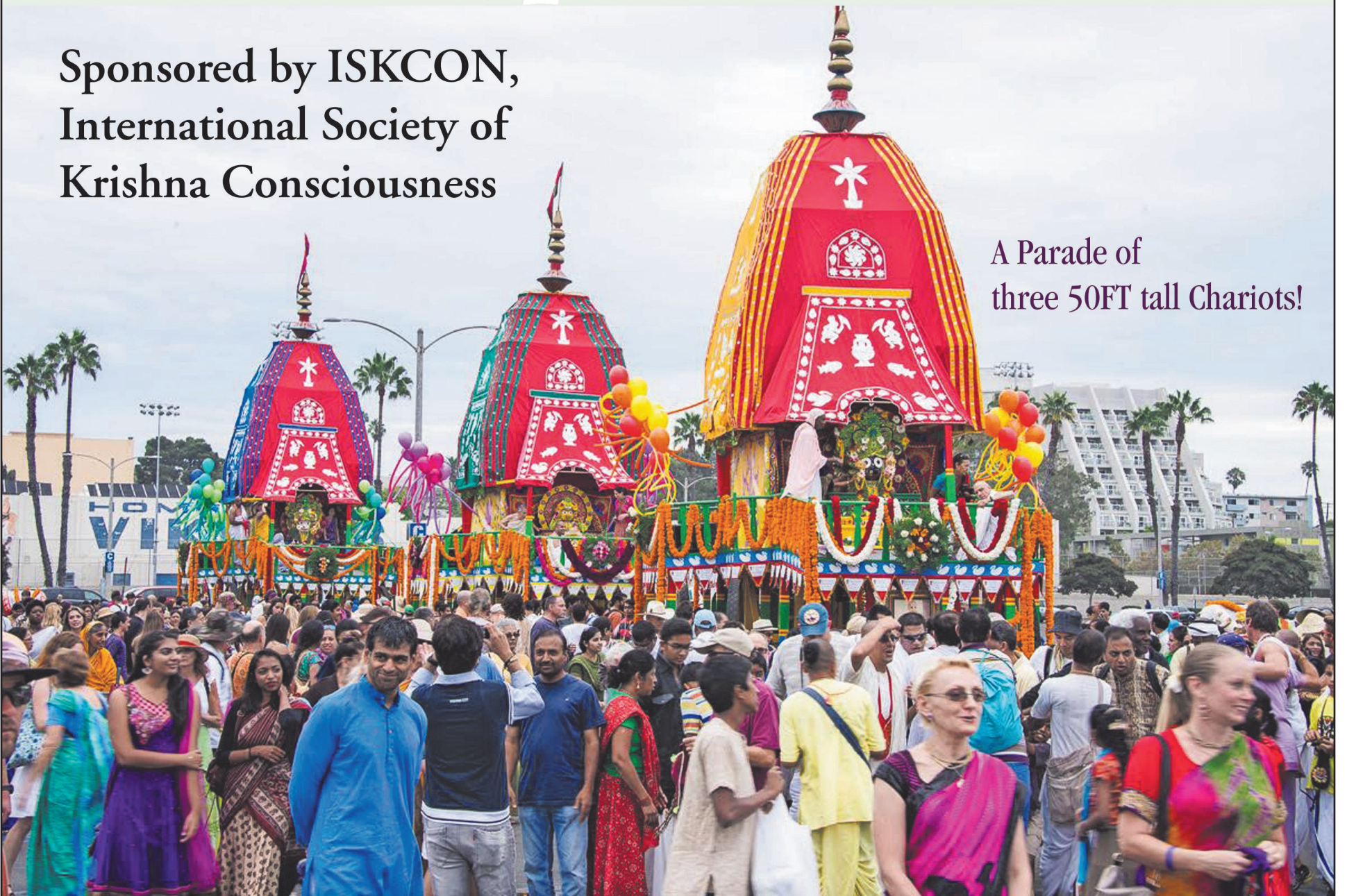
The author is a British-born Sikh writer, historian, and documentary filmmaker who also travels widely lecturing on the history and influence of Sikh heritage.

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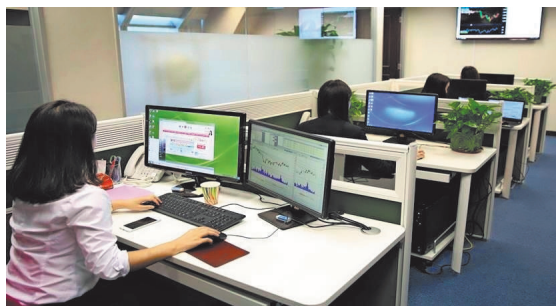
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India Tech Sector Helped US Generate \$103 Bln in 2021



NEW DELHI, (IANS) - The Indian tech industry generated \$103 billion in revenue and directly employed 2,07,000 people in the US last year, with an average wage of \$106,360 -- witnessing a 22 percent employment growth since 2017, a new Nasscom report showed on July 13.

The direct impact of the Indian tech industry has helped the US economy generate a total of \$396 billion in sales to date, supporting 1.6 million jobs and contributing over \$198 billion to the American economy -- larger than the combined economies of 20 US states in 2021, according to report by Nasscom and IHS Markit (now part of S&P global).

"The Indian tech sector works with more than 75 percent of the fortune 500 companies, most of them headquartered in the US,

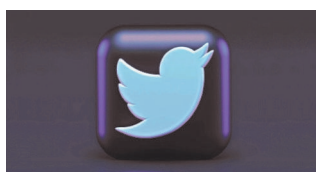
and is therefore well equipped to understand and meet the critical skill challenges of the digital age," said Deb-jani Ghosh, President, Nasscom.

The Indian technology companies have contributed over \$1.1 billion and developed partnerships with nearly 180 universities, colleges, community colleges, and others to strengthen and diversify the STEM pipeline in the US.

It also has provided over \$3 million more for just K-12 initiatives. These efforts have touched over 2.9 million students and teachers to date in the US.

In addition, over 2,55,000 current employees have been upskilled by the sector, the report noted.

The Indian technology industry in the US has played a role in expanding the talent pool outside of traditional tech hub states. This has contributed to some of these states, such as North Carolina, becoming emergent hubs.



Twitter Sues Indian Govt. Over Arbitrary Blocking Orders

NEW DELHI, (IANS) - Twitter has moved the Karnataka High Court against the Indian government's order to take down some content on its platform, on the grounds that the content blocking orders from the IT Ministry does not pass "the test of the grounds provided under Section 69A of the IT Act", reliable sources said.

Twitter has alleged in its writ petition that multiple accounts and content included in the blocking orders are either "overbroad and arbitrary", fail to provide notice to the "originators" of the content, and are "disproportionate" in several cases. The social media platform alleged in the court petition that several blocking orders that were issued to Twitter only "cite" the grounds of Section 69A but fail to demonstrate how the content falls within those grounds or how the said content is "violative" of Section 69A, the sources added.

In a June letter, the IT Ministry had warned Twitter of strict action if it does not comply with some content takedown orders.

According to sources, Twitter

has now sought judicial review of some of the content that forms a part of various blocking orders.

According to the writ petition, account-level blocking is a "principally disproportionate measure" and "violates rights of users under the constitution, especially when the reasons stated to block URLs and reasons stated to block an account lack specificity and merely

cite grounds under Section 69A".

Earlier this month, Delhi Police sent a notice to Twitter seeking details of the account that led to the arrest of fact-checking website Alt News' co-founder Mohammed Zubair. Twitter was also involved in a legal battle in the Delhi High Court last year with the Centre over not complying with the new IT Rules of 2021.

Gap Inc Signs Partnership With Reliance to Retail in India

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (IANS) - India's largest retailer Reliance Retail Ltd on July 5 said it has entered a long-term partnership with Gap Inc. to take the iconic American fashion brand to India.

Through the long-term franchise agreement, Reliance Retail has become the official retailer for Gap across all channels in India.

Reliance Retail will introduce Gap's latest fashion offerings to Indian consumers through a mix of exclusive brand stores, multi-brand store expressions, and digital commerce platforms.

The partnership is aimed at leveraging Gap's position as a

leading casual lifestyle brand, and Reliance Retail's established competencies in operating robust omni-channel retail networks and scaling local manufacturing and driving sourcing efficiencies.

Founded in San Francisco in 1969, Gap continues to build on its heritage grounded in denim and connect with customers online and in company-operated and franchise retail locations globally.

"We look forward to growing the Gap business across key international markets," said Adrienne Gernand, Managing Director of International, Global Licensing and Wholesale at Gap Inc.

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Man
Arrested For
Threatening
to Kill
Pramila
Jayapal

India-West News Desk

SEATTLE, WA - A man has been arrested for threatening to kill Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal at her home here, The Hill reported.

According to a police report, Brett Forsell was on the night of July 9, when they found him standing in on the street by Jayapal's house, hands in the air, with a handgun on his waist.

Neighbors said he threatened to kill her and according to police probable cause documents was yelling something to the effect of "go back to India, I'm going to kill you."

A statement from Jayapal's office confirmed the incident had happened and that she and her family were safe. She also thanked Seattle and Capitol police as well as the FBI for their swift reaction.

Because this is an ongoing incident, the Congresswoman said she would not have any more to say on the matter.

A spokesperson for Jayapal released a statement, confirming she was at home during the incident. "The Congresswoman and her family are safe and appreciate the many calls and good wishes she is receiving from constituents. She is very grateful for the swift and professional response from the Seattle Police Department, the U.S. Capitol Police, and the FBI investigators who are working together diligently on the investigation and ensuring that she and her family stay safe."

The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office said in a statement that a judge set bail for the 48-year-old suspect at \$500,000, as is normal for armed threats to kill and hate crimes.

Ramesh Balwani of Theranos Faces 20 Years

India-West News Desk

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Indian American Ramesh 'Sunny' Balwani, the former business partner and 'boyfriend in secret' of Elizabeth Holmes, founder, and CEO of healthcare company Theranos, has been found guilty of defrauding investors and patients.

Balwani faced 10 counts of wire fraud and two counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. After a three-month trial, a 12 member jury found him guilty of all 12 counts.

Balwani sat impassively as the verdicts were read. After the verdicts were read, Balwani walked over to his two brothers who sat behind him. They sat quietly, heads bowed.

Holmes has already been found guilty of defrauding investors. Both Holmes, 38, and Balwani, 57, face up to 20 years in prison. Holmes is scheduled to be sentenced in late September. The date of Balwani's sentencing is expected to be set in the coming days.

Balwani was Holmes' "boyfriend in secret". "They met when Holmes was 18 and Balwani was 37 -- she moved in with him the



technology. In 2018, Holmes and Balwani were charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and nine counts of wire fraud.

According to the Department of Justice, Holmes and Balwani used advertisements and solicitations to encourage and induce doctors and patients to use Theranos's blood testing laboratory services, even though, according to the government, the defendants knew Theranos was not capable of consistently producing accurate and reliable results for certain blood tests.

"It is further alleged that the tests performed on Theranos technology were likely to contain inaccurate and unreliable results," the Justice Department said.

Holmes and Balwani defrauded doctors and patients by making false claims concerning Theranos's ability to provide accurate, fast, reliable, and cheap blood tests and test results, and by omitting information concerning the limits of and problems with Theranos' technologies.

year after she dropped out of Stanford. She also said during the trial that she was raped as a Stanford student, which is part of why she didn't finish her degree."

During the four months of court proceedings, Holmes detailed Balwani's controlling behavior, including a written document that dictated her daily schedule, including what she ate, when she slept and how she dressed. She said, "He was so disappointed in my mediocrity, and he was trying to teach me how to be better."

Holmes founded Theranos in 2003 and the company was once valued at more than \$9 billion.

In 2015, an expose in The Wall Street Journal revealed major problems with Theranos'

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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Harishankars Honored by City of Irvine, CA, For Cultural Contributions

India-West Staff Reporter

IRVINE CA -The City of Irvine, on June 14, at a regular city council meeting recognized Ramya Harishankar and Harish Murthy as 'Distinguished Citizens' and placed their names on a 'Wall of Recognition' created for such honorees at the Bill Barber Memorial Park here. Established in 2006, the Wall recognizes individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses who have made significant contributions to the community. Since its inception, about 400 individuals and organizations have been honored on the wall.

Harishankar and Murthy came to the city in 1981 from Chennai and have been full-time residents since 1982. Harishankar established the Arpana School of Dance in 1982, just completing 40 years of teaching, producing, and presenting traditional Indian dance in the city and beyond. A two-time National Endowment for the Arts Choreographic Fellow, Harishankar is also the recipient of the Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award from Arts OC, the



Ramya Harishankar and Harish Murthy in the City Council chambers.

Countywide Arts agency.

She has toured solo and with her dance company worldwide, many of them raising funds - over \$100,000 a press release said - for charity. In 1989, she co-founded the Arpana Foundation which morphed into the Ektaa Center in 2004, a premier cultural organization in Orange County.

Murthy's community service contributions started with the Multicultural Arts Council of Orange County, as a board member spearheading the 'Kaleidoscope Festival' in 1989, an early model for many multi-cultural festivals celebrating the diversity of the

community. Since the early 2000s, he has lent support to cultural, civic, and community affairs in the city. The Ektaa Center, which he co-founded, has evolved as a de facto community arts and culture center for the Indian American community. More recently, he was appointed to the Board of Arts OC. Murthy has also served on the city's Senior Citizens Council and President of the Rotary Club of Irvine. "I have and continue to be committed to the community in myriad ways with a passion to build peace and goodwill for the future," said Murthy in a statement.

Producer Aditya Sood Invited to Academy Class of 2022



File photo of Aditya Sood, film producer for 'The Martian,' when he moderated a panel discussion about NASA's journey to Mars. (photo: NASA/Joel Kowsky)

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA - Indian American producer, Aditya Sood who has backed super-hit Hollywood films like 'Deadpool,' and 'The Martian' has been invited to the 2022 Class by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences which hosts the Oscars.

He is among 397 distinguished artists and executives who have been given invites.

Sood's filmography includes 'Murder on the Orient Express' and 'Deadpool 2.' He was also the executive Producer on CW's 'Designated Survivor.'

Based in Los Angeles, Sood now

heads Running Lord Miller, Inc., the production company of Oscar-winning directors Chris Miller and Phil Lord, based at Universal Pictures and Sony television. He is now executive producing the animated Spider-Man movies.

A graduate of Pomona College, Sood has worked across the industry, interning at New Line Cinema and Dreamworks Pictures and then going on to work at Warner Bros.

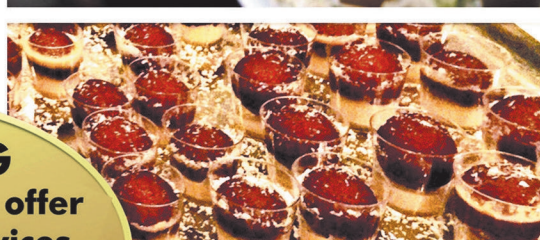
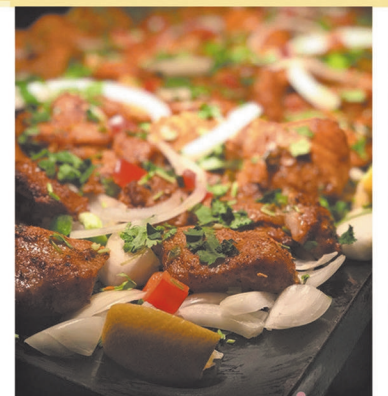
His LinkedIn profile proudly states that he was Regional Director for the 2008 Obama campaign where he ran a team of 30 people who recruited over 3,500 volunteers in the Los Angeles area.

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Annette Philip: Indian Music is at the Intersection of Freedom & Rules

By NIMMI RAGHUNATHAN

If you are a budding musician, the Berklee School of Music in Boston is something you aspire to. If you are Indian American and have finer music tastes, the Berklee Indian Ensemble is something that fascinates and delights. A decade old now and with millions of YouTube hits, its unique choral arrangements, and exemplary collaborations with exceptional artists, have all been spearheaded by Annette Philip. For the viewer, she is the one with the wide smile, sparkling eyes, and colorful sarees effortlessly conveying a sense of joy.

Philip is a Keralite, with years spent in Singapore and Delhi

which is where she first founded an artist collective. The ups and downs, mistakes, and epiphanies from each of these experiences brought her to the college where she not only founded the Ensemble but is also a faculty member. Fresh off the release of the Ensemble's debut album she told India-West:

Q: You have worked with AR Rahman and Shankar Mahadevan. How different were their styles and what did you learn from them?

A: Rahman Sir had always been a musical hero of mine and is one of the most introspective people I've met in my life. He's a wonderful mentor and a true genius as a musician, composer, arranger, and musical director. He is obsessed with sound while being



Saree clad Annette Philip with Shreya Ghoshal

very playful, and I learned to be even more exacting as a producer through my interactions with him at Berklee and my subsequent tours with him.

Shankar Mahadevan is such a virtuosic improviser, and master vocalist and composer. He is such an extrovert, ever willing to

experiment and also be playful in music-making! He is wonderful at working a crowd, and each time we get to create with him, he surprises us with really unique variations - It's a marvel to witness how his brain works, and his artistry astounds us constantly.

Q: What has been the response to your debut album?

A: The response to 'Shuru-aat' has been heartwarming and overwhelmingly positive! First off, after a decade, our loyal fans are ecstatic to finally stream our music on Spotify, JioSaavn, Apple Music, and other platforms worldwide! Secondly, fans and serious musicians from the arts industry are amazed that the album features 98 musicians from 39 countries, with 10 tracks that represent such a diverse mosaic of genres, languages, global cultural nuances, and energy!

Q: Why did you have Shreya Ghoshal reinterpret the track 'Sundari Pennae'?

A: Berklee Indian Ensemble artist residencies always focus on exploring both the classic hits as well as relatively unknown works of our guests. Shreya Ghoshal's discography is so vast, and when we came across Sundari Pennae and fell in love with two aspects immediately. One, we love odd-time signatures, and this was a song in 5! And the harmonium hook inspired us to experiment a ton with it. It's such a sweet song, but we wondered what would happen if we completely deconstructed it, and added a progressive rock feel. Shreyaji loved our reinterpretation, and we're so thrilled to have collaborated with her on this!

Q: Does it ever scare you to play around with iconic tunes? Have you ever got blowback for it?

A: It doesn't scare us because we know we always approach re-arrangements with sincerity and respect. We honor the original intention of the composer by studying their music, analyzing the lyrics, and really delving deep into their artistic choices. From there, we begin experimenting,

and as long as we stay authentic to ourselves, creative liberty is an artist's right. We've never gotten negative feedback about our reinterpretations because I believe the audience understands that we're paying homage to the original while staying true to ourselves.

Q: It's almost magical when tunes and movements pop out of composing minds. Can you explain how the creative process works for you?

A: I draw inspiration from my environment (food, nature, colors, textures, paintings, film) as well as my emotions (memories from childhood, sensory memories of smell or taste, or even the feeling of relief from hugging a loved one). The technical aspects come from study but most importantly, taste, developed by listening to tons and tons of music from around the world. My process depends on the day, the goal of the project, or my mood. Sometimes while improvising freely, an idea will emerge that you fall in love with, and then it's simply being resistance-free, allowing the song to tell you where it wants to go. Other times, you feel stuck, and you test different ideas till the jigsaw pieces come together and hope you like it the next day. As creators, we don't always adore what we make, but the point is to keep showing up to create.

Q: Is there anything about Indian music that situates it uniquely for exploration?

A: Indian music sits at a delightful intersection of freedom and rules; rhythmic and melodic complexity juxtaposed with harmonic simplicity. That's what has shaped the Berklee Indian Ensemble signature sound. Honoring Indian folk, classical, and Sufi traditions while allowing for chords, harmonies, and non-Indian stylistic elements to be blended.

SHORT TAKES

Favorite musician - How to choose?
Inspired by AR Rahman, Karen Carpenter, Billie Eilish, Anoushka Shankar, Bobby McFerrin...

A must-do before stepping on stage for a recital - Do a huddle with your band and remember what a privilege it is to create and share music.

Last visit to India - March 2022, Kerala and Bangalore

Meaning of family - Where you can be yourself, love, and be loved unconditionally.

Favorite Indian dish - Appam and Stew, Fried Fish (mom's) and Biryani

A day off - Sleeping, reading, walking in nature, and playing with a cat (if I can find one)



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4 Bay Area Students Named Leaders by BofA

India-West Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Every summer, Bank of America selects high school students to be part of their Student Leaders program, an eight-week paid summer internship providing students with first-hand experience in serving their communities. The Class of 2022 student leaders this year include four Indian Americans from the Bay Area.

Bank of America's regional executives, Raquel González, President, Bank of America Silicon Valley; Jason Foster, President, Bank of America North Bay; Gioia McCarthy, President, Bank of America San Francisco – East Bay, applauded the students' exceptional achievements, "Bank of America is steadfast in our commitment to supporting teens and young adults by connecting them to jobs, community engagement opportunities, and leadership development. These students are the future of our community, which is why programs like Student Leaders are one way we can provide paid opportunities for them to gain positive employment experience while developing a diverse pipeline of talent as they enter our local workforce."



Bonisha Maitra, an incoming senior at San Ramon's California High School. After being sexually assaulted at age nine in India, she started a global nonprofit called Project Sundar which now has chapters in Singapore, India, and U.S. cities – aimed at educating people about the oppression women in India face.



Kunal Khaware a graduate of Pleasanton's The Quarry Lane School, is about to begin a joint undergraduate scholarship program between Duke University and UNC at Chapel Hill. With a passion for political activism at the community level, he was heavily involved in his high school's Student Government.



Sia Desale, a rising senior at Dublin High School is an animal advocate and has founded a homemade soap business geared toward supporting animal welfare called Olivesoap and has raised \$8,000 (or 27,000 meals for pets) for the East Bay SPCA and other pet-focused orgs.



Priya Sharma has been taking college-level classes through Napa Valley College since she was a high school freshman. Her interest in the ACLU National Institute led her to be a political chair leader for the Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Alliance.

Gita Gopinath Becomes First Woman on IMF's Wall of Fame

India-West News Desk

NEW YORK, NY – Indian American Gita Gopinath, the First Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, has become the first woman to be featured on the 'wall of former chief economists' of the IMF.



She also becomes the second Indian American to do this, with Raghuram Rajan, the former Chief Economist and Director of Research having been the first.

The India-born Gopinath has served as the first female chief economist of the IMF for the last three years.

She has a PhD in economics from Princeton University with earlier degrees from the University of Delhi, Delhi School of Economics, and the University of Washington.

She has taught at the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business and Harvard University.

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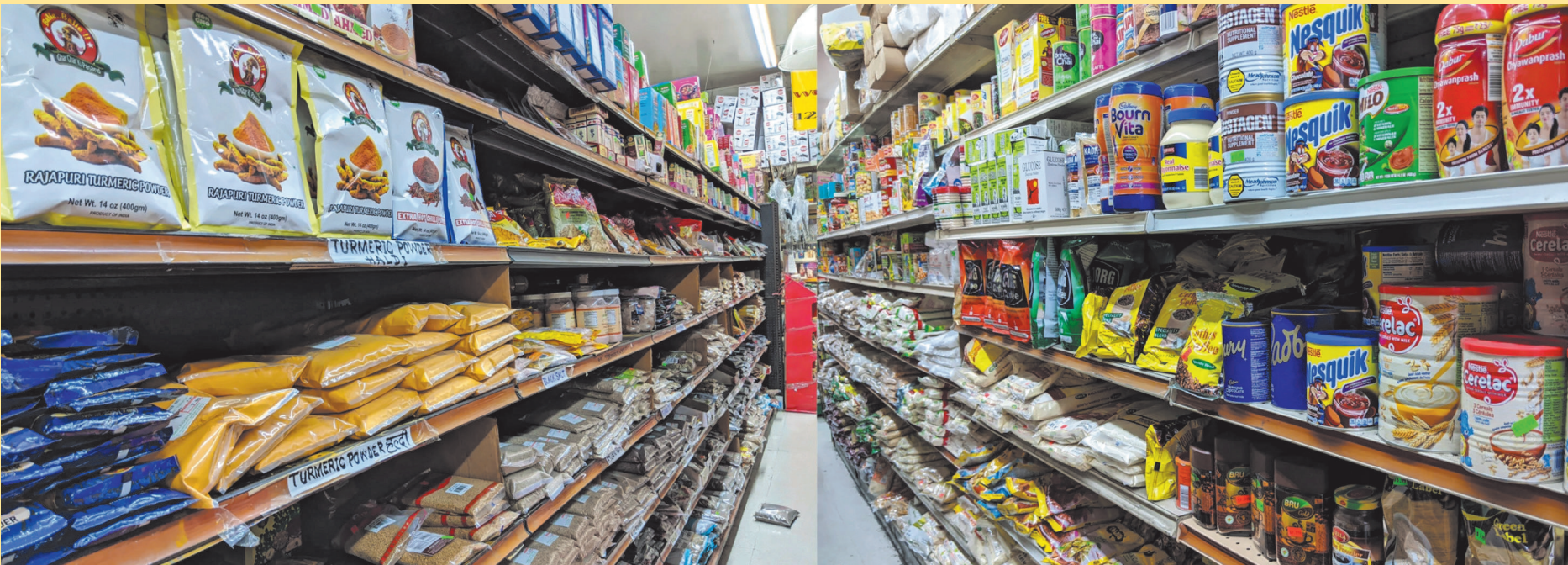
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South Asians For America Participates in AAPI Salute to Honor Veterans at Arlington National Cemetery

India-West Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON, DC - Asian American and Pacific Islander fallen service members and veterans were honored by, at Arlington National Cemetery on June 26.

The annual event included a ceremonial wreath-laying at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier dedicated to AAPI fallen service members, followed by a walk of reflection to the tombstone of Pakistani American U.S. Army Captain Humayun Khan, who was killed in action during the Iraq War.

"It is a privilege to have an opportunity to formally recognize and thank those who have served and sacrificed for our country," said Neha Dewan, National Director of South Asians for America, a partner organization for the event. "As an increasing number of individuals from our community choose to serve their country, this event is an opportunity to also recognize them and express our pride for what they have accomplished."

Guests of honor who participated in the ceremonial wreath-laying included Gold Star parent

of Captain Khan, Khizr Khan, who rose to national acclaim after speaking at the 2016 DNC National Convention.

Following the ceremony, the group visited Captain Khan's memorial marker in Section 60 at Arlington National Cemetery to pay their respects, where Khan spoke. "You will see that the tombstones here reflect the diversity of America," Khan said, as a reflection of the diversity of those who have served. "Humayun, from a very early age, became fully convinced that service to the nation is the highest honor. When I look at our patriots in uniform, it convinces me that our future is brighter because of their service, and their families' service. We are grateful to each of them," said Khan.

Khan, who is also a South Asians for America Advisory Council member, offered advice considering recent events to the AAPI community gathered. "Our democracy and our democratic values are being challenged... Women's equal dignity is under attack. Voting rights are under attack. So many other fundamental human digni-

ties are under attack. The country looks up to all of us to continue to unite, work together and move forward," he said.

AAPI Salute to Service 2022, which took place after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, included participation by a South Asian partner organization for the first time this year.

"This is the first time I've participated in an event where our community has been honored, and the service and sacrifice recognized of so many in our AAPI community. Gold Star families are represented by many the AAPI community as well," said Shyamali Hauth, U.S. Air Force veteran and SAFA Northwest Regional Director. "We are patriots, every single one of us. And we love our country."

Harini Krishnan, National Organizing Chair for South Asians for America, said the event was, "a reminder to the larger public that we have members of our



Top: Gold Star parent Khizr Khan spoke to the group on diversity and protection of democratic values in the wake of the recent SCOTUS rulings. Below: Paying respect to the fallen soldiers.



community who serve, and that we are very much a part of the fabric of America."

Other participating AAPI groups included Filipino Young Professionals, Japanese American

Veterans Association, National Association of Asian American Professionals, National Organization for Vietnamese American Leadership, and Taiwanese American Professionals.

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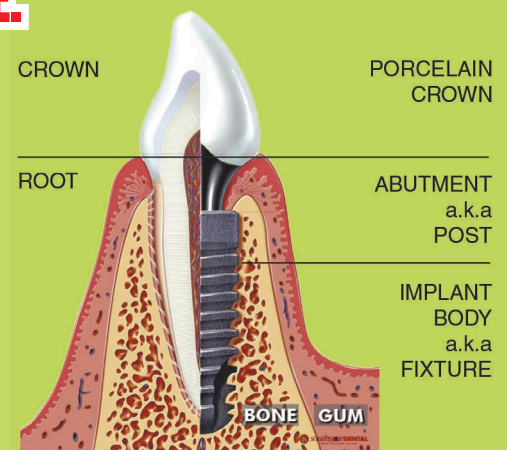
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Biden Nominates Arati Prabhakar to Lead Science and Tech Policy

India-West News Desk

WASHINGTON, DC - President Joe Biden has nominated Dr. Arati Prabhakar to serve as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and once confirmed to this position, also as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology.

In this capacity, Dr. Prabhakar will be the President's Chief Advisor for Science and Technology, a co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and a member of the President's Cabinet, the White House said.

"Dr. Prabhakar is a brilliant and highly-respected engineer and applied physicist and will lead the Office of Science and Technology Policy to leverage science, technology, and innovation to expand our possibilities, solve our toughest challenges, and make the impossible possible," said President Biden. "I share Dr. Prabhakar's belief that America has the most powerful innovation machine the world has ever seen."

Prabhakar has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate before,



to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology and was the first woman to hold that role. She later served as director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the birthplace of breakthrough technologies like stealth aircraft and the Internet.

If confirmed to lead OSTP, Prabhakar would become the third Asian American, to serve in President Biden's Cabinet, joining Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

Prabhakar was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to lead the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), taking the helm at age 34 as the first woman to lead the agency. Between her Federal leadership roles, Prabhakar spent 15 years in Silicon Val-

ley, helping bring R&D to deployment as a company executive and as a venture capitalist. Her work included components for consumer electronics and semiconductor process technology.

In 2019, she founded Actuate, a non-profit organization bringing new actors to the table to develop solutions to the challenges of climate, health, trustworthy data and information technology.

Prabhakar's family immigrated from India to the US when she was three years old – first to Chicago and then settling when she was age 10 in Lubbock, TX, where she went on to get her electrical engineering degree from Texas Tech University. She was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. in applied physics from the California Institute of Technology, where she also earned an M.S. in electrical engineering. She started her career in the legislative branch as a Congressional Fellow at the Office of Technology Assessment.

Congress Waives Sanctions India for Russia Missile Purchases

WASHINGTON, DC - The US House of Representatives on July 14 passed a legislative measure that will urge the Biden administration to waive sanctions on India for purchasing Russian S-400 missile defense systems.

The measure passed in a voice vote as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023 (the defense budget). To make it to President Joe Biden's desk for enactment, it must be a part of the final legislation that comes out of a process called reconciliation in which bills passed by the House and Senate are made into one.

India is potentially facing US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) for its purchase of the Russian 3-400s. The 2017 law seeks to punish Russia for the 2016 election interference and other issues by scaring away buyers of its defense equipment with the threat of secondary sanctions. China and Turkey, a NATO ally, are the only two countries sanctioned by the US under this law yet.

India has started receiving these systems, which technically should have triggered CAATSA sanctions, but the Biden administration has



not publicly declared its intentions, either way. The amendment that passed was introduced by CA Congressman Ro Khanna, who is now believed to be considering a run for the White House in 2024 if Biden decides to not run again.

"The United States must stand with India in the face of escalating aggression from China. As Vice Chair of the India Caucus, I have been working to strengthen the partnership between our countries and ensure that India can defend itself along the Indian Chinese border," Khanna said in a statement. "This amendment is of the utmost importance, and I am proud to see it pass the House on a bipartisan basis."

The amendment says India relies on Russian weapons because it faces "immediate and serious regional border threats" from China. And the US should take further steps to encourage India to accelerate its "transition off Russian-built weapons and defense systems".



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DATE	POOJA/EVENT & DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	TIME	AMOUNT
July 25th - Monday	Soma Pradosham Siva Puja	Puja	7:00 PM	\$54
July 27th - Wednesday	Punarvasu - Rama Parivara Abhishekam	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
July 30th - Saturday	Lord Ayyappa Padi Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
August 3rd - Wednesday	Skanda Shashti - Lord Murugan Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
August 5th - Friday	Samoothika Varalakshmi Vratam	Puja	6:30 PM	\$54
August 7th - Sunday	Samoothika Lord Satyannarayana Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
August 9th - Tuesday	Bhouma Pradosham - Lord Siva Puja	Abhishekam	7:00 PM	\$54
August 11th - Thursday	Sravana Pournima (Avani Avattam) With Homam	Puja	1st batch: 6AM - 7:30AM, 2nd Batch: 7:30AM - 9AM	\$54
August 11th - Thursday	Sri Chakra Navavarana Puja	Puja	5:00 PM	\$116
August 11th - Thursday	Rakhi Pournima	Note: Rakhis available at the Temple for purchase		
August 13th - Saturday	Lord Ayyappa Padi Puja	Puja	6:15 PM	\$54
August 14th - Sunday	Sankatahara Chaturthi - Lord Ganesha Abhishekam	Abhishekam	6:15 PM	\$54
August 18th - Thursday	Sri Krishna Janmashtami - Lord Krishna's Birthday Celebrations	Abhishekam	9:00 PM - 1:00 AM (Aug 19th)	\$54

Leadership Race Mirrors Britain's Growing Diversity

By VIKAS DATTA

LONDON - It could be called democracy's diversity, or even colonialism's counterblast. The race to succeed UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson by becoming the new leader of the Conservative Party, which espoused the Empire, imperialism, and British national identity has been swamped with contenders from former colonies in Asia and Africa. And at the end of the preliminary rounds, the son of immigrants from British East Africa was on top.

Rishi Sunak, UK's former Chancellor of the Exchequer, or Finance Minister, whose sudden resignation set in motion the circumstances that forced an intransigent Johnson to finally bow out, has emerged as the main contender at the end of four rounds of voting by the 358 Conservative MPs.

Picking up a quarter of the votes in the first round, he became the only one to get over three digits in the second round -- and is followed by three women present and former ministers.

The initial race had an ethnically diverse list of candidates

-- British Pakistani ministers Sajid Javid and Rehman Chishti, Sunak's Iraqi Kurd-born successor Nadhim Zahawi, Attorney General Suella Braverman, whose family's roots are in Goa, and Nigerian-origin former minister Kemi Badenoch.

Sunak and Braverman's fellow Indian-origin Priti Patel, the Home Secretary, chose to sit it out.

Suave, efficient, but also controversy-ridden, the former US-based investment banker, hedge fund operator, and three-time MP still has a chance to become the first non-ethnic Briton to become Prime Minister. Born in Southampton on May 12, 1980, Sunak is the son of (the then British) Kenya-born Yashvir Sunak and his wife, Tanganyika-born Usha, who grandparents were born in the Punjab Province of British India, and migrated to East Africa, and from there to the UK in the 1960s.

"My parents emigrated here, so you've got this generation of people who are born here, their parents were not born here, and they've come to this country to make a life," he said in an interview with the BBC in 2019. "In terms of cultural upbringing, I'd be at the temple at the weekend

-- I'm a Hindu -- but I'd also be at (Southampton Football Club) the Saints game as well on a Saturday -- you do everything, you do both," he said, also revealing that he was fortunate not to have endured a lot of racism growing up, save for one incident, when he was with his younger siblings.

With his father a general practitioner, and his mother, a pharmacist, he had an easy childhood. He studied at a prep school in Hampshire, and then he was at the prestigious Winchester College, where he was head boy and editor of the school paper; during vacations, he worked at local curry restaurant.

Oxford was the next stop and he graduated in 2001. The same year, he was interviewed along with his parents for the BBC documentary "Middle Classes: Their Rise and Sprawl". He was an analyst at investment bank Goldman Sachs till 2004, and then a hedge fund management firm till 2009, when he left to join former colleagues at a new hedge fund launched in October 2010.

In 2009, he married Akshata, daughter of Infosys founder N.R. Narayana Murthy and writer



Conservative Party leader Rishi Sunak speaking to voters

Sudha Murthy, who's also the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. Sunak and Akshata have two daughters.

Engaged with the Conservative Party since his Oxford days, Sunak got into politics full-time in 2014 when he was selected for the Richmond seat in north Yorkshire -- one of the safest Conservative seats, which has been held by the party for more than a century -- and won it in the 2015 elections by nearly 20,000 votes.

A staunch proponent of "Leave" in the Brexit referendum of 2016 and subsequent parliamentary votes, Sunak's first government job was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local Gov-

ernment (2018-19) in the Theresa May government and then as Chief Secretary to the Treasury (2019-20) in the government of Johnson, whose leadership bid he had supported.

He replaced his boss Javid as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2020, and while he mostly earned plaudits for steering the government's economic response to the effects of the Covid-19 lockdown, he also became the first Chancellor to be found to have broken the law while in office by breaching lockdown norms. His wife's non-domicile status, which let her save huge amount of taxes in the country, also became a major controversy for him.



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Sri Lanka Gets New President but Not Calm



COLOMBO (IANS) - Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was sworn in as Sri Lanka's eighth President on July 21, vowed to crackdown on protesters who took over President's House and Prime Minister's Office.

Wickremesinghe, who was elected with 134 votes in the parliament said "forcibly occupying the President's Office and the Prime Minister's Office under the guise of engaging in the people's struggle was illegal."

He vowed that legal action would be initiated against those who occupied the President and PM's offices by force.

Wickremesinghe informed party leaders that he intends to prorogue parliament for 24 hours for a "fresh ceremonial start".

The protesters, who occupied the entrance to the President's Office for more than three months and later took over President's Office with a violent clash on July 9 and Prime Minister's office on July

13, had launched a fresh protest against Wickremesinghe claiming they would not accept his Presidency. The protesters see Wickremesinghe as an ally of ousted President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and charged that many MPs were bought over to vote for him.

As soon as Wickremesinghe was elected, police obtained a court order to remove the tents of the protesters occupied in the Galle Face Green. Hours after Wickremesinghe was elected,

protesters who gathered to the entrance of President's Secretariat closer to the main protest site, announced that the unending protest would continue until Wickremesinghe is ousted.

Sri Lankan people, suffering with a massive economic crisis with no fuel, food and medicine, took to the streets on March 31 and continued street fights until former Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa and his cabinet resigned on May 9 and on July 9

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced his exit.

On May 13, then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa had appointed Wickremesinghe as the Prime Minister of the country after the then Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the country was trying to fight out the economic crisis. After Gotabaya Rajapaksa fled the crisis-hit country, Wickremesinghe was appointed as the acting President of the country.



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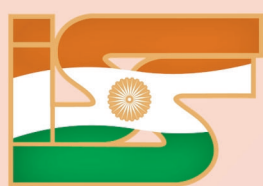
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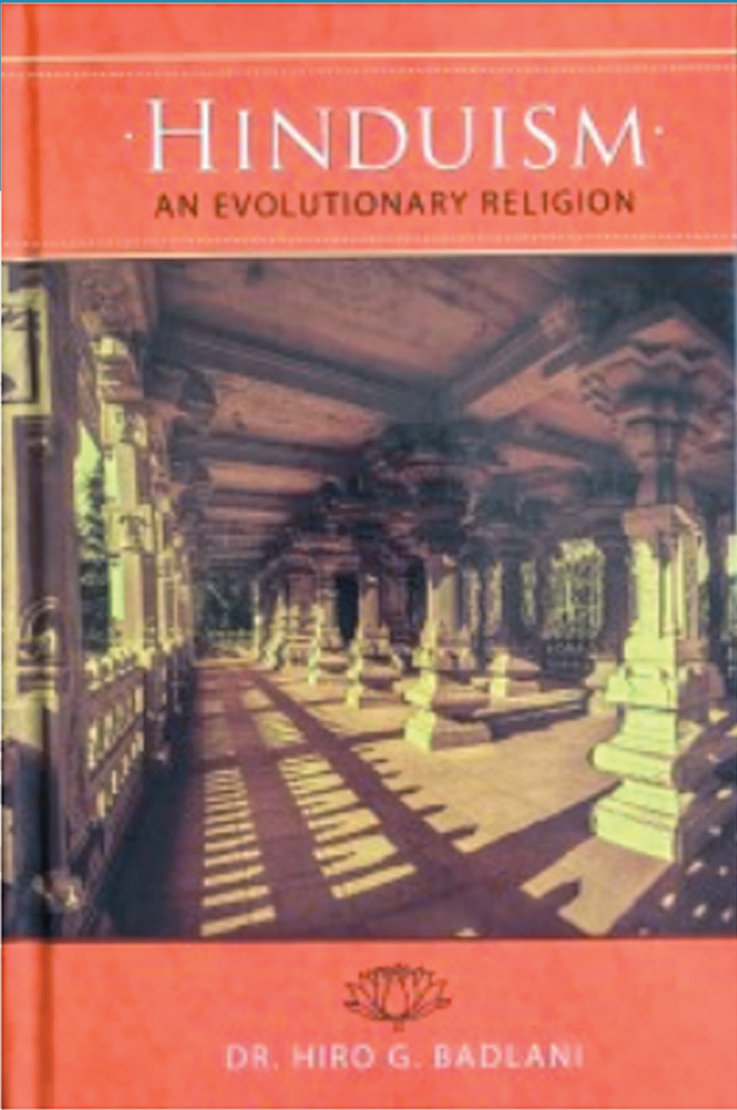
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Hinduism: An Evolutionary Religion

Dr. Hiro Badlani, a retired ophthalmologist from Mumbai, India has written this latest book in a series of his earlier books on the same subject Hinduism. The new hard cover book is especially made for Libraries, Institutes, and individual Book Collectors. In 360 pages, divided in 57 small easy-to-read chapters in simple English, the book describes all aspects of Hindu Religion, Culture, and Philosophy. The book is completely non-dogmatic, and rather emphasizes the essential unity and homogeneity of all the religions.

Hinduism is now regarded as the oldest living religion of the world. It is ancient, with its roots going back to almost 10,000 years. Even so it has remained dynamic, as the American philosopher J. B. Pratt has aptly put: "The reason for the immortality of the Vedic religion of Hinduism is that while retaining its spiritual identity, it has been changing its outward form in accordance with the demands of the time; and particularly it is the only religion which has been able to meet the challenges of science, which governs the thought and life of the Modern age." This vibrant character, in fact, is also the reason of its survival through millennia, when most other prehistoric religions have almost disappeared. More importantly, the changes have taken place in a subtle manner, without any serious protest and bloodshed. The book has underlined in bold print at the end of each chapter the evolutionary changes that have taken place periodically from almost the beginning, and also continue to maintain this vibrant character till date! Even so in Hindu culture, the old are always revered and not openly defied and antagonized. Old philosophies, rituals and customs have sustained alongside new ones, leaving individuals to decide for themselves as per their personal choices. It is not uncommon in a Hindu family for members to worship different deities. Differences also exist in choosing various rituals and religious practices. The book highlights this dynamic nature of Hinduism.

It is imperative to realize that Hinduism was not started by one single founder. It is rather like a conglomeration of the spiritual wisdom of many ethnic tribes that inhabited the Indian subcontinent in the ancient period. Thus it absorbed the "pluralistic" character at the very beginning. In accommodating the opinions and beliefs of many, it also acquired the character of becoming non-dogmatic and unbiased. This attitude has been maintained in the Hindu psyche throughout centuries. Religious masters and "Rishis" have repeatedly prompted to maintain harmony and peace, and to look at all beings as creatures of one divine family - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbkum". In the earliest of the Hindu scriptures, the Rig Veda, another foremost principle has been inscribed, "Ekan Sat, Viprah Bahuti", which translates as "There is one Truth, the paths leading to it may be many". The book emphasizes repeatedly on these ancient Vedic philosophies.

The book is presented in chronological order, starting from the pre-historic period, extending from over 10,000 years from now till the present period. The book is freely available at Amazon.com and iUniverse USA.

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Droupadi Murmu India's New President

Contd. from p1

Murmu scooped up over 50 percent of the total vote value after just three rounds of counting, though the trends became clear after the first round where Murmu stood at 39 percent.

The winner of the Presidential election is not the candidate who gets only the most votes, but the one who crosses a quota. This quota is determined by adding votes polled for each candidate, divided by two, and adding '1' to it. Basically, one more than 50

percent. Counting of votes for the Presidential poll started on July 21 at Parliament House here.

"I heartily congratulate Droupadi Murmu on her victory in the Presidential Election 2022. I hope -- indeed, every Indian hopes -- that as the 15th President of India, she functions as the Custodian of the Constitution without fear or favor. I join my fellow countrymen in extending best wishes to her," said Sinha while conceding defeat.

"At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President. Congratulations to Droupadi Murmu ji on this feat," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

"Droupadi Murmu ji's life, her early struggles, her rich service, and her exemplary success motivates each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens, especially the poor, marginalized and the downtrodden," he said.

Immediately after June 21 when she was nominated by the NDA, Murmu's victory seemed certain and her numbers got a boost with support from some opposition parties including the Biju Janata Dal, Shiv Sena, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, YSR Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party and Telugu Desam Party. Murmu will be sworn into office on July 25 replacing Ram Nath Kovind.



Festive Mood in Hometown

BHUBANESWAR, (IANS) - With NDA's Presidential nominee Droupadi Murmu securing the majority mark to be elected as the 15th President of India, people at her hometown Rairangpur in Odisha's Mayurbhanj district burst into celebrations on July 21.

Scores of people gathered at the residence of Murmu in Rairangpur and burst firecrackers, while local artistes performed tribal folk dance. The house of Murmu was decorated with flowers and lights.

People were also seen celebrating the occasion on the streets of Rairangpur. Also, around 20,000 sweets were prepared which are

now being distributed among the people. "We are really happy and proud as our 'didi' has won the election for the highest post in India. From the very beginning, we were confident that she would win this election. So, from the morning we have started celebrating her victory," said Sonali, a native of Rairangpur.

People from different walks of life, including women and children, along with leaders from BJP and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) also started celebrating the victory of Murmu at different places across the state.

In Bhubaneswar, BJP MLAs were seen distributing sweets among themselves in the Assembly to celebrate the occasion.

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'Top Chef' Padma Lakshmi Excited About Emmy Nom

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA - Indian American Padma Lakshmi is thrilled with her 2022 Emmy nomination for Outstanding Reality Host for Top Chef season 20. The Top Chef host got her third Emmy nomination on July 12. The New York Times best-selling author, food expert and model has been nominated for 37 Emmys so far. Lakshmi is also the creator of the critically acclaimed Hulu series Taste the Nation, the co-founder

of the Endometriosis Foundation of America, a ACLU Artist Ambassador for immigrants' and women's rights, a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program. She has modelled for Giorgio Armani, Gianni Versace, Ralph Lauren, and Roberto Cavalli. "It feels really great," Lakshmi told E!. "We work so hard on this show, and we are just over the moon that people still love it so much like we do. It feels gratifying. I'm just about to go and film another season so this puts a bounce in our step...I'm really excited, I'm really happy, I hope we win."

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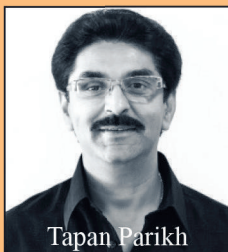
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Dhanush, in LA, Says Sons Stole The Show at Premiere

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA - Dhanush, who is in the Russo Brothers 'The Gray Man' suited up in style for the film's premiere which was held in Los Angeles. Wearing a tuxedo, the actor walked the red carpet in the company of his two sons - Yathra and Linga. All suited up, both his sons posed for the cameras. Sharing pictures from the premiere on Instagram, Dhanush wrote, "When you realize they have completely stolen the show from you. At #TheGrayMan premiere with Yathra and Linga."

The premiere was attended by the entire cast of the film. Chris Evans, Ryan Gosling, Director duo Joe and Anthony Russo along with Ana de Armas and Rege-Jean Page walked the red carpet in style. The movie will hit theatres worldwide on July 15 while the movie will be available on Netflix from July 22 onwards. Talking about his experience shooting for the movie, Dhanush said, "It was incredible. This movie is a rollercoaster, it has everything, action, drama, pace, and a big chase. I am very grateful that I got to do a modest role in this movie full of incredible people." The Gray Man is CIA operative Court Gentry (Ryan Gosling), aka, Sierra Six. Plucked from a federal penitentiary and recruited by his handler, Donald Fitzroy played by Billy Bob Thornton. Besides Ryan Gosling, Billy Bob Thornton, and Dhanush, 'The Gray Man' also stars Chris Evans, Rege-Jean Page, Jessica Henwick, Wagner Moura, and Alfre Woodard. The film is produced by Joe Roth, Jeffery Kirschenbaum, Joe Russo, Anthony Russo, Mike Larocca, and Chris Castaldi.



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In San Jose, Deepika-Ranveer Groove to Shankar Mahadevan's Music, Attend Konkani Gathering

India-West News Desk

SAN JOSE, CA - Lovebirds Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are having a gala time in California. The duo attended singer Shankar Mahadevan's packed concert here and soon they became the show that fans were interested in with videos posted on social media. In one of the clips, Ranveer and Deepika are seen dancing to the hit song 'Koi Kahe Kehta Rahe' from the movie 'Dil Chahta Hai'.

As Ranveer is all set to turn 37 on July 6, Shankar surprised him by singing a happy birthday song during the concert. In the video, the whole crowd

is seen wishing Ranveer a happy birthday. Ranveer and Deepika were also accompanied by Deepika's parents, India's sports star, Prakash Padukone, Ujjala Padukone, and sister Anisha Padukone. The entire family opted for ethnic outfits for the concert. Deepika looked beautiful in a green suit while Ranveer Singh chose to wear a yellow kurta. Netizens were extremely happy to see Ranveer and Deepika dancing their heart out at the concert.

"Couple goals," a social media user commented.

"They are looking so good," another one wrote.

They all also posed with Shankar and his wife for a picture.

After the concert, Ranveer and Deepika were spotted at a Pan-Asian restaurant for some quick, down-to-earth sushi and dim sums and were quickly swamped by fans. Mostly, actors like to dine privately and don't take part in conversations with fans when they have friends or family around. But Deepika and Ranveer are known to be cordial and friendly with their fans. The couple obliged their fans with a picture.

The picture that has now gone viral on Twitter captured the couple sporting wide smiles along with the group who



also look excited and elated. Deepika have made several appearances during their stay here. Deepika headlined a Konkani Sammelan where Ranveer showed off some of his Konkani and Kannada skills learned from his wife. She also revealed that pre-wedding Ranveer had hated vegetables but cooked Konkani style, he now loved it!



Indian American Comedian Aziz Ansari Weds in Italy

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA - The talented comedian Aziz Ansari married scientist Serena Skov Campbell in the presence of 120 people in Tuscany, Italy. Ansari, 39, and the Swedish forensic data scientist exchanged vows on June 16. The duo is said to have met in London, where Ansari had moved during allegations in the heat of the Me-Too movement in 2018.

Ansari has since quietly made his presence felt, once again wowing audiences with his humor, and directly addressing his troubles. Campbell works for Price Waterhouse Cooper, media reports said. She was first spotted with Ansari at the US Open in September 2018. The wedding is said it have included actor Riz Ahmed.

Mindy Kaling Says Writing 'Legally Blonde 3' is Intimidating

India-West News Desk

LOS ANGELES, CA - Indian American Mindy Kaling is a star and can seemingly do no wrong! But even she has her fears. One of the projects keeping her busy is the writing of the screenplay for the third 'Legally Blonde' film. She is working with 'Parks and Recreation' alum Dan Goor. "I think it's an intimidating project for us to work on," she said with a laugh in a recent interview with TODAY. Readers will remember that the hit 2001 rom-com,

starred Reese Witherspoon, as sorority girl Elle Woods who tries to save her romantic relationship by following her boyfriend to Harvard Law School. The sequel showed Woods in Washington, making a difference while working for a congresswoman. "You know, it's one of those projects where it takes longer than other things because we just don't want to mess it up. The character is so beloved," said Kaling to TODAY, adding she had traveled with Witherspoon to New Zealand, and seen fans walking up to her quoting lines from the films.

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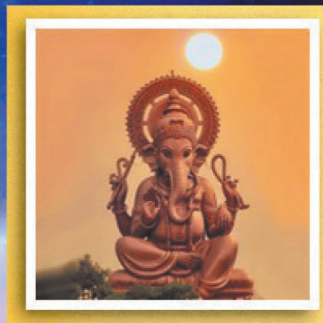


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YOUR FORECAST

July 2022

♈ ARIES (March 21 to April 20): You are likely to enjoy the comfort of your home with your spouse. Love and affection in your relationship may strengthen the bond you share with your partner, thanks to Venus and Mercury. This month, you are likely to enjoy good health. It may be just about taking care of your diet and not skipping your meals. The transit of Venus and Jupiter can bestow you with the comforts of your home. When it comes to your studies, the guidance of your mother can prove to be extra helpful; This month is likely to be a busy one when it comes to learning. School going students are likely to get expected results with their exams. You may also learn a new language which may open new doors of opportunities in your career. A change in residence can be predicted as a result of you getting admission for higher education.

♉ TAURUS (April 21 to May 20): This month's two sides of likes and dislikes are unlikely to make you feel at ease, yet you should be calm and eager to take risks. Tell your anxious inner self not to be intimidated by the problems in your life. The issues are complicated by a number of circumstances that are the fault of others, not you! All of these issues are minor and will most likely be rectified quickly. Make a list of recreational activities to help you relax and de-stress! Perhaps a weekend trip to a neighbouring destination would relieve the pressure that has reached an all-time high. You'd have to be laser-focused on your work and prioritise your finances so that they don't flow forth. This is the month for kids who have been collaborating with their classmates to enhance their grades. You'd like to find the ideal balance of activities that may allow you to prepare well in order to increase your marks.

♊ GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This month is shaping up to be a wonderful one. All you have to do now is pay attention to your relationship with your life partner. This month is likely to be beneficial for your family; functions and celebrations should bring you joy. There may be a get-together with family. Try to be humble and work out your differences with your partner. If you've been dealing with legal issues concerning your marital life, this month may provide some relief, but there's a risk of a breakup. Try to have a budget plan in place before you go shopping. This might help you save money. Anger can be harmful to one's health. Maintain a nutritious diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables to increase your immunity. Excessive usage of electronic devices can cause health problems with your eyes. Having a healthy meal and being hydrated should help you maintain good health.

♋ CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This month, you may spend your energies on the well-being of your children and family members. You may need to pay more attention to your health because it may cause you concern. Maintain a calm demeanour in your profession to avoid any potentially stressful confrontations. In terms of money, you may spend just as much as natives may earn this month. You might have to keep an eye on your mother's health. Your abilities may come in handy at work, so put them to good use. The month may require you to step up your efforts and hard work in order to make significant advancements in your job. In addition, the monthly horoscope predicts that this month may be particularly difficult for your marriage life. This month, students might work hard and produce positive results.

♌ LEO (July 23 to August 22): You are likely to be free of the issues that have plagued your love life up to this point. Those who want to marry their partner but have trouble getting their parents to consent can celebrate this month as your family may finally agree to the match. Married natives, may begin family planning this month. This month, you may experience issues with your stomach, waist, and lower back. To avoid this, use yoga and meditation to help you. If eating outside is inevitable, make sure you don't overeat and see that the area is clean or not. Your

mother's health may improve, and she may be able to overcome the ailment with which she has been afflicted for a long time. Learning is crucial, and you are fully aware of this. The more you understand this, the better off you could be in life. Try your hardest to stay focused on the subjects you're learning, as this could help you get closer to your intended life goals. In general, students might excel in all areas of study. It might be appreciated if you could put in some effort. Finding a competent mentor who can help you learn and improve your grades is one of the keys to success.

♍ VIRGO (August 23 to September 22): As the month unfolds, several planetary alignments signal that things may be going your way effortlessly. Before implementing any of your ideas, businesspeople should make a good plan. Around the middle of this month, you are likely to experience several challenges professionally. During the second part of the month, romantic dialogues may add to your happiness and charm. This might be an excellent month for you in terms of schoolwork. This could be the ideal to sit for entrance exams and competitive exams. You are likely to be in great spirits for the rest of the month. In order to retain your health, however, the planets may require you to adopt a healthy lifestyle and adhere to severe discipline. From the middle of this month, you might be able to stay in good shape. You may have health swings near the end of the month, but these are likely to be a one-time occurrence.

♎ LIBRA (September 23 to October 22): This month may present you with numerous opportunities to improve your way of life. It is most likely to assist you in resolving some long-standing challenges, allowing you to overcome financial limits through the facilitation of monetary advantages. However, some unexpected expenses in the middle of the month may put a strain on your finances. Avoid making any new investments or negotiations during this period. During this month, you may have a lot of stamina. Your productivity can rise, allowing you to work for longer periods of time. This month is most likely to heighten your fitness awareness, and you may put forth all of your efforts to improve your efficiency and fitness level. You may have fewer problems during this phase as a result of your disciplined lifestyle, and you might be able to produce better results. During the latter half of this month, your overall health may remain good. When you are overworked or overtired, you may get digestive problems. Therefore you should eat properly. Set the appropriate priorities, and you'll be able to improve your health and fitness significantly.

♏ SCORPIO (October 23 to November 22): It's possible that the beginning of the month may be unfavourable to your romantic life. You and your partner may have differing viewpoints, which could lead to a rift between the two of you. You'll have to spend quality time with each other and communicate openly. This is a month when students are likely to excel academically. You're more than likely to stay concentrated on your studies. You may also be able to participate in sports and other extracurricular activities while remaining focused on your studies. During this month, you are unlikely to experience any serious health problems. However, you should use extreme caution when it comes to your health and well-being. Try to eat healthily and do yoga and mild workouts first thing in the morning. These would aid to relieve physical aches and pains while also keeping you energised throughout the day. During this month, you're going to be presented with numerous excellent opportunities. Even the stars are on your side, but you'll have to put in more effort and work. If you intend to start a new job, it's best to wait a little longer. You can become a partner in a partnership business. Because Mars is in your career house, you may remain rational and make sound business decisions. Your father might be the ideal person to guide you. So pay attention to what he says and do as he says. During this time, if you were seeking new employment, you might receive an offer letter. If you're happy with your current position, though, it's best to ignore the job calls.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (November 23 to December 21): Your professional and financial lives may be strengthened this month, with Venus in your house of gains, and you may shine at work. This is going to be a really lucky time for you. However, the planetary configurations, especially around the middle of the month, are signalling some difficulties. This situation would persist, but it

would not be scary because you would be delicate in delegating your duties to others. Nonetheless, 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. To avoid verbal fights with your spouse, you may need to keep your voice under control. 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. You're under a lot of financial stress or have other difficulty with your self-esteem. Though there is certainly some truth to the picture, your concern is currently out of proportion. Your capacity to tackle problems with confidence may enable you to deal calmly with certain difficult situations.

♑ CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19): Your financial life may be full of ups and downs this week. Keep an eye out for it, as your weekly forecasts advise. You may have to shoulder some unneeded costs for your household. This could be due to a family gathering or a long-awaited wedding. For those in the moving and packing profession, this week may be a fantastic time. This week may be a huge success for them in their business. Your weekly horoscope says that if you make investments around the weekend, you may lose money. Unexpected monetary returns are predicted by a relative or a friend. This is the month when your investments may not go as planned. You want to speculate and make money, but one wrong action could put your decision in jeopardy. This is not the time to make rash decisions without first consulting others.

♒ AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18): This month isn't particularly helpful in terms of improving and stabilising your financial situation. According to your monthly financial horoscope, you may experience a financial setback in the first part of the month. It's also possible that you'll lose a secondary source of income. Before making any final decisions, try to manage the cash flow precisely with the help of your plans. According to your monthly health forecasts, this month may be a good time to plan your health in a way that may inspire you. You may be feeling mentally and physically exhausted, and now is the ideal moment to focus on your health. To feel revived, you'll need to sit back and rest for a while. If you don't feel like going to the gym for an hour, don't be too hard on yourself. Maintain a healthy diet and workout routine. Go for a leisurely stroll across the park, retire to bed early, and you'll be re-energized in no time, according to your monthly forecasts. This month, commit to a healthy diet that may boost your overall health and immunity. It would be beneficial to stick to a diet for the entire month. This would be appropriate in your scheme of things.

♓ PISCES (February 19 to March 20): Overall, you may have a good month on both a personal and professional level this month. There could be a stroke of luck, and your hard work may be recognised by your coworkers and superiors. The blessings of Jupiter and Mars may be with you, and your optimistic attitude may allow you to spend quality time with your family and friends. A small celebration at home can provide a sense of renewal in one's life. This month's savings may be as anticipated. There's a strong chance you'll obtain a good opportunity from a foreign country. The earlier investment may yield a substantial return. The student may achieve the desired outcome. This month, you'll strengthen your capacity to learn new skills and communicate effectively. Your loved one may respond positively, and those who wish to propose to someone they admire can do so. In a relationship, all you have to do is keep your commitment and avoid becoming egoistic with your partner. There's a chance you'll end up in a covert relationship. This month is ideal for those who have been divorced previously to remarry. Although your health may be fine, you may experience sleeping difficulties that must be addressed. Rahu's passage is beneficial. Avoid drinking and smoking because they can cause unexpected health problems. Children should look after their teeth and eyes.



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