



RETHINKING THE FOURTH OF JULY; WHAT THE AMERICAN DREAM HAS TURNED INTO

USA's Independence Day

- Parnika Rane

For decades we have been glorifying 'the American dream', but now it is a living democratic contradiction. Every July 4th, USA celebrates 'liberty and justice for all', but the holiday is now carrying an uncomfortable footnote. In 1852, abolitionist Frederick Douglass asked a crowd what Independence Day meant to enslaved Americans, calling the celebration a stark contradiction for those still denied its promises. This is still resonated through the latest ICE incident, unlawful arrest of immigrants and denial of basic rights for the citizens. Today, that same tension shows up in fierce debates over immigration enforcement, protest rights, and how much power any one branch of government should hold. People across the political spectrum feel it — just from different directions. However, there is something hopeful buried in the argument itself: a country that can still openly debate what its founding words mean, is one where those words haven't completely lost their power. This is not only the fundamental principle to uphold, but also the reason to believe that a country is what its citizens make.

Caught on Camera

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A poignant moment captured during the Founders' Day rehearsals

palette of Potential



Artwork by Abhyudit Kumar, VIII A



Guru Hargobind Singh Jayanti

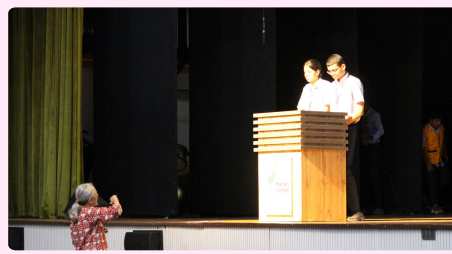
THE LEGACY OF THE SIXTH SIKH GURU - GURU HARGOBIND SINGH

- Darsh Suneja

On the 5th of July, the Sikh community will be celebrating the birth anniversary of the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji. At the early age of 11, Guru Hargobind assumed the role of the sixth Sikh guru - after the execution of his predecessor, his father Guru Arjan, by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir. Unlike any other Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji wore two swords, representing his dual role as both the spiritual and temporal head of Sikhs 'Miri and Piri'. In 1606, he established the Throne of God, 'Akal Takht' in Amritsar, serving as the supreme seat of temporal authority for the Sikhs. Not long after establishing the Akal Takht, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji was imprisoned by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir, who was alarmed by the rising militarisation of the Sikhs. He was arrested and imprisoned in the Gwalior Fort, in 1609. Rather than walking out alone, the Guru refused his release unless 52 innocent Hindu kings; who were also wrongfully imprisoned alongside him, were set free as well. Jehangir agreed, but stated that only those who could hold onto the Guru's cloak could leave. To outsmart this rule, the Guru had a special cloak made with 52 tassels, allowing all the kings to hold onto it and walk to freedom together. In essence, Guru Hargobind embodied the harmony of spirituality and strength, leaving behind a path of fearless devotion and principled living.

GLIMPSES OF THE FOUNDERS DAY PRACTICE

clicked by Keemaya



EUROPE'S HEATWAVE IS A PREVIEW, NOT AN ANOMALY

- Ananya Komath

By late June 2026, Europe was recording its most extreme early-summer heat event, in modern history. Temperature records fell across Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Czechia, Denmark, Spain, and the UK, with a stalled high-pressure system — a 'heat dome' trapping hot air over the continent for weeks. Afternoon temperatures climbed into the low 40s°C in parts of Central and Eastern Europe, and roughly 191 million people were forecast to experience temperatures above 35°C. Scientists are clear that this isn't a freak event. Climate change is compressing the transition between spring and summer, causing Central European heat to arrive earlier and more intensely than historical norms. This matters deeply for us as Indians, because the same disrupted atmospheric patterns fueling Europe's heat dome are linked to the erratic monsoons, extended heatwaves, and unpredictable seasonal shifts that we have grown used to in India. If a continent with far greater infrastructural and economic resilience is struggling to protect its citizens, it raises uncomfortable questions about equity, because developing countries like those in south Asia, are often the least equipped to cope with these consequences. In that sense, Europe's crisis isn't a distant news story; it's a preview of the adaptation challenges that our generation will inherit. It is also arguably, a call to take climate policy far more seriously than we currently do.

FASCINATING FACTS WORLD JOKE DAY



- International Joke Day is celebrated every year on July 1st, to encourage people to laugh and spread happiness through humour.
- The day was started in 1994 by author and humourist Wayne Reinagel.
- The world's oldest recorded joke is about 4,000 years old. It comes from ancient Sumer (the earliest known civilization in human history)
- The word 'joke' comes from the Latin word jocus, meaning 'fun' or 'play'.
- There are many types of jokes, including puns, knock-knock jokes, one-liners, riddles, and observational humor—so there's a style for everyone.
- Your brain works surprisingly hard to understand a joke. It has to recognize the setup, detect the twist, and process the punchline before you laugh.

Submitted by Karan Nambisan

JOKES SECTION!

Q: Why don't fish play basketball?

A: They're afraid of the net.

Q: Why did the computer go to the doctor?

A: It caught a virus.

Q: How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?

A: Ten-tickles.

Q: Why was the cat sitting on the computer?

A: To keep an eye on the mouse.

Q: What do you call a bee that can't make up its mind?

A: A maybe.

- Submitted by Shreeya Zundaray



World Joke Day

Diction Digest

Sweltering (adjective)

Sentence: The sweltering afternoon sun kept everyone indoors, sipping cold lemonade and waiting for the heatwave to break.

Synonyms: scorching, blistering, sultry

Antonyms: frigid, chilly, arctic

Weekly Wisdom

"The palm tree grows amid the desert sands, and the harder the wind blows, the deeper it takes root."

—Anonymous

Meet The Editorial Squad

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