



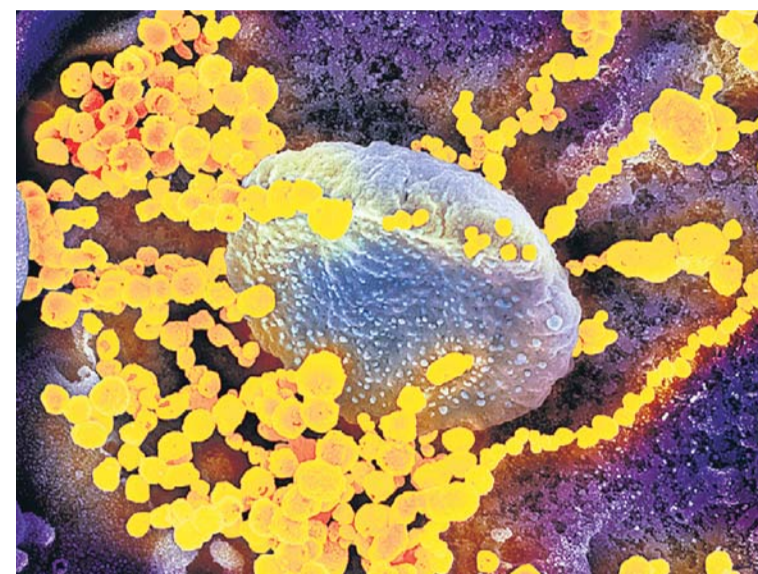
International Jazz Day

International Jazz Day is a beautiful time to celebrate the gift of music and to come together as a community. It's a chance to listen to a variety of musicians and hear their talents live, all around the world. International Jazz Day highlights the ability for jazz to unite people from all walks of life and draw together folks from around the globe. The day brings together artists, schools, communities, historians, academics, and jazz aficionados to raise awareness around this type of music and educate the public about the roots, impact, and future of jazz.

#COVID-19

Nanoparticles Could Fight Multiple Strains Of Covid Virus

COVID-19 can still hospitalize vaccinated individuals, especially the elderly. New strains also continue to emerge, requiring constant updates to vaccines to maintain their effectiveness.



Teardrop-shaped particles, designed to inactivate multiple strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus could one day complement existing COVID-19 treatments, according to a new study. The COVID mRNA vaccines have been highly effective at preventing severe cases of the disease, but COVID-19 can still hospitalize vaccinated individuals, especially the elderly. New strains also continue to emerge, requiring constant updates to vaccines to maintain their effectiveness.

Our immune system has to learn about a virus to generate the antibodies to fight back against infection, but by that time, it may be too late for some people," says Nicholas Kotov, a professor of Chemical Sciences and Engineering at the University of Michigan and co-corresponding author of the study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Treatments are essential to help people at risk of severe COVID-19, but there are only a few options in the market today. Pfizer's Paxlovid antiviral pill has become the go-to treatment after it received emergency use authorization from the Food and Drug Administration, with clinical trials showing hospitalization risk reduced by 89%. However, it may only reduce that risk by 50%, possibly as low as 26%, and the pill might not be appropriate for patients with cardiovascular disease.

"The nanoparticles could help vulnerable people during outbreaks of pandemic disease," says Liqiang Xu, professor of Food Science and Technology at Jiangnan University and co-corresponding author of the study.

The SARS-CoV-2 spike protein, the piece of the virus that both, allows it to attack human cells and be attacked by the immune system, is made of building blocks called amino acids, and the sequence of amino acids may change from one strain of the virus to another. Antibodies tend to target a specific amino acid sequence, which is why these changes can enable new strains to evade immunity acquired from prior exposure to other SARS-CoV-2 variants or older versions of the mRNA vaccines.

Instead, the team's nanoparticles work on the direction and degree of the twist in spike proteins, also known as their 'chirality'. "The overall structures of coronavirus spike proteins are similar, and the chirality of these spike proteins is the same, so, the particles can interact with many coronavirus strains," says Chuanlai Xu, professor of Food Science and Technology, who led the work done at Jiangnan University. The team tested the particles on common cold viruses and the Wuhan-1 and Omicron variants of SARS-CoV-2. They did this by treating mice infected with pseudoviruses, that bore coronavirus spike proteins on their surfaces, with different pseudoviruses representing different strains. When the mice inhaled the particles, the treatment cleared 95% of the viruses from their lungs, and they could resist infection for up to three days.

Chirality comes in two directions, left- and right-handed. Coronavirus spike proteins have left-handed twists. So, left-handed twists at the nanoparticles' points fit best.

"The matching left-handed twist makes the virus better at binding with the particles than with animal and human cells," says Andre Farias de Moura, associate professor of Chemistry at the Federal University of São Carlos in Brazil and co-author of the study. "This makes it more likely that the virus will be captured by the particles before it has a chance to infect cells."

The researchers still don't know how quickly the particles are expelled from the body and whether they come with any dangerous side effects in humans, but they hope to learn those details with further study.

Indian Military Changed the course Of The Two World Wars

The contribution of Indian soldiers, fighting the World Wars as part of the victorious Allied armies, has been the focus of a joint project between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the USI since 2014. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken personal interest in speaking about this contribution during his official visits to Australia, France and Israel.

Ranjit Bhushan

There is growing unanimity among global scholars that the course of the two World Wars and indeed the world itself would have been different, if Indian soldiers had not fought the way they did, even as a colonial power.

Indian Military history is a subject of recent and rising interest. The role of the Indian Armed Forces or more especially, the British Indian Army in Europe and France, in the two World Wars currently occupies the top-of-the-mind space.

Leading the charge in re-igniting a theme that sets the pace for India at international forums, more than a century ago, when Independence was yet nowhere in sight is the country's oldest military think-tank, the *United Service Institution of India* (USI).

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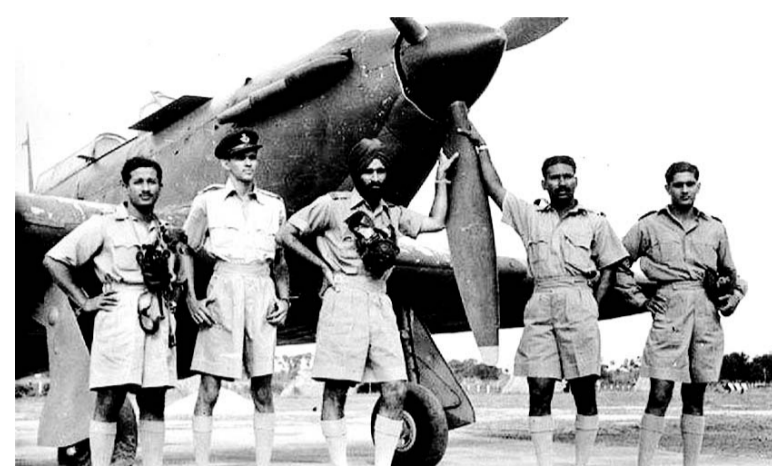
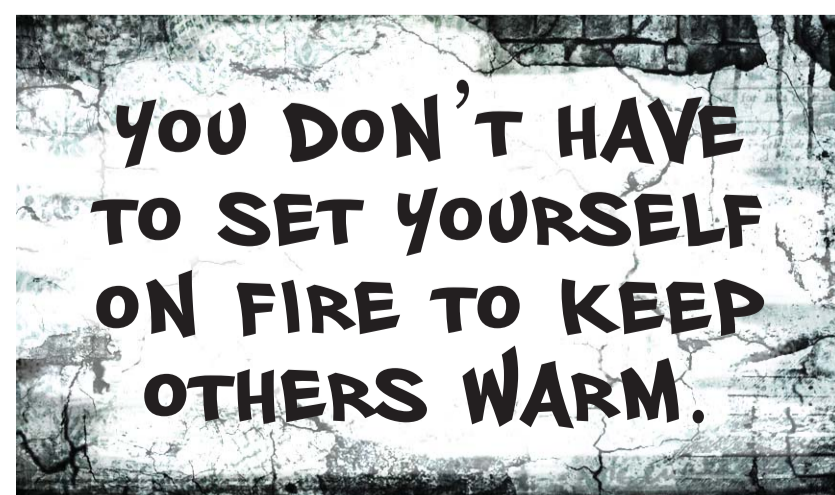
During the World Wars, Indian soldiers served with honour in France, Belgium, Aden, the Arabian Peninsula, East and West Africa, Somalia, Gallipoli, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine, Iran, Greece,

Canada and the Second Battle of Ypres.

Setting the agenda for the conference, the Director General of the USI, Major General B.K. Sharma, AVSM, SM** (Retd), correctly pointed out that "war and diplomacy go hand in hand."

Dominiek Dendooven, Researcher and Curator at the Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, Belgium, quoting from the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* said that 1,38,000 soldiers from India were sent Europe during the first World War. Most of them were deployed in the Ypres Salient and at nearby Neuve Chapelle in France during the period 1914-15. "A very large number lost their lives in the campaign to halt the German advance," he said.

THE WALL



Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh, then a flight lieutenant, with pilots of No. 1 Squadron by a Hawker Hurricane aircraft in World War II in Burma.



The British Commander and Indian crew of a Sherman tank of the 9th Royal Deccan Horse.

#GLORIES



Canada and the Second Battle of Ypres.



Martha Gellhorn, legendary correspondent ex-wife of Ernest Hemingway interviews Indian soldiers in 1944.



15TH Maratha Light Infantry Florence, 1944.

The supreme sacrifices of the Indian soldiers in Europe are recorded in the major World War I Memorial in continental Europe, Menin Gate, in Ypres, Belgium and at the Memorial for India-Chapelle in nearby Neuve in France.

In 2002, at the request of the Indian government, an Indian Memorial was erected on the lawn, south of the Menin Gate.

According to Dendooven, the contribution of the Indian troops on the Western Front, though largely underplayed by the British commanders, no doubt inspired by a racist, white supremacist streak, was highly crucial. "They held the gaps, gaps that could have potentially allowed a German breakthrough. Deployed as storm troops encounter offensives, where all circumstances were to their disad-

vantage, they explored and prepared the field so that it could be expanded into a new allied line of defence by others after them," he said. Dendooven's extensively researched project proves that for the Indian military, the deployment in Ypres in 1914 and 1915 was very important. "It had its baptism with research during the first World War while simultaneously fighting for the first time on European soil. Probably, even more important was the fact that the Indian Army faced brutal confrontation with war on an industrial scale in which heavy artillery played a decisive part and in which aeroplanes were used. In late April 1915, during the Second Battle of Ypres, the Indian military were among the first to be exposed to chemical warfare," the researcher explained.



An Indian soldier, held Prisoner of War by the Japanese, is attended to by nursing staff on board the hospital ship Oxfordshire.

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British Indian army uses a Bren light machine gun near Villa Grande.

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



ZITS



#INSIGHT

The Johri

The interiors of *Johri* are lime and pink colour. The floors flaunt the arash work that comes from a mixture of lime and egg shells. The walls are beautifully painted with floral motifs.



he kaleidoscope of the colour, craft jewellers and coloured stones give *Johri* bazaar an iconic international status. In continuation of this past and present stands a gem, *The Lal Haveli*. Built about 150 years ago, by a rich merchant namely, today it is an upscale fine dining boutique restaurant, named 'The Johri'.

Situated in *MSB ka rasta*, one walks past a 200-year-old Banyan tree and its roots like the shards of time and are as unstoppable, engulfing as a *rang rez*'s 100-year-old chanty. This relic from Noah's Ark leads you to a quadrangle or 'Chawk', as it is called in the local parlance. The *Chawks*, placed in every lane of the walled city, served as inwards of a city founded by Sawai Jai Singh.

The interiors of *Johri* are lime and pink colour. The floors flaunt the arash work that comes from a mixture of lime and egg shells. The walls are beautifully painted with floral motifs. Central seating area of 70 packs transports you to a past, when leisure was a way of life.

The Bar on the left has been curated around the local flavours. A must try is piquant *mathania* chilli infused tequila, lime juice, tamarind puree, jaggery, saline solution. *Inverted Negroni* vies with it, as it is as popular with guests, who revel in stepping back in time. A concoction of tanqueray, chamomile tea infused martini extra dry, garibaldi foam and orange.

Both set the mood for the evening. What's a summer, if you can't have happiness in a cocktail? A slice of lime, a dash of mint and a whole lot of splash of flavour, blended to perfection.

The others are melting moments of gourmet cooking. *Sangri ki Shammi* are cutlets from *Ker Sangri*, made with dried *ker* berries and *sangri* beans. The *Papad Piyaz kebabs* are exotic. All restaurants in Rajasthan delve into numerous 'papad variation dishes' but few get it right or are able to exalt the 'hum-

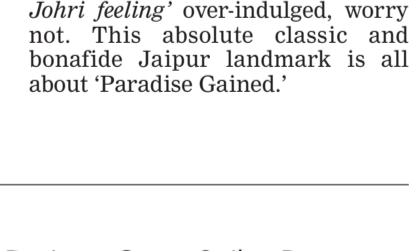
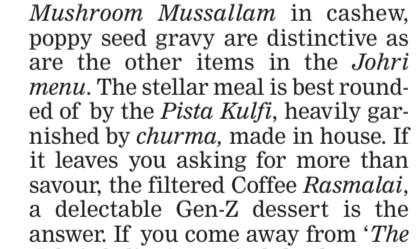
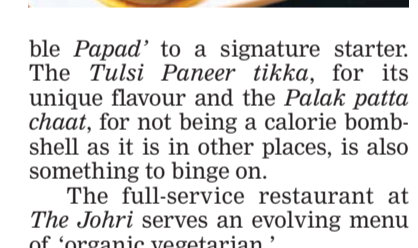
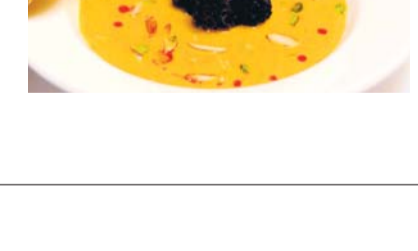
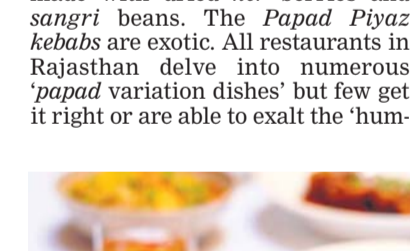
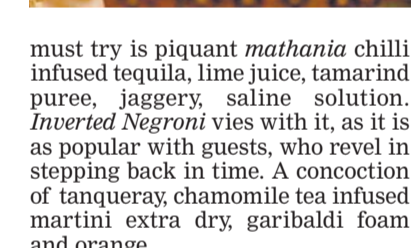
ble *Papad*' to a signature starter. The *Tulsi Paneer tikka*, for its unique flavour and the *Palak patta chaat*, for not being a calorie bombshell as it is in other places, is also something to binge on.

The full-service restaurant at *The Johri* serves an evolving menu of 'organic vegetarian'.

Indian dishes focused on farm-fresh produce and inventive flavours, defined by the seasons, if the design heritage is immersive, then the menu is enticing. It is elaborate wherein culinary heritage has been infused with present-day tastes and trends.

My all-time favourite was the 'humble *Batti*', once a picnic food of this arid land, now has been upgraded by *soya* stuffing and is served in a generous onion garlic gravy. *Kuchi Mirch ka Paneer* and *Katali masala paneer* are a delight. The green apple gravy and adding to this, our local *methi*, indianising well the Greek dish.

The *Nihari Kathal*, inspired by the *Awadhi* cuisine and the *Guchhi Mushroom Massallam* in cashew, poppy seed gravy are distinctive as are the other items in the *Johri* menu. The stellar meal is best rounded off by the *Pista Kulfi*, heavily garnished by *churma*, made in house. If it leaves you asking for more than savour, the filtered Coffee *Rasmalai*, a delectable Gen-Z dessert is the answer. If you came away from *The Johri* feeling 'over-indulged, worry not. This absolute classic and bonafide Jaipur landmark is all about 'Paradise Gained.'



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

