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'TERRORIST WAS LAUGHING  
AFTER SHOOTING MY HUSBAND',  
SAYS VICTIM'S WIDOW PAGE 18

# World leaders to join thousands of mourners for Pope's funeral ceremony

INDIA'S PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU WILL ATTEND THE PONTIFF'S FUNERAL



People pay respect to the late pontiff on Friday, April 25, the final day of him lying in state.

APRIL 25, 2025

**VATICAN (TIP):** Pope Francis's funeral will be held in St Peter's Square in Rome at 10am local time on Saturday, April 26. The outdoor service, which will be led by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, the dean of the college of cardinals, is expected to be attended by dignitaries from 170 foreign delegations, as well as tens of thousands of ordinary people wanting to pay their respects.

President Trump, Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, President Javier Milei of Argentina and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, the world's largest Catholic country.

India will be represented by the President Droupadi Murmu. "President Droupadi Murmu will be visiting

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## There has always been tension between India, Pak; they'll get it figured out: Trump



In reply to a question from a correspondent on Pakistan's role in terror strike in Pahalgam, President Trump said "there has always been tensions between India and Pakistan and the two countries will figure it out between themselves "one way or the other".

File photo

APRIL 25, 2025

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):** U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday, April 25, 2025 said there has always been

tensions between India and Pakistan and the two countries will figure it out between themselves "one way or the other".

**CONTD ON PAGE 44**

## Rahul Gandhi Addresses US NRIs gathered at Boston: Champions Democratic Reform, Youth Empowerment, and Electoral Integrity

APRIL 20, 2025

**BOSTON, MA (TIP):** In a warm and impactful address to the Indian diaspora, Hon. Shri Rahul Gandhi, Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition spoke to a packed audience at the Marriott Boston Long Wharf during a special Meet and Greet hosted by the Indian Overseas Congress, USA.

**CONTD ON PAGE 44**



Rahul Gandhi (4th from the right) is seen with the IOC USA leadership in Boston where he spoke with students and the NRIs

## US restoring legal status of hundreds of students after abruptly revoking visas

**SUDDEN POLICY REVERSAL BRINGS RELIEF THOUGH SOME STUDENTS ALREADY LOST JOBS OR LEFT COUNTRY DUE TO DEPORTATION RISK**

APRIL 25, 2025

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** The US government is restoring the legal status of hundreds of international students after a wave of lawsuits challenged the abrupt suspension of their visas.

The sudden policy reversal was announced during a court hearing in Oakland, California, which brought together eight

lawsuits filed by international students who argued that the federal government had terminated their right to remain in the US without due process. Attorneys in those cases had asked the court to issue a nationwide injunction covering all students whose official records granting them legal status were terminated since 1 March and were at risk of deportation. On Friday, April 25, assistant US attorney Elizabeth D Kurlan said that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was developing a new policy to govern how records are terminated on the Student and Exchange Visitor

Students rally for their rights



**CONTD ON PAGE 44**



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## COMMENT

## A Tribute to Pope Francis: Shepherd of Mercy, Voice of the Marginalized

By Indrajit Saluja



Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88.

Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, passed away on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025, at the age of 88. His death followed a stroke and irreversible heart failure, occurring in his residence at the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta. His final moments were marked by peace, surrounded by close aides and Cardinal Pietro Parolin, who recited the rosary at his bedside.

Born on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was the eldest of five children in a family of Italian immigrants. His father, Mario José Bergoglio, was an accountant, and his mother, Regina María Sívori, was a homemaker. After earning a chemical technician's diploma, he felt a calling to the priesthood and entered the Society of Jesus in 1958. Ordained in 1969, he served as the Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina from 1973 to 1979, emphasizing pastoral care and spiritual guidance. His leadership during Argentina's turbulent political climate showcased his commitment to social justice and the marginalized.

Appointed Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and elevated to cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II, Bergoglio became known for his humility and dedication to the poor. On March 13, 2013, following Pope Benedict XVI's resignation, he was elected as the 266th pope, taking the name Francis in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. He was the first Jesuit pope, the first from the Americas, and the first non-European pope in over a millennium.

Pope Francis's tenure was marked by a commitment to inclusivity, humility, and social justice. He chose to reside in the modest Casa Santa Marta rather than the Apostolic Palace, reflecting his desire for a simpler, more accessible papacy. He emphasized the Church's role in addressing global issues, notably through his 2015 encyclical "Laudato Si'," which called for urgent action on climate

change and environmental stewardship. change and reversed bans on transgender individuals serving as godparents or being baptized. While doctrinal teachings remained largely unchanged, his emphasis on empathy and compassion marked a significant tonal shift within the Church.

Recognizing the need for greater female participation, Pope Francis appointed women to key Vatican positions, including Raffaella Petrini as the first female secretary general of the Vatican's governorate and Simona Brambilla as prefect of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life. He also allowed women to vote in synods, signaling a move toward inclusivity, though he stopped short of endorsing female ordination.

Pope Francis's global influence was profound. He drew massive crowds, such as the six million attendees during his 2015 visit to the Philippines. His advocacy for peace, interfaith dialogue, and the rights of refugees and migrants resonated worldwide. Despite facing criticism from conservative factions, his efforts to modernize the Church and address contemporary issues left an indelible mark.

In his final days, Pope Francis continued to fulfill his duties, delivering an Easter blessing from a wheelchair. He passed away peacefully, as per his wishes, and requested a simple burial at the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, becoming the first pope to be interred outside the Vatican since Pope Leo XIII in 1903.

Pope Francis's life was a testament to humility, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of justice. His papacy challenged the Church to embrace inclusivity and address the pressing issues of our time. As the world mourns his passing, his legacy endures, inspiring future generations to lead with empathy and courage.

change and environmental stewardship.

Francis sought to make the Church more welcoming to marginalized communities. He opened discussions on allowing priests to bless same-sex

## The Pahalgam Massacre: A Call for Accountability and Peace

The recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent Hindu tourists, stands as a grim reminder of the persistent threat posed by terrorism in the region. Perpetrated by militants affiliated with The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), this atrocity targeted civilians solely based on their religious identity.

This incident is not isolated. Over the past decades, Pakistan-based terrorist organizations have orchestrated numerous attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, resulting in the loss of thousands of civilian lives. Notable among these are the 2000 Chittisinghpura massacre, where 35

Sikh villagers were killed, and the 2019 Pulwama attack that claimed the lives of 40 Indian paramilitary personnel.

The continued support and safe havens provided to these terrorist groups by elements within Pakistan have been a significant impediment to peace in the region. Despite international pressure and commitments to combat terrorism, these groups continue to operate with impunity. The recent Pahalgam attack underscores the urgent need for Pakistan to take concrete actions against these organizations.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since their independence, each bringing immense human and economic costs. The resources expended on military confrontations

could be better utilized for the development and welfare of the people in both nations. A peaceful and cooperative relationship between India and Pakistan is essential for regional stability and prosperity.

Pakistan must dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism within its borders and to hold accountable those responsible for such heinous acts. Only through sincere efforts to eliminate terrorism can trust be rebuilt, paving the way for dialogue and lasting peace.

The people of South Asia deserve to live without fear, in an environment of mutual respect and cooperation. Let this tragic incident serve as a catalyst for change, compelling both nations to prioritize peace over conflict and humanity over hatred.



# American Punjabi Society and Nassau County Office of Asian Affairs Celebrate Vaisakhi with Splendor, Spirit, and Solidarity

**Hundreds gather to honor Punjabi heritage, recognize community leaders, and strengthen cross-cultural unity**

APRIL 17, 2025

**MINEOLA, NY (TIP):** The historic Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building radiated with festive energy as the American Punjabi Society (APS), in collaboration with the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs, hosted a grand celebration of Vaisakhi - the 326th Khalsa Sarjana Diwas and the festival that marks both the joyous Punjabi harvest season.

This vibrant event, supported by Nassau County Executive Hon. Bruce A. Blakeman, brought together elected officials, community leaders, cultural performers, and residents from across Long Island to celebrate Punjabi heritage and its enduring values of unity, gratitude, and selfless service.

"Vaisakhi represents the strength and vibrancy of the Punjabi spirit," said Hon. Bruce Blakeman. "The American Punjabi Society continues to be a vital partner in building bridges and enhancing diversity throughout Nassau County. We are proud to celebrate with them."

"Vaisakhi is not just a festival-it is a reminder of our roots, our resilience, and our responsibility to serve," said Harry Singh Bolla, Founder Patron of APS. "Through unity and seva, we keep our culture alive and our community strong."

"This is more than a celebration-it's a commitment to community," said Gary Sikka in his keynote. "Every event we host is about preserving our values, inspiring the next generation, and giving back with love."

## AN EVENING OF CULTURE, CUISINE, AND COMMUNITY

Led by APS Global President Gary S. Sikka and Founder Patron Harry Singh Bolla, the evening began with warm hospitality over tea and snacks, followed by a dynamic cultural showcase featuring bhangra, giddha, and a short, impactful video on the significance of Vaisakhi - all met with heartfelt applause.

The program began with a dignified Presentation of Colors, setting a tone of unity and respect for the nation and community.

A specially installed giant TV screen - the first ever set up by an Indian organization in the Legislative Chambers - ensured that everyone in attendance had a clear view of the performances and presentations, adding a new level of professionalism and inclusivity to the event.

The APS Vaisakhi Celebration was further elevated by the gracious presence of several esteemed dignitaries, whose attendance underscored the growing partnership between local government and the vibrant Punjabi-American community. Distinguished guests included **Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena**, **Town Clerk Ragini Srivastava**, **Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips**, **Nassau County Legislator and Deputy Presiding Officer Thomas McKeivitt**, **Senior Advisor to the Nassau County Executive Chaudhary Akram**, and **Nassau County Assistant District Attorney Sheryar Ali**.



The gathering



APS Founder Patron Harry Singh Bolla with Hon. Bruce Blakeman

The event was masterfully coordinated by Syed Own Naqvi, Executive Director of the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs, whose commitment and leadership were instrumental in bringing together this memorable and meaningful celebration.

The celebration attracted a distinguished gathering of community leaders and dignitaries, showcasing the unity, strength, and spirit of the Indian American diaspora. Notable attendees included **Mr. Sunil Hali**, respected media figure; **Jasbir "Jay" Singh**, President of IALI; **Pradeep Tandon**, Immediate Past President of IALI; and Past Presidents **Mr. Satnam Singh Parhar**, **Ms. Bina Sabapathy**, and **Dr. Avtar Singh Tinna**, Chair of the 5K Vaisakhi Run-each of whom has played a pivotal role in upholding their organization's tradition of excellence and community service.

Representatives from other prominent Indian-American organizations also joined in the festivities, including **Gobind Munjal**, President of the National Executive Committee of the **Association of Indians in America (AIA)** and Past President of IALI; **Beena Kothari**, President of **AIA New York Chapter** and past President of IALI; **Deepak Bansal**, President of the **India Day Parade**; **Pinki Jaggi**, President of the Long Island Ladies Circle (LILC); **Dr. Jagdish Gupta**, Past President of both AIA and IALI; **Dr. Tarun Wasil**, esteemed physician and community advocate; **Dr. Raj Bhayani**, renowned surgeon and civic leader; and **Dr. Dipak Nandi**, acclaimed physician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist.

Adding pride to the evening was the presence of the **Sikh Officers Association of the NYPD**, led by President **Sgt. Gurvinder Singh** and Vice President **Detective Delare Singh Rathour**, along with their team-symbolizing the community's growing representation in public service and law enforcement.

The APS Vaisakhi Celebration was deeply honored to welcome representatives from all four major Gurdwaras of Long Island, demonstrating spiritual unity and community harmony.

APS Sr. Vice President **Mohinder S. Taneja**, APS Vice President **Paul S. Bindra** and **Janessa Sondhi**, Social Media Coordinator of the APS Youth Council, each spoke eloquently about the significance of Vaisakhi, highlighting its deep historical roots, cultural importance, and the enduring values of unity, service, and renewal it represents for the Punjabi community and beyond.

A special 8-page souvenir flyer, curated by **Pradeep Tandon**, Editor and Director of Media & Public Relations for the American Punjabi Society, was distributed at the event. It featured an insightful article by **Janessa Sondhi**, a talented 10th-grade student, whose thoughtful reflection on Vaisakhi beautifully embodied the spirit of youth engagement and cultural pride that APS champions.



The electrifying Bhangra

Another highlight of the evening was a lavish dinner catered by **Mint**, widely praised for its authentic flavors, elegant presentation, and traditional Punjabi menu. Guests truly experienced the essence of culture - through both performance and cuisine.

## HONORING CHANGEMAKERS: 2025 VAISAKHI AWARDS

Nine outstanding individuals were honored for their contributions to leadership, community service, and cultural enrichment:

- Prem Bhandari
- Manish Sharma
- Janessa Sondhi
- Syed Alamdar Shah
- Dr. Gurinderpal Singh Josan
- Balbeer Singh Pahwa
- Surjeet Singh
- Anju Sharma
- Rai Bilal Bhatti

"We are proud to recognize these heroes of our community," said Mr. Sikka. "Their seva - their selfless service - uplifts lives and embodies the spirit of Vaisakhi."

In a testament to her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to community service, **Navneet Sikka Sondhi**, Chair of the APS Women's Council, was honored with special citations from both Nassau County and the Town of North Hempstead. These accolades recognize her outstanding efforts in empowering women through cultural and civic engagement, underscoring her pivotal role in fostering inclusivity and strengthening community bonds.



## INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT KILLED BY STRAY BULLET IN CANADA'S ONTARIO



Harsimrat Randhawa was killed in Canada after she was struck by a stray bullet as she was waiting at a bus stop on her way to work

**APRIL 19, 2025**

**TORONTO (TIP):** A 21-year-old Indian student was killed in Canada after she was struck by a stray bullet as she was waiting at a bus stop on her way to work and shots were fired by a car occupant.

Harsimrat Randhawa was a student at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario.

Hamilton Police are investigating the homicide that happened on Wednesday, saying Randhawa was an innocent bystander.

The Consulate General of India in Toronto said in a post on X Friday, "We are deeply saddened by the tragic death of Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa in Hamilton, Ontario."

The official added, "As per local police, she was an innocent victim, fatally struck by a stray bullet during a shooting incident involving two vehicles. A homicide investigation is currently underway. We are in close contact with her family and are extending all necessary assistance. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family during this difficult time."

Hamilton Police in a statement said that at around 7.30 pm local time, it received reports of a shooting near Upper James and South Bend Road streets in Hamilton. When the police arrived, they found Randhawa with a gunshot wound to the chest. She was rushed to the hospital but succumbed.

Through collected videos, investigators have determined that a passenger of a black car fired at the occupants of a white sedan. Shortly after the shooting, the vehicles left the scene.

Shots from the shooting incident also entered the rear window of a residence nearby where the occupants were watching television a few feet away. No one was injured in the home, police said.

Investigators are asking anyone with dashcam or security camera footage between 7.15 pm and 7.45 pm near the shooting area to contact authorities and provide any information that can help further the investigation.

## Indian-origin UK MP Navendu Mishra ties the knot in Lucknow

**APRIL 22, 2025**

**LONDON / LUCKNOW (TIP):** British Labor Party leader and Member of Parliament. Navendu Mishra, who represents Stockport in the United Kingdom Parliament, got married in a traditional Indian ceremony held in Lucknow.

The 36-year-old MP of Indian origin married Garima Tiwari, a native of Bhopal, in a wedding that reflected his attachment to his cultural heritage.

All the rituals - from 'haldi' and 'mehandi' to the wedding itself - were performed in accordance with Sanatan traditions. Mishra was seen wholeheartedly participating in every ritual and stood out for his gesture of seeking blessings from elders by touching their feet on every occasion.

Mishra, who was re-elected as an MP from Stockport in July 2024 after winning in 2019, was born in Kanpur in 1989. His maternal family hails from Gorakhpur. He moved to the UK with his parents at the age of four, but despite growing up and settling abroad, he has remained deeply connected to his Indian roots. He frequently visited India to meet his relatives and chose to hold his wedding here.

Mishra said, "I am proud of my traditions, and I am beginning this new



Navendu Mishra, who represents Stockport in the United Kingdom Parliament, got married to Garima Tiwari in a traditional Indian ceremony held in Lucknow on April 20, 2025

chapter of life in line with those values."

He added, "My parents instilled in me the importance of staying connected to our roots, and that will stay with me forever."

The wedding, held on April 20 at a hotel in Ansal Golf City, was coordinated by Mishra's maternal uncle Neelendra Pandey, along with his parents Prabhat

Mishra and Meenu Pandey Mishra. On the bride's side, Garima's parents - Harendra Tiwari and Vidya Tiwari - actively participated in the ceremonies.

Garima Tiwari holds a master's degree in disaster management from the University of Glasgow, Scotland.

Pre-wedding ceremonies like 'haldi' and 'mehandi' were conducted earlier at Hotel Continental on Guru Gobind Singh Marg. A grand wedding reception was held near the Uttar Pradesh Police Headquarters on Monday evening, attended by prominent leaders from across India.

Distinguished guests included UK MP Virendra Sharma, UP Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak and Minister Satish Sharma, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's brother Pankaj Modi, Nepal's Pashupatinath temple representative Ravi Lamichhane, former Tamil Nadu BJP president Annamalai, and several IAS and IPS officers.

Navendu Mishra entered politics through trade union activism in Stockport and was first elected as an MP in December 2019. He studied in London before launching his political career with the Labor Party and has since emerged as an important representative of the Indian diaspora in British politics.

## Indian American Man Shot Dead in Chicago's Lincoln Park

**APRIL 18, 2025**

**CHICAGO, IL (TIP) :** An Indian American man, identified as 28-year-old Kevin Patel, was shot and killed Wednesday, April 16 night in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood. According to CBS News, Patel was found with a gunshot wound to the chest and later died while receiving treatment at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center.



Kevin Patel was shot and killed Wednesday, April 16 night in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood

unclear, and police continue to investigate. Garret Moores, a resident of the neighborhood, heard the gunshot from his home and rushed outside. He discovered Patel lying on the ground in front of a neighbor's house and immediately sprang into action. "I went and grabbed towels and tried to get down here as fast as I could," Moores told media. While comforting Patel and waiting for first responders, Moores called 911 and worked to keep the young man conscious. "We were just talking to him, telling him... to breathe in slowly, try to take long, deep breaths - and he would kind of look at us, and you could tell he was changing his breathing, so he was responsive, which was encouraging," he said.

A neighbor also assisted Moores in unzipping Patel's jacket and helping to manage the situation until emergency personnel arrived. Despite their efforts, Patel succumbed to his injuries at the hospital. Hours later, as police searched for evidence at the scene, the towels used in the rescue attempt lay on the pavement beside shell casing markers - a somber reminder of the tragedy that had unfolded.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian American owner of San Jose technology staffing firm jailed for visa fraud

**APRIL 24, 2025**

**SAN JOSE (TIP):** Indian American owner of a San Jose based staffing firm that provided skilled employees to technology companies in the Bay Area has been sentenced to 14 months in federal prison for visa fraud and conspiracy to commit visa fraud.

In addition to the prison term, the court also ordered Kishore Dattapuram, 55, of Santa Clara, to serve three years of supervised release, forfeit \$125,456.48, and pay a fine of \$7,500 and a \$1,100 special assessment fee.

Dattapuram was indicted in February 2019 along with two co-defendants on one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and 10 counts of substantive visa fraud. Dattapuram pleaded guilty to all counts in November 2024, according to a press release from U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California.

Dattapuram co-owned and operated Nanosemantics Inc, which received a commission for workers placed at client companies. Nanosemantics regularly submitted H-1B petitions for foreign workers so that foreign workers could obtain temporary authorization to live and work for employers in the United States.

In order to secure an H-1B visa, an employer or other sponsor must submit an "I-129" petition to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). A petition and associated documentation must confirm the existence and duration of the job waiting for the worker and describe key details including the wages associated with the position.

Dattapuram worked with his co-defendants to submit fraudulent H-1B applications that falsely represented that foreign workers had specific jobs waiting for them at designated end-client companies when in fact the jobs did not exist.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



Kishore Dattapuram has been sentenced to 14 months in federal prison for visa fraud and conspiracy to commit visa fraud.

Photo for representation only



# INDIAN AMERICAN LED MATI CARBON COMPANY WINS \$50 MILLION XPRIZE

APRIL 25, 2025

**SAN FRANCISCO (TIP):** Mati Carbon, an Indian American led company that helps Indian farmers by spreading crushed rock on their fields to help draw climate-warming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere has won the \$50 million XPRIZE funded by Elon Musk's foundation.

U.S.-based Mati Carbon was among more than 1,300 teams from 88 countries that participated in the four-year \$100 million XPRIZE Carbon Removal competition, launched in 2021 to encourage deployment of carbon-removal technologies.

The grand prize winner Mati Carbon demonstrated a highly durable approach to CDR, by applying finely crushed basalt over agricultural lands in India to accelerate a natural weathering process that permanently draws down atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, according to a press release.

Beyond carbon removal, Mati Carbon's process delivers significant benefits to smallholder farmers. These farmers are among the least responsible for and the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Mati Carbon's deployments bolster farmers' livelihoods through improved soil health, reduced agricultural inputs, and increased income at zero cost to them.

Mati Carbon's team has developed a scientifically rigorous approach to monitoring and verification, and excelled across each of XPRIZE's evaluation criteria - operational, sustainability, and cost metrics - giving the XPRIZE judges the highest confidence in Mati Carbon's solution's long-term scalability.

"Being named the grand prize winner



Mati Carbon has won the \$50 million XPRIZE funded by Elon Musk's foundation.

of XPRIZE Carbon Removal is not just a validation of our approach to CDR, it also represents a major catalyst to building out the science and infrastructure needed to deliver on our mission - generating climate resilience and economic empowerment for the more than 100 million smallholder farmers in developing economies worldwide," said Shantanu Agarwal, Founder and CEO of Mati Carbon. "I am very proud of our Mati Carbon team and the thousands of smallholder farmers who have partnered with us in India, Tanzania, and Zambia."

Agarwal believes his company's relatively low-cost approach "has a potential to really solve some planetary scale problems" while helping small farmers in countries like India who often bear the brunt of climate change, including extreme weather events like

drought and floods that destroy crops.

The method, called enhanced rock weathering, is straightforward, said Jake Jordan, the company's chief science officer: When it rains, water and carbon dioxide mix in the atmosphere, forming acid that breaks down rock. Carbon dioxide is converted to bicarbonate, which eventually is washed to the ocean, where it is stored for about 10,000 years.

Powdered basalt rock - plentiful in many parts of the world - is spread on the fields to speed up rock weathering that happens anyway, according to Jordan. The powdered rock also releases nutrients that help rejuvenate soils and increase crop productivity.

Runners up NetZero, Vaulted Deep and UNDO Carbon were awarded \$15 million, \$8 million and \$5million, respectively.

Two XFACTOR awards of \$1 million each were awarded to Planetary and Project Hajar, a partnership between Aircapture and 44.01. This announcement, timed during Earth Week, coincides with recognition of the winning teams as part of the TIME100 Summit in New York, where XPRIZE is a supporting partner.

The competition was designed to combat climate change by challenging teams around the world to develop high-quality carbon dioxide removal (CDR) solutions that are scalable to gigaton level and durably and sustainably remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the atmosphere and oceans.

The winning teams, selected from 20 finalists across 11 countries, each successfully removed more than 1,000 net tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in the final year of the competition, meeting XPRIZE's bold demonstration requirements, the first step towards scaling sustainably to remove billions of tons globally, according to the release.

"At this critical turning point for our planet, the technologies developed by these winning teams represent hope with a broad range of approaches that are suitable for different geographies and can help the world reach net zero and ultimately reverse climate change," said Anousheh Ansari, chief executive officer, XPRIZE. "We cannot stabilize our climate without sustainably and safely extracting carbon from our atmosphere and oceans at large scales. I'm incredibly proud of the ways this XPRIZE competition catalyzed and fostered the innovation and collaboration necessary to build this critical new industry that was missing prior to our competition."

## Indian American TCS Employee from Florida Among 28 Killed in Pahalgam Terror Attack

APRIL 23, 2025

**TAMPA, FL (TIP):** Bitan Adhikary, a U.S.-based engineer employed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), was among the 28 civilians who lost their lives in a brutal terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday afternoon. Terrorists targeted tourists relaxing at Baisaran meadow, a scenic destination near south Kashmir's Pahalgam town.



Bitan Adhikary, a U.S.-based engineer employed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), was among the 28 civilians who lost their lives in a brutal terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.

The confirmed death toll from the April 22, 2025, terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, stands at 28. This includes 24 Indian tourists, two local residents, and two foreign nationals from

Nepal and the United Arab Emirates. The massacre is being described as the deadliest in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. Survivors described a terrifying sequence of events. According to multiple eyewitness accounts, the attackers interrogated their victims, asking names, before opening fire.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian-origin with Alleged Terror Ties Arrested by ICE

PARMINDER SINGH AUJLA

APRIL 22, 2025

**SACRAMENTO, CA (TIP):** A 32-year-old Indian national, Harpreet Singh-listed as one of India's most wanted fugitives-was arrested last week in California by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, following revelations about his alleged connections to terrorist activities and a web of criminal offenses committed across the United States.



Harpreet Singh-listed as one of India's most wanted fugitives-was arrested last week in California by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents

political assassinations, armed assaults, and bombings targeting Indian state and police officials.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))

## Indian-origin charged for molesting Singapore Airlines stewardess

APRIL 22, 2025

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** An Indian national was charged on Tuesday, April 22, in a Singapore court for allegedly molesting a 28-year-old cabin crew member on a flight to the city state.

Rajat, who goes by a single name, allegedly grasped her from behind and pushed her into a lavatory with him during a Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight at around 11.20 am on February 28.

He was arrested once the plane arrived at Changi Airport.

Court documents indicate that the incident occurred on a flight from Australia, according to a Channel News Asia report.

Appearing in court on Tuesday, Rajat, 20, said he intended to plead guilty.

Rajat's case will be heard again on May 14, according to the Channel report.

For each count of molestation, an offender can be jailed up to three years, fined and caned.



Indian origin Rajat was charged on Tuesday, April 22, in a Singapore court for allegedly molesting a 28-year-old cabin crew member on a flight to the city state.



# Indian American community is filled with rage over terrorist killings of Hindus in Pahalgam

I.S. SALUJA

APRIL 25, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Scores of organizations of Indian Americans have expressed shock and rage, and condemned the inhuman killings of innocent Hindus in a terrorist strike in Pahalgam on April 22. In the worst massacre after the Pulwama terrorist attack in February 2019, in which 40 Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed, 28 persons lost their lives to the madness of the terrorists.

**The Global Indian Diaspora Alliance (GLO-INDIA) President Harry Panaser**, strongly condemning the terrorist attack said, "We in GLO-INDIA reaffirm our solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism and wherever it occurs, and the Indian Diaspora will remain united with the Government of India's efforts to combat terrorism."

"GLO-INDIA extends deepest condolences to the victims of the terrorist attacks and their families."

GOPIO International has strongly condemned the terrorist action in Pahalgam. The resolution reads: "The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) unequivocally condemns the terrorist action in Pahalgam area in India where many innocent Civilians and Tourists were wantonly murdered by well-armed terrorists."

"The World cannot idly stand by each time terrorists take actions and nations must unite and take joint actions against terrorists and those that harbor them," said **Prakash Shah, President of GOPIO International**. "That is the only way to end Terrorism," Shah added.

"We in the GOPIO are reaffirming our solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs, and the Indian Diaspora will remain united with Govt of India's



The wife of Atul Mone, who was killed in the Pahalgam attack, mourns as she stands near her husband's body at Dombivali, near Mumbai, India, on Wednesday, April. 23, 2025.

Photo credit: Rajanish Kakade/AP

efforts to combat terrorism," said **GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham**

"GOPIO extends deepest condolences to the victims of terrorist attacks and their families."

Indian Overseas Congress has condemned the cowardly terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

The IOC resolution reads: "The Indian Overseas Congress is deeply shocked and outraged by the cowardly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which took the lives of 26 innocent civilians. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and pray for a swift recovery for the injured. This deliberate targeting of civilians is not only an assault on human life but also on the ideals of peace and unity that our nation stands for."

**George Abraham, Vice-Chair of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA,**

stated:

"I condemn the dastardly attack on innocent civilians in Pahalgam, Kashmir. We stand in unwavering solidarity with the people of Kashmir and the families of those affected. It is truly disheartening that Pakistan continues to serve as a safe haven for terrorists and their sympathizers, perpetuating violence with the goal of destabilizing the region. The international community must take serious note of this ongoing threat."

This attack once again brings into sharp focus the troubling gaps in our internal security apparatus. Despite repeated assurances, the situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir remains volatile. Decisions such as the suspension of regular military recruitment, reduced boots on the ground, and limited intelligence coordination are raising serious

questions about the strategic priorities of the current administration.

Security must never be compromised—especially in regions that remain on the frontlines of cross-border threats. We urge the Government of India to take immediate and decisive steps to restore full security presence, enhance intelligence capabilities, and ensure that both preventive and responsive mechanisms are strengthened without delay.

The Indian Overseas Congress believes that protecting innocent lives must rise above politics. We call on all responsible institutions to prioritize national security with the urgency it demands and to honor the memory of those lost by ensuring that such tragedies are not repeated.

We stand with the people of Kashmir, and with every Indian who believes in justice, dignity, and a safer future for all."

US politicians and elected representatives have also condemned the terrorist attack.

**Senator Chuck Schumer**, Senate Minority Leader posted on X (formerly Twitter):

@SenSchumer

My heart breaks for the innocent tourists and locals murdered by terrorists in the revolting attack in Kashmir, and I wish a speedy recovery for the injured. There can be no tolerance for the hatred that breeds this kind of unjustifiable violence.

Journalists Beyond Borders, an international body of journalists, condemning the barbaric act of killing in cold blood of 28 innocent persons, has appealed to the governments of India and Pakistan to ensure such dastardly and inhuman acts do not recur. JBB said it is a votary of peace and looks at the world as a family, and, as such, it is the duty of each nation to strive for amity and happiness of all people of the world.

## Legislator Solages Encourages Residents to Join NCPD Auxiliary

APRIL 24, 2025

**VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. TIP):** Nassau County Legislator Carrié Solages (D - Valley Stream) is encouraging interested residents to sign up to become members of the Nassau County Auxiliary Police Department.

Since 1950, thousands of men and women have served Nassau County with pride and distinction as members of their local Auxiliary Police Department. Within Legislative District 3, volunteers are being sought from the communities of Elmont, Valley Stream, South Valley Stream, North Valley Stream, and South Floral Park for service in the 4th and 5th Precincts.

"Our auxiliary police officers are indispensable partners in fulfilling a community focused approach to law enforcement that keeps us safe," Legislator Solages said. "If you have been seeking an opportunity to give back and get involved, I encourage you to



Archival photo 2019 credit: Office of Legislator Carrié Solages

reach out to the leaders of the Nassau County Auxiliary Police to learn more about how you can be a part of this

rewarding public service program!"

Interested residents can contact the Recruit Hotline at 516-573-5512 or

NRosenblatt@PDCN.org for more information.



# India Hosts High-Level Event at UN: "Empowering the Digital Citizen of the Future: Towards an Integrated Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)"

APRIL 24, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP):

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations organized a landmark event titled "Empowering the Digital Citizen of the Future: Towards an Integrated Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)" on 24 April 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

All the speakers expressed condolences to the Government of India and families of victims of the gruesome terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. They reiterated their commitment to fight terrorism resolutely.

The Chief Guest was the President of the General



President of the General Assembly H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang applauded India's digital innovation

Assembly H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang. He applauded India's digital innovation, noting how such initiatives are instrumental in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing global digital inequality. He stressed the



Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Commerce and Industry Shri Jitin Prasada, in his keynote address, highlighted India's success story in building population-scale digital platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, Jan Dhan Yojana, DigiLocker, CoWIN, ABHA, and ONDC

importance of international collaboration to ensure that digital advances are equitable and accessible to all.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Commerce and Industry Shri Jitin Prasada, in his keynote address, highlighted India's success story in building population-scale digital platforms such as Aadhaar, UPI, Jan Dhan Yojana, DigiLocker, CoWIN, ABHA, and ONDC. He emphasized that India's DPI is founded on principles of inclusion, openness, interoperability, and scalability



Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, underscored India's unique bottom-up model of DPI,

and reaffirmed India's commitment to global cooperation in digital transformation, offering to share its DPI expertise and technology with the world.

Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, underscored India's unique bottom-up model of DPI, emphasizing that the country's digital transformation has been powered by its technological talent, institutional strength, and visionary political leadership. He outlined India's use of DPIs to address structural challenges and stressed on the role of AI integration in enhancing DPI's reach across sectors like education,

agriculture, tax administration, and digital lending.

The event also featured an insightful presentation by Mr. Srikanth Nadhamuni, Founding CTO of Aadhaar and CEO of Khosla Labs, on how India is leveraging artificial intelligence to enhance the impact of its DPI and highlighted that India's inclusive approach to AI and DPI-built as global digital public goods-can serve as a transformative model for countries worldwide.

Other distinguished speakers included Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, Mr. Robert Opp, Chief Digital Officer, UNDP, Prof. Arun Sundararajan of New York University, H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Morocco to the UN and Mr. Norberto Moretti, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN. The event saw fruitful discussions on how Digital Public Infrastructure, integrated with AI, can bridge the digital divide, empower citizens, and support sustainable development globally.



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# WHERE TARIFFS TRUMP ECONOMICS

The proposed tariffs are expected to deliver a blow to India's merchandise exports to the U.S.



By M Suresh Babu

"Though the idea behind reciprocal tariffs is to create balance in trade, they can lead to a back-and-forth increase in trade barriers with negative impacts on both economies. The evolution of reciprocal tariffs can be traced to when countries began using tariffs to shield their local industries, boost economic growth, and negotiate better trade deals. While reciprocal tariffs can help local industries in the short run, they lead to higher prices for consumers, disrupt supply chains, and slow down growth. Tariffs were a major source of income for governments, but this has greatly reduced. They now serve as protective measures or negotiation tools."

The recently announced reciprocal tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump have led to a decline in the prices of key commodities, crude oil, volatility, and a downturn in stock markets. Since the tariff announcement, crude oil prices have declined by nearly 14%. This drop is driven by fears that the global economy, particularly trade between major economies, may slow down, which could lead to reduced demand for oil. The responses to the announcement have reinforced concerns that a full-scale global trade war is now under way. New trade tensions could lead to higher inflation, slower economic growth, and escalating disputes. More importantly, the announcement has ushered in an extended period of uncertainty, opening up new challenges to economic policy making. While higher-income economies have the time and armory to retaliate to U.S. policies, lower-income ones face a double disadvantage. They have to cope with a new world order, while addressing pressing domestic economic issues.

## THE ROLE OF RECIPROCAL TARIFFS

Reciprocal tariff is a tax that one country places on another in response to similar actions taken by that country. The rationale for this response is to protect local businesses, preserve jobs, and fix trade imbalances. Though the idea behind reciprocal tariffs is to create balance in trade, they can lead to a back-and-forth increase in trade barriers with negative impacts on both economies. The evolution of reciprocal tariffs can be traced to when countries began using tariffs to shield their local industries, boost economic growth, and negotiate better trade deals. While reciprocal tariffs can help local industries in the short run, they lead to higher prices for consumers, disrupt supply chains, and slow down growth. Tariffs were a major source of income for governments, but this has greatly reduced. They now serve as protective measures or



President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting in the Oval Office on April 24, 2025.

Photo Credit: AP

negotiation tools.

## TARGETING ASIA

Two aspects of the tariff tirade stand out. First, no other regions have been hit as hard as South Asia and Southeast Asia. Economic development over the past three decades in these regions has largely been driven by exports to the rest of the world, particularly the U.S. Exports to the U.S. contribute around 30% of Vietnam's GDP and 25% of Cambodia's. Vietnam and Cambodia have been hit by some of the highest tariffs (46% and 49%, respectively). Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Singapore have been hit by tariffs of varying magnitudes. Among countries of that region, this round of tariffs poses perhaps the greatest threat for Cambodia. The garment industry, which employs close to 750,000 workers, has been crucial in providing steady incomes to the poor. Thousands of jobs in this sector are now likely to be lost. The smaller economies of Southeast Asia are not in a position to retaliate, unlike China, which has hit back with its own measures. These economies can only negotiate. And the interests of the U.S. would primarily guide such negotiations.

The second is the curious case of calculation of tariffs. The formula underpinning reciprocal tariff is the country's trade deficit with the U.S., divided by its exports, and then divided by two. The U.S. also implemented a 10% baseline tariff on almost every country. However, the formula for calculating tariff rates for nations around the world is based on an elasticity rate lower than it should be in practice. The formula assumes an elasticity of import prices with respect to tariffs of about 0.25, but economists are of the view that the number should be closer to one. This one-size-fits-all formula is blunt as it applies the same math to countries whether they have substantial trade barriers or wide-open markets. It considers only the size of the trade deficit, not why the deficit exists. Also,

the trade deficit is calculated using only goods (items that can be shipped) and not services (technology, banking). This benefits countries which export few goods but plenty of financial services to the U.S.

## PROSPECTS FOR INDIA

The proposed tariffs are expected to deliver a blow to India's merchandise exports to the U.S. If tariff plans are implemented after the current pause, India could see a \$7.76 billion drop (6.4%) in exports to the U.S. this year, according to an estimate by Global Trade Research Initiative. In 2024, India exported \$89 billion worth of goods to the U.S. This underscores the need for India to broaden the trade base necessitating swift trade policy actions. First, India has to secure a balanced trade deal with the U.S., which requires continuous negotiations. Second, it needs to fast-track trade agreements with the European Union, the U.K., and Canada. Third, it needs to deepen ties with Russia, Japan, South Korea, ASEAN, and the UAE. Fourth, it needs to handle ties with China with deftness and strategic intent.

Some believe that India could convert the situation into an opportunity. These beliefs are partly driven by the spectacular success of Apple's iPhone exports from India (by 54% last year). Hidden behind this achievement is the fact that the total goods exports for 2024-25 was \$437 billion, which is the same as last year. Given this reality, cashing on the present situation requires enormous homework. A set of coherent reforms encompassing rationalized tariffs, simpler GST, easier trade processes and fair implementation of quality standards and controls are prerequisites for such an ambition. Easier straightforward responses to intensify inward orientation runs the risk of missing a global moment.

*(The author is Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies. Views are personal)*

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# The Killing of Hindu Tourists in Kashmir: A Shameful Reminder of Terrorism's Barbarity

By Prof. Indrajit Saluja



The recent terrorist attack in Kashmir, which saw 26 innocent Hindu tourists slaughtered in cold blood, is an act of unspeakable savagery that must be condemned in the strongest terms possible. These men, women, and children had come to the beautiful valley of Kashmir to admire its famed natural beauty, to breathe its crisp mountain air, and to experience the peaceful joys of travel. Instead, they met a brutal and untimely death at the hands of mindless terrorists.

This heinous attack is not an isolated incident. It is part of a grim pattern that stretches back decades - a pattern of violence, fueled and orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist organizations, that has shattered countless lives in the once-tranquil state of Jammu and Kashmir.

## A BLOOD-STAINED LEGACY

The roots of cross-border terrorism in Kashmir can be traced back to the late 1980s, when Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency began supporting and training Islamic militants to wage a "proxy war" against India. This calculated strategy was formalized under what Pakistan termed its policy of "bleeding India with a thousand cuts."

Groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizbul Mujahideen, all with strong operational bases within Pakistan, became instruments of this deadly campaign. Over the years, these groups have been responsible for countless massacres, bombings, kidnappings, and attacks on civilians - Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and people of every faith living in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP), between 1990 and 2020 alone, more than 14,000 civilians have been killed in terror-related violence in Jammu and Kashmir. Thousands more have been injured, orphaned, or displaced. What began as a political problem was quickly poisoned into a brutal campaign of religious and ethnic cleansing.

One need only remember the 1990 Exodus of Kashmiri Pandits - one of the earliest mass tragedies in modern Kashmir. Over 100,000 Hindu Pandits were forced to flee their ancestral homes under threat of death from militants who declared that Kashmir must be "Islamized." Thousands were killed, women were raped, and whole villages emptied out overnight. The trauma remains raw even today, decades later.

## SUBSEQUENT DECADES HAVE BEEN LITTERED WITH MASSACRES TARGETING CIVILIANS:

**The Wandhama massacre (1998)**, where 23 Kashmiri Hindus, including women and children, were brutally gunned down.

**The Chittisinghpura massacre (2000)**, when 35 Sikhs were lined up and shot during the visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton to India.

**The Amarnath Yatra attacks** over the years, targeting Hindu pilgrims on their religious journey to the Amarnath cave shrine.

**Numerous attacks on tourists, Bihari laborers, schoolteachers, and minority community members, each leaving a trail of heartbreak.**

The recent killing of the Hindu tourists is thus another link in this blood-soaked chain. And yet, it is perhaps even more horrifying, because it underscores the sheer nihilism that terrorism has bred in Kashmir. What kind of inhuman mind sets out to kill innocent travelers, people whose only "crime" was to admire the beauty of Kashmir?

## PAKISTAN'S COMPLICITY CANNOT BE IGNORED

The involvement of Pakistan-based terrorist groups in these acts of horror is well-documented and has been acknowledged internationally. Lashkar-e-Taiba, responsible for the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, where 166 people were killed, including foreign tourists, has been allowed to operate with impunity in Pakistan. Its leader, Hafiz Saeed, was even seen addressing public rallies in Pakistan until international pressure forced token actions against him.

Similarly, Jaish-e-Mohammed, the group responsible for



In a pattern of violence, fueled and orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist organizations, 26 innocent Hindu tourists were slaughtered in cold blood in Pahalgam, Kashmir on April 22, 2025. A group of people at a vigil

**Terrorism must be uprooted, not selectively targeted. As long as organizations like LeT and JeM are allowed to survive, there can be no peace in Kashmir. As long as hatred and radicalization are cultivated across the border, no amount of dialogue can bring about lasting friendship.**

the Pulwama attack in 2019, where 40 Indian soldiers were killed, continues to function under various guises. Its leader, Masood Azhar, roams freely despite being designated a global terrorist by the United Nations.

**How long can Pakistan feign ignorance? How long can it play the double game of professing peace while harboring the enemies of peace within its borders?**

If Pakistan truly wishes for good neighborly relations, if it sincerely seeks to improve the lives of its own people - impoverished, deprived, and yearning for a better future - it must immediately and unequivocally dismantle the terror networks operating from its soil. Empty rhetoric about peace means nothing when bombs are being planted and bullets are being fired across the border.

## WAR IS NOT THE ANSWER - BUT NOR IS APPEASEMENT

India and Pakistan have already fought three full-scale wars - in 1947, 1965, and 1971 - and each has brought immense human suffering, economic hardship, and societal disruption. Even the limited Kargil conflict of 1999 resulted in the deaths of hundreds of young soldiers on both sides, leaving behind grieving families and shattered communities. The economic cost of these conflicts is staggering. According to various estimates, the wars and ongoing military escalations have cost both nations hundreds of billions of dollars over the decades - money that could have been used to build schools, hospitals, roads, and better lives for ordinary citizens.

In Pakistan, where nearly 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, and in India, where millions still struggle for basic amenities, the insanity of pouring

scarce resources into an arms race instead of human development is self-evident.

**It is time for both nations - but especially Pakistan, which bears the heavier moral burden for harboring terrorists - to choose the path of wisdom over the path of madness.**

Terrorism must be uprooted, not selectively targeted. As long as organizations like LeT and JeM are allowed to survive, there can be no peace in Kashmir. As long as hatred and radicalization are cultivated across the border, no amount of dialogue can bring about lasting friendship.

## LET THE PEOPLE LIVE IN PEACE

Despite the wounds of history, the ordinary citizens of India and Pakistan share a common desire: to live in peace, to raise their children in safety, to hope for a better future. Trade, tourism, cultural exchanges, and cooperation can bring the two nations closer - but only if the guns are silenced and the bomb factories are dismantled.

The recent killing of Hindu tourists is not just a crime against India. It is a crime against humanity. It is a crime against the spirit of South Asia, against the dream of a region where diversity is celebrated rather than massacred.

We call upon the Pakistani leadership to act decisively, not just for India's sake, but for its own. History will not forgive those who had a chance to stop the bloodshed and chose instead to remain silent.

We also call upon the international community - the United Nations, major powers, and human rights organizations - to hold Pakistan accountable for its continued sponsorship of terror. Diplomatic platitudes are not enough; concrete action is needed to end the cycle of violence.

*Let this latest tragedy be the final wake-up call.*

*Let no more mothers mourn their children.*

*Let no more innocent blood stain the rivers of Kashmir.*

*Let India and Pakistan bury the hatreds of the past and build a new future - one of friendship, of shared prosperity, and of peace.*

History is watching. The people are watching. And the martyrs - the innocent souls whose only dream was to live and to love - demand that we honor their memory not with more hatred, but with the triumph of humanity over barbarity.

**(Prof. Indrajit S Saluja is the Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at salujaindra@gmail.com)**



# DEPORTED BY ERROR: GARCIA CASE AND ITS ECHOES IN INDIA



By Vivek Katju

NOWADAYS, THERE ARE HEART-RENDING CASES OF YOUNG PERSONS OF BOTH COUNTRIES WHO CROSS THE INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER INADVERTENTLY AND SPEND YEARS IN PRISON UNLESS COMPASSIONATE BORDER SECURITY OFFICIALS DO NOT REFER THEIR CASES TO THE POLICE BUT QUIETLY RETURN THEM TO THE OTHER SIDE. BUT SUCH COMPASSION IS RARE.

The ongoing Abrego Garcia deportation case in America illustrates the helplessness of individuals who sink into the quicksands of bureaucracy and/or disputes between state organs for no fault of their own. The fate of persons who inadvertently get caught in the meshes of adversarial inter-state relations is, perhaps, worse. I know of some of these Kafkaesque situations involving Indians. This case revived these memories. But first, a brief assessment of the implications of the Garcia case for Trump's America.

At 16, Garcia from El Salvadore entered the US illegally in 2011. He later married a US national. An immigration court ruled in 2019 that he could not be deported from the US. That decision stands. Yet, the US immigration authorities deported him to El Salvador, where he was imprisoned. Garcia's wife approached the Federal District Court of Maryland. The US authorities admitted in court hearings that Garcia's deportation was because of an "administrative error." The court ordered that he be brought back immediately.

The Trump administration went to the Supreme Court, arguing that Garcia was a member of MS-13, a designated foreign terrorist gang, and his return to the US would constitute a public safety threat. Ignoring this aspect, the Supreme Court ordered that the government should "facilitate" Garcia's return and keep the District Court informed of its actions. It also directed the District Court to respect that foreign policy was in the government's domain.

The Trump administration has no intention of seeking Garcia's return. Indeed, El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele, after meeting Trump in Washington on April 13, told reporters that he had no intention to release Garcia. The District Court is soldiering on, but it is likely to succeed. The fact is that Trump is destroying the institutional balance which is the foundation of the US system.

Now, to two Indian cases of persons who faced unforgiving bureaucracies determined to uphold national interest!

In the early 1990s, a Belgian nun called the Indian Mission in Islamabad from Lahore that two young Indians were in her church. The Mission told her to send them to Islamabad. They were received on arrival and debriefed. At the same time, the Pakistani Foreign Ministry was informed because they would have monitored the call from Lahore. The two boys said that they were



Face-off: The Trump administration has no intention of seeking Abrego Garcia's return, despite the Supreme Court ordering the government to "facilitate" his return.

sailors employed in the UAE. Their vessel had sunk off the Iranian coast. They were rescued and put in an Iranian detention center. One day, they were pushed across the border into Pakistan. They managed to reach Quetta and took a train to Lahore. One of them was from Goa and the other from Bihar.

The Pakistani Foreign Office directed that they be sent to a police station, where they were arrested, charged and imprisoned for two years. The Pakistani newspapers reported that two R&AW agents had been arrested!

The Goa boy's mother lived in Mumbai and visited the Ministry of External Affairs occasionally to seek its intervention for his early release. My colleagues treated her with empathy. I spoke to the Pakistan DHC, pressing that they were innocent boys deserving sympathy. He found their story unbelievable. After serving their sentences, they were released. The mother brought her son to Delhi to meet us because she told him that the MEA had been a great support. What the son told me was this.

In addition to the two, three more were rescued from the vessel by the Iranians and all five boys were pushed into Pakistan. All five reached Lahore and got into two tongas, which got separated. The two in one tonga went to a church for help; the Goanese was a Christian.

The Pakistani priest there panicked and called the nun.

I asked him about what happened to the other three. After some reluctance, he said "Sir, they went to Karachi by train and being sailors, went to a seamen's association's office near the port. They related their story to its office-bearers who believed them. They were put on a boat bound for Mumbai and are now living safely there."

He also told me that the Pakistani sailors had taken an oath from them that they would not contact any Indian official just as they had not informed any Pakistani official.

I pleaded with him to inform one of them that I would like to meet the three. He said that he would pass on the message. The three never broke their oath!

The second case is that of an Indian who was one of Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Zayed's drivers. The Director of the ruler's office called me and asked why he was being denied a visa. This was 1980 and I was at our embassy in Abu Dhabi. The driver, who was in his sixties, came to see me and related his story.

He said that he reached Dubai in 1945 from Kerala. Some years later, he fell ill and was being taken on a dhow to Kerala, but as his condition worsened, the dhow dropped him in Karachi. He was hospitalized and when he recovered, he wanted to go

home quickly, but he had no identity papers. He was advised by some locals that he should get Pakistani papers and an Indian visa for that was the quickest way for him to get home. He did.

In Kerala he got married, threw away his Pakistani passport, got an Indian one and returned alone to Dubai. After a few years, he returned to India on his Indian passport, but a neighbor told the police that he had earlier come on a Pakistani passport. He was taken into custody and deported to Dubai. For over two decades, he had not been able to go to India while his family remained there.

He ended his story by telling me: "I don't want to die here. I want to be buried in my homeland." The Indian authorities never agreed, as far as I know, to his return.

Nowadays, there are heart-rending cases of young persons of both countries who cross the India-Pakistan border inadvertently and spend years in prison unless compassionate border security officials do not refer their cases to the police but quietly return them to the other side. But such compassion is rare.

*(The author is a Former Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs)*





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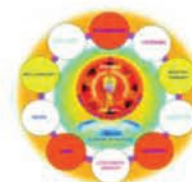
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MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EVENT  
"SHYAMA SHYAM SHASHTRIYA SUGAM SANGEET SAMMELAN"  
ADMISSION: \$21 & V.I.P.

Naturopathy- Homeopathy- Basic Yoga- Mantra Therapy- Music Therapy  
Laughing Therapy- Kriya Yoga- Ayurveda-Meditation-Reflexology  
Reiki Therapy-Listening Therapy  
FOR CHAITANYA- JAGRUTI (AWARENESS & PURE CONSCIOUSNESS)



HEALTH IS WEALTH



From working as a bouncer at a Buenos Aires nightclub to presiding over the Vatican, the path Pope Francis forged as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church was as unlikely as it was unprecedented.

Francis, who died Monday, April 22, at age 88, was keen to flex his muscles as supreme pontiff. He angered some Catholic Church traditionalists by reaching out to gay and marginalized people, demanding justice for the poor and the dispossessed and railing against unbridled capitalism and climate change.

As the first pope from the Americas, Francis was in many ways the ultimate Vatican outsider who charted a new and more liberal course as the leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics.

"He embarked on a real reorganization of the church and a real reorientation of the church after four decades of conservative theologians' leading the way," said David Gibson, director of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture.

Francis announced a radical change in Vatican policy in December 2023 by formally allowing priests to bless same-sex couples. Still, he continued to oppose gay marriage, to the dismay of more liberal Catholics.

Francis also ratcheted up action against the sexual abuse of children by Catholic Church clergy by issuing the most extensive revision to its law in four decades, calling it "our shame."

And he steadfastly championed the plight of migrants when many countries, including the United States, were closing their borders and right-wing politicians were demonizing them.

"We cannot remain indifferent in the face of such human dramas," the pope said in a "60 Minutes" interview in May 2024. "The globalization of indifference is a very ugly disease. Very ugly."

Francis pointedly criticized President Donald Trump's attempt, during his first term in office, to prevent migrants fleeing violence in Central America from getting into the United States by building a wall on the border with Mexico.

"I realize that with this problem, a government has a hot potato in its hands, but it must be resolved differently, humanely, not with razor wire," Francis insisted.

But in doing so, Francis alienated many Catholics and Republicans in the United States who supported Trump and his border wall.

To be sure, Francis was also criticized by the church's progressive wing. He refused to consider ordaining women. Victims of sexual abuse said his changes weren't strong enough. And he was accused last year of using a highly offensive term to describe gay men in a closed-door meeting, two weeks after the Vatican apologized for his use of the same slur.

Francis faced the stiffest resistance from archconservative American clerics during the pandemic when he urged people to get vaccinated against Covid. He also found himself being accused of heresy for, among other things, softening the ban on giving Communion to divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

# Pope Francis leaves a legacy as a Catholic Church reformer



Still, in many ways, Francis was cut from the same conservative clerical cloth as his predecessors Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict. He was against abortion, in favor of clerical celibacy and opposed to ordaining women, although he was open to giving them a greater role in running the church.

It was Francis, after all, who gave final approval to make John Paul II, a religiously conservative Pole and another pontiff from "a faraway land," a saint.

Despite Francis' attempts to weed out sex abusers from the clerical ranks, many victims didn't believe he went far enough to address the problem and punish offenders.

In 2018, Francis outraged abuse victims by accusing them of slandering Chilean Bishop Juan Barros with claims that he turned a blind eye to priestly predators. Francis later apologized for demanding that the victims show "proof" that Barros did anything wrong.

In a remarkable letter addressed to the bishops of Chile, Pope Francis admitted making "serious mistakes in the assessment and perception of the

situation."

But Francis, who as a young man worked as a bouncer before he found his calling, didn't hesitate to denounce his conservative critics, openly accusing them of "gagging" the church's attempts to modernize.

"Coming from the other side of the world, he brought a different way of seeing the world, and throughout his papacy that was a constant," said Kathleen Cummings, director of the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism at the University of Notre Dame.

"To go from a church that was known for its rules and what it said no to, Pope Francis is a pope who has repeatedly said yes — yes to marginalized groups, yes to mercy — and that's meant a lot to people."

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on Dec. 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Francis was the first pope from South America, and not just South America, but the Americas overall.

The son of Italian immigrant parents, his father, Mario Jose Bergoglio, was an accountant for the country's railways,

and his mother, Regina Maria Sivori, was a housewife. He studied chemistry before he entered the seminary, and he was 32 when he was ordained in 1969.

Four years later, Francis became head of the Jesuits in Argentina and was elevated to cardinal by John Paul II in 2001. Soon, Francis' name was on the short list of possible successors to the Polish pope, who died in 2005.

But Francis was a runner-up that year in the conclave that elected German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger to become Pope Benedict XVI. His turn came eight years later, after Benedict's abrupt resignation.

Francis took the reins of a church that was tarnished by financial scandals and still reeling the first papal resignation in 600 years.

He moved quickly to re-establish order. He often likened the church to "a field hospital after battle," where the first things priests need to do for their congregants is stop the bleeding.

"It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars," Francis said. "You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds. ... And you have to start from the ground up."

The first Jesuit to occupy the Chair of St. Peter, Francis took the name of St. Francis of Assisi, a 12th century figure who famously turned his back on family wealth in favor of a monastic life of service to the poor and the environment.

"Other popes have had the same message," the Rev. Kevin O'Brien, then the vice president for mission and ministry at Georgetown University, was quoted as saying in a 2015 article about the pope's leadership style. "But Francis has been very insistent in keeping this message at the forefront — servant leadership and caring for those most in need first."

Francis cut a modest and almost deferential figure in his first hours as pope on March 13, 2013, when he greeted the crowd gathered below his balcony in St. Peter's Square with a bow.

"You know that it was the duty of the conclave to give Rome a bishop," he said. "It seems that my brother cardinals have gone to the ends of the Earth to get one ... but here we are."

The next morning, Francis returned to the boarding house where he had been staying to collect his belongings and settle the bill.

Instead of the traditional papal apartments at the Apostolic Palace, Francis chose to live at the Casa Santa Marta, a simple residence in the Vatican used by official visitors.

While Francis had little use for the trappings of the papacy, he understood the need for the pomp of the office. Like John Paul II, Francis was a skilled



From page 12

communicator who knew how to work a crowd. And unlike the more reserved Benedict, Francis was eager to embrace people, and not just fellow Catholics.

When he was introduced to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp survivor Lidia Maksymowicz, he leaned over and kissed the number that the Nazis had tattooed on her arm.

While John Paul II used his papacy to take on communism and antisemitism, Francis spoke out against the “idolatry of money” and an unfair global economic system that forced millions to live in poverty. He stood up for the mostly Muslim migrants from poor and war-torn countries such as Libya and Syria who were seeking shelter in Europe.

In his first official trip outside Rome, he celebrated Mass on the tiny Mediterranean island of Lampedusa to commemorate migrants who drowned crossing the sea from North Africa.

“We have become used to other people’s suffering — it doesn’t concern us, it doesn’t interest us, it’s none of our business,” Francis said in his homily from an altar built from an old fishing boat to symbolize the migrants’ perilous crossing.

Determined to pastor to the global church, Francis traveled extensively, visiting South America, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the United States.

In 2021, Francis made the first visit by a pope to Iraq, risking his own security (he later learned of foiled assassination attempts against him), and urged the country’s dwindling number of Christians to stay put and help rebuild the country after years of war.

More recently, Francis condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine, calling it a “negation of God’s dream.”

“Let the desperate cry of the suffering people be heard,” Francis declared. “Have respect for human life and stop the macabre destruction of cities and villages in the east of Ukraine.”

Francis met three times with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

But in a rare misstep on the international stage, Francis angered Ukrainians and their allies when, in a radio interview with a Swiss broadcaster last year, he suggested that Ukraine should have the “courage of the white flag” and negotiate to end the war with Russia.

“Our flag is a yellow and blue one,” Ukraine’s foreign minister at the time, Dmytro Kuleba, responded online. “This is the flag by which we live, die, and prevail. We shall never raise any other flags.”

Duncan Dormor, an Anglican priest who co-wrote “Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, and the Renewal of the Church,” said Francis believed in protecting people and used the Gospels as his guide.

“He’s interested in spirituality and how you really care for people,” Dormor said in an interview before Francis’ death. “That shapes who he is and how he is.”

“He takes the path of Jesus Christ and the Gospels deadly seriously, and he is seeking to follow in that pattern.”

In 2015, Francis became only the third



pope to visit the White House and the first to address Congress, where he urged lawmakers to tackle climate change, a theme he returned to often over his tenure.

When President Joe Biden rejoined the Paris Agreement to limit global warming, the Vatican welcomed the move.

In 2020, Francis elevated 13 clergymen from around the world to the rank of cardinal. One of them was the archbishop of Washington, D.C., Wilton Gregory, the first African American appointed to the Catholic Church’s highest governing body.

Gregory’s appointment was significant for another reason — he was part of a select group of Catholic leaders who criticized Trump for staging a picture in front of St. John’s Episcopal Church near the White House during protests over the police killing of George Floyd.

Francis also helped broker a historic thaw between the United States and Cuba before he traveled to the communist country in 2015 and met with former leader Fidel Castro.

The apparent rapprochement between Francis and Castro also didn’t go over well with many Catholic conservatives in the United States.

But by that point, they had already soured on Francis, starting in 2013 when he spoke out against discrimination

against gays and lesbians, unveiling a markedly more accepting attitude toward a long-ostracized community.

“If a person is gay and seeks God and has goodwill, who am I to judge him?” he told reporters in 2013.

In January 2021, Francis changed church law to formally allow women to serve as readers at liturgies and as altar servers, acknowledging in canon law what had already been taking place in many churches around the world and preventing more conservative leaders from blocking women from those roles.

Then, in May 2021, Francis launched an initiative to make Catholic institutions environmentally sustainable in seven years, saying a “predatory attitude” toward the planet must end.

In July of that year, Francis reimposed restrictions on the old-style Latin Masses. He said Latin-only Masses were being used to divide the church, even though his two predecessors, John Paul II and Benedict, had allowed them.

In addition, Francis faced open rebellion from high-ranking church leaders like Bishop Joseph E. Strickland of Tyler, Texas, one of his fiercest critics among U.S. Roman Catholic conservatives and an ardent Trump supporter.

When Strickland refused to step down following a Vatican investigation into

the administration and finances of the Diocese of Tyler, Francis in November 2023 took the rare step of dismissing him from his post.

But Francis also, at times, disappointed more liberal-minded Catholics.

“He is always perceived as stirring up a discussion and not making it clear what he thinks,” said Lewis Ayres, a professor of Catholic and historical theology at Durham University in the United Kingdom.

He said Francis’ early comments about gays and lesbians weren’t followed up with any significant changes in church theology. “If you think about him as if he were the CEO of a big corporation, you would probably say he’s not very effective,” Ayres said. “He’s highly charismatic, but he’s not effective.”

“There’s a big difference between the way he appears in the media and in popular discussion and how he will be viewed by people more internally in the church over time,” he added. “The more you know about the business of the church, the more people are less certain he’s doing it properly.”

The first signs that Francis’ health was deteriorating appeared when he started using a wheelchair after having suffered increased mobility problems.

Soon, the Catholic media and other news organizations began speculating about whether he would step down, as Benedict had done before him.

Francis fueled those rumors further when he announced plans for a visit in August 2022 to the Italian city of L’Aquila for a feast initiated by Pope Celestine V. That pope also resigned while he was still in office, albeit more than 700 years before Benedict.

With an eye on preserving his legacy, Francis in December elevated 21 new cardinals, all but one of whom were under age 80 and thus eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

They included the 44-year-old head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in Melbourne, Australia, Mykola Bychok.

Meanwhile, Francis was hobbled by bouts of influenza and other related health issues. He underwent surgery in 2021 to address a painful condition called diverticulitis, and in 2023, he had another operation to repair a hernia.

In January 2024, Francis appeared in a sling after he injured his right forearm in a fall at his residence. The Vatican confirmed that no bones were broken, but the tumble came weeks after he bruised his face in another fall in December, Reuters reported.

In February, Francis was admitted to the hospital for bronchitis treatment and canceled all scheduled events for the next three days. It turned out to be pneumonia. Cummings, of Notre Dame, said Francis may not have accomplished everything he hoped for, but he was a leader whose charisma and desire to connect with people will long be remembered.

“Has he managed to unite the church? No,” Cummings said. “But he’s managed to give many people who had little hope in their church renewed hope.”

Source: NBC News



# Five CUNY Faculty Members Win 2025 Guggenheim Fellowships

- Four Alumni Also Recognized with Prestigious Honor
- Artist, Author, Anthropologist, Film Director and Musician Among Winners

APRIL 25, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Five CUNY faculty members have won this year's prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships in recognition of their impactful and pioneering contributions to the arts and humanities. In addition, four CUNY alumni were also recognized.

## THE CUNY FACULTY FELLOWS ARE: •

- Daniel Bozhkov, a multimedia artist and art professor at Hunter College
- Harold Holzer, the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of The Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College
- Karen Strassler, an anthropologist at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center
- Antonio Tibaldi, a film professor at City College
- John Yao, a music professor at Queens College

"We congratulate our CUNY community members for securing this coveted Guggenheim fellowship, a recognition of their extraordinary and impactful work," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "They are visionaries who are leading the way in their fields of study at CUNY and beyond."

In addition to the faculty members, this year's winners include four CUNY alumni:

**Marie-Helene Bertino**, a novelist and lecturer, Yale University (Brooklyn College '08)

**Ira Eduardovna**, video installation artist and filmmaker (Hunter College '12)

**Martha Suzanne Jones**, historian, legal scholar and professor, Johns Hopkins University (Hunter College '83 and CUNY School of Law '87)

**Selena Roy Kimball**, visual artist and professor, Parsons School of Design (Hunter College '07)

Now in its 100th Class, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation this year selected 198 fellows in 53 disciplines from nearly 3,500 applicants. Each fellow receives a stipend to pursue independent work at the highest level under "the freest possible conditions." See the full list of 2025 Fellows.

"At a time when intellectual life is under attack, the Guggenheim Fellowship celebrates a century of support for the lives and work of visionary scientists, scholars, writers, and artists," said Edward Hirsch, President of the Guggenheim Foundation. "We believe that these



CUNY faculty members (from left to right): John Yao, Harold Holzer, Karen Strassler, Daniel Bozhkov and Antonio Tibaldi.

creative thinkers can take on the challenges we all face today and guide our society towards a better and more hopeful future."

Each of the five faculty winners are recognized as leaders and innovators in their respective fields, contributing to the University's academic and artistic community:

**Daniel Bozhkov** is a Bulgarian-born artist who works in multimedia, including performance and video. He is a professor in Hunter College's Department of Art and Art History. Throughout his career, his work has been presented at MoMA P.S.1, Queens Museum, Santa Monica Museum of Art, and in international exhibitions such as the 33rd São Paulo Biennial in Brazil, 6th Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art in the United Kingdom and the 1st Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art.

**Harold Holzer** is a prolific writer and editor, having authored, co-authored or edited more than 50 books in his career. As one of the nation's leading academics on Abraham Lincoln and the political culture of the Civil War era, he previously served as co-chairman of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is currently the chairman of the Lincoln Forum. In 2015, he joined Hunter College as the Roosevelt House director. His most recent book is "Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration."

**Karen Strassler** is a cultural anthropologist at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center. Her work focuses on photographs, visual and media culture and the role images play in affecting social and political outcomes. Her 2020 book, "Demanding Images: Democracy,

Mediation, and the Image-Event in Indonesia," examines how the public images shaped the political field during a tumultuous time of democratic transition and technological transformation.

**Antonio Tibaldi** is a film writer and director of fiction and non-fiction content who has worked in the film industries of Europe, Australia and North America since 1992. He has received various recognitions, including six Australian Film Institute Award nominations, one Catalonia Gaudí award and a Spirit Award from the Brooklyn Film Festival. His work has also been presented at various festivals like Berlin, Sundance and Tribeca.

**John Yao** is an accomplished trombonist, composer and arranger. His musical skills and experience have established him as a unique and forward-thinking jazz talent. He has worked with esteemed solo artists and groups like Paquito D'Rivera, Danilo Perez, Kurt Elling, Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Orchestra of Philadelphia and the Arsonore Spirit Orchestra, among many others. Outside of his role as a professor at Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music, he is also a professor at Berklee School of Music and Molloy University.

*The City University of New York is the nation's largest urban public university, a transformative engine of social mobility that is a critical component of the lifeblood of New York City. Founded in 1847 as the nation's first free public institution of higher education, CUNY today has seven community colleges, 11 senior colleges and seven graduate or professional institutions spread across New York City's five boroughs, serving more than 240,000 undergraduate and graduate students and awarding 50,000 degrees each year. CUNY's mix of quality and affordability propels almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all the Ivy League colleges combined. More than 80 percent of the University's graduates stay in New York, contributing to all aspects of the city's economic, civic and cultural life and diversifying the city's workforce in every sector. CUNY's graduates and faculty have received many prestigious honors, including 13 Nobel Prizes and 26 MacArthur "genius" grants. The University's historic mission continues to this day: provide a first-rate public education to all students, regardless of means or background. To learn more about CUNY, visit <https://www.cuny.edu>.*

## New York City Mayor Proclaims April 24, 2025 as Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centennial Celebrations Day

APRIL 23, 2025

**NEW YORK CITY (TIP):** In a historic and momentous ceremony held at City Hall on April 22, 2025, New York City Mayor Eric Adams officially issued a proclamation making April 24, 2025 (Thursday) as Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centennial Celebrations Day, honoring Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba's universal love, peace and selfless service to humanity.

The proclamation was presented by Deputy Commissioner Mr Dilip Chauhan, in the presence of representatives from the Mayor's Office and members of the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council.

As part of the ceremony, a written statement by Sri RJ Rathnakar, Managing Trustee of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, was submitted, along with remarks from members of the Global Council and a special documentary by the Sri Sathya Sai Media Centre, Prasanthi Nilayam, was also screened. The film showcased Bhagawan's global



humanitarian initiatives and the transformational work of His devotees across the world.

The proclamation highlights and appreciates the tireless efforts of Sri Sathya Sai volunteers in the U.S., from serving food and distributing hygiene kits to educating youth through value-

based programs. The Mayor also acknowledged the visionary leadership of the Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust and Sri Sathya Sai Global Council, including Mr RJ Rathnakar, Mr Nimish Pandya, Mr Sundar Swaminathan, Mr Kalyan Ray, Dr Axay Kalathia, Dr Balu Karanam, Dr Geetha J Kamath, Mrs Geetha Mohan

Ram, Prof Koteswara Rao and Mr Sundar Venugopalan-along with every devoted volunteer embodying Swami's eternal message: "Love All, Serve All - Help Ever, Hurt Never."

Sundar Venugopalan from the Sri Sathya Sai Global Council Flushing, New York, who received the proclamation said Sri Sathya Sai Baba's main teaching was that the essence of all religions is one, "urging us to see the divine spark within each and every creation." He said that the Sri Sathya Sai Centers worldwide, including in New York, foster spiritual growth and community outreach. "This centennial year, we are committed to expanding our service to those in need right here in New York City."

We offer our deepest gratitude to Bhagawan for this divine blessing. This recognition from New York City-one of the world's most vibrant and diverse cities-beautifully echoes Bhagawan's vision of global unity, service, and spiritual harmony.



# Board of Public Works Approves \$950 Million for Projects Across Maryland

Contract approvals include new lease for the relocation of Comptroller's Cecil County Branch Office

APRIL 23, 2025

**ANNAPOLIS, MD. (TIP):** Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman, Gov. Wes Moore, and Treasurer Dereck Davis approved 95 initiatives representing a total expenditure of more than \$ 950 million during Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Public Works.

During the meeting, the Board approved a new 10-year lease to relocate one of the Office of the Comptroller's 11 regional branch offices from Elkton in Cecil County to Bel Air in Harford County. The lease with Klitenic Family Properties, LLC, of Hunt Valley, has a five-year option and will begin July 1, 2025.

"We are relocating our regional branch office from Elkton to Bel-Air to better meet the needs of Marylanders," Comptroller Lierman said, sharing her excitement for the move, and applauding Maryland Comptroller team members working behind the scenes and closely with the Maryland Department of General Services for the project. "This is a new, easily accessible, visible and geographical location in Bel Air. "We are hoping to open by the end of summer or early fall to allow us to better serve taxpayers and Marylanders in Cecil or



Maryland Board of Works : Dereck E. Davis (Treasurer); Gov. Wes Moore; Brooke E. Lierman (Comptroller)

Hartford Counties or wherever they come from."

On the heels of Earth Day, Comptroller Lierman also praised the Maryland Transportation Authority for utilizing 75 hybrid SUVs in support of its paratransit transportation services, demonstrating the agency's continued commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and

increasing the state's climate resiliency and sustainability.

As the meeting wrapped up, Comptroller Lierman noted the passing Monday of Pope Francis and his contributions to the Catholic community and to the world.

"Pope Francis was an amazing human being. He was a humble man in incredibly

challenging times," she said. "I know that I, as well as millions of people around the world, were grateful for his very humble service and outspoken advocacy for migrants and the climate and human rights. I will miss him and hearing of him. I am thinking of Catholics and all those who loved him around the world."

In all, the Board of Public Works approved 95 items, representing a total State expenditure of \$950,602,129.69, including:

Grant agreements for 16 recipients for 16 projects located in six counties and Baltimore City with a total value of \$10,808,352.

Seven items awarding \$15,194,193.45 to prime certified small business primes.

Two items awarding \$9,945,529.10 to certified minority business enterprise primes.

One item awarding \$954,365.05 to an Employment Works Program provider.

Five items awarded with established participation goals for minority business enterprises.

One item awarded with established participation goals for veteran-owned small business enterprises.

The next meeting of the Board of Public Works is May 7, 2025.

# Lt. Governor Miller and Secretary Beatty Unveil Maryland's Autism State Plan

APRIL 23, 2025

**ANNAPOLIS, MD (TIP):** Lieutenant Governor Aruna K. Miller, today, presented the Governor's proclamation reaffirming April as Autism Acceptance Month in Maryland.

Governor Moore first proclaimed April as Autism Acceptance Month in 2023. The proclamation recognizes people who are living with autism and those who advocate on their behalf, and honors the contributions of the autism community.

She was joined by Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Carol Beatty and Maryland Statewide Autism Coordinator Victoria Rodriguez-Roldán in unveiling Maryland's five-year Autism State Plan.

This strategic plan, which was developed under the leadership of the State Coordinator, in consultation with MDOD's Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group for Autism Related Needs (ASGARN), will set guiding principles, objectives, and strategies, giving our state guidance for implementing inclusive policies. It will be reviewed and updated after five years.

The areas of focus include education, employment, housing, transportation, safety and health - representing the state's commitment to helping Marylanders with autism achieve their highest potential and lead fulfilling lives in their communities. The work will rely on collaboration among state and local government, the autism community, families, private organizations, and providers.



A smiling Lt. Governor Miller with a group

"Our Administration and our ASGARN team are committed to elevating the conversation and eliminating the stigma around a condition that touches so many lives, yet is still so often misunderstood - autism," said Lt. Governor Miller. "It is not a disease to be cured, it's a difference to be understood and embraced. Raising autism acceptance is not just about statistics or medical definitions - it's about creating a world that recognizes and celebrates neurodiversity."

"This plan, released during April as Autism Acceptance Month, is the result of hearing the voices and incorporating the vision of autistic people and their

families," said Maryland Department of Disabilities Secretary Carol Beatty. "We look forward to working in partnership with the Maryland Autism Community in the implementation phase and thank those who helped contribute to this important milestone."

"In Maryland we believe that all people with autism and other disabilities deserve to thrive in their chosen communities," said Maryland Statewide Autism Coordinator Victoria Rodriguez-Roldán. "That is why releasing this strategic plan to address autism-related needs across the entire spectrum is so important."

**THE AUTISM STATE PLAN CAN BE FOUND ON THE MDOD WEBSITE.**

Background on ASGARN (Autism Strategy and Advisory Stakeholder Group for Autism Related Needs): In 2020, Delegate Michele Guyton sponsored HB847 creating a State Coordinator and advisory group - ASGARN - under the Governor's Office of Community Initiative, and in 2022 it was moved to MDOD. In 2023, Victoria Rodriguez-Roldán, J.D. - a nationally-known autism advocate, was hired as Statewide Autism Coordinator, and began developing the Autism Strategic Plan.



# J&K Police release sketches of 3 Pahalgam attackers, announce Rs 20-lakh bounty

SRINAGAR/JAMMU (TIP)

The sketches and identities of three terrorists reportedly involved in the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam have been released by the Jammu and Kashmir Police on April 24. All three are linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, and a reward of Rs 20 lakh has been announced by the Police for information leading to the capture of each of them.

In the above picture, the first sketch of the suspect includes Hasim Musa, also known as Suleiman. The second terrorist has been identified as Adil Hussain Thoker, a native of Anantnag. And, the third terror operative, Ali Bhai, also known as Talha Bhai, according to the ANI.

Among the three Lashkar-e-Taiba operatives, Hasim Musa and Ali Bhai alias Talha are believed to be Pakistani nationals, while Adil Hussain Thoker hails from Kashmir. Authorities have announced a reward of Rs 20 lakh for information on any of the suspects. Citizens are encouraged to contact the SSP Anantnag at 9596777666 or the Anantnag PCR at 9596777669 with any leads.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning in response to the terror attack, stating that India will "pursue the terrorists to the end of the earth." He also asserted that India will not take a sigh of relief until "justice" is pursued.

While addressing the public at National Panchayati Raj Day in Madhubani



(L-R) Pakistan National LeT terrorists Hashim Musa, Adil Hussain Thoker and Ali Bhai. (J&K Police)

district of Bihar, PM Modi stated that the brutality of terrorists in J&K's Pahalgam on April 22, who claimed the innocent lives, has shocked the entire nation.

"On April 22, terrorists killed innocent people of the country in J-K's Pahalgam. The country is in mourning and pain following this incident. We stand with the families of the victims. Today, from the soil of Bihar, I tell you, India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist, their handlers, and their backers. We will pursue them to the end of the earth," PM Modi said.

During the speech, PM Modi emphasised that every effort will be made to ensure the justice of the innocent lives who were killed during the attack.

"Terrorism will never break India's spirit. Terrorism will not go unpunished. Every effort will be made to ensure that justice is done. The entire nation is firm in this resolve. Everyone who believes in humanity is on our side. I thank the people of various countries and their leaders, who have stood with us in these times," he added.

"I want to say in unambiguous words that these terrorists and those who conspired towards this attack will get a punishment bigger than they can imagine. The willpower of 140 crore Indians will now break the back of the masters of terror," PM Modi further added. Before beginning his speech in Bihar's Madhubani, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also observed a moment

of silence to honor the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

According to police records, Musa and Ali have been active in the Kashmir Valley for almost two years now. While Musa is believed to have infiltrated in September 2023, his area of operation was mainly the Budgam district, which falls in the vicinity of Srinagar city, highly placed sources told The Indian Express.

Records also suggest that Ali arrived in the Valley after Musa and was active in the Dachigam forests on the outskirts of Srinagar city. The Dachigam National Park connects to Tral and then to Pahalgam through dense mountainous forests.

Thoker, police records indicate, went to Pakistan in 2018 and returned to the Valley last year. A resident of Gurre village of Bijbehara in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, Thoker, police believe, has been acting as a local guide of the "well-trained and battle-hardened" Pakistani terrorists.

Police sources said the sketches are based on eyewitness accounts. "In some cases, they were shown pictures of active militants and asked to identify if any of the attackers resembled them," a police officer in south Kashmir said.

Police sources said they are looking at the possibility of a fourth terrorist in the group. "We are trying to gather information about him; if he is a local or a foreign terrorist," said a senior officer.

## What is The Resistance Front, the group claiming the deadly Kashmir attack?

Kashmir Resistance, also known as The Resistance Front, has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack on tourists in Indian-administered Kashmir, the deadliest incident of its kind in India since the 2008 shootings in Mumbai.

Here are some facts about the group.

TRF emerged in 2019 and is considered an offshoot of the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, a Delhi-based think tank.

Indian security officials said TRF uses the name Kashmir Resistance on social media and online forums, where it claimed responsibility for Tuesday's attack in Indian Kashmir's Pahalgam area.

Lashkar-e-Taiba, listed as a foreign terrorist organisation by the United States, is the Islamist



group accused of plotting attacks in India and in the West, including the three-day assault on Mumbai in November 2008.

"This is basically a front of the LeT. These are groups which have been created over the last years, particularly when Pakistan was under pressure from the Financial Action Task Force and they were trying to create a pattern of denial that they were involved in terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir," said Ajai Sahni, head of the South Asia Terrorism Portal.

The group has not previously had any large incidents attributed to it, according to Sahni.

"All TRF operations are essentially LeT operations. There will be some measure of operational freedom as to where they hit on the ground, but the sanction would have come from the LeT," Sahni said.

India's interior ministry told parliament in 2023 that the group had been involved in the planning of killings of security force personnel and civilians in Jammu and Kashmir.

The group also co-ordinated the recruitment of militants and the smuggling of weapons and narcotics across the border, the ministry said.

Intelligence officials told Reuters that TRF had also been issuing online threats against pro-India groups for the past two years.

Pakistan has denied that it supports and funds militants in Kashmir, saying it offers only moral and diplomatic support.





## Pakistan violates ceasefire along LoC yet again, Indian Army fires back

Pakistan once again violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control in Kashmir and opened unprovoked firing across from their posts on the intervening night of April 25-26, officials aware of the matter said.

The officials said Indian troops retaliated appropriately with small arms, and no casualties were reported during the incident.

"On the night of April 25 and 26, unprovoked small arms firings were carried out by various Pakistan Army posts all across the LoC in Kashmir...Indian troops responded appropriately with small arms," they said.

This is the second time Pakistan has violated the ceasefire along the Line of Control since the deadly terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22 that killed at least 26 people, mostly tourists.

Before this, Pakistan troops opened fire at multiple locations along the Line of Control on the intervening night of Thursday-Friday as well, according to the Indian Army, which was also met with retaliation.

# Pahalgam attack: Houses of 5 terrorists razed in J&K

SRINAGAR (TIP)

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday, April 26, demolished the house of several terrorists in the wake of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 people.

The house of Shahid Ahmed Kuttey was demolished in Shopian's Chotipora village by the security forces.

The law enforcement authorities razed the homes of three terrorists on Friday night, one each in Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama.

On Friday, April 25, the houses of two Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorists were demolished.

Officials said that they were conducting searches inside the houses of two LeT terrorists Adil Hussain Thoker and Asif Sheikh, when the explosives already kept inside the houses went off.



The house of a terror suspect was demolished by security forces in Shopian, J&K.

Adil had illegally travelled to Pakistan in 2018, where he reportedly received terror training before returning to Jammu and Kashmir last year.

The house of Lashkar-e-Toiba terrorist Haris Ahmad, who was active since 2023,

was destroyed in a blast in the Kachipora area of Pulwama. The security forces also demolished the house of Ahsan ul Haq Sheikh, who was trained in Pakistan in 2018 and re-entered the Kashmir Valley.

Army chief reviews

security situation in J&K

On Friday, April 25, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi reviewed the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir in his first visit to the Union territory since the Pahalgam attack.

He was also briefed on the actions being taken by the formations against terrorists inside their territory and the Pakistan Army's attempts to violate the ceasefire along the Line of Control.

Since the terror attack, there has been an increase in ceasefire violations by Pakistan, to which the Indian forces have given a befitting reply.

According to the officials, multiple Pakistan Army posts carried out firing on the intervening night of April 25 and 26, which led to Indian troops retaliating with small arms. No casualties have been reported.

Source: HT

Kerala Folk Arts Festival, Children's Talent Competition along with the Miss Global Malayalee Pageant to elect the winner based on one's personality, poise, confidence, presentation and intellect, will be part of the first ever Global Malayalee Festival planned to be held at Crown Plaza Hotel on August 15-16, 2025.

The organizers have urged Malayalees from across the globe to be part of this historic event planned to be held in Kerala. Presentation of Kerala Folk Arts like, Kalaripayattu, Theyam, Ottam Thullal, Parichamuttu Kali, Mappilla Pattu, Kadhkali, and Mohini Aattam will be performed during the Miss Global Malayalee Pageant and will elect the best Malayalee woman between 18 and 25 years old.

Expecting participation from the people of Malayalee origin from around the world, the major focus of the Festival is the Global Malayalee Trade, Technology, and Investment Meet planned for August 16th, where Malayalee and foreign business leaders will deliberate on ways to expand business and trade investments in Kerala.

Boat tour Kochi Backwaters will be arranged for those who want to go sight seeing of Kochi. Global Malayalee Festival will be a true family event where everybody can enjoy. All Malayalee families outside and in India are urged to participate in this great first time event ever organized.

The first ever Global Malayalee Trade, Technology and Investment

## Kerala Folk Arts Festival, Children's Talent Competition at Global Malayalee Festival in Kochi



Several signatories including the Chief Minister, Tourism Minister, Central Ministers, Political Leaders, Elected Leaders and Foreign Dinghies are expected to be present in the evening public meeting and awards ceremony.

Living thousands of miles away from this beautiful land of diverse traditions, yet the center of global ambitions, every Malayalee longs to be connected with and rediscover her/his roots. The first ever Global Malayalee Festival planned to be held from August 15th to 16th, 2025 in Kochi, the most modern and ancient city of the state of Kerala, promises to offer the millions of Malayalees spread across the globe, a unique opportunity to "Bond Beyond Borders," to experience and relive the rich cultural heritage of Kerala.

Andrew Pappachen, the Director & Chief Organizing Officer of the Global Malayalee Festival urged the Malayalee Diaspora to "be part of the cultural celebrations, celebrating our

achievements, transformative discussions, and groundbreaking ideas at the inaugural Global Malayalee Festival in Kochi."

The Festival 2025 brings together Malayalee diaspora leaders, innovators, and visionaries from around the globe to discuss and collaborate on shaping future technologies and their impact on global communities. The festival will feature keynote sessions, panel discussions, cultural showcases, and networking opportunities designed to celebrate and empower the Malayalee diaspora's contributions to the cultural and technological advancement of the world.

Dr. Abdulla Manjeri, the Director and Managing Director of the Festival said, "The Global Malayalee Festival is a celebration of Kerala's culture, heritage, and global connections, offering opportunities for growth, networking, and unity. It blends tradition with modern opportunities, focusing on areas like trade and investment and celebration."

Early registration is open till May 20 at a discounted rate of Rs.22500 for single, Rs.30000 for double and Rs. 7500 per child.

Please visit [www.globalmalayaleefestival.com](http://www.globalmalayaleefestival.com)

Write to: [registration@globalmalayaleefestival.com](mailto:registration@globalmalayaleefestival.com)



## They shot my father on the head, behind the ear and back: Survivor recalls Pahalgam terror attack

The family was cowering in fear inside a tent when terrorists came. They asked Santosh Jagdale, 54, to come out and recite an Islamic verse. When he couldn't, they shot him thrice: once in the head, then behind the ear and then his back.

The 26-year-old daughter of the Pune businessman recounted to PTI the terror the family went through in the horrific attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

After her father fell to the ground, the gunmen turned on her uncle who was lying next to her and shot him several times in the back.

"We were a group of five people, including my parents. We were in Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam and were at a spit called Mini Switzerland when the firing began," Asavari Jagdale told PTI in a telephonic interview five hours after the shooting.

According to officials, a total of 26 people were killed and several injured, most of them tourists in the deadliest terrorist attack in Kashmir in recent years.

She, her mother and another female relative were spared, and locals and security forces evacuated them to Pahalgam Club where they remain clueless about the fate of the two men.

Asavari, 26, a human resource professional in Pune, said the family was on a vacation at the idyllic spot when they heard firing from "people who wore clothes similar to those of local police" descending from the nearby hill.

"We immediately rushed to a nearby tent for protection. So did six to seven others (tourists). We all lay down on the ground as protection against the firing which we then assumed was between the terrorists and security personnel," Asavari said.

She said the group of terrorists first came to a nearby tent and opened fire.

"Then they came to our tent and asked my father to come out," she said. "They said 'Chaudhari tu bahar aa ja'" Asavari said.



Asavari Jagdale, daughter of Pune-based Santosh Jagdale, in blood-stained cloths leads her father's funeral in Pune. Photo: HT

Then the terrorists blamed them for supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after which they made some statements to deny that Kashmiri militants kill innocent people, women and children, she said.

"They then asked my father to recite an Islamic verse (probably the Kalma). When he failed to do so, they pumped three bullets into him, one on the head, one behind the ear and another in the back," she said. "My uncle was next to me. The terrorists fired four to five bullets into him. They shot several other males who were at the spot. There was nobody to help. No police or army, who reached 20 minutes later. Even the locals there were reciting the Islamic verse.

"The people who took us to the spot on ponies helped us -- three women, including myself and my mother -- make the return journey. Later we underwent medical examination to check for injuries and were then shifted to Pahalgam Club. "The firing happened around 3.30 pm. It has been 5 hours and there has been no update on my father's and uncle's medical condition," Asavari said.

Source: PTI

## 'Terrorist was laughing after shooting my husband', says victim's widow

The wife of Shailesh Kalathiya, a Surat resident who was among the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, recounted the horrific moment on Thursday, saying that the terrorists showed no remorse and were even seen laughing after fatally shooting her husband.

Kalathiya was one of three victims from Gujarat killed in the brutal attack in Pahalgam, South Kashmir, on Tuesday, which claimed 26 lives. The other two victims from the state, Yatish Parmar and his son Smit, hailed from Bhavnagar. All three were cremated on Thursday in their respective hometowns, where grief-stricken locals joined the funeral processions to pay their last respects.

### 'Hindu men were shot in front of their children'

Shitalben Kalathiya, the wife of deceased Shailesh Kalathiya, was visibly upset when her husband's mortal remains were being taken to a crematorium from their house. Talking to reporters, she said the terrorists showed no mercy as they were laughing after killing her husband from a very close range.

"A terrorist first came close to us and then shot my husband after learning that he is a Hindu. Just like my husband, other Hindu men were shot in front of their children. The terrorist was laughing after shooting my husband and did not leave the place till he died," she said.

Shailesh Kalathiya was vacationing in Pahalgam along with his wife Shitalben, son Naksh and elder daughter Niti when the group of terrorists struck Baisaran.

### Terrorists divided men in two groups Hindus and Muslims

Kalathiya's son, Naksh,

performed the last rites of his father in Surat. Speaking to reporters afterward, an emotional Naksh revealed that his father was targeted specifically for being a Hindu and was shot dead by one of the terrorists right in front of him and his mother.

"As soon as we heard gunshots, all the tourists started running in search of cover at Pahalgam. Two terrorists eventually found us and asked all of us to identify our religion. They divided men in two groups - Hindus and Muslims. Then, they shot dead all the Hindu men, including my father, and ran away," Naksh said.

"At the time of the attack, there were nearly 20 to 30 tourists in that area. I feared that I would also be killed. After separating Hindus from Muslims, the terrorists asked them to recite 'kalma'. Muslims who recited it were spared.

But those who could not recite were gunned down," he said.

At Bhavnagar, Smit Parmar's maternal cousin, Sarthak Nathani, recounted the harrowing events of the terror attack. He said that out of the 20 people from Bhavnagar who had travelled to Srinagar, including members of the Parmar and Nathani families, 12 had gone to Pahalgam, where they were ambushed by terrorists.

Nathani described how the attackers, dressed in green outfits resembling Army uniforms and with their faces uncovered, opened fire indiscriminately. "Everyone started running due to indiscriminate firing from all sides. Yatishbhai was shot dead by terrorists. I saw from some distance that a terrorist then asked Smit something and then pumped a bullet from close range," Nathani said.

## Widow after six days of wedding

The sindoor in her hair was still fresh. Her bridal bangles still jingled on her wrists. And her heart full of excitement and dreams of a married life that had just begun was brutally broken on Tuesday when just six days into her marriage, 24-year-old Himanshi Sowami was left a widow.

Her husband, 26-year-old Lieutenant Vinay Narwal of the Indian Navy, was killed in a savage terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, on Tuesday, days after the couple tied the knot in Mussoorie. What began as the most beautiful chapter of their lives has ended in a page soaked with blood and tears.

After exchanging vows at the destination wedding surrounded by close friends and family, Vinay and Himanshi had dreamt of a honeymoon in Switzerland. The newlyweds were supposed to be walking under alpine skies, not under the shadow of a massacre.

Visa delays made them alter their plans. They opted for Pahalgam, closer and supposed to be tranquil, his grandfather Hawa Singh said.

Singh said that he is confident that if his



The wife of Navy officer Lieutenant Vinay Narwal mourns his death, in New Delhi on April 23. Photo: ANI

brave grandson was not shot, he would have killed atleast 2-3 terrorists.

"We all celebrated the marriage just three days ago and didn't know this could happen to us," he said. As Asha Narwal, Vinay's mother, was still receiving congratulatory messages from neighbours in Sector 7 of Karnal, fate had already turned its face away from the family.

Vinay, on honeymoon with the love of his life, became one of the 26 victims of a ruthless terrorist ambush targeting tourists in the region.



People attend the funeral of Shailesh Kalathiya, a Surat resident, who was killed in Pahalgam terror attack. IMAGE SOURCE : PTI



# US Vice-President anticipates India-America partnership successful in 21st Century

By Dr YashGoyal  
Special Correspondent

Jaipur, April 22. TIP

In the aftermath of tariff war and bitter relationship with China and others, the American Vice-President Mr J D Vance vehemently said that if India and the US work together successfully, both are going to see a 21st century that is prosperous and peaceful.

"But I also believe that if we fail to work together successfully, the 21st century could be a very dark time for all of humanity. We are now officially one quarter into the 21st century, 25 years, and 75 years to go. I really believe that the future of the 21st century is going to be determined by the strength of the US-India partnership. It's clear to me, as it is to most observers, that President Trump, of course, intends to rebalance America's economic relationship with the rest of the world", Vance claimed.

In about 30-minutes speech on his maiden four-day visit to India, Vance told the businessmen, state ministers, bureaucrats, capitalists, and students at Rajasthan International Centre in Jaipur, "Because our partnership is so important to the future of the world, I believe President Trump's efforts - joined, of course, by the whole country of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will make the 21st century the best century in human history."

US Vice-President called upon India 'to buy more of US military equipment and expand American energy purchases while offering to help in exploring the country's "own considerable natural resources".

Referring to the bilateral goal of doubling trade to \$500 billion by the end of the decade, Vance overwhelmingly said, "We are especially excited to formally announce that America and India have officially finalised the terms of reference for the trade negotiation. I believe this is a vital step toward realising President Trump's and Prime Minister Modi's vision because it sets a roadmap toward a final deal between our nations. I believe there is much that America and India can accomplish together. And on that note, I want to talk about a few areas of collaboration today, how India and the US can work together. First, perhaps most importantly, to protect our nations. Second, to build great things. And finally, to innovate the cutting-edge technologies both our countries will need in the years to come".

Vance recalled that Trump had sought to rebalance global trade so that America, with friends like India, can build a future worth having for all of our people together. And when President Trump and Prime Minister Modi announced in February that their countries aimed to more than double our bilateral trade to \$500 billion by the end



Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and Deputy CM Diya Kumari extended warm welcome to Vice President and his family at Amber Fort.



US VP gets rousing welcome by KaalBelia Dancers and Elephant full dress show at Amber Fort in Jaipur (both pics by CMO, GOR.)

of the decade, he said, and added, "I know that both of them meant it".

On defence deals, the Vice-President said, "Our countries already enjoy a close relationship, one of the closest relationships in the world. America does more military exercises with India than we do with any other nation. The US-India Compact that President Trump and

Prime Minister Modi announced in February will lay the foundation for even closer collaboration. From javelins to striker combat vehicles, our nations will co-produce many of the munitions and equipment that we'll need to deter foreign aggressors, not because we seek

war but because we seek peace and we believe the best path to peace is through mutual strength".

"The launching of the Joint Autonomous Systems Industry Alliance will enable America and India to develop the most state-of-the-art maritime systems needed for victory. It's fitting that India is hosting the Quad Leaders Summit this fall. Our interests in a free, open, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific are in full alignment", he anticipated.

"And we want your nation (India) to buy more of our military equipment, which we believe is the best in class.

American fifth-generation F-35s, for example, would give the Indian Air Force the ability to defend your airspace and protect your people like never before, and I've met a lot of great people from the Indian Air Force just in the last couple of days. India, like America, wants to build, and that will mean that we have to produce more energy. It's more energy production and more energy consumption, and it's one of the many reasons why I think our nations have so much to gain by strengthening our energy ties", Vance expressed.

Hailing Modi several times in his speech, the Vice-President, who was hosted dinner at PM's house in Delhi on Monday after arrival from USA, said, "Now, I've talked about this, of course, with Modi, and look, Trump and I know that he is a tough negotiator. He drives a hard bargain. It's one of the reasons why we respect him. And we don't blame Modi for fighting for India's industry, but we do blame American leaders of the past for failing to do the same for our workers. We believe that we can fix that to the mutual benefit of both the US and India".

There's a vitality to India, a sense of infinite possibility, of new homes to be built, new skylines to be raised, and lives to be enriched. And there's a pride in being Indian, a feeling of excitement about the days that lie ahead. It's a striking contrast with too many in the West, where some in our leadership class seem stricken by self-doubt and even fear of the future, he optimistically said.

Quoting the previous US government of Mr Joe Biden's attitude towards Modi government, he clarified he was not in India to preach that you do things any one particular way. Too often in the past, Washington approached Prime Minister Modi with an attitude of preachiness, or even one of condescension, he accused the Biden government. "Prior US administration saw India as a source of low-cost labour on the one hand, even as they criticised the Prime Minister's government, arguably the most popular in the democratic world. And as I told Prime Minister Modi last night, he's got approval ratings that would make me jealous. But it wasn't just India. This attitude captured too much of our economic relationship with the rest of the world", he added.

In his simple message to partners, Vance offered that the US Administration seeks trade partners on the basis of fairness and shared national interests. "We want to build relationship with our foreign partners who respect their workers, who do not suppress their wages to boost exports, but respect the value of their labour. We want partners that are committed to working

with America to build things, not just allowing themselves to become a conduit for trans-shipping others' goods. And finally, we want to partner with people



From page 20

and countries who recognise the historic nature of the moment we're in, of the need to come together and build something truly new, a system of global trade that is balanced, one that is open, and one that is stable and fair", he elaborated.

Admitting that the critics have attacked his President Trump for starting a trade war in an effort to bring back the jobs of the past, he said, adding, "But nothing could be further from the truth. Trump seeks to rebalance global trade so that America, with friends like India, can build a future worth having for all of our people together. And when President Trump and Prime Minister Modi announced in February that our countries aim to more than double our bilateral trade to \$500 billion by the end of the decade, I know that both of them meant it"

Defending Trump's new format of tariff, he said, "As a result, under the Trump administration, America now has a government that has learned from the mistakes of the past. It's why President Trump cares so deeply about protecting the manufacturing economy that is the lifeblood of American prosperity, and making sure America's workers have opportunities for good jobs. As we saw earlier this month, he will go to extraordinary lengths to protect and expand those opportunities for all Americans".

On Tuesday, April 22, he along with his family members took sight seen of



Vance addressing a special gathering of businessmen, bureaucrats, others at RIC in Jaipur

(Pic courtesy PTI).

Amber Fort, in the afternoon he addressed a political-socio session, and stayed back at Ram Bagh Taj Hotel. On Wednesday morning he went to Agra for Taj Mahal sightseeing.

#### Vance shares personal and emotional information in his speech:

My son, Ewan, is seven years old. He's our firstborn son. Yesterday, after we had dinner at the prime minister's house, the food was so good and the prime minister was so kind to our three children that Ewan came up to me afterwards and he said, "Dad, you know, I think maybe I could live in India." But

I think after about 90 minutes in the Jaipur sun today at the Great Palace, he suggested that maybe we should move to England. So you take the good with the bad here.

There you are, Usha. Thank you. She's a bit of a celebrity, it turns out, in India, I think more so than her husband. But I haven't been here long, but already I've been fortunate enough to visit the Akshardham Temple. Did I pronounce that right, honey? I did okay? All right. With my family this morning, as a matter of fact. And last night, Prime Minister Modi welcomed me, Usha, and our three small children

at his beautiful home.

The prime minister said, I have one request. I want you to talk a little bit about your background. And so I wanted to do that. For those of you who don't know anything about me, I want to talk about it. I come from, and I'm biased, the greatest state in the Union, the state of Ohio, a longtime manufacturing powerhouse in the US. My home, specifically, is a place called Middletown. Now it's not a massive city by any means, it's not Jaipur, but it's a decent-sized town and a place where people make things, which has been a point of pride in Middletown for generations. It's filled with families like my own, some of whom called us hillbillies - Americans who came down from the surrounding hills and mountains of West Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky to cities like Middletown in pursuit of the manufacturing jobs that were creating widespread prosperity for families all across America. They came to Middletown in search of, what we call back home, the American dream. In Middletown, my parents raised me. My grandparents raised me. They taught us to work hard, they taught me to study hard, and they taught me to love God and my country and always be good to your own. My granddad, who I called Papaw growing up, he typified that.

(News Story is based on live coverage of Vance speech by CNBC live)

## Usha Vance: From Legal Luminary to Second Lady of the US

Usha Bala Chilukuri Vance, born on January 6, 1986, in San Diego, California, has emerged as a prominent figure in American public life. As the wife of Vice President JD Vance, she holds the distinction of being the first Indian-American, Hindu, and Millennial to serve as the Second Lady of the United States.

### Early Life and Education

Raised in Rancho Peñasquitos, a suburb of San Diego, Usha is the daughter of Telugu-speaking Hindu immigrants from Andhra Pradesh, India. Her father, Radhakrishna "Krish" Chilukuri, is an aerospace engineer and lecturer at San Diego State University, while her mother, Lakshmi Chilukuri, serves as the provost at the University of California, San Diego.

Usha's academic journey began at Yale University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in History and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. She then pursued an MPhil in Modern History at Clare College, University of Cambridge, as a Gates Cambridge Scholar. Returning to Yale, she obtained her Juris Doctor from Yale Law School, serving as the executive development editor for the Yale Law Journal.

### Legal Career

Usha's legal career is marked by prestigious clerkships and positions. She clerked for Judge Brett Kavanaugh on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and later for Chief Justice John Roberts on the U.S. Supreme Court. Subsequently, she joined the law firm Munger, Tolles & Olson, specializing in civil litigation and appeals, with a focus on higher education, local government, and technology sectors.

### Personal Life and Political Involvement

Usha met JD Vance at Yale Law School, where they co-



US Vice President JD Vance, wife Usha and 3 kids visit Taj Mahal.

organized a discussion group on "social decline in white America." They married in 2014 and have three children: Ewan, Vivek, and Mirabel. Initially a registered Democrat, Usha's political alignment evolved alongside her husband's career. She played a pivotal role in JD Vance's 2024 vice-presidential campaign, offering strategic advice and support. Following his nomination, she resigned from her legal position to focus on family and public service.

### Role as Second Lady

Since assuming the role of Second Lady in January 2025, Usha has been active in diplomatic and cultural engagements. During a visit to India, she emphasized the cultural significance of the trip for her family, highlighting her Indian heritage.

In the absence of First Lady Melania Trump from public duties, Usha has taken on increased responsibilities, including international visits and hosting major events, effectively stepping into a First Lady-like role.



# FEDERAL LEADERS ECHO MESSAGES IN FINAL PUSH TO CANADA'S ELECTION DAY

CANADIANS CAST BALLOTS TO CHOOSE THEIR NEXT GOVERNMENT ON MONDAY, APRIL 28

APRIL 25, 2025

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Federal party leaders hit the hustings Friday, April 25, with election day fast approaching, as Mark Carney of the Liberals focused on U.S. tariff threats in a steel town and Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre campaigned on his anti-crime platform in Saskatoon.

The Liberals are widely seen to be leading in the polls, with the Conservatives in second place and the Bloc Québécois, NDP and Greens trailing behind.

The campaign stops in the final phase of the election are showing each leader's hand, said David McGrane, a political scientist at the University of Saskatchewan.

The Conservatives are trying to hold onto their seats through visits from Poilievre, McCrane said, while the Liberals are confident enough they'll form government that Carney is spending time in contested ridings.

"Historically this is sort of the equivalent of a poker player having a tell," he said. "They're telling their opponents essentially what they have in their hands."

Carney visited the Algoma Steel factory in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to highlight his party's promise to forge a procurement strategy that relies on homegrown materials.

The Liberals also pledge to build an all-in-Canada auto manufacturing network using domestic steel, aluminum and critical minerals.

NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh campaigned in Ontario in Liberal-leaning ridings in Toronto, Hamilton and London. He said at a morning campaign stop he feared the Liberals would win re-



From left to right: NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, Liberal leader Mark Carney, Bloc Québécois leader Yves-François Blanchet, and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre. Credit: BBC

election and implement large budget reductions reminiscent of the party's cuts in the 1990s.

Poilievre began his day with a press conference in Saskatoon, where he pledged to pass an affordability law and a "massive omnibus crime bill" within the first 100 days if he becomes prime minister.

He also said he would call U.S. President Donald Trump on Day 1 to tell him tariffs are destructive, and seek to begin renegotiating North America's free trade deal right away.

Poilievre stopped in Calgary en route to NanOOSE Bay, B.C., and metro Vancouver before he ends the campaign in his Ottawa riding Sunday.

Recent polls suggest that ridings in both Saskatoon and the Nanaimo area, which includes NanOOSE Bay, are leaning Conservative.

Carney planned to participate in a virtual Assembly of First Nations forum before additional Ontario events in Georgetown, Cambridge and London.

Polls suggest that the Liberals are leading in Ontario, though two ridings in the London area and the riding of Sault Ste. Marie-Algoma are leaning Conservative.

McCrane said it was not encouraging for the Conservatives that Poilievre visited Saskatchewan at the tail end of the election campaign, after the Tories took all 14 ridings in the province in 2021.

"It does appear to be a bit of a sign of weakness on his part, making the Saskatchewan stop so late in the campaign, when every minute of the time (left) really matters," he said.

Elections Canada data on advance-poll voting that took place April 18 to 21 shows that districts where party leaders

are candidates had some of the highest turnout.

The riding with the most votes in advance polling was Carleton in the Ottawa area, where Poilievre is defending his seat, while the neighboring Nepean riding where Carney is on the ballot ranked fifth.

Second in voter turnout was Saanich-Gulf Islands, held by Green co-leader Elizabeth May, while Singh's Burnaby Central riding was in the middle of the pack of 343 ridings.

As parties prepare for final voting Monday, McCrane said he is not surprised to see leaders reiterating messages they have been communicating for weeks, instead of outlining new pledges.

"It's tough to sort of make huge changes at the end of the campaign," he said. Instead, parties try appealing to the 15 to 25 per cent of the population that tends to wait to decide how to vote.

"You've got to hope that in this last little bit here, that those late-deciders are starting to come your way, and usually how you do that is by reinforcement," McCrane said.

That entails the Liberals talking about experienced leadership, the Tories focusing on affordability, the NDP seeking influence on issues like health care and the Bloc Québécois saying it can push for Quebec's interests.

Bloc Leader Yves-François Blanchet put that perspective in frank terms Friday, calling Canada "an artificial country with very little meaning" at a campaign stop in Shawinigan, Que. "It's a foreign Parliament, because this nation is not mine."

(Source: Chat News )

## Canadian PM reveals Trump brought up '51st state' during March call

APRIL 24, 2025

**OTTAWA (TIP):** Donald Trump raised the matter of making Canada the US's 51st state in a March call with Prime Minister Mark Carney, the Liberal Party leader acknowledged.

The two men spoke on 28 March, the first week of the Canadian election season, but Carney had not previously shared this detail of the call, according to the Globe and Mail.

"The president brings this up all the time. He brought it up yesterday. He brought it up before," Carney said at a Thursday, April 24 campaign press conference.

Pressed by reporters, he added, "I said that he did. He has these things in his mind. This is not news."

Canada will hold elections on Monday, and Trump's tariff policies and musings about making its northern neighbor part of the United States have become critical issues in the race.

"To be clear, as I've said to anyone who's raised this issue in private or in public, including the president, it will never happen," Carney added.

On Wednesday, Trump said he'd spoken to Carney several times.

"We had a couple of very nice conversations. Very good," he said in response to a BBC question. "But I don't think it's appropriate for me to get involved in



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and US President Donald Trump

their election."

Despite Trump's insistence on staying neutral, he looms heavily over Canada's election.

Since his re-election, Trump repeatedly has mentioned making Canada the "51st state" of America, which rattled Canadian leaders and infuriated residents.

He referred to then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as "governor"- the title for the leaders of individual US states.

His talk of a "51st state," coupled with the trade war sparked by Trump's tariffs, has unleashed a patriotic

fervor in Canada. Even in Quebec, a province where talk of independence has long simmered, voters told the BBC they wanted leadership that would stand up to Trump.

At a French language debate last week, all four major federal party leaders were grilled on how they would respond to Trump.

Both Carney, who leads the Liberal Party, and Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, have sought to convince voters that their party is the best choice to address the trade war with the US and guide Canadians through the resulting economic uncertainty.

Trump has placed a 25% tariff on goods imported to the US from Canada, but has exempted products covered by a North American trade deal known as USMCA. He also hit Canada with global US tariffs on steel, aluminum and automobiles.

In March, when Trump placed a 25% tariff on Canadian-made automobiles, Poilievre delivered remarks "condemning, without equivocation, the unjustified and unprovoked tariffs that President Trump has now announced against our auto sector."

Polling suggests the Liberal Party holds a slight lead over the Conservatives, though the margin is tightening, according to a CBC News poll tracker.

Canadians have shattered early vote records, with more than 7m people casting their ballots so far.



# WITNESS BUSINESS WOMEN TRAILBLAZERS SHARE THEIR LIFE'S EXPERIENCES: LESSONS LEARNED

BY MABEL PAIS

Asia Society, New York in partnership with Culture Tree hosts an inspiring in-person conversation with two of the most influential business women trailblazers of our time, INDRA NOOYI and SHEILA LIRIO MARCELO. This event will delve into their remarkable journeys, highlighting their groundbreaking achievements and the unique challenges they have faced. They will share their personal histories, professional milestones, and strategies that have defined their careers. The two speakers will also discuss the pivotal moments that shaped their paths, the obstacles they overcame, and the lessons they learned along the way.

This is an opportunity to hear from two titans who continue to inspire and pave the way for future generations as women of the Asian Diaspora.

**WHAT:** (WOMEN) TRAILBLAZERS IN BUSINESS: LEADERS AND IDEAS

**WHERE:** ASIA SOCIETY, 725 Park Avenue (at 70th Street)

New York, NY 10021

General Inquiries: 212-288-6400

Box Office: 212-517-ASIA (2742)

**WHEN:** APRIL 29, 2025, 6-7 PM, Reception to follow

**Vicky Nguyen, NBC News Daily Anchor will moderate the program. Lulu C. Wang, Founder and CEO of Tupelo Capital Management, will provide opening remarks. Anu Segal, founder of The Culture Tree, will provide closing remarks.**

## SPEAKERS

**Indra Nooyi** served as CEO and chairman of PepsiCo from 2006 to 2019. During her tenure, the company's shareholder returns exceeded that of the S&P 500. She served as a member of the PepsiCo Board of Directors from 2001 to February 2019. Today, she is a member of the board of Amazon, the supervisory board of Philips, a member of the International Advisory Council of Temasek, and a member of the Advisory Board of Apollo Investment. She is on the Dean's Advisory council at MIT's School of Engineering and also serves on the boards of the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Board of Trustees of the National Gallery of Art.

She is the author of the book 'My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future,' a memoir that offers insight and a call-to-



(left to right): Sheila Lirio Marcelo, Vicky Nguyen, Indra Nooyi.

action on how our society can blend work and family - and advance women - in the 21st century, a New York Times bestseller and available in multiple languages. She is the recipient of 18 honorary degrees. In 2007, the Government of India awarded her the Padma Bhushan, the country's 3rd highest civilian honor, and in that same year, named an "Outstanding American by choice" by the Department of Homeland Security/US Citizenship and Immigration Services. Learn more at [indranooyi.com](http://indranooyi.com).

**Sheila Lirio Marcelo** has more than 20 years of leadership experience in internet consumer marketplace businesses, including as the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Ohai.ai, a cutting-edge technology startup leveraging generative AI to improve the lives of families. She was a former Venture Partner at New Enterprise Associates and is a founding board member of The Asian American Foundation. She previously founded Care.com in 2006 and took it public in 2014; she was Chairwoman and CEO until early 2020, when the company was sold to IAC. She has been honored with

numerous accolades. She was on Forbes 50 Over 50, she was one of Fortune's "Top 10 Women Entrepreneurs" and appeared at Fortune's Most Powerful Women Summit.

She has a J.D. and M.B.A. with honors from Harvard University. In 2014, Marcelo became the youngest recipient of the Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award. Learn more at [sheilaliriomarcelo.com](http://sheilaliriomarcelo.com).

**Vicky Nguyen** (moderator) is NBC News Daily Anchor and NBC News Chief Consumer Investigative Correspondent in New York. She is author of Boat Baby: A Memoir, which tells the story of her family's daring escape from communist Vietnam and her unlikely journey from refugee to reporter. Learn more at [vickynguyen.com](http://vickynguyen.com).

**Lulu C. Wang** is the Founder and CEO of Tupelo Capital Management, which she founded in 1998 for partnerships and transitioned into a family office in 2008. Prior to that, Ms. Wang was a director and executive vice president of Jennison Associates Capital Corporation, where she managed large equity funds for pension, endowment, and mutual funds. Learn more at [\[kong/lulu-c-wang\]\(http://kong/lulu-c-wang\).](http://asiasociety.org/hong-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**Anu Sehgal** is a children's author and the Founder/CEO of The Culture Tree, the largest cultural literacy and language education company for kids focusing on South Asia. Anu believes awareness of one's heritage, culture, and language is key for children to become self-aware and confident individuals. She holds an MBA from Yale University and has worked in the corporate sector for almost 15 years. She has received several awards and recognitions for her work in cultural literacy. Anu has written five books that represent stories and languages of India. Learn more at [theculturetree.com](http://theculturetree.com).

## TICKETS

Tickets to witness these trailblazer women can be purchased at [asiasociety.org/new-york/events/trailblazers-business-sheila-lirio-marcelo-and-indra-nooyi](http://asiasociety.org/new-york/events/trailblazers-business-sheila-lirio-marcelo-and-indra-nooyi).

*(Mabel Pais writes on Business, Education, The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, Spirituality, and Cuisine)*

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## 'PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL' RETURNS IN JUNE WITH FULL LINEUP

BY MABEL PAIS

### THEME: LAUGHS AND JAMS

#### 'PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE' June 2025

The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival,' produced by NJPAC with Prudential Financial as title sponsor, returns this June featuring 'Laughs and Jams': A star-studded lineup of musical superstars and world-class comics.

'Prudential North to Shore Festival' will return in June 2025, building on the momentum of two extraordinarily successful festivals in 2023 and 2024, with an expanded lineup that runs from June 14 through June 29.

Watch a NJEDA preview video of the Festival - [youtu.be/f79GiHpcAQk](https://youtu.be/f79GiHpcAQk)

Conceived by Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy in 2023, this year's festival returns with a special focus on comedy and music - 'Laughs and Jams.'

In its first two years, the festival brought in more than \$25 million for ticketed events and has drawn a total audience of over 500,000 to more than 650 shows in 250 venues in Newark, Asbury Park and Atlantic City, making it New Jersey's largest summer arts festival. Prudential Financial returns as the festival's title sponsor, as part of the Newark-based company's celebration of its 150th anniversary. There are additional NJ sponsors.

### PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS REWARDS

'Prudential North to Shore' has again collaborated with advisory groups in Atlantic City, Asbury Park and Newark to provide 'Prudential North to Shore Community Arts Awards.' Through this program, the festival awards local artists, arts organizations, nonprofits and small businesses with up to \$10,000 each to self-produce performing and visual arts events during the festival. This year, 'Prudential North to Shore' will kick off year-round community programming in Atlantic City starting on June 14.

A full list of the *Prudential North to Shore Community Arts Awards recipients* can be viewed @ [northtoshore.com/community-arts-grants](https://northtoshore.com/community-arts-grants).

Additionally, select Community Arts Awards winners will be offered the opportunity to perform as opening acts for headliners appearing at mainstage and club venues in Asbury Park and Newark, giving them an unprecedented opportunity to connect with new fans.

The 2025 'Prudential North to Shore Festival' which runs June 14-29, has its full line up by City and Date. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

### NORTH TO SHORE FULL LINE UP BY CITY + DATE

#### ASBURY PARK

June 14: Eggy at Wonder Bar.  
June 15: Los Angeles League of Musicians (LA LOM) at Wonder Bar.  
June 16: "Happy Mondays" (lineup TBA) at Wonder Bar.  
June 18: Motion City Soundtrack at Stone Pony.  
June 19: Steel Pulse at Stone Pony.  
June 19: Asbury Jams: Delicate Steve at Wonder Bar.  
June 19: Locals Showcase (lineup TBA) at Asbury Lanes.  
June 19: Locals Showcase (lineup TBA) at House of Independents.  
June 20: Crumb, Kassie Krut at Stone Pony.  
June 20: Emerson Woolf & the Wishbones at Asbury Lanes.  
June 20: Cults, Zzzahara at House of Independents.  
June 20: The Parlor Mob at Wonder Bar.  
June 21: Lawrence, Allen Stone at Stone Pony.  
June 21: Stars at Asbury Lanes.  
June 21: Brenda K. Starr at House of Independents.  
June 21: The Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw at Wonder Bar.  
June 21: "Asbury Underground" at various locations.  
June 22: Slightly Stoopid at Stone Pony Summer Stage.  
June 22: Larkin Poe, Zach Person at Asbury Lanes.  
June 22: Locals Showcase: Penelope Road at Wonder



(left to right) - Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka; Asbury Park Mayor John Moor; NJPAC President and CEO John Schreiber; Elizabeth McCarthy, President and CEO, Community Foodbank of NJ; Charlie Lowrey, Chairman and CEO Prudential Financial; First Lady Tammy Murphy, Governor Phil Murphy.  
Credit: Jeremy Smith

#### Bar:

June 23: "Happy Mondays" (lineup TBA) at Wonder Bar.

#### Bar:

June 25: Moon Hooch at Wonder Bar.  
June 26: Jack's Mannequin at Stone Pony Summer Stage.  
June 26: Asbury James: Basic at Wonder Bar.  
June 27: Streetlight Manifesto at Stone Pony Summer Stage.  
June 27: Ripe at Asbury Lanes.  
June 27: John Cafferty & the Beaver Brown Band at Wonder Bar.  
June 28: Fantastic Cat, John Gallagher Jr. at Wonder Bar.  
June 29: George Clinton & Parliament-Funkadelic, Living Colour at Stone Pony Summer Stage.

#### ATLANTIC CITY

June 14: Books on the Move: Alvin Ailey at Kennedy Plaza

#### RED BANK

June 21: moe. at Count Basie Center for the Arts

#### NEWARK

June 17: String Cheese Incident at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 18-20: Black Creative Economy Summit at Symphony Hall.  
June 19: Natalia Lafourcade at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 20: Hot 97's Summer Jam at Prudential Center. Lineup TBA.  
June 20: Third Eye Blind, Stars at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 20: Two Funny Mamas featuring Sherri Shepherd and Kym Whitley at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.  
June 21: Kumail Nanjiani at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.  
June 22: Tina Fey and Amy Poehler at Prudential Center.  
June 22: Bassem Youssef at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 23: Food Insecurity Panel at Chase Room at NJPAC.  
June 26: Stone Temple Pilots, Parlor Mob at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 26: Newark International Film Festival: Tate Brothers Panel Discussion  
June 27: Jon Stewart, John Mulaney, Pete Davidson at Prudential Center.  
June 27: Joey Diaz at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 27: Nicole Byer at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.  
June 27: New Jersey Symphony at Branch Brook Park. (free)  
June 27: Sounds of the City: Felix Hernandez's Rhythm

Revue Dance Party at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)  
June 27: Newark International Film Festival: Acting class with Tobias Truvillion.  
June 27: Newark International Film Festival: "Hip Hop to Hollywood," Dupré "DoItAll" Kelly & Friends.  
June 28: L.L. Cool J's Rock the Bell Festival at Prudential Center. Lineup TBA.  
June 28: Josh Johnson at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 28: Rosebud Baker at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.  
June 28: Sounds of the City: Big Daddy Kane at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)  
June 28: Yogi Fest by Tye Daye at Lincoln Park.  
June 28: Newark International Film Festival: Acting class with Morocco Omari.  
June 28: Newark International Film Festival: Acting Class with Wendy McKenzie.  
June 29: Gregory Porter at Prudential Hall at NJPAC.  
June 29: Martin Amini at Victoria Theater at NJPAC.  
June 29: Sounds of the City: Lettuce at Chambers Plaza at NJPAC. (free)

#### MONTCLAIR

June 26-29: Montclair Film events at Clairidge Theater. All events are subject to change.

#### TICKETS

For the latest updates, new concert listings, and tickets, visit [northtoshore.com](https://northtoshore.com).

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

Learn more at [NJPAC.org](https://NJPAC.org).

### PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL

The Prudential North to Shore Festival, launched in 2023, features all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into two extraordinary weeks of performances, parties and conversations in three of the state's most iconic cities. Hosted by Atlantic City, Asbury Park and Newark, the Prudential North to Shore Festival brings together events at more than 100 venues for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence, aligned with Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision of a celebration worthy of the Garden State's long legacy of innovation and excellence in the arts. Learn more at [northtoshore.com](https://northtoshore.com).

Read an earlier article dated March 14 on the 'Prudential North to Shore Festival, for more information.

(Mabel Pais writes on *The Arts and Entertainment, Education, Business, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, Spirituality, and Cuisine*)



# NJYC SHARES STAGE WITH WOMEN A CAPELLA LYYRA IN MUSICAL COLLABORATION

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, will present 'Lyyra in Concert: An Extraordinary Musical Collaboration' on April 25 at 8:00 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Morristown located at 57 East Park Place.

NJYC's Coriste, directed by Trish Joyce, and Sola Voce, directed by Joanna Scarangelo, will share the stage with the exceptional Lyyra - the only professional six-voice women's a cappella group in the United States! Created by The VOCES8 Foundation, Lyyra brings a breathtaking range and richness to their performances of classical, jazz, pop, and folk music from diverse traditions. With soaring vocals and exhilarating harmonies, this remarkable ensemble will captivate you as they collaborate with the youth chorus' acclaimed choristers. Lyyra will perform selections from the Middle Ages and Renaissance, including works by Hildegard von Bingen, Leonora d'Este, and William Byrd, to contemporary favorites including Warren and Gordon's 'At Last,' Paul Simon's 'Bridge over Troubled Water,' and Irving Berlin's 'Blue Skies.'

**NJYC Founder and Director Trish Joyce said,** "Last Spring, the New Jersey Youth Chorus' Coriste and Sola Voce ensembles had the incredible opportunity of having Lyyra join us for an educational workshop. Now, NJYC is absolutely thrilled to host Lyyra and share this extraordinary collaboration



Lyyra Women Musical Group

Credit: WhartonArts.org

*with our choristers and the broader community. Lyyra's artistry and musicianship exemplify the very best of women's choral singing, serving as both an inspiration and an aspiration for our young singers. This collaboration is not only a rare opportunity for our choristers to learn from and sing alongside such accomplished musicians, but it is also a gift to our community—a chance to experience the richness and power of high-caliber choral music firsthand. Music has the ability to connect, uplift, and inspire, and we are so excited to*

*bring this meaningful experience to both our singers and our audience."*

## LYYRA

Lyyra is the new all-women vocal ensemble from The VOCES8 Foundation and is based in the USA. Lyyra records exclusively for Warner Classics. Creating world-class musical experiences to inspire audiences, Lyyra seeks to redefine the genre of upper voice music in the choral landscape, highlighting the astonishing capabilities within the full spectrum of women's

singing. The sound of this bright, young group combines velvety richness alongside star-like brilliance. With a broad texture and exhilarating range of sound, the group's talented members specialize in classical, jazz, pop, and folk music from diverse traditions and backgrounds.

Lyyra is passionate about music education and is part of The VOCES8 Foundation's mission to actively promote "Music Education For All." Engaging in a broad range of work collaborating with schools, universities, and community organizations, The VOCES8 Foundation reaches up to 40,000 people each year.

Reflective of music, harmony and the night sky, Lyyra takes its name from the constellation that represents Orpheus' famed lyre. Lyyra is Anna Crumley, MaryRuth Miller, Elizabeth Tait, Aryssa Leigh Burrs, Ingrid Johnson, and Cecille Elliott. Lyyra's Creative Director is Erik Jacobson. Find out more at [lyyramusic.com](http://lyyramusic.com)

## NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS (NJYC)

Learn more at [whartonarts.org/programs/new-jersey-youth-chorus](http://whartonarts.org/programs/new-jersey-youth-chorus).

## TICKETS

Tickets are available for purchase at [NJYC.org](http://NJYC.org).

*(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Education, Business, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, Spirituality, and Cuisine)*

# NJYS PRESENTS SEASON'S FINAL CONCERT WITH CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS) will present 'Enchanting Musical Storytelling' on Sunday, April 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the Nicholas Music Center at Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

Concert-goers are invited to join the NJYS Youth Symphony under the baton of Helen H. Cha-Pyo for a captivating performance featuring Gabriela Lena Frank's 'Three Latin American Dances' and Rimsky-Korsakov's mesmerizing 'Scheherazade.' The final signature concert of the season will also showcase the exceptional talents of the 2025 NJYS Concerto Competition winner, cellist Rowan Mendel, in Tchaikovsky's 'Variations on a Rococo Theme.'

"This concert marks the culmination of a dynamic season that has brought together outstanding young musicians from across the state to perform masterworks of the orchestral repertoire in a supportive and inclusive environment," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Artistic Director and Principal Conductor. "From the vibrant rhythms and cultural richness of Gabriela Lena Frank's 'Three Latin American Dances,' to the expressive brilliance of our concerto competition winner Rowan Mendel, and the sweeping, timeless storytelling of Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Scheherazade,' this performance is a celebration of musical excellence, disciplined dedication, and the shared joy of making music together. It's also a bittersweet moment as we honor the remarkable journey of our graduating seniors and the bright futures that await them."



Helen Cha-Pyo conducts NJYS and Rowan Mendel plays the cello

Credit: WhartonArts.org

## ROWAN MENDEL

Rowan Mendel of Sparta has been playing cello for nine years and studies with Jonathan Spitz of the NJ Symphony and Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. He has also studied with Elad Kabilio at the Manhattan School of Music (MSM) and spent two summers in the MSM program. Recent summer programs have included the Castleman Quartet Program and the Cello Classics course in Tuscany, Italy, studying with Raphael Wallfisch. During the summer of 2024 he studied at Boston University's Tanglewood Institute. In addition to the Sparta High School Honors Philharmonic, he has performed as Principal Cellist with the New Jersey Youth Symphony for the last three years and the Sussex County Youth Orchestra for the last seven years. In 2023 and 2024, Rowan performed in the North Jersey Group 1 Regional

Orchestra as well as the NJ All-State Orchestra. He has traveled with the New Jersey Ambassadors of Music and performed in Sussex, England; Caen, France; and the Luxembourg Gardens in Paris, France. Rowan is the recipient of the 2022 New Sussex Symphony Legacy Fund Scholarship Award and has been inducted into the Tri-M Music Honor Society. When not playing cello, Rowan enjoys soccer and is a National Chess Champion. He plans to continue his music studies in college.

## TICKETS

Tickets to the performance are available at [NJYS.org](http://NJYS.org). Discounted tickets are available for students and seniors with ID.

*(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Education, Business, Social Issues, Health and Wellness, Spirituality, and Cuisine)*





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## Saif begins shooting for Rahul Dholakia's historical political drama

Actor Saif Ali Khan is back on set following the tragic stabbing incident at his Bandra residence earlier this year. He has commenced filming his upcoming project with filmmaker Rahul Dholakia, known for critically acclaimed films like *Raees* and *Parzania*. The film is reportedly a historical political drama.

According to *The Hollywood Reporter India*, Saif will portray India's first Chief Election Commissioner, Sukumar Sen. The film also features actor Pratik Gandhi, and the two recently shot a sequence in Mumbai.

"The cast and crew are currently filming the Mumbai schedule and are nearly halfway through it. The film explores one of the most significant chapters in India's political history and features a stellar ensemble," a source told the publication.

The report further states that Saif was initially scheduled to begin filming in January, but the plans were delayed due to the unfortunate stabbing incident. He spent several days in the hospital and underwent a four-hour surgery.

# Pahalgam attack: Fawad Khan's Abir Gulaal not to release in India

Abir Gulaal, a Hindi film featuring Pakistani star Fawad Khan in the lead, will not be allowed to release in India in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack, government sources has said.

Directed by Aarti S Bagdi and also starring Vaani Kapoor, the movie was set to make its debut in Indian cinemas on May 9.

"The movie Abir Gulaal, starring Pakistani actor Fawad Khan, will not be allowed to release in India," the sources said.

The action comes amid calls for a ban on the movie after 26 people, mostly tourists, were gunned down in a terror attack in South Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday. It is being described as the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019.

On April 23, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) reiterated its directive to ban Pakistani artists. They called for a complete non-cooperation with all Pakistani artists, singers, and technicians within the Indian film and entertainment industry.

"Despite the ongoing directive, we've been made aware of the recent collaboration with Pakistani actor Fawad Khan for the Hindi film, Abir Gulaal.

"In light of the recent attack in Pahalgam, FWICE is once again compelled to issue a blanket boycott on all Pakistani artists, singers and technicians participating in any Indian film or entertainment projects. This includes performances or collaborations occurring anywhere in the world," the FWICE said in a



statement.

The industry workers' union, which had issued a similar directive in February 2019 after the Pulwama terror attack, also warned that it will take disciplinary action against those who work with Pakistani artists.

Fawad, whose last Hindi film appearance in 2016's *Ae Dil Hai Mushkil* also ran in trouble post the Uri terror strike, condemned the Pahalgam attack on his Instagram Story on Wednesday night.

"Deeply saddened to hear the news of the heinous attack in Pahalgam. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of this horrifying incident, and we pray for strength and healing for their families in this difficult time," the

*Zindagi Gulzar Hai* star wrote.

Vaani also condemned the loss of lives in Pahalgam.

"Have been numb, at a loss of words since the time I have seen the attack on innocent people in Pahalgam. Guttled. Devastated. My prayers are with the families," she wrote on her Instagram Stories.

Earlier this month, the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), led by Raj Thackeray, had also opposed the release of Abir Gulaal.

Abir Gulaal is produced by Indian Stories Production, along with A Richer Lens and Aarjay Pictures. Vivek B Agrawal, Avantika Hari and Rakesh Sippy are credited as producers on the movie.

## No Godzilla, no naagin, Kartik Aaryan turns Naagzilla in new film

Dharma Productions and Mahaveer Jain Films have announced 'Naagzilla', a fantasy comedy featuring Kartik Aaryan in the role of Preyamvadeshwar Pyare Chand, an ichadaari naa (shape-shifting). The film is set for release on Nag Panchami, August 14, 2026.

Announcing the news on his Instagram, Kartik wrote, "Insanon wali picharein toh bahut dekh leen, ab dekho naagon wali pichchar. #Naagzilla: Naag lok ka pehla kaand. Funnn phailaane Aa raha hu main, Preyamvadeshwar Pyare Chand. Naag Panchami par aapke nazdeeki. Ssssinemas mein. 14 August 2025 ko (sic)."

Directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba and written by Gautam Mehra, the film marks Aaryan's second collaboration with Dharma Productions following their upcoming Valentine's Day release. This is Kartik Aaryan's second collaboration with Dharma Productions, following their upcoming Valentine's Day release - 'Tu Meri Main Tera, Main Tera Tu Meri'.

It is also the first joint project between Dharma

Productions and Mahaveer Jain Films.

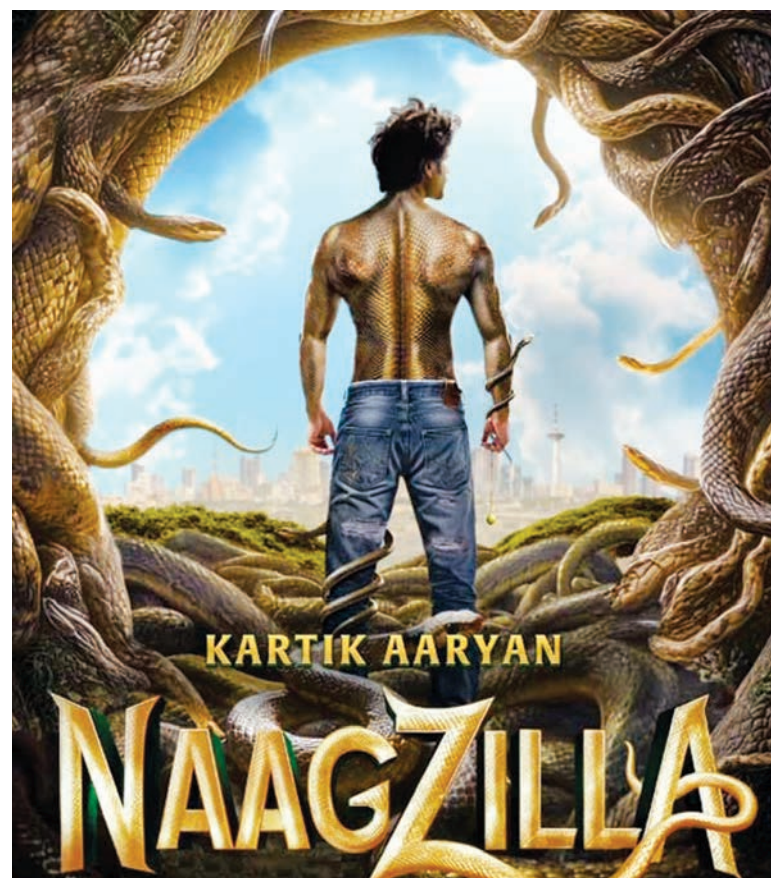
The film is produced by Karan Johar, Mahaveer Jain, Adar Poonawalla, Apoorva Mehta, Mrighdeep Singh Lamba, and Sujit Jain.

'Naagzilla' slithers into theatres on August 14, 2026.

In the clip, Kartik Aaryan, in a pair of blue jeans, has his back facing the camera. He is standing inside a snake den, looking at the distant cityscape. Interestingly, Kartik's human skin slowly transforms into a green and scaly texture, resembling a snake.

Kartik Aaryan's voiceover can be heard in the background.

He says, "Ichadhari naag. Ruup badalne ke shakti rakhne waale saap. Jaise ki main. Preyamvadeshwar Pyare Chand. Umar 631 saal. Insano wali picturein toh bohot dekhli aab dekho naago waali picture. (Shape-shifting serpents. Just like me. Age: 631 years. You must have seen enough movies featuring humans, now, watch a film about snakes.)





# Andrew Garfield talks about his possible return to Spider-Man

Actor Andrew Garfield has expressed his desire to return as Spider-Man in the fourth instalment after surprising his fans in *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, reported Variety.

At the Middle East Film & Comic Con via Entertainment Tonight, as quoted by Variety, the actor said that his return to the Spider-Man franchise hinges on a very "offbeat" idea, which will also require creative freedom from the writers. He recalled the example of Spider-Verse movies for the same.

"It would have to be very weird. I would like to do something very strange. Something very unique, and offbeat and surprising, kind of like the creative freedom they have with the animated Spider-Verse movies," said Andrew as quoted by Variety.

As per the outlet, in an interview with Esquire magazine last year, the two-time Oscar nominee said he was "left dangling" when his Spider-Man role came to such an abrupt end after *Amazing Spider-Man 2* disappointed at the box office.

Tom Holland took over the role with 2017's *Spider-Man: Homecoming*. But the success of *No Way Home* proved there's still a lot of love for Andrew's iteration of the comic book hero.

Andrew was speculated to be a part of the franchise again before the release of *No Way Home* due to leaked photos and videos. However, he continued to deny his involvement to maintain the suspense.

It worked well as the movie was a massive hit at the global box office due to unexpected cameos of Andrew and Tobey Maguire as Spider-Man.



Meanwhile, Tom Holland's next instalment of Spider-Man will begin shooting this year. Sony Pictures has revealed the title of the highly anticipated fourth instalment of the Spider-Man franchise, starring Tom Holland.

The film, titled *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, is set to release in theatres on July 31, 2026.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the announcement was first made at CinemaCon on Monday, where director Destin Daniel Cretton took the stage to express his excitement about helming the project.

The title, *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, references a 2008 comic book storyline that takes place after a universe-altering event that causes everyone to forget who Spider-Man is, reported the outlet.

This plot point is fitting, given the ending of *Spider-Man: No Way Home*, which saw the world forget Peter Parker's identity.

*Spider-Man: Brand New Day* is written by Erik Sommers and Chris McKenna, who previously penned *Spider-Man: No Way Home*. Andrew is also speculated to make a cameo in the series by the fans.



## Demi Moore named World's Most Beautiful person of 2025

Hollywood actor Demi Moore received the title of World's Most Beautiful person by People Magazine. The announcement was received with applause, as she became one of the oldest people to receive this honour, challenging society's long-standing association of beauty with youth.

People Magazine announced the upcoming issue with its digital cover, featuring Demi Moore. Additionally, in an interview with the publication, the 62-year-old actor opened up about her personal journey with beauty, ageing, and body acceptance.

This recognition came after a highly successful year for Moore. Her recent film 'The Substance' not only marked a powerful return to the spotlight but also earned her a Golden Globe win and an Oscar nomination. Reflecting on her journey, she shared, "It's been like a full pregnancy - really joyous moments, exhausting moments. But overall, it was an extraordinary time and experience."

Talking about her relationship with her body, Moore said, "I have a greater appreciation for all that my body has been through that brought me to now."



## Brad Pitt proposes marriage to girlfriend Ines de Ramon after two years of dating

Hollywood star Brad Pitt appears ready to embrace a new chapter in his life, as insiders reveal he recently proposed to his longtime girlfriend Ines de Ramon. According to a report by RadarOnline, the 61-year-old actor asked the 32-year-old jewelry designer to marry him just before flying to New Zealand for a six-week film shoot.

"Brad is finally feeling free of his past and the seemingly endless divorce from Angelina. He wants Ines to know he'll always be there for her, no matter how far he travels for work," a source was quoted as saying. Since the proposal, Brad has reportedly been showering Ines with affection and thoughtful gestures, including flying her out to his movie set on the other side of the globe. "Brad knows how tough his divorce has been for Ines to deal with and appreciates that she continued to stand by his side, no matter how bitter the battle became or how long it dragged on," the source added.

This marks Brad's third engagement and

potentially his third marriage, having previously been married to Hollywood actresses Jennifer Aniston and Angelina Jolie. Brad married Jennifer Aniston in 2000, but their union ended in 2005 amid rumors of his growing closeness to Angelina Jolie during the filming of *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*.

Aniston filed for divorce citing "irreconcilable differences," and the split was finalized in October 2005. Brad's relationship with Jolie, often dubbed "Brangelina," began shortly after. The couple married in 2014 at their French estate, Chateau Miraval, and share six children—three biological and three adopted.

However, their marriage faced challenges, leading Jolie to file for divorce in 2016, citing "irreconcilable differences." The divorce proceedings were protracted, involving custody battles and disputes over shared assets, including their winery. The divorce was finalized on December 30, 2024, concluding an eight-year legal battle.



## RUSSIAN GENERAL KILLED BY CAR BOMB JUST OUTSIDE MOSCOW, SECOND SUCH ATTACK IN FOUR MONTHS

25 APR 2025

**MOSCOW (TIP):** A Russian general was killed by a car bomb on Friday, Russia's top criminal investigation agency said, in the second such attack on a top Russian military officer in four months.

The Investigative Committee said that Lt. Gen. Yaroslav Moskalik, a deputy head of the main operational department in the General Staff of the Russian armed forces, was killed by an explosive device placed in his car in Balashikha, just outside Moscow.

The committee's spokesperson, Svetlana Petrenko, said the explosive device was rigged with shrapnel. She said that investigators were at the scene.

Russian media ran videos of a vehicle burning in the courtyard of an apartment building.

The committee did not mention possible suspects.

The attack follows the killing of Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, who died on Dec. 17 when a bomb hidden on an electric scooter parked outside his apartment building exploded as he left for his office. The Russian authorities blamed Ukraine for the killing of Kirillov, and Ukraine's security agency acknowledged that it was behind that attack.

Kirillov was the chief of Russia's Radiation, Biological and Chemical Protection Forces, the special troops tasked with protecting the military from the enemy's use of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and ensuring operations in a contaminated environment. Kirillov's assistant also died in the attack.

Friday's bombing came just as U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff was expected to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow to discuss a U.S.-brokered peace plan for Ukraine. The meeting is their fourth encounter since February. (AP)

## Six killed as police plane crashes near popular beach town in Thailand

**BANGKOK (TIP):** A small police plane crashed into the sea near a popular beach town in Thailand, killing all six people on board, officials said.

The plane was conducting a test flight to prepare for parachute training in Hua Hin district before it crashed around 8 am, said Royal Thai Police spokesperson Archayon Kraithong. Officials did not immediately share the model of the propeller plane, but photos from the scene appear to show a Viking DHC-6 Twin Otter.

The plane crashed near Hua Hin Airport, said the public relations department of Prachuab Kiri Khan province. (AP)

# Palestinians create role for a vice president and possible successor to aging leader Abbas

25 APR 2025

**RAMALLAH, WEST BANK (TIP):**

The Palestine Liberation Organization on Thursday announced the creation of a vice presidency under 89-year-old leader Mahmoud Abbas, who has not specified a successor.

The PLO Central Council's decision came as Abbas seeks greater relevance and a role in postwar planning for the Gaza Strip after having been largely sidelined by the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

After a two-day meeting, the council voted to create the role of vice chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. This position would also be referred to as the vice president of the State of Palestine, which the Palestinians hope will one day receive full international recognition.

The expectation is that whoever holds that role would be the front-runner to succeed Abbas — though it's unclear when or exactly how it would be filled. Abbas is to choose his vice president from among the other 15 members of the PLO's executive committee.

The PLO is the internationally recognized representative of the Palestinian people and oversees the Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited autonomy in less than half of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Abbas has led both entities for two decades.

Abbas is still seen internationally as the leader of the Palestinians and a partner in any effort to revive the peace process, which ground to a halt when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu returned to office in 2009.



But the chain-smoking political veteran has clung to power since his mandate expired in 2009 and has not named a successor. Polls in recent years have shown plummeting support for him and his Fatah party.

Western and Arab donor countries have demanded reforms in the Palestinian Authority for it to play a role in postwar Gaza. The authority is deeply unpopular and faces long-standing allegations of corruption and poor governance.

Appointing an heir apparent could address some of those concerns, though it is unclear if Thursday's decision will appease the critics. Abbas is to choose his vice president from a body that is dominated by loyalists and will have the

authority to fire his deputy as well. The measure passed by a vote of 170-1, with one abstention.

Hamas, which won the last national elections in 2006, is not in the PLO. Hamas seized control of Gaza from Abbas' forces in 2007, and reconciliation attempts between the rivals have repeatedly failed.

Hamas touched off the war in Gaza when its militants attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 people hostage. Israel responded with an air and ground campaign that has killed over 51,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the territory's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. (AP)

# International court appeals panel orders judges to reconsider Israel's jurisdiction challenge

25 APR 2025

**THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS**

**(TIP):** Appeals judges at the International Criminal Court on Thursday ordered a pretrial panel to reconsider an Israeli appeal against the court's jurisdiction over Gaza and the West Bank.

The decision comes amid ongoing litigation into Israel's assertion that the court did not have the legal authority to issue arrest warrants in November for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant.

The warrants allege that Netanyahu and Gallant are responsible for crimes against humanity in the Gaza war. Israel, which is not a member of the court and rejects its jurisdiction, strongly refutes the allegations.

Judges at The Hague-based court dismissed a request from Israel to suspend the warrants.

But in a legal victory for Israel, appeals judges said in their written decision that the pretrial panel "committed an error of law by failing to sufficiently address Israel's argument



that it was entitled to make a jurisdictional challenge" under the court's founding treaty, the Rome Statute.

It ordered the pretrial judges to make a "new ruling on the substance of Israel's challenge to the jurisdiction of the Court." The challenge was filed in September — before the warrants were issued — and rejected two months later. It was not immediately clear how long judges will take to issue a new ruling.

In a statement on X, Israeli Foreign

Minister Gideon Saar said the arrest warrants were issued unlawfully and are "null and void."

Israel has long argued that it does not have jurisdiction. The court, however, has accepted "The State of Palestine" as one of its 125 member nations.

"We said it from the start: The International Criminal Court in The Hague (ICC) doesn't have, and never had, jurisdiction to issue arrest warrants against Israel's Prime Minister and its former Minister of Defense. Israel is not a member of the ICC and is not party to the 'Rome Statute.'" Saar wrote.

The ICC prosecutor's office said in a written response that it was studying the decision and had no immediate comment.

When issuing the arrest warrants, judges said there was reason to believe Netanyahu and Gallant have used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid and have intentionally targeted civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza — charges Israeli officials deny. (AP)



# More than 1,800 migrants expelled from Algeria into Niger, rights group says

25 APR 2025

**ALGIERS, ALGERIA (TIP):** Algerian authorities rounded up more than 1,800 migrants and left them at the Nigerien border in a record expulsion earlier this month, a Niger-based migrant rights group said Thursday.

Alarmphone Sahara, which monitors migration across the region, said the migrants were bused to a remote desert area known as "Point Zero" after being apprehended in Algerian cities.

Abdou Aziz Chehou, the group's national coordinator, told The Associated Press on Thursday that 1,845 migrants without legal status in Algeria had been counted, arriving in Niger's border town of Assamaka after the April 19 mass expulsion.

That pushed the total number of expelled migrants arriving in Assamaka this month beyond 4,000, he said.

The figure does not include those who may attempt to return north into Algeria, Chehou added.

The mass deportations come amid rising tensions between Algeria and its southern neighbors, all now led by military juntas that ousted elected governments previously aligned with Algiers. Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger withdrew their ambassadors from Algeria earlier this month over border security disputes.



For migrants fleeing poverty, conflict or climate change, Algeria serves as a transit point en route to Europe. Many cross vast stretches of the Sahara en route before attempting dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean. But reinforced maritime patrols have stranded increasing numbers in transit countries with checkered human rights records and limited humanitarian aid.

In 2024, Alarmphone Sahara recorded more than 30,000 migrants expelled from

Algeria. Similar pushbacks have also been reported in neighboring Morocco, Tunisia and Libya.

Neither Algerian nor Nigerien officials have commented on the latest expulsions, which are rarely reported in Algerian press. In the past, Nigerien authorities have said such actions appear to violate a 2014 agreement that allows only Nigerien nationals to be deported across the border. (AP)

## NINE KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKE ON KYIV; ZELENSKY CUTS SHORT SOUTH AFRICA TRIP

24 APR 2025

**KYIV (TIP):** Russia attacked Kyiv with an hourslong barrage of missiles and drones, killing at least nine people and injuring more than 70 in its deadliest assault on the Ukrainian capital since last July and just as peace efforts are coming to a head.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after the attack he is cutting short his official trip to South Africa and returning home as the city reeled from the bombardment that kept residents on edge for about 11 hours. It appeared to be Russia's biggest attack on Kyiv in nine months, and Zelenskyy branded it as "one of (Russia's) most outrageous."

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko announced that Friday would be an official day of mourning day in the capital.

The attack drew a rare rebuke of Russian President Vladimir Putin from US President Donald Trump, who said he was "not happy" with it.

"Not necessary, and very bad timing. Vladimir, STOP!" Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social.

Senior US officials have warned that the Trump administration could soon give up its efforts to stop the war if the two sides don't compromise.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko announced that Friday would be an official day of mourning in the capital. The Ukrainian air force said Russia fired 66 ballistic and cruise missiles, four plane-launched air-to-surface missiles, and 145 Shahed and decoy drones at Kyiv and four other regions of Ukraine. Rescue workers with flashlights scoured the charred rubble of partly collapsed homes as the blue lights of emergency vehicles lit up the dark city streets.

The attack came as weeks of peace negotiations appeared to be culminating without an agreement in sight and hours after US President Donald Trump lashed out at Zelenskyy, accusing him of prolonging the "killing field" by refusing to surrender the Russia-occupied Crimea Peninsula as part of a possible deal.

Zelenskyy has repeated many times during the more than three-year war that recognizing occupied territory as Russian is a red line for his country. He noted Thursday that Ukraine had agreed to a U.S. ceasefire proposal 44 days ago, as a first step to a negotiated peace, but that Russia's attacks had continued. He said in South Africa that the latest attack meant the future of negotiations "depends on Russia's intention because it is in Moscow where they have to make a decision."

While talks have been going on in recent weeks, Russia has hit the city of Sumy, killing more than 30 civilians gathered to celebrate Palm Sunday, battered Odesa with drones and blasted Zaporizhzhia with powerful glide bombs. (AP)

# Hitler-loving pupil kills fellow student in France school knife attack

24 APR 2025

**NANTES (TIP)** A student killed a girl and wounded three other pupils in a stabbing spree on Thursday at a private high school in France, prompting the prime minister to urge better security in and around schools to combat "endemic youth violence".

The pupil -- whose name and age were not specified but whose classmates said had written a manifesto against "globalised ecocide" -- was arrested after finally being overpowered by school staff.

France has in recent years been shaken by a series of school incidents involving attacks on teachers as well as schoolchildren by their peers.

In the latest case of teenage violence, the assailant attacked fellow students with a knife at the Notre-Dame de Toutes-Aides secondary school in the western city of Nantes at around 12:30 pm (1030 GMT), a police source said.

President Emmanuel Macron, writing on X, saluted the bravery of the teachers who intervened saying they prevented an even higher toll.

"Through their intervention, teachers likely prevented other tragedies. Their courage demands respect," he said.

Prime Minister Francois Bayrou urged "an intensification of controls in and around schools" following the attack.

He called for a "collective awakening" in the face of "endemic violence" among "a segment of our youth", and demanded



proposals within four weeks to prevent further "violence committed by minors" with knives.

AFP spoke with one student who gave an account of what happened.

"I was in the cafeteria with my friends and we were told that a high school pupil had stabbed students in several classrooms," she said, without giving her name.

"We were told not to leave the cafeteria for about 20 minutes and then we were confined to a gym."

She added the assailant "was known to be depressed, he said he loved Hitler".

Another school pupil sent AFP the suspected attacker's manifesto in which he said "globalisation has transformed

our system into a machine to decompose humanity", advocating for a "biological revolt" to facilitate a return to "the natural order of things, even if cruel" instead of "globalised ecocide".

Site sealed off

The school administration sent a message to the families of the some 2,000 students who attend the school, informing them of the incident.

Students had been immediately confined inside the school, the statement added.

"In coordination with the authorities present, we are organising the gradual release of students from 3:30 pm onwards in accordance with a strict protocol," the message said. (AFP)



## NEPAL ENVOY TO INDIA, EAM JAISHANKAR CONDOLE DEATHS IN PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Apr 25, 2025

**New Delhi (TIP):** External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday expressed his condolences to Nepal's Ambassador to India, Shankar Sharma on the death of a Nepali national during the Pahalgam terror attack.

Jaishankar also discussed the bilateral ties between the nations.

In a post on X, he said, "Conveyed condolences to Ambassador Shankar Sharma of Nepal on the death of a Nepali national during the Pahalgam terror attack. Also discussed developments in our bilateral ties."

Ambassador Shankar Sharma also expressed grief on the deaths of Indian nationals in the attack.

In a post on X, he said, "Shared our deep condolences and firm solidarity with India over the Pahalgam terror attack with Hon. EAM S Jaishankar ji today. He also expressed condolences on the death of a Nepali national, Sudip Neupane. We also reviewed our overall Nepal-India ties."

Nepal Embassy in India stated in a post on X, "HE Shankar Sharma paid a courtesy call on EAM Hon. S Jaishankar ji and conveyed Nepal's condolences and firm solidarity with India over the Pahalgam terror attack. Hon. EAM also expressed condolences on the death of a Nepali national. They also reviewed overall India-Nepal ties."

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar on Friday met Egypt Ambassador to India, Kamel Zayed and discussed deepening of strategic partnership of between the two countries.

Jaishankar during his meeting with Zayed appreciated Egypt's support in the fight against terrorism.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "Received Ambassador Kamel Zayed of Egypt. Discussed deepening our strategic partnership. Appreciated Egypt's support in the fight against terrorism."

Following the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam that killed 26 people, Central government announced several diplomatic measures, such as closing the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari, suspending the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) for Pakistani nationals, giving them 40 hours to return to their country, and reducing the number of officers in the High Commissions on both sides. (ANI)

(The story has come from a syndicated feed and has not been edited by the Tribune Staff.)

# Pakistan resolution calls India linking Pahalgam attack with Islamabad as 'frivolous and baseless'

25 APR 2025

**ISLAMABAD (TIP):** Amid Indo-Pakistan tensions, Pakistan's Senate on Friday passed a resolution rejecting India's "frivolous and baseless attempts" to link the country with the Pahalgam terror attack.

The attack in Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday killed 26 people, mostly tourists.

The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, claimed responsibility.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar moved the resolution, which got across-the-board support from parties in the upper house of parliament.

"Pakistan remains fully capable and prepared to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity against any aggression, including water terrorism or military provocation," the resolution said.

The resolution, rejecting all "frivolous and baseless attempts" to link Pakistan with the attack, said killing innocent civilians was against the values upheld by Pakistan.



It condemned "the orchestrated and mala fide campaign by the Indian government to malign Pakistan, which follows a familiar pattern of exploiting the issue of terrorism for a narrow political goal."

The resolution also condemned India's declaration to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance and said the move amounted to "an act of war."

Earlier, the deputy prime minister informed the house that the Foreign

Office briefed diplomats from 26 countries about the current situation in the region.

He said Pakistan's armed forces were fully prepared to respond to any Indian misadventure and added that any such move would be met in kind, similar to the past.

The resolution comes a day after the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting by top civilian and military leaders in Pakistan put the Simla Agreement and other bilateral accords with India on hold, suspended all trade, and closed its airspace for Indian airlines.

On Thursday, Islamabad also closed the Wagah border post, cancelled visas given to Indians under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES), and asked military advisers at the Indian High Commission to leave, mirroring steps taken by India over the Pahalgam terror attack.

India on Wednesday suspended the Indus Water Treaty and downgraded diplomatic ties with Islamabad. (PTI)

## India hands over vaccine against Sickle Cell and Thalassemia to Nepal

APRIL 25, 2025

**KATHMANDU [NEPAL] (TIP) :** In a significant demonstration of its ongoing commitment to supporting the health and well-being of the people of Nepal, Ambassador of India to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava handed over the first consignment of vaccines for Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia to Minister of Health and Population, of Nepal, Pradip Paudel.

As per the release from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu the first consignment of vaccines is worth USD 2 million. It would be for the management of patients with Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease responding to a request from Nepal.

"The first consignment of vaccines/ medicines includes Influenzae Vaccine (3100 unit), Salmonella Vaccine (1550 unit), Meningococcus Vaccine (3100 unit), Haemophilus Influenza Vaccine (4640 unit) and Streptococcus Pneumonia Vaccine (4640 unit)," the



release detailed.

This vital contribution from India will help bolster Nepal's efforts in addressing these inherited blood disorders, which pose significant health challenges to affected individuals and families.

"The provision of these vaccines underscores the strong and enduring partnership between the two nations, particularly in the crucial healthcare sector," the embassy highlighted.

Speaking at the handover event, the Indian Ambassador noted that these vaccines would be instrumental in enhancing the quality of life for individuals affected by Sickle Cell Disease and Thalassemia in Nepal.

He further mentioned the deep-rooted friendship between India and Nepal and India's readiness to extend support in areas of mutual interest.

Receiving the vaccines on behalf of the Government of Nepal, Minister of Health and Population expressed gratitude for India's generous support outlining the positive impact these vaccines will have on public health. Paudel acknowledged the long-standing collaboration with India and its contributions to Nepal's healthcare system.

"This initiative is a testament to the close ties and collaborative spirit between India and Nepal, reflecting a shared vision for a healthier future for their citizens," the release stated.

Furthermore, the India also has committed to partnering with Nepal in various sectors, including health, to foster mutual progress and development. (ANI)

(The story has come from a syndicated feed and has not been edited by the Tribune Staff.)



## Over 3,700 dead, nearly 5,100 injured in twin earthquakes in Myanmar: WHO

**GENEVA [SWITZERLAND] (TIP):** More than 3,700 people have lost their lives and nearly 5,100 have been injured, with 114 people still missing and tens of thousands displaced and living in makeshift tents, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a new statistic on the victims of two powerful earthquakes in Myanmar.

Dr Thushara Fernando, WHO Representative to Myanmar, warned in a video conference for journalists today in Geneva that the risk of infectious disease outbreaks among the displaced and those living near water ponds is increasing and that the threat of dengue fever and malaria is becoming a reality with the approaching monsoon and contaminated water sources.

The international organisation has responded quickly, but the needs are immense, Thushara said.

He emphasised that the humanitarian work there is now at a critical stage and that without urgent and sustained funding, the risk of a secondary health crisis will erupt.

The health organisation is appealing for USD 8 million to continue operations, prevent disease outbreaks and continue to provide basic care in the near future, he said. (ANI/ WAM)





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# Lifestyle changes that can help your hair grow faster

Everyone wants long, shiny, and strong hair. But it is quite a task to achieve the dream hair no matter how many products we try. While genetics play a vital role in hair growth, lifestyle also has a significant role in the speed and health of hair growth. These are not overnight magic things, but if you can stay consistent with these lifestyle changes, they can create a scope for better and faster hair growth.

## Nourish from Within: A Balanced Diet is Key

Healthy hair starts from within your body. A diet rich in essential vitamins and minerals is essential for hair growth and hair health. Focus on including protein, iron, zinc, biotin, vitamin C, and vitamin A in your daily meals. Protein is the core element to build block of hair, while iron carries oxygen to the hair follicles promoting hair growth. Zinc plays a vital role in hair tissue growth and repair, and biotin supports healthy scalp and hair growth. Try to include plenty of fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains in your daily diet.

## Hydration is Essential: Drink Plenty of Water

Just as your body functions with proper hydration, your hair also needs hydration to stay healthy. Dehydration can lead to dry, brittle hair that is prone to breakage, disturbing the hair growth. Make sure you're drinking plenty of water throughout the day to keep your hair hydrated and healthy for better hair growth.

## Gentle Hair Care: Minimize Damage

Harsh hair care products can cause breakage and damage, slowing down hair growth rapidly. Be gentle with your hair, especially when it's wet, as it's more prone to breakage. Avoid aggressive brushing or combing your wet or dry hair. Always use a wide-toothed comb to detangle your hair. Minimize the use of heat styling tools, and when you do use them, apply a heat protectant spray to decrease the damage.

## Scalp Massage: Stimulate Blood Flow

A regular and minimal scalp massage can stimulate blood flow to the hair follicles that promote hair



growth. Use your fingertips to gently massage your scalp in circular motions for a few minutes each day and avoid using your fingernails as it can trigger dandruff. You can do this while you're shampooing your hair or apply a hair oil during the massage for added nourishment and less chance of damage and breakage of hair.

## Stress Management: Reduce Hair Loss

Stress can be a major reason for hair loss, which can obviously disturb hair growth. Find healthy ways to manage your stress, such as practicing yoga, meditation, or spending time in nature, or try to seek help if you are too stressed. You need to get proper and enough sleep. It is also crucial for stress management and overall health, which indirectly benefits hair growth.

## Avoid Tight Hairstyles: Prevent Breakage:

We often tend to tie our hair tight to avoid disturbance in the middle of the work. Constantly wearing tight hairstyles, such as ponytails, braids, or buns, can pull on your hair and cause breakage in the middle and especially around the hairline. Choose looser hairstyles that don't put excessive tension on your hair to promote breakage. Give your hair a break from tight styles whenever possible and whenever you are at home or working indoors.

## FOOD CORNER



## Chicken Burritos

Chicken burrito is a popular Mexican and Tex-Mex dish that features chicken filling wrapped in a warm tortilla. It's a hearty meal, typically filled with seasoned chicken, rice, beans, cheese, and various sauces or toppings.

Chicken burritos can be customized with different fillings, such as vegetables, onions, peppers, and even spices. Some recipes may also incorporate ingredients like avocado, black beans, or corn.

## Ingredients

- Chicken - 300 gms, cooked, shredded, skinless, boneless
- Sweet corn kernels - 150 gms, boiled, drained
- Black beans (or red kidney beans) - 150 gms, rinsed, boiled, drained
- Tomatoes - 150 gms, finely chopped
- Flour tortillas - 4
- Green chillies - 2 to 3, chopped
- Jalapenos - 1 tbslp, chopped
- Red chilli flakes as per taste
- Garam masala powder - 2 tsp
- Black pepper powder as per taste
- Salt as per taste
- Coriander leaves - handful, chopped
- Cheese - 100 gms, grated

## Optional ingredients

- Sour cream lettuce - handful, shredded
- Tomatoes - 1/2 cup, chopped

## Method

- In a large bowl, combine the corn, black beans, tomatoes, green chillies, coriander leaves and jalapenos.
- Add the cooked chicken and mix well.
- Add the red chilli flakes, garam masala powder, black pepper powder, salt and toss gently.
- Warm the tortillas and place them on a flat surface.
- Divide the chicken mixture equally among the 4 tortillas.
- Sprinkle some cheese on top.
- If desired, add some sour cream, lettuce and chopped tomatoes.
- Fold from the sides and roll tightly.
- Heat a nonstick pan over medium flame.
- Place the burritos on the pan and warm them up for 3 to 5 minutes, turning gently once or twice.
- Serve.

# Daily habits to support skin health

## Cleanse Your Face Twice a Day

Cleansing helps remove dirt, oil, makeup, and pollutants that accumulate on the skin. Choose a gentle cleanser that suits your skin type:

- Oily/Acne-Prone Skin: Use foaming or gel-based cleansers with salicylic acid.
- Dry/Sensitive Skin: Go for cream or milk cleansers with hydrating ingredients.
- Normal/Combination Skin: A mild cleanser without harsh sulfates works best.

Tip: Avoid over-cleansing, as it can strip your skin of natural oils and cause dryness or irritation.

## Hydrate Inside and Out

Proper hydration is key to supple, radiant skin.

- Drink Water: Aim for at least 8 glasses of water a day. Hydration flushes out toxins and keeps your skin elastic.
- Moisturize Daily: Even oily skin needs moisture.

Use a lightweight, non-comedogenic moisturizer to keep your skin barrier intact.

Look for ingredients like hyaluronic acid, glycerin, and ceramides for optimal hydration.

## Apply Sunscreen Every Morning

Sun damage is the leading cause of premature aging and skin cancer. Make sunscreen a non-negotiable part of your morning routine:

- Use SPF 30 or higher.
- Broad-spectrum protection guards against both UVA and UVB rays.

- Reapply every 2 hours if you're outdoors. Even on cloudy days or indoors near windows, UV rays can affect your skin.

## Follow a Balanced Diet

What you eat reflects on your skin. A skin-friendly diet includes:

- Antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables (like berries, spinach, and carrots).





# New saliva test predicts hidden cancer risks better than blood test

An at-home spit test can now help in predicting prostate cancer risk, better than the conventional blood test.

The test has been developed by researchers at the Institute of Cancer Research, London, and UK government healthcare centre The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, which assesses 130 genetic variants that determine the risk score of prostate cancer.

Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men in India after lung cancer. It develops in the prostate gland, a small gland in the male reproductive system that produces fluid for semen.

In the test, a sample can be collected at home that helps determine the genes linked to the deadly disease. While the spit test immediately recognises the risk, the current blood test accentuates further testing for cancer, based on age or ethnicity and symptoms.

The clinical trial, the findings of which are published in The New England Journal of Medicine, was conducted on the DNA of 6,142 European men between the ages of 55 and 69, an age when the risk of prostate cancer is higher.

They calculated a polygenic risk score (PRS), which is based on 130 small changes in the DNA that are linked to prostate cancer.

This score was created by analysing the DNA of hundreds of thousands of men.

Men who had the highest genetic risk, about 10% of the group, were invited for more screening tests. Out of 468 men with a high genetic risk score, 187 (or 40%) were found to have prostate cancer after



- A spit test can assess genetic variants to predict prostate cancer
- Prostate cancer is among the top ten cancers in the world
- The usual blood test only finds cancer in about 25% of men with high prostate-specific antigen levels

undergoing MRI and biopsy.

In comparison, the usual PSA blood test only finds cancer in about 25% of men who have high PSA (prostate-specific antigen in the blood) levels.

Interestingly, 118 of the 187 men diagnosed with cancer had PSA levels that were considered 'normal'—meaning they might not have been tested further using standard methods.

The PSA test often picks up cancers that are not dangerous and don't need treatment. But the genetic risk score (from a saliva test) found more serious, fast-

growing cancers.

In this study, over half (55%) of the cancers found using the genetic test were aggressive, compared to about 36% found using the PSA test.

The study found that the spit test was also more accurate than an MRI.

Since the test was developed in the UK, the research team has estimated that in England, the spit test could identify the genetic variation of up to 12,350 people earlier, saving the National Health Services around 500 million pounds a year.



## Eating almonds daily can help control blood sugar in Asian Indians: Study

Consuming almonds daily can help control blood sugar levels in specific populations, such as Asian Indians, according to a research article.

Analysing previously published research on almonds and cardiometabolic health, an international team of researchers and physicians said almonds can help improve metabolic health by reducing 'bad' cholesterol and increasing beneficial gut bacteria.

Findings, published as a consensus article in the journal Current Developments in Nutrition, reinforce almonds' role as a heart-healthy, weight-supporting, and gut-friendly food, the team said.

The findings also reveal how almonds can potentially benefit specific populations such as Asian Indians, where rising rates of cardiometabolic diseases are a concern, study author Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of Fortis Centre for Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol, told PTI.

Consuming almonds was found to lower LDL, or 'bad' cholesterol by five units, and diastolic blood pressure in small but significant amounts of 0.17-1.3 mmHg.

For Asian Indians with pre-diabetes, eating almonds daily can help reduce fasting blood glucose and HbA1C, the researchers said.

"The most current meta-analyses on almond consumption and various health-related endpoints suggest that almond consumption does not result in weight gain and results in small reductions in LDL cholesterol and diastolic blood pressure, as well as improved glycemic responses in certain populations (i.e. Asian Indians)," the study said.

Dr Misra said, "These benefits aid weight loss efforts by helping stabilise energy levels and reduce appetite fluctuations. When paired with balanced nutrition and physical activity, almonds can be a health-promoting part of a weight loss plan."

In the article, the authors also wrote that "there was some evidence that almond consumption of (more than) 50 grams per day may have led to small reductions in body weight in some study participants." They said the result debunks the myth that almonds can contribute to weight gain.

Source: PTI

## Managing high blood pressure may lower dementia risk by 15%

Researchers have found that actively managing high blood pressure through a combination of medications, lifestyle coaching, and at-home monitoring, can reduce the risk of developing dementia by 15%.

Dementia is a progressive condition in which the brain's cells start shrinking, further impairing memory and cognitive ability. It affects approximately more than 57 million people globally, according to the World Health Organisation. While age is a known risk factor, experts stress that dementia is not something that has to happen. In fact, many cases can be delayed or even prevented by tackling health risks within our control, like hypertension (uncontrolled high blood pressure).

In a large international study published in Nature Medicine, researchers from China and the US studied 33,995 adults aged 40 and above in rural China, all with



uncontrolled high blood pressure. These participants came from 326 villages and were divided into two groups.

In 163 villages, 17,407 people received intensive hypertension management care. This intervention group was provided with free or subsidised blood pressure medication, tailored dosage plans, regular lifestyle coaching, and home blood pressure monitors. The control group continued with routine clinical care but received no additional support or equipment.

After four years, 668 people in the group that got intensive blood pressure care developed dementia, compared to 734 in the group that got regular care - a 15% lower risk of dementia, and even a 16% lower risk of early cognitive problems for those who received structured support.

Source: India Today

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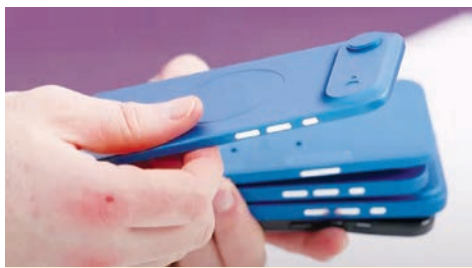
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## iPhone 17 Air hands-on video leaked, could be slimmer than a pencil

Apple's next iPhone lineup is still a few months away, but the iPhone 17 Air is already making headlines — and this time, it's about just how incredibly thin it might be. A new leak has surfaced online showing what's claimed to be a dummy unit of the iPhone 17 Air, and it suggests Apple is pushing the limits of smartphone design.

A video, posted by tech YouTuber Lewis Hilsenteger of Unbox Therapy, shows that the iPhone 17 Air measures just 5.65mm. If this turns out to be true, then the 17 Air would be even slimmer than a standard wooden pencil, which is typically around 6mm in diameter. While earlier reports suggested the Air could be as thin as 5.5mm, this slight difference is unlikely to matter to users holding it in hand.

Holding up the iPhone 17 Air dummy next to the iPhone 17 Pro Max model — which is about 8.75mm thick — he describes the Air as feeling “futuristic,” almost half as thick in comparison. While this design looks quite impressive, it will be interesting to see how the phone will hold up in terms of durability.

This ultra-slim form doesn't come without compromises. According to ongoing rumours, Apple has scaled back the rear camera setup on the iPhone 17 Air, equipping it with just a single rear camera.

# Meta launches Edits, a free app that will let Insta users edit and create reels on phone

Meta has launched a new app called Edits. This new mobile application, available for both Android and iOS platforms, allows users to record, edit, and export videos—including Instagram Reels—directly from their smartphones. According to Meta, Edits is designed to simplify the content creation process by offering an all-in-one tool. It says that its new app eliminates the need to switch between multiple apps for filming, editing, and uploading.

Unlike Instagram's built-in editing tools, Edits functions as a separate application and can be used to edit videos for any platform, including Instagram or Facebook. However, users are required to log in using their Instagram account credentials.

To simplify the editing process, the Edits app includes several built-in features aimed at streamlining video production on mobile devices. These include:

**RECORDING:** Users can film video clips within the app, with a maximum duration of 10 minutes per clip. Meta says this feature is meant to give users the flexibility to create longer videos without needing to switch between multiple applications.

**EDITING:** The app also includes a timeline-based editing interface, where users can trim clips, apply transitions, and add visual effects. It also features green screen functionality, which allows users to replace backgrounds.

**EXPORTING:** After editing the videos, users can save or share them directly to Instagram, Facebook, or other platforms. According to Meta, exported videos do not include any watermarks, allowing for cleaner uploads.

**PERFORMANCE METRICS:** Beyond editing or exporting, after the video is shared on a platform, the Edits app also displays viewer engagement data, such as skip rates. Meta says this information may help creators and other users understand how their content is being received and where viewers tend to drop off.

### How the Edits app works

Users can download the Edits app from the App Store or Google Play Store. Once downloaded, users will need to log in using their Instagram credentials. Once logged in, users can



either record video within the app or import footage from their phone's gallery.

After footage is loaded into the timeline editor, users can cut segments, adjust the order of clips, modify audio, and apply visual effects. Once editing is complete, videos can be exported and used on various social media platforms.

While Edits is currently focused on mobile video creation, Meta has stated that the app is part of a broader effort to offer creators more tools without depending on third-party software.

Meta has outlined plans for expanding Edits with additional features in future updates. According to the company, upcoming tools will include:

**KEYFRAME EDITING:** This feature will allow for more detailed adjustments of movement and visual effects by letting users manipulate frame-by-frame parameters.

**AI-ASSISTED EDITS:** Meta says it will also leverage artificial intelligence tools to help users automate certain aspects of the editing process, such as lighting correction and video stabilisation.

**COLLABORATION TOOLS:** Future updates may allow users to share video drafts with others for collaborative editing and feedback.

## OpenAI would buy Google Chrome, says ChatGPT chief

OpenAI would be interested in buying Google's Chrome if antitrust enforcers are successful in forcing the Alphabet unit to sell the popular web browser as part of a bid to restore competition in search, an OpenAI executive testified on Tuesday at Google's antitrust trial in Washington. ChatGPT head of product Nick Turley made the statement while testifying at trial in Washington where US Department of Justice seeks to require Google to undertake far-reaching measures restore competition in online search.

The judge overseeing the trial found last year that Google has a monopoly in online search and related advertising. Google has not offered Chrome for sale. The company plans to appeal the ruling that it holds a monopoly.

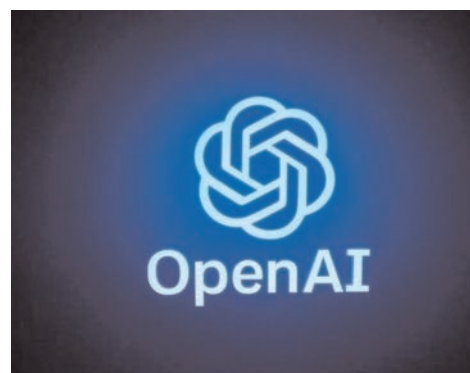
The beginning of the high-stakes trial provided a glimpse into the generative AI race, where Big Tech companies and

startups are vying to build up their apps and gain users. Prosecutors raised concerns in opening statements on Monday that Google's search monopoly could give it advantages in AI, and that its AI products are another way to lead users to its search engine.

Google has pointed to competition among companies offering generative AI products, such as Meta Platforms and Microsoft.

Turley wrote last year that ChatGPT was leading in the consumer chatbot market and did not see Google as its biggest competitor, according to an internal OpenAI document Google's lawyer showed at trial. He testified that the document was meant to inspire OpenAI employees and that the company would still benefit from distribution partnerships.

Turley, a witness for the government, testified earlier in the day that Google shot down a bid by OpenAI to use its



search technology within ChatGPT. OpenAI had reached out to Google after experiencing issues with its own search provider, Turley said, without naming the provider. ChatGPT uses technology from Microsoft's search engine, Bing.

"We believe having multiple partners, and in particular Google's API, would enable us to provide a better product to users," OpenAI told Google, according to an email shown at trial.

OpenAI first reached out in July, and Google declined the request in August, saying it would involve too many competitors, according to the email. "We have no partnership with Google today," Turley said. The DOJ's proposal to make Google share search data with competitors as one means of restoring competition would help accelerate efforts to improve ChatGPT, Turley said.

Search is a critical part of ChatGPT to provide answers to user queries that are up to date and factual, Turley said. ChatGPT is years away from its goal of being able to use its own search technology to answer 80 per cent of queries, he added.

In August, US District Judge Amit Mehta found that Google protected its search monopoly through exclusive agreements with Samsung Electronics and others to have its search engine installed as the default on new devices.



# Dollar rebounds as US seeks to ease tensions over Fed, China trade

The U.S. dollar staged a rebound against its major peers on Wednesday on hopes of de-escalating trade tensions and as President Donald Trump backed away from threats to fire the head of the Federal Reserve, offering relief to investors.

The Trump administration would look at lowering tariffs on imported Chinese goods pending talks with Beijing, a source familiar with the matter said on Wednesday, adding that any action would not be made unilaterally. Hopes that the trade war would abate boosted the greenback against the euro and the Swiss franc.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent separately suggested that there could be a de-escalation in U.S.-China trade tensions and any trade deal with China could substantially cut tariffs.

Investors hastened back to the dollar, which has been hovering near three-year lows in recent weeks and whose safe-haven status had been questioned in view of Trump's trade policies and their potential impact on the U.S. economy.

"People are, just generally speaking, very relieved that there's the potential for discussions between the two countries, and we're seeing that play out in a big way," said Helen Given, director of trading at Monex USA.

The U.S. dollar index rose rapidly at the start of the trading day in Asian hours, but steadied afterward as market sentiment remained fragile. It was last up 0.297% at 99.86.

Markets this week have also been grappling with the notion that the Fed's independence could be under threat after repeated verbal attacks by Trump on Chair Jerome Powell for not cutting rates since the president took office in January.

Trump appeared to back down in remarks late on April 22.



"I have no intention of firing him," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I would like to see him be a little more active in terms of his idea to lower interest rates."

Lee Hardman, senior currency analyst at MUFG, said the "outright denial" from Trump was an encouraging signal for the markets.

The euro eased 0.86% to \$1.132, pulling back from the \$1.15 levels earlier this week which marked a high of roughly 3-1/2-years

Surveys on Wednesday showed euro zone business growth stalling and Germany's private sector contracting this month, hurt by service-sector woes and trade-related uncertainty.

## MARKETS DON'T TRUST TRUMP

The dollar climbed 1.27% against the yen to 143.435. Against the Swiss franc, the dollar was last 1.32% stronger at 0.8298. Despite its attempted rebound, the dollar is not far off its multiyear lows against the euro and the Swiss franc and

seven-month low versus the Japanese yen.

"We think this is going to be a theme going forward. We will see continued shocks that place downside pressure on the dollar; repeated walk-backs to see the dollar bounce. But again, the dollar will not return to previous highs," said Nicholas Rees, head of macro research at Monex Europe. "Markets don't trust Donald Trump."

After setting a baseline import tax of 10% and much higher on dozens of countries at the start of the month, Trump abruptly put the steeper levies on hold for 90 days for countries to negotiate less stringent rates.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said on Tuesday that 18 countries have offered proposals so far, with Trump's trade negotiating team set to meet with 34 this week to discuss tariffs.

In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin rose over 2% to \$93,705, breaking above \$90,000 for the first time since March.

Source: Reuters

## Stock markets decline after 7-day rally; HUL drops 4% post earnings

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended lower on April 24 amid profit-taking after a seven-day rally and disappointing earnings from Hindustan Unilever.

Selling in blue-chips ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel and a largely muted trend in Asian and European equities also dragged the markets lower.

The 30-share BSE benchmark declined 315.06 points or 0.39 per cent to settle at 79,801.43. During the day, it dropped 391.94 points or 0.48 per cent to 79,724.55. The NSE Nifty went down by 82.25 points or 0.34 per cent to 24,246.70.

In the past seven trading days, the BSE benchmark gauge zoomed 6,269.34 points or 8.48 per cent and the Nifty jumped 1,929.8 points or 8.61 per cent.

From the Sensex firms, FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) dropped 4 per cent after the firm reported a decline of 3.35 per cent in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,475 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025 on lower margins.

Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Eternal, Mahindra & Mahindra, HCL Technologies, HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Tata Consultancy Services and Bajaj Finance were also among the laggards.

Nestle India Ltd on Thursday reported a 6.5 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at Rs 873.46 crore for March quarter of FY25 as the FMCG industry faced food inflation and moderation in urban consumption. IndusInd Bank, UltraTech Cement, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, Titan and Asian Paints were among the gainers.

"The domestic market witnessed mild profit-booking after the recent rally. Similarly, global markets too experienced selling pressure as the market participants scaled back the possibility of a quick resolution of tariff disputes between the US and China.

## Atal Incubation Centre-RMP signs MoU with MVIRDC World Trade Center Mumbai

Mumbai: Successful business and trade is one of the important pillars of a prosperous nation. Capacity building among young entrepreneurs is the key to achieve this. Atal Incubation Centre (AIC), an initiative of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini (RMP) supported by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Government of India, has been working since 2019 to nurture, handhold and support new age entrepreneurs. Towards this end, AIC-RMP yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Trade Centre (WTC) Mumbai. This collaboration aims to empower young talent, develop entrepreneurial skill sets, and help start-ups in scaling their businesses through global networking, mentorship and industry-driven programs.

Networking & innovation for international expansion  
This partnership between AIC-RMP and M. Visvesvaraya Industrial Research & Development Centre (MVIRDC) WTC Mumbai is a significant step toward fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and



global business opportunities and market access for start-ups. The key objectives of this joint initiative are:  
1) Identifying and supporting start-ups for international market expansion

2) Joint development of entrepreneurship and innovation programs

3) Networking and trade facilitation with global business leaders

4) Organizing workshops, and training and acceleration programs

5) Mutual branding, visibility, and speaker engagements at events

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the serene Knowledge Excellence Centre of RMP campus in Uttan on the outskirts of Mumbai. Ms. Aakruti Bagwe, Director-Operations, MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai; Ms. Smita Deshmukh, Head, Center of Excellence, MVIRDC World Trade Centre Mumbai; and Mr. Uday Wankawala, CEO, AIC-RMP, were the delegates present for the MoU signing. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Wankawala said, "Through this partnership, we aim to strengthen the start-up ecosystem by bridging the gap between innovation and international markets, and creating new opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs and businesses. We truly appreciate the work of WTC Mumbai and see a lot of synergy in our joint efforts towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.'"





**BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

## ARIES



Ganesha says this week, the circumstances will be quite positive for the natives of Aries. Your hard work and dedication in the workplace will result in success. Your relationship with colleagues will be strengthened, which will improve teamwork. In your personal life, this is a good time to spend with your loved ones. Your creativity and energy will lead you to new opportunities. Participating in social activities will give you happiness, and you will also make new friends. It is important to take care of your health. A balanced diet and regular exercise will help maintain your health. Practice meditation and yoga for mental peace. This week, small positive changes will help you move in your direction. Stay focused on your goals and stay away from negative thinking. Your diligence and dedication will help you overcome all challenges.

## TAURUS



Ganesha says this week will prove to be pleasant and satisfying for the natives of Taurus. You may see some positive changes in your work life, which will bring the fruits of your hard work. In social life too, you will be more full of life and will enjoy spending time with friends. Your family relationships will become even stronger. You can discuss an important decision with your family, which will prove beneficial for all of you. This week will be balanced from the health point of view, but keep in mind to avoid too much stress. Incorporating simple exercise and meditation into your routine will increase your mental health. In financial matters, be a little careful. Maintaining a budget will be beneficial for you. Take steps thoughtfully in matters of investment. Overall, this week is a sign of happiness, harmony, and progress for you. Listen to your intuition and incorporate positivity in your life.

## GEMINI



Ganesha says for Gemini, some special opportunities may come your way this week. You will feel novelty and transition in your thoughts. This is the time to expand your social network. Spending time with friends and family will give you mental peace and give you new inspiration. Some important changes

can be seen in your career this week. It is time to focus on old projects so that you will see their results. Share your thoughts with clarity, as this will strengthen your position and you will be able to present your ideas effectively. On an emotional level, something old may be revived again, which will help you strengthen your relationship. Try to talk openly with your partner; it will bring harmony in your relationship. In terms of health, you may feel a little tired at the beginning of the week, but gradually your energy will return. Regular exercise and meditation will help you create balance. The overall message of this week is to face challenges with an open heart and mind. Positive thinking and communication will bring light to your path.

## CANCER



Ganesha says this week will be very special for Cancer people. It is time to focus on your emotional health. During this period, you will get an opportunity to bring out the creativity hidden inside you. Spending time with people close to you will give you emotional balance and stability. Your relationships will deepen, especially if you share your thoughts openly. You may feel a little stressed at the workplace, but despite this, the fruits of your hard work will be sweet. It is important to remain stable to achieve your goals. Be careful in financial matters, and avoid impulsive expenses. It is important to be alert about health; Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy levels. Listen to your soul this week and bring clarity to your intentions. Positivity will spread around you, and this will open the door to new possibilities in your life.

## LEO



Ganesha says this week will be full of enthusiasm and creativity. Your natural leadership ability will give you the confidence to move forward with new projects. During this time, your relationship with friends and family will become even stronger. A new depth will be seen in personal relationships, which will also improve your mental balance. Pay attention to your health, as this week you may be affected by stress and work pressure. Achieve mental peace with the help of yoga or meditation. Be cautious in financial matters this week. Expenses may increase, so do not forget to assess expenses. If you are planning to invest, make a wise decision. There will be an exchange of new information in social life, which can prove beneficial for you. Try to make new contacts. Overall, this week will be full of new possibilities and positive experiences for you. Recognize your inner energy and channel it in the right direction.

## VIRGO



Ganesha says this week may open up new opportunities for you. Your organizational abilities and analytical thinking will bring you prominence in the workplace. Collaboration with fellow workers will give you positive results. Avoid lack of communication in personal relationships. Talking openly will allow understand your feelings. Family members may have some expectations from you, try to fulfill them. In terms of health, there is a need to focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. Focus on meditation and yoga to keep your mental health strong. This week your creativity will be at its peak, so this is a great time to give time to your hobbies. If you are interested in writing, art, or music, take time to express your ideas. With a positive attitude and hard work, you will be able to overcome many difficulties this week. Stay focused on your goals and keep moving forward.

## LIBRA



Ganesha says this week, many important changes and opportunities will present themselves for Libra natives. By maintaining your strength and balance, you will be able to achieve success in all your tasks. Your thinking will be clear in both personal and professional areas, which will enable you to make good decisions. Your creativity will be at its peak this week. A new project or creative work may come in front of you, which will give a new platform to your art skills. Social life will also see positive upheaval, where you will meet new people and share your ideological views. In terms of health, focus on peaceful practices like meditation and yoga, which will help you stay mentally and physically healthy. These activities will help you maintain balance and reduce stress. Remember, it is important to be honest with your thoughts and feelings. If you remain clear and stable towards your goals, success will follow you this week.

## SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week can be a time of upheaval for Scorpio. Your deep emotions and insights will provide you with an opportunity to move in a new direction. Your relationships are going to deepen, but you must communicate and share your ideas with an open mind. Your professional potential will increase this week. Be open to new projects or opportunities that can enhance your skills. You will get the fruits of your hard work, but keep in mind that you will achieve success only by working together with the team. In terms of

health, use your strength to the best of your ability and try to reduce stress. Yoga or meditation can benefit your mental health. This weekend, it's time to focus on your hobbies and interests. It's time to do something special for yourself, which will help you rediscover your identity. This way, you will not only find your inner happiness but also move towards new goals.

## SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week the door to new opportunities is going to open for you. Your courage and enthusiastic ideas will help you move forward. It will be important to strengthen relationships with colleagues at the workplace. This week your creativity will be at its peak, so do not hesitate to share your ideas. In personal life, spending time with family members will make you happy. There will be a good opportunity to resolve any old differences. Honesty and openness in conversations with loved ones can make mutual relationships stronger. In terms of health, you have to keep both mental and physical balance. A little peace and meditation will give you more energy and mental clarity. Focus on self-love and self-care this week. This is the time for you to recognize your inner power. Keep a positive attitude and keep moving towards your goals. Whatever challenges come, see them as an opportunity and move forward.

## CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week is bringing important opportunities for Capricorn. During this period, you will try to balance your career and personal life. Your hard work and dedication will be appreciated in the working field, which can give you new responsibilities. However, it is also important to take time apart from work and spend it with your loved ones, which will strengthen relationships. You should be a little careful about your health this week. Regular exercise and focusing on a balanced diet will give you energy and enthusiasm. Spending time with family will give you mental peace. Improvement in financial matters is also possible this week. You can consider some new investment opportunities. Taking full advantage of these opportunities will be beneficial for you. Positive changes can also come in social life. This is a favorable time to make new friends and participate in social activities. Expressing your feelings will bring you closer to others. Remember that whatever decision you take this week, it is necessary to proceed thoughtfully and carefully.

**CONTD ON PAGE 37**



## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 28 TO MAY 4 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### APRIL 28

Ganesha says in a professional sense, things are a lot better, and you'd be moving around with more vigor and assurance. Your business or job may alter for the better. Expect recognition and financial advantages from those who work in the creative industries, such as writing, art, and other creative fields. Undoubtedly, health would require greater focus. For spiritual and physical well-being, meditation and yoga should be practiced. Children will offer assistance and bring in some joyful and positive news.

### APRIL 29

Ganesha says you'll become more self-assured. With my exceptional company entrepreneurship talents, you would gain. Numerous new tasks and projects would increase your prosperity. Court and government favors for some. Uneasy times at home could result from a misunderstanding with your spouse. The entire family's emotions will be lifted later by some thrilling news from abroad. Making new allies would be possible through travel. Concerns about a family member's infant's health may arise.

### APRIL 30

Ganesha says you are happy and having financial success now. To attain your objectives, you must make no effort. Entrepreneurs will explore fresh, more lucrative opportunities. Real estate and stock investments would both be very profitable. If there are any property problems, they will be resolved to your satisfaction. Your spouse's health should be a worry. Your medical costs will likely go up. Spending time with friends would be beneficial because they would understand your issues.

### MAY 1

Ganesha says you should prepare yourself for new jobs and positions with significant duties. As previous investments start reaping rewards, your financial situation stabilizes. Prosperity and happiness are brought into the home by better finances. In terms of romance, this time is good for ladies and girls. It is possible to experience some financial gains from inheritance or pricey presents from family members. It would be possible to travel frequently and earn money for it. Some people may make a long trip abroad. Be careful not to lend or borrow money.

### MAY 2

Ganesha says your financial situation would improve, but your savings would not go as planned. Your finances would always be tight due to unforeseen, unanticipated bills. For some, an increase in responsibilities or a change in employment. A new business deal or financial transaction will have lucrative outcomes. Your personality will be profoundly affected if a spiritual person suddenly comes into your life. Your spouse will be sympathetic and show you love and affection. Be wary of acquaintances who act too amiably.

### MAY 3

Ganesha says your confidence and enthusiasm would be valued by your employer. Many tasks that you previously deemed unattainable would be possible for you to complete. Making new contacts would result in financial gains. It will be interesting and intellectually stimulating to go on vacation or hang out with friends. Both friends and family will be encouraging. You'll be bothered by minor domestic conflicts and worry. Take special care with your health; consequently, watch what you eat.

### MAY 4

Ganesha says people would be



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR  
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

impressed by your charisma and communication skills. Although your salary would increase, it would be very challenging for you to preserve money because of your unpredictable spending. This new romance is for single people, but your productivity will probably suffer if you constantly daydream about this special someone. If you want to reach your goals, you shouldn't let anything hinder your career aspirations. Family members' elders and kids will need a lot of your attention. Lawyers and doctors can anticipate a fantastic period.

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### CONTD FROM PAGE 36

#### AQUARIUS



#### Aquarius

Ganesha says this week will be satisfying and inspiring for Aquarius. Activity will increase in your social life and you will be able to make new contacts. Time spent with friends and family will bring you happiness. On the work front, your creativity and sense of innovation will show you new paths of advancement. Do not hesitate to express your ideas; your unique approach will be appreciated. In terms of health, mental health needs attention. Take some time out for yourself and do meditation or yoga. This will not only give you mental peace but will also give you new energy. In general, this week is bringing many opportunities for you. Enjoy life openly and move forward with positive thinking.

#### PISCES



#### Pisces

Ganesha says this week is a time of new possibilities and self-discovery for Pisces. Your inherent emotion and sensitivity will help you unleash your creativity. You may get an opportunity to deepen your interest in a new project or hobby. Some new meetings are also possible in your social life, which will enrich you emotionally and mentally. Conversations with friends and loved ones will inspire you to try to solve problems at an early stage. In terms of health, it is advisable to focus on a balanced diet and regular exercise. Practicing meditation or yoga will be

beneficial for mental peace. Remember, expressing your feelings is important, so try to spend time with people who offer you true understanding and support. This week, listen to your inner voice and take steps towards positive changes.

#### AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website [chiragdaruwalla.com](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)

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# Sikh History This Week

## APRIL 25 TO MAY 1

### 25th April

1635 Battle of Kartarpur between Mughals and Sikhs led by Guru Hargobind Ji.



1809 Amritsar agreement between Ranjit Singh and British Government. An agreement was reached between the Maharaja Ranjit Singh and British Government in Amritsar. This represents the very first agreement among the Sikhs and the British government. As a result, the Phulkia Riyasat was placed under the control of the British.

### 26th April

1969 Lachhman Singh Gill died of heart attack. He could not bear the insult of his arrest by Gurnam Singh's government, which in actuality was an act of revenge.

1984 15 GurSikhs killed at Gurudwara Bibi Kahan Kaur, Moga.

The Border Security Forces (BSF) of India killed 15 GurSikhs and injured 25 others at Gurudwara Bibi Kahan Kaur, Moga. Water, power, and the electrical supply to 20 Sikh shrines, including three at Moga, were cut. 300 Sikhs were detained in these Gurdwaras.



1998 Justice Kuldeep Singh, in his capacity as the Founder-President of the World Sikh Council, announced a 3-member People's Commission to enquire into disappearances in Punjab during the militancy days. Former Supreme Court Judge Justice K. Reddy would head the commission, while the other two members of the commission are former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Justice D.S. Tevalia, and former Judge of the Mumbai High Court Justice H. Suresh. The victims of the police atrocities could present their cases with documentary proof to the commission.

### 27th April



Prakash Utsav, Second Patshah, Guru Angad Dev Ji. (1504-1552): The mantle of the First Master fell on Angad, the second Sikh Guru, in 1539, and he graced the exalted position till 1552.

Born at Mattae de Saran, a Punjab village, on Sunday, Vaisakh Vadi 1 sunmat 1561 (March 31, 1504) to father Pheru Mal and mother Dya Kaur, Guru Angad was originally known as Lehna. In sunmat 1576, Guru Sahib married Khivi, daughter of Devi Chand. This marriage resulted in two daughters, Bibi Amro and Anokhi, and two sons, Dassu and Dattu Ji. Lehna's parents were orthodox Hindus and worshippers of the goddess Durga. The most momentous and exulting moment in Lehna's life came around 1531 when he met Guru Nanak at Kartarpur. So powerful and profound was the Guru's divine spell on him that he wound up domestic affairs and devoted himself entirely to the service of the Guru and of fellow-men in whom the Lord constantly dwells. Because of his patient and unpretentious service, he endeared himself to the Guru, who lovingly called him Angad (i.e., of my own limb) and elevated him to the Guruship on Hadh 17th sunmat 1596. However, Guru Angad actually assumed Guruship on Asu 23rd sunmat 1596 and started his work.

### 29th April

1590 The digging of Taran Taran sarovar was initiated.

1635 Battle of Phagwara between Mughals and Sikhs led by Guru Hargobind Ji.

Battle of Phagwara took place between the Mughals and Sikhs led by Guru Hargobind Ji. Because of the suddenness of the onslaught, the Sikhs couldn't arrange prompt defensive measures, and as a result, they suffered some loss of manpower.

**GURU HARGOBIND JI'S BATTLE AT PHAGWARA:** After the battle of Kartarpur, Guru Hargobind promptly shifted to Kiratpur amidst the Punjab hills as a place remote from Lahore. Kiratpur was considered better from the point of view of safety. The Sikhs were attacked by a royal detachment, commanded by Ahmad Khan, son of Abdula Khan, when they were in the vicinity of Phagwara. The onslaught was so sudden that the Sikhs could not arrange prompt defensive measures and suffered some loss of manpower. Those who figured in this battle on the side of the imperialists included Fateh Khan and Ahmad Khan, who were slain while fighting. Zafat Kahn, Jamal Khan, and Fateh Khan were among those who fought against the Sikhs to the last. Tradition holds that Tegh Bahadur showed such great feats with sword that Guru Hargobind is said to have remarked that Tegh Mal seemed a more appropriate name than Tiag Mal.

1849 Maharani Jind Kaur escapes from the maximum security of Chunar fort and reaches Kathmandu in Nepal.

1986 Panthic Committee announced the "Declaration of Independence" from Akal Takht Sahib.

When the killings of Sikhs became a daily routine in Punjab, the Panthic Committee of Damdami Taksal (Chowk Mehta) announced the 'Declaration of Independence' and the formation of Kahlistan Government. The declaration was made from Akal Takht Sahib. After the declaration of the new Government, the "Cabinet" left Darbar Sahib for some unknown destination.

### 30th April

1689 Bhangani battle between Guru Gobind Singh and the Hill Rajas.

Battle of Bhangani took place between Sri Guru Gobind Singh and Hindu Rajas, Bhim Chand Kahluri, Fateh Shah Gadhwalia, Hari Chand Handuria, etc. Guru's forces came out victorious. This was Guru Gobind Singh's first battle in which Bibi Biro's sons Sangho Shah and Jeetmal accepted shahadat. Raja Hari Chand and several rajputs were killed by Guru Gobind Singh. A detailed description of this battle is provided in the 8th Chapter of Bachitar Natak. Also in this battle, Pir Budhu Shah's sons and 700 of his followers fought along side Guru's forces.



1837 Jamroadh battle where Hari Singh Nalwa accepted Shahadat.

Jamrodh battle took place. Akbar Khan, knowing the absence of Sikh troops, attacked Jamrod. Sikh troops were sent away from Jamrod and Peshawar for ceremonial duties. Hari Singh Nalwa sought immediate assistance from Lahore, but his request was not deliberately placed before Maharaja Ranjit Singh by Dhian Singh to make Hari Singh Nalwa's position difficult. This battle saw heavy casualties on both sides. Sikhs repulsed the Afghans, but their leader Hari Singh Nalwa was seriously wounded and died on this day. Maharaja Ranjit Singh cried bitter tears, as the loss of Hari Singh was too great. The Dogras became supreme, as no other sardar could check-mate them. Maharaja Ranjit Singh never fully annexed the frontier but ruled them through Muslim chiefs.

1877 A mysterious aroma circumambulated the Holy Guru Granth Sahib in Harimandir Sahib, Golden Temple, Amritsar.

1921 SGPC registered with British government as a Sikh body in Lahore.

1986 Surjit S. Barnala ordered an attack, Black Thunder, on Sri Darbar Sahib.

### 1st May

1635 Guru Hargobind arrived at Kiratpur.

1837 Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa fatally wounded in Jamraud battle.



The Akshaya Tritiya festival is also known as Akti or Akha Teej. This festival is an auspicious festival of Hindus and Jains. This festival falls on the third day of the Shukla Paksha of the Vaishakh month. This festival is celebrated as an auspicious time by Hindus and Jains in India and Nepal. According to the mythological texts, whatever works are done on this day, they get a auspicious result. Hence this day is called Akshaya Tritiya.

In Sanskrit, 'Akshaya' means hope, prosperity, joy and success and 'Tritiya' means third. Every month the tritiya comes on the Shukla Paksha, but during the Shukla Paksha in Vaishakh, the tritiya is considered auspicious. This day holds special significance as the most celebrated muhurat. On this day, any auspicious work can be done - such as a wedding, home entrance, buying clothing, jewelry, houses, land and vehicles etc.

It is believed that on this day, pind daan or any kind of donation made for the Pitros results in renewable. Taking a bath in the Ganges on this day can get rid of all sins. The war of Mahabharata had ended on this day and the Dwapar Yuga had also ended on this day.

Ganga bathing has a special importance in Hinduism and after taking Ganga bath in Brahma Muhurta on the day of Akshay Tritiya, one should worship Lord Vishnu and Lakshmi and offer barley or wheat sattu, cucumber and gram dal. Brahmanas should eat food and donate to them.

#### The Meaning Behind the Name

The word "Akshaya" in Sanskrit means "that which never diminishes," and "Tritiya" refers to the third lunar day. Hence, Akshaya Tritiya is a day when actions and intentions are magnified, bringing long-lasting results. It's not merely about rituals-it's about what we choose to begin, give, and grow.

#### Legends That Light the Way

Every celebration in India is steeped in story, and Akshaya Tritiya is no exception. The day gains its sacred status through various divine episodes that continue to inspire generations:

##### Parashurama Jayanti

Born on this day was Lord Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. A warrior sage and upholder of dharma, his life represents the balance between strength and righteousness.

##### Sudama and Krishna - The Tale of Humble Devotion

Who could forget the touching tale of Sudama, who approached Lord Krishna with nothing more than parched rice? On Akshaya Tritiya, Krishna's joyful acceptance of the humble gift led to Sudama's transformation from poverty to prosperity. The message is clear: devotion and love outweigh material offerings.

##### The Akshaya Patra - Eternal Provision

In the Mahabharata, during the Pandavas' exile, Draupadi received the Akshaya Patra, a vessel of endless food,

# Akshaya Tritiya: A festival of eternal prosperity



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

#### Akshaya Tritiya 2025

Wednesday, 30 April 2025

Tritiya Date Start : 29 April 2025 at 05:31 PM

Tritiya Date Ends : 30 April 2025 at 02:12 PM

Note: Char Dham Yatra of Uttarakhand

will start from today. The Char Dhams are Yamanotri, Gangotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath.

Did you know : The war of Mahabharata had ended on this day and the Dwapar Yuga had also ended on this day, Birth of mother Annapurna and Kubera had got the treasure.

from Krishna. This miraculous gift ensured the family was never hungry-a symbol of divine sustenance and grace.

#### The Descent of Ganga

Another legend says that Mother Ganga descended from the heavens on Akshaya Tritiya. Bathing in holy rivers on this day is believed to purify the soul and wash away sins.

#### Jain Perspective: The First Act of Alms

For Jains, the day holds spiritual resonance as the moment when Rishabhanatha, the first Tirthankara, ended his fast by accepting sugarcane juice. This act marks the origin of almsgiving (daan) and the principle of compassion toward all beings.

#### Rituals and Reverence

While customs vary across regions, some practices are universally followed on Akshaya Tritiya:

- Pujas and Homams: Devotees offer prayers to Lord Vishnu, Lakshmi, and Kubera, invoking blessings for material and spiritual well-being.
- Charity (Daan): A core value of the day is giving-be it food, clothes, books, or financial aid. The belief is

that charity on this day returns a hundredfold.

- Buying Gold and Property: One of the most visible customs is the purchase of gold, silver, or land, as these are believed to remain "akshaya"-ever-increasing.
- New Beginnings: Be it a wedding, a business venture, or the start of education, Akshaya Tritiya is considered the most auspicious day to start afresh.

#### Regional Flavors and Festivities

##### Odisha: The Farmer's Blessing

In Odisha, the day marks the beginning of the farming season with the ceremony known as Akhi Muthi Anukula, where seeds are sown with prayers for a bountiful harvest.

##### Maharashtra and Gujarat: Gold, Grace, and Generosity

In these western states, the day is observed with great pomp-homes are decorated, families donate food and clothes, and gold purchases soar.

##### Tamil Nadu and Karnataka: Lakshmi's Light

Devotees perform Lakshmi Pooja, prepare sweets like payasam, and pray for both material and moral wealth.

#### Beyond Ritual: The Essence of Akshaya

What makes Akshaya Tritiya truly powerful is not the gold bought or the rituals followed-it is the intent behind every act. The festival teaches us:

- To begin with courage
- To give without expecting
- To live with awareness
- To build what endures

It is a day that reminds us to invest in things that don't fade-kindness, honesty, devotion, and generosity.

#### Akshaya Tritiya in the Modern World

In a fast-changing digital age, the essence of Akshaya Tritiya remains untouched. While gold is now bought through mobile apps and prayers are livestreamed, the spirit of the festival persists:

- Online charity drives gain traction
- Eco-conscious acts like tree planting grow in popularity
- Financial wisdom is encouraged-investing in mutual funds, education, and sustainable goods

The modern expression of Akshaya Tritiya is as much about wise living as it is about traditional observance.

Akshaya Tritiya is not just a ritual-it is a reflection of what we hold eternal. In a world that changes every moment, it urges us to root ourselves in values that outlast time. As we offer prayers, buy gold, or give to those in need, let us also sow the seeds of peace, truth, and compassion.

Because the true meaning of Akshaya is not what we gain, but what we give-freely, sincerely, and without end.



# India in history this Week

## APRIL 25 TO MAY 1

### 25 APRIL



1968 Hindustani classical music singer Bade Ghulam Ali Khan died.

1982 Doordarshan aired a colorful picture for the first time in 1982.

1933 On this day, the terrorists who hijacked the Air India plane were killed.

2000 On this day, the mastermind of Kandahar Hijack, Bilal alias Lalu Mian, was arrested from West Bengal.

2007 The new campus of the Virala Institute of Technology and Sciences opened in 2007 in Panama (Bahrain).

2010 In 2010, the Indian Navy began the process of procuring new Light Utility Helicopters (LUHs) in place of the old Chetak helicopters.



1969 India's famous football player IM Vijayan was born.

### 26 APRIL

1920 The great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujam passed away.



1975 Sikkim became the 22nd state of India.

1847 The Bombay Gadget newspaper was first

published in 1841 on silk cloth.

1929 The first non-stop flight from England to India was completed in 1929.

1980 Situated in 1980, the Center for Positional Astronomy was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1990 In 1990, VRP Menon set a world record by performing disco dance for 463 hours in a row.

1993 A 1993 Boeing-737 plane crash in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, killed about 60 people.

2006 India and Uzbekistan signed 6 treaties in 2006.

2008 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the 390 MW Dul Hasti Hydel Power Project in Jammu and Kashmir to the country in 2008.

2010 The Bihar government decided in 2010 to brand Bihar's famous Chiniya banana as 'Ganga Banana'.

1864 Pandit Gurudutt Vidyarthi, a disciple of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and one of the five prominent leaders of the Arya Samaj, was born.

### 27 APRIL

1526 The Mughal ruler Babur defeated the Sultan of Delhi and became the new emperor.

1748 The Mughal ruler Muhammad Shah died in Delhi.

1878 The University of Calcutta gave the first approval for eligibility for women in the field of university education.

1960 Establishment of National Defense College in



New Delhi.

1912 The great actress Zohra Sehgal was born.

### 28 APRIL



1916 BG Tilak founded the Indian Home Rule League in 1916.

1932 The development of yellow fever vaccine for humans was announced in 1932.

2003 Employee Safety and Health Day was observed around the world in 2003.

2008 The Indian Space Research Organization created a new history in 2008 with PSLV-C9.

1791 Hari Singh Nalwa, the Chief of Army Staff of

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was born.

### 29 APRIL

1848 Birth of well-known painter Raja Ravi Varma.

1939 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned from the Congress.

1639 The foundation of the Red Fort was laid in Delhi.

1997 The ban on chemical weapons has been in force since 1997.

1547 Bhamashah, a friend, colleague and trusted advisor of Maharana Pratap of Mewar was born on this day in 1547.

1919 Birth of Indian tabla player Alla Rakha in 1919.

### 30 APRIL

1908 Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki threw a bomb to kill the Kingsford magistrate in Muzaffarpur, but two were killed by innocent bombs.

1863 The Indian naval of the East India Company was sent to the British Navy.

1991 The volcano was active in Andaman.

2006 The Indian subcontinent hosted the 2011 Cricket World Cup in 2006.

2008 The driverless aircraft "Lakshya" was successfully tested in 2008 from Chandipur beach in Balasore district of Odisha.



2010 Dev Anand, an evergreen actor of Hindi films, was honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2010 and Franco "Phalke Icon" in Mumbai.

1870 The birth of Dadasaheb Phalke, the famous film producer-director and screenwriter of India.

### 01 MAY

1897 Swami Vivekananda established the Ramakrishna Mission.

1908 Prafulla Chaki shot himself after executing the Muzaffarpur bombings.

1912 Tata Steel was the first company in the world to introduce a 8 hour shift at its Jamshedpur plant in 1912, two years prior to Ford Company.

1923 Start of celebrating May Day in India.

1960 Maharashtra and Gujarat became separate states.

1972 Nationalization of the country's coal mines.

1914 Carmaker Ford became the first company to implement an eight-hour rule for its employees.



Nestled in the serene landscapes of Bankura district, West Bengal, Mukutmanipur is a tranquil retreat that offers a harmonious blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and adventure. Situated at the confluence of the Kangsabati and Kumari rivers, this quaint town is renowned for its majestic dam, lush forests, and spiritual sites, making it an ideal destination for nature lovers and peace seekers alike.

With hills and forests surrounding a huge water body that changes its color in different seasons, Mukutmanipur is the right place for those who are looking for some adventure along with absolute relaxation. Nestling at the confluence of two beautiful rivers - Kumari and Kansavati, Mukutmanipur is located in Bankura district of West Bengal. This wonderful destination is also a favorite picnic spot, attracting hoards of picnic crowds. This serene place is also famous for housing the second largest water barrage across India that canalizes Kumari and Kansavati Rivers into the 3 districts of West Bengal - Midnapore (West), Purulia and Bankura to facilitate irrigation of 8,000 square kilometers during the scorching summer.

#### Kangsabati Dam

Kangsabati dam was built along 11 km to grant irrigation facilities to the arable land of 8,000 sq. km, covering Purulia, Bankura, Paschim Medinipur and some parts of upper Hooghly. This is the main attraction among Mukutmanipur sightseeing places. This Mukutmanipur dam, known as the second largest earthen dam in India, was constructed under the administration of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the then Bengal's Chief Minister. The Kangsabati Dam has become a picnic spot, frequented by people for leisure. In the monsoon, from July to September, Mukutmanipur sports a different look altogether. When the reservoir is full and the Kangsabati spills its gorge the rhythmic music of water will leave you spellbound. It is a different feel visiting Mukutmanipur in the winter.

#### Sonajhuri Nature Park

The view of Mukutmanipur in the evening when its close to sunset, merged with the entire backdrop is breathtaking. The road by the dam can be driven on and is a smooth ride, a very romantic one at that. The sky takes on shades of orange during sunrise and sunset, the colour that gives you hope that the sun will set only to rise again.

#### Ambikanagar Temple

Maa Ambika is an incarnation of Goddess Durga. Goddess Durga is worshipped as Maa Ambika in Ambikanagar village (near about 5 km from Mukutmanipur) of Bankura district. It is known that Maa Ambika is being worshipped here for last 700 years. This village is situated at the mating place of Kanshai and Kumari Rivers. Ambika temple is located at the banks. Maa Ambika is now worshipped daily. Worship continuous from 9 am to 10am and also from 7pm to 9 pm. Maa Ambika is considered to be a very much 'alive' goddess by local inhabitants. 'Khichudi'

# Mukutmanipur: A hidden gem in West Bengal's heartland



The temple later went through many renovations. Ambikanagar is the nomenclature coined to erstwhile "Biratnagar" following Maa Ambika's temple.

#### Musafirana Viewpoint

Vast stretch of water at one side, lush green valley on the other and the blue sky overhead - that is Musafirana viewpoint all about. From here you will get the best view of Mukutmanipur. The evening breeze and duck will complete the mystic interaction of colors of nature.

#### Pareshnath Shiv Mandir

A hillock near Musafirana view point this is the abode of the Shiva deity named Pareshnath in Mukutmanipur. It is of a very ancient origin. Every year in the month of January a mela is organized by the local folk which attracts pilgrims and tourist from nearby districts. On the day of Makar Sankranti the tribals of Bankura and Purulia celebrate the Tusu festival in the month of Poush. Tusu fair is also held on the bank of Pareshnath Hill.

#### Bonpukuria Deer Park

Bankupuria deer park is situated in the middle of the Mukutmanipur dam. Take a boat ride to reach the other side of the dam. From there you can either walk or hire a motor rickshaw to cover the distance of 2 km. There are around 40 deers present in the park. The lush green environment adds to the natural beauty of the place. One can also find eagles and species of different birds in the forest. A visit to the Bankupuria Deer Park is a perfect outing for the family. It is advisable to carry binoculars to the park as it becomes easier to spot birds. The boat ride is an added feature to the place. Photographs too can be taken inside the park.

is cooked on a day of first week during monsoons. Many tourists get chance to taste this 'Khichudi bhog'. 700 years ago, one Sri Khargeswar Singh selected this spot on his holy voyage from Rajasthan.

He founded his dynasty here. Later he got the dream orders of Maa Ambika. Maa Ambika emerged from within the soil and is worshipped there. Later the temple is created by assembling stones.



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## History This Week APR 25 - MAY 01

### APRIL 25

April 25, 1967 - The first law legalizing abortion was signed by Colorado Governor John Love, allowing abortions in cases in which a panel of three doctors unanimously agreed.



Birthday - Radio inventor Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was born in Bologna, Italy. He pioneered the use of wireless telegraphy in the 1890's. By 1921, Marconi's invention had been developed into wireless telephony (voice radio).

### APRIL 26

April 26, 1937 - During the Spanish Civil War, the ancient town of Guernica was attacked by German warplanes. After destroying the town in a three hour bombing raid, the planes machine-gunned fleeing civilians.

April 26, 1944 - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

April 26, 1986 - At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe. A 300-square-mile area around the plant was evacuated. Thirty one persons were reported to have died while an additional thousand cases of cancer from radiation were expected. The plant was then encased in a solid concrete tomb to prevent the release of further radiation.

April 26, 1994 - Multiracial elections were held for the first time in the history of South Africa. With approximately 18 million blacks voting, Nelson Mandela was elected president and F.W. de Klerk vice president.



Birthday - American artist and naturalist John J. Audubon (1785-1851) was born in Haiti. He drew life-like illustrations of the birds of North America.

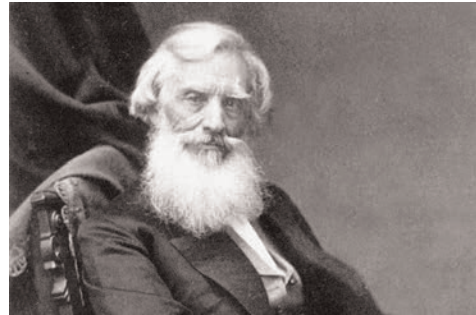
Birthday - Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was born in Hertfords, Connecticut. He helped design some of the most famous parks in America including Central Park in New York, the Emerald Necklace series of

connecting parks in Boston, and Yosemite National Park.

Birthday - Nazi Rudolf Hess (1894-1987) was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He was Deputy Führer of Nazi Germany and a member of Hitler's inner circle. On May 10, 1941, he made a surprise solo flight and parachuted into Scotland intending to negotiate peace with the British. However, the British promptly arrested him and confined him for the duration. Following the war, he was taken to Nuremberg and put on trial with other top Nazis. He died in captivity in 1987, the last of the major Nuremberg war criminals.

### APRIL 27

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.



Birthday - Telegraph inventor Samuel F.B. Morse (1791-1872) was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He developed the idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in the 1830's and tapped out his first message "What hath God wrought?" in 1844 on the first telegraph line, running from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. The construction of the first telegraph line was funded by Congress (\$30,000) after Morse failed to get any other financial backing. After Western Union was founded in 1856, telegraph lines were quickly strung from coast to coast in America.

Birthday - Civil War General and 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. During the war, he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant and was given command of the Union armies. He served as President from 1869 to 1877 in an administration plagued by scandal. He then went on to write his memoirs and died in 1885, just days after its completion.

### APRIL 28

April 28, 1789 - On board the British ship Bounty, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against Captain William Bligh, setting him and 18 loyal crew members adrift in a 23-foot open boat. Bligh survived a 47-day voyage sailing over 3,600 miles before landing on a small island. Christian sailed the Bounty back to Tahiti, eventually settling on Pitcairn Island and burning the ship.

April 28, 1945 - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones

by jeering crowds in Milan.



Birthday - James Monroe (1758-1831) the 5th U.S. President was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served two terms from 1817 to 1825 and is best known for the Monroe Doctrine which declared the U.S. would not permit any European nation to extend its holdings or use armed force in North or South America.

### APRIL 29

April 29, 1992 - Riots erupted in Los Angeles following the announcement that a jury in Simi Valley, California, had failed to convict four Los Angeles police officers accused in the videotaped beating of an African American man.



Birthday - American publisher William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) was born in San Francisco. The son of a gold miner, in 1887 he dropped out of Harvard to take control of the failing San Francisco Examiner which his father had purchased. He saved the Examiner, then went to New York and bought the New York Morning Journal to compete with Joseph Pulitzer. Hearst's sensational style of "yellow" journalism sold unprecedented numbers of newspapers and included promoting a war with Cuba in 1897-98. He expanded into other cities and into magazine publishing, books and films. He also served in Congress and nearly became mayor of New York City.

Birthday - Japan's Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) was born in Tokyo. In 1926, he became the 124th in a long line of monarchs and then presided over wartime Japan which was led by militarist Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. Following the dropping of two atomic bombs by the U.S., he made a radio address urging his people to stop fighting. After the war, he remained the symbolic head of state in Japan's new parliamentary government. In 1946, he renounced his divinity and then pursued his interest in marine biology, becoming a recognized authority in the subject.

### APRIL 30

April 30, 1789 - George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.

April 30, 1948 - Palestinian Jews declared their independence from British rule and established the new state of Israel. The country soon became a destination for tens of thousands of Nazi Holocaust survivors and a strong U.S. ally.

April 30, 1967 - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight



boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.

### MAY 1

May 1, 2004 - Eight former Communist nations and two Mediterranean countries joined the European Union (EU) marking its largest-ever expansion. The new members included Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, along with the island of Malta and the Greek portion of the island of Cyprus. They joined 15 countries already in the EU, representing in all 450 million persons.



Birthday - Irish-born American labor leader Mary 'Mother' Jones (1830-1930) was born in County Cork, Ireland. She endured misfortune early in life as her husband and four children died in the yellow fever epidemic of 1867. She also lost all of her belongings in the Chicago Fire of 1871. She then devoted herself to organizing and advancing the cause of Labor, using the slogan, "Join the Union, boys." She also sought to prohibit child labor. She remained active until the very end, giving her last speech on her 100th birthday.

Birthday - World War II General Mark Clark (1896-1984) was born in Madison Barracks, New York. He commanded the U.S. Fifth Army which invaded Italy in September of 1943, fighting a long and brutal campaign against stubborn German opposition.

Birthday - African American Olympic athlete Archie Williams (1915-1993) was born in Oakland, California. Williams, along with Jesse Owens, defeated German athletes at the 1936 Berlin Olympics and helped debunk Adolf Hitler's theory of Aryan racial superiority. Williams won a gold medal in the 400-meter race. After the Olympics, he went on to earn a mechanical engineering degree from the University of California-Berkeley but faced discrimination and wound up digging ditches. He later became an airplane pilot and trained Tuskegee Institute pilots including the black air corp of World War II.



## CONTD FROM PAGE 1

## World leaders to join thousands of...

Vatican City on April 25 to 26 to attend the state funeral of Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the government and people of India," the MEA said.

Once the funeral mass has finished, Francis's coffin will be taken, in procession, to Santa Maria Maggiore. The Vatican announced that people will be able to visit Francis's tomb in the basilica from Sunday morning.

## There has always been tension between...

"I am very close to India and I'm very close to Pakistan, as you know. And they've had that fight for 1,000 years in Kashmir. Kashmir has been going on for 1,000 years, probably longer than that. And it was a bad one yesterday, though, that was a bad one. Over 30 people," Mr. Trump said during a press gaggle with reporters aboard Air Force One on the way to Rome.

The U.S. President was asked about tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 civilians were killed and if he would be talking to the leaders of the two nations.

There have been "tensions on that border for 1,500 years. So you know, the same as it's been, but they'll get it figured out one way or the other. I'm sure... I know both leaders. There is great tension between Pakistan and India. But there always has been", he said.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday (April 22, 2025), killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack.

(Source: PTI)

## US restoring legal status of hundreds of...

Information System (Sevis), a federal database used to track international students' immigration status. A similar announcement was made in a court in Washington.

In recent weeks, numerous students received notifications that their records were terminated with little explanation, jeopardizing their legal right to remain in the US and sparking outrage and confusion. Some said they had their status revoked for infractions as minor as a speeding ticket.

"DSOs [designated school officials] certified to assist international students) around the country are freaking out because out of nowhere they're starting to see Ice manipulating the Sevis system to terminate students' records around the country," plaintiffs' attorney Brad Baniyas said in an earlier interview.

According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), once a Sevis record is deleted from the database, which is often called being "terminated", a student immediately falls out of status and risks deportation or future visa denials unless they quickly depart the US or regain lawful status.

Until the new Ice policy is finalized, Sevis records for the plaintiffs and other students affected by similar terminations will remain active or be reactivated. On Thursday afternoon, students across the country began receiving official notices from their schools stating that their Sevis records had been unexpectedly reactivated.

The news has brought some relief but not a full resolution, with some students saying the change has already caused irreparable harm.

"They call it a 'restoration', but for those of us who lived through it, who's accountable for what we lost?" said one California student, who asked to remain anonymous. She was in the US on an F-1 work authorization when her Sevis record was terminated in April, she suspects due to being fingerprinted when she received a driving ticket six years ago. Her employer fired her the next day after learning she could no longer legally work.

The judge ordered the government to submit an explanation of the policy and its legal impact by the end of Friday. All plaintiffs in the hearing were granted 14-day temporary restraining orders (TROs) shielding them from deportation or any adverse legal consequences.

Marc L Van Der Hout, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, said he believes Ice's new policy is a direct response to a recent order from the US district judge Jeffrey S White, who presided over Friday's hearing in Oakland and had

already granted TROs in some of the eight lawsuits.

"They're trying to argue the court doesn't need to act now - but they're only doing this because of Judge White's order, 1,000%."

According to data collected by National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (Nafsa), more than 1,400 students have reported Sevis terminations so far this year, with about 40% of them from India and China.

Nationwide, more than 70 lawsuits have been filed in 21 states challenging Sevis terminations. In at least 45 cases, judges have granted temporary restraining orders, citing possible violations of the Administrative Procedure Act and due process protections.

Kurlan added that Ice retains the authority to terminate Sevis records for other reasons, such as a student failing to maintain lawful status or engaging in what it considers to be removable conduct.

Pam Johann, a lawyer for the US government, argued against the request for national relief in the Oakland courthouse on Friday, stating that the agency's ongoing actions to restore Sevis records make such an order unnecessary. Government lawyers responded that Ice was already addressing the issue in real time and that a nationwide injunction would be an "extraordinary remedy".

Judge White pushed back. "Seems like with this administration, it's a new world order every single day," he said. "I think the administration writ large has a tendency to do everything in this particular area on an ad hoc basis, and we have to now consider it."

The plaintiffs' attorney John Nicholas Sinodis said unresolved gaps in Sevis timelines could still put students at risk of deportation or future visa denials. Lasting harm had already been done, especially for those who filed for reinstatement or left the US believing their status had ended.

Following the news, plaintiff expressed a mix of relief and lingering anxiety. "I'm worried my record might still have a stain, and it could cause problems later with jobs, visas, or getting through immigration," said one, who asked to stay anonymous due to concerns about retaliation.

According to court records, their status was terminated based on an arrest record on reported domestic violence two years ago that did not result in any charges.

Despite the uncertainty, they remain confident about the eventual outcome. "I believe we will win, because I know very clearly that I don't deserve this." (Agencies)

## Rahul Gandhi Addresses US NRIs...

The event drew attendees from across New England and beyond, eager to hear his vision for India's future.

Gandhi ji began by expressing heartfelt appreciation for the community's discipline and dedication. He noted that the Indian Overseas Congress and its members serve as vital ambassadors for the Congress Party and India itself. "Your presence and commitment bring great respect to our country abroad. This relationship we share is not merely political-it's a bond of family, rooted in love, values, and mutual respect," he said.

The core of his address focused on ongoing efforts to transform the Indian National Congress from within. Gandhi detailed a reform initiative underway in Gujarat aimed at decentralizing power within the party's structure. He emphasized empowering local leaders by giving decision-making authority to district presidents and their committees. "We're building a system where voices from the ground-including those of our overseas brothers and sisters-will be heard and respected. Constructive competition, accountability, and accessibility will shape the new Congress," he affirmed.

In a stirring reflection on India's diversity, Gandhi spoke against the growing tide of ideological centralization under the RSS-BJP regime. "India is not defined by one language, one religion, or one tradition. Its soul is pluralistic, where a Punjabi, a Malayali, and a Gujarati can sit together in harmony. This is India, which is under attack today." He warned that attempts to impose a singular ideological narrative threaten the very foundation of Indian democracy and unity.

He also drew attention to the challenges the opposition faces in today's India, including the capture of mainstream and social media, which limits public access to alternative viewpoints. Despite these roadblocks, Gandhi pointed to the recent Lok Sabha elections, where

the BJP faced unexpected resistance, as a sign that the tide is turning. "This is a fight between two ideologies-one that believes India belongs to everyone and another that seeks to concentrate power and wealth among a select few. We've faced harder battles before, and we will prevail."

Following his keynote, Gandhi opened the floor to an unscripted Q&A session, responding to critical questions from the audience. When asked about voting irregularities in Maharashtra, he raised serious concerns about the integrity of India's electoral system. He cited that between 5:30 and 7:30 PM during the state election, over 650,000 votes were reportedly cast-a physical impossibility based on voter speed and capacity. Requests for official videography, as required by law, were denied and followed by changes to the law to prevent such requests in the future. "This indicates a compromised Election Commission," he said. "The issues with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and voter trust are not just ours-even international voices like Tulsi Gabbard have called them hackable. We will continue to raise these issues despite resistance."

A young student in the audience asked how the youth could play meaningful roles in politics despite barriers. Gandhi responded candidly, emphasizing that politics is not easy-it is often grueling and requires resilience. However, he encouraged passionate young minds to get involved through internships and party programs. "If you are patient and committed, we will gladly open the way for you. The future belongs to those who are willing to work for it."

Another question addressed the growing ideological infiltration in India's universities, particularly the appointment of RSS-aligned faculty. Gandhi agreed that the educational system is being misused as a tool for ideological indoctrination rather than academic excellence. "This is damaging our intellectual foundation, and when we return to power, we will look into these appointments seriously."

In his closing remarks, Gandhi acknowledged the short nature of this U.S. visit, having been invited primarily to speak at Brown University. However, he promised to return soon, with plans to visit cities such as in Illinois, California, Washington, and New Jersey. To enthusiastic applause, he also committed to bringing his sister, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, along on a future trip.

Following the great speech of Dr. Sam Pitroda ji, President Mohinder Singh Gilzian welcomed everyone and emphasized that "...This is not just a political battle - this is a moral struggle to protect the very soul of India, a struggle to defend our Constitution, preserve our democracy, and uphold the values our freedom fighters once dreamed of." He added that we are witnessing a government that, even after losing its moral mandate, continues to operate with authoritarian arrogance.

George Abraham, the vice-chair of the Indian Overseas Congress, in his speech, encouraged the Boston Diaspora to be a more visible advocate on behalf of democracy, freedom, and equal justice. "Indians are the largest group of economic refugees anywhere in the world where we would like to have our culture respected and religious freedom protected; however, if our motherland is failing to defend those values towards its minority citizens, what message are we sending abroad?" he further implored.

Secretary-General Harbachan Singh thanked Sri Rahul Gandhi ji, Dr. Sam Pitroda ji, all the Boston group and all other supporters, Working Presidents Pradeep Samala of North East Zone, Devinderpal Bhullar of West Coast Zone, Gurdev Singh Hayer of South West Zone, Vice President John Joseph, Vice President Baldev Randhawa, Treasurer Dr. Joshua Jayasingh, and other senior members such as Chapter Presidents and General Secretaries of the IOC.USA by recognizing each one by name, and expressed gratitude to the overall jam-packed massive audience for their enthusiastic rendering of the event a very successful one.

The evening concluded with a renewed sense of solidarity among attendees, many of whom had traveled great distances to engage with a leader they see as a torchbearer of truth, democracy, and compassion. As Gandhi ji reminded the audience, "In the marketplace of hatred, we must open a shop of love." His message was clear-India's soul is plural, resilient, and worth fighting for.

*(Based on a press release issued by Harbachan Singh,, General Secretary, IOCUSA)*



## IPL 2025

# Sunrisers all but end Super Kings' playoff chances with 5-wicket victory

CHENNAI (TIP)

Pacer Harshal Patel made the best use of a sluggish Chepauk surface as Sunrisers Hyderabad put Chennai Super Kings on the brink of exit door by winning the battle of back-benchers by five wickets in the Indian Premier League here on Friday, April 25.

Harshal, a fine exponent of the slower delivery and the knuckle ball, took 4/28 as Chennai Super Kings endured another poor outing with the bat and were bowled out for 154 in 19.5 overs.

Despite getting assistance from the dew-laden surface, SRH made heavy weather of the chase before finally knocking off the target in 18.4 overs.

Ishan Kishan (44 off 34 balls), after his brain fade against Mumbai Indians, played a responsible hand at the top before Kamindu Mendis (32 not out off 22 balls) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (19 not out off 13 balls) got the visitors two points with a 49-run stand. This was SRH's first win at this venue.

With six points from nine games, SRH's playoff qualification hangs by a thread as they need to win all their five matches and that too by a fair margin to end on 16 points, which is a safe cut-off.

SRH leapfrogged Rajasthan Royals to the eighth position in



SRH pacer Harshal Patel took 4/28 against CSK. PTI

the 10-team table as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men remain at the bottom of the heap.

For CSK, their seventh defeat in nine games practically ends their hopes as they now need wins in the next five games and hope that the playoff cut-off remains at 14 for the fourth-placed team.

The confidence of CSK batters has been shot to pieces and the lack of a collective effort from their bowlers only

compounded the problems. Harshal, who cleverly used the change of pace, was complemented well by skipper Pat Cummins (2/21), ambidextrous spinner Kamindu (1/26), veterans Mohammed Shami (1/28) and Jaydev Unadkat (2/21).

Dewald Brevis (42 off 25) was the top scorer while Deepak Hooda (22 off 21) played some lofty shots towards the end to take CSK past 150-run mark.

In his 400th T20 match, Dhoni failed to fire, falling for 6 off 10 balls. A visibly upset Dhoni later admitted that the below-par total wasn't "justifiable" on a Chepauk surface that didn't have any demons in it.

"I think we kept losing wickets and in the first innings, the wicket was slightly better and 154 wasn't a justifiable score. It wasn't turning a lot, may be a little two-paced but nothing out of the ordinary," Dhoni said.

Dhoni felt that in the second innings, SRH batted on a slightly tackier surface. "Yes, second innings there was a bit of help. Our spinners, the quality was there and they were bowling in the right areas, but we were 15-20 runs short," he said.

For Dhoni, the most frustrating thing is that there were too many loose ends. "In a tournament like this, if there are one or two areas to plug in the holes it's good, but when a majority of the players are not doing well you need to make changes. You can't just keep going. We are just not putting enough runs on the board," he said.

Brief scores: Chennai Super Kings: 154 all out in 19.5 overs (Brevis 42, Mhatre 30; Harshal 4/28, Cummins 2/21, Unadkat 2/21); Sunrisers Hyderabad: 155/5 in 18.4 overs (Ishan 44, Kamindu 32\*; Noor 2/42).



## RCB hold nerves in tense finish as Hazlewood floors RR with double strike

The unrelenting Josh Hazlewood fashioned Royal Challengers Bengaluru's first win at home this IPL season with an extraordinary penultimate over as his team beat Rajasthan Royals by 11 runs in a see-saw affair here on Thursday, April 24.

The defeat meant RR are out of the reckoning for a place in play-offs berth in the ongoing edition of the league. They have lost seven matches out of nine.

Coming on to bowl with RR needing 18 off 12 deliveries, Hazlewood (4/33) picked up two wickets in as many balls while giving away just one run, as the visitors were stopped at 194 for nine in a chase of 206 at a packed Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Hazlewood's heroics meant Yashasvi Jaiswal's (49 off 19 balls) blazing knock at the top of the order and Dhruv Jurel's (47 off 34 balls) valiant effort went in vain as RR suffered their fifth defeat on the trot.

This was after RCB star batter Virat Kohli (70 off 42 balls) and Devdutt Padikkal (50 off 27 balls) controlled the middle overs with a partnership of 95 for the second wicket.

Set a target of 206, RR's start was brutal with Jaiswal and 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi amassing 52 runs in 27 balls before the latter was bowled by a Bhuvneshwar Kumar knuckle ball after the teenager went for one too many, having hit two sixes in his 16-run knock.

# Neeraj faces 'abuse' for inviting Pak's Nadeem to NC Classic

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Indian javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra on Friday, April 25, said he has been bombarded with "hate and abuse" for inviting Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem to next month's Neeraj Chopra Classic in Bengaluru, clarifying that the Olympics champion's presence was "completely out of question" in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Tokyo Olympics gold medallist and Paris Games silver winning star from Haryana said he was deeply hurt to see his and his family's integrity being questioned in abusive social media posts.

Chopra invited Nadeem, who defeated the Indian in Paris last year to win gold, for the inaugural NC Classic to be held on May 24.

"After all that has taken place over the



last 48 hours, Arshad's presence at the NC Classic was completely out of the question. My country and its interests will always come first," Chopra, who is a

Subedar Major in the Indian Army, said in a lengthy post.

Nadeem had declined to come citing other commitments. The 27-year-old Chopra said he is well aware of the chatter surrounding his invitation to Nadeem after the Pahalgam attack.

"...most of it has been hate and abuse. They haven't even left my family out of it," said Chopra. "The invitation I extended to Arshad was from one athlete to another — nothing more, nothing less. The aim of NC Classic was to bring the best athletes to India and for our country to be the home of world-class sporting events," he added.

Chopra said invites for NC Classic were sent out on Monday, a day before the Pahalgam terror attack.

Source: PTI





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