



# THE US FIJI TIMES

World's Largest Fiji Newspaper Out Of Republic of Fiji

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## US State Secretary Antony Blinken makes a historic visit to Fiji



From Left Commissioner of Police Brigadier-General Sitiveni Qiliho, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister Yogesh Karan, Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji's Minister of Defense Inia Seruiratu, Fiji's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad and Commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Brigadier General Jone Kalouniwai

On the 12th of February 2022, United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, visited Fiji, the first such visit made by a U.S Secretary of State since 1985. Secretary Blinken was welcomed by Fiji's delegation consisting of Acting Prime Minister, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji's Minister of Defense, Inia Seruiratu, Fiji's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad and several high-level officials.

Fiji's Acting Prime Minister and the US Secretary of State discussed topics of health, se-

curity, climate, trade and investment, and the promotion of regional and global cooperation. Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum thanked Sec. Blinken for the US' support in Fiji's swift Covid recovery. With their support, over 90 percent of Fijians over the age of 15 are now fully vaccinated. The quick delivery of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines from the US, both directly and indirectly through the UN's Covax Facility, allowed Fiji to welcome international visitors again from the 1st of December of last year.

Continued Page -5



Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum receiving Secretary of United States at Nadi and introducing him to senior Fiji Government Officials



Acting Prime Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Fiji's Minister of Defense Inia Seruiratu, Ambassador Satyendra Prasad And Officials sending off Secretary of United States at the conclusion of these historic visit in Nadi Fiji Islands

### Joaquin Niemann wins Genesis Invitational



See Page 54 & 55

### Tom Hoge wins 2022 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am



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## THE US FIJI TIMES PROUD OF ITS SERVICE

The US Fiji Times is ranked as the top newspaper being published outside of Fiji for the Fiji American community and all over the world. The paper's popularity has grown immensely in recent years due to its critical approach in impressing the need for charitable organizations to rise up in all occasions to help Fiji and the people back home. Visitors from around the world have commended the paper on its stand to serve the community. The US Fiji Times understands that like in any other field, there is competition and competing with "The largest newspaper out of Fiji" has been a difficult task for newer publications. This is not because of its magnitude and coverage, but because of its stability and growth capabilities.

The writers of the paper comprise some of Fiji's best. Even though they are not too visible in social functions, they are taking up their challenges very effectively. The marketing strategy handles by our CEO/Publisher Mr. Rocky Ali is the hallmark of the papers current strength. Despite lacking the front line journalist experience, he makes up for the deficiency with the sheer ability to jeep the media wagon rolling. His insatiable love to be involved with the community to cherish in this very noble cause is worthy of higher recommendation. We have a very vibrant community, so despite the paper being issued free, the expectation of the community is very high. The coverage of all the major events is a mist for the paper and we feel

very proud to be associated with major organizations to see that their events are properly covered with pictures, stories and awareness via our social media platforms.

The paper is being also sent to countries like Fiji, NZ, Australia, Canada, England and Sweden for Fijians abroad to also get the feel of the luxuries of USA. The feedback has been overwhelming in this regard and it has become a trend for many organizations to rely on US Fiji Times in reaching the desired success with adequate coverage.

The paper will strive to serve the community with the best of its ability and assures the community that there will be quality reporting at all times. Vinaka – Rocky Buksh

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## News

# US State Secretary Antony Blinken makes a historic visit to Fiji

Continued from Page 1

In his discussions with the Secretary of State, Fiji looks forward to welcoming many more international visitors including those from America. Acting Prime Minister Sayed-Khaiyum also thanked the US for rejoining the Paris Agreement and taking the lead in tackling climate issues. Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum thanked Mr. Blinken for visit and engagement to Fiji marking the beginning of a more direct partnership between Fiji and the US, and a new era for America in the blue frontier of the Pacific.

Secretary of State praised Fiji for its staunch support to

UN Peacekeeping reiterating Fiji's long-standing record of contributions of 43 years. Sec. Blinken also commended Fiji as a leading voice for climate change, praising Fiji for calling the world's major economies to take strong action to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and being the first country in the world to ratify the Paris Agreement.

Sec. Blinken noted with interest, the United States goal of mobilizing \$150 billion in public and private climate finance by 2030, and its intentions for a substantial portion of that money to support climate ad-

aptation in Fiji and throughout the Pacific region. Mr. Blinken concluded by emphasizing collaboration with Fiji in the spirit of partnership and respect.

Acting Prime Minister Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum and Sec. Blinken also discussed their shared interests to a more prosperous and secure Pacific agreeing to increase the level of collaboration on many shared priorities such as illegal maritime surveillance, enhancing economic opportunities for Fijian producers, exports to the US, continue conversations on ministerial levels and follow up on strategic dialogue on the first quarter

of this year.

Following bilateral discussions, Sec. Blinken and Acting Prime Minister Mr. Sayed-Khaiyum, convened a virtual meeting with Pacific Ministers and Leaders from across the Pacific. Topics of maritime sovereignty and security were discussed, including disaster response to natural and climate catastrophes, the conclusion of trade agreements and increased opportunities for education for Pacific Islanders in the US.

Tonga's Prime Minister thanked Secretary Blinken for his visit. He thanked US Government for its support dur-

ing Tonga's Volcano disaster. Similar sentiments were echoed from Pacific leaders on matters of COVID-recovery and development assistance. Mr. Blinken thanked the Pacific Leaders for their warm welcome and reiterated its Indo-Pacific strategy on building a free and open Indo-Pacific, about connecting countries together to deal with the climate crisis, to build back better from the economic crisis that has resulted from COVID and to build shared prosperity with new approaches to economic integration.

## Fijians Need Good Journalism to Make Better Voting Decision

By Jayant Singh, California USA

Election is nearing in Fiji and all parties are gearing up to seek attention of the people.

What matters most leading to the poll is how much a common person understands on the politics of the day to make the correct choice.

Fijians today do not have much avenues directly on the ground to know the reality. Both the leading newspapers are obviously talking sides to support their existence under extenuating circumstances.

The days of honest journalism is very much lost. We now use the social media to air and gauge the political atmosphere of the country.

But now this too has turned into lopsided paradigm in many instances just because freedom of expression takes precedence. Taking advantage of the situation we are seeing aspiring social media fanatics doing live presentation in studio style set up to fill in the gap.

This is all good when we talk of freedom of expression but if such starts to legitimize itself as a valid source then it must be brought under scrutiny for it is presented with shallowness and impartiality.

One social media presenter from Australia under Sashi Singh's Talking point has managed to get the attention of the many political parties and in fact had leading politicians like Labor Leader Mahendra Chaudhary, FTUC General Secretary Felix Anthony, NFP leader Biman Prasad and Sodelpa Leader Villiame Govaka to name a few on his talking point session on Sundays.

The platform is now hot with many being lined to air their political rhetoric.

Here we are at the brink of a very crucial election and with country coming out of a major pandemic that unleashed a devastating effect on both the economy and the lives of the people, our people must be furnished with good information to see if the current government has managed well or there is a need for an immediate change. Per what we have gathered from the sessions, it seems things should be much better.

Our conclusion should be based in the light of all the aspects facing the people today, not only on how our ruling party has behaved or is behaving, and what roles each other party had

played during this time. The pandemic has shifted the goal. This is the time we need to decide who is the best based on everything we have seen in the last few years. How the current government has performed is a matter of opinion but to find the right party to govern is the matter of fact. The government's unilateral approach has been in question but is there really an outstanding party out there to take up the reign is what we want to know. That we can do if we dive deep into their plans, if any, and not listening to them highlight how the government is falling. If the government is failing, we are seeing it, but what they are bringing to the table we have not heard clearly in any of these sessions. By helping them blow their trumpet may sound louder but when we hearing nothing more than how bad things are. This is because such social media presenters are virtually being the mouth piece to air frustration of the guest r only.

It is therefore understandable why AG or any Minister is not responding to his called to participate in the sessions due for anti-government style questionings.



Sumeet Tappoo hosted Fiji's Ambassador Satyendra Prasad and Fiji's Honorary Consul Vinod Bhindi at the Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital in Suva.

Ambassador Prasad thanked Mr Tappoo for his deduction and sacrifice in building a world class heart hospital in Suva. This hospital will

provide free heart surgery to children not only in Fiji but Tonga, Samoa and other Pacific Islands. The hospital will open in April. Ambassador Prasad reassured Mr Tappoo that Fijian diaspora in North America welcomed this development and will gladly provide all the support they can for its success.

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## Fiji News

# VILLAGERS THANK GOVERNMENT FOR IMPROVED ACCESS

Villagers from the four villages on the island of Moturiki in Lomaiviti expressed their gratitude and acknowledgement for the assistance by Government in the construction of a footpath that links the villages of Naicabecabe, Nasauvuki, Navuti and Nasesara. Measuring more than 2 kilometers, the footpath project was funded by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management under its Community Access Roads, Footpaths and Footbridges (CARFF) Programme at a cost of around \$40,000. The project which is being overseen by the Office of the Commissioner Eastern Division is nearing completion and is expected to benefit more than 400 people. Naicabecabe Village women's group leader, Eleni Duvuniyasi, said the footpath project has relieved a lot of burdens carried by mothers in the four villages on Moturiki for years. "This footpath has greatly benefited our mothers, especially in terms of their children's access to school. In the past, during rainy

days, we have to wade in the mud to get to the next village. Because of the animal waste from the pig pen that we have to walk through before getting to school, we used to be very concerned about our health and safety," Ms Duvuniyasi said. "We used to really face a lot of challenges and difficulties in the past. Sometimes we would prefer carrying our children on our backs and swim across to the next village during high tide so they could get safely to school without being infected by the deposits of the animal waste." "I would like to sincerely thank Government, the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and the Commissioner Eastern Division for this assistance and for also visiting us today." Youth leader Mr. Tevita Vuki said they were thankful to Government for this assistance. "By implementing this project not only will children be able to safely get to school, but village elders will also have a safer way to get to and from the other villages," Mr Vuki said. Villagers



from the four villages on Moturiki presented a tabua (whale's tooth) to the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu and a visiting Government delegation yesterday to traditionally welcome them and also express their acknowledgement for the footpath project. While speaking with the villagers, Minister Seruiratu reiterated

that the intention of Government was clear and this was to ensure that every Fijian had the same level of access to Government's services and assistance regardless of where they live in Fiji. Minister Seruiratu also thanked the villagers for their commitment towards getting the project completed, considering the challenges they faced in getting the materials to the

project site. At the completion of a talanoa session at Naicabecabe Village yesterday, Minister Seruiratu, Commissioner Eastern Division, Vitale Varo and the Government team walked more than 2km to not only witness the progress of the project implementation but to have also have a feel of what the villagers from the 4 villages face on a daily basis.

## MINISTER SERUIRATU TOURS EASTERN DIVISION

Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu started his two-day tour of the Eastern Division yesterday, beginning with a visit to the four villages on Moturiki Island in the Lomaiviti Group. There are two major projects currently being implemented on the island. These are the Moturiki Water Project and the Moturiki Footpath Project which links the four villages of Naicabecabe, Nasauvuki, Navuti and Nasesara. Minister Seruiratu said the visit to Moturiki was to check on the progress of the project implementations and listen to some of the issues faced by the communities. "The common issues are again seawalls, particularly in the villages, foot crossings linking the villages, some issues with solar that have already been installed and just some usual development issues that people in the outer island face," Minister Seruiratu said. Upon reaching Ovalau yesterday, Minister Seruiratu was also briefed on the proposed Fiji



Agrovoltaic Project. Today, the Minister will be meeting with Government officials on Ovalau before proceeding to visit other Government funded projects. "Again for us, the main thing is to follow up on the projects that

are currently being implemented and most importantly keep connecting to the rural people and hearing their concerns and also see how it can be best addressed not only by the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development,

but by other Government agencies as well. During his visit to Moturiki, Minister Seruiratu held talanoa sessions at the villages of Naicabecabe and Nasesara. While speaking to villagers at Nasesara, the Minister

reminded them that Fiji is still two months away from the end of the cyclone season, and that there is a need for people to build and improve their housing structures that could withstand cyclones.



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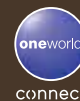
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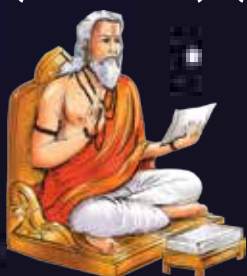
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## News

## NADHARI DRAINAGE WORKS BENEFITS MORE THAN 30 FARMERS

Drainage works recently completed will support the Ministry of Agriculture's Commercial Agriculture program. The Ministry of Waterways has recently completed a total of 1300 meters of drainage works in Nadhari settlement in Ba which has protected more than 30 vegetable farmers from the recent floods in the West. Advisory councilor, Navin Prasad said the completion of drainage works has provided a sigh of relief to the farmers. "About 10 of the more than 30 vegetable farmers in the Western Division cultivate large amounts of vegetables and supply them to the major markets," he said. "Before the drainage works, farms used to flood and take 1-2 weeks

to dry out. Whereas now after the drainage works it takes only 1-2 hours for the water to dry out," he said. Mr. Prasad further acknowledged the support and assistance from the Ministry of Waterways which has protected farmers from floods and supported their food and income security as most are full-time farmers. The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Dr. Mahendra Reddy said they will continue to undertake drainage works to enable farmers to boost production and to ensure there is adequate supply to the local markets as well as in the tourism sector. Minister Reddy further reiterated that the Ministry of Waterways has been continuously working with the



farming communities to support the growth and development of farmers, the agriculture sector,

and the country. The 1300 meters of desilting works include the removal of all debris, grass,

shrubs, and vegetation to allow for unobstructed water flow.

## 18 SELECTED FIJIAN WORKERS DEPART FOR AUSTRALIA

Eighteen (18) Fijian workers selected under the Australian Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) departed on Tuesday, 22 February, 2022 for Australia. They will be employed with Global Harvest Pty Ltd in Queensland to work in farms and be engaged in fruit picking, pruning and packing on a nine (9) month employment contract in the horti/agriculture industry. Out of the 18 Fijian workers, 15 are first time overseas travelers and this was a dream come

true for the Vanua Levu Island group, as most of them were from the farming communities in the districts of Tabia, Labasa and Dreketi. Four (4) females that were also part of the team, were overjoyed to be given the opportunity to work overseas. Permanent Secretary, Osea Cawaru has also commended Global Harvest Pty Ltd for recruiting from Fiji and he is confident the company will continue to do so in future.



## MINISTRY OFFICIALS REMINDED ABOUT KEY ROLE

Senior officials of the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management attending a two-day Risk Informed Development Planning Workshop in Suva were reminded about the key role they play in the Ministry's journey towards creating sustainable and resilient rural communities yesterday. Following the launch of the Ministry's 10-Year Strategic Development Plan (SDP), the Ministry in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Governance for Resilience (Gov4Res) in the Pacific Project is hosting a two-day workshop to discuss, review and

strengthen the Ministry's risk informed development processes through lessons learned after the successful piloted of 5 risk-informed projects for the financial year 2020-2021. The workshop also provided an opportunity to review the current project proposal and reporting processes to ensure that elements of risk are covered, including gender and social inclusion. The Ministry's Divisional Planning Units, Provincial Administrators (PAs), Senior Economic Planning Officers (SEPOs), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) officers and project officers participated in the workshop. In addressing the participants during the session

yesterday, Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Inia Seruiratu reiterated that Government's development paradigm dramatically shifted after the Tropical Cyclone Winston in 2016. This saw the integration of resilience at the heart of all development initiatives by Government. "Our development paradigm shifted significantly after TC Winston - resilience is now at the core of all the developments that we need to undertake and it is also aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and respecting humanitarian principles - because we are dealing with people. On this

new journey, you need to adapt and adopt so that you can be effective and efficient in undertaking the work, the call and the responsibilities that come with your appointments," Minister Seruiratu reminded the participants. "Risk informed developments is not new. It is something that had been neglected for long." Minister Seruiratu said, Government had incurred significant losses from recent disasters due to damage to development assistance especially on water tanks which were usually given out to communities in the form of Government assistance. However, with the adoption of risk informing developments, this is

envisaged to solve majority of these recurring problems. Minister Seruiratu acknowledged the UNDP Gov4Res Project for their partnership towards funding the risk component of several projects implemented by the Ministry, saying this new journey is exciting not only for the Ministry, but to the senior management as well. "It is indeed a great opportunity for the Ministry to partner with the UNDP under the Governance for Resilience in the Pacific (Gov4Res) initiative to ensure that risk informed developments is at the core of our developments in Fiji, especially in the rural areas," he said.



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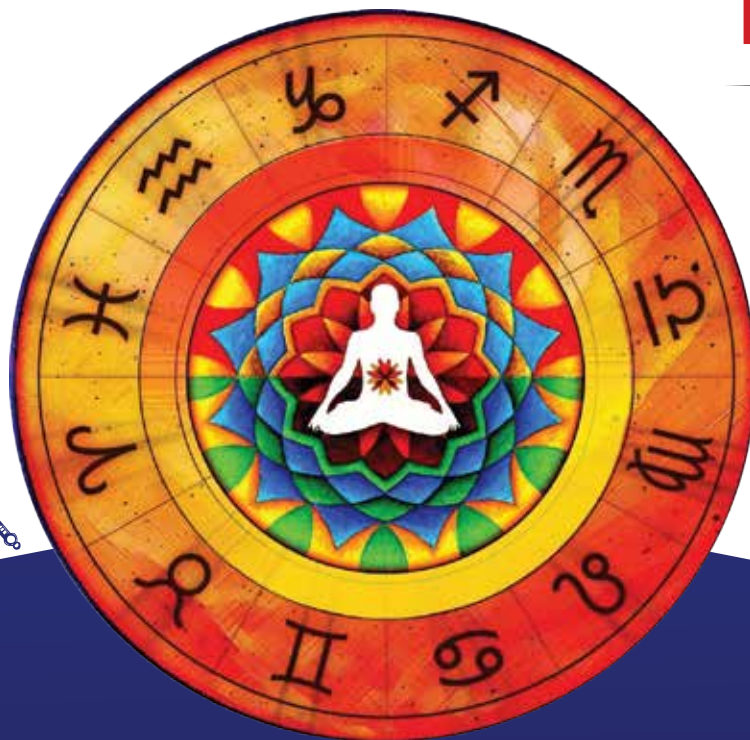
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## Fiji News

## LAND CARE INITIATIVES CRUCIAL FOR FIJI

Conducting research on approaches and developing a community model for land care initiatives in Fiji is vital in order to manage, conserve and improve the country's land and water resources. This was the message shared by the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture Vinesh Kumar while opening a 3-day interactive ACIAR Land Care Project Planning workshop at the Fiji National University's College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests Campus in Koronivia on Tuesday. He said the collaborative approach was imperative as the support between development partners and the Government was the best way forward to enable the mobilisation of stakeholder resources and to gain access to financial assistance to build community resilience and protect natural resources. "The need to integrate and work together as a team for the benefit of the future generations is quite imminent. The Ministry is, therefore, fully supportive of the Land Care Initiative especially since

it demonstrates an effective way to reduce impacts of land degradation. The initiative can build community resilience, protect natural resources and open partnerships for funding and knowledge sharing. "The Land Care Approach is conducive to Fiji's social structure where communities could work together in an integrated way to minimise land degradation but it needs strong and focused Government support to strengthen this approach," said PS Kumar. He added that in Fiji, land degradation was currently being addressed on a sectoral and ad-hoc basis, but that it needed to be tackled in a participatory and holistic manner to reduce or minimize its effects. "Several climate-change adaptive strategies have been identified and practiced and we trust that the Land Care Approach will complement Fijian communities to implement good land-use practices. PS Kumar reiterated that care for our natural resources meant caring for our future generations



and required highly compatible cross country experiences with mutually understandable cultural and social values, farming practices, land and water challenges and climate-change impacts to be considered impactful at the national level. He added that Land Care meant "Qaravi ni Qele (or, Sustainable Soil Management)" in Fijian and the resources management based concept can be undertak-

en through the "Solesolevaki" concept, meaning working together as a group. Land Care in total: is looking after the land (natural resources) so that our land (natural resources) can in turn look after and sustain us. Land Care is a movement of farmer-led organisations supported by local government and technical facilitators and it is believed that the key to effective natural resources man-

agement is partnership, where local people, government and relevant agencies work together to address common issues and concerns. At the completion of the 3-day workshop, participants are expected to be able to adopt sustainable farming practices including the development of Land Care groups that will influence waste management initiatives to be implemented at the community level.

## MINISTER IMPRESSED BY VILLAGE DEVELOPMENTS

Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Inia Seruiratu visited Naimasimasi Village in Tailevu to witness how the villagers have been empowered and assisted through the Sae-maul Undong (SMU) initiative yesterday. The SMU concept is a Korean community development program implemented in Fiji, which focuses on building a village or community to improve villagers' quality of life based on the spirits of diligence, self-help and cooperation, and approaches by the villagers, of the villagers and for the villagers. The concept is also based on self-reliant decision-making through the process of planning, implementation, evaluation, and feedback to the next phase. Naimasimasi Village is among the three Fijian villages that have adopted the SMU concept and have also been subsequently assisted under the initiative. Through their adoption of the concept, the village has so far been assisted with the provision of a community hall and the retrofitting of their



village church to be used as an evacuation centre in times of disasters. While addressing the villagers during his visit, Minister Seruiratu said he had been impressed with what the village had achieved so far, and urged the villagers to continue with the

work currently done to improve lives of families within the village. Minister Seruiratu also reminded the villagers about the importance of investing in their families first before contributing towards the collective development of their village. He said it

is crucial that families are first empowered at home before participating in the development of the broader community. During the visit, representatives from various Government ministries and agencies also enlightened the villagers about some of the

initiatives available to them. These included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry, Land Transport Authority, Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Fiji Police Force.



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## Food

# Indonesian Nasi Goreng Recipe

**Indonesian Nasi Goreng**
**Total Time: 45 mins**
**Serves: 1 Servings**
**Ingredients**

- 1 bowl of cooked rice
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic pieces, chopped
- 100 gm chicken, finely chopped
- 2 eggs
- 1 carrot, grated
- 1/2 cabbage, chopped
- 10-12 bokchoy leaves
- Spicy paste - (made from garlic, shrimp paste, red chili, kafir lime leaves)
- 1 Tbsp sweet soya sauce
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of ground white pepper
- Sambal (Balinese condiment)

- Corn chips

**How to-**

- Cook a bowl full of rice (boiled) and allow it to cool.
- Heat oil in a pan and add onion and garlic, once the onion turns golden, add chicken to the pan.
- Once chicken becomes soft, add beaten egg to the pan. After stirring for a minute, add a handful of carrot and cabbage. Add 10-12 bokchoy leaves and continue stirring for a few more minutes.
- Add chili paste made from garlic, shrimp paste, kafir lime leaves and red chili, continue to stir.
- Add some more oil if required to avoid sticking and continue to saute all the ingredients together.
- Next, add the cooked rice to the pan and keep stirring until the rice turns yellow in color. Add 1 Tbsp of sweet soya sauce.
- Add salt and pepper and keep stirring on a low flame.
- Your Nasi Goreng is ready to be served, but not without a few garnishing's.
- Pour a spoon full of sambal, some corn chips; add 1 piece of cooked chicken and place a fried egg with the sunny side up on top of the rice.
- Now enjoy the Balinese rendition of fried rice!



## Yorkshire Lamb Patties

**Yorkshire Lamb Patties**
**Total Time: 40 mins**
**Serves: 2 Servings**
**Ingredients**

- 30 ml vegetable oil
- 10 gms Horseradish sauce
- Salt to taste
- 50 gms chopped onions fried a level below golden brown
- 10 gms coarsely chopped parsley
- 200 gms lamb minced

**How to-**

- In a round mixing bowl, mix horseradish sauce and vegetable oil.
- Whisk well.
- Add fried onions and coarsely chopped parsley.
- Check seasoning.
- Season lamb mince with salt and pepper.
- Make round patties of 50 grams each and cook on pan grill.
- Serve hot with mayonnaise dip and crisp salad.



## Sweet Potato Pie

**Sweet Potato Pie Recipe**
**Total Time: 2 hr**
**Serves: 4 Servings**
**Ingredients**

- 450 Gram Yams (red skinned)
- 150 Gram Condensed Milk
- 1 Tbsp Sugar
- 1 Small Egg
- A pinch of Cinnamon
- To decorate Marshmallows

**For the Pie Dough**

- 350+ extra Gram All-purpose flour
- 1 tsp Salt
- 275 Gram Butter
- 5 Tbsp Ice cold water
- 1 Egg, mashed

**How to Make Sweet Potato Pie**

- Bake the yams until they have softened completely - they should be extremely tender. Cool, discard the skin and then blend the flesh into a paste.

- Mix the paste with the remaining ingredients and whisk well until everything is smooth and perfectly blended - you don't want any lumpy bits in your filling.
- Add the filling into your crust and bake (about 50 minutes to 1 hour). Make sure to let it cool, then place in the fridge overnight.

**For the Pie Dough:**

- First, thoroughly blend your salt and flour together in the food processor.
- Cut the butter into evenly-sized cubes, place them evenly on top of the dry ingredients in your food processor, and then mix in short bursts.
- Do the process until the dough becomes clumpy and wet, and no flour re-

mains. This may take a while.

- Now bring out the dough and place onto a heavily-floured surface. Add the cold water in, spoon by spoon, gently folding to make sure it is all absorbed.
- Now divide the dough into two portions (one for the bottom of the pie and one for the top) and roll both the pieces into discs. Wrap these discs separately in cling film and let them rest in the fridge for at least two hours.
- When you are ready to bake, bring out the dough and roll it out, in one direction, on a surface that has been heavily floured. Do this gently and do not flip it around too much like a chapati.



- Lay the dough on to your baking pan, making sure that it goes all round the sides, letting it hang over the rim. Prick it all the way round with a fork.
- Pour your filling into the dough and then unfurl the second disk in the same way to make a crust for the top. For a sweet pie, you can even make a wonderful criss-cross lattice design if you prefer.
- Lightly brush the egg on top the pastry (this egg wash will give your pastry that gorgeous golden glow), and cut four slits into the dough on the top. Bake in a preheated oven until golden (approximately an hour at 400 degrees).
- You are ready to serve the Sweet Potato Pie



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## Fiji News

## NORTH TEAM RECEIVE FIJI PRUN

Commissioner Northern Division, Uraia Rainima welcomed Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E. Satyendra Prasad as he took a tour of the division last week. The tour began with a briefing by Mr. Rainima which was also attended by Heads of Departments from various Government Ministries and institutions. Mr. Rainima highlighted that communities in the North were among the many Fijian communities most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. He acknowledged Mr. Prasad for taking the time to visit these communities to witness firsthand the plight they faced. "The Northern Division is among the most vulnerable to natural disasters such as cyclones and most recently flooding. All these natural events are a result of the changing climate. For that,

we wish to thank His Excellency for sparing his time to travel to the North to see and listen to the stories of our affected population," Mr. Rainima said. As part of his tour, Mr. Prasad visited the Soasoa Flat in Labasa where he was briefed by Mr. Rainima on the effects of flooding along the area which over the years have impacted cane farmers. He also visited Tiritiri Settlement, a small cane farming settlement located 2 kilometers away from Labasa Town that has been continuously affected by salt water intrusion. The nature-based seawall constructed by Government through the Ministry of Waterways in 2020 in the village of Raviravi in the interior of Macuata was another project included in the tour. During this visit, Mr. Prasad also met and spoke with community members to know more about



how the various assistances by Government have helped them so far. The Permanent Representative to the United Nations, made an effort to stop at Lekutu Secondary School in Bua where he was briefed on

the development surrounding the newly constructed school block to replace the ones damaged by Tropical Cyclones Yasa and Ana. The team also visited the Nabavatu relocation site in Dreketi, Macuata to witness the

development on the relocation plan. The delegation concluded the tour with a meeting with the Savusavu Blue Town committee members to discuss the development for Blue Town and the plans ahead.

## JAPAN FORMALISES COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE EMERGENCY SUPPORT LOAN (PHASE 2)

Today, the Government of Japan, together with the Government of the Republic of Fiji, exchanged diplomatic notes at a Signing and Exchange of Notes Ceremony to formalise Japan's assistance to Fiji through the "COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan (Phase 2)" worth up to 10 Billion JPY (Approximately FJ\$186 Million). The exchange of notes between the Acting Prime Minister and Attorney-General Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and His Excellency, Kawakami Fumihiro, Ambassador of Japan took place at the Ministry of Economy in Suva. This was followed by signing a Loan Agreement between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Government of the Republic of Fiji by the Acting Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Honorable Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum and the Deputy Resident Representative of JICA Fiji Office, Kazunobu Suzuki. The Emergency loan is provided to recognise the Fijian Government's commitment to social and economic stability in Fiji while mitigating the adverse impacts of the pandemic. It is expected to revitalise financial support to implement fiscal

countermeasures leading to improved livelihoods of Fijians affected by the pandemic. It will enable the Fijian Government to implement its planned activities for 2021-2022 by directing resources to strengthen health and medical services. Ambassador Kawakami commended the leadership of the Fijian Government and the individual effort of all Fijians in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that since the beginning of 2020, the whole world has been tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, Fiji has become one of the most vaccinated countries globally and has opened its borders and eased restrictions. Although the threat of the virus has not faded, it is safe to say that Fiji is at the forefront of controlling COVID-19 and close to setting itself free. He said the impact of the pandemic on the economies of many countries, including Fiji, is long-lasting which is why Japan is supporting Fiji further through this Emergency loan. Ambassador Kawakami expressed confidence that this Emergency loan will support the Fijian Government's efforts to revitalise the Fijian economy and strengthen the health care system. He conveyed his deep sympathy to the people of Fiji



affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural disasters such as the flooding brought by heavy rains in the West and the tsunami and fall-out generated by the Tongan volcanic eruption. In response, the Acting Prime Minister, Attorney-General and Minister for Economy welcomed the concessional loan as another sign of confidence in Fiji's economic stability and prudent financial management. He thanked the Japanese Government for their show of solidarity and their endorsement of Fiji's economic recovery and stressed that the con-

cessionary loan will strengthen Fiji's defences against climate change, COVID-19, and other health challenges by funding disaster responses, resilient public health and medical systems. He also spoke on how the financing collaboration demonstrated Fiji's and Japan's longstanding partnership based on shared values and a shared commitment to an inclusive COVID-19 recovery. Japan and Fiji have enjoyed friendly relations and a strategic partnership through the years. Fiji has significantly benefitted from technical and developmental assistance pro-

vided by the Government of Japan through Japanese training programs, technical assistance (deployment of experts and volunteers) and project implementation. The FJD\$186 million COVID-19 Phase 2 Loan entails concessional conditions with a 0.01% interest rate, a 15 years repayment period and a four-year grace period. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1970, Japan commenced its official development assistance or ODA to Fiji. The total amount of its funding has reached around 88 billion Japanese Yen (1.7 billion Fijian Dollars).





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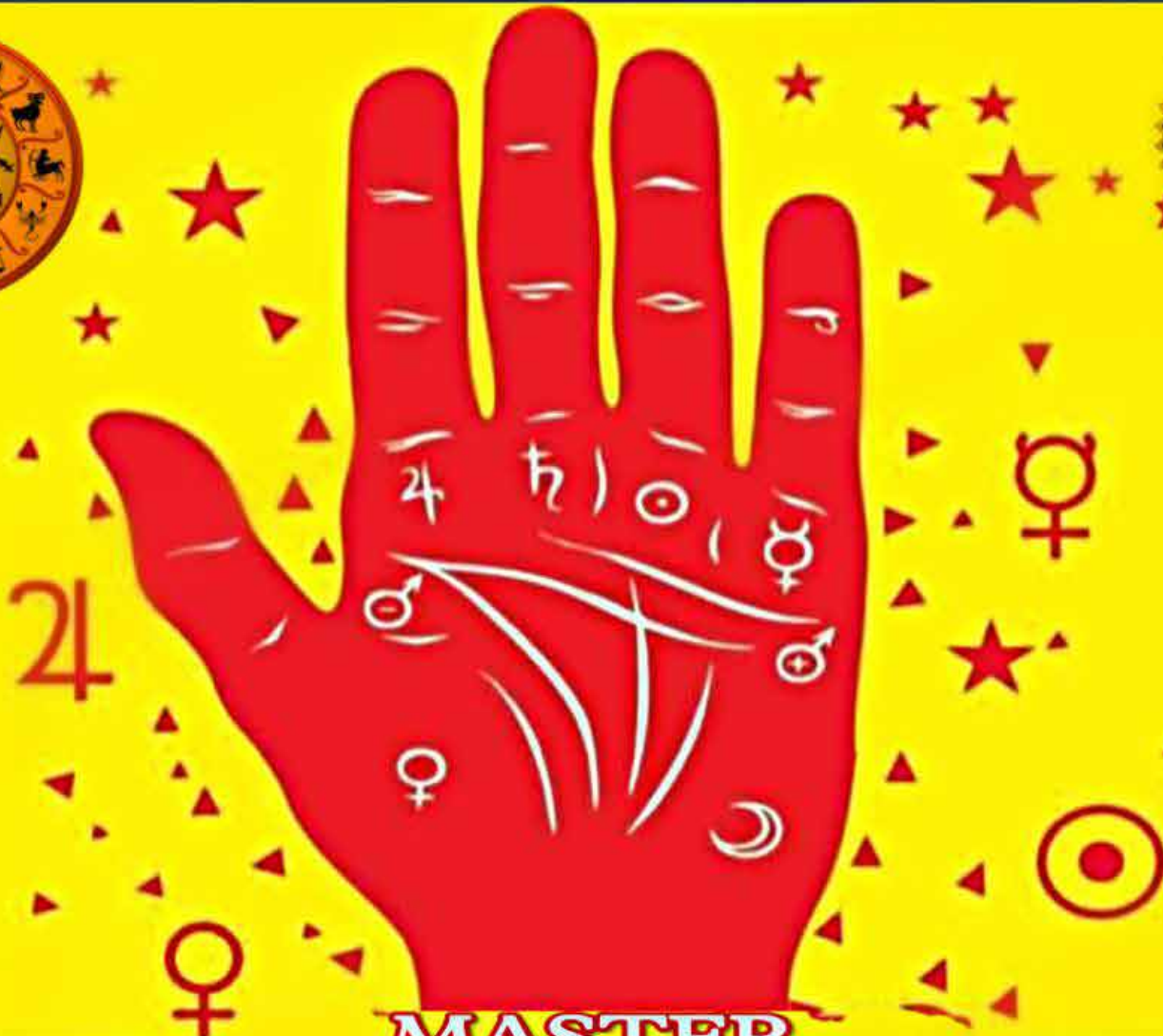


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## MINISTER KUMAR OFFICIATES AT FIJI SCOUTS ASSOCIATION'S WORLD FOUNDER'S DAY

Minister for Education Officiated at the Virtual Celebration for Fiji Scouts Association's World Founder's Day. The Minister for Education, Heritage & Arts, Premila Kumar, officiated at the first ever virtual celebration of World Scouts Founder's Day. This was organised by the Fiji Scouts Association (FSA) for boys and girls scouts, scout leaders, heads of schools, and teachers to participate virtually through Zoom and the live session through the official FSA social media page. World Scouts Founder's Day marks the remembrance of the founder of scouting, Lord Baden Powell and is celebrated worldwide on 22nd of February each year. Whilst addressing the participants, the Minister stated that since our students are back to school after almost nine months, it is important to re-engage them in such important events as those undertaken during the pre-COVID-19 period.

This will stimulate excitement amongst the children and help in their development. Minister Kumar added that not only has the pandemic affected us, but there are also many other influences which have become a part of today's societal problems. For example, social media apart from its positive influence, has also become a huge negative influencer as well as a spreader of misinformation. As such, the Minister highlighted that this year's theme to mark the World Scouts Founder's Day: "Adapting to a Changing World", was very apt. This is because scouting has, to a large extent, provided our young people the opportunity to adapt to the changing world, full of its challenges and temptations. The Education Minister emphasised that scouts in Fiji has been very important in the lives of thousands of Fijian youth as well as our teachers. "It has not only played a pivotal role in building



confidence and self-worth of our young people but has also helped instill important moral values which has shaped the character of each scout member, defining them as an individual", said Minister Kumar. The Ministry strongly believes that we need to produce citizens

who are critical thinkers, patriotic, sharp with life skills and have compassion for others and this all can be offered through scouting. "It is my hope that we can continue to strengthen the partnership between the Ministry and Fiji Scouts Association and invest in our youngsters"

holistic development today, tomorrow and in the future as well", alluded Minister Kumar. The Minister has also accepted the request by FSA to meet and discuss the way forward for scouting in Fiji and how it can be used to develop better citizens of Fiji.

## EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY AWARENESS ON LABOUR MOBILITY PROGRAMS

Given the increased demand under the Australia labour mobility programs, the Employment Ministry continues to intensify community awareness on employment opportunities under the Australia Pacific Labour Scheme (PLS) and Seasonal Worker Programme (SWP); and the Recognized Seasonal Employer (RSE) Work Scheme in New Zealand. The community awareness commenced last week, headed by the Permanent Secretary for Employment, Osea Cawaru was conducted at Nasele village in the Province of Naitasiri followed by the villages of Matawailevu, Navolau

1 & 2, Rakiraki, Vitawa and Vunitogoloa in the Ra Province.

The Permanent Secretary for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations, Osea Cawaru highlighted that this is an important role for the Ministry in reaching out to communities and individuals enlightening them on the functions of the National Employment Centre (NEC) and the recruitment and selection process for employment opportunities in Australia and New Zealand under the labour mobility programs. Mr. Cawaru highlighted that there are no costs involved for any foreign employment registration



for these labour mobility programs that is facilitated through NEC. Likewise, NEC is not affiliated to any individual or agency to register or recruit for foreign employment opportunities. Upon invitation, the NEC Awareness Team will be in a few villages in the Tailevu Province this week. "Registration requirements include full length photo, certified copies of birth certificate, vaccination card, educational qualifications and

transcripts, work certificates, 2 reference letters, valid identification cards, passport, curriculum vitae, TIN letter/joint card," articulated PS Cawaru. He reminded all Fijians that these labour mobility programs are a Government-to-Government arrangement between Australia & Fiji and New Zealand & Fiji and that NEC is the only authorised Centre to prepare workers for employment opportunities in these two countries.



## News

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## Health

# A new multipurpose on-off switch for inhibiting bacterial growth

Researchers in Lund have discovered an antitoxin mechanism that seems to be able to neutralise hundreds of different toxins and may protect bacteria against virus attacks. The mechanism has been named Panacea, after the Greek goddess of medicine whose name has become synonymous with universal cure. The understanding of bacterial toxin and antitoxin mechanisms will be crucial for the future success of so-called phage therapy for the treatment of antibiotic resistance infections, the researchers say. The study has been published in PNAS. So-called toxin-antitoxin systems, a kind of on-off switch in many bacterial DNA genomes, are increasingly being found to defend bacteria against attack by bacteriophages -- viruses that infect bacteria. Activation of toxins allows bacterial populations to go into a kind of lockdown that limits growth and therefore the spread of the virus. As such, understanding the diversity, mechanisms and evolution of these systems is critical for the eventual success of phage therapy to treat antibiotic resistance infections. -- Toxin-antitoxin pairs consist of a gene encoding a toxin that dramatically inhibits bacterial growth and an adjacent gene

encoding an antitoxin that counteracts the toxic effect. It is like keeping a bottle of poison on a shelf next to a bottle of the antidote. While toxin-antitoxin pairs have been seen to evolve to associate with new toxins or antitoxins before, the scale of the neutralisation ability seen with Panacea -- so called hyperpromiscuity -- is unprecedented, explains researcher and group leader Gemma Atkinson at Lund University, who has led the study. PhD student and co-first author Chayan Kumar Saha made a computer program for analysing the kinds of genes that are found next to each other in bacterial genomes. The team then used this tool to predict new antitoxin genes found next to some very potent toxins that they have previously worked on. "We were startled by the discovery that one particular antitoxin protein fold can be found in toxin-antitoxin-like arrangements with dozens of different kinds of toxins. Many of these toxins are new to science." The other first author Tatsuki Kurata, Lund University, has confirmed experimentally that several of these systems are genuine toxins neutralized by the neighbouring antitoxin genes. The study shows that what we know so far about the



diversity of toxin-antitoxin systems probably is just the tip of the iceberg, and that there could be a range of similar systems that have gone under the radar until now. -- As well as being important for understanding the weird and wonderful world of bacterial biochemistry, the discovery of new toxin-antitoxin systems is important for so-called phage therapy against antibiotic resistant infections. As bacteria have increasingly become resistant to antibiotics, other approaches are needed for eliminating infections. The principle of phage therapy is to

treat patients with cocktails of bacteriophages -- viruses that infect bacteria -- in order to kill the bacteria causing infection. However bacteria carry various defence systems to protect themselves from phages, and this includes toxin-antitoxin systems. "Thus identifying toxin-antitoxin systems of pathogens may help us in the future design phage therapy that can counter this layer of defence," explains Gemma Atkinson. So, what is the next research step? "We are now trying to find novel toxin-antitoxin systems on a universal scale, and

understand their involvement in phage defence. We are also interested in possible biotechnological applications of toxin-antitoxin systems, given that these systems can be thought of as on-off switches of core aspects of bacterial biology. The full set of toxin-antitoxin systems could be a molecular toolbox for tweaking bacterial metabolism and controlling bacterial cell resources. This can be important in industrial and pharmaceutical manufacture situations where bacteria are used to produce molecules of interest."

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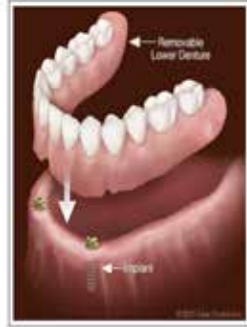
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## FIJI AND FRANCE OPTIMISTIC OF INCREASED COLLABORATION

Permanent Secretary of the Office of the Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs, Yogesh Karan received a courtesy call from the French Ambassador to Fiji, His Excellency François-Xavier Léger, this morning at the Fiji Ministry of Foreign Affairs headquarters. At the meeting, discussions focused on potential opportunities in multilateralism, engagements in economy and trade, climate change and oceans, peacekeeping and sports diplomacy. PS Karan reaffirmed the Fijian Government's commitment to enhance partnership with France in the advancement of economic and investment prospects. In response, Ambassador Léger said the Fijian economy is dynamic and offers a lot of opportunities in the areas of trade and investment. "We are confident that our economic relations can be developed further, we inform French companies about the business environment and we can also facilitate their contacts. In line with our international commitments, we support the prospecting efforts

of the French companies which are active in the field of renewable energies. He said France aspires to take concrete actions to deliver its commitment on climate change, particularly in enhancing the provisions for climate funding to Fiji and the Pacific. "The French Development Agency (AFD) led -program Kiwa Initiative, a multi-donor program aims to strengthen climate change resilience of Pacific Island ecosystems, communities and economies through Nature-Based Solutions (NbS), that is to say by protecting, sustainably managing and restoring biodiversity. "It is founded on an easier access to climate change adaptation and NbS funding for national and local authorities, civil society, international and local NGOs and regional organizations in Pacific Island Countries and territories, including the three French overseas territories. The Initiative is currently endowed with nearly 41 million euros and is managed by the Agence Française de Développement. For



the first time, it brings together the European Union, France, Canada, Australia and New Zealand." The French Ambassador commended Fiji for its recent participation and powerful commitment at the One Ocean Summit and said "We were honored to have a virtual participation of Fiji's Acting Prime Minister. "Representatives of more than 100 countries from all sea basins

and representing more than half the world's exclusive economic zones, have stated their determination to preserve the oceans by contributing to the "Brest Commitments for the Oceans". The Summit provided an opportunity for Fiji to express its position and raise its voice on oceans and climate. In terms of sports diplomacy, France will also host three major sports events in 2023 (Rugby World

Cup) 2024 (Olympic and Paralympic Games), 2025 (Rugby XIII World Cup) and each of these sports events will bring new opportunities to develop Fiji-France bilateral relations. Fiji and France have a very active relation in the field of sport with more than 200 Fijian players in French clubs and they contribute significantly to the Fijian economy through remittances.

## COMPLETION OF FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS IN NAQORO - RAKIRAKI

Hazrat Ali, Advisory Councilor for Rakiraki, is thankful to the Fijian Government and the Ministry of Waterways for carrying out 2420 meters of drainage works in the Naqoro area, under the Drainage and Flood Protection Program, which included the removal of rubbish, sediment, and silt from the three main drains. "After the drainage works, there wasn't much flooding on the road. Whatever

floodwater was there, it went down quickly compared to before," he said. These flood mitigation works are expected to mitigate flooding with an increased amount of water discharge capacity that would benefit businesses, school students, and the entire town. Minister for Waterways, Environment, and Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy, said this will minimise flooding along the Naqoro Flats

and will prevent backflow in Rakiraki Town. Minister Reddy added that after the completion of major desilting works in the Nakauvadra River, the risk of floods has been further minimised in the Rakiraki town and the water discharge capacity has been increased. He mentioned that the Ministry will desilt the river again in the coming months as well as clear the river mouth later this year.



## MINISTER FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION, ROSY AKBAR'S STATEMENT

The Minister of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, Rosy Akbar has strongly condemned the participation of Amenoni Nasilasila, who is not a warden but someone who is currently serving time in prison for rape, in yesterday's Fiji Rugby Union Sanctioned 7s series for the Wardens Rugby Team. Minister Akbar said "It is shock-

ing that the Fiji Corrections Service team have even considered his participation. This is a continuous disregard of the law and in fact a mockery of the justice system in this country. Rape is a very serious crime and such privileges given to persons convicted of such a heinous crime is just not on. This has to stop. It sends the wrong message to

the community." The Ministry strongly condemns this and reiterates that any convicted person loses all benefits and freedom to participate till they have fully served their sentenced terms. In this case, Nasilasila is still a convicted person and still serving a sentence. The Ministry calls for the Commissioner of Fiji Corrections Service to im-

mediately intervene and remove Nasilasila from any further involvement in rugby until he has completely served out his sentence. Minister Akbar also said that issues as such seriously undermine the work of the Ministry in advocating for the protection of women and girls against gender-based abuse and sexual violence. "The Ministry

strongly disagrees with such treatment. It sends a wrong message to others in the community and is a slap on the face of all the good work that is being done by the Ministry, Civil Societies, NGOs and Religious Organisations who have been strongly advocating for ending sexual abuse and violence against our women and girls."



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## World News

# Why is Russia attacking Ukraine?

## What we know so far

Russian President Vladimir Putin has launched a military operation in Ukraine, with explosions heard across the country and Ukraine's foreign minister warning a "full-scale invasion" was under way. The build-up to war Weeks of intense diplomacy and the imposition of Western sanctions on Russia failed to deter Putin, who had massed between 150,000 and 200,000 troops along the borders of Ukraine. Russia has demanded an end to NATO's eastward expansion and said Ukrainian membership of the US-led Atlantic military alliance was unacceptable. Shelling had intensified since Monday when Putin recognised two separatist regions as independent and ordered the deployment of what he called peacekeepers, a move the West called the start of an invasion. In response, Western countries and Japan have imposed sanctions on Russian banks and individuals. On Wednesday, the separatists issued a plea to Moscow for help to stop alleged Ukrainian aggression – claims the United States dismissed as Russian propaganda. As it appeared Russia was preparing to attack, Ukraine's President

Volodymyr Zelenskyy made an emotional address to the nation, saying the war would be "a big disaster". "If they try to take our country away from us, our freedom, our lives, the lives of our children, we will defend ourselves," he said On Thursday morning, Putin said he had authorised military action to defend itself against what he said were threats emanating from Ukraine. Russia invades Ukraine Ukrainian President Zelenskyy said Russia had carried out missile strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure and border guards, and that explosions had been heard in many cities. An official also reported non-stop cyberattacks. Zelenskyy said that martial law had been declared. Ukrainian media reported that military command centres in Kyiv and the city of Kharkiv in the northeast had been struck by missiles while Russian troops had landed in the southern port cities of Odesa and Mariupol. Russian troops attacked Ukraine from Belarus as well as Russia with Belarusian support, and an attack was also being launched from annexed Crimea, Ukraine's border guard service said. Russia's defence



ministry said it had taken out military infrastructure at Ukrainian airbases and degraded its air defences. Ukraine closed its airspace to civilian flights citing a high risk to safety, while Russia suspended domestic flights at airports near its border with Ukraine until March 2. Russian-backed separatists in the east said they had captured two towns, the RIA news agency reported. What has the reaction been? The invasion triggered swift condemnation. US President Joe Biden, who has ruled

out putting US troops on the ground in Ukraine, said Putin had chosen a premeditated war that would bring a "catastrophic loss of life and human suffering". He said he would speak to G7 leaders and promised Russia would be held "accountable". NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg condemned Russia's "reckless and unprovoked attack" and said NATO allies would meet to tackle the consequences. UN chief Antonio Guterres urged Russia "in the name of humanity" to step back

from what could be "the worst war since the beginning of the century with consequences not only devastating for Ukraine, not only tragic for the Russian Federation but with an impact we cannot even foresee". The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Russia faces "unprecedented isolation" over its attack on Ukraine and will be hit with the "harshest sanctions" the EU has ever imposed.

## Ukraine crisis: Tough and emotional summit as EU leaders seek unity

Just before the emergency EU leaders' meeting on Ukraine started, a Brussels official told us he thought this would be one of the toughest and most emotional EU summits ever. From what I heard went on behind closed doors, he wasn't wrong. Russia's actions in Ukraine impact many EU members directly. It feels personal to them. Their belief: that Vladimir Putin has his eye on much more than Ukraine - that he wants to redesign the security architecture of Europe in his favour. Countries in central and eastern Europe which used to be behind the Iron Curtain - now EU and Nato members - feel very exposed. Particularly the Baltic States, which border Russia. They fear the Kremlin intends to destabilise them with cyber attacks and more disinformation campaigns, aimed at their ethnic Russian

communities. On his way into Thursday night's summit, the Polish prime minister voiced deep frustration that tougher sanctions hadn't been imposed earlier on Moscow. "Enough of this cheap talking," snapped Mateusz Morawiecki. Europe continues buying so much Russian oil and gas, he said. "And he [Vladimir Putin] is turning it into aggression, invasion. He's destabilising all of Europe." But other EU leaders pulled in a different direction. True, all 27 of them unanimously agreed to an unprecedented sanctions package, described by the European Council president as "massive and painful" against Russia. The package targets more sectors of the Russian economy, including the transport and energy sectors (with a ban on exports from Europe that Russia depends on to refine its oil for sale), as well as

the financial sector, and more individuals close to the Kremlin. EU leaders also agreed to slap sanctions on Belarus, a key Putin ally. But the sanctions, and counter-sanctions threatened by Russia, will hit European economies too. Some more than others, making them wary. Germany and Italy - so reliant on Russian gas supplies and business ties - urged the EU to hold back on the toughest sanctions of all for now, like limiting oil and gas imports and ejecting Russia from the Swift international payment system. Berlin and Rome argue it's wiser to keep those "nuclear" measures, as they're known, up the EU's sleeve, in case the situation worsens in Ukraine. Their critics accuse them of self-interest, in a time of international crisis. 'Emotional but dignified' Hungary, Romania

and Poland, meanwhile, voiced other concerns at the summit. Direct neighbours of Ukraine, they worry they'll find themselves on the front line of a new migration crisis, should Ukrainians try to flee the hostilities in large numbers. Brussels says it's working both on contingency plans to help refugees and to compensate EU countries worst hit by sanctions and resulting, further spiralling energy prices.

The message the EU hoped to transmit on Thursday was one of unity: externally, with warnings to Russia and assurances of solidarity to Ukraine. EU leaders heard what's described as an "emotional but dignified" address by Ukraine's president via video conference. But also internally - to show all member states that they're in this crisis together. For the long haul.





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## World News

# Russia-Ukraine Crisis: From US to Japan to UK, full list of countries to impose sanctions against Kremlin

In order to prevent the possible invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the Western countries, Japan and the European Union have punished Russia by announcing new sanctions for ordering troops into separatist regions of eastern Ukraine. As Russia recognized the two separatist regions -- Donetsk and Luhansk -- in Ukraine's east as independent states, the Western nations have threatened to go further if Moscow launched an all-out invasion of its neighbour. Countries including, the United States, the European Union, Britain, Australia, Canada, and Japan have announced plans to target Russian banks and elites while Germany halted a major gas pipeline project from Russia. Bitter about Ukraine's long-term goal to join NATO and claim it as historic Russian land, Russian President Vladimir Putin has amassed more than 150,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, according to U.S. estimates, and ordered soldiers into the breakaway Donetsk and Luhansk regions to "keep the peace". Satellite imagery over the past 24 hours shows several new troop and equipment deployments in western Russia and more than 100 vehicles at a small airfield in southern Belarus, which borders Ukraine. USA: US President Joe Biden on Tuesday (local time) announced new sanctions against Russia and called President Vladimir Putin's moves in eastern Ukraine the "beginning of a Russian invasion". Speaking on the Russia-Ukraine crisis from the White House, Biden also called Putin's moves the "beginning of a Russian invasion" of Ukraine as he announces new sanctions against Moscow. "We are implementing full blocking sanctions on two large Russian financial institutions: VEB and their military bank," Biden said adding, "We are implementing comprehensive sanctions on Russia's sovereign debt. That means we have cut off Russia's government from Western financing. It can no longer raise money from the West and can not trade in its new debt on our markets or European markets either." "Who in the Lord's name does

Putin think gives him the right to declare new so-called countries on territory that belongs to his neighbours?" Biden asserted from the White House podium. In his remarks, Biden, further said, "We will also impose sanctions on Russia's elites and their family members. They share in the corrupt gains of the Kremlin policies and should share in the pain as well," adding, "We have worked with Germany to ensure that Nord Stream 2 will not ... move forward." Britain: The UK government on Tuesday imposed tough sanctions against five Russian banks and three super-rich oligarchs from the country over President Vladimir Putin's aggressive action on the Ukraine border. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told the House of Commons that this is the "first tranche" of measures in response to Russian troops moving into two separatist regions of Ukraine. The sanctions target Rossiya, IS Bank, General Bank, Promsvyazbank and the Black Sea Bank, as well as billionaires Gennady Timchenko, Boris Rotenberg and Igor Rotenberg as three "very high net worth individuals". All three have been on the US sanctions list for a number of years as associates of Putin. "Any assets they hold in the UK will be frozen, the individuals concerned will be banned from travelling here, and we will prohibit all UK individuals and entities from having any dealings with them," Johnson told Parliament, adding, "This is the first tranche, the first barrage, of what we are prepared to do: we will hold further sanctions at readiness, to be deployed alongside the United States and the European Union if the situation escalates still further...we should steel ourselves for a protracted crisis". European Union: The European Union is close to agreeing on sanctions on Russia that would put politicians and officials on blacklists, ban trading in Russian state bonds, and target imports and exports with separatist entities, senior EU officials said on Tuesday. The EU is planning a broad range of measures against Russia. The package of sanctions includes putting on an EU blacklist those



who were involved in the decision to recognize the breakaway regions. That could involve all members of the lower house of the Russian parliament who voted in favour of the recognition. The measures under discussion would also see a ban on trading in Europe of Russian state bonds and more generally "target the ability of the Russian state and government to access the EU's capital and financial markets and services, to limit the financing of escalatory and aggressive policies," the statement said. Banks involved in financing separatist activities in eastern Ukraine could also be targeted. The two regions could also be removed from a free trade deal between the EU and Ukraine, "to ensure that those responsible clearly feel the economic consequences of their illegal and aggressive actions," the statement said. Germany: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has suspended the certification process for the Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline after Russia recognized separatist-held regions in eastern Ukraine, with the West fearing a full-scale invasion is next. The undersea pipeline directly links Russian gas to Europe via Germany and is complete but not yet operating. It has become a major target as Western governments try to exert leverage on Russia to deter further military moves

against its neighbour. Japan: Japan is imposing sanctions on Russia over its actions in Ukraine, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Wednesday, terming Moscow's moves an unacceptable violation of Ukrainian sovereignty and international law. Japan's sanctions include prohibiting the issuance of Russian bonds in Japan and freezing the assets of certain Russian individuals as well as restricting travel to Japan. Japan has sufficient reserves of oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) so that there will not be a significant impact on energy supplies in the short term, Kishida said. Should oil prices rise further, he said he would consider all possible measures to limit the impact on companies and households. Kishida said Japan would remain in close contact with other G7 nations and the international community. Canada: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday announced a first round of economic sanctions on Russia. Trudeau said his government will ban Canadians from all financial dealings with the so-called "independent states" of Luhansk and Donetsk. Canada will also ban Canadians from engaging in purchases of Russian sovereign debt, he added. The Canadian prime minister said his government will sanction members of the Russian

parliament who voted for the decision to recognize Donetsk and Luhansk as independent. Canada will apply additional sanctions on two state-backed Russian banks and prevent any financial dealings with them, Trudeau said. Trudeau also said he was authorizing additional troops to the region. "So today, I am also authorizing the deployment of up to 460 members of the Canadian Armed Forces to Operation Reassurance. This involves more troops to Latvia, as well as the deployment of an additional frigate and maritime patrol aircraft," he said. Australia: Australia is imposing sanctions on Russia for its recognition of the independence of the Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics (DPR and LPR), Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. "It is absolutely unacceptable that Russia could invade its neighbor... The Australian government will immediately begin placing sanctions on Russian individuals in response to the aggression by Russia against Ukraine", Morrison said. "We will also... extend existing sanctions that apply to Crimea and Sevastopol to the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. Initially, we will impose travel bans and targeted financial sanctions on eight members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation", he added.



## World News

# 'World's most beautiful building' Museum of Future opens in Dubai

Dubai opened its Museum of the Future on Tuesday, a structure it touts as the world's most beautiful building. The museum is a seven-storey hollow silver ellipse decorated with Arabic calligraphy quotes from Dubai's ruler. It takes pride of place on Sheikh Zayed Road, the city's main highway. The building's striking facade was lit up by a colourful laser light show in the evening as crowds gathered outside to catch a glimpse. It was officially opened later by Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, whose vision of the future has been credited as the driving force behind the museum. While the museum's contents are yet to be revealed, it will exhibit design and technology innovations, taking the visitor on a "journey to the year 2071", organisers said. Roadside signboards described the museum, just minutes away from the world's tallest construction, the Burj Khalifa, as the "most beautiful building on Earth" ahead of its gala opening. It is the latest addition to the United



Arab Emirates' (UAE) collection of flashy architecture and comes after the \$7-billion Expo world fair, featuring a swathe of futuristic designs, opened on Dubai's outskirts on Sep-

tember 30. The UAE's capital Abu Dhabi is home to another landmark design, a branch of France's Louvre museum, whose license was extended by a decade last year to 2047

at a cost of 165 million euros (\$186 million). After French President Emmanuel Macron opened the Louvre Abu Dhabi in late 2017, it attracted about two million visitors in its first

two years before Covid hit. The UAE is a major oil exporter but also a big player in business, trade, transport and tourism, diversifying to reduce its reliance on crude.

## Inflation at record high in cash-strapped Sri Lanka

The record highs came as the South Asian island struggles to find dollars to finance essential imports, including food, fuel and medicines. Sri Lanka's inflation hit a record high for the fourth consecutive month, official data showed on Tuesday as an economic crisis driven by a crippling foreign exchange shortage worsens. The National Consumer Price Index (NCPI) rose 16.8% in January from a year earlier, the fourth con-

secutive record rise and more than double October's figure of 8.3%. The record highs came as the South Asian island struggles to find dollars to finance essential imports, including food, fuel and medicines. The Energy Ministry announced on Monday it was struggling to buy fuel on credit and reported shortages at many pumping stations, leading to queues and forcing some to shut. The Ministry said the main state-owned oil

company, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, was straddled with outstanding debt of \$3.5 billion and was no longer able to raise new commercial loans. The main petroleum company is banking on a proposed credit line of \$500 million from the Indian government to procure oil in the coming months, officials said. In a further blow to the government's plans to raise much-needed revenue, the Supreme Court on Tuesday shot down a new tax bill which targeted an additional 50 billion rupees (\$250 million) this year. The court ruled that the Special Goods and Services Tax — which would have empowered the finance minister to determine rates and sectors to be taxed — was a violation of parliament's financial authority. Sri Lanka's cabinet is divided on seeking a bailout from the International Monetary Fund



while the opposition has called for restructuring the country's \$35 billion external debt to overcome the shortage of foreign exchange. The worsening economic crisis has already led to food rationing with supermarkets restricting the quantity of rice, milk powder, sugar, lentils and tinned fish sold to consumers. Many pumping stations have also rationed fuel issued to

motorists in the provinces. Sri Lanka's economy has collapsed since the onset of the pandemic, with a nosedive in tourism revenue as well as foreign worker remittances. International rating agencies have downgraded Sri Lanka over expectations it may not be able to service its foreign debt. The government insists it can meet its obligations.





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## Sports News

# The dreaded Pink Slip is now in cricket as well

The Pink Slip in the corporate world is a dreaded written or verbal message indicating that one has lost one's job and it's time to move on. In cricket, the Pink would naturally denote 'Night Cricket' and 'Slip' as an important fielding position especially when playing cricket at dusk. Cricket may be a sport; however, it is gradually developing into a big-business enterprise. The growth of the digital world has brought about a revolution in the way the game is being followed. A cricketer being the centrepiece of this gigantic change has become the pawn to king or a vice-versa story. The way cricket-related issues have changed can be perceived when the present Indian cricket coach, Rahul Dravid, was the one who delivered a Pink Slip to Wriddhiman Saha. He informed him that his days as a Test cricketer are over and it is time for him to retire. Saha, like many second-choice wicketkeepers who suffered in the past, remained in the shadow of Mahendra Singh Dhoni. He was, thereafter, superseded by the flamboyant Rishabh Pant. His last stint in the Test match against the world champion side, New Zealand, was a fighting knock under immense pain as he had a severe neck ache. Saha has played 40 Test matches for India and definitely deserved a better and more honourable way to have been given the exit message. Surprisingly, the coach was the messenger boy

who delivered the Pink Slip to not just Wriddhiman Saha but, one gathers, also to some of the other ageing stalwarts. One understands that there is a time when one has to 'hang up one's boots' but for a coach rather than a selector to inform one is not the correct way to do so. The primary function of any coach is to mentor, motivate, encourage, advise and give direction to his players. The coach is the one who gets the selected team together as a fighting unit and extracts the best from each one of them. The domain of selecting and dropping of a player is the responsibility of the selectors and it would have been prudent for Rahul Dravid to stay away from being made into the hatchet man. Furthermore, interestingly enough, Wriddhiman Saha mentioned that the BCCI president had given him the assurance that he would not be dropped as long as he is at helm of the BCCI. This was quite astonishing and disturbing for one to learn, as to why a person of the calibre of Sourav Ganguly should get involved in making such a comment. Saha, after making these allegations was apparently, threatened and pressurised by a journalist, whose name he refuses to divulge. However, the cricket fraternity is buzzing with the name of who the person is. However, as the saying goes, 'Silence is Golden'. One should give kudos to Saha for revealing what he went through. Virat Kohli



earlier fell victim to a similar exchange of words and one felt that India's leading batsman was mentally affected by it. Like all the billions of people living in our universe, present-day cricketers too have access to the transparent digital media and instant world. Professionalism in all areas of operations has become important in the running of every cricket board. Australian cricket experienced it, when a Pink Slip was given to their cricket coach, Justin Langer. His high-handed, headstrong views and attitude was not appreciated by the present lot of Australian players. He was, therefore, given the marching orders. The cricket fraternity was rife with stories about it. This is an example of the direction in which the world is rap-

idly changing and the way the younger generation perceives and thinks about their lives and future. The old school of thought has given rise to people wanting a well-balanced and fulfilling personal existence. The corporate and business world is seeing attrition and employees are now insisting on spending quality time with their families as well as taking time off for themselves. In cricket, one can see a similar attitude and the bio-bubble has further played its part. In the past, it would have been unheard of players taking a break, as Kohli and Pant have done so recently. Cricket will go through a drastic change in relation to the attitude of cricketers towards the sport. The various T20 leagues around the world, one feels, will make

Test cricket redundant. Cricketers' earnings have grown substantially because of playing in the shorter limited-overs cricket circus. The recent IPL auction was a good indicator as to the direction a young cricketer of tomorrow will take. A slam-bang approach to the way they play the game as well as live their lives seems to be written in bold letters. The Pink Slip may have been a dreaded word earlier, but, it will not be one that would worry them. Youngsters will find other avenues to pursue in the fast-paced world that one is moving in at present. One hopes that Wriddhiman Saha, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ishant Sharma and many others approaching the late 30s realise the its adieu; the Pink Slip has arrived.

## Premier League predictions: Jones Knows says back Buyako Saka to score in an Arsenal win

Wolves have another chance to seriously throw their hat into the ring for the top-four race here. I said the same in the corresponding fixture which Arsenal won 1-0, but two straight wins for Bruno Lage's men have kept hopes of a European adventure very much alive. Arsenal are perhaps a tad short in the market at 4/6 for the home win considering Wolves have beaten Tottenham, Manchester United and Southampton away from home this season without conceding. I've got my eye

on Bukayo Saka opening the scoring in what is likely to be a low-scoring affair settled by a moment of inspiration. Saka is becoming Arsenal's go-to guy in the final third. Since December 17 no player in the Premier League has averaged a better goals per game ratio than him with a return of a goal every 0.92 games. Those five goals in that period suggest Saka is Arsenal's most likely route to goal. That isn't mirrored by his 11/2 first goalscorer odds. They should be snapped up.





## Bollywood

# Nawazuddin Siddiqui moves to plush new bungalow, says ‘Aaj jitna bada mera personal bathroom hai..’

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui has recently shifted base to his new plush bungalow in Mumbai, which was in construction for the past three years. The actor was involved in designing the house himself and has named it Nawab in memory of his late father. The bungalow, located at Yari Road, Versova, has seven rooms and two huge dining rooms. It also has a garden on the first floor where the actor plans on growing some plants since he is fond of farming. Though he now is a part of the bandwagon of Bollywood stars who own big houses in Mumbai, the actor says he had never imagined he will live in a bungalow ever. In an interview with The Times of India, the actor said that this mansion that he owns now is a by-product of all the hard work he has done. The Manto star recalled how he used to share a small house with four other people when he first came to Mumbai to become an actor. He shared that the house was so small that when someone would open the door, it would



hit someone's leg. But today, he has a bathroom as big as his house. "Aaj jitna bada mera personal bathroom hai, utna mera ghar hua karta tha (Today, my personal bathroom is as big as my house)," Nawazuddin shared while adding that he has put his

'heart and soul' in this house. Though the 47-year-old star has moved in, he still has to make a few additions to his bungalow. He wants to add black and white posters of legendary actors and filmmakers on one of the walls because, "Aise lagana chahiye

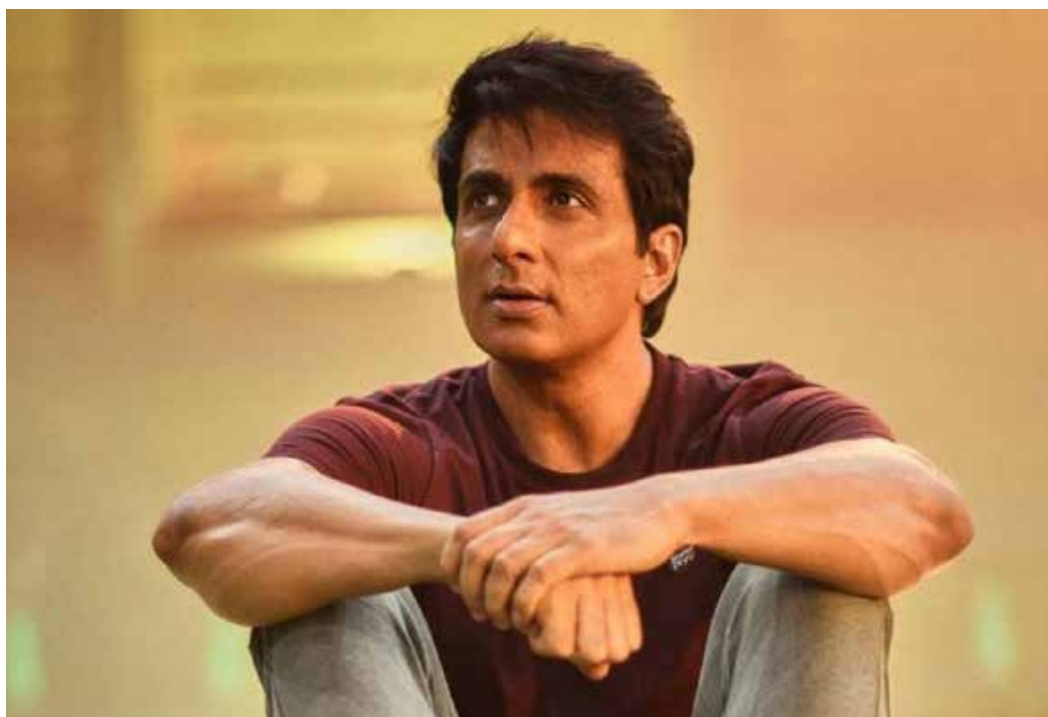
ke yeh ek artiste ka ghar hai. (It should look like an artist's home)." However, the actor who mostly keeps busy with the shooting of his films realises that he won't be able to spend a lot of time in his newly-built bungalow. "Main rahunga hi kitna

yaha? (How much will I stay here?) As actors, we spend most of our time in our tiny vanity vans. Meri aadhi life jo hai woh vanity vans mein hi guzar gayi hai (I have spent half of my life in vanity vans)," Nawazuddin expressed.

# Sonu Sood is praying for safety of Indians in Ukraine: ‘Urge Indian Embassy to find an alternate route for their evacuation’

Sonu Sood on Thursday requested the Indian Embassy in Ukraine to find an "alternate route" to evacuate Indian students and families in the eastern European country. Sood wrote on Twitter, "There are 18000 Indian students and many families who are stuck in Ukraine, I am sure Government must be trying their best to get them back. I urge Indian Embassy to find an alternate route for their evacuation. Praying for their safety. #IndiansInUkraine." Shark Tank India host Rannvijay Singha, meanwhile, tweeted emergency helpline numbers set up by the government to help Indian nationals in Ukraine. He also posted a viral video and wrote, "Just saw this video on twit-

ter.. don't know if it's real or from right now.. apparently it's #russiantroops .. but this video is crazy.. looks like a movie scene. #prayforhumanity #PRAYFORWORLDPEACE #RussiaUkraineConflict #RussiaUkraineCrisis." Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a military operation in Ukraine early on Thursday. He also warned other countries against interfering with Russian action and said that it would lead to "consequences they have never seen." Later in the day, Ambassador of India to Ukraine, Partha Satpathy urged Indian nationals residing in Ukraine to stay calm and face the situation with fortitude.





## Bollywood

# Janhvi Kapoor's friend reveals she had no contact with conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar: Report

Actress Janhvi Kapoor's name recently popped up in conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar's money laundering case. There were reports which suggested that Sukesh used to send gifts to Janhvi, Sara Ali Khan and Bhumi Pednekar apart from Jacqueline Fernandez and Bhumi Pednekar. Reportedly, the conman sent Janhvi gifts worth Rs 18 lakh. Now, according to the Indiatoday report, a close friend of the actress has stated that Janhvi had no contact with Sukesh. The friend stated that the actress never got in touch with Sukesh Chandrashekhar through phone or any other platform. The friend added that everything passes through her team and managing agency.

Janhvi's close pal shared that the actress does not entertain any such queries, hence not even her team or agency was in contact with Sukesh. Reportedly, after investigation, the Enforcement Directorate found that Janhvi inaugurated the salon owned by Sukesh's wife Leena Maria Paul in Bengaluru in July last year. The report stated that the actress received a payment of Rs 18.94 lakh as her fees. The 'Dhadak' star told the investigative agency that she got a tote bag of Christian Dior as a gift from Leena's mother on the day of the event.

The report further stated that Janhvi has submitted her bank account details to the ED.



## 'Young owners' Aryan Khan, Suhana Khan & Jahnavi Mehta get a shoutout from Juhi Chawla at IPL 2022 auction

Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan and daughter Suhana Khan were in attendance to represent their Bollywood superstar father at the IPL auction. The team's co-owner Juhi Chawla was also represented by her daughter Jahnavi Mehta. 'Bunch of young owners, Aryan Khan, Suhana Khan and Jahnavi Mehta got a shoutout from Bollywood actress Juhi Chawla as the trio appeared together at IPL 2022 auction. Chawla took to social media to welcome new players of her and Shah Rukh Khan's IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) along with a photo of the next-gen stars. In the photo, Aryan, Suhana and Jahnavi can be seen sitting together as they bid for the players filling in the shoes of the actor parents. "Welcome to our KKR players, Shreyas Iyer, Pat Cummins, Nitish Rana ... and our bunch of young owners Aryan, Suhana and Jahnavi ...!! Thank you Venky and all!!!! our KKR staff. Super grateful and Super happy (sic)," Juhi captioned the post. Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan and daughter Suhana were in attendance



to represent their Bollywood superstar father at the IPL auction. The team's co-owner Juhi Chawla was also represented by her daughter Jahnavi. Several pictures were shared by the official Twitter handle of IPL team Kolkata Knight Riders. It showed Aryan and Suhana with

the Kolkata Knight Riders team, owned by Shah Rukh. A proud mother Gauri Khan shared Kolkata Knight Riders' post featuring her children on Instagram Stories and posted two heart emojis. While Aryan had taken up the auction responsibility last year as well along with Juhi's

daughter Jahnavi Mehta, this will be a debut for Suhana at the mega auction event. For the unversed, this was the first time Aryan and Suhana have been spotted together publically since the former's arrest in a drugs-on-cruise case last year. Aryan was arrested on October 2 last year

following the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raids in Mumbai. He was granted bail 25 days after his arrest by the Bombay High Court. On the other hand, Suhana recently moved back to Mumbai after pursuing her studies in New York.



## Horoscope March 2022



## Aries Information

- March 21 - April 20

You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Don't be too quick to voice your opinion. Listen to others carefully. Travel opportunities should be your first choice.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Friday.



## Taurus Information

- April 21 - May 20

Don't try to hide your true feelings from your mate. You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. You can prosper if you invest in property or mutual funds. Go over your finances and figure out a solid budget.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.



## Gemini Information

- May 21 - June 21

You will be extremely receptive to new and progressive methods at work. Secret activity is evident. Secret affairs may be tempting. The key to feeling good about yourself will be to do something about it.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Sunday.



## Leo Information

- July 23 - August 22

You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that. You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Change will be required to make your life more harmonious.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.



## Virgo Information

- August 23 - September 22

You can enjoy social events and meet new potential mates; however, avoid being lavish. You can change your living arrangements. Be sure to take care of the needs of youngsters. Take a look at your legal position.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Tuesday.



## Libra Information

- September 23 - October 22

Your ideas will be well received. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. You must make sure that all your personal documents are in order. Get thinking about prolonging longevity.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Saturday.

## scorpio Information

- October 23 - November 21

You can make money if you work on personal investments. Get back into a routine that promises a better looking, more aware individual. Don't expect new acquaintances to be completely honest about themselves. Small business ventures can earn you extra cash.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

## Sagittarius Information

- November 22 - December 20

Balance is required if you want stability. Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. Deal with the needs of children and get into groups that deal with self awareness. Put your thoughts into action.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Monday.

## Capricorn Information

- December 21 - January 19

Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. You can meet potential new mates if you socialize with friends. You should feel a little more stable about your position; however, don't be surprised if a job offer comes your way. Joining organizations will provide you with stimulating romantic contacts.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

## Aquarius Information

- January 20 - February 18

You should be promoting your ideas. Family responsibilities are escalating. Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Do some research if you want to find information that you can apply against the opposition you face.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Thursday.

## Pisces Information

- February 19 - March 20

You will have no problem getting along with clients. Money problems will be difficult to deal with if you have a partner. Be careful to avoid wrong doings. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely.

Your luckiest events this month will occur on a Wednesday.

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## Health

# Largest ever human family tree: 27 million ancestors

Researchers from the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute have taken a major step towards mapping the entirety of genetic relationships among humans: a single genealogy that traces the ancestry of all of us. The study has been published today in *Science*. The past two decades have seen extraordinary advancements in human genetic research, generating genomic data for hundreds of thousands of individuals, including from thousands of prehistoric people. This raises the exciting possibility of tracing the origins of human genetic diversity to produce a complete map of how individuals across the world are related to each other. Until now, the main challenges to this vision were working out a way to combine genome sequences from many different databases and developing algorithms to handle data of this size. However, a new method published today by researchers from the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute can easily combine data from multiple sources and scale to accommodate millions of genome sequences. Dr Yan

Wong, an evolutionary geneticist at the Big Data Institute, and one of the principal authors, explained: "We have basically built a huge family tree, a genealogy for all of humanity that models as exactly as we can the history that generated all the genetic variation we find in humans today. This genealogy allows us to see how every person's genetic sequence relates to every other, along all the points of the genome." Since individual genomic regions are only inherited from one parent, either the mother or the father, the ancestry of each point on the genome can be thought of as a tree. The set of trees, known as a "tree sequence" or "ancestral recombination graph," links genetic regions back through time to ancestors where the genetic variation first appeared. Lead author Dr Anthony Wilder Wohns, who undertook the research as part of his PhD at the Big Data Institute and is now a postdoctoral researcher at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, said: "Essentially, we are reconstructing the genomes of our ancestors and using them

to form a vast network of relationships. We can then estimate when and where these ancestors lived. The power of our approach is that it makes very few assumptions about the underlying data and can also include both modern and ancient DNA samples." The study integrated data on modern and ancient human genomes from eight different databases and included a total of 3,609 individual genome sequences from 215 populations. The ancient genomes included samples found across the world with ages ranging from 1,000s to over 100,000 years. The algorithms predicted where common ancestors must be present in the evolutionary trees to explain the patterns of genetic variation. The resulting network contained almost 27 million ancestors. After adding location data on these sample genomes, the authors used the network to estimate where the predicted common ancestors had lived. The results successfully recaptured key events in human evolutionary history, including the migration out of Africa. Although the genealogi-



cal map is already an extremely rich resource, the research team plans to make it even more comprehensive by continuing to incorporate genetic data as it becomes available. Because tree sequences store data in a highly efficient way, the dataset could easily accommodate millions of additional genomes. Dr Wong said: "This study is laying the groundwork for the next generation of DNA sequencing. As the quality of genome sequences from modern and ancient DNA samples improves, the trees will become

even more accurate and we will eventually be able to generate a single, unified map that explains the descent of all the human genetic variation we see today." Dr Wohns added: "While humans are the focus of this study, the method is valid for most living things; from orangutans to bacteria. It could be particularly beneficial in medical genetics, in separating out true associations between genetic regions and diseases from spurious connections arising from our shared ancestral history."

## Follow these five steps to improve digestion

When food does not get digested well, it can cause a host of problems including feeling bloated and nausea. Digestive health is important, and as experts say, the gut ultimately dictates how your body and mind functions. According to nutritionist Bhakti Kapoor, when digestion does not happen as it should, "your body sends you clear signals, such as excessive gas, bloating, high acidity, frequent loose motions, or bowel irregularity". She took to Instagram to mention that a few simple lifestyle tweaks in diet and physical activity "can help your digestive system do the job it is meant to do more efficiently", which is to "fully deliver and absorb nutrients for overall health and smoothly rid the body of its unwanted waste". 1. Chewing your food 20 times: It helps to break the food down, as well as stimu-

late salivary enzymes which can aid digestion. 2. Drink water: It is important to drink approximately 2-3 litres of water every day. It can give your digestive system the boost it needs. First thing in the morning, drink two glasses of lukewarm water. 3. Exercise: Regular, moderate exercise like walking can help get your bowels moving by moving food smoothly through the digestive system, thereby reducing the risk of constipation. 4. Eat fibre-rich food: Fibre absorbs water in your digestive system, giving bulk and softness to the stool. But make sure you consume a lot of water, too. 5. Listen to your body: If you feel the urge to go to the bathroom, go. Do not postpone trips to the bathroom, otherwise the stool can stay in the colon for long causing it to become dry and difficult to pass. "Our digestive system does more than simply digest food. It



improves resistance to infection, enhances nutrient absorption and prevents the formation of

kidney and gall stones. So start by making the right food choices and lifestyle modifications, and

your digestive system will help you stay in the pink of health," the expert said.



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## Health

# 10 everyday habits that speed up ageing

Every decision you make on a daily basis can either slow down your biological age or increase it. What we eat, how much we move, our mood, our personality, everything can have an impact on how fast we age. Yet most of us don't pay attention to these nitty-gritties of our daily lifestyle. Memory problems, wrinkles, muscle loss, dull skin and fatigue are some of the signs of ageing. It is natural to panic when one spots these worrisome signs, and take refuge in anti-ageing products trying to reverse ageing. Observing and correcting our daily habits can slow down ageing to an extent and add quality years to our life. "Remove the things that speed up ageing before focussing on the things that slow it down. Seems obvious right? We get told to use Hyperbaric Oxygen to improve life length, and take this or that to reverse the years - but what about removing unhealthy food, sitting all day or the other things in the image first? To me, it seems crazy that longevity "experts" talk about how to reverse ageing - but don't discuss removing the things that speed it up

enough," says Tim Gray, health optimising biohacker, psychology specialist, entrepreneur and global speaker in a recent post on Instagram. According to Gray living a sedentary lifestyle (not moving much) is one of the biggest predictors of a short life. According to him, these 10 harmful habits are speeding up our ageing process and need to be corrected. Sitting all day: While one may not realise the perils of a sedentary lifestyle immediately, over the time, sitting all day is actually killing us. From increasing our risk of chronic diseases, raising our chances of dying of Covid, putting us at risk of certain cancers, high blood pressure, obesity, depression and anxiety, this toxic habit no doubt is making us age faster. Eating unhealthy food: Is stocking up on calorie-laden food your secret formula to handle stress? Guess what, you are doing it wrong. Foods high in saturated fats, bad cholesterol, sugar and sodium can increase inflammation in the body. Ageing is regarded as the chronic inflammatory state and eating unhealthily can speed it up. Find a better way



to handle stress and stay young for longer. Not laughing: If you are not laughing enough and it has been long, watch the latest episode of The Kapil Sharma Show or download a comedy movie. Not laughing enough can lead to accumulation of stress which could decrease infection-fighting capacity of your body cells. Laughter triggers release of feel-good hormones and promotes overall sense of well-being. Staying indoors: While pandemic has turned many of us into an 'indoor-person', it's time to put on those running shoes

and do some physical activities. Besides, staying at home all the time can also impact your mental health which could speed up ageing process. Sleeping less: Do not binge-watch or unwind at the cost of making yourself older before the time comes. According to a study, just a single night of insufficient sleep can make an older adults' cells age quicker. Rest well to stay young. Not having goals: Not having a direction or a motivation in life can make one feel depressed. Too much fake light: Fake light emitted from your smartphones

and screens is known to promote ageing and decrease longevity as per studies. Smoking and alcohol: While you may find temporary happiness and excitement while smoking or drinking alcohol, they are actually stealing years from your life. Too much EMF: Electromagnetic field radiation from 5G is said to have an impact on immune system as per some reports. Not reducing environmental pollution: Exposure to particular matter is associated with premature skin ageing.

## Focus on fitness spurs Indians to smartwatches

Driven by a pandemic-induced shift in consumer awareness about health and fitness, smartwatches are seeing tremendous growth in India. Shipments surged fourfold to a record in the July-September quarter. "The third quarter of 2021 was the biggest quarter for smartwatches," said Anshika Jain, Senior Research Analyst at Counterpoint. "We have seen that because of COVID-19, there has been a change in customer preferences. People are shifting to smartwatches from traditional watches. They are looking for health-related features such as tracking steps, SPO2 level, heart rate or their sleep pattern on an ongoing basis... this is a triggering factor," she added. While the overall wearables market in India, which includes earwear, watches and wristbands, was 23.8 million units in the third quarter, watches continued to be the

fastest-growing category with 4.3 million shipments during the period. Wristbands, which offer a lower-level of functionality, saw a seventh consecutive quarter of annual decline, according to data released by IDC. The demand for smartwatches extends beyond youngsters, as many health features appeal to the older generations as well, Ms. Jain observed. Madhav Sheth, CEO, realme India, and president, realme International Business Group, pointed out that while fitness trackers and smartwatches had earlier been popular only among fitness or tech enthusiasts, these products had become a 'necessity' during the COVID-19 pandemic. Amit Khatri, co-founder of Noise, said while the pandemic helped accelerate the momentum and adoption by consumers, wrist wearables had, however, transitioned into a lifestyle product. "Another big factor pushing de-

mand for smartwatches is the increase in productivity," Mr. Khatri said. "Users have access to a lot of apps on the watch itself, they don't need to take out the phone to take a call... if they are driving, they can see who is calling." Indian brands dominate The smartwatch segment is currently dominated by Indian brands, which had cornered almost 75% of the Indian smartwatch market in the last quarter, compared with 38% in the year-earlier period. Ms. Jain further pointed out that the entry price had gone down significantly from about ₹8,400 last year to about ₹5,400 now, which was helping onboard first time buyers. She added that brands were currently distinguishing themselves in terms of look and feel of the product rather than the specifications. However, going forward the differentiation would have to be how accurate-



ly features such as measuring blood pressure, SPO2, thermal sensors, etc. perform, along with a smooth user interface. Mr. Khatri added that the growth that this segment was seeing was "very much sustainable". "We are right now at 4-5% penetration of mobile phones. I feel capturing 15-20% of the smartphone market is a decent

number to aim for so there is enough headroom for brands to grow." Echoing a similar view, Mr. Sheth said, "In the coming years, we believe that the demand will further increase as smartwatches can connect with one's smartphone/laptop/earbuds etc., offering a connected and convenient lifestyle."



## Food

# Beer Chicken Tartar

**Beer Chicken Tartar****Total Time: 20 mins****Serves: 4 Servings****Ingredients**

1. 2 pieces of chicken supreme
2. 4 Tbsp buttermilk
3. 1 tsp salt

**Tartar Sauce:**

1. 4 Tbsp mayonnaise
2. 1 tsp gherkins
3. 1 tsp green olives
4. 1 tsp shallots
5. 1/2 tsp parsley, to garnish

**Batter:**

1. 3 Tbsp corn flour
2. 1 Tbsp refined flour
3. 1/2 tsp salt
4. 1/2 tsp Baking Powder
5. 5 Tbsp Beer

**How to-**

1. Clean the chicken thoroughly and then dip into home-made buttermilk and salt for at least an hour.
2. Keep it in the refrigerator at least for one hour at 4 degree Celsius.
3. In the mean time, prepare the tartar sauce. Mix all the ingredients: mayonnaise, gherkin, green olives, shallot, salt and pepper.
4. Now, mix all the ingredients for the batter. Be sure it isn't too runny or it won't stick to the chicken properly.
5. Pull out marinated chicken supreme from refrigerator, dip it into the batter dunk it into a hot fryer.



6. Fry it till it turns golden in color & then take it out from fryer.
7. Put it on paper towel to remove extra fat.
8. Serve it hot with tartar sauce.
9. Tips: You can use water in place of beer.

# Jalapeno Cheese Fingers

**Jalapeno Cheese Fingers****Total Time: 20 mins****Serves: 4 Servings****Ingredients**

1. 1 Cup Yellow cornmeal
2. 1 tsp Sugar
3. 1/2 tsp Baking soda
4. 1/2 tsp Salt
5. 1 Cup Buttermilk (well-shaken)
6. 1 Egg
7. 1/4 pound Cheddar (extra sharp), grated
8. 1/4 Cup Scallion (white and pale green parts only), finely chopped
9. 1-2 Tbsp Pickled jalapenos (drained), finely chopped
10. 1/4 Cup Unsalted butter, melted
11. Special equipment:
12. 2 Well-seasoned cast-iron corn-stick pans

13. (Each with 7 (5- by 1 1/2-inch) molds\*, or a well-seasoned 9-inch cast-iron skillet)

**How to-**

1. Put oven rack in middle position and preheat oven to 218°C. Heat corn-stick pans in oven 10 minutes.
2. Whisk together cornmeal, sugar, baking soda, and salt in a large bowl.
3. Whisk together buttermilk and egg in another bowl, then add to cornmeal mixture along with cheddar, scallion, jalapeños (to taste), and 2 tablespoons butter, stirring until just combined.
4. Remove pans from oven and divide remaining 2 tablespoons butter among



molds. Quickly divide batter among molds (about 3 tablespoons each) and bake until tops are golden and

a wooden pick or skewer comes out clean, 12 to 15 minutes (15 to 20 minutes if using skillet).

5. Cool corn sticks in pans on a rack 3 to 5 minutes before removing from molds. Serve warm.

# Escabeche Recipe

**Escabeche Recipe****Total Time: 35 mins****Serves: 2 Servings****Ingredients**

1. 30 gms baby corn
2. 30 gms carrot
3. 20 gms water chestnuts
4. 15 ml coconut milk
5. 20 gms pineapple
6. 0.5 gms negi (welsh onion)
7. 0.5 gms red quinoa
8. 2 gms himalayan salt
9. 0.5 gms black pepper
10. 20 gms sweet corn
11. 30 coriander green
12. 40 gms lemon
13. 0.5 gms micro green

**How to-**

1. Wash and cut baby corn, carrot, water chestnut and pineapple in cubes.
2. Cut Negi (green onion) in small rings.
3. Toast red quinoa with salt to get the the puff quinoa.
4. Blend coconut milk, green coriander stem, lemon juice and salt.
5. Toss baby corn, carrot, water chestnut, pineapple in blended coconut milk dressing.
6. Put the mixture of vegetable in a chilled plate and then garnish it with Negi and micro greens.





## Bollywood

# Gangubai Kathiawadi Review From Berlinale Out! Alia Bhatt Reminds Of Deepika Padukone, Redditor Calls It 2022's One Of The Better Films

Alia Bhatt starring Gangubai Kathiawadi is one of the most anticipated films of the year 2022. Directed by maestro Sanjay Leela Bhansali, the story is a biopic of a brothel worker who turned into a mafia queen in Mumbai back in the 60s. Recently, Alia along with the director went to Berlin International Film Festival which is called 'Berlinale' and the first review of her film is out. A Redditor calls it 'one of the better Bollywood movies of 2022' and also wrote about how Alia reminded him of Deepika Padukone from RamLeela. Scroll below to read the scoop. Alia starring Gangubai has been the topic of discussion ever since the movie was announced. The buzz around the film is quite strong and critics have been waiting

to watch and rank it as soon as possible. A Redditor named 'u/puli\_inji' watched Alia Bhatt starrer Gangubai Kathiawadi and has praised it calling it 'one of the better Bollywood movies of 2022.' Reviewing Alia's performance in the film, he wrote, "Overall, I liked the movie a lot and I recommend it. I think for the most part Alia did a good job of portraying the character's vulnerability and pain, and she also brought some swag and flair to it. Some of her and others' scenes gave me chills, without revealing too much. But I will say that at times it did feel watching a child play dress up, like many of you have mentioned here before." Talking about Gangubai Kathiawadi's storyline, the Redditor wrote, "I felt that



the pacing of the movie could have been better, it could have been tighter in places and some events seem to drag on unnecessarily. I also found it a bit hard to keep track of the timeline." In fact, the Redditor also remi-

nisced Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh's RamLeela and wrote, "The world that Bhansali created seemed reminiscent of the Ram Leela world to me. This might sound strange, but Alia's portrayal at times reminded me

of Deepika's, Supriya Pathak's and even Ranveer's characters from Ram Leela. This isn't a bad thing though, I enjoyed her performance and liked her version of a Bhansali protagonist."

## Bappi Lahiri passes away: Disco King of Bollywood dies at 69

Singer-composer Bappi Lahiri passed away on Tuesday at the age of 69 in Mumbai. He was ailing for some time and died at CritiCare Hospital in Juhu, Mumbai, due to Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Personalities from all walks of life paid tribute to Lahiri, including PM Narendra Modi, actors Ajay Devgn and Akshay Kumar and composer AR Rahman. An official statement was released by the late composer's family announced that his funeral will take place on Thursday. The statement read, "It's a deeply sad moment for us. The cremation will take on the arrival of Bappa (his son) from Los Angeles tomorrow mid morning. We are seeking love and blessings for his soul. We will keep you updated. The statement was signed by his wife Chitrani Lahiri, Gobind Bansal, children Bappa Lahiri and Rema Lahiri. CritiCare hospital director Dr Deepak Namjoshi told indianexpress.com, "In January, Bappi Lahiri was brought into the hospital for chest infection and Obstructive Sleep Apnea. He was admitted here for 29

days, including 18 days he was in the ICU. He then recovered well and his parameters were stable and he was undergoing pulmonary rehabilitation. On Monday, February 14, he was given a discharge. He stayed at home for about one and a half days, and then his health started deteriorating and his family called us up, so we rushed to his residence with an ambulance. He was here around 11:30 pm on Tuesday, and very critical, we tried reviving him, but he ultimately passed away around 11:40 – 11:45 pm on Tuesday night." An official statement from the hospital read, "Bappi Lahiri was suffering from OSA (Obstructive Sleep Apnea) and recurrent chest infection. He was treated by Dr Deepak Namjoshi. He was hospitalised in Criticare Hospital, Juhu for 29 days. He recovered well and was discharged home on 15 February. However, after a day at home, his health again deteriorated and he was brought back to Criticare hospital in a critical state and succumbed to his illness at about 11:45 pm. He



suffered from Covid infection last year. He had OSA since the last one year. He was admitted on multiple occasions in Criticare Hospital under treatment of Dr Deepak Namjoshi and recovered on all occasions." Best known for popularising disco music to the Indian mainstream, the singer was fondly known as Bappi da, and experienced huge success in the 1980s and 90s. He earned the title 'Disco King' thanks to his work on films such as Disco Dancer, Namak Halaal, Dance Dance, Commando. PM Modi condoled

his death, "Shri Bappi Lahiri Ji's music was all encompassing, beautifully expressing diverse emotions. People across generations could relate to his works. His lively nature will be missed by everyone. Saddened by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." In 2021, the singer was admitted to the ICU of the Breach Candy hospital as a precautionary measure after testing positive for the coronavirus. It was reported later that year that the singer had lost his voice. Lahiri denied these reports in an Instagram

post, writing, "Some media outlets are spreading false news about me and my health, which breaks my heart to hear. By the grace of my fans and well-wishers, I am completely healthy." After completing 50 years in the industry in 2019, the singer expressed his gratitude and told PTI, "I feel so proud to have had this journey and to have worked with all the extremely talented people in the industry. Simply put, my life is Dilip Kumar to Ranveer Singh. From Dharm Adhikari to Gunday I've done it all."



## Sports News

# Badminton: Pedrosa survives MVP Cup's 'Group of Death'

MANILA, Philippines -- National team stalwart Ros Pedrosa took down upstart Jewel Angelo Albo in three sets, 10-21, 21-18, 21-12, to sweep Group B of the MVP Second Badminton Cup, Thursday at the Olympic Badminton Center in Pasig City. The unbeaten Pedrosa booked his place in the semifinals of the men's singles. Rallying back from a dismal opening set, the former National University standout dominated the decider to take the top seed in the five-man Group B over erstwhile co-leader Albo. For Pedrosa, having the tournament just a few months from the 31st Southeast Asian Games is crucial. "So-brang importante po," he said. "Iba pa rin po 'yung situation sa tournament po kagaya nito. Dito po namin kasi maa-assess 'yung mga weakness po namin. At saka for experience din po and mind-setting." Meanwhile, RJ Oba-ob won the other five-man Group A after he showed his veteran experience past Mark Anthony Velasco in the battle for the top spot, also in three sets, 21-8, 17-21, 21-17. In women's singles, UAAP Season

82 Rookie of the Year Mikaela De Guzman paced the round-robin phase with a clean 5-0 record after two wins past Jaja Andres and Sarah Barredo. The Ateneo de Manila University junior swept Andres, 21-18, 21-11, and then was handed the win as Barredo retired in the third set after a 19-21, 21-13 battle in the first two games. Barredo, who cramped up against De Guzman, finished as the second seed after the round-robin with a win over Andres, 21-13, 16-21, 21-10. On the other hand, Anthea Gonzalez completed the semifinals cast after sweeping her matches of the day over Angel Valle, 22-20, 21-7, and Cristel Fuentespina, 21-12, 21-13.

In the men's singles semifinals, Pedrosa will take on Velasco while Oba-ob will face Albo. On the other hand, De Guzman and Barredo will battle Fuentespina and Andres, respectively, for a chance to play for the women's singles title. In men's doubles, National University standouts July Villabrille and Solomon Padiz Jr. completed a 4-0 sweep of the round-robin, closing it out with a 21-16 14-



21, 21-14 decision over fellow Bulldogs Alvin Morada and James Villarante. Long-time national team mainstay Paul Pantig and new partner Christian Bernardo took the second spot in the eliminations as they ended their day with a win over Joshua Morada and Jason Vanzuela, 21-16, 16-21, 21-14. For the women's side, Thea Pomar and Nicole Albo emerged as their respective group winners as they completed a sweep of

the round-robin matches to arrange their subsequent team-up heading into the semifinals. Pomar earlier paired up with Susmita Ramos in the 21-10, 21-10 win over Jocelle Alvarez and Althea Fuentespina, and then took down Ramos-Alvarez, 21-14, 23-21. Albo, on her part, won with Aubrey Masongsong over Lea Inlayo and Andrea Hernandez, 24-22, 21-23, 21-15, and then with Hernandez against Inlayo-Masongsong, 23-

21, 21-15. The men's doubles semifinals will pit Villabrille and Padiz Jr. against JM Bernardo and Michael Clemente, and Christian Bernardo and Pantig over Morada and Villarante. On the women's side, Pomar and Albo will take on Althea Fuentespina and Masongsong, while Ramos and Inlayo will face Alvarez and Hernandez. The semifinals and finals matches are set for Friday starting at 4 p.m.

## IPL biggest domestic tournament in world, even World Cups look insipid in front of it: Sunil Gavaskar

The criticism of the Indian Premier League, in reference to Team India's performance, has been extreme. However, Sunil Gavaskar feels the IPL remains the biggest domestic tournament in the world that even makes World Cups look insipid. The criticism of the Indian Premier League (IPL) has been thick and heavy ever since the Indian cricket team lost its first two matches of the ICC T20 World Cup 2021. While back-to-back tournaments have devoid Virat Kohli & Co. of adequate breaks between adjacent assignments, the rescheduling of the second-half of IPL also played its role in cramping up the schedule further. With India's T20 World Cup semi-final hopes looking all but over, many have questioned the relevance of IPL considering the manner in which the Indian players are playing in the T20

World Cup. However, Sunil Gavaskar maintains that IPL is the biggest domestic tournament of all, as well as an event in front of which in World Cups look insipid. In a chat on AajTak, Gavaskar was asked about the hype around the Indian team being one of the favourites to go all the way in the T20 World Cup. Responding to the question, Gavaskar said that the hype was built because of the IPL. "Our IPL is the best domestic tournament in the world. There's nothing bigger than the IPL. Even the World Cups look insipid in front of it. A lot of people would say they are not enjoying the World Cup much. People have been saying since the beginning that the charisma of IPL or such local T20 leagues has been missing from the T20 World Cup," Gavaskar said. The Indian team has courted plenty

of criticism over its performance in the T20 World Cup. While the players do not pay heed to what is being said and written in the outside world, Gavaskar feels sometimes the players should listen in order to get an outside perspective of what is going wrong. "This outside world is not sound-proof. Somebody or the other is going to be saying something or the other, which you are going to hear. So to say that you are chucking out the outside noise is easy because what I tell is we don't care about the outside world, which is fair enough. It's understandable because the team doesn't want to be influenced by what has happened. "But sometimes an outside perspective does help. An outside perspective which you can consider. Maybe, there is some sense in what the outside perspective is and maybe at that



particular point of time, you get into a cocoon," he added. While the semi-final hopes are not all over, the Indian team's fate isn't in its hands entirely. The Men in Blue need Afghanistan to beat New Zealand, in order for themselves be back into the semi-



finals race. The Indian cricket team also needs to win all of its remaining games, that too with big margins. The next assignment for Kohli and his men is the match against Afghanistan on Wednesday.





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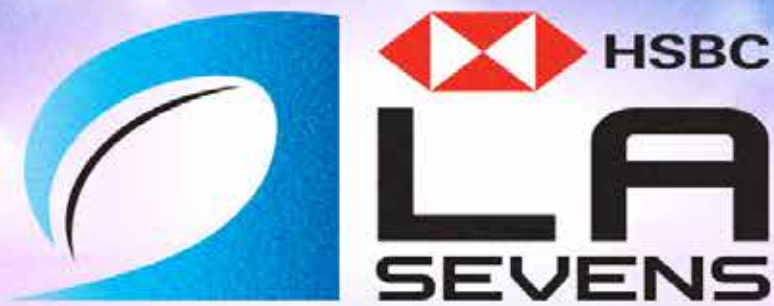
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## Sports

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# Joaquin Niemann wins The Genesis Invitational

By: Pramesh P Sharma @ Riviera Country Club Pacific Palisades

Joaquin Niemann wins 2022 The Genesis Invitational @The Riviera Country Club Pacific Palisades, California by two strokes to earn his second PGA TOUR victory and first since 2019. Niemann is the fourth wire-to-wire victor in tournament history and first since Charlie Sifford in 1969 , The 23-year-old








becomes second-youngest winner of The Genesis Invitational @ 23 years, 3 months, 13 days(Harry Cooper/1926), Wins his second career PGA TOUR victory in his 101st start. Collects 550 points and moves from No. 53 to No. 7 in the FedExCup standings. He set The Genesis Invitational 54-hole scoring record

at 194 (-19) and tying his career-low 54-hole total (2021 Sony Open in Hawaii).Led the field in birdies (21), Strokes Gained: Approach The Green (7.097) and Strokes Gained: Tee to Green (14.113).“This weekend felt like a month,” Niemann said. “I’m so happy it’s finally done. I’m really proud of the way

my caddie and I battled.” California native Collin Morikawa and PGA TOUR rookie Cameron Young finish T2 while Defending champion Max Homa finishes T10, third consecutive top-10. World No. 1 Jon Rahm Tied 21. Tournament host Tiger Woods presented the winner with the trophy after the round.



Photos Courtesy of The Genesis Invitational & PGA TOUR

		2022 The Genesis Invitational The Riviera Country Club Official Final Standings								
1	Joaquin Niemann	-19	63	63	68	71	265	\$ 2,160,000.00		
2	Collin Morikawa	-17	67	67	68	65	267	\$ 1,068,000.00		
	Cameron Young	-17	66	62	69	70	267	\$ 1,068,000.00		
4	Adam Scott	-14	68	65	71	66	270	\$ 540,000.00		
	Viktor Hovland	-14	71	64	65	70	270	\$ 540,000.00		
6	Justin Thomas	-13	67	64	70	70	271	\$ 435,000.00		
7	Maverick McNealy	-12	68	68	67	69	272	\$ 390,000.00		
	Scottie Scheffler	-12	66	72	65	69	272	\$ 390,000.00		
9	C.T. Pan	-11	67	70	69	67	273	\$ 351,000.00		
10	Chez Reavie	-10	74	68	66	66	274	\$ 303,000.00		
	Rory McIlroy	-10	69	70	67	68	274	\$ 303,000.00		
	Max Homa	-10	66	70	67	71	274	\$ 303,000.00		
13	Cameron Tringale	-9	69	68	69	69	275	\$ 243,000.00		
	Xander Schauffele	-9	69	70	66	70	275	\$ 243,000.00		
15	Sepp Straka	-8	74	68	66	68	276	\$ 189,000.00		
	Matt Jones	-8	70	67	71	68	276	\$ 189,000.00		
	Mito Pereira	-8	70	68	68	70	276	\$ 189,000.00		
	Robert MacIntyre	-8	71	67	67	71	276	\$ 189,000.00		
	Paul Casey	-8	68	71	66	71	276	\$ 189,000.00		
	Marc Leishman	-8	70	66	67	73	276	\$ 189,000.00		
21	Taylor Moore	-7	69	69	69	70	277	\$ 125,880.00		
	Sebastián Muñoz	-7	70	66	69	72	277	\$ 125,880.00		
	Danny Lee	-7	70	70	65	72	277	\$ 125,880.00		
	Emiliano Grillo	-7	69	70	65	73	277	\$ 125,880.00		
	Jon Rahm	-7	69	73	70	65	277	\$ 125,880.00		





# Tom Hoge wins Pebble Beach AT&T Pro-AM

By: Mo Ali & Mr. Rocky Buksh @ PEBBLE BEACH GOLF

Another cliff-hanger at Pebble Beach, this one memorable for Tom Hoge delivering all the right shots on the back nine to surge past Jordan Spieth and win the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am for his first PGA TOUR title.



Hoge, one of seven players who had at least a share of the lead Sunday, came within inches of holing out from the 16th fairway, tapping in for birdie to catch Spieth. Then after Spieth made bogey from the bunker on the par-3 17th, Hoge rolled in a birdie from just outside 20 feet. He closed with a par for a 4-under 68.

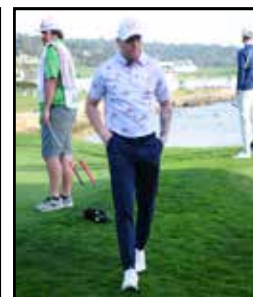
Hoge, a 32-year-old who grew up in North Dakota, had been runner-up twice in his previous 202 starts on the PGA TOUR, most recently at The American Express two weeks ago. His time came amid the magnificent setting of Pebble Beach under a clear sky, and it didn't come easily with so many

players in the mix for so long.

Spieth looked like a winner when he birdied the 12th and 13th holes, and he reached the 15th tee with a two-shot lead. But he missed a 5-foot par putt on the 17th, and only as he stood under the pine in fairway on the par-5 18th did he realize he needed an eagle.

Hoge earned his first trip to Augusta National for the Masters, along with getting a two-year exemption. Until this year, his best season on the PGA TOUR was in 2020 when he was 50th in the FedExCup and won just over \$1.8 million.

Hoge, who finished at 19-under 268, earned \$1,566,000.



Article courtesy of PGA Tour Photos by US Fiji Times



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