







KASHMIR OBSERVER<sup>TM</sup>

Thursday | 24-08-2023

## India at BRICS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is attending the three-day BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, which began on August 22. In his departure statement, the PM Modi highlighted the significance of the BRICS platform for discussing global issues. He emphasized that BRICS has evolved into a platform for addressing concerns of the Global South, focusing on development priorities and reforming the multilateral system.

The BRICS Summit brings together the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with South Africa holding the presidency for this year. Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to join the summit virtually and Moscow is being represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The event aims to explore areas of cooperation among member countries and review institutional development. This year's in-person summit holds particular significance as it marks the first time the leaders have met face-to-face in three years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Prime Minister's visit will also include an important bilateral stopover in Athens, Greece, on August 25, where he has been invited by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. This visit holds significance as Modi becomes the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Greece in 40 years.

It has been a packed diplomatic calendar for India this year. India has already held G20 meetings, and the Quad foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi. It was followed by the visit of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and which was followed by that of Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. India also held Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) foreign ministers' meeting in Goa in May which was also attended by Pakistan foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. This was followed by the Quad leaders' summit in Australia. Subsequently, the PM Modi also visited the US where he addressed the joint session of the US Congress.

The flurry of these major geopolitical events in India once again reflect India's growing global diplomatic heft. Things are only set to get better from hereon. All major powers even when they are on opposite sides of the geopolitical divide want to be friends with India. On the other hand, Washington's priorities with India are no longer regional in their nature but their scope is the larger geo-politics. It goes without saying that India's 1.4 billion population with a value addition of a burgeoning middle class has become an ultimate attraction for the west. Besides, India's calling card of democracy - albeit hemmed in by issues of its own - in a region of dysfunctional countries, autocracies and Chinese communism are making India a global favourite. Whatever side you look at it from, this is one of the best times for the country. It is in this context that India's role in BRICS assumes a huge geopolitical significance. With over 40 countries keen to join the grouping, the BRICS is shaping up as a major alliance of the most powerful countries outside the west, giving India an even bigger geopolitical profile, second only to China.

### OTHER OPINION

## Kashmir's Unusual Hot Spell Kashmir

Basit Mohammad

In an unusual turn of events, this idyllic region recently experienced a scorching hot spell that left residents and visitors alike bewildered.

Kashmir typically enjoys a cool and pleasant climate, thanks to its geographical location nestled in the Himalayan mountains. Summers are marked by mild temperatures, making it a preferred destination for travelers seeking refuge from the heat in other parts of India.

In recent years, the world has witnessed unusual weather patterns, and Kashmir was not exempt from this trend. Over the course of just two days, the region experienced a dramatic shift in temperature. The mercury soared to unprecedented heights, and residents found themselves dealing with an unexpected heatwave.

The sudden surge in temperature had significant repercussions for daily life in Kashmir. People accustomed to cooler weather were caught off guard. The scorching heat made outdoor activities uncomfortable, and locals scrambled to find ways to beat the uncharacteristic warmth.

Farmers, who rely on moderate temperatures for their crops, faced unexpected challenges, and efforts to mitigate the impact on agriculture were put into action.

The hot spell in Kashmir is not an isolated incident. It is part of a broader pattern of unusual weather events observed globally. Climate change is causing shifts in weather patterns, leading to extreme temperatures in unexpected places. As we witness these changes, it becomes more crucial than ever to address climate change collectively and adopt sustainable practices to mitigate its effects.

Kashmir's two scorching days serve as a stark reminder that climate change is real and impacts even the most picturesque corners of the world. While Kashmir's natural beauty remains unaltered, its recent weather anomaly underscores the urgency of addressing climate change on a global scale. As we cherish our planet's diverse landscapes, we must also work tirelessly to protect them for future generations.

# Why India Doesn't Want BRICS To Dismantle The World Order Built By The West

If the group of rising powers tries to usurp global governance, it will collapse under its own weight



M. K. Bhadrakumar

A famous incident narrated by Bob Woodward in his book Obama's Wars comes to mind: President Barack Obama, disregarding the protestations of Chinese protocol officials, burst into a closed-door meeting of Chinese, Indian and Brazilian leaders on a late Friday afternoon in Copenhagen, a week before Christmas in 2009, where the three BRIC leaders (this was before South Africa joined and the group became BRICS) were negotiating in secret a common position at the climate talks, which were on the verge of complete meltdown.

Obama had wanted the three leaders of the most powerful nations of the "Global South" - and South African President Jacob Zuma - to meet him individually rather than collectively, and was frantic that his ploy was upended. Eventually, Obama joined the four leaders and the negotiations resulted in a meaningful agreement.

That incident, just six months after the first BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg in June of that year, underscored a cardinal truth that although the signs were there already that the West's decline had begun, no one had any doubts that the United States and Europe would continue to determine the characteristics of the world economy and international politics for a long time.

Today, when India's approach to the upcoming BRICS Summit has become a matter of some controversy - with Reuters even floating a mischievous rumor that Prime Minister Narendra Modi might not travel to Johannesburg - what is being overlooked is that there is a remarkable consistency in India's conception of the grouping: that BRICS was a community of revisionist powers who were not seeking the destruction of the world order, but the inclusion of their interests in this order.

However, time didn't stand still. Globalization is moribund and the system of international institutions that provided its underpinnings are no longer inclusive. In fact, Russia and China are under US sanctions. On the contrary, India's relationship with the US is perhaps at its highest point in history - almost a quasi-alliance - and Washington describes it as the "defining partnership" of the century. Arguably, the US sanctions against China could even hold advantages for India. The close bonding between the two countries that is in the pipeline for the chip industry is a case in point. Suffice to say, life may even be getting better for India, and the country's elite would see no reason to trade its modest revisionist wishes for a most fundamental restructuring of the existing international order, let alone its destruction.

The bottom line is that India is content if the influence of BRICS in the shaping of the main aspects of the global agenda can make the world more just and stable. Indeed, that is not a far-fetched dream, as BRICS is on the right side of history. None of the group's members have their economic opportunities and political in-

fluence grounded in a history of bloody wars, conducted with the purpose of establishing regional and global dominance centered around the wealth accumulated over several centuries. India feels at home.

This brings us to the core issue of the attraction that BRICS holds for so many countries today that are so patently divergent in their national characteristics, values, and interests - from Indonesia to Iran, Egypt to Saudi Arabia - who tend to regard the grouping as if it is poised to pick up the banner of global governance from the West. Such expectations are irrational, as they are premised on the evolution of the entire international order in a certain predetermined direction, which is of course not the case.

Thus, it is only natural that Brazil - or India, for that matter - may feel troubled as to how, moving forward, BRICS' contribution to global governance can truly be decisive. Fundamentally, there is uncertainty as to whether,

relation to the small and medium-sized states of the world.

Make no mistake that all the experience of strong institutions and global governance happens to be the experience of the West on the basis of common values and shared interests. Ironically, it also accounts for their "bloc mentality." BRICS, on the contrary, lacks such cohesiveness and the capacity to set the world agenda, which the G7 had been doing for decades. That is why a country like India will always expect BRICS as a community to aim not at destroying the existing world order, but at changing it for the better. India does not want the collapse of globalization, institutions and international law. Put differently, India prefers to create within the existing order such rules, norms and ways of cooperation that would allow for the preservation of its advantages and the elimination of its shortcomings.

For India, this is both a matter of tactic

**For India, this is both a matter of tactic and strategy. The prevailing rules-based order gives India a sense of security and strengthens multipolarity in Asia. It is a misconception that India is under pressure to bandwagon with the US**

in the current circumstances, it is even possible for BRICS to maintain the revisionist behavior of the past. The issue is not about the outcome of the Ukraine conflict, which Russia cannot and will not lose, but that even after a catastrophic defeat, its adversaries are highly unlikely to change their views on the world.

Therefore, if BRICS expands, devoid of norms, the unity of the grouping could get impaired, rendering it diffuse and ineffectual. That was what happened to the Non-Aligned Movement. Yet, this is also a transformative period where "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity," to borrow Yeats' anguished formulation of an eternal principle of politics.

The predicament is acute against the backdrop of the Ukraine conflict and the Biden administration's dual containment strategy against China and Russia, two founding members of BRICS. Unsurprisingly, Chinese and Russian world views have dramatically changed in the most recent past and are robustly countering US hegemony. The "no limits" friendship between these neighboring giants sets them apart somewhat within BRICS, and that cannot but affect the alchemy of the grouping - although the collegial spirit continues, thanks to their pragmatism and sagacity.

Curiously, many of the aspirants who seek association with BRICS could even be getting attracted to the grouping principally for that reason - a sort of second pillar that upholds a more just and less selfish global governance in

and strategy. The prevailing rules-based order gives India a sense of security and strengthens multipolarity in Asia. It is a misconception that India is under pressure to bandwagon with the US. That might have been the case previously, but present-day India, under the current leadership in particular, is consciously expanding the relations with the US, which it considers to be in its own national interests. It is a logical outcome of the trajectory of politics in India since the 1990s and it enjoys a "bipartisan consensus" between the ruling party and the main opposition party. And it has become a long-term trend that already seems irreversible.

Several factors are involved here and one main factor is, paradoxically, the phenomenal rise of China, India's BRICS partner, which raises alarmist sentiments in the country. The partnership with the US is one of the few ways India hopes to address the security paradigm. That said, India's BRICS partners can and should trust India to continue to pursue an independent foreign policy based on its national interests. There is no reason to doubt that India reposes faith in the decisive influence of the BRICS in the shaping of the main aspects of the global agenda that will make the world more just and stable.

*Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by RT and India Punchline*



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## We are on the Moon

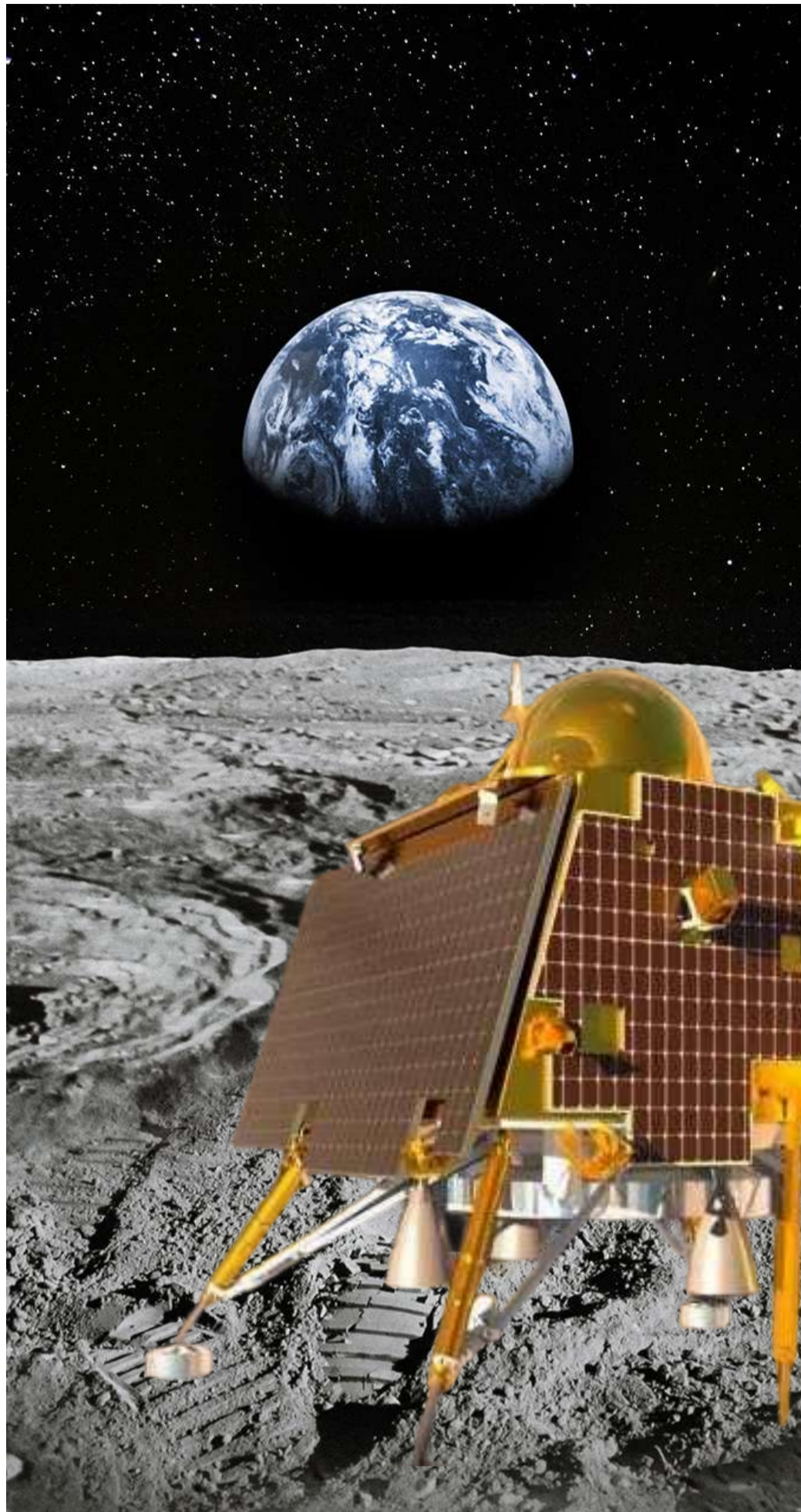
India, which is called the country of snakes and sages, today stands with the most powerful countries of the world in space technology. India has become the fourth country to successfully soft-land on the Moon with the Chandrayaan-3

mission. The rover of the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft will study the lunar surface and it has been seated inside the lander. The entire mission duration of the lander is expected to last one lunar day, which is equivalent to 14 Earth days. A crash landing hap-

pened last time. But this time after America, Russia, and China, India has become the fourth country to land on the lunar surface. Our expertise in the field of space has grown tremendously. With the success of India's Chandrayaan-3 in soft land-

ing, India has not only become the fourth country in the world to do so but also become the first country in the world to land in the region of the South Pole.

Dr Satyawan Saurabh



# Chandrayaan 3: India Nails the Moon Landing!

Anusha Khan

In an exciting turn of events, India's Chandrayaan 3 has made it to the Moon's surface, and boy, it's a big deal! This achievement is like scoring a touchdown in the Super Bowl of space exploration.

Social media is flooded with congratulatory messages as India writes over a new story. What was earlier a memory of tears and failure is now a story of relentless efforts and ultimate success. The credit where the credit is due – this is truly a dictum worthy of this event of celebration for India.

#### KEEPIN' THE CHANDRAYAAN TRADITION ALIVE

India has been going all-in on lunar exploration. First, we had Chandrayaan 1 back in 2008, which shook the world by discovering water molecules on the Moon. Then came Chandrayaan 2 in 2019, which, despite a little hiccup during its landing, kept the lunar momentum going. Now, Chandrayaan 3 is here to rock the lunar scene.

#### CHANDRAYAAN 3: THE COMEBACK KID

Chandrayaan 3 is the comeback story we all needed. It's

like learning from your past mistakes and aching the test the second time around. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) took the lessons from Chandrayaan 2's landing and turned them into a recipe for success.

#### WHAT CHANDRAYAAN 3 AIMS FOR:

1. South Pole Mission: Chandrayaan 3's got its sights set on the Moon's South Pole, which is kind of like exploring the Moon's wild, uncharted territories. What makes this spot so cool? Well, it might just have some water ice, and that's a lunar game-changer.  
2. Super Tech: This mission is packing some serious tech upgrades. It's got smart, autonomous landing capabilities to make sure it sticks the lunar landing like a pro. ISRO's showing off its tech prowess.

3. Budget-Friendly Brilliance: Chandrayaan 3 isn't just about flashy technology; it's about doing space exploration on a budget without compromising on quality. It's a masterclass in cost-effective space exploration.

#### TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Chandrayaan 3 isn't just about India doing its thing. It's

a global effort. The mission takes inspiration from NASA's Apollo program and China's Chang'e missions. It's like all the space pros came together for a cosmic jam session.

#### CONQUERING SPACE CHALLENGES

Space isn't a walk in the park. Chandrayaan 3 had to face the Moon's crazy temperatures and the fact that there's no air up there. But guess what? It nailed it, showing the world what precision planning and engineering can do.

#### A NEW ERA DAWNS ON THE MOON

With Chandrayaan 3 touching down on the Moon, we're entering a new era of lunar exploration. India's making waves not just on Earth but up there too. The Moon is the limit!

In a nutshell, Chandrayaan 3's landing on the Moon is a slam-dunk moment for India and a giant leap for humanity's space exploration dreams. It's not just about knowing more about our lunar neighbor; it's about showing the world that space exploration is a team sport, and together, we can reach for the stars...or in this case, the Moon!

*Views expressed are the author's own*

**SPACE ISN'T A WALK IN THE PARK.** Chandrayaan 3 had to face the Moon's crazy temperatures and the fact that there's no air up there. But guess what? It nailed it, showing the world what precision planning and engineering can do

## The Expensive, Exhausting Pursuit of a "Perfect Smile"

Sam Escobar

Whether we are smiling, laughing, crying, yelling, or simply saying "hello," our teeth are one of the first things people see. For millions of people, this can be a source of shame—something to be covered up in person, edited away in photos, and, when financially feasible, "fixed" at the doctor's office. As someone who sees a camera and instinctively makes a closed-mouth smile, I'm all too familiar with these anxieties.

In recent years, the beauty world has made huge strides in inclusivity. We've seen the standardization of 40-shade foundation ranges (thank you, Fenty Beauty), the rise in size-, gender-, and age-diverse casting, and the much-needed increased accessibility of products for folks with disabilities. Despite these major improvements, however, many beauty standards remain fixtures in our daily lives, with the "perfect smile" ideal being one of the most prominent—and one of the most elusive. But dental care, both essential and cosmetic, is woefully inaccessible for millions of people in America, oftentimes due to the prohibitive cost; this is yet another reason "good teeth" have become symbolic of status, access, and wealth.

While you may see the oc-

casional gap in the teeth of a model—more often than not, a model who checks the boxes on many other conventional beauty standards—it is still rare to see someone with, say, crooked teeth or crowding, let alone yellowing or even a less-bright-than-a-Chiclet white. (For celebrities, getting veneers after hitting it big is still practically a right of passage.) In fact, "bad teeth" are often a hallmark of villains—think Jaws of the James Bond universe—and characters intended to be punchlines.

So, how did we get here? And what is the cost—emotional, financial, and time-wise—of getting the "perfect smile"? Below is a snapshot of modern dentistry, including firsthand accounts of adult braces wearers and a day in the life of one of Hollywood's biggest dentists.

#### THE HISTORY OF THE BIG, BRIGHT AMERICAN SMILE

"A quick glance at the cast of any U.S.-based show on the air right now shows that a mouthful of ultra-white, unnervingly straight teeth is about as American as apple pie and woefully inadequate paid parental leave. The history of how status-boasting smiles became a commodity is a complex one, to say the least."  
-Sam Escobar, Site Director



#### I TOOK ON CREDIT CARD DEBT TO GET BRACES AS AN ADULT

SE: "Over her nearly seven years at Allure, associate beauty director Sarah Kinonen, the editor behind our Show Your Teeth series, has reported multiple stories regarding income inequality and how it relates to beauty. (I've personally had many eye-opening conversations with her on topics like these—one of the many advantages of working on a team full of beauty editors who bring their unique perspectives to the table!) Whether or not you know what it's like to grow up envying your classmates for

their shiny braces, I highly recommend reading her essay."

#### SOME OF US HAVE NATURALLY YELLOW TEETH AND THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

SE: "It's easy to assume that the only reasons someone's teeth might be yellow are their choices: smoking cigarettes, drinking coffee and alcohol, forgetting to brush, eating and drinking sugary things.

But I learned something incredibly helpful from this piece by Hannah Baxter: The shade of your teeth is not exclusively dictated by lifestyle. In fact, some people have naturally white teeth while others of us (hello, comrades) do not."

#### TYRA BANKS APOLOGIZES AFTER BEING BLASTED FOR INSENSITIVE REMARKS IN 'AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL' CLIP

SE: "Like many Millennials,

I've thought periodically about America's Next Top Model and its role in the '00s reality TV zeitgeist. When this clip resurfaced, I immediately remembered the episode; I, too, have gaps in my teeth, so it made a major impression on me as a child. But, unlike many celebrities called out for cringeworthy television moments years down the line, Tyra acknowledged the clip and apologized. Take note, fellow early-Aughts stars."

#### EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TOOTH GEMS

SE: "Unlike the aforementioned ANTM moment, some things from the early-Aughts have been very well-received by modern audiences."

#### PAGEANT MUM SPENDS OVER \$300 ON DAUGHTER'S PAGEANT FLIPPER TEETH

SE: "I'll never forget the moment I discovered what a "flipper" is, thanks to an episode of good ol' Toddlers and Tiaras."

#### HOW CLEAR TEETH ALIGNERS CAN AFFECT PEOPLE WITH EATING DISORDERS

SE: "This essay by former wellness editor Rosemary Donahue, who experienced triggering side effects after starting Invisalign treatments, is a solid reminder of why it's necessary for medical professionals to receive training and

education on eating disorders, even if they do not work in eating-disorder recovery."

#### THE CREST OF THE WHITESTRIP

SE: "Let me be enamel-clear: There is no health imperative to having white teeth," writes Brennan Kilbane. The fact of the matter is that we do not need a bleach-bright smile—we just want one. Really, really badly. How did we get this obsessed with tooth-whitening trays and strips?"

#### WHO INVENTED THE TOOTHBRUSH?

SE: "My mother is a librarian, so I love libraries—particularly the Library of Congress, which has myriad historical documents and information on every topic under the sun, as well as photography and art, like this 1938 poster promoting dental hygiene that could easily be passed off as a modern ad for a Silicon Valley tooth-care startup."

#### I SPENT 96 HOURS IN DUBAI WITH MICHAEL APA, THE WORLD'S BUSIEST COSMETIC DENTIST

SE: "You know that scene in Rules of Attraction where Victor recounts his fever-dream experience studying abroad? This is kind of like that...but with a dentist."

*The article was originally featured in Get Pocket/Allure*





## Srinagar Premier League: Police, Bank Register Wins



Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** Two Round 11 matches of the 2023 Srinagar Premier League were played on Wednesday.

In the first game, SCFA Srinagar took on JK Police XI at Baskshi Stadium. The 5:00 pm kick off between the young prospects of the Sports Council Academy and the experienced professionals of J&K Police was expected to be a thrilling contest.

However, the SCFA boys proved no match as J&K Police raced to a 3-0 lead at half time, with two goals from Aamir and one by Faisal.

The second half started on a similar note as Aamir converted from the penalty spot to complete his hat trick. Salman Hassan added another to make it 5-0 in favour of J&K Police.

The second match of the day saw JK United FC take on J&K Bank FC at Synthetic Turf TRC. Prem gave J&K Bank the lead in 13th minute, before star forward Aakif Reshi made it 2-0 in the 17th minute. JK United's Aubaid scored an own goal to give J&K Bank a 3-0 lead at half time.

Aakif made it 4-0 early on in the second half, while Prem scored the fifth goal of the game.

## Elections Of J&K Cycle Polo Association Held

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The General Election of the Jammu and Kashmir Cycle Polo Association was held on Wednesday at Indoor Sports Complex here. All the executive members, office bearers, affiliated district associations and outstanding sportspersons of Cycle Polo Association attended the election process. Elections were conducted under the supervision of Musbat Ismail, Return-

ing Officer/Election Incharge (J&K Sports Council).

Following officials were elected for the tenure of four years as on 23-08-2023: Vilayat Hussain was elected as President while as Parveen Singh elected as Vice President (Jammu). Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat as Vice President (Kashmir), Sheikh Zulfikar as General Secretary, Bilkees Fatima as Treasurer, Mansi Bhatt as Joint Secretary (Jammu) and Gulshan Maqbool as Joint Secretary (Kashmir).

## India To Play England In World Cup Warm-Ups

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** India will play two official warm-up matches against England and the Netherlands, ahead of their ODI World Cup opener against Australia, the ICC said on Wednesday.

The two-time winners India will face defending champion England in the first warm-up game on September 30 at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati, after which they will travel to Thiruvananthapuram to face the Netherlands on October 3.

A total of three venues -- Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Hyderabad -- will host the official warm-up matches for all the 10 teams before the World Cup opener in Ahmedabad on October 5 between New Zealand and England.

"The 10 teams will each play two official 50-over contests during the week leading up to the start of the World Cup on October 5, with matches to be held in three different cities across India," the ICC said in a release.

"The matches will be held in Guwahati, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram between Friday 29 September and Tuesday 3 October and will provide teams with the perfect opportunity to acclimatise to the conditions they are expected to face during the World Cup."

All matches in the warm-up round will start in the afternoon. "All games will commence at 2:00pm IST and teams will be allowed to field all members of their 15-player squads during



the matches," the ICC said.

**Schedule:** September 29: Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka (Guwahati), South Africa vs Afghanistan, (Thiruvananthapuram) and New Zealand vs Pakistan (Hyderabad). September 30: India vs England (Guwahati), Australia vs Netherlands (Thiruvananthapuram). October 2: England vs Bangladesh (Guwahati), New Zealand vs South Africa (Thiruvananthapuram). October 3: India vs Netherlands (Thiruvananthapuram), Afghanistan vs Sri Lanka (Guwahati), Pakistan vs Australia (Hyderabad).

**BCCI Announces BookMyShow As Ticketing Platform For World Cup**

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday announced BookMyShow as the ticketing platform for the prestigious ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

With the tournament's commencement scheduled for September 29 with the warm-up fixtures, the cricket extravaganza will extend till November 19, providing fans with a chance to witness their cricketing heroes in action.



CHESS WORLD CUP FINAL

## Second Praggnanandhaa, Carlsen Game Ends In Draw

Press Trust of India

**BAKU:** In an anticlimax of sorts, the second game of the Chess World Cup final between Indian teen sensation R Praggnanandhaa and Magnus Carlsen failed to throw a winner, as it ended in a draw after 30 moves here on Wednesday.

The two players settled for a quiet draw in the second classical game after one-and-a-half hours of play.

The champion will be decided via two tie-breaks on Thursday.

Five-time world champion Carlsen played a solid game with white pieces against Praggnanandhaa. The Indian did not face any trouble with black

plus moves, following which Carlsen said he was a bit under the weather.

Speaking after the game, Praggnanandhaa said, "I didn't really think that he would go for a quick draw today, but I realised when he went for this line that he wanted to make a draw; I was also fine with that."

"I also feel exhausted, as I said in the previous interviews. Now I can just give everything tomorrow and relax after that."

The 18-year-old Praggnanandhaa has been enjoying an incredible run in the tournament, having already beaten world No.2 Hikaru Nakamura and world No.3 Fabiano Caruana to set up a final



pieces, with the players agreeing to a draw after 30 moves in an equal Bishop ending.

Praggnanandhaa was ahead on time at the start of the contest, but was unable to press home the advantage. He himself came under time by the end of the contest.

The first game on Tuesday had ended in a stalemate after over four hours of play and 70-

date against the Norwegian Grandmaster.

The results in the ongoing tournament also helped Praggnanandhaa qualify for Candidates 2024 tournament, which will be held in Canada. Praggnanandhaa, thus, became the third youngest player after the legendary Bobby Fischer and Carlsen to qualify for the Candidates tournament.

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