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HAND OVER WANTED
TERRORISTS, EAM TELLS PAK



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar

File photo

MAY 22, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): India on Thursday called on Pakistan to hand over terrorists named in the list previously shared with Islamabad even as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during his Europe tour, accused the Pakistani government and its army of actively supporting terrorism.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected Opposition's charge that the External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar had informed Pakistan at the start of Operation Sindoor. "We told them that we had exercised our right to respond after the retaliatory strikes were carried out," he said.

In an interview with Dutch publication "De Volkskrant", Jaishankar reiterated India's demand for a permanent end to terrorism, warning that while the ceasefire has halted military action for now, there would be consequences if terror attacks from Pakistan continued. The minister said it was erroneous to go along with the narrative that Pakistan "doesn't know what is going on". "The most notorious terrorists on the UN sanctions list are all in Pakistan."

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Donald Trump will visit Canada for the G7, the White House confirms

TRUMP WILL BE IN CANADA FROM JUNE 15 TO 17



Prime Minister Mark Carney and U.S. President Donald Trump engage in a meeting at the White House in Washington, D.C., Tuesday, May 6, 2025.
Photo credit: The Canadian Press

MAY 22, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump will attend the G7 leaders' summit in Canada next month, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt confirmed in a briefing.

Trump will be in Canada from June 15 to 17. More details of his visit will be announced shortly, Leavitt said.

On May 6, during Mark Carney's meeting with Trump at the White House, the prime minister noted that the two leaders "look forward to meeting next month at the G7 Summit in Kananaskis." The 51st G7 summit will be held from June 15 to 17 in Kananaskis, Alta., attended by the core members of the group. Also in

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UAE, JAPAN EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH INDIA IN WAR AGAINST TERROR



A multi-party delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde during a meeting with UAE's Minister of Tolerance Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi.
Photo credit: PTI

MAY 23, 2025

ABU DHABI / NEW DELHI (TIP): The UAE and Japan today expressed solidarity with India in its war against terrorism as all-party delegations' diplomatic outreach commenced today to sensitize global leadership about terror emanating from Pakistan.

A delegation led by Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Eknath Shinde held talks in the UAE. It will also travel to Congo, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Another delegation, headed by Janata Dal (United) leader Sanjay Kumar Jha, is currently in Japan and is scheduled to visit South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

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Trump administration ends Harvard's ability to enroll international students



A view of a building at Harvard University

MAY 22, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Trump administration has moved to end Harvard's ability to enroll international students, escalating a standoff with America's oldest university.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem wrote on X that the administration had revoked Harvard's "Student and Exchange Visitor Program certification as a result of their failure to adhere to the law." "Let this serve as a warning to all universities and academic institutions across the country," she posted on Thursday.

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Former governor of Jammu & Kashmir Satyapal Malik has been a bitter critic of PM Modi
File photo

CBI chargesheets J&K ex-Gov Malik, 7 others for irregularities in hydel project contracts

MAY 22, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satya Pal Malik and seven others in connection with alleged irregularities in the award of civil works contracts worth over Rs 2,200 crore for the Kiru Hydroelectric Power Project in Kishtwar.

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Andy Singh

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EVER TRUTHFUL**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

VICE PRESIDENT:

Chitagam Saluja

CHIEF EDITOR:

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

ASSISTANT EDITOR:

Bidisha Roy

SPL. REPORTER UNO:

H.S. Panaser

GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:

Om Parkash Malik

DIRECTOR**ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING
PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos

Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction

Jay Mandal,

Mohammad Jaffer,

SnapsIndia

Mohammad Shahzad,

Zia Khan,

Nisha Rani

Vaaho Photographers,

Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

CORRESPONDENTS :**SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

NEW YORK :

Chitagam

FRESNO:

Tarlochan Singh

DALLAS:

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS**LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

SPL CORRESPONDENT**DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

CHANDIGARH:

Manjit Sidhu

LUDHIANA:

A.S. Arora,

R.P.Sharma

JAIPUR :

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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GUEST COMMENT

Thought police: on a professor's arrest

A professor's arrest for posts points to misuse of law against dissent

In an unconscionable act, a professor of political science at Ashoka University, Ali Khan Mahmudabad, was arrested on Sunday by the Haryana Police after two separate first information reports (FIR) were registered against him in Sonipat. These FIRs were over his social media posts in connection with Operation Sindoor. The first message analyzed the strategic reasons for India's Operation Sindoor as it had to tackle a Pakistan regime - led by the military - that has sought to hide behind non-state actors while promoting terror in India. It also noted how the empanelment of Muslim military officers in India's press briefings showcased the pluralist vision of the country, even though this was in contrast with the communal reality that Muslims face in many parts of India in recent years. The second post condemned the "blind bloodlust for war" by some netizens following the ceasefire, while arguing that only the world's military-industrial complex benefited from war and that both Hindu and Islamic scriptures emphasized that patience and restraint are virtues in conflict. There is nothing objectionable in his posts that were lucid and patriotic calls for an inclusive India and evinced an understanding that India has been forced to target terror-hubs in Pakistan by removing the distinction between terrorists and the larger terrorist infrastructure backed by Pakistan's military regime. The Haryana Police's move was based on complaints by office-bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s Yuva Morcha and the Haryana



Ashoka University professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad being escorted by police personnel after his arrest, in Sonipat, Haryana, on May 18, 2025. Photo Credit: PTI

State Women Commission Chairperson Renu Bhatia, which said that the posts were disparaging to women in uniform and attributed malicious intent to the Indian government. This is plainly false, and there should have been little basis for the Haryana Police to have acted on these complaints, if they had cared to read and understand the clear messages in the posts.

It is also alarming that the arrests have been made on charges that are related to endangering the country's sovereignty and integrity, and promoting enmity between different groups - akin to the charges of sedition levelled against dissidents in the recent past. Too often, and very wrongly, the charge of sedition has been used by law enforcement agencies across India to

quell dissent and the professor's travails are symptomatic of a pernicious trend in recent years, especially in States ruled by the BJP. His arrest is also a reflection of the worsening state of academic freedoms, where critical understanding and reflections in institutes of higher education on the policies and the actions of the state and governments have been frowned upon and even criminalized in some cases. On Monday, the Supreme Court of India agreed to urgently hear the professor's case against his arrest. The Court must reiterate the importance of the freedom of expression and come down heavily on law enforcement agencies that misuse powers to slap serious charges related to sedition, on frivolous grounds.

(The Hindu)

GUEST COMMENT

Israel's isolation: On the Western world and Gaza

Netanyahu must not be allowed to get away with mass murder

The joint statement by the leaders of Canada, France and the United Kingdom, and announcements by the U.K. and the EU to pause trade talks with Israel are proof that the Netanyahu government is growing more isolated over its brutal campaign on Gaza. Since the ceasefire ended on March 18, over 3,000 residents have been killed in the enclave, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Israel's chokehold on aid and humanitarian supplies has pushed thousands to the brink of starvation, a fact that even Donald Trump, President of Israel's all-time ally, the U.S., referred to during a trip to West Asia last week. Mr. Trump's decision to skip Israel was seen as a mark of his displeasure with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policy on the issue. Despite the rebukes, Mr. Netanyahu has said Israeli Defence Forces needed to continue to target Hamas operatives in the area, and added that Israel would now re-take full "military control" of the Gaza strip, which the IDF had vacated in 2005. The comments provoked an angry response from the leaders of Canada (Mark Carney), France (Emmanuel Macron), and the U.K. (Keir Starmer), all of whom had pledged their support to Israeli actions in response to the October 7, 2023 terror attacks. They called the level of human suffering in Gaza "intolerable" and Israel's escalation of bombardment a "disproportionate" response, condemned the Israeli leadership for threatening to evict all Palestinians forcibly from the strip, and recommitted

to a "two-state solution" for Israel and Palestine, to be discussed at a United Nations conference in June. Significantly, the three countries even threatened sanctions against Israel. Mr. Netanyahu's response, to accuse the three leaders of handing Hamas a "huge prize", and vowing not to stop "until total victory is achieved", indicates that he still believes that he can continue without being checked.

It is time for the international community to speak up so that Mr. Netanyahu does not think he can get away with what international agencies are calling genocide. New Delhi has notably thus far not issued any statement. This silence may be because of its own preoccupation with Pakistan and due to Israel's unequivocal support over Operation Sindoor. There is no link or equivalence between the two situations, however. Too many lives have been lost in the incessant bombardment by Israel of an area of two million people. Despite the depredations, Israel has not, with any clarity, met its objectives of bringing back the hostages or of wiping out Hamas's presence there yet. Mr. Netanyahu has tried to frame his government's actions as a "war of civilisation over barbarism", but it is he who must consider how much this direction-less war that appears to punish the weakest and most defenceless the most resembles the latter more than the former, as the numbers of supporters for this war diminish worldwide.

(The Hindu)

Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari Visits Guatemala to Commemorate 53rd Anniversary of India-Guatemala Diplomatic Relations



Mr. Prem Bhandari formally handing over an official confirmation of the camp on behalf of the Indian Embassy in Guatemala and Jaipur Foot to Ms. Claudine Ogaldes, Executive Secretary, and Mr. William Oswaldo, Inspector General of the Army, Ministry of Defense. India's Ambassador to Guatemala, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra is on the extreme right.



Guatemalan girls from Nataraja Dance School performing Rajasthan's famous Ghoomer dance

MAY 22, 2025

NEW YORK / GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, visited Guatemala at the invitation of Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Guatemala, to commemorate the 53rd anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala.

During the visit, it was announced that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has approved a Jaipur Foot camp in Guatemala to benefit over 600 differently-abled individuals. Under the flagship humanitarian initiative "India for Humanity," these individuals will receive the globally acclaimed Jaipur Foot artificial limbs free of cost. The camp will be conducted by Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), the parent organization of Jaipur Foot USA.

An official confirmation of the camp was formally handed over by Prem Bhandari, on behalf of the Indian Embassy in Guatemala and Jaipur Foot, to Ms. Claudine Ogaldes, Executive Secretary, and Mr. William Oswaldo, Inspector General of the Army, Ministry of Defense.

The event was graced by H.E. Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, along with



Pleased with the dance performance of the Guatemalan girls from Nataraja Dance School, Mr. Prem Bhandari, on behalf of Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) honored them with a cash award of \$1000.00.

Seen in the picture, from L to R: Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Mr. Prem Bhandari, Maestro Satva Anand, Mr. Javier Renoso, and Mr. Rajeev Bhambri

distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, prominent business leaders, friends of India, and members of the Indian community in Guatemala.

Mr. Bhandari was accompanied by Mr. Rajeev Bhambhri, General Secretary of Jaipur Foot USA.

As part of the commemoration, floral

tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi, honoring his timeless legacy of peace, compassion, and service to humanity.

Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra also announced that the Embassy of India in Guatemala is set to host the largest International Day of Yoga celebration outside India, scheduled for June 13. With 10,000 registrations already received and

an expected turnout of 12,000, the event promises to be historic. An invitation has been extended to renowned yoga guru and Chancellor of S-VYASA, Dr. H.R. Nagendra, to grace the occasion.

A group of Guatemalan girls from the local Nataraja Dance School performed Rajasthan's famous Ghoomer dance, to the delight of Mr. Prem Bhandari, a Rajasthani, and President of the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA). Mr. Prem Bhandari, on behalf of RANA, honored the performers and Nataraja Dance School with a cash award of \$1000.00.

Speaking to ANI, Chairman Prem Bhandari expressed heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for selecting BMVSS as a partner for organizing Jaipur Foot camps across Asia, Latin America, and Africa under the India for Humanity initiative. The upcoming camp in Guatemala will be the 33rd under this initiative.

Since its inception in 1975 by Padma Bhushan Dr. D.R. Mehta, Jaipur Foot (BMVSS) has conducted 114 international camps, providing limbs and assistive devices to nearly 2.3 million beneficiaries worldwide.

(With inputs from ANI)

US research institute at New York named after Indian educationist Dr Achyuta Samanta

Dr Samanta honored with Presidential Medal by the varsity

MAY 22, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The City University of New York (CUNY) has named a newly established research institute after well-known educationist Dr Achyuta Samanta. The institute, titled the "Achyuta Samanta India Initiative CUNY Crest Institute" (ASHICCI) was inaugurated in New York on Tuesday, May 20.

The inauguration took place in the presence of academicians and dignitaries from across the United States. This is the first time a research institute in the US has been named after an Indian. The institute will support research by American students on Odisha's art and heritage. It will also focus on Dr Samanta's work in education and tribal development.

The initiative was proposed by Dr Milton



Santiago, President of Bronx Community College under CUNY, after his recent visit to KIIT and KISS in Bhubaneswar. Impressed by Dr Samanta's work, Dr Santiago suggested naming the institute after him. The proposal was approved by the university

board. Dr Samanta attended the inauguration on an invitation from Dr Santiago.

At the inauguration, Dr Santiago remarked, "The Achyuta Samanta India Initiative will help American students from diverse backgrounds understand and engage with India's tribal communities, cultural roots and one of the world's most impactful educational models."

At the event, Dr Samanta said it was an honor to have an institute in the US named after him. He said the recognition was a matter of pride for Odisha, KIIT and KISS. He dedicated the honor to the people of Odisha and the KIIT-KISS community.

CUNY, a 175-year-old public university in the US, has more than 3,00,000 students and includes 25 colleges. It has students from 122 countries.

Dr Samanta was also awarded the university's highest honor, the Presidential Medal, during the event.

(TNS)

2 INDIANS STAGED 'FAKE ROBBERIES' THAT HELPED IN OBTAINING US VISAS



Indian national pleads guilty in U.S immigration fraud case involving fake robberies.

MAY 21, 2025

BOSTON (TIP): An Indian national living in the United States has pleaded guilty to staging armed robberies at retail stores across several American states to help individuals fraudulently obtain US immigration benefits.

Rambhai Patel, 37, a resident of New York, entered a guilty plea on Tuesday, May 20, before U.S District Judge Myong J. Joun in Boston to one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud. Sentencing has been scheduled for August 20.

According to US federal prosecutors, Patel and a co-conspirator Balwinder Singh carried out at least nine staged robberies at convenience stores and restaurants-five of them in Massachusetts-beginning in March 2023. The purpose was to fabricate violent crime scenarios so that store clerks or owners could apply for U nonimmigrant status (U Visa), a special visa granted to victims of serious crimes who assist law enforcement.

Surveillance footage showed a fake robber brandishing a weapon, stealing cash, and fleeing the scene. The "victims," who had paid Patel large sums-up to USD 20,000 in one case-would then wait before reporting the incident to police. Patel in turn paid store owners for access to the premises.

At least two individuals submitted U visa applications based on these staged incidents.

Patel was charged in December 2023. His co-conspirator, identified as Singh, is expected to plead guilty on May 22.

The charge carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to USD 250,000. Patel also faces deportation after completing his sentence.

The case was investigated by the FBI and U.S. immigration authorities with assistance from multiple law enforcement agencies in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

(Source: PTI)

Indian-origin man arrested in US for plotting to kill his wife

PLAN INVOLVED 'POISONING HIS WIFE OR STAGING A BREAK-IN AT THEIR HOME, DURING WHICH THE MURDER WAS TO OCCUR'

MAY 20, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): An Indian-American, Darshan R Soni, has been arrested and charged with attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder after allegedly plotting to kill his wife in a plan that spanned months and included a failed poisoning attempt, a murder-for-hire scheme, and efforts to cover his tracks.

According to a probable cause affidavit filed in Hamilton County in Indiana, Soni, 44, asked one of his employees, Ken Cox, to help carry out the murder. The plan allegedly involved poisoning his wife and, when that failed, staging a break-in at their home on May 16, 2025, during which the murder was to occur.

The case unfolded after a tipster alerted authorities about Soni's intentions. The tipster claimed Soni had previously asked them how to obtain a silencer and spoke about committing additional crimes. They also reported seeing Soni pick up a wig from Cox, presumably for use as a disguise.

Cox eventually cooperated with police after seeking legal counsel and admitted Soni had offered him money and a used car-a silver Ford Escape-to assist with



Darshan Soni.

Photo: Hamilton County Jail

the murder and help create an alibi by carrying Soni's phone elsewhere.

Further investigation revealed disturbing details, as per court documents.

The victim reported odd-tasting smoothies and health issues in recent months. She recalled finding a white clumpy substance in her drink, which

Soni dismissed as dish detergent.

Cox later confirmed Soni claimed to have ordered poison, possibly Thallium or Valium, from India, though Soni said it was ineffective.

Under police surveillance, Cox wore a wire during a meeting with Soni on May 15.

During the recorded conversation, Soni appeared to walk back the plot, crediting Cox for talking him "off a ledge." However, he also discussed philosophies around violence, detailed murder plots he had read about, and hinted that he still considered extreme actions before deciding on divorce.

Soni's arrest follows a coordinated effort between Carmel police and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. He is charged with one count of attempted murder, a Level 1 felony, and one count of conspiracy to commit murder, a Level 2 felony. He is scheduled to make a court appearance on May 22.

The victim, who remains unnamed, has since been notified and provided support resources. Family members have expressed disbelief, with the victim reportedly describing Soni as innocent.

(Courtesy: www.5wh.com)

Indian-origin Singapore-based police officer charged for forging statements

MAY 22, 2025

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian-origin Singapore police officer was charged on Wednesday, May 21, with forging police statements and documents related to cases he had investigated between 2021 and 2023.

S Vikneshvaran Subramaniam, 35, was handed nine charges of forgery, according to local news channels.



S Vikneshvaran Subramaniam, 35, was handed nine charges of forgery

The charges relate to five criminal cases which were ongoing and two concluded cases which did not result in prosecution, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) said in a media release.

"It was discovered that Vikneshvaran had allegedly forged nine

documents comprising seven police statements and two acknowledgement slips across seven cases," SPF said.

According to the charge sheets, in the five ongoing criminal cases at the time, Vikneshvaran allegedly forged the signatures of individuals he interviewed to give the impression that he recorded their statements in person and had them signed

The police said the alleged forgery came to light after Vikneshvaran was placed on "enhanced supervision" in October 2022 due to his work performance.

A supervisory check of his work was conducted in January 2023, and irregularities relating to case exhibits and document management were detected

Other than the seven cases, no other wrongdoings were uncovered, said the police. Vikneshvaran has been suspended from duty.

He has indicated that he will plead guilty, and the case was adjourned for the parties to make representations. He will return to court on June 18, according to the Channel report

Indian-origin stabbed, killed by another Indian-origin man in public bus in Texas

MAY 21, 2025

AUSTIN, TX (TIP): In a tragic incident, a 30-year-old Indian was stabbed and killed by another Indian man in a public bus in Austin, Texas, police said.



Akshay Gupta was fatally stabbed by Deepak Kandel in Austin, Texas.

Akshay Gupta was travelling in a bus on the evening of May 14, the Austin Police Department (APD) said in a statement.

Police officers and emergency medical services responded to a "Shoot/Stab" call of someone being stabbed on a bus. When officers arrived on the scene, they located Gupta with trauma to his body.

Police said that life-saving measures were attempted, but unfortunately, Gupta was pronounced dead on the scene.

The suspect was identified as Deepak Kandel, 31.

Investigation revealed that Kandel had been sitting next to Gupta on the bus when, without provocation, Kandel stabbed Gupta in the neck.

Once the bus stopped, Kandel calmly exited the vehicle with the other passengers.

APD patrol officers were able to locate and detain Kandel a short time later.

Kandel admitted to stabbing "Gupta due to him resembling his uncle".

Kandel was booked into the Travis County Jail and has been charged with 1st Degree Murder.

Indian American surgeon Dr. Inderbir Gill performs world's first human bladder transplant

PARMINDER AUJLA

MAY 21, 2025

SACRAMENTO (TIP): A pair of surgeons at the University of California Health, including Indian American Dr. Inderbir Gill, have performed the first human bladder transplant, introducing a new, potentially life-changing procedure for people with debilitating bladder conditions.

Dr. Gill, the chairman of the urology department at UCLA, successfully completed the surgery with Dr. Nima Nassiri, a urologic transplant surgeon, at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center on May 4, 2025.

Dr. Gill called the historic operation "the realization of a dream" for treating thousands of patients with crippling pelvic pain, inflammation and recurrent infections.

"There is no question: A potential door has been opened for these people that did not exist earlier," he told the New York Times.

The operation was performed on a 41-year-old man who had lost much of his bladder capacity from treatments for a rare form of bladder cancer. "I was a ticking time bomb," the patient, Oscar Larrainzar, said during a follow-up appointment with his doctors last week. "But now I have hope."

"Despite the complexity of the case, everything went according to plan and the surgery was successful," said Dr. Gill. The patient is doing well, and we are satisfied with his clinical progress to date."

The doctors plan to perform bladder transplants in four more patients as part of a clinical trial to get a sense of outcomes like bladder capacity and graft



Dr. Inderbir Gill, with a pair of surgeons at the University of California, performed the first human bladder transplant, introducing a new, potentially life-changing procedure for people with debilitating bladder conditions.

complications before pursuing a larger trial to expand its use.

Until now, most patients who undergo a bladder removal have a portion of their intestine repurposed to help them pass urine. Some receive an ileal conduit, which empties urine into a bag outside the abdomen, while others are given a so-called neobladder, or a pouch tucked inside the body that attaches to the urethra and allows patients to urinate more traditionally.

But bowel tissue, riddled with bacteria, is "inherently contaminated," Dr. Gill said, and introducing it to the "inherently sterile" urinary tract leads to

complications in up to 8% of patients, ranging from electrolyte imbalances to a slow reduction in kidney function. The loss of the intestinal segment can also cause new digestive issues.

In late 2020, Dr. Nassiri was in his fourth year of residency at the University of Southern California when he and Dr. Gill sat down in the hospital cafeteria to begin brainstorming approaches, according to the Times.

After Dr. Nassiri began a fellowship on kidney transplantation at UCLA, the two surgeons continued working together across institutions to test both robotic and manual techniques, practicing first

on pigs, then human cadavers, and finally, human research donors who no longer had brain activity but maintained a heartbeat.

One of the challenges of transplanting a bladder was the complex vascular infrastructure. The surgeons needed to operate deep inside the pelvis of the donor to capture and preserve a rich supply of blood vessels so the organ could thrive inside the recipient.

"When we're removing a bladder because of cancer, we basically just cut them. We do it in less than an hour on a near-daily basis," Dr. Gill said. "For a bladder donation, that is a significantly higher order of technical intensity."

The surgeons also chose to conjoin the right and left arteries - as well as the right and left veins - while the organ was on ice, so that only two connections were needed in the recipient, rather than four.

When their strategy was perfected in 2023, the two drew up plans for a clinical trial, which eventually would bring the world's first recipient: Oscar.

Dr. Gill previously served as chairman & professor, department of urology at the Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH, where he was on faculty for 12 years (1997-2009).

His primary academic focus is advanced robotic urologic oncologic surgery for cancers of the kidney, bladder and prostate. More recently, his interest has expanded to focal targeted therapy for prostate cancer. He and his team are now exploring artificial intelligence (AI) applications in urology.

In 2021, under his leadership, USC Urology established the first, foundation-funded, dedicated Urology AI Center in a urology department in the U.S.

British-Indian Professor Nitasha Kaul claims overseas citizenship cancelled over 'anti-India activities'

MAY 21, 2025

LONDON (TIP): A British Indian Professor of Politics and International Relations at London's University of Westminster has claimed her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) has been cancelled by the Indian authorities over alleged "anti-India activities".

Nitasha Kaul took to social media on Sunday to post details of the communication received from the government of India, which accuses her of being motivated by "malice and complete disregard for facts or history".

It follows her previous posts from February when the academic had hit back on being denied entry to India to reportedly attend a conference in Bengaluru.

"Know that arresting academics in India for speaking against hate is closely tied to removing access to country and family for academics outside India," Kaul said in her post on X.

"Idea is to send a signal - don't dare



A British Indian Professor of Politics and International Relations at London's University of Westminster has claimed her Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) has been cancelled by the Indian authorities over alleged "anti-India activities".

challenge us within and don't dare analyze what's going on to convey to audiences outside," she said.

Under the OCI rules stipulated by the High Commission of India in London, the government of India can cancel an OCI registration of any individual on certain specific grounds including "if it is satisfied... the overseas citizen of India has shown disaffection towards the Constitution of India as established by law".

An excerpt of the cancellation document purportedly received from the government of India, Kaul has been accused of

"numerous inimical writings, speeches and journalistic activities at various international forums and on social media platforms" that target "India and its institutions on the matters of India's sovereignty".

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin couple Amandeep & Neha Sharma defrauds New Zealand govt of over USD 2 million

MAY 21, 2025

CHRIST CHURCH, NEW ZEALAND (TIP): An Indian-origin couple has been found guilty of defrauding a government company for over USD 2 million in Christchurch in New Zealand.

On May 16, Amandeep Sharma pleaded guilty and will now be sentenced in June, the New Zealand Herald said.

Earlier in the month, his wife Neha Sharma was jailed for three years after pleading guilty to a series of charges including obtaining by deception, money laundering and using a forged document, the newspaper said.

The government company Oranga Tamariki made 103 payments to Amandeep's company, Divine Connection, between July 2021 and October 2022 against 326 invoices, newportal thepress.co.nz said, adding, the total of these payments was just shy of USD 2.15 million.

The New Zealand Herald described in detail how the couple carried out the fraud and quoted Oranga Tamariki chief executive Andrew Bridgman as saying that as soon as concerns were raised by his company in November 2022, an internal investigation was undertaken and then the



Amandeep Sharma and his wife Neha Sharma have been found guilty of defrauding a government company of over USD 2 million

case was referred to Serious Fraud Office (SFO) resulting in the prosecution

Neha started a job as property manager at Oranga Tamariki in 2021 after forging written references from her previous job at the Ministry of Education in New Zealand. As part of her agreement, she had signed a code of conduct that included clauses to avoid conflicts of interest.

Yet, in her official capacity, she enlisted her husband Amandeep's construction company Divine Connection in the system to do jobs such as maintenance and upkeep of properties etc.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

NEW MICKALENE THOMAS INSTALLATION DEBUTS AT NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/SOUTH BROOKLYN HEALTH



Artist Mickalene Thomas

MAY 22, 2025

BROOKLYN, NY (TIP): NYC Health + Hospitals and RxART, on May 22, debuted a new large-scale installation by Brooklyn-based artist Mickalene Thomas, *Freesia on My Mind: The Beauty of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*.

Located in the lobby of the Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital on the campus of NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health, the mosaic will welcome patients, visitors, and staff as they enter the hospital.

Justice Ginsburg worked tirelessly throughout her career to advance health equity, supporting fair and just opportunity for all people to achieve optimal health regardless of circumstance. In honor of the hospital's namesake, the bold mosaic includes images of the late Supreme Court Justice's favorite flowers: freesias and white hydrangeas. The mural showcases a meticulously arranged collage of paper cutouts, combining solid blocks of blues, yellows, and oranges to evoke a sky-like backdrop for a lush landscape of found floral imagery. At 76 feet by 8 feet, the mosaic covers an entire wall of the lobby mezzanine. The mosaic was supported by the Rallis Foundation and the Ruth Stanton Foundation and made possible by RxART in partnership with the Arts in Medicine department at NYC Health + Hospitals and the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.

This is the twelfth collaboration between RxArt and NYC Health + Hospitals. Previous collaborations include *Fun #1* (2022) by Nina Chanel Abney at NYC Health + Hospitals/Elmhurst, *Untitled* (2020) by Derrick Adams at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, *Untitled* (undated) by Keith Haring installed posthumously in 2018 at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, and *Untitled* (2013) by Kenny Scharf at NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County.

"The Arts in Medicine department is thrilled to bring this important work into the NYC Health + Hospitals system," said NYC Health + Hospitals Assistant Vice President of Arts in Medicine Larissa Trinder. "Mickalene Thomas is a significant voice in the advancement of social and cultural dialogue that embraces representation, particularly for Black



Freesia on My Mind: The Beauty of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (2025) by Mickalene Thomas welcomes patients, staff, and visitors as they enter the hospital

women. The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, whom the mural is named after, defined an era supporting health equity, including gender equality and women's rights. It is inspirational to have both women portrayed in the lobby of South Brooklyn Health. Mickalene joins other important artists in the collection including a significant mural by Romare Bearden, at NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue."

"For almost 150 years, our hospital has been rooted in providing compassionate, patient-centered care to our diverse community. Mickalene Thomas's mosaic, incorporating Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's favorite freesias and white hydrangeas, powerfully reflects the dignity and respect that define our values," said Svetlana Lipyanskaya, MPA, FACHE, Chief Executive Officer of NYC Health + Hospitals/South Brooklyn Health. "The flowers, chosen to honor her enduring legacy, symbolize the resilience and grace we witness daily in our patients and staff. It's a fitting tribute as we continue to grow and adapt, ensuring we remain a leading provider of healthcare services for generations to come."

"We are incredibly proud to have collaborated with Mickalene Thomas-one of the most important and visionary artists of our time-on this transformative project," said Diane Brown, Founder and President of RxART. "Her mosaic is both a powerful tribute to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and an uplifting work of art that brings beauty, dignity, and inspiration into the heart of South Brooklyn Health. At RxART, we are honored to work with great artists to help create spaces that support healing through art, and this installation exemplifies the meaningful impact that great art can have in a healthcare setting."

"We're proud to support the vital work of the Arts in Medicine department at NYC Health + Hospitals," said Laurie Tisch, founder and president of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund. "Mickalene's exquisite mural will bring beauty and joy to everyone entering the Ruth



At 76 feet by 8 feet, the mosaic covers an entire wall of the lobby mezzanine

Bader Ginsburg pavilion and is a fitting tribute to her legacy and to the strength and resilience of the South Brooklyn Health community."

"Public art has the power to transform our public spaces into places of connection, healing, and contemplation, and Mickalene Thomas's powerful new mosaic at NYC Health + Hospitals' Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hospital does exactly that," said Cultural Affairs Commissioner Laurie Cumbo. "I applaud the Arts in Medicine department at NYC Health + Hospitals and RxART for their visionary embrace of the healing power of the arts, and for bringing yet another extraordinary artwork in the hospital system's remarkable collection."

"I'm honored to collaborate with RxArt - a visionary organization - and the larger NYC Health + Hospitals community to bring this mosaic to life for patients, staff, and visitors," said Mickalene Thomas. "Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's favorite flowers - freesias and hydrangeas - dance throughout the mural with an energy that emulates the joy, strength, and power that she embodied. My hope is that the mural offers an enduring sense of inspiration and resiliency to the community, just as the Justice uplifted and empowered us throughout her life and legacy."

Mickalene Thomas is a renowned multidisciplinary artist known for her striking portraits of Black women, often embellished with rhinestones, acrylic, and enamel. Exploring themes of identity, race, and gender, her work explores themes of Black female identity and its complexities within Western culture. A Tony-nominated co-producer, curator, educator, and mentor, Thomas made history in 2023 as the first Black queer femme artist with a Yale University scholarship in her name. Her work is held in prominent collections, including the Museum of Modern Art New York, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

*Read the complete story on
www.theindianpanorama.news*

Nassau Democratic Legislators Push to Slash Nassau's Outrageous Small Business Fees

NEW LEGISLATION WOULD DELIVER RELIEF TO OVER 30 TYPES OF SMALL BUSINESSES BURDENED BY EXCESSIVE COUNTY LICENSING COSTS

MAY 22, 2025

BELLMORE, NY (TIP): At a press conference held on May 22 at All American Cleaners, Nassau County Legislator Seth I. Koslow, joined by colleagues Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Olena Nicks, unveiled legislation to permanently cut small business license fees across Nassau County - fees that currently run three to five times higher than in neighboring Suffolk County.

"This isn't about giving small businesses a handout. It's about stopping a county government that keeps handing them the bill," said Legislator Koslow. "Right now, we're charging local entrepreneurs like they're major corporations. These fees are outdated, unfair, and driving people out of Nassau."

The proposed legislation targets more than 30



L-R: Legislator Olena Nicks, Legislator Seth Koslow, Mark - owner of All American Cleaners - and Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton stand outside Mark's business in Bellmore to call for reductions to Nassau County's outrageously high small business licensing fees

categories of business licenses, including dry cleaners, locksmiths, dog groomers, health clubs, home service providers, and more - slashing annual fees that currently reach up to \$1,300 per business.

Mark, the owner of All American Dry Cleaners, pays \$650 per year just for the license to operate, a figure nearly unheard of elsewhere.

"If you want to groom dogs, hang a sign, or fix locks in Nassau, you're looking at hundreds of dollars in yearly fees. It reads less like a licensing schedule and more like a shakedown list," Koslow added.

*Read the complete story on
www.theindianpanorama.news*

YOGA AND BEACH CLEANING AT JONES BEACH



Consul General of India at New York Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan speaking on the occasion



Participants doing Yoga exercise



Consul General with some participants ready for beach cleaning

MAY 20, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The Indian Consulate, in collaboration with Shanti Fund, organized on Sunday, May 18, a Yoga session - Sunrise Yoga- at Jones Beach, followed by beach cleaning. Consul General of India Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, accompanied by Consul Pragya Singh and a few others from the Consulate, enthusiastically participated. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Pradhan welcomed the participants and appreciated the initiative taken by Mr. Vora of Shanti Fund. He also spoke about the upcoming International Day of Yoga on June 21.

Yoga Guru Anita Rana conducted the Yoga session, which the 50 odd participants thoroughly enjoyed.

The consulate provided T-shirts, yoga mats, luncheon, and beverages to all.

At hand were officials from the Parks and Beach division of the County who took great care of the volunteers.



A group of volunteers doing beach cleaning

UN Women remarks at the Security Council: No Peace Without Protecting Women and Girls

MAY 22, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): "Today, I will focus on forms of gender-based violence that are too often overlooked: reproductive violence, explosive armed violence, mental trauma, and targeted attacks on women in public life-threats increasingly enabled by digital technologies", UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous remarked at the Security Council.

"61 per cent of all maternal deaths occur in just 35 conflict-affected countries. In the past year, we have seen bombed maternity wards, blockaded medical supplies, and massive funding cuts.

"In Afghanistan, where 90 per cent of women lack access to essential healthcare services, a woman dies from preventable pregnancy-related complications every two hours. One third already deliver without medical assistance. With bans on female workers and shrinking access to care, maternal deaths are projected to rise by 50 per cent by 2026.

"In Gaza, over 28,000 women and girls have been killed since October 2023: an average of one woman and one girl killed every hour. Tens of thousands have given birth under bombardment and siege, without anesthetics, without postpartum



UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous highlights that 61 per cent of all maternal deaths occur in just 35 conflict-affected countries.

care or clean water, and while being malnourished, displaced, and traumatized.

"These are not natural consequences of war. They constitute a pattern of reproductive violence. Today, I urge that we treat reproductive violence as a distinct category of harm and hold perpetrators accountable."

"Violence leaves scars not only on the body, but on the mind. Trauma compounds over time, especially when layered with loss, with displacement, and with constant fear. Mental health

is not a luxury-it is life-saving.

"In Gaza, 75 per cent of women suffer from depression. Girls say they wish they were dead.

"In Afghanistan, women speak of living in prisons.

"In Ukraine, domestic violence is rising, and more than half of displaced women report depression."

"Women who speak out-journalists, activists, politicians-face bullets, bombs, threats, and smear campaigns.

"Even when not physically attacked, they are driven out by digital violence: deepfakes, harassment, and disinformation.

*Read the complete story on
www.theindianpanorama.news*

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NARRATING THE NATION ABROAD

The fact that India must engage in diplomatic clarification suggests a concern that its actions might be misread, misframed, or lost in the noise of global crises



By T.T. Sreekumar

India's decision to send diplomatic envoys and delegates to various countries to explain its position on the recent combats with Pakistan and the terrorist attack that triggered them raises an important question: is this display of proactive diplomacy a mark of strength or a gesture of reassurance?

On the surface, the move can be seen as a strategic effort to manage international perception, pre-empt misrepresentation, and reinforce India's standing as a responsible global actor. Yet beneath that lies the more complicated reality of narrative legitimacy in a world where perception often outweighs fact, and international sympathy cannot be taken for granted. While much of the debate centers on the government's domestic strategy in selecting members of the delegation and the political calculations behind it, the more important questions ought to concern the necessity, effectiveness, and anticipated outcomes of such a move.

In the contemporary global order, it is no longer sufficient to act with self-justified conviction; states must constantly perform their legitimacy before an audience of allies, media, and institutions. India's outreach can certainly be viewed as part of this performance. It aims to convince the international community that its military response is calibrated, directed at non-state actors, and rooted in the imperative to defend its sovereignty against terrorism - not as a pretext for escalating an old and unresolved national rivalry. From this angle, the move reflects a calculated strength: a confidence that India's case, if communicated properly, can take the moral high ground and secure international solidarity.

But at the same time, the very need for such an extensive exercise points to an underlying legitimacy deficit. If India's position were entirely beyond reproach or universally acknowledged, would such explanation tours be necessary? The fact that India must engage in diplomatic clarification suggests a concern that its actions might be misread, misframed, or lost in the noise of global crises. In that sense, the effort reflects not just a desire to assert control over the narrative but also a tacit recognition of the fragility of international opinion.

CRISIS OF CREDIBILITY

This vulnerability is amplified in an era when misinformation travels faster than official briefings. Recent examples during the India-Pakistan conflict show how easily falsehoods become facts in the public imagination. Old video footage, unrelated disaster clips, and even scenes from digital war games have been circulated online and passed off as real-time evidence of military operations or civilian suffering. These are not state-sponsored manipulations alone; they are generated and shared by ordinary users, caught in a whirlwind of nationalist fervor, emotional reaction, or



One of the delegations heading abroad to inform and educate nations of the world on Terror from Pakistan. (From left) IUML MP E.T. Mohammed Basheer, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj, BJD MP Sasmit Patra and Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde arrive at the IGI airport in New Delhi on May 21, 2025 to leave for UAE, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone.

Photo Credit: ANI

THE DEEPER QUESTION IS NOT WHETHER INDIA CAN EXPLAIN ITSELF TO THE WORLD, BUT WHETHER THE WORLD STILL RETAINS A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH SUCH EXPLANATIONS ARE HEARD AS TRUTH AND NOT DISMISSED AS JUST ANOTHER VERSION OF THE STORY.

digital mischief. Both Indian and Pakistani social media users have shared sensational content that turns out to be fabricated. AI-generated images and deepfakes complicate the picture, as they become harder to detect.

In such a climate, India's attempt to set the record straight may seem like swimming upstream, particularly when the people on both sides have already made up their minds based on viral clips and emotionally charged narratives.

What, then, is the implication of this collapse of credibility in the news? Does anyone care anymore about verifiable information as a public good? Or has the idea of news itself been absorbed into a larger game of affect and performance, where truth matters only insofar as it confirms one's pre-existing bias? This erosion of trust poses a deep philosophical crisis. The old saying that "truth is the first casualty of war" was once confined to the logic of state secrecy - governments hiding facts from their citizens in the name of national

interest. The Japanese emperor's radio address at the end of World War II never mentioned the word "surrender" but instead said the war had "developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage." This was state-sanctioned euphemism, an elite strategy of softening reality.

Today, however, the distortion of truth is no longer top-down alone - it is bottom-up, lateral, and participatory. Citizens actively produce the falsehoods they wish to believe, and in doing so, dissolve the very distinction between truth and illusion.

This situation resonates powerfully with Jean Baudrillard's provocative claim that "The Gulf War did not take place." He did not mean that bombs were not dropped or that people did not die. Rather, he argued that the war was consumed entirely as spectacle - televised, mediated, edited - such that the reality of war was displaced by its simulation. In our time, that idea has become almost literal: the simulated now overrides the real in public perception.

In the realm of the humanities, where the pursuit of meaning, narrative, and ethical clarity is central, the end of credible news represents a profound loss. Without the possibility of shared facts, even argument becomes impossible. Disagreement presupposes agreement on the basic ground of what is happening. When that ground collapses, what remains is not debate but disorientation.

In this sense, India's diplomatic campaign is not just a strategic act of persuasion - it also represents a battle to restore the very conditions under which persuasion is meaningful. It remains unclear whether this effort signals an admission of vulnerability or a reassertion of strength - an attempt to reaffirm the nation's authenticity, rooted in the accumulated legacy of the Non-Aligned Movement years.

However, if this effort fails, then no amount of military precision or moral clarity will matter, because the audience will no longer be capable of distinguishing a justified action from a manufactured illusion.

Hence, the deeper question is not whether India can explain itself to the world, but whether the world still retains a framework within which such explanations are heard as truth and not dismissed as just another version of the story.

To lose that is to lose more than credibility - it is to lose our last bid for a politics of authenticity.

(T.T. Sreekumar is Professor, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad)

India must cash in on its economic edge

The US is facing a slowdown owing to the fallout of Trump's tariff policies, compounded by Moody's unprecedented decision to downgrade its credit rating.



By Sushma
Ramachandran

Cross-border tensions, geopolitical headwinds and US President Donald Trump's fast-changing tariff policies - the Indian economy is facing a slew of challenges. Yet, India continues to be viewed as an outlier in the global arena, performing better on the economic front than many other countries.

The United Nations has confirmed the perception in its latest report on the global economy. While downgrading India's growth prospects from 6.6 per cent to 6.3 per cent for 2025, the UN still sees it as the fastest-growing major economy. In contrast, China is expected to grow by 4.6 per cent (from 5 per cent earlier), while the US is set to decelerate from 2.8 to 1.6 per cent this year. Emerging economies such as Brazil, Mexico and South Africa are also facing growth downgrades owing to factors like depressed trade and investments.

In this backdrop of a slowing world economy, India stands out. The Reserve Bank of India sounds similarly upbeat in its latest report, noting that the country is poised to surpass Japan this year to become the world's fourth largest economy. Though it describes the outlook as one of cautious optimism, it points to easing of inflation pressures, while a normal monsoon forecast is expected to spur rural consumption.

The central bank has already downgraded its projection for the ongoing financial year to 6.5 per cent from 6.7 per cent, but it has pointed to the multiple strengths of the Indian economy. These include the fact that it is ringfenced by monetary, financial and political stability along with a congenial business environment and strong macroeconomic fundamentals.

This positive affirmation comes in the midst of global uncertainty, with the UN expecting global growth to touch only 2.4 per cent from the earlier forecast of 2.8 per cent. It attributes a dip in investments to uncertainty over trade and economic policies linked to the volatile geopolitical landscape. What is more worrying is that this is a broad-based scenario affecting both developed and developing economies. Even the US is facing a slowdown owing to the fallout of Trump's tariff policies, compounded by Moody's unprecedented decision to downgrade its credit rating.

As far as India is concerned, the big worry is the prospect of a prolonged conflict. Given the fact that Operation Sindoor has only been paused, tensions with Pakistan might flare up again. This raises the grim possibility of disruption to normal economic activity. A revival of hostilities could bring industrial and trade activities to a halt, especially in the northern and western regions.

Maharashtra and Gujarat, for instance, are among the most industrialized states in the country and any war-like situation could have a serious impact. Key energy installations are also located in both onland and offshore areas of these states as well as in Rajasthan. Any curbs on operations

THE BIG WORRY IS THE PROSPECT OF A PROLONGED CONFLICT. GIVEN THE FACT THAT OPERATION SINDOOR HAS ONLY BEEN PAUSED, TENSIONS WITH PAKISTAN MIGHT FLARE UP AGAIN. THIS RAISES THE GRIM POSSIBILITY OF DISRUPTION TO NORMAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. A REVIVAL OF HOSTILITIES COULD BRING INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE ACTIVITIES TO A HALT, ESPECIALLY IN THE NORTHERN AND WESTERN REGIONS.



Trump's tariffs: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal (right) with his American counterpart Howard Lutnick. The India-US trade agreement hinges on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations.

Photo credit: PTI

could affect energy security and thereby overall economic development. In the long run, the country is likely to rebound from any crisis as the economy's resilience has been demonstrated in the post-Covid era as well as after facing external headwinds that have plagued most other economies. But there is

bound to be a short or medium-term setback to the pace of growth. As it is, growth is set to fall from 7.1 per cent last year to 6.5 per cent in 2025-26.

Another element that could upset the applecart is the worsening of geopolitical fissures. Both the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza

conflict continue despite peace efforts. Global supply chains may no longer be fractured as at the outset of the Russia-Ukraine war, but energy-related issues remain mired in uncertainty owing to Western sanctions. Oil prices have fallen but Western curbs on Russian energy have created logistical issues.

In West Asia, too, the problem is of logistics as trade flows through the Suez Canal have been hampered by Houthi attacks on merchant shipping. India has also had to face the brunt of higher trade costs as a result of ships opting for the longer route via the Cape of Good Hope.

Despite these headwinds, the UN report argues that resilient private consumption and strong public investment along with robust services exports will support economic growth in India. Its views have been buttressed, interestingly enough, by Moody's, which says India is better placed to face the vagaries of trade disruptions owing to its large domestic economy and low dependence on exports. The ratings agency may have cut its growth forecast to 6.3 from 6.7 per cent, but it feels that India could benefit from higher US demand after the conclusion of the bilateral trade pact.

Neither of these institutions, however, have taken into account the full effect of Trump's fast-changing tariff policies on the Indian economy. Much will depend on the outcome of ongoing negotiations. Their criticality cannot be downplayed as the US is India's biggest market, accounting for 17 per cent of the total merchandise exports. The principle of reciprocity may mean that India will have to provide greater market access in areas earlier considered sacrosanct, such as agriculture and the dairy sector. It would be worthwhile to open up some selected segments where farmers' livelihoods are not under threat. Similarly, tariffs raised in recent years can be reduced without an adverse impact as the domestic industry is strong enough in most areas to meet global competition.

The evolution of the final agreement will take some time, even as exporters continue to face an uphill task owing to recessionary conditions in world markets. The latest data shows a 9 per cent rise in exports in April, but this could be due to frontloading of shipments to avoid impending US tariff hikes.

The economy thus has to navigate multiple challenges at a time when growth needs to be brought to higher levels. If India is to avoid the middle-income trap that has constrained many developing economies, it has to move towards 8-9 per cent growth annually. It is only at this pace that the country can achieve the goal of becoming a developed economy over the next two decades. It may be a bright spot in the world right now, but the ambitions need to be even bigger.

(Sushma Ramachandran is a senior financial journalist)

Use international law to take on Pakistan-backed terror



By Prabhash Ranjan

A CLEAR AND COMPELLING NARRATIVE THAT USES INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INDISPUTABLE FACTS WILL HELP INDIA IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM

"A key element of a lawfare strategy against Pakistan should be to deploy international law to highlight Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. This is especially important as India has led the process of adopting a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the global level. India and Pakistan are parties to numerous terrorism conventions at the regional and international levels. The primary regional treaty is the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, while key international treaties include the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (ICSFT) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Terrorist Bombing Convention)."

Operation Sindoor has powerfully demonstrated India's intent to use kinetic measures to tackle terrorism emanating from Pakistan. In addition to executing "hot pursuits", India possesses other potent non-kinetic strategies, going beyond regular diplomacy, to ensure that Pakistan is held accountable for its continued support of terrorism directed against India. An impactful approach that India has not effectively employed so far is the strategy of "lawfare", or leveraging international law to confront adversaries to accomplish strategic and diplomatic objectives.

LEVERAGE TERRORISM CONVENTIONS

A key element of a lawfare strategy against Pakistan should be to deploy international law to highlight Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. This is especially important as India has led the process of adopting a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the global level. India and Pakistan are

GIVEN THAT PAKISTAN HAS BEEN SPONSORING AND ABETTING TERRORISM AGAINST INDIA AND HAS NOT TAKEN ANY ACTION AGAINST TERROR GROUPS OPERATING FROM ITS TERRITORY, NEW DELHI HAS A COMPELLING CASE AGAINST ISLAMABAD UNDER THESE TERRORISM CONVENTIONS, WHICH IT CAN PRESENT TO THE ICJ - JUST AS IT DID IN THE KULBHUSHAN JADHAV CASE.



"An impactful approach that India has not effectively employed so far is the strategy of 'lawfare'"

parties to numerous terrorism conventions at the regional and international levels. The primary regional treaty is the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism, while key international treaties include the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (ICSFT) and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Terrorist Bombing Convention).

These conventions obligate that states not only criminalize acts of terrorism under their domestic laws and prosecute the perpetrators but also refrain from financing such activities. For instance, Article 2(1) of the ICSFT explicitly classifies terror financing as a crime. Similarly, Article 6 of the Additional Protocol to the SAARC terrorism convention requires states to take measures to prevent, suppress, and eradicate the financing of terrorism.

Pakistan has a long history of sponsoring, abetting, and funding terrorism against India. Following the terror attacks in Mumbai in 2008, India meticulously gathered evidence to demonstrate Pakistan's active involvement in those attacks, which

Islamabad later acknowledged, albeit reluctantly. India needs to consistently publicize proof of Pakistan's role, which includes the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

Further, India should utilize all international forums to build a solid legal case against Pakistan for its violations of international law regarding terrorism suppression. India's move to have all-party parliamentary delegations travelling abroad to present India's case on Operation Sindoor is an ideal opportunity to do this. India should identify specific provisions in terrorism conventions, along with various United Nations Security Council Resolutions that sanction terrorism, and customary international law that Pakistan is violating, and highlight these publicly.

Rather than mere diplomatic hyperbole, a clear and compelling narrative entrenched in international law, grounded in indisputable facts and supported by irrefutable evidence will significantly benefit New Delhi's fight against cross-border terrorism.

USE THE ICJ

A critical aspect of many terrorism conventions is that they grant

jurisdiction to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to enforce the treaties. For example, Articles 20(1) and 24(1) of the Terrorist Bombing Convention and the ICSFT, respectively, empower a country to refer disputes to the ICJ. These provisions, known as compromisory clauses, help circumvent jurisdictional obstacles in international law, which is based on consent. Thus, countries that are signatories to these treaties are bound by ICJ jurisdiction unless they make specific reservations. Ukraine, for instance, invoked such a clause when it sued Russia before the ICJ for violating the ICSFT.

Given that Pakistan has been sponsoring and abetting terrorism against India and has not taken any action against terror groups operating from its territory, New Delhi has a compelling case against Islamabad under these terrorism conventions, which it can present to the ICJ - just as it did in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

HURDLES TO OVERCOME

However, there are two significant hurdles. First, Pakistan has not accepted the ICJ's jurisdiction under the ICSFT due to a reservation, which could hinder efforts to hold Pakistan accountable. Nevertheless, India can still file a case with the ICJ to draw global attention to the issue. India should put the ball in the ICJ's court to address Pakistan's jurisdictional argument.

Second, and perplexingly, India has adopted a reservation about the ICJ's jurisdiction under the Terrorist Bombing Convention, while Pakistan has accepted the ICJ's jurisdiction for this convention. This obstacle can be overcome if India withdraws its reservation, allowing it to initiate proceedings against Pakistan at the ICJ for terrorism. The ICJ may likely interpret the provisions of the ICSFT and the Terrorist Bombing Convention narrowly, similar to its approach in the Ukraine vs Russia case decided last year. Therefore, India should have fool-proof evidence and devise its legal strategy accordingly. The dissenting opinion of judges such as Hilary Charlesworth in Ukraine vs Russia can come in handy for India. In any case, India should not be overly concerned about the outcome of the legal dispute. Instead, it should utilize the legal proceedings to assiduously promote a global narrative against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, aligning it with its national objectives.

In sum, international law and courtrooms can also be used to combat terrorism. To accomplish this, India must build state capacity and mainstream international law in statecraft.

(Prabhash Ranjan is Professor and Vice Dean (Research), Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University.)



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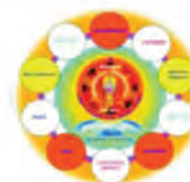
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A. Suresh Reddy is sworn in as Oak Brook Village Trustee

MAY 15, 2025

CHICAGO, IL (TIP) : On May 13, 2025, the Samuel Dean Board Room at the Butler Government Centre in Oak Brook, IL, pulsed with civic pride as the village celebrated the re-election of Trustees Melissa Martin, Suresh Reddy, and James Nagle. This vibrant swearing-in ceremony, infused with spiritual depth, community engagement, and heartfelt pledges, marked a pivotal moment for Oak Brook. The Village Honor Guard's solemn colors, Anu Malhotra's transcendent invocation, and Judge Neal Cerne's oath administration wove a tapestry of tradition and progress, setting an inspiring tone for the trustees' new term.

The evening began with Village President Larry Herman's warm welcome, framing the ceremony as a celebration of shared values. "This election was a testament to our residents' resolve," he said, urging unity in serving Oak Brook's best interests. His call for integrity and collaboration set an optimistic tone, emphasizing a collective vision for peace and prosperity.



A. Suresh Reddy with the Consul General of India at Chicago, Mr. Somnath Ghosh and others

Anu Malhotra, a Hindu priestess and founder of Mindful Meditation Yoga, delivered a captivating invocation that elevated the event's spiritual resonance. "Namaste," she greeted, expressing gratitude for officiating. Leading the audience in chanting "Om" three times, she explained, "This primordial sound symbolizes unity and divine presence." Her recitation of the Gayatri Mantra invoked wisdom, followed by a fire-lighting ritual with Trustees Reddy, Martin, and Nagle. "Fire embodies strength, aspiration, and light to dispel darkness," she noted, as sandalwood's fragrance filled the room. Malhotra's blessing with flower petals—"May you be filled with joy, peace, and wisdom"—culminated in a prayer for global harmony: "Shanti, Shanti, Shanti." Her words left a lasting impression, blending cultural richness with universal hope.

The oath administration by Judge Neal Cerne, a DuPage County associate judge and son of former Village President Glenn Cerny, was a solemn highlight. Cerne, who grew up with Herman, administered oaths to Martin, Nagle, and Reddy, who pledged to uphold the U.S. and Illinois constitutions. Reddy's oath, sworn on the Gita, Bible, Quran, Buddhist Dharmapada and Adi Granth symbolized inclusivity, earning nods of approval from the audience.

The trustees' acceptance speeches were deeply personal. Melissa Martin, with humor and emotion, shared her Texas roots, where a McDonald's opening was monumental. "That I serve in McDonald's headquarters village is weird karma," she said, voice trembling. "I'm so grateful for this worldly community." James Nagle, concise yet resolute, thanked voters and rallied, "We have a lot of work to do-let's get started." Suresh Reddy, beginning his second term, spoke passionately: "This victory belongs to every resident who believes in a united Oak Brook. Let us build bridges." He thanked his wife, Leela, and son, Rohan, pledging "integrity, transparency, and purpose."



The newly installed Village of Oak Brook officials

Trustee Ef Tiesenga offered a philosophical reflection, citing Jacob Bronowski's Western Intellectual Tradition. "The core value here is the right to make a case for change," he said, praising the democratic process and Oak Brook's unique guidance by founder Paul Butler's vision. His remarks underscored the board's strength and the trustees' re-election as a mandate for progress.

Event Highlights and Minute Details The ceremony's atmosphere buzzed with warmth, from the Honor Guard's precise movements to the scent of sandalwood during Malhotra's ritual. Attendees clapped enthusiastically as flower petals showered the trustees, a moment of shared blessing. Cerne's light-hearted exchange with Nagle—"You picked the judge who beat me in the courtroom!"—drew chuckles, humanizing the formal proceedings. The audience's attentive silence during the oaths contrasted with lively chatter at the West Queen Conference Room reception, where glasses clinked in toasts. Photographers captured the trustees' smiles, with Reddy's inclusive oath sparking whispers of admiration for Oak Brook's diversity.

The May 13 swearing-in ceremony was more than a formal induction; it was a celebration of Oak Brook's unity, resilience, and forward-looking spirit. Malhotra's invocation, the trustees' heartfelt commitments, and



Suresh Reddy in his office

the community's engaged voices underscored a collective dedication to progress. As Oak Brook stands at a pivotal moment, this event reaffirmed its values of inclusivity and collaboration, setting the stage for a vibrant future. Asian Media USA proudly amplifies this milestone, honoring the leaders who will shape Oak Brook's legacy.

"This ceremony exemplified Oak Brook's inclusive spirit, with Anu Malhotra's blessings and the trustees' pledges inspiring hope. As a champion of unity through events like International Yoga Day, I applaud Oak Brook's leadership for fostering a community that thrives on diversity and collaboration" Mr. Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman and Founder of Asian Media USA.

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

"Evil of anti-Semitism must be eradicated from our society", says White House on murder of Israeli diplomats

MAY 23, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The White House has expressed strongest condemnation on the killing of two Israeli diplomats in Washington DC.

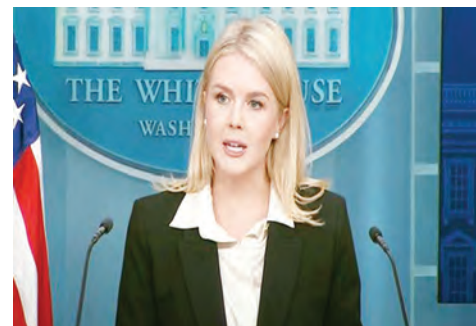
During a press briefing on Thursday, May 22, Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said, "President Trump is saddened and outraged over the brutal murder of two Israeli embassy staff here in Washington, D.C. last night. Yaron Leshinsky and Sarah Milgram were a beautiful young couple. In fact, we learned that Yaron was planning to propose to Sarah next week in Jerusalem."

She added, "Yaron's father, Daniel, spoke about the young couple's devotion for one another this morning. He said, 'they were in love, one for the other. The embassy told us they were like a star couple at the embassy. I never expected something like this. He had his whole life before him.'"

Leavitt underscored, "These words, especially every parent knows, are heart wrenching. The evil of anti-Semitism must be eradicated from our society. I spoke to the attorney general this morning. The Department of Justice will be prosecuting the perpetrator responsible for this to the fullest extent of the law.

Hatred has no place in the United States of America under President Donald Trump. Everyone here at the White House is praying for the victims' friends and families during this unimaginable time."

Earlier, Attorney General Pam Bondi announced on Thursday (US local time) that the threat level has been elevated nationwide for all Americans. Speaking to reporters at the Capital Jewish Museum where the shooting took place, she confirmed enhanced security measures implemented the previous evening. "US Marshals are coordinating closely to protect our embassy and ambassador



White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt expressed strongest condemnation on the killing of two Israeli diplomats in Washington DC.

while this investigation remains active," she stated, urging all citizens to stay alert regardless of their background.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

US House passes Trump's 'big, beautiful' tax and spending bill

MAY 22, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): House Republicans have passed a sweeping multi-trillion dollar tax breaks package, a narrow victory for President Donald Trump and House Speaker Mike Johnson after weeks of negotiations with conservative hold-outs.

Trump's "big, beautiful bill" passed with a vote of 215 votes to 214, with two Republicans joining Democrats to oppose it and one voting present.

It now heads to the Senate, which will have the chance to approve or change provisions of the bill.

The US President's allies on Capitol Hill have celebrated its passage as a victory, with Johnson saying it "gets Americans back to winning again".

A look at the key items in House Republican's 'big, beautiful bill'

Long a policy priority of Trump's, the legislation extends soon-to-expire tax cuts passed during his first administration in 2017, as well as provides an influx of money for defense spending and to fund the president's mass deportations.

It also temporarily eliminates taxes on overtime work and tips - both key promises Trump made during his successful 2024 presidential campaign.

"What we're going to do here this morning is truly historic, and it will make all the difference in the daily lives of hard-working Americans," Johnson said on the floor before the vote.

Additionally, the bill makes significant spending cuts, including to the Medicaid healthcare programme for lower-income Americans as well as Snap, a food assistance programme used by more than 42 million Americans.

These cuts were the subject of intense friction among Republicans, which was finally overcome after the President travelled to Capitol Hill on Tuesday. He privately told lawmakers to put aside their objections or



Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson accompanied by Republican lawmakers speaks about the passing of President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and program cuts after an all-night session at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. on May 22, 2025.

ABC Screenshot

face consequences.

Democrats also fiercely opposed the bill and warned that the cuts could have dire consequences for millions of lower-income Americans.

"Children will get hurt. Women will get hurt. Older Americans who rely on Medicaid for nursing home care and for home care will get hurt," Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, said on the House floor.

"People with disabilities who rely on Medicaid to survive will get hurt. Hospitals in your districts will close. Nursing homes will shut down," he added. "And people will die."

The next day, a statement from the White House warned that the administration would see a failure to pass the bill as the "ultimate betrayal".

The legislation, however, comes with a massive price tag. It is estimated to add \$5.2tn (£3.9tn) to US debt and increase the budget deficit by about \$600bn in the next

fiscal year.

Those eye-popping figures - and the prospect of ballooning interest payments on the debt - were among the reasons that financial rating agency Moody's downgraded the US credit rating last week.

The lengthy document of over 1,000-pages was released just hours before lawmakers were asked to vote on it, meaning there could be other provisions and line items yet to be discovered.

The Senate must also approve the bill and could make some changes in the process. If lawmakers there do, it will return to the House for another high-stakes vote with potential to go wrong.

On Truth Social, Trump urged the Senate to send the bill to his desk "as soon as possible".

One of the first items senators will have to tackle is a report from the Congressional Budget Office that the debt increase in the House bill would trigger a provision of a 2011 law that mandates approximately \$500bn in spending cuts to Medicare, the health insurance programme for the elderly.

Trump had pledged not to touch that popular government service - and Republicans would likely face a political price if they don't tweak the rules to avoid the mandatory reductions.

Democrats are pledging to use today's vote against Republicans in next year's midterm congressional elections, highlighting other spending cuts - including to the low-income health insurance programme, government research and environmental spending - and tax reductions for the wealthy.

Even Congressional Republicans celebrate a win, the narrowness of the Republican House majority is vulnerable to even small shifts in public sentiment. The midterms could flip control of that chamber to the Democrats and grind Trump's legislative agenda to a halt. (Source: BBC)

South Asian student group strongly condemns Trump administration's decision to revoke Harvard's eligibility to enroll foreign students

The Trump administration on Thursday, May 22, ordered Department of Homeland Security to terminate Harvard University's Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVP) certification

MAY 23, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): A prominent South Asian student group at Harvard has "strongly condemned" the Trump administration's decision to revoke the university's eligibility to enroll foreign students, terming it an "unwarranted and flagrant attack" and calling on varsity's administration to maintain steadfast support for its international student community.

In an unprecedented development, the Trump administration on Thursday ordered the Department of Homeland Security to terminate Harvard University's Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVP) certification.

"This means Harvard can no longer enroll foreign students and existing foreign students must transfer or lose their legal status," the federal agency said. The Harvard South Asian Association (SAA) said it "strongly condemns" the US Department of Homeland Security's recent decision to revoke Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Programme (SEVP) certification, barring future enrollment of international students and forcing



A view of Harvard University

current international students to transfer.

"Amid this unwarranted and flagrant attack," SAA expressed its "unwavering support for our international community."

SAA called on Harvard's administration, faculty and students to maintain "steadfast support for its

international student body in these turbulent times. To all international students: you belong at Harvard and we will stand for you." "We stand with our South Asian peers and community members who have been adversely impacted," the organization said in a post on Instagram.

It added that international students

bring integral and immeasurable value to both SAA and the entire Harvard community.

Founded in 1986, SAA is one of the largest and most active student groups on campus with hundreds of members. It was built as a communal space for South Asians of all backgrounds, "most importantly, immigrants, international students and first-generation Americans.

"Our members come from nations across the entire South Asian diaspora, and we strive to affirm their belonging and importance on campus," it said.

"If this decision by the current federal administration is actualized, Harvard will lose some of its greatest minds and kindest souls, and SAA will irrevocably lose its community," it added.

Currently, Harvard hosts a total of about 10,158 students and scholars from around the world across its schools.

According to statistics on the website of Harvard International Office, there are 788 students and scholars from India at all schools under Harvard University for the 2024-25 academic year.

(Source: Agencies)

Should a retiring Prime Minister get two pensions?



--->By Prabhjot Singh

JUSTIN TRUDEAU TO COLLECT TWO PENSIONS, \$104K IN SEVERANCE
THE FORMER PM IS ENTITLED TO ONE PENSION FOR HIS NEARLY 17 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT AND A SECOND FOR HIS DECADE AS PRIME MINISTER

"Should a retiring Prime Minister get two pensions?," is the subject of an animated debate that has been set in motion by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) as it released its calculations about the estimated pension and severance payments to be paid to 110 Members of Parliament who were either defeated or did not see re-election to the 45th House of Commons.

At least six members of the outgoing House of Indian descent who either lost the April 28 elections or decided not to seek re-election are among the beneficiaries. They are Chandra Arya, George Chahal, Kamal Khera, Harjit Singh Sajjan, Jagmeet Singh and Arif Virani.

While Chandra Arya, Harjit Singh Sajjan and Arif Virani did not contest, the remaining three - Jagmeet Singh, Kamal Khera and George Chahal - were defeated in the last federal elections held on April 28.

While releasing its calculations, the CTF said that "defeated or retiring MPs will collect about \$5 million in annual pension payments, reaching a cumulative total of about \$187 million by age 90. In addition, about \$6.6 million in severance cheques will be issued to some former MPs.

"Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will collect two taxpayer-funded pensions in retirement. Combined, those pensions total \$8.4 million, according to CTF estimates. Trudeau also takes a \$104,900 severance payout because he did not run again as an MP.

"The payouts for Trudeau's MP pension will begin at \$141,000 per year when he turns 55 years old. It will total an estimated \$6.5 million should he live to the age of 90. The payouts for Trudeau's prime minister pension will begin at \$73,000 per year when he turns 67 years old. It will total an estimated \$1.9 million should he live to the age of 90," the CTF said in its statement.

Going by the statement, it not only



Former Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

File photo

gave details of all 110 Members of Parliament who will no longer sit in the House of Commons but has also raised a pertinent question as to whether a retiring Prime Minister should be entitled to two pensions or the government should promulgate a law to end the second pension for all Prime Ministers.

"Taxpayers shouldn't feel too bad for the politicians who lost the election because they will be cashing big severance or pension cheques," said Franco Terrazzano, CTF Federal Director. "Thanks to past pension reforms, taxpayers will not have to shoulder as much of the burden as they used to. But there is more work to do to make politicians pay affordable for taxpayers."

"Taxpayers need to see leadership at the top, and that means reforming pensions and ending the pay raises MPs take every year," Terrazzano said. "A Prime Minister already takes millions through his/her first pension, he/she should not be billing taxpayers more for his/her second pension.

"The government must end the second pension for all future prime ministers."

There are 13 former MPs who will collect more than \$100,000-plus a year in pension income. The pension and severance calculations for each defeated or retired MP can be found.

Going by the CTF statement, four of the six members of the outgoing House of Indian descent, will be entitled to severance payments varying between Can \$74000.00 and Can \$ 1,54,000 besides getting a pension between Can \$ 45000 and Can \$ 77000.

George Chahal, who lost the election, would get a severance payment of Can \$ 1,04,900. Kamal Khera, who was a federal minister and lost the April 28 election, would get the highest severance payments among MPs of Indian descent as she would be entitled to draw Can \$ 1,54,850 as a severance payment.

Harjit Singh Sajjan, who also remained a federal minister in Justin Trudeau's government, would draw the lowest severance payment as his entitlement has been worked out to be Can \$ 74000.

Only MP of Indian descent to head a national party, Jagmeet Singh, who lost the April 28 election from Burnaby Centre in British Columbia, would get a severance payment of Can \$ 1,40,300.00. Another federal minister in Justin Trudeau's government, Arif Virani, would get a severance payment of Can \$ 1,04,900.00.

Chandra Arya, whose candidature as Liberal candidate from Nepean was revoked, would now draw a pension of Can \$ 53000, while pension of Jagmeet Singh will be Can \$ 45000. The pension is calculated on the number of years a Member has served. Former federal ministers - Kamal Khera (Can \$ 68000), Harjit Singh Sajjan (Can \$ 77000) and Arif Virani (Can \$ 66000) would also get pensions as former MPs.

Jagmeet Singh's pension remained a subject of regular debates in the House of Commons when it took up no-confidence motions moved by the Conservatives against the minority Liberal government headed by Justin Trudeau. NDP led by Jagmeet Singh twice bailed out the government while the House took up no-confidence motions moved by the Leader of the Opposition, Pierre Poilievre. Incidentally, Pierre Poilievre, was also among the 110 MPs who either lost or did not contest the April 28 elections.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist. He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics, at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines, and journals. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

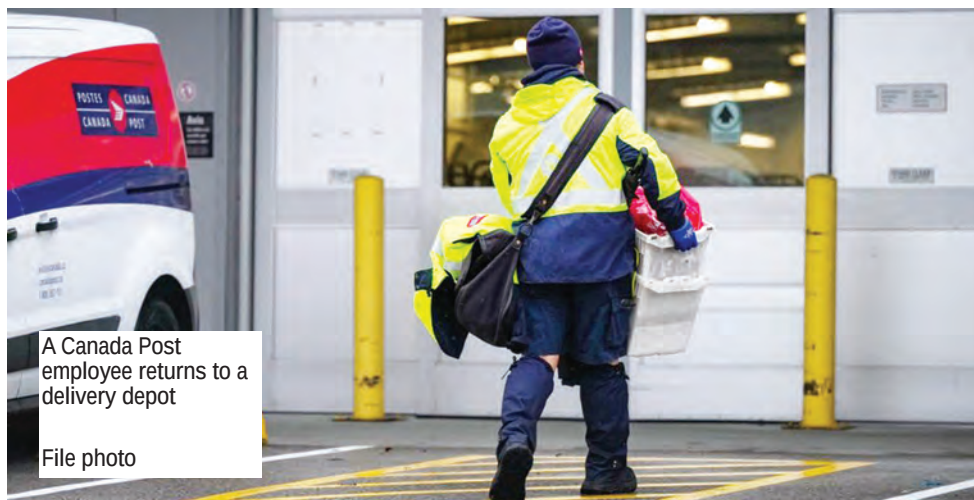
Canada Post workers poised to strike Friday, May 23

MAY 20, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Canada Post received a strike notice Monday, May 19, from the union representing more than 55,000 postal workers, with operations poised to shut down by the end of the week - for the second time in six months.

The union informed management that employees plan to hit the picket line starting Friday morning at midnight, the Crown corporation said.

A work stoppage would affect millions of residents and businesses who typically receive more than two



A Canada Post employee returns to a delivery depot

File photo

billion letters and roughly 300 million parcels a year via the service.

No new items would be accepted until the strike ends, while those already in the system would be "secured" but not delivered, Canada Post said.

A 32-day strike during peak shipping season ahead of the winter holidays last November and December left millions of letters and parcels in limbo and a massive backlog to sort through.

(Source: The Albertan)

We avenged Pahalgam attack in 22 mins: PM

BIKANER (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday asserted that the country's enemies have learnt what happens when 'sindoor' becomes gunpowder, and lauded India's armed forces for creating such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees. In his first public address in Rajasthan after Operation Sindoor that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, the prime minister slammed Pakistan, and said in response to the attack on April 22, "we destroyed nine biggest terror hideouts in 22 minutes".

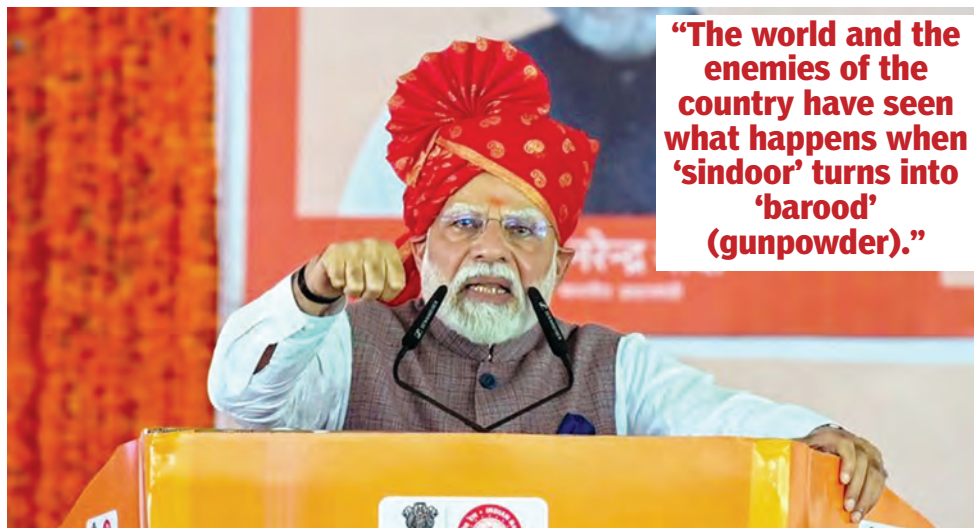
"The world and the enemies of the country have seen what happens when 'sindoor' turns into 'barood' (gunpowder)," he said at the public meeting in Palana in Bikaner, which shares border with Pakistan.

"Ab toh Modi ki naso mein lahu nahi garam sindoor beh raha hai (Not blood but sindoor runs in Modi's veins)," he said, adding, Pakistan will have to pay a heavy price for every terrorist attack.

He said India's response to the terror attack was not a game of vengeance but a "new form of justice" and there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a stern message to Pakistan, he said India is not going to be scared by nuclear threats and if there is a terrorist attack on the country then it will give a befitting reply.

"If there is a terrorist attack on India, it will get a befitting reply. The time and methods will also be decided by our army and the conditions will also be ours. India is not going to be scared by the threat of atom bomb. Thirdly, we will not see the perpetrators of terror and the government patronising the terrorists



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering during the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various development projects in Bikaner district, Rajasthan on Thursday, May 22. PTI

separately. We will consider them as one," he said, adding these are three "sutras" from Operation Sindoor.

He said the game of Pakistan of state and non-state actors will not work anymore. Lauding the armed forces for carrying out Operation Sindoor, he said "Our government gave free hand to all three armed forces. Together they created such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees". Noting that Pakistan had tried to target the Nal air base in Bikaner but could not cause any damage to it, he said in contrast "No one knows when Pakistan's Rahimyar Khan air base will open again. It is in ICU. The attack has destroyed it".

"Pakistan can never win a direct fight against India. Whenever there is a direct fight, Pakistan has to face defeat again and again. That is why Pakistan has made terrorism a weapon to fight against India," he said.

Modi recalled his public rally in Rajasthan's Churu after the 2019 Balakot

airstrike, and said he had then stated that, "Saugandh mujhe is mitti ki, mein desh nahi jhukne dunga, mein desh nahi mitne dunga (he had taken a vow that he would not let the country down)".

"Today, from the land of Rajasthan, I want to say to the countrymen that those who had set out to erase sindoor have been wiped out. Those who shed the blood of Hindustan have paid for every drop of it. Those who were proud of their weapons are now buried under a pile of rubble," he said.

"This is not a game of vengeance, but this is a new form of justice, this is Operation Sindoor. This is not just anger, this is the fierce form of a capable India. This is the new form of India," he said.

Referring to the 2016 surgical strikes and the Balakote air strike, Modi said earlier India carried out attacks by entering into their houses but now the attack was directly on their chest.

He said Pakistan used to spread terror, kill innocent people and create an

atmosphere of fear in India.

"Now, Modi, the servant of 'Maa Bharti', is standing here with his head held high. Modi's mind remains cool but his blood is hot," he said.

He said there will be no trade or talk with Pakistan, there will be talk only about Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

"And if Pakistan continues to export terrorists, it will have to beg for every penny. Pakistan will not get India's rightful share of water. Playing with the blood of Indians will cost Pakistan dearly. This is India's resolve and no power in the world can shake us from this resolve," he said.

The prime minister observed that security and prosperity both are necessary for the creation of a developed India.

"This is possible only when every corner of India becomes strong," he added.

Modi also spoke about the multi-party delegations being sent abroad to to highlight India's resolve to confront state-sponsored terrorism emanating from Pakistan and assert its right to self-defence following Operation Sindoor.

"To expose the truth, our all party delegations are reaching all over the world. The real face of Pakistan will be shown to the whole world," he said.

India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the military confrontation after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

Source: PTI

Gandhis beneficiaries of Rs 142 crore in National Herald case: Probe agency

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on May 21 told a Delhi court that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi were beneficiaries of Rs 142 crore in proceeds of crime in connection with the ongoing National Herald money laundering case. The central agency argued that a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) had been established.

The submissions were made before Special Judge Vishal Gogne at the Rouse Avenue Court during initial arguments on whether the court should take note of the ED's prosecution complaint filed against the two senior Congress leaders and other accused.

The complaint stems from a 2014 private criminal complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy, which the magistrate court took note of in June 2014. The ED formally began its investigation in 2021.

The defence, represented by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, requested time to respond, citing the nature of the case documents, which span approximately 5,000 pages.

What is the National Herald money laundering case?

Both Sonia and Rahul have been questioned as part of the probe before

Rahul Gandhi, was last questioned by ED in the case in



June 2022. His mother Sonia Gandhi was also questioned about her role in the day-to-day functioning of Young Indian Private Limited (YIL). The mother-son duo were questioned about the ownership of YIL by the Gandhi family and its shareholding pattern in Associated Journals Limited (AJL), the company that runs the National Herald newspaper.

ED began its probe in the National Herald case after Swamy filed a complaint in 2014, accusing Sonia, Rahul and other senior Congress leaders of taking over AJL properties for a mere sum of Rs 50 lakh. The properties

are worth over Rs 2,000 crore.

The National Herald is published by AJL, which is owned by YIL. Sonia and Rahul Gandhi each hold a 38 per cent stake in Young Indian, making them its majority shareholders.

On April 12, ED served notices to take possession of immovable assets worth Rs 661 crore - in Delhi, Mumbai and Lucknow - that it had attached as part of a money laundering probe linked to National Herald newspaper and Associated Journals Limited (AJL).

The ED had attached these properties earlier by issuing a provisional attachment order in a PMLA case against AJL.

What happens if the charges are proven?

If convicted under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the accused could face imprisonment of up to seven years.

Are the Gandhis in trouble?

The acquisition of AJL's shares by YIL for Rs 50 lakh raises questions about the transaction's propriety, including the lack of regulatory oversight.

The Congress has to explain why the ownership of AJL was given to a company in which the Gandhis have a 76 per cent stake.

Bangladesh cancels Rs 180-crore defence contract with India amid diplomatic strain

Bangladesh has cancelled a big-ticket defence contract valued at Rs 180.25 crore with Kolkata-based public-sector shipbuilder amid the deterioration in relations between New Delhi and Dhaka.

The Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), operating under the Indian Ministry of Defence, officially informed the stock exchange on Wednesday, stating, "We wish to inform you that the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has cancelled the order."

The contract awarded to GRSE was for the construction of an Advanced Ocean-Going Tug for Bangladesh. These specialised vessels are designed for long-distance towing and salvage operations in open waters.

This defence cancellation comes at a time when the relationship between India and Bangladesh is under strain, especially due to the growing closeness of Bangladesh's interim government chief advisor, Muhammad Yunus, to China and his recent controversial remarks, particularly concerning India's northeastern states.

Ties built on sensitivities: India on China, Turkiye backing Pakistan

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In the first official response to China and Turkiye, both of which had backed Pakistan in the recent skirmish, India reminded the two countries that "trust" and "sensitivities" must be kept in mind for relations to function effectively.

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, when asked whether India had conveyed a message to China during Operation Sindoor (May 7-10), said National Security Adviser Ajit Doval had spoken with the Chinese Foreign Minister and Special Representative on the boundary issue on May 10.

Jaiswal said, "The NSA conveyed India's resolute stance against cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan... The Chinese side is aware that mutual trust, mutual respect and mutual sensitivity remain the basis of India-China relations." Though Jaiswal did not explicitly mention it, the remark appeared to allude to assessments within the strategic affairs community suggesting that Beijing had provided real-time satellite imagery to Pakistan for launching attacks on Indian



Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs.

assets. Besides, media reports have emerged indicating that China, following Operation Sindoor, offered Pakistan its fifth-generation stealth fighter jet, the J-20. On Turkiye-Pakistan relations, Jaiswal said India expected Turkiye to strongly urge Pakistan to end its support for cross-border terrorism and take credible, verifiable action against the terror ecosystem it had harboured for decades. He delivered a clear message to Turkiye, saying "relations are built on the basis of sensitivities to each other's concerns."

Turkiye had backed Pakistan with logistical support. Indian security agencies estimated that over 350 drones and Turkish military operatives assisted Pakistan

during its four-day hostilities with India. This assistance included operational coordination and drone warfare tactics, marking a direct military role by Turkiye in the clashes.

Pakistan launched drone attacks following India's May 7 strikes, which targeted terror camps deep inside Pakistani territory in response to the April 22 Pahalgam massacre. Islamabad deployed Bayraktar TB2 and YIHA drones in its retaliatory strikes, using them for surveillance, target marking, and, in some cases, kamikaze-style attacks against Indian forward positions and military convoys.

Turkiye's defence cooperation with Pakistan has intensified in recent years. According to a report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) titled "Trends in International Arms Transfers-2024", 10 per cent of all Turkish arms exports between 2020 and 2024 were sent to Pakistan. During the same period, 63 per cent of all Chinese arms exports went to Pakistan. The report noted that Beijing is the fourth-largest arms exporter globally after the US, France and Russia. *Source: TNS*

'Spy' YouTuber Jyoti Malhotra's Police Custody Extended By 4 Days

HISAR (TIP)

A court here on Thursday, May 22, extended the police remand of content creator and social media influencer Jyoti Malhotra by four days, a police spokesperson said.

The 33-year-old YouTuber -- arrested on suspicion of espionage -- was produced before the court at the end of her five-day police remand.

Malhotra was among the 12 people arrested from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh over the past two weeks on suspicion of espionage, with investigators suspecting the presence of a Pakistan-linked spy network operating in north India.

The Hisar native ran a YouTube channel "Travel with JO". She was arrested at the New Aggarsain Extension last week and booked under provisions of the Official Secrets Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Hisar police said on Wednesday that no evidence had emerged to indicate Malhotra had access to any military- or defence-related information.

But she was definitely in contact with some people, knowing that they were Pakistani intelligence operatives, they had said.

Police sources had said she was in touch with Ehsan-ur-Rahim alias Danish, a staffer at the Pakistani High Commission, since November 2023.

India expelled Danish on May 13 for



Jyoti Malhotra

allegedly indulging in espionage.

The police have sent Malhotra's three mobile phones and a laptop for forensic examination. Malhotra's four bank accounts are also being analysed.

The National Investigation Agency, Intelligence Bureau, and military intelligence officials have also questioned Malhotra.

Investigations have revealed that she visited Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and some other countries.

The police had said Pakistani intelligence operatives were developing Malhotra as an asset.

She was also allegedly in touch with Danish during the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan that followed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, they had said.

Rahul Gandhi accuses PM Modi of compromising India's global standing

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, May 22, launched a sharp attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that he had compromised India's honour by agreeing to pause military action against Pakistan during the recent Operation Sindoor.

Posting on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi questioned Modi's decisions, writing: "Modi ji, stop giving hollow speeches. Just tell: Why did you believe Pakistan's statement on terrorism? Why did you sacrifice India's interests by bowing to Trump? Why does your blood boil only in front of cameras? You have compromised the prestige of India!"

Gandhi, who now serves as Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, also shared a video clip of the prime minister stating that India had acknowledged Pakistan's assurance of refraining from supporting terrorism or engaging in military aggression.

The Congress party has repeatedly criticised the government for calling off Operation Sindoor, a cross-border military operation targeting terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Rahul Gandhi 'poster boy of Pakistan': BJP

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has once again slammed Congress MP and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of "giving oxygen to



Pakistan". BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed that Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) cited Rahul Gandhi's remarks to claim India was "lying" during Operation Sindoor.

Sambit Patra alleged that during Operation Sindoor, Pakistani officials used statements by Indian opposition leaders to challenge India's narrative and cast doubt on the operation's legitimacy. He said such remarks benefit Pakistan's propaganda.

Patra said, "Rahul Gandhi has been asking for proof for two days. Today, the whole world and even Pakistan itself are providing evidence. We have kept digital evidence. Evidence upon evidence is being presented. The Pakistanis themselves have shown the dead bodies of their terrorists. The terrorists themselves were seen standing to bury the terrorists. Despite the fact that the whole world has seen this evidence, you are still asking for proof of the indomitable courage of the army."

India in history this Week

MAY 23 TO MAY 29

23 MAY



1919 Birthday of Maharani Gayatri Devi, Rajmata of Jaipur royal family.

1967 The country had taken a step forward in the field of education. Under which the South Gujarat University was established on this day.

1995 The TADA rule was abolished. Along with this, a proposal was made in the Lok Sabha to implement the Anti-Terrorism Activities Act.

2008 India successfully test-fired the surface-to-surface missile Prithvi-2.

2014 The Supreme Court did not consider it a crime for women and men to live together without marrying.

2016 The Indian Space Research Institute (ISRO) launched the space shuttle RLV-TD made entirely in India from Sriharikota Space Center in Andhra Pradesh in 2016.

24 MAY

1896 Kartar Singh Sarabha, who gave his life for the country, was born.

1954 Bachendri Pal's birthday is the first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest

2000 Famous lyricist and poet of Hindi films Majrooh Sultanpuri died.

1959 Empire Day was renamed Commonwealth Day.

1956 On the occasion of the 2500th birthday of Gautam Buddha, a huge program was organized.

1993 India and Uzbekistan had made five treaties.

2000 The Supreme Court denied the proposal for an out-of-court hearing.

25 MAY



2005 Actor and successful leader Sunil Dutt said goodbye to the world on this day.

1611 The Mughal ruler Jahangir married Mehrunnisa, known in history as Nur Jahan.

2010 59-year-old Indian-born Kamala Prasad Bisesar was elected the first female Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, defeating outgoing Prime Minister Patrick

Manning.

26 MAY

1739 Afghanistan was once a part of India, but the Mughal Emperor Mohammad Shah signed an agreement with Nadir Shah of Iran which separated it from the Indian Empire.

1957 Janta Insurance Policy started in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1999 ISRO successfully orbited three satellites from India, Germany and South Korea.

1999 Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid set a world record of 318 runs in a one-day international cricket



match against Sri Lanka.

2014 Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India.

27 MAY



1964 India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, passed away. He was 74 years old. Nehru died of a heart attack. His death marked a significant event in Indian history.



1962 Ravi Shastri, the most prolific all-rounder of the Indian cricket team, was born on this day.

2008 The central government has withdrawn the

ban imposed on cement exports.

2016 Hungapan Dada, a brave soldier of the Indian Army, died. He was posthumously awarded the 'Ashoka Chakra'.

2010 India successfully test-fired the Dhanush and Prithvi 2 missile equipped with nuclear technology at Balasora district in Chandipur, Odisha. Prithvi 2 missile is an earth-to-earth ballistic missile with a range of 350 km. While Dhanush is the naval version of the Prithvi missile.

28 MAY



1883 Birth of Hindutva leader and poet Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

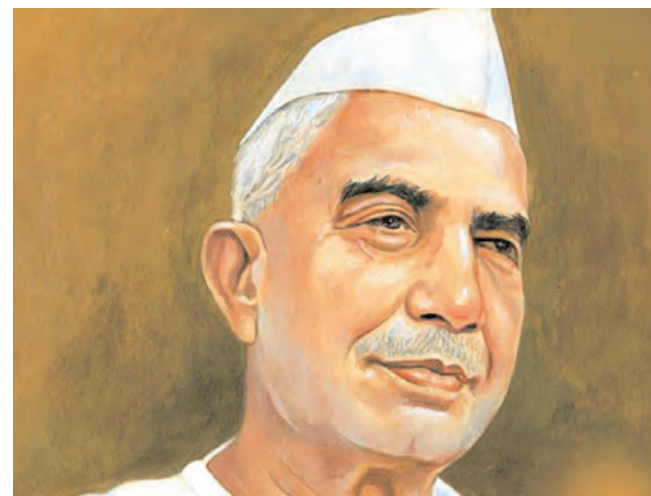
1923 The birth of Nandamuri Tarak Rama Rao, one of the most popular names in South India. After achieving immense success in films, NTR took a political stance and held the post of Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh three times.

1970 The All India Trade Union Congress was formally partitioned.

1989 Marthakavali David became the first woman Christian priest of India and second in the world.

1996 Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigned.

29 MAY



1987 Former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh died on 29 May.

1972 Prithviraj Kapoor, who had a distinct identity in Indian cinema, passed away.

1865 Ramanand Chatterjee, the leading personality of the journalism world, was born.

1906 Eminent Hindi essayist Kanhaiyalal Mishra Prabhakar was born.

1936 Gandhiji's son changed his religion and gave birth to a new controversy.

1968 Famous Wrestler Dara Singh set a record as a world wrestling champion.

Embassy of India Celebrates the 53rd Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with Guatemala



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra addresses distinguished guests at the celebration of the 53rd anniversary of India-Guatemala diplomatic relations, highlighting the growing partnership across trade, culture, technology, and people-to-people ties.



Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, pays floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, honoring his legacy of peace, non-violence, and universal brotherhood during the 53rd anniversary celebration of India-Guatemala diplomatic ties.

MAY 19, 2025

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala, commemorated the 53rd anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala with a special celebration on 15 May 2025. The event was graced by H.E. Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez the Foreign Minister of Guatemala and Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India. The celebration witnessed the presence of approximately 200 distinguished guests. These included members of the diplomatic corps, senior officials from various ministries, prominent dignitaries, business leaders, friends of India, and members of the Indian community in Guatemala.



Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, delivers his remarks during the 53rd anniversary celebration, commending India's contributions in health, energy, technology, and humanitarian cooperation

The celebration highlighted the growing strength of India-Guatemala bilateral ties which are rooted in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a commitment to global peace and sustainable development. The two countries have maintained close political cooperation through high-level engagements and multilateral collaboration. This anniversary served as a moment to reaffirm the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations, with a focus on expanding collaboration in trade, development cooperation, digital technologies, and infrastructure.

During the event, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized that the growing India-Guatemala partnership is rooted in mutual respect, shared democratic values, and a forward-looking vision focused on innovation, inclusive growth, and cultural exchange. Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martínez welcomed India's expanding footprint in Guatemala, appreciating its contributions in health, education, technology, and infrastructure, and reaffirmed Guatemala's commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation.

As part of India's ongoing commitment to providing holistic humanitarian health

assistance, the occasion was also utilized to formally hand over a confirmation letter to the Ministry of Defense of Guatemala for the organization of an artificial limb fitment camp within the Ministry's premises. The letter was presented by Dr. Prem Bhandari, Chairman, Jaipur Foot USA, to the Executive Secretary of CONRED, Ms. Claudinne Ogaldes and Inspector General of the Army from Ministry of Defense, Mr. William Oswaldo Sierra Sam. The proposed camp is planned to run for approximately 50 days and aims to provide around 600+ prosthetic limbs to the beneficiaries of Guatemala. This initiative will be carried out by a dedicated team from Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), consisting of seven skilled technicians and two team leaders. The necessary machinery and equipment for the camp are expected to arrive at a Guatemalan port in September 2025, with operations scheduled to begin in October 2025.



Distinguished guests pay homage at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi

Cultural and people-to-people connections continue to serve as a cornerstone of India-Guatemala relations. The Embassy's efforts in cultural diplomacy have seen great success, notably the International Day of Yoga 2024 celebration at Mariscal Zavala which attracted over 5,000 participants, one of the largest in Americas and probably one of the largest in the world outside India. Building on this momentum, the Embassy, in partnership with the Governor of Cobán, the Ministry of Education, Asociación Centro Don Bosco, and the Municipalities of Talita Kumi and San Pedro Carchá, is organizing what is expected to be the largest-ever IDY celebration outside India. Scheduled to be held in Carchá on 13 June 2025, the event is projected to draw around 12,000 participants, with nearly 10,000 registrations already confirmed. In recognition of the shared values of peace and non-violence, and acknowledging the

CONTD ON PAGE 19

CONTD FROM PAGE 18

Asociación Centro Don Bosco's deep commitment to Gandhian principles, especially in light of its historical experience during Guatemala's civil war, Ambassador handed over the approval of Government of India for gifting of three busts of Mahatma Gandhi to the Association, which would be inaugurated during the IDY event in Coban.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra with Mr. Carlos Ramiro Martinez, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, alongside Ms Claudienne Ogaldes, Executive Secretary of CONRED, and Mr. William Oswaldo Sierra Sam, Inspector General of the Army, Ministry of Defense at the 53rd anniversary celebration of India-Guatemala diplomatic ties.

investments in Guatemala, generating employment and contributing to industrial growth. BPO companies linked to Indian entities are already employing over 10,000 Guatemalans. India's multifaceted engagement with Guatemala has witnessed significant developments across various sectors. Indian companies are currently undertaking a feasibility study to explore possibility to open three major data centers in the Central American region, two of which are identified in Guatemala. Another Indian company has committed a substantial investment of USD 150 million in the Petén region for vegetable oil production, contributing to agro-industrial development and job creation. Under the SICA-India cooperation framework, India continues to support Early Warning Systems (EWS) to enhance disaster resilience in the region. Through a collaboration with UNDP, the Open Learning Exchange initiative is targeting education enhancement, reaching one million learners across Guatemala. In a humanitarian gesture, India has donated several Indian generic medicines to municipalities across the country, supporting local healthcare systems.

The Guatemalan Transport Association's recent visit to India has opened avenues for a transformative public mobility initiative, with a potential order of thousands of buses. In Xela, a USD 1.2 billion urban infrastructure development projects are under discussion, further cementing bilateral cooperation. Recognizing the Ambassador of India's contributions, the Municipality of Xela conferred its highest civilian honor on him. Earlier this year, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala participated in the prestigious CII Partnership Summit, further underlining the robust engagement between the two nations.

(G 6 here)

The Embassy of India has facilitated the formation of the India-Guatemala Chamber of Commerce & Industry to strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation. The Chamber aims to serve as a key platform for connecting businesses, fostering partnerships, and promoting economic engagement between the two countries. The successful implementation of a waste-to-energy/ compost project at Oakland Mall has set the tone for sustainable partnerships, with a second project underway at Miraflores, Guatemala City. To promote Indian film Industry and Indian movies in the Central American region, Embassy organized an Indian Film Festival across 20 locations in Guatemala, which was met with widespread appreciation. These collaborations underline India's commitment to contributing to Guatemala's development priorities through innovation and sustainable practices.

The event on 15 May served not only as a celebration of the past 53 years of diplomatic ties but also as a reaffirmation of the shared vision for a prosperous,



Distinguished guests, including high-ranking officials, diplomats, business leaders, and members of the Indian community, gathered to celebrate the 53rd anniversary of India-Guatemala diplomatic relations

Economic and commercial ties between India and Guatemala have shown remarkable progress in recent years with a bilateral trade of US\$663 million in 2024. India is now among Guatemala's key Asian partners in trade and investment. Indian companies such as Pakka Inc and various textile firms have made significant

inclusive, and sustainable future for India and Guatemala.

(Based on a press release issued by Mr. Ramesh Khulbey)

Memorial Day: Honoring the Fallen Heroes of the United States

American people are grateful to the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Today, we remember and honor their selfless service. We remember on this day every hero who selflessly shed their patriot's blood for our freedom. May their sacrifices be a constant reminder of the cost of liberty! God bless our heroes! God bless America!

Memorial Day, a federal holiday in the United States, is observed on the last Monday of May each year. It serves as a solemn occasion to honor and remember the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who died in military service to the nation. More than just a long weekend or the unofficial start of summer, Memorial Day is rooted in a deep sense of national gratitude and historical remembrance.

Memorial Day 2025 falls on Monday, May 26.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

The Birthplace of Memorial Day and Early Observances

The Civil War, which ended in the spring of 1865, claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history and required the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries.

By the late 1860s, Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. And some records show that one of the earliest Memorial Day commemorations was organized by a group of formerly enslaved people in Charleston, South Carolina less than a month after the Confederacy surrendered in 1865. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day.

Waterloo—which first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Decoration Day

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing



with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed.

The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried there.

Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an

official state holiday. Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor the dead on separate days until after World War I.

History of Memorial Day

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued

to be observed on May 30, the date General Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. The change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

Memorial Day Traditions

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C.

Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. Some people wear a red poppy in remembrance of those fallen in war—a tradition that began with a World War I poem. On a less somber note, many people take weekend trips or throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because Memorial Day weekend—the long weekend comprising the Saturday and Sunday before Memorial Day and Memorial Day itself—unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

What Do People Do?

It is traditional to fly the flag of the United States at half staff from dawn until noon. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is combined with Jefferson Davis' Birthday in Mississippi.

Memorial Day has become less of an occasion of remembrance. Many people choose to hold picnics, sports events and family gatherings on this weekend. This day is traditionally seen as the start of the summer season for cultural events. For the fashion conscious, it is seen as acceptable to wear white clothing, particularly shoes from Memorial Day until Labor Day. However, fewer and fewer people follow this rule and many wear white clothing throughout the year.

Public Life

Memorial Day is a federal holiday. All non-essential Government offices are closed, as are schools, businesses and other organizations. Most public transit systems do not run on their regular

From Page 20

schedule. Many people see Memorial Day weekend as an opportunity to go on a short vacation or visit family or friends. This can cause some congestion on highways and at airports.

Memorial Day and its traditions may have ancient roots

While the first commemorative Memorial Day events weren't held in the United States until the late 19th century, the practice of honoring those who have fallen in battle dates back thousands of years. The ancient Greeks and Romans held annual days of remembrance for loved ones (including soldiers) each year, festooning their graves with flowers and holding public festivals and feasts in their honor. In Athens, public funerals for fallen soldiers were held after each battle, with the remains of the dead on display for public mourning before a funeral procession took them to their internment in the Kerameikos, one of the city's most prestigious cemeteries. One of the first known public tributes to war dead was in 431 B.C., when the Athenian general and statesman Pericles delivered a funeral oration praising the sacrifice and valor of those killed in the Peloponnesian War—a speech that some have compared in tone to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

One of the earliest commemorations was organized by recently freed African Americans.

As the Civil War neared its end, thousands of Union soldiers, held as prisoners of war, were herded into a series of hastily assembled camps in Charleston, South Carolina. Conditions at one camp, a former racetrack near the city's Citadel, were so bad that more than 250 prisoners died from disease or exposure, and were buried in a mass grave behind the track's grandstand.

Three weeks after the Confederate surrender, an unusual procession entered the former camp: On May 1, 1865, more than 1,000 people recently freed from enslavement, accompanied by regiments of the U.S. Colored Troops (including the Massachusetts 54th Infantry) and a handful of white Charlestonians, gathered in the camp to consecrate a new, proper burial site for the Union dead. The group sang hymns, gave readings and distributed flowers around the cemetery, which they dedicated to the "Martyrs of the Race Course."

The holiday's 'founder' had a long and distinguished career

In May 1868, General John A. Logan, the commander-in-chief of the Union veterans' group known as the Grand Army of the Republic, issued a decree that May 30 should become a nationwide day of commemoration for the more than 620,000 soldiers killed in the recently ended Civil War. On Decoration Day, as Logan dubbed it, Americans should lay flowers and decorate the graves of the war dead "whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land."

According to legend, Logan chose May 30 because it was a rare day that didn't fall on the anniversary of a Civil War battle, though some historians believe



the date was selected to ensure that flowers across the country would be in full bloom.

After the war Logan, who had served as a U.S. congressman before resigning to rejoin the army, returned to his political career, eventually serving in both the House and Senate and was the unsuccessful Republican candidate for vice president in 1884. When he died two years later, Logan's body laid in state in the rotunda of the United States Capitol, making him one of just 33 people to have received the honor. Today, Washington, D.C.'s Logan Circle and several townships across the country are named in honor of this champion of veterans and those killed in battle.

Logan probably adapted the idea from earlier events in the South

Even before the war ended, women's groups across much of the South were gathering informally to decorate the graves of Confederate dead. In April 1886, the Ladies Memorial Association of Columbus, Georgia resolved to commemorate the fallen once a year—a decision that seems to have influenced John Logan to follow suit, according to his own wife. However, southern commemorations were rarely held on one standard day, with observations differing by state and spread out across

much of the spring and early summer. It's a tradition that continues today: Nine southern states officially recognize a Confederate Memorial Day, with events held on Confederate President Jefferson Davis' birthday, the day on which General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson was killed, or to commemorate other symbolic events.

It didn't become a federal holiday until 1971

Americans embraced the notion of "Decoration Day" immediately. That first year, more than 27 states held some sort of ceremony, with more than 5,000 people in attendance at a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. By 1890, every former state of the Union had adopted it as an official holiday. But for more than 50 years, the holiday was used to commemorate those killed just in the Civil War, not in any other American conflict. It wasn't until America's entry into World War I that the tradition was expanded to include those killed in all wars, and Memorial Day was not officially recognized nationwide until the 1970s, with America deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War.

It was a long road from Decoration Day to an official Memorial Day

Although the term Memorial Day was

used beginning in the 1880s, the holiday was officially known as Decoration Day for more than a century, when it was changed by federal law. Four years later, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 finally went into effect, moving Memorial Day from its traditional observance on May 30 (regardless of the day of the week), to a set day—the last Monday in May. The move has not been without controversy, though. Veterans groups, concerned that more Americans associate the holiday with first long weekend of the summer and not its intended purpose to honor the nation's war dead, continue to lobby for a return to the May 30 observances. For more than 20 years, their cause was championed by Hawaiian Senator—and decorated World War II veteran—Daniel Inouye, who until his 2012 death reintroduced legislation in support of the change at the start of every Congressional term.

More than 20 towns claim to be the holiday's 'birthplace'—but only one has federal recognition

For almost as long as there's been a holiday, there's been a rivalry about who celebrated it first. Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, bases its claim on an 1864 gathering of women to mourn those recently killed at Gettysburg. In Carbondale, Illinois, they're certain that they were first, thanks to an 1866 parade led, in part, by John Logan who two years later would lead the charge for an official holiday. There are even two dueling Columbus challengers (one in Mississippi, the other in Georgia) who have battled it out for Memorial Day supremacy for decades. Only one town, however, has received the official seal of approval from the U.S. government. In 1966, 100 years after the town of Waterloo, New York, shuttered its businesses and took to the streets for the first of many continuous, community-wide celebrations, President Lyndon Johnson signed legislation, recently passed by the U.S. Congress, declaring the tiny upstate village the "official" birthplace of Memorial Day.

Wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day began with a World War I poem

In the spring of 1915, bright red flowers began poking through the battle-ravaged land across northern France and Flanders (northern Belgium). Canadian Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied artillery unit, spotted a cluster of the poppies shortly after serving as a brigade surgeon during the bloody Second Battle of Ypres. The sight of the bright red flowers against the dreary backdrop of war inspired McCrae to pen the poem, "In Flanders Field," in which he gives voice to the soldiers who had been killed in battle and lay buried beneath the poppy-covered grounds. Later that year, a Georgia teacher and volunteer war worker named Moina Michael read the poem in Ladies' Home Journal and wrote her own poem, "We Shall Keep the Faith" to begin a campaign to make the poppy a symbol of tribute to all who died in war. The poppy remains a symbol of remembrance to this day.

POET. MOTHER. PROFESSOR DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF 70+ YEARS!

BY MABEL PAIS

“Let me wear the day
Well so when it reaches you
You will enjoy it.”
Sonia Sanchez

“This is not a small voice you hear
/ this is a large voice coming out of
these cities.”

– Sonia Sanchez

Celebrate one of the most important writers and scholars of the Black Arts Movement, **SONIA SANCHEZ**. Throughout a distinguished career of 70+ years, her poetry has rocked the spoken-word scene and our nation. Join NJPAC as it gives well-deserved flowers to this revolutionary voice of activism, Black identity and social justice. Sanchez will take the stage, along with special guests the **Christian McBride Trio**, **Newark Mayor Ras J. Baraka**, **Saul Williams**, **Mahogany L. Browne** and **The Last Poets** at the NJPAC’s Victoria Theater on June 1 at 3 pm.

“This world is a better place because of
Sonia Sanchez: more livable, more
laughable, more manageable. I wish
millions of people knew that some of the
joy in their lives comes from the fact
that Sonia Sanchez is writing poetry.” –
Maya Angelou

“Sonia Sanchez is a lion in literature’s
forest. When she writes she roars, and
when she sleeps other creatures walk
gingerly.” – Maya Angelou

“Only a poet with an innocent heart can
exorcise so much pain with so much
beauty.” – Isabel Allende

“In all her words, Sanchez grabs your
heart.” – Vibe

Sonia Sanchez — poet, activist, scholar — was the Laura Carnell Professor of English and Women’s Studies at Temple University. She is the recipient of both



(extreme left) Sonia Sanchez with poets.

Credit: NJPAC.org.

the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, Sanchez is the author of sixteen books. Motherhood heavily influenced the motifs of her poetry in the 1970s, with the bonds between mother and child emerging as a key theme.

National and International lecturer on Black Culture and Literature, Women’s Liberation, Peace and Racial Justice. Sponsor of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. Board Member of MADRE (international human rights organization).

AUTHOR

Sonia Sanchez is the author of over 16 books including ‘Homecoming,’ ‘We a BaddDDD People,’ ‘Love Poems,’ ‘I’ve Been a Woman,’ ‘Morning Haiku’ and more. More titles can be accessed at Beacon Press (beacon.org).

In addition to being a contributing editor to ‘Black Scholar’ and ‘The Journal of African Studies,’ she has edited an anthology, ‘We Be Word Sorcerers: 25 Stories by Black Americans.’ ‘BMA: The Sonia Sanchez Literary Review’ is the first African

American Journal that discusses the work of Sonia Sanchez and the Black Arts Movement.

The Stella Adler Center for the Arts (stellaadler.com) decided to name its arts theater after Sonia Sanchez.

AWARDS

Sonia Sanchez is the recipient of numerous awards: National Endowment for the Arts, Outstanding Arts Award from the Pennsylvania Coalition of 100 Black Women; Community Service Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators; Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Humanities; Peace and Freedom Award from Women International League for Peace and Freedom (W.I.L.P.F.); PEW Fellowship in the Arts; the Langston Hughes Poetry Award; 2022 Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award! and more.

She is the Poetry Society of America’s 2001 Robert Frost Medalist and a Ford Freedom Scholar from the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry also appeared in the movie ‘Love Jones.’ Sonia Sanchez has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe,

Nicaragua, the People’s Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University and she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English at Temple University.

POETRY

She is the Poetry Society of America’s 2001 Robert Frost Medalist and a Ford Freedom Scholar from Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry also appeared in the movie ‘Love Jones.’ Sonia Sanchez has lectured at over 500 universities and colleges in the United States and has traveled extensively, reading her poetry in Africa, Cuba, England, the Caribbean, Australia, Europe, Nicaragua, the People’s Republic of China, Norway, and Canada. She was the first Presidential Fellow at Temple University and she held the Laura Carnell Chair in English at Temple University. She is the recipient of the Harper Lee Award, Alabama Distinguished Writer, and the National Visionary Leadership Award. Sonia Sanchez is one of 20 African American women featured in ‘Freedom Sisters,’ an interactive exhibition created by the Cincinnati Museum Center and Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition and she was the recipient of the Robert Creeley award.

MOTHER

Sonia Sanchez, a renowned poet, activist, and professor, also identifies as a mother. Motherhood significantly influenced her writing, particularly in the 1970s, with the bonds between mother and child becoming a prominent theme in her poetry. Learn more about Sonia Sanchez at soniasanchez.net.

WHO IS READY TO EXPLORE THE WORLD OF FILM, TELEVISION & ENTERTAINMENT?

BY MABEL PAIS

Are you a young artist (aged 13 – 18) who is ready to explore the world of film, television and entertainment? Don’t miss this one-of-a-kind Career Day at NJPAC designed to connect with industry professionals and ignite your creative journey!

What’s Happening?

Join the NJPAC Center for Arts Education (24 Rector St, Newark, NJ 07102) for a day of exciting, hands-on film and TV master classes — led by industry pros eager to share insider tips, techniques and inspiration. Whether you’re a performer, designer or musician, there’s something for you.

Learn. Create. Connect. Get Inspired.

**MORNING SESSIONS |
10:30AM - 12PM**

Choose one:

The Actor & Director: Acting for Film



FILM & TV:

Credit: NJPAC.org.

Led by Hollywood Film Director Nicole Thompson

Learn what directors want, and how to build your acting reel

Music & Movies: Exploring the Film Score

Led by Latin GRAMMY® Award-nominated Composer Andrés Soto

Discover how music brings film to life, and explore your sound

LUNCH BREAK | 12 - 1PM

Enjoy pizza and explore resource tables packed with information on schools, training programs and career paths in film and TV.

FREE Headshots

Headshots with professional photographer Dashong (limited appointments available from 12 – 4PM)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS | 1 - 3PM

Choose one:

Behind the Scenes: Scenic Design

Led by Newark-based Scenic Designer Jeffrey Osborne

Dive into set design, faux finishes and behind-the-scenes careers

Hip Hop Cypher & Music Video Workshop

Led by Unicorn 151

Explore emceeing, music production and dance — and learn how it all comes together on film

Opening Remarks at 10AM by Ed Hajim

Philanthropist and founder of NJPAC’s Ed Hajim Professional Readiness Education program

NJPAC ARTS EDUCATION

Learn more at njpac.org/arts-education.

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

XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTS IN SEASON FINALE OF NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony will present its Season Finale concerts with Music Director Xian Zhang conducting Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony. Pianist Conrad Tao performs Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto, an audience favorite. Schedule of concert locations, dates, and times is below.

PROGRAM

Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich Season Finale Concerts
Morristown - Thursday, June 5, 7:30 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center
Princeton - Friday, June 6, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium
Red Bank - Saturday, June 7, 8 pm, Count Basie Center for the Arts
Newark - Sunday, June 8, 3 pm, NJPAC
 For more information on the event, visit njsymphony.org/program_notes/detail/program-notes---season-finale-rachmaninoff-and-shostakovich

Xian Zhang conductor
Conrad Tao piano
New Jersey Symphony
On the program:
Sergei Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto No. 2
Dmitri Shostakovich Symphony No. 5

TICKETS

For a complete list of concerts and information on tickets, visit njsymphony.org/events.



Conrad Tao, pianist

Credit: njsymphony.org

ARTISTS

XIAN ZHANG

2024–25 marks the GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning conductor Xian Zhang's ninth season as music director of the New Jersey Symphony. Starting in 2025–26, Zhang will also hold the role of music director at Seattle Symphony. Zhang holds the position of conductor emeritus of Orchestra Sinfonica di Milano, having previously held the position of music director between 2009–2016.

The 2024–25 season sees Zhang return to the Metropolitan Opera in New York to conduct David McVicar's acclaimed

production of Puccini's *Tosca*. Read Xian's bio @ njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/musical-leadership/xian-zhang.

CONRAD TAO

Pianist and composer Conrad Tao has been dubbed "the kind of musician who is shaping the future of classical music" by *New York Magazine*, and an artist of "probing intellect and open-hearted vision" by *The New York Times*. A soloist with leading orchestras in the traditional repertoire, Tao possesses an encyclopedic artistic approach and vision, as well as a stunning array of innovative and impactful projects.

Tao's 2024–25 season includes a return to Carnegie Hall in recital performing Debussy's 12 Études, alongside Keyed In, a work arranged and improvised by Tao on the Lumatone. He also returns to the San Francisco Symphony to perform Tchaikovsky with Nicholas Collon, the Dallas Symphony to perform Mozart with Jaap van Zweden, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra to perform Saint-Saëns with David Danzmayr, and the Baltimore Symphony to perform Mozart with Jonathon Heyward. Read Conrad Tao's bio @ conradtao.com.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs.

In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit the website at njsymphony.org.

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

Follow NJ Symphony on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube

INDULGE IN A SENSATIONAL EVENING OF 70'S SOUL

BY MABEL PAIS

Indulge in the vibrant sounds of the 70s with live performances by **THE STYLISTICS**, **THE DELFONICS**, **BLUE MAGIC**, **THE BLUE NOTES** and **HEATWAVE** at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Saturday, May 31, at 8 PM.

This sensational evening features an extraordinary lineup of legendary artists who defined the era of R&B, funk, and Philadelphia soul. Get ready to be serenaded by the smooth harmonies of **The Stylistics**, whose romantic ballads that include 'You Make Me Feel Brand New,' 'You Are Everything' and more will sweep you off your feet.

Experience the soulful melodies of **The Delfonics**, known for their exquisite vocal arrangements. With songs like, 'Didn't I Blow Your Mind This Time,' 'La-La Means I Love You'.

Delight in the enchanting rhythms of **Blue Magic**, who will take you on a musical journey filled with unforgettable hit songs like 'Sideshow,' 'Stop to Start,' 'Spell,' 'What's Come Over Me.'

The Blue Notes will bring their signature sound with moving songs like 'Wake Up Everybody,' 'If You Don't Know Me by Now' and more.

Don't miss energetic performances with **Heatwave** that will ignite the stage with their infectious disco beats and lively energy of songs including, 'Boogie Nights,' 'Always and Forever' and more.

Each group will showcase their greatest hits, seamlessly blending slow jams with upbeat dance numbers, enveloping you in an atmosphere of nostalgia and joy!

Don't miss this night of music that celebrates the essence of a remarkable decade — a night filled with timeless classics, smooth vocals, and the irresistible groove of disco. Don't miss this chance to relive the magic of the 70s.



(front row) 'Blue Notes' singers and (rear row) 'Heatwave' singers.

Credit: njpac.org

TICKETS

For tickets to 70s Soul, visit NJPAC.org or the NJPAC Box Office or call 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at NJPAC.org.

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

FESTIVAL SEFARAD DEBUTS IN NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

FESTIVAL SEFARAD (festivalsefarad.com) debuts in New York City. It will be a citywide, month-long celebration of the Greater Sefarad world in the month of June 2025.

A New York City is home to one of the most diverse and dynamic Jewish communities in the world. After the atrocities of October 7, the need for creating communal, intellectual, and cultural connections that bring all Jews together

has never been greater. In response to this need, the American Sephardi Federation (americansephardi.org) is proudly debuting Festival Sefarad NYC — a citywide, month-long celebration of the Greater Sephardi world. Featuring a variety of events with something for everyone — from musical performances and book talks, to exhibitions, tours, and Shabbat dinners — Festival Sefarad NYC will be the first festival of its kind in the U.S.A. This Festival is inspired by and a homage to the CSUQ's (csuq.org) Festival

Séfarad de Montréal (festivalsefarad.ca), now in its 45th season.

In collaboration with over 40 leading communal institutions, Festival Sefarad NYC will unfold across Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island, a movable feast ensuring accessibility and welcoming participation from every corner of the Jewish community.

With the support of the UJA-Federation of New York (ujafedny.org), Festival Sefarad NYC is more than a festival. It is a celebration of who Sephardis are, and who

Sephardis can be together.

THE AMERICAN SEPHARDI FEDERATION (ASF - americansephardi.org)

The festival is curated and produced by the **American Sephardi Federation**, headquartered at the Center for Jewish History. ASF preserves, celebrates, and promotes the history, traditions, and experiences and rich mosaic of Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews as an essential part of the Jewish story and a vital component of the American and global Jewish future.

NYSJFF RETURNS FOR 27TH YEAR



Opening Night Awardees

Credit: americansephardi.org

BY MABEL PAIS

At the heart of the debut of the Festival Sefarad NYC is the **27th NEW YORK SEPHARDIC JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL (NYSJFF - nysjff.com)**. This unique cinematic celebration showcases premiere film screenings, exclusive artist conversations, and the Pomegranate Awards ceremony, recognizing Sephardic excellence in the arts.

This year's NYSJFF is part of the inaugural **Festival Sefarad NYC**, a citywide celebration of Jewish joy, culture, and resilience, uniting communities through art, music, film, and conversation.

The 27th New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF) returns to New York City bringing a powerful week-long celebration of film, music, community and the rich, diverse stories of the Greater Sephardic world. From June 8 to June 15, 2025, audiences will experience exclusive film premieres, artist conversations, special performances, and the prestigious **ASF Pomegranate Awards**.

The NYSJFF is dedicated to Ike, Molly and Steven Elias.

This year's NYSJFF is part of the inaugural Festival Sefarad NYC, a citywide celebration of Jewish joy, resilience, and unity made possible by the UJA-Federation.

FILM SCREENING SCHEDULE

Throughout the Week, Experience Exclusive Screenings with Premieres from France, Israel, Morocco, Iran & Beyond and Live Musical Performances, Including Grammy Winners at the American Sephardi Federation, Center of Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011. (212) 294 8350.

Films include

World Premiere: YAEL

U.S. Premiere: Jinxed

U.S. Premiere: The Last Righteous Man (Baba Sali)

New York Premiere: Matchmaking 2

New York Premiere: The 90s – The Revelry (Hillula)

For Festival schedule and updates, visit nysjff.eventive.org/schedule?viewMode=e

xtended.

OPENING NIGHT

WHAT: NYSJFF 2025

WHERE: El Museo del Barrio

1230 5th Ave, New York, NY 10029

WHEN: June 8, 2025 @ 7pm

The Opening Night of the 27th New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (nysjff.com) will take place in the stunning setting of El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution located on 5th Avenue's "Museum Mile." It will be an unforgettable evening of joy, artistry, and community.

AWARDS

The Festival will present the 2025 ASF Pomegranate Awards to honor vibrant Sephardi voices for outstanding achievements:

Michel Boujenah

Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Stage and Screen

Fortuna

Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Preservation of Sephardic Culture

Roya Hakakian

Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature

Yael Naim

Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Music

The Pomegranates are sculpted with love by world-renowned, Baghdad-born artist Oded Halhamy.

PERFORMANCE

Following the award ceremony, enjoy the performance.

Fortuna with Trio Mediterraneo, known for their soulful reinterpretations of Sephardic and Mediterranean music, will take the stage in a moving performance celebrating cultural continuity.

The ensemble will be joined by special guest **Frank London**, Grammy-winning trumpeter and co-founder of The Klezmatics.

AND MORE!

And get ready for more surprises that will make this evening even more magical!



Closing Night Performer

Credit: americansephardi.org

TICKETS & PASSES

Individual Tickets, Festival-Week Passes, All-Access Passes and VIP Passes are available for purchase.

There is a limited availability of VIP Passes. VIP Festival Pass holders will enjoy an exclusive reception before the awards ceremony, featuring a specially curated culinary experience, alongside honored guests. Learn more at nysjff.com/program-tickets and nysjff.com/passes.

VIP Festival Pass : The VIP Festival Pass gives access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night Private Meet & Greet Receptions) & Screenings with VIP seating

LIMITED AVAILABILITY

All-Access Pass : The All-Access Festival Pass gives access to All Events & Screenings, including Opening & Closing Night (excluding Private Meet & Greet Receptions)

Festival Week Pass : The Festival Week Pass includes all Movie Screenings, Q&As, and Special Daytime Events

Opening Night Ticket : The Opening Night ticket includes Awards Ceremony & Performance

Closing Night Ticket : This ticket includes the Closing Night Ceremony & Performance by Enrico Macias

Space is limited; early reservations are highly recommended. Exclusive opportunities are also available on a first come, first served basis.

For updates and more information, visit nysjff.com.

SPONSORSHIP : Sponsorship opportunities are also available. For more information, visit nysjff.com.

CLOSING NIGHT - JUNE 15, 2025

Closing Night Ceremony & Performance

WHAT: NYSJFF 2025

WHERE: El Museo del Barrio

1230 5th Ave, New York, NY 10029

WHEN: June 15, 2025 7pm

The grand finale of the 27th New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival presents an extraordinary live performance by legendary French-Algerian singer Enrico Macias. Known for his soulful voice and timeless songs that celebrate peace, exile, and identity, Macias returns to New York following last year's sold-out appearance to once again captivate audiences with his music and message.

Set in the elegant theater at El Museo del Barrio, this special evening closes a week of powerful films and cultural reflection, honoring the rich tapestry of Sephardic Jewish life around the world. From North Africa to the Mediterranean and beyond, Enrico Macias embodies the spirit of Sephardic resilience and joy.

This concert marks the closing of the Film Festival, but Festival Sefarad NYC continues with more events and celebrations throughout June.

THE NEW YORK SEPHARDI JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL (NYSJFF - nysjff.com)

NYSJFF, also known as the Sephardic Film Festival, is more than just an event; it's a celebration of culture, history, and storytelling. Since its inception in 1990, this festival has been a beacon of light, shining a cinematic spotlight on the diverse and rich tapestry of Sephardic Jewish communities.

With each passing year, the NYSJFF continues to captivate audiences with its curated selection of films, ranging from powerful narratives to evocative documentaries. Through these cinematic masterpieces, viewers are transported to distant lands, from Morocco to India, from Yemen to Kurdistan, and beyond, experiencing the trials, triumphs, and traditions of Sephardic Jews.

What sets this festival apart is its commitment to showcasing not only the grand narratives of history but also the intimate and personal stories that define individual experiences of Jewish identity. In an age where technology enables anyone with a camera to share their voice, the NYSJFF embraces this democratization of storytelling, encouraging filmmakers to explore and portray the multifaceted aspects of Jewish life with authenticity and creativity.

This year's NYSJFF is part of the inaugural **Festival Sefarad NYC**, a citywide celebration of Jewish joy, culture, and resilience, uniting communities through art, music, film, and conversation.

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



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Martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev ji

Each year, millions of Sikhs around the world solemnly commemorate the Martyrdom Day of Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Guru of Sikhism and the first Sikh martyr, whose death in 1606 CE became a defining moment in the history of the Sikh faith. Observed during the summer month of Jeth (May–June), this day honors Guru Ji's unwavering commitment to truth, religious freedom, and justice in the face of brutal persecution under the Mughal regime.

Guru Arjan (15 April 1563 - 30 May 1606) compiled the first official edition of the Sikh scripture called the Adi Granth, which later expanded into the Guru Granth Sahib.

Guru Arjan was born in Goindwal, in the Punjab, the youngest son of Bhai Jetha, who later became Guru Ram Das, and Mata Bhani, the daughter of Guru Amar Das. He completed the construction of the Darbar Sahib at Amritsar, after the fourth Sikh Guru founded the town and built a sarovar. Guru Arjan compiled the hymns of previous Gurus and of other saints into Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scripture, and installed it in the Harimandir Sahib.

Guru Arjan reorganized the masand system initiated by Guru Ram Das, by suggesting that the Sikhs donate, if possible, one-tenth of their income, goods or service to the Sikh organization (dasvandh). The Masand not only collected these funds but also taught tenets of Sikhism and settled civil disputes in their region. The dasvand financed the building of gurdwaras and langars (shared communal kitchens).

Guru Arjan was arrested under the orders of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir accusing him of supporting a rebellion under Khusrau Mirza. He was asked to convert himself to Islam. He refused and, as a result, was tortured and executed in 1606 CE. Historical records and the Sikh tradition are unclear as to whether Arjan was executed by drowning or died during torture. The Sikh tradition states the Guru's execution was a part of the ongoing persecution of the Sikhs under the Mughal Empire. His martyrdom is considered a watershed event in the history of Sikhism.

Early life

Guru Arjan was born in Goindwal to Bibi Bhani and Jetha Sodhi. Bibi Bhani was the daughter of Guru Amar Das, and her husband Jetha Sodhi later came to be known as Guru Ram Das. Arjan's birthplace site is now memorialized as the Gurdwara Chaubara Sahib. He had two brothers: Prithi Chand and Mahadev. Various Sikh chroniclers give his birth year as 1553 or 1563, the latter is accepted by scholarly consensus as the actual year of birth with 15 April as the accepted birth date.

Guru Arjan spent the first 11 years of his life in Goindwal and the next seven years with his father in Ramdaspur. Per



Sikh tradition, he had stayed for two years in Lahore during his youth after being sent by his father to attend the wedding of his first cousin Sahari Mal's son as well as to establish a Sikh congregation. He was appointed as the Sikh Guru in 1581 after the death of his father. Guru Ram Das was a Khatri of the Sodhi sub-caste. With Arjan's succession, the Guruship remained in the Sodhi family of Guru Ram Das.

Succession and time as Guru

Guru Ram Das chose Arjan, the youngest, to succeed him as the fifth Sikh Guru. Mahadev, the middle brother chose the life of an ascetic. His choice of Guru Arjan as successor, as throughout most of the history of Sikh Guru successions, led to disputes and internal divisions among the Sikhs.

The succession dispute regarding Guru Arjan created a schism that yielded different narratives for the two factions. In the orthodox Sikh tradition, Prithi Chand is remembered as vehemently opposing Guru Arjan, creating a factional sect of the Sikh community. The Sikhs following Arjan referred to the breakaway faction as Minas (literally, "scoundrels"). Prithi Chand and his followers attempted to assassinate the young Hargobind thrice. Prithi Chand also befriended Mughal agents. Subsequent written competing texts written by the Minas, on the other hand, offered a different explanation for the attempt on Hargobind's life, and present him as devoted to his younger brother Arjan. The eldest son of Prithi Chand, Mihtarvan, is mentioned in both traditions as having received tutelage

from both Prithi Chand and Arjan as a child.

The competing texts acknowledge the disagreements. They state Prithi Chand left Amritsar, became the Sahib Guru after the martyrdom of Guru Arjan and one who disputed the succession of Hargobind as the next Guru. The followers of Prithi Chand considered themselves the true followers of Guru Nanak as they rejected the increasing emphasis on militarization of the panth under Hargobind to resist Mughal persecution in the wake of Arjan's martyrdom, in favor of non-violent interiorization. In addition to Prithi Chand, a son of Guru Amar Das named Baba Mohan had also challenged the authority of Arjan. These challenging claims were asserted by the early Sikh sects in part by their manuscripts of Sikh hymns. Baba Mohan possessed the Goindval pothi containing the hymns of Nanak and other early Gurus, while Prithi Chand possessed the Guru Harsahai pothi then believed to have been the oldest scripture from the time of Nanak. This, state scholars, may have triggered Guru Arjan to create a much enlarged, official version of the Adi Granth.

Upon the first parkash of the Adi Granth according to Gurbilas, Guru Arjan said, "Listen you all to my directive. And believe it as ever true. Accept the Granth as equal with the Guru. And think no distinctions between the two."

The mainstream Sikh tradition recognized Guru Arjan as the fifth Guru, and Hargobind as the sixth Guru. Arjan, at age 18, became the fifth Guru in 1581

inheriting the title from his father. After his execution by the Muslim officials of the Mughal Empire, his son Hargobind became the sixth Guru in 1606 CE.

Execution

Guru Arjan died in Mughal custody; this has been one of the defining, though controversial, issues in Sikh history.

Most Mughal historians considered Guru Arjan's execution as a political event, stating that the Sikhs had become formidable as a social group, and Sikh Gurus became actively involved in the Punjabi political conflicts. A similar theory floated in the early 20th-century, asserts that this was just a politically-motivated single execution. According to this theory, there was an ongoing Mughal dynasty dispute between Jahangir and his son Khusrau suspected of rebellion by Jahangir, wherein Arjan blessed Khusrau and thus the losing side. Jahangir was jealous and outraged, and therefore he ordered the Guru's execution. But according to Jahangir's own autobiography, most probably he didn't understand the importance of Sikh gurus. He referred to Arjan as a Hindu, who had "captured many of the simple-hearted of the Hindus and even of the ignorant and foolish followers of Islam, by his ways and manners...for the three or four generations (of spiritual successors) they had kept this shop warm." The execution of Arjan marks a sharp contrast to Jahangir's tolerant attitude towards other religions such as Hinduism and Christianity.

The Sikh tradition has a competing view. It states that the Guru's execution was a part of the ongoing persecution

From page 26

of the Sikhs by Islamic authorities in the Mughal Empire, and that the Mughal rulers of Punjab were alarmed at the growth of the Panth. According to Jahangir's autobiography Tuzk-e-Jahangiri (Jahangirnama) which discussed Arjan's support for his rebellious son Khusrau, too many people were becoming persuaded by Arjan's teachings and if Arjan did not become a Muslim, the Sikh Panth had to be extinguished.

In 1606 CE, the Guru was imprisoned in Lahore Fort, where by some accounts he was tortured and executed, and by other accounts, the method of his death remains unresolved. The traditional Sikh account states that the Mughal emperor Jahangir demanded a fine of 200,000 rupees and demanded that Arjan erase some of the hymns in the text that he found offensive. The Guru refused to remove the lines and pay the fine which, the Sikh accounts state, led to his execution. Some Muslim traditional accounts such as of Latif in 19th-century states that Arjan was dictatorial, someone who lived in splendour with "costly attire", who had left aside the rosary and the clothes of a saint (fakir). Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi cheered the punishment and execution of Arjun, calling the Sikh Guru an infidel. In contrast, Mian Mir - the Sufi friend of Guru Arjan, lobbied when Jehangir ordered the execution and the confiscation of Arjan's property, then got the confiscation order deferred, according to Rishi Singh.

Some scholars state that the evidence is unclear whether his death was due to execution, torture or forced drowning in the Ravi river. J.S. Grewal notes that Sikh sources from the seventeenth and eighteenth-century contain contradictory reports of Arjan's death. J. F. Richard states that Jahangir was persistently hostile to popularly venerated saints, not just Sikhism. Bhai Gurdas was a contemporary of Arjan and is a noted 17th-century Sikh chronicler. His eyewitness account recorded Arjan's life, and the order by Emperor Jahangir to torture the Guru to death.

A contemporary Jesuit account, written by Spanish Jesuit missionary Jerome Xavier (1549-1617), who was in Lahore at the time, records that the Sikhs tried to get Jahangir to commute the torture and death sentence to a heavy fine, but this attempt failed. Dabistan-i Mazahib Mobad states Jahangir tortured Arjan in the hopes of extracting the money and public repudiation of his spiritual convictions, but the Guru refused and was executed. Jerome Xavier, in appreciation of the courage of Guru Arjun, wrote back to Lisbon, that Arjan suffered and was tormented.

According to the Sikh tradition, before his execution, Arjan instructed his son and successor Hargobind to take up arms, and resist tyranny. His execution led the Sikh Panth to become armed and pursue resistance to persecution under the Mughal rule. Michael Barnes states that the resolve and death of Arjun strengthened the conviction among Sikhs that, "personal piety must have a core of moral strength. A virtuous soul



must be a courageous soul. Willingness to suffer trial for one's convictions was a religious imperative".

There are several stories and versions about how, where and why Arjan died. Recent scholarship have offered alternative analyses, wary of "exaggerating fragmentary traces of documentary evidence in historical analysis". The alternate versions include stories about the role of Arjan in a conflict between the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and his son who Jahangir suspected of trying to organize a patricidal coup. An alternate version highlights the role of a Hindu minister of Jahangir named Chandu Shah. He, in one version, takes revenge on Arjan for not marrying his son Hargobind to Chandu Shah's daughter. In another Lahore version, Chandu Shah actually prevents Arjan from suffering torture and death by Muslims by paying 200,000 rupees (100,000 crusados) to Jahangir; but then keeps him and emotionally torments him to death in his house. Several alternative versions of the story try to absolve Jahangir and the Mughal empire of any responsibility, but have no trace or support in the documentary evidence from early 17th century, such as the records of Jesuit priest Jerome Xavier and the memoirs of Jahangir.

Guru Arjan's father Guru Ram Das founded the town named after him "Ramdaspur", around a large man-made

water pool called "Ramdas Sarovar". Guru Arjan continued the infrastructure-building effort of his father. The town expanded during the time of guru Arjan, financed by donations and constructed by voluntary work. The pool area grew into a temple complex with the Gurdwara Harmandir Sahib near the pool. Guru Arjan installed the scripture of Sikhism inside the new temple in 1604. The city that emerged is now known as Amritsar, and is the holiest pilgrimage site in Sikhism.

Continuing the efforts of Ram Das, Guru Arjan established Amritsar as a primary Sikh pilgrimage destination. He wrote a voluminous amount of Sikh scripture including the popular Sukhmani Sahib. Guru Arjan is credited with completing many other infrastructure projects, such as water reservoirs called Santokhsar (Pond of Contentment) and Gongsar (Pond of Bells), founding the towns of Tarn Taran, Kartarpur and Hargobindpur.

Community expansion

While having completing the Harmandir Sahib with dasvand donations during the first decade of his guruship between 1581 and 1589, creating a rallying point for the community and a center for Sikh activity, and a place for the instalment of the Adi Granth, guru Arjan had also gone on a tour of Majha and Doaba in Punjab, where he would

found the towns. Due to their central location in the Punjab heartland, the ranks of Sikhs would swell, especially among the Jat peasantry, and create a level of prosperity for them; Arjan would serve not only as a spiritual mentor but as a true emperor (sacch? p?dsh?h) for his followers in his own right.

Adi Granth

According to the Sikh tradition, Guru Arjan compiled the Adi Granth by collecting hymns of past Gurus from many places, then rejecting those that he considered as fakes or to be diverging from the teachings of the Gurus. His approved collection included hymns from the first four Gurus of Sikhism, those he composed, as well as 17 Hindu bards and 2 Muslim bards (Bhagats). The compilation was completed on 30 August 1604, according to the Sikh tradition and installed in the Harmandir Sahib temple on 1 September 1604.

Guru Arjan was a prolific poet who composed 2,218 hymns. More than half of the volume of Guru Granth Sahib and the largest collection of hymns has been composed by Arjan. According to Christopher Shackle and Arvind-Pal Singh Mandair, Guru Arjan's compositions combined spiritual message in an "encyclopedic linguistic sophistication" with "Braj Bhasha forms and learned Sanskrit vocabulary".

After Guru Arjan completed and installed the Adi Granth in the Harimandir Sahib, Mughal emperor Akbar was informed of the development with the allegation that it contained teachings hostile to Islam. He ordered a copy be brought to him. Arjan sent him a copy on a thali (plate), with the following message that was later added to the expanded text:

In this thali (dish) you will find three things - truth, peace and contemplation: in this too the nectar Name which is the support of all humanity.

AG 1429, Translated by William Owen Cole and Piara Singh Sambh

The Akbarnama by Abu'l-Fazl Allami mentions that Arjan met the Mughal emperor Akbar and his cortege in 1598. According to Louis Fenech, this meeting likely influenced the development of Sikh manuscriptology and the later martial tradition.

One of the Sikh community disputes following Guru Ram Das was the emergence of new hymns claiming to have been composed by Nanak. According to the faction led by Arjan, these hymns were distorted and fake, with some blaming Prithi Chand and his Sikh faction for having composed and circulated them. The concern and the possibility of wrong propaganda, immoral teachings and inauthentic Gurbani led Arjan to initiate a major effort to collect, study, approve and compile a written official scripture, and this he called Adi Granth, the first edition of the Sikh scripture by 1604.

The composition of both Prithi Chand and his followers have been preserved in the Mina texts of Sikhism, while the mainstream and larger Sikh tradition adopted the Guru Granth Sahib scripture that ultimately emerged from the initiative of Arjan.



Suniel Shetty says he, Akshay were clueless about Paresh Rawal quitting Hera Pheri 3

Paresh Rawal shocked everyone with his sudden decision to exit Priyadarshan's Hera Pheri 3. Now, in an interview with India Today, Suniel Shetty also expressed shock at Paresh's decision and revealed that even Akshay Kumar is clueless about it.

When asked about Paresh's decision to quit Hera Pheri 3, Suniel said he was clueless about it and added, "This is absolutely shocking. I first thought about texting him, and then I thought I'd meet him and would discuss it. I have had no word about it with anybody. Even Akshay is clueless as to what happened."

He further admitted, "This is a crisis. We are in the middle of this film, and this is the biggest shock. We were going to begin shooting next year. We had already started, in fact. We shot a promo. It's a big thing. This is so shocking. I can't make sense of this. And you know who sent it? Athiya and Ahaan - they both sent it to me within 15 minutes, asking 'papa what is this?'. And I was here doing my interviews, and I felt like 'holy s***'."

After Paresh confirmed quitting Hera Pheri 3, there was speculation that he stepped away due to creative differences with the makers, and some even speculated that he left the film due to remuneration issues. However, in an interview with Mid-Day, the actor refuted any such rumours and revealed, "I know it came as a shock to many. We three make a great combination with Priyadarshanji directing us, but the fact is that I opted out because today I don't feel like a part of it."

The Hera Pheri franchise started with Priyadarshan's Hera Pheri in 2000 and introduced the iconic trio of Akshay Kumar, Paresh Rawal and Suniel Shetty to Bollywood. The audience's love for the slapstick comedy, one-liners and the characters of the film made it a cult classic.

Happy didn't get typecast doing only special songs in films: Tamannaah

Actor Tamannah Bhatia says whether it is her special songs in movies, her performance in films or on OTT, as an entertainer, her aim is to reach out to her audience.

The actor, who has featured in special appearance in a song in some of the recent films like Kannada blockbuster "KGF: Chapter 1" starring Yash, Rajnikanth-led "Jailer", "Stree 2", John Abraham's "Vedaa" and Ajay Devgn's "Raid 2", said song is "one of the many things" she does.

"It happens with a lot of people, they do get typecast. But it hasn't happened with me because I do long format, features, and I work in different languages, and industries. I work on stage, I make reels. I'm an entertainer. I'm only interested in reaching people," Bhatia told PTI in an interview.

"I don't consider any platform small or big. My job is to entertain people in some way, and whenever I get that opportunity, I give it my all with respect and interest, I give it my all. I hope people like it."

The actor said she has a slew of exciting films in the pipeline in Bollywood like "Ranger" with Ajay Devgn, Rakesh Maria biopic with John Abraham, "No Entry" sequel and folk thriller "Vvan" with Sidharth Malhotra. "Everything leads to something. It's a misnomer that if you do something, you become typecast. I've done a lot of songs, if you count how many songs I've done, you will be stunned. But every song has either given me a connection with the people or taught me a little dance.



Saiyami Kher recalls facing casting couch at 19: Was asked to make compromises

Actor Saiyami Kher, who made her Bollywood debut with Rakesh Omprakash Mehra's 'Mirzya', recently made a revelation about her struggling days. Saiyami said that she was asked to compromise for a role in a Telugu movie.

Saiyami in an interview with Bollywood Bubble, recalled the interaction with a female casting agent and said, "I have been very fortunate with regards to all the offers I have received. In the film industry, there was this one agent who called me for a Telugu film when I was 19 or 20 years old. She said, 'You know, you will have to make compromises.' I was trying to test her, because it was a woman saying it to another woman. I felt that deeply."

She further added, "So I said, 'Ma'am, I'm not understanding what you are saying.' I kept repeating that. And then finally she said, 'See, you have to understand.' So I said, 'I'm sorry that you feel I'm someone who needs to go down this route. There are certain limits I have never crossed in my life.' So yes, I have experienced it once, but it was just that one time when a woman actually asked me this."

Saiyami was paired opposite Anil Kapoor's son, Harshvardhan Kapoor in 'Mirzya.' She later featured in movies such as 'Choked,' 'Unpaused,' and Telugu films like Nagarjuna's 'Wild Dog' and



'Highway.' She was also praised for her roles in R Balki's 'Ghoomer,' co-starring Abhishek Bachchan and Tahira Kashyap's 'Sharmajee Ki Beti.'

Saiyami was last seen in Sunny Deol-starrer action-drama 'Jaat' where she played Sub-Inspector Vijaya Lakshmi.

The Gopichand Malineni directorial also featured Randeep Hooda, Regina Cassandra, Vineet Kumar Singh and others in crucial roles.

Saiyami is the granddaughter of late actor Usha Kiran and niece of actor Tanvi Azmi.

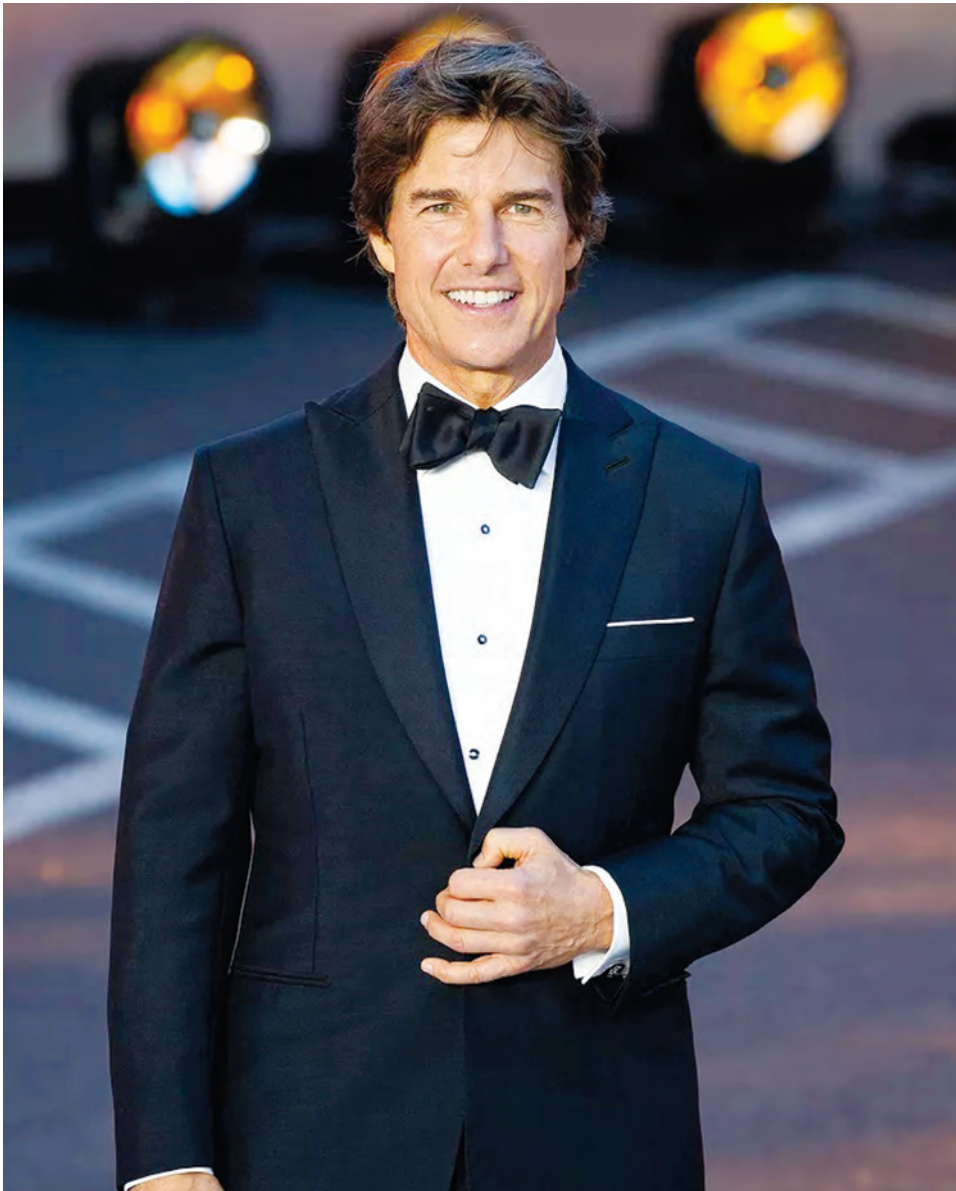
Tom Cruise hints at end of Mission Impossible franchise

Tom Cruise's 'Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning' is setting the cash registers ringing. At this time, the actor hinted at the film being the last one in the franchise. In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter, he responded to a question about the end of the film's franchise, which fuelled speculation.

The change from its original name, 'Dead Reckoning Part 2', has already raised eyebrows amongst fans, hinting at a possible conclusion to Ethan Hunt's high-stakes journey. With Cruise's recent remarks fuelling the buzz, could this truly be the final mission for the iconic spy?

The premiere of 'Mission Impossible 8' took place last week at the Cannes Film Festival, followed by a limited release in select countries, including India, Japan, and Korea. On the Cannes red carpet, Tom Cruise spoke to The Hollywood Reporter. As the interview wrapped up, the host remarked, "I'd want everyone to see this movie. Maybe the final reckoning, maybe not, but what," at which point Cruise jumped in, saying, "It's the final," and added, "It's not called final for nothing."

The possible confirmation has sparked mixed reactions amongst fans. Some praised Tom Cruise and director Christopher McQuarrie for giving the franchise a proper send-off, while others are saddened by the idea of bidding farewell to Ethan Hunt. "This is good. Tom can't keep doing this in a wheelchair," one fan joked, referencing Cruise's age. Another said, "It's better to end it before it goes downhill." On the other hand, a hopeful fan shared, "I wish these films never end. They could bring in someone new, like they do with



Bond." During the same interview on the Cannes red carpet, Tom Cruise said, "I actually said I am going to make movies into my 80s; actually, I am going to make them into my 100s. I will never

stop. I will never stop doing action, I will never stop doing drama, comedy films, I am excited." However, he didn't clarify whether this included more 'Mission Impossible' films.



Jessica Biel reveals what makes her marriage to Justin Timberlake strong

American actor-producer Jessica Biel opened up about the key to her strong marriage with singer-actor Justin Timberlake, highlighting how having a partner who understands the demands of their industries has been crucial. Speaking to InStyle, the 43-year-old reflected on what it's like to balance family with two thriving careers.

"I think having a partner who understands this industry and adjacent industries like music industry has been really deeply important and profound for my life and for our partnership because he just understands when I'm working crazy long hours," she shared.

On the flip side, Jessica explained that she returns the same level of understanding to Justin when his schedule gets hectic. "Works all night long," she said of the singer's late hours. "That's kind of normal. So we are able to support each other throughout strange schedules and time apart because we know that's just what it takes to make this kind of art," she added.

Married since 2012, the couple are parents to two sons—Silas, 10, and Phineas, 4.



Jennifer Lopez sued for posting paparazzi pictures of herself

Singer-actor Jennifer Lopez is being sued for posting paparazzi pictures of herself at a Hollywood party on her X (formerly Twitter) and Instagram. A BBC report claims that damages worth \$150K are being sought per photo by the photographer and his paparazzi agency.

Photographer Edwin Blanco and his agency, Backgrid, claim that Jennifer used the pictures without their permission. She posted pictures of herself arriving at the Amazon MGM Studios and Vanity Fair Party in Los Angeles the night before the Golden Globes in January. Both Edwin and Backgrid have filed lawsuits against her, claiming copyright for two photos she posted.

They argued that the pictures were used "to promote Ms Lopez's public appearances, boost user engagement, increase shareability, and lend credibility to her branded content." JLo posted the pictures on her social media with the caption "GG Weekend Glamour," and they were re-shared by numerous fans and fashion pages, states the

publication. She was dressed in a white dress and a matching faux fur coat outside of Chateau Marmont.

The lawsuits reportedly said, "Ms Lopez's unauthorised use of the Images is commercial in nature, intended for the purpose of self-promotion. For example, Ms Lopez used the Images to spotlight the designer of her clothing and jewellery, leveraging the publicity from the event to promote her fashion affiliations and brand partnerships."

This is not the first time JLo has faced legal action for sharing photos without permission. She was also sued in 2019 and 2020 for doing the same. Dua Lipa, Gigi Hadid and Khloe Kardashian have also faced similar legal complaints in the past. The legal documents also reportedly state that Backgrid and Edwin contacted the singer-actor's representatives to agree on a deal and payment for the pictures, but she did not sign the agreement.



PHILIPPINES SAYS CHINA COAST GUARD FIRED WATER CANNON, 'SIDESWIPE' GOVERNMENT VESSEL

22 MAY 2025

MANILA (TIP): The Philippines fisheries bureau accused the China Coast Guard on Thursday of firing water cannon and sideswiping a Filipino government vessel while it collected sand for a research project.

China and the Philippines have engaged in months of confrontations in the contested South China Sea, which Beijing claims almost entirely, despite an international ruling that the assertion has no legal basis.

Wednesday's encounter happened near a group of small sandbanks in the Spratly Islands where two Filipino ships were collecting sand samples "as part of a marine scientific research initiative", the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said in a statement.

"At approximately 0913H, CCG vessel 21559 water cannoned and sideswiped the BRP Datu Sanday (MMOV 3002) twice ... putting at risk lives of its civilian personnel."

It was the first time water cannon were used against Philippine vessels near the disputed Sandy Cay reef, the bureau added.

The "aggressive interference, dangerous maneuvers, and illegal acts" damaged the Philippine ship's port bow and smokestack, according to the bureau's statement.

The Philippines scientific team was still able "to complete its operations in Pag-Asa Cays 1, 2 and 3", the statement said, using the Philippine term for the Sandy Cays.

China's foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said she was not aware of the incident. "What I can tell you is that the Chinese Coast Guard always enforces the law in accordance with laws and regulations," she said.

Last month, the Philippines slammed as "irresponsible" a Chinese state media report claiming that Sandy Cay 2 was put under China's control.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said that the country's coast guard had "implemented maritime control" over Tiexian Reef in mid-April. (AFP)

North Korea denies warship was severely damaged as full investigation underway on its failed launch

23 MAY 2025

SEOUL (TIP): North Korea is seeking to arrest those responsible for the failed launch of its second naval destroyer, as it denied the warship suffered major damage — a claim quickly met with outside skepticism.

A statement from North Korea on its handling of the botched launch came after leader Kim Jong Un expressed fury over an incident that he said was caused by criminal negligence.

The the main military committee said on Friday that those responsible would be held responsible for an "unpardonable criminal act."

Satellite imagery on the site showed vessel lying on its side and draped in blue covers, with parts of it submerged.

North Korea says it'll take about 10 days to repair its damage, but outside observers question that timeframe because damage to the ship appeared much worse than what North Korea claims.

Here is what you need to know about the failed ship launch:

How much damage was there to the ship?

North Korea's state news agency, KCNA, said Friday that the severity of the damage to the 5,000-ton-class destroyer was "not serious" as it cancelled an earlier assessment that the bottom of the hull had been left with holes.

It said the hull on the starboard side was scratched and some seawater had flowed into the stern section. But it said it'll take a total of 10 days to pump up the



seawater, set the ship upright and fix the scratches.

It's almost impossible to verify the assessment because of the extremely secretive nature of North Korea. It has a history of manipulating or covering up military-related setbacks, policy fiascoes and other mishaps, though it has periodically acknowledged some in recent years.

Lee Illwoo, an expert with the Korea Defense Network in South Korea, said the North Korean warship likely suffered much worse damage, including the flooding of its engine room located in the stern section, and holes in the starboard. He said North Korea could simply set the ship upright, paint it and

claim the ship has been launched, but that repairs could take more than a year as the replacement of an engine requires cutting the hull.

According to the North Korean account, the destroyer was damaged when a transport cradle on the ship's stern detached early during a launch ceremony at the northeastern port of Chongjin on Wednesday.

Moon Keun-sik, a navy expert who teaches at Seoul's Hanyang University, said North Korean workers are probably not familiar with launching a 5,000-ton-class warship, which is nearly three times heavier than its existing main navy ships. (AP)

UK suspends free trade talks with Israel and announces sanctions over West Bank settlers

20 MAY 2025

LONDON (TIP): The British government says it is suspending free trade negotiations with Israel and has leveled new sanctions targeting West Bank settlements as it criticizes Israel's military actions in Gaza.

Tuesday's actions came a day after the U.K., France and Canada condemned Israel's handling of the war in Gaza and its actions in the occupied West Bank.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy said the U.K.'s existing trade agreement is in effect but the government can't continue discussions with an Israeli government pursuing what he called egregious policies in the West Bank and Gaza.

Lammy said the persistent cycle of violence by extremist Israeli settlers in the West Bank demanded action.

"The Israeli government has a responsibility to intervene and halt these aggressive actions," Lammy said. "Their consistent failure to act is putting Palestinian communities and the two-state solution in peril."

The announcement came after British

Prime Minister Keir Starmer ramped up his criticism of Israel on Tuesday, saying the level of suffering by children in Gaza was "utterly intolerable" and repeated his call for a ceasefire.

"I want to put on record today that we're horrified by the escalation from Israel," Starmer told the U.K.'s Parliament.

His brief remarks followed a scathing joint condemnation he issued Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney that marked one of the most significant criticisms by close allies of Israel's handling of the war in Gaza and its actions in the West Bank.

The three leaders threatened to take "concrete actions" if the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not cease its renewed military offensive and significantly lift restrictions on humanitarian aid. Netanyahu said the statement was "a huge prize" for Hamas.

Starmer repeated the trio's demand for a ceasefire, saying it was the only way to free the hostages Hamas still holds. He

also called for increased shipments of humanitarian aid into Gaza, saying the basic quantity allowed by Israel is "utterly inadequate."

"We must coordinate our response, because this war has gone on for far too long," Starmer said. "We cannot allow the people of Gaza to starve."

International pressure has been building on Israel following a nearly three-month blockade of supplies into Gaza that led to famine warnings. Even the United States, a staunch ally of Israel, has voiced concerns over the growing hunger crisis.

While Israel allowed trucks with baby food and desperately needed supplies to begin rolling into Gaza on Monday, U.N. humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher described the volume of aid a "drop in the ocean of what is urgently needed."

Israel initially received widespread international support to root out Hamas militants following the group's surprise attack that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, on Oct. 7, 2023, and took 251 captives. (AP)

Court papers say suspect in Israel embassy killings said, 'I did it for Palestine; I did it for Gaza'

23 MAY 2025

CHICAGO (TIP): The man accused of fatally shooting two staff members of the Israeli Embassy in Washington outside a Jewish museum told police after his arrest, "I did it for Palestine; I did it for Gaza," federal authorities said on Thursday in announcing charges in the killings they called a targeted act of terrorism.

Elias Rodriguez, 31, shouted "Free Palestine" as he was led away after his arrest, according to charging documents that provided chilling new details of the Wednesday night shootings in the nation's capital that killed an American woman and an Israeli man who had just left an event at the museum. They were set to become engaged.

The attack prompted Israeli missions to beef up their security and lower their flags to half-staff. It came as Israel continues to target civilians in the Gaza Strip amid heightened tensions across the Middle East and internationally, and that law enforcement officials have repeatedly warned could inspire violence in the US. Rodriguez faces charges of murder of foreign officials and other crimes and did not enter a plea during a perfunctory court appearance.

Additional charges are likely, prosecutors said, as authorities continue to investigate the killings as both a hate crime against the Jewish community and terrorism. "Violence against anyone based on their religion is an act of cowardice. It is not an act of a hero," said Jeanine Pirro, the interim US attorney for the District of Columbia.

"Antisemitism will not be tolerated,



especially in the nation's capital."

After the shooting, the suspect went inside the museum and stated that he "did it." He was no longer armed by the time he was taken into custody, according to the affidavit. "I did it for Palestine, I did it for Gaza, I am unarmed," he spontaneously said.

He also told detectives that he admired an active-duty Air Force member who set himself on fire outside the Israeli Embassy in February 2024, describing the man as "courageous" and a "martyr," court documents said.

Investigators said they were still working to corroborate the authenticity of writings purported to be authored by Rodriguez, an apparent reference to a document circulating online that

expressed outrage over Israel's conduct in the war. The FBI is also contacting associates, family members and co-workers.

Rodriguez appeared in federal court in Washington in a white jail suit and listened impassively as the charges and possible punishments, which include the death penalty, were read. At a home listed in public records for Rodriguez's mother in suburban Chicago, a sign taped on the door Thursday afternoon asked for privacy. The two people killed were identified as Yaron Lischinsky, an Israeli citizen, and Sarah Milgrim, an American. They were a young couple about to be engaged, according to Yechiel Leiter, the Israeli ambassador to the US. (AP)

POPE CALLS FOR 'SUFFICIENT HUMANITARIAN AID' INTO GAZA

21 MAY 2025

GAZA (TIP): Pope Leo XIV called Wednesday for sufficient humanitarian aid to be allowed into war-ravaged Gaza, where humanitarian agencies say a total blockade has sparked critical food and medicine shortages.

"The situation in the Gaza Strip is worrying and painful," the pope said during his first weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

"I renew my heartfelt appeal to allow the entry of sufficient humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, the heartbreaking price of which is paid by children, the elderly, the sick," he said.

Leo, who was elected on May 8 to be the Catholic Church's first US pope, has made peace a theme of his papacy so far, calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war.

Israel has come under massive international pressure to abandon its intensified military campaign in Gaza and allow urgent humanitarian aid into the besieged strip.

The UN announced Monday that it had been cleared to send in aid for the first time since Israel imposed a total blockade on March 2, sparking severe shortages of food and medicine.

But aid groups say the amount allowed in is not enough to meet needs.

The Israeli army stepped up its offensive in Gaza at the weekend, vowing to defeat Hamas, whose unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the war. (AFP)

Japan's agriculture minister resigns after 'rice gaffe' causes political fallout

21 MAY 2025

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's agriculture minister was forced to resign on Wednesday because of political fallout over recent comments that he "never had to buy rice" because he got it from supporters as gifts.

The resignation comes as the public struggles with record high prices of the country's traditional staple food.

Taku Eto's comment, which many Japanese saw as out of touch with economic realities, came at a seminar Sunday for the Liberal Democratic Party, which leads an struggling minority government. The gaffe could be further trouble for the party before a national election in July.

A major loss could mean a new government or could mean Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba would have to step down.

"I made an extremely inappropriate remark at a time when consumers are struggling with soaring rice prices," Eto told reporters after submitting his resignation at the prime minister's office. Eto's resignation was the first under Ishiba's leadership that began



October.

The government has released tons of rice from its emergency stockpile in recent months, but the latest agricultural ministry statistics show little impact from the move. Some supermarkets have started selling cheaper imported rice.

Eto also sought to clarify the comments that got him in trouble. He said he does actually buy white rice

himself and was not living on rice given as gifts. He said the gift comment referred to brown rice, which he wants people to become interested in because it can reach market faster.

Ishiba appointed popular former Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of a former prime minister, to lead the ministry, noting his experience in agriculture and fisheries policies and enthusiasm for reforms.

Koizumi told reporters Ishiba instructed him to do everything to stabilize the rice supply and prices to address consumer concern. "I was told to put rice before anything," Koizumi told reporters. "At this difficult time, I will do utmost to speedily tackle high rice price that people feel and worry in everyday life." He said he shares consumers' concerns as he feeds his children packaged instant rice sometimes.

Ishiba, also a former farm minister, said he wants to strengthen Japan's food security and self-sufficiency. He has proposed agricultural reforms, including increased rice production and possible exports, though critics say he should urgently fix the ongoing rice problem first. Noting the rice situation, Ishiba said he suspects the rice price surge is "not a temporary but a structural problem." "It may not be easy to find an answer," he said, but repeated his pledge to do the utmost to ease consumers' difficulties and to reform rice policies.

Koizumi said the measures so far have proved ineffective and that he will speed the effort as soon as he formally takes office later Wednesday. (AP)

TWO LOW INTENSITY EARTHQUAKES HIT WESTERN NEPAL; NO DAMAGES REPORTED

23 MAY 2025

KATHMANDU (TIP): Two low intensity earthquakes hit western Nepal on Friday morning, with no reports of any damage so far, an official said.

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake with epicentre at Khalanga in Baitadi district hit at 1.48 am (local time), according to the Earthquake Monitoring Centre. The earthquake was followed by an aftershock of 3.7 magnitude around 2.00 am (local time).

Local residents panicked and ran out of their homes after the two consecutive tremors, the official said.

Tremors were also felt in neighbouring Darchula, Bajhang, and Dadeldhura districts, the official said. (PTI)

BANGLADESH'S INTERIM CHIEF MUHAMMAD YUNUS MULLS RESIGNATION

23 MAY 2025

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's interim government chief Professor Muhammad Yunus mulls resignation as he finds it difficult to work because political parties failed to reach a common ground, BBC Bangla service reported at midnight on Thursday quoting student-led National Citizen Party CP party chief Nhid Islam.

"We have been hearing news of sir's (Yunus) resignation since this morning. So I went to meet sir to discuss that issue. He said he is thinking about it. He feels that the situation is such that he cannot work," Islam told the BBC Bangla.

The NCP convenor said Chief Adviser Yunus expressed his fear that he would not be able to work in the current situation of the country saying, "I won't be able to work unless the political parties can reach a common ground".

The leader of the NCP who visibly emerged with Yunus's blessings in February this year, said he told Yunus "to stay strong for the sake of the country's security, and future and to meet the expectations of the mass uprising".

Islam said he told the chief adviser he expected the political parties would forge unity and cooperate with him, and "I hope everyone will cooperate with him".

The NCP leader, however, said there was no point in Yunus staying if he could not do his work adding, "If the political party wants him to resign now".

"Why he will stay if he does not get that place of trust, that place of assurance?"

Yunus's government in the past two days was exposed to several challenges with a major one involving Bangladesh's presumably consolidated military forces, which played a crucial role during the last year's student-led uprising. (PTI)

Imran Khan takes jibe at Gen Munir, says he should have given himself title of 'king' instead of field marshal

22 MAY 2025

LAHORE (TIP): Army chief Gen Asim Munir should have given himself the title of "king" instead of field marshal as Pakistan is currently governed by the jungle law, jailed former premier Imran Khan said on Thursday.

Gen Munir was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal on Tuesday for his role in the recent conflict with India, becoming the second top military officer in the country's history to be elevated to the position.

"MashaAllah, General Asim Munir has been made Field Marshal. Though frankly, it might have been more fitting to give him the title of 'King' instead... because right now, the country is ruled by the law of the jungle. And in the jungle, there is only one king," Khan posted on X.

Khan, who has been in jail since August 2023 in multiple cases, also said that rumours of a deal being made with him are entirely false.

"No deal has taken place, nor is any dialogue underway. These are baseless lies."

He, however, openly invited the military establishment to have talks with him if it truly cared about Pakistan's interests and future.

"The country is facing external threats, a surge in terrorism, and an economic



crisis. We must unite. I have never asked for anything for myself before, nor will I now," he said.

Khan also cautioned the Shehbaz Sharif government about India's another attack and said they must be prepared for any such situation.

He said Pakistan has been turned into a place where the law only applies to the weak, never the powerful.

"The ongoing situation reflects that the very spirit of democracy is being crushed. When you send the message that the bigger the thief, the higher the office they'll hold... you bury justice. The NAB still holds a case against (President) Asif Zardari's sister involving five apartments registered under employees' names. She

is abroad, and no one dares question her. Shahbaz Sharif was accused in PKR 22-billion money laundering case, yet he was made Prime Minister," he said.

Khan further said that over the past three years, Pakistan's moral and constitutional framework has been utterly destroyed.

"A farcical trial has been resumed in the Toshakhana-II case. Just like in prison, court proceedings are dictated by the will of a single colonel. My sisters and lawyers are being barred from court; my companions are not allowed to meet me; I am denied contact with my children for months; even my books are not delivered, and I am denied access to my physician. This is a continued violation of court orders and laws," he said.

He said he received information about drone attacks carried out in areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and directed the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government to officially lodge a protest with the federal government and take immediate steps to stop these drone strikes.

"The killing of innocent civilians in drone attacks does not reduce terrorism as it only fuels it further. After years of struggle, we had succeeded in halting American drone operations in Pakistan. If you claim to be against terrorism, then do not drop bombs on the homes of your own people," he added. (PTI)

Malaysia's PM Anwar Ibrahim calls BRICS a 'cohesive force within the Global South,' pledges green agenda for ASEAN

MAY 22, 2025

KUALA LUMPUR (TIP): Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim has described BRICS as a "new initiative that represents a cohesive force within the Global South," highlighting the group's potential to enhance cooperation among emerging economies in an interview with TV BRICS.

Anwar underlined Malaysia's commitment to strengthening ASEAN's regional and global engagement as the country prepares to assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025.

He stressed the importance of revitalising key dialogue platforms such as ASEAN+3 and the East Asia Summit, calling them "neutral and constructive spaces" where major powers can engage in dialogue, cooperation, and conflict resolution amid increasing geopolitical uncertainty.

"We must ensure inclusivity and sustainability in ASEAN's development so that no member nation is left behind," the Prime Minister said, highlighting Malaysia's focus on equitable growth and regional solidarity.

On environmental priorities, Anwar reiterated Malaysia's commitment to championing the green agenda within ASEAN. "Addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development are critical priorities for us," he said.

The Prime Minister emphasised Malaysia's leadership role in accelerating cooperation on environmental issues across ASEAN member states, aiming to build a more resilient and sustainable region.



Regarding Malaysia's decision to join BRICS, Anwar said, "BRICS is not just an economic bloc but a transformative platform that can reshape global governance and foster solidarity among emerging economies."

He views BRICS as a crucial force to amplify the voice and interests of the Global South on the international stage.

As ASEAN Chair in 2025, Malaysia intends to use its platform to promote peace, stability, and inclusivity in the region while expanding ASEAN's global partnerships. "Our goal is to strengthen ASEAN's role as a driver of regional cooperation and a bridge to the wider world," Anwar said.

Malaysia's proactive stance on inclusivity, sustainability, and regional cooperation reflects its broader vision for a just and balanced international order.

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

Sikh History This Week

MAY 23 TO MAY 29

23rd May

1606 Jahangir received false reports on Guru Arjan's blessing Khusrau.

1848 Maharani Jind Kaur exiled and sent to Banaras prison.



1914 Guru Nanak Jahaz (Koma gata Maru) reached Vancouver port, Canada. However, it was forced to return to India. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong, unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.

24th May



1606 Guru Arjan Dev reached Lahore for martyrdom in protection of the Dharam. For 6 days he suffered immense tortures. At the time of martyrdom, Sai Mia Meer and a priest from Puratgal, Saint Jaerom Jaevier witnessed the martyrdom.

1710 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur enters Sirhind city.

1960 Master Tara Singh and hundreds of Sikhs arrested.

25th May

1606 GUR GADHI, Patshahi Sixth, Guru Har Gobind Ji. Patshahi sixth, Guru Har Gobind Sahib Ji, ascended to Guruship of GurSikhism. Just after the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, Baba Budha anointed Hargobind as the sixth Guru of the Sikhs. Guru Arjan had sent to Hargobind, five paisas and a coconut through a messenger. Baba Budha put those in front of Hargobind and applied a 'tilak' (saffron mark) on his



forehead, bowed to him and declared him to be the next Guru of the Sikhs. The Guru then asked Baba Budha to adorn him with a sword. Baba Budha who had not handled a sword before, tied it on the wrong side of the Guru. On realising his mistake he wanted to move it to the right side, but the Guru said not to remove that sword, but instead to put another one on the right side, which Baba Budha did. Thus the Guru wore two swords simultaneously. He declared that one sword represented 'Piri' (spirituality) or Bhakti while the other represented 'Miri' (Temporality or Shakti). He told his followers that in the Guru's house spiritual and temporal powers would be combined. He declared that his rosary would be the sword-belt and he would wear the emblem of royalty on his turban. Further he instructed the Sikhs to keep a sword and a horse and always recite the name of God from their lips.

1675 Kashmiri Pandits, led by Kirpa Ram, arrive in Anandpur Sahib to ask Guru Tegh Bahadur for help in preserving Hindu dharam.

26th May

1886 Maharaja Dalip Singh reentered Sikh faith. He received Khande Di Pahul (Amrit) on May 26, 1886 at



Aden. Earlier, on March 8, 1853, Maharaja Dalip Singh was formally admitted into the Christian Church with water brought from Ganges nearby at his own private dwelling house. The service was conducted by the Rev. M.W. Jay, with Dr. John S. Login, Mrs. Login, Colonel Alexander and Mr. Guise signing the Baptism register as witnesses.

1960 Morcha initiated for seeking Punjabi Subha.

1984 The last meeting was held between Akalis and Indira Gandhi. The last meeting was held between Akalis and Indira Gandhi regime. Several such meetings preceded this meeting. However, by now it became abundantly clear that this was in fact a drama. The government had planned an attack on Darbar Sahib for several months. Russian KGB and even British Intelligence was guiding the invasion of Darbar

Sahib.

1988 The President of India issued an ordinance banning the Sikh fundamentals of Miri-Piri (Cohesive oneness of Religion and Politics). An integral part of the Sikh religion Miri-Piri is the most fundamental to Sikh religion. This ordinance (which later became law) meant that the Sikhs shall have to adopt only that part of their religion which the Hindu majority will allow. This was the final blow to the Sikh nation which made the professing of their religion under the subjugation of the Hindu regime.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in his capacity as Prime Minister of India, visited Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar and apologized to the Sikhs for the following two abominations committed by the Government of India.

27th May

1710 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur announces the establishment of Sikh rule in a heavy Diwan organized in Sirhind city.

1921 The Governor of Punjab arrested Sardul Singh Caveeshar for spearheading the non-cooperation resolution at SGPC meeting of May 11, 1921. This meeting was really a confrontation that once again demonstrated the majority of the radicals in the SGPC.

28th May

1922 A meeting is called at Kaulgarh by Karam Singh Gargaj group to reform the Jholichuks.

1948 SGPC came under the control of Congress Sikhs.

29th May

1606 Martyrdom, Fifth Patshah, Guru Arjan Dev Ji.

Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) Guru Arjan, the 'Prince of Martyrs' and the 'Prophet of Peace', proffered his precious life to nurture the glory that was to be the Sikh Panth. The Fifth Master's life was marked by divine bliss and sublime sacrifices, born of a sweet acceptance of God's Will. Gifted with a quintessential poetic afflatus, and immeasurable imaginative sympathies, the Guru gave the movement of Sikhism a definite direction, perspective and program. He made the new faith coeval or coextensive with the whole gamut of existence and raised its exquisite edifice on values for which there is neither death nor change.

Guru Arjan Dev adorned the sacred throne of Guru Nanak from Sept. 1, 1581 to May 30, 1606. Born at Goindwal on April 15, 1563, he was the youngest and noblest son of Guru Ram Das and Mata Bibi Bhani. On 23 Hadh sunmat 1636, he married Ganga Devi, daughter of Krishan Chand of Mau village. He had an innate poetic sensibility which was exquisitely displayed in the epistles that he sent to his father from Lahore. They are deeply expressive of the pangs of separation and the exuberance of Love. The Fourth Master's decision to make Guru Arjan his spiritual heir was bitterly opposed by Prithvi Chand who contended that being the eldest son, he alone was entitled to the Guruship. Thus, he could never reconcile himself to his younger brother's installation as Guru. Under Guru Arjan Dev the Sikh movement registered great progress. In sunmat 1645, he cemented the Santokhsar sarovar. Further, the Guru not only completed the construction of the Sarovars started at 'Guru Ka Chak' by his predecessor but also constructed two more Sarovars. He had the Harmandar built in the middle of Amritsar Sarovar and invited a celebrated Muslim divine, Mian Mir, to lay its foundation stone in sunmat 1645. Remarkable for its architectural and aesthetic beauty and unique in its conception, the temple with its four doors symbolizes the inborn equality of all mankind.

Remedies to lighten dark elbows and knees using DIY methods

Dark elbows and knees can make many people feel self-conscious, especially when wearing sleeveless tops or shorts. This skin discoloration usually occurs due to friction, lack of exfoliation, sun exposure, and neglect in moisturising. Fortunately, simple DIY remedies use natural ingredients that can help lighten and soften these areas over time.

WHY DO ELBOWS AND KNEES GET DARK?

Before jumping into the solutions, it's important to understand the causes

Buildup of dead skin cells, Friction from clothing or cleaning, Lack of oil glands in these areas, Hyperpigmentation from sun exposure, Dryness and lack of moisture, Consistent care and patience are key. Let's dive into some effective, natural remedies!

LEMON AND BAKING SODA SCRUB

- What you need: 1 lemon, 1 tablespoon baking soda
- How to use: Cut the lemon in half, sprinkle baking soda on it, and rub directly on dark areas for 2-3 minutes.
- Let it sit for 10 minutes before washing off.
- Why it works: Lemon's vitamin C bleaches and brightens skin; baking soda exfoliates.

ALOE VERA GEL AND TURMERIC

- What you need: Fresh aloe vera gel, a pinch of turmeric
- How to use: Mix and apply on elbows and knees. Leave for 15-20 minutes before rinsing.
- Why it works: Aloe soothes and hydrates; turmeric reduces pigmentation.

SUGAR AND OLIVE OIL SCRUB

- What you need: 1 tablespoon sugar, 1 tablespoon olive oil
- How to use: Mix into a scrub and gently massage onto the area for 5 minutes. Wash with warm water.
- Why it works: Sugar removes dead cells; olive oil nourishes and softens skin.



POTATO JUICE

- What you need: 1 potato
- How to use: Grate or juice the potato and apply to dark areas daily. Leave for 15 minutes.
- Why it works: Potatoes contain enzymes and vitamin C that naturally bleach the skin.

COCONUT OIL MASSAGE

- What you need: Virgin coconut oil
- How to use: Massage daily after showering. For extra benefit, add a few drops of lemon juice.
- Why it works: Coconut oil moisturises deeply and contains vitamin E for skin repair.

CUCUMBER RUB

- What you need: Fresh cucumber slices
- How to use: Rub slices on elbows and knees for 5 to 10 minutes daily.
- Why it works: Cucumber cools, hydrates, and gradually reduces pigmentation.

Causes of feeling lonely in a relationship

Poor Communication

Open and honest communication is the cornerstone of any healthy relationship. When communication breaks down, partners may struggle to understand each other's needs and feelings, leading to emotional distance and loneliness.

Emotional Neglect

When one or both partners fail to attend to each other's emotional needs—such as showing affection, offering empathy, or providing support—it can result in emotional disconnection and feelings of being alone within the relationship.

Lack of Quality Time

Spending meaningful time together helps reinforce the emotional bond between partners. A lack of intentional, quality moments can make one or both feel isolated, even if they're living under the same roof.

Divergent Interests

While it's healthy to have individual hobbies, a

complete lack of shared interests can lead to disconnection. Engaging in mutual activities helps strengthen the sense of partnership.

Unaligned Expectations

Differences in expectations—especially around emotional support or intimacy—can lead to misunderstandings and loneliness. Honest conversations about needs and desires are essential for mutual satisfaction.

Unmet Needs

When physical, emotional, or social needs go unfulfilled, loneliness can set in. For example,

if one partner craves more physical affection or companionship and the other doesn't respond, a disconnect can grow.

Conflicting Communication Styles

Partners may express themselves differently—through words, actions, or gestures—which can lead to misinterpretations and emotional gaps if those differences aren't acknowledged and respected.



FOOD CORNER



Jackfruit Payasam

INGREDIENTS

500 gm pureed jackfruit, 2 teaspoon cashews, 1 cup grated coconut, 2 cup coconut milk, 2 cup powdered jaggery, 1/2 teaspoon green cardamom, 2 teaspoon ghee

Method

- To prepare this delicious payasam recipe, put a deep-bottomed pan on medium flame and melt ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, add the cashew nuts and roast them. Once done, transfer to a bowl and keep aside. Add the grated coconut in the same pan and lower the flame, dry roast till golden brown in colour.
- Now, add the pureed jackfruit in the pan along with jaggery powder and roasted cashews, and cook for about 10 minutes. Make sure that the mixture is thickened. (Note: You can also use the pulp of the jackfruit.)
- When the jackfruit mixture is thickened, add the coconut milk along with cardamom powder and stir continuously. Stop in between and bring the milk to a boil. Let the milk and jackfruit mixture simmer for another 10 minutes.
- Once cooked, turn off the flame and garnish with mixed dry fruits.

Tomato Rice

INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked basmati rice, 2 medium chopped onion, 2 teaspoon sambhar powder, 1 handful chopped, coriander leaves, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon garlic paste, 4 large chopped tomato, 3 medium green chilli, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ginger paste, 2 pinches red chilli powder

Method

- Wash and dry the basmati rice and soak for about 20 minutes. Take a deep pan, put it on medium flame and pour water in it. Bring it to a boil, and then add the soaked rice. Cover the pan with a lid and cook on medium flame till the rice becomes soft, but not mushy. Now remove from fire and keep it aside. Now put the chopped tomatoes in a blender and blend it properly. Transfer the puree in a bowl and keep it aside. Now heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan and add the ingredients for seasoning (mustard, asafoetida, curry leaves, dried red chillis). Add onions and saute. Then add green chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Saute these ingredients for a minute.
- Now add the tomato puree, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, sambar powder and salt. Cook until the oil separates. Add the cooked rice to the tomato gravy and mix well. Once done, transfer the tomato rice in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. Serve hot with papads, potato chips or raita.



Health benefits of amla juice and how to incorporate it in daily life

In today's fast-paced world, maintaining good health can be challenging. Many people seek natural remedies to boost their immunity, improve digestion, and enhance overall well-being. One such powerful remedy is amla juice, also known as Indian Gooseberry.

Amla is a rich source of essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that can contribute to a healthier lifestyle.

Amla juice offers various benefits, ranging from improving skin and hair health to aiding in weight loss and supporting heart health. It is a versatile addition to your daily routine and can be enjoyed as a morning detox drink or mixed into herbal teas. This traditional remedy has stood the test of time.

Boosts immunity

Amla juice is an excellent source of vitamin C, which strengthens the immune system and helps the body fight infections. Regular intake can prevent common illnesses such as colds, coughs, and seasonal flu.

Enhances digestion

Amla juice supports gut health by improving digestion and reducing acidity. It also enhances the absorption of nutrients, promoting better overall digestive function.

Improves skin and hair health

Rich in antioxidants, amla juice slows down ageing, reduces wrinkles, and imparts a natural glow to the skin. It also strengthens hair, prevents dandruff, and reduces hair fall.

Aids in weight loss

By boosting metabolism, amla juice helps in faster fat reduction. It also provides a sense of fullness, reducing unnecessary cravings and aiding in weight management.



Regulates blood sugar levels

Amla juice is beneficial for individuals with diabetes as it helps in controlling blood sugar levels. It improves insulin sensitivity and reduces sugar spikes.

Supports heart health

Amla juice helps in lowering bad cholesterol levels, improving blood circulation, and reducing the risk of heart diseases. Its anti-inflammatory properties further contribute to a healthy heart.

How to use

- Mix a spoonful of amla juice with warm water and honey, and consume it on an empty stomach for a refreshing start to the day.
- Incorporate amla juice into fruit or vegetable smoothies to enhance their nutritional value.
- Blend amla juice with ginger, tulsi, or lemon tea for a revitalizing and healthy beverage.
- Apply diluted amla juice on the face or scalp to promote glowing skin and strong, healthy hair.
- Taking a small shot of amla juice after meals can improve digestion and prevent bloating.



US FDA approves first blood test to diagnose Alzheimer's disease

The US has approved its first-ever blood test to help detect Alzheimer's disease in its early stages, offering hope to millions facing the devastating neurological condition.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia in which a person's brain begins to shrink as they age. This brain disorder leads to memory loss and cognitive skills.

Symptoms of this disease worsen over time. The disease is believed to occur due to the presence of two types of protein in the brain: amyloid plaques and tau plaques.

Currently, there's no cure for Alzheimer's, but medicines have been approved that slow the disease progression.

The new blood test, developed by Fujirebio Diagnostics, works by measuring the ratio of the two specific proteins in the blood (amyloid and tau).

Until now, these plaques could only be identified through costly PET scans or invasive spinal fluid tests.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced the approval on Friday, marking what experts believe could be a turning point in how the disease is diagnosed and managed.

"Alzheimer's disease impacts too many people, more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined," said FDA Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary.

He added, "Knowing that 10% of people aged 65 and older have Alzheimer's, and that by 2050 that number is expected to double, I am hopeful that new medical products such as this one will help patients."

The new blood test is not a standalone diagnostic tool, it is approved for use in clinical settings for patients who are already showing signs of cognitive decline.

But it promises a simpler and more accessible method to screen for the disease, which could allow doctors to confirm Alzheimer's earlier and begin treatment when it's most effective.

There are currently two FDA-approved drugs, lecanemab and donanemab, that target the amyloid plaques associated with Alzheimer's.

Waist and height measurements predict heart failure risk better than BMI: Study

A person's waist-to-height ratio could be a more accurate way to predict the risk of developing heart failure than body mass index (BMI), according to new research presented at the Heart Failure 2025 congress of the European Society of Cardiology.

The study, conducted by researchers from Lund University and Malmo University Hospital in Sweden, followed 1,792 people over a median period of 12.6 years.

It found that those with a higher waist-to-height ratio were more likely to develop heart failure compared to those with lower ratios.

While BMI is commonly used to measure obesity, it does not consider how fat is distributed in the body.

"BMI can be influenced by factors like sex and ethnicity and doesn't show where the fat is located. Waist-to-hip ratio, on the other hand, focuses on central fat—around organs—which is more harmful," said study author Dr. Amra Jujic.



The participants, aged between 45 and 73 at the beginning of the study, were divided into groups based on their blood sugar levels: normal, impaired fasting glucose, and diabetes. About 29% of the group were women, and the average age was 67.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Researchers observed 132 cases of heart failure during the follow-up period.

They found that for each standard deviation increase in waist-to-hip ratio, the risk of heart failure rose by

34%, even after accounting for other health factors.

People with the highest waist-to-hip ratio (median of 0.65) were nearly three times more likely to develop heart failure compared to others.

"This is a strong indication that waist-to-hip ratio is a reliable measure," said co-author Dr. John Molvin. "Ideally, your waist should be less than half your height. For example, if you are 170 cm tall, your waist should be under 85 cm."

MOVING BEYOND BMI

Dr. Molvin added that waist-to-hip ratio could be more useful than BMI when identifying patients who may benefit from obesity treatments.

"Our next step is to see if waist-to-height ratio also predicts other health problems like diabetes or high blood pressure in larger populations," he said.

The findings could help doctors better identify and manage people at risk of heart failure.

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DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



DR. SATISH ANAND
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

GITANJLI ANAND
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

What does it mean to ‘accept’ or ‘reject’ all cookies, and which should I choose?

It's nearly impossible to use the internet without being asked about cookies. A typical pop-up will offer to either “accept all” or “reject all”. Sometimes, there may be a third option, or a link to further tweak your preferences.

These pop-ups and banners are distracting, and your first reaction is likely to get them out of the way as soon as possible – perhaps by hitting that “accept all” button.

But what are cookies, exactly? Why are we constantly asked about them, and what happens when we accept or reject them? As you will see, each choice comes with implications for your online privacy.

What are cookies?

Cookies are small files that web pages save to your device. They contain info meant to enhance the user experience, especially for frequently visited websites.

This can include remembering your login information and preferred news categories or text size. Or they can help shopping sites suggest items based on your browsing history. Advertisers can track your browsing behaviour through cookies to show targeted ads.

There are many types, but one way to categorise cookies is based on how long they stick around.

Session cookies are only created temporarily – to track items in your shopping cart, for example. Once a browser session is inactive for a period of time or closed, these cookies are automatically deleted.

Persistent cookies are stored for longer periods and can identify you – saving



your login details so you can quickly access your email, for example. They have an expiry date ranging from days to years.

What do the various cookie options mean?

Pop-ups will usually inform you the website uses “essential cookies” necessary for it to function. You can't opt out of these – and you wouldn't want to. Otherwise, things like online shopping carts simply wouldn't work.

However, somewhere in the settings you will be given the choice to opt out of “non-essential cookies”. There are three types of these: -functional cookies, related to personalising your browsing experience (such as language or region selection) -analytics cookies, which provide statistical information about how visitors use the website, and -advertising cookies, which track information to build a profile of you and

help show targeted advertisements.

Advertising cookies are usually from third parties, which can then use them to track your browsing activities. A third party means the cookie can be accessed and shared across platforms and domains that are not the website you visited.

Google Ads, for example, can track your online behaviour not only across multiple websites, but also multiple devices. This is because you may use Google services such as Google Search or YouTube logged in with your Google account on these devices.

Should I accept or reject cookies?

Ultimately, the choice is up to you.

When you choose “accept all,” you consent to the website using and storing all types of cookies and trackers.

This provides a richer experience: all features of the website will be enabled,

including ones awaiting your consent. For example, any ad slots on the website may be populated with personalised ads based on a profile the third-party cookies have been building of you.

By contrast, choosing “reject all” or ignoring the banner will decline all cookies except those essential for website functionality. You won't lose access to basic features, but personalised features and third-party content will be missing.

The choice is recorded in a consent cookie, and you may be reminded in six to 12 months.

Also, you can change your mind at any time, and update your preferences in “cookie settings”, usually located at the footer of the website. Some sites may refer to it as the cookie policy or embed these options in their privacy policy.

How cookies relate to your privacy

The reason cookie consent pop-ups are seemingly everywhere is thanks to a European Union privacy law that came into effect in 2018. Known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), it provides strict regulations for how people's personal data is handled online.

These guidelines say that when cookies are used to identify users, they qualify as personal data and are therefore subject to the regulations. In practice, this means: -users must consent to cookies except the essential ones -users must be provided clear info about what data the cookie tracks -the consent must be stored and documented -users should still be able to use the service even if they don't want to consent to certain cookies, and -users should be able to withdraw their consent easily.

Source: PTI

Google unveils AI Ultra and AI Pro

Google has launched two new paid subscription plans for its artificial intelligence (AI) services – Google AI Pro and Google AI Ultra at the I/O 2025 event.

Priced at \$19.99 per month, the Google AI Pro plan is designed to give users an enhanced experience of the Gemini app. This plan builds upon the earlier Gemini Advanced service and brings with it a broader range of tools such as Flow and NotebookLM. Subscribers will benefit from higher usage limits and extra features to make working with AI more efficient and smooth. The more advanced option is the Google AI Ultra plan, which costs \$249.99 a month. It gives users access to Google's most powerful AI models and tools, along with the highest usage limits. It's being described as a VIP experience for those who rely heavily on AI for complex work.

An international team of researchers, including an Indian scientist, has developed the world's fastest wide-field microscope.

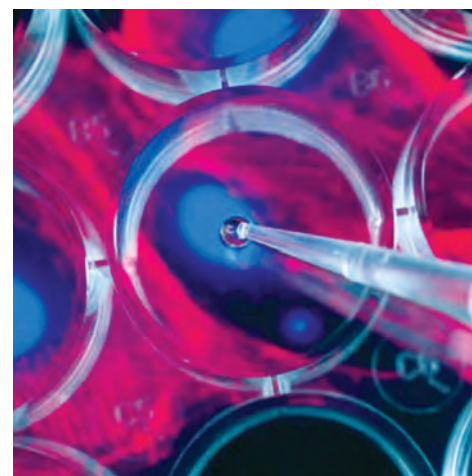
The newly developed microscope, based on Compressed Ultrafast Planar Polarisation Anisotropy Imaging (CUP2AI), is the only single-shot 2D molecular-size mapping tool in existence.

CUP2AI can capture real-time, wide-field, non-invasive measurements of molecular size in liquids and gases.

Unlike conventional microscopes, which are limited by small fields of view and slower imaging speeds, CUP2AI images areas on the scale of square centimeters—orders of magnitude larger than standard microscopes—at a staggering speed of up to 125 billion frames per second.

The breakthrough was achieved in collaboration with teams at NASA-Caltech in the USA and FAU Erlangen in Germany, promises to transform fields ranging from drug discovery to

Indian scientist helps develop world's fastest microscope that can freeze time



environmental science. Dr. Yogeshwar Nath Mishra, an Assistant Professor at the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur played a key role in developing the microscope.

This technological leap is made

possible by combining an ultrafast laser, a streak camera, and advanced computational algorithms.

CUP2AI uses changes in light caused by the tiny movements of molecules to take single, two-dimensional pictures with very high detail—much sharper than what regular optical microscopes can achieve. Unlike electron microscopes, CUP2AI works in normal air and can image samples in their natural liquid or gas form. This means there's no need for special preparations like vacuum settings or staining.

Because it's non-intrusive, it's optimal for watching delicate biological or chemical processes as they happen naturally.

Dr. Yogeshwar Nath Mishra told Indiatoday.in that the potential applications of the microscope are vast.

First tranche of India-US bilateral trade deal likely before July: Sources

India and the United States are poised to sign the first tranche of the much-anticipated Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) before July, according to sources who spoke to ANI.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in the United States, leading negotiations with American officials.

"Good discussions with Secretary Howard Lutnick towards expediting the first tranche of India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement," Minister Goyal posted on social media platform X yesterday, signalling positive momentum in the talks.

Sources revealed that a round of meetings with the United States Trade Representative has already concluded.

Officials from both nations have discussed various issues related to goods trade, with India pushing for concessions on labour-intensive exports such as leather and textiles.

Service sector issues have also featured prominently in the discussions.

"We want to increase our exports and preserve what we are already exporting," a source familiar with the negotiations told ANI. "The BTA with the US will be a win-win deal for both countries."

The sources indicated that India remains protective of sensitive sectors, particularly agriculture and dairy products.

A key Indian demand is a full exemption from the 26 per cent tariff imposed on certain goods.

"Negotiations are proceeding on a very positive note, and we expect to conclude the agreement before the sunset clause set by the US, which expires on July 8," one of the sources added.

The India-US trade deal would mark a significant milestone in economic relations between the world's largest and fifth-largest economies, potentially opening new avenues for bilateral



commerce and investment.

For the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, the US was India's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion. India had a trade surplus of USD 41.18 billion in goods in 2024-25.

During the recent meeting between President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February, the two leaders resolved to expand trade and investment to make their citizens more prosperous, nations stronger, economies more innovative, and supply chains more resilient.

They resolved to deepen the US-India trade relationship to promote growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation. To this end, the leaders set a bold new goal for bilateral trade - "Mission 500" - aiming to more than double total bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030.

Beyond the US talks, sources mentioned that trade negotiations with the European Union are also underway, and they expect an early harvest.

Sources said trade negotiations between India and the European Union are progressing faster, and both sides are considering concluding the talks for an early harvest trade agreement this year. The Indian official team from the

Commerce Ministry will be in Brussels this week for the next round of negotiations on the trade agreement with the EU.

India seeks full exemption of 26% Trump tariffs in trade deal with US

India has reportedly sought full exemption from the 26 per cent tariff, levied by the US on April 2. As per an official, the two nations that are already discussing a bilateral trade agreement, might announce the BTA before July 8. This development comes after Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to the US, where he held meetings with US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer and US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

According to agency reports, the official said India's endeavour to protect its sensitive sectors may entail some quota or minimum import price (MIP).

"Talks are moving positively. Before July 8, we are looking at concluding an interim deal before the first tranche. It will include goods, non-tariff barriers, some areas of services also like digital. We are trying that the 26 per cent additional duty and the 10 per cent baseline tariff should not be there for India," the official told PTI.

Won't be hard for India to deal with effects of US tariffs, says Moody's

India is well-positioned to deal with the negative effects of US tariffs and global trade disruptions as domestic growth drivers and low dependence on exports anchor the economy, Moody's Ratings said on May 21. The agency said government initiatives to boost private consumption, expand manufacturing capacity and increase infrastructure spending will help offset the weakening outlook for global demand.

Easing inflation offers the potential for interest rate cuts to further support the economy, even as the banking sector's liquidity facilitates lending.

"India is better positioned than many other emerging markets to deal with US tariffs and global trade disruptions, helped by robust internal growth drivers, a sizable domestic economy and a low dependence on goods trade," Moody's said.

Besides, the Pakistan-India tensions, including the flare-up earlier in May, would weigh on Pakistan's growth more than on India's.

"In a scenario of sustained escalation in localised tensions, we do not expect major disruptions to India's economic activity because it has minimal economic relations with Pakistan. Moreover, the parts of India that produce most of its agricultural and industrial output are geographically distant from the conflict zones," Moody's said.

However, higher defense spending would potentially weigh on India's fiscal strength and slow its fiscal consolidation. The central government's infrastructure spending supports GDP growth, while personal income tax cuts bolster consumption. India's limited reliance on the trade of goods and its robust service sector are mitigants to US tariffs. Nonetheless, sectors such as autos, which have some exports to the US, face global trade challenges despite their diversified operations.

India's growth to surge by 0.2% to 6.4% while China's projection reduced by 0.3%: Fitch Ratings

Global rating agency Fitch Ratings has raised India's medium-term growth potential by 0.2 percentage points to 6.4 per cent, while it has reduced China's growth projection by 0.3 per cent to 4.3 per cent from 4.6 per cent.

The changes are part of Fitch's revised assessment of potential GDP growth for 10 emerging market economies over the next five years.

In its latest report, Fitch said, "Our estimate of India's trend growth is slightly higher at 6.4 per cent, compared with 6.2 per cent previously. We think TFP growth will slow from recent years to be in line with its long-run average of 1.5 per cent."

The revision comes on the back of a sharper rise in India's labour force participation rate in recent years. While the agency expects this growth to continue, it may happen at a slower pace going forward.

Fitch highlighted that the revised estimate for India shows a stronger contribution from labour inputs, mainly total employment, rather than labour



productivity. The rating agency has also made changes to its projections based on a revised assessment of labour force data. It noted that the contribution from the participation rate has been revised upwards, while the projected contribution of capital deepening has been lowered.

Another key factor in the agency's outlook is Total Factor Productivity (TFP). Fitch believed TFP growth

in India will slow down from recent years and align with its long-term average of 1.5 per cent.

In contrast, the outlook for China has turned slightly less optimistic. The agency has lowered China's supply-side GDP growth potential to 4.3 per cent from 4.6 per cent.

According to the report, this is due to several reasons, including weaker capital deepening. The ongoing adjustment in the property market has negatively affected overall investment, which has played a role in the downgrade.

Additionally, Fitch noted a slightly steeper decline in the projected labour force participation rate in China and marginally lower TFP growth, which is now estimated in line with the five-year average ending in 2023.

Fitch's latest assessment shows a shifting growth dynamic among major emerging economies, with India gaining slightly more ground as China sees a modest slowdown in its economic potential. Source: ANI



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week will be a mix of challenges and opportunities for you. You may face some obstacles at work initially, but your energy and dedication will help you move forward. Try to express your thoughts and ideologies clearly, this will help your colleagues and superiors understand your point of view better. There will be harmony in family life. This is a good time to spend with family and strengthen relationships. You may meet an old friend, which will give a new perspective to your feelings. Be cautious in terms of health. If you are feeling any kind of fatigue, then relaxation and meditation are needed. Yoga and exercise will help to revive your mind and body. Paying attention to small things will bring you happiness this week. Maintain your inner positivity and show empathy towards others. Stick to auspicious colors like red and orange, as these will increase your enthusiasm.

TAURUS



Ganesha says the influence of this week indicates some special experiences. You will be able to understand your feelings and thoughts better. Situations are likely to be beneficial for you, especially in your close relationships. This week, you may see new possibilities in your career. Hard work will open doors to success for you. Also, financial matters will improve, but expenses need attention. Your health will remain normal, but do not forget to take rest from time to time to avoid mental stress. Meditation and yoga may prove beneficial for you. This week, focus on your social life. Spending time with old friends and family will not only improve your emotional health but may also lead to new contacts. Overall, this week is a sign of positivity and growth for you. Keep your confidence high and take advantage of opportunities.

GEMINI



Ganesha says there is ample scope for new opportunities this week. This is the time to unleash your original ideas and creativity. Bonding with your friends and family may become even stronger, so do not miss giving them time. In work life, if you are working on a project, collaborating with the team will yield better results. Do not forget the importance of communication; your

negotiation skills will help even in difficult situations. In financial matters, it is time to review financial plans. Be careful in making small investments. In terms of health, focus on fitness and include exercise in your routine. This week, also consider adopting a new hobby, which will help improve your mental health. In short, this week will bring you opportunities for positive changes and new possibilities.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week, you will see a new energy in your life. Your relationships will strengthen, and there will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family. You will try to spend some special time with your loved ones, which will deepen your affection even more. In work life, you will be inspired to focus on a new project. Your creativity and insight will be appreciated, which will give you positive results. The efforts made during this time will pay off. There are also possibilities of some new opportunities, be ready to adopt them. In terms of health, meditation and sadhana will help improve your mental health. Doing yoga or meditation will give you a feeling of peace and balance. Financially, it is a good time. You may consider permanent investments and savings that will prove beneficial for the future. Trust yourself and follow your intuition this week. This is the time to stick to your goals and keep positivity alive in your life.

LEO



Ganesha says this week will be full of energy and confidence. You can make a positive impression on the people around you. This is the time for you to bring out your creativity, so focus on projects that reflect your interests. In terms of work, new possibilities are knocking at your door. If you are looking for a new job or project, this week can be very beneficial for you. Express your ideas with clarity, this will make a good impression on your colleagues and seniors. Personal relationships can also see improvement. Spending time with family and friends will bring a wave of happiness to your mind. Relationships with a special person can also deepen. In terms of health, it is important to take a little rest and focus on mental health. Yoga or meditation will be beneficial for you. It is important to use your energy and leadership skills properly this week. Keep moving towards your goals and live life with positivity.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week is going to bring significant changes in your professional and personal life. The hard work you have done will now start bearing fruit. Progress and positive results can be seen

in the work. Using organizational skills, consistently execute your plans. You will get an opportunity to spend time with family, which will strengthen relationships. You will be successful in spreading happiness among your loved ones. Be careful about the financial situation; try to avoid unwanted expenses. In terms of health, take time to relax mentally. Yoga and meditation can improve your mental state. Finally, try to learn something new; it can give you mental satisfaction and inspiration. Move forward with positivity and caution this week.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is the time for you to maintain harmony and balance. Your social life will improve, and you can meet new friends. You will get an opportunity to present your ideas clearly, which will help you coordinate better with your colleagues. You are getting the result of your efforts in the work field, but be patient for better results. Try to overcome your laziness this week. If you do every work in a planned manner, then your success is certain. In personal life, it is a good time to strengthen relationships. Spending quality time with your loved ones will increase your mental peace. Try to keep the communication open and honest. From an economic point of view, be cautious about the budget this week. Avoid unnecessary expenses and try to save. Small savings can make a big difference. In terms of health, yoga and meditation will be beneficial for you. Regular exercise will keep the energy flowing in your mind and body. Take full advantage of the opportunities this week, and take care of your emotions and mental health. You will move forward with positivity.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, many important opportunities will come your way. You will be able to find solutions to your problems. You will be at your peak in terms of confidence, and this will have a positive effect on your work. The ability to express your thoughts clearly will help you communicate better with colleagues. However, keep in mind that emotional challenges may also come your way. Your sensitivity will make you more generous and empathetic towards others, but sometimes it can also tire you out. It is very important to manage your emotions properly. There is a possibility of happiness in personal relationships this week. Spending time with loved ones will be memorable and will make your relationship stronger. This is a good time to connect with your roots. In terms of your health, it will be necessary to focus on regular exercise and a proper diet. It will be beneficial to engage in activities like meditation and yoga to maintain strong mental health. Focus on your goals this week and try to turn any

challenges into opportunities. You will get the fruits of your dedication and hard work.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week will be full of new possibilities for Sagittarius natives. Your ideas will be fresh, which will enable you to plan new projects. Social contacts will increase, which will give you support and help. This is the right time to balance your personal and professional life. You will get an opportunity to spend time with family members, which will strengthen your relationships. This week, your creativity will be at its peak; take advantage of it and bring out your talents. Be cautious in terms of health, regular exercise, and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy level. This week, resort to meditation or yoga to avoid mental stress. Whatever decision you take this week, it will include a sense of positivity and hope. Be full of self-confidence and take full advantage of the opportunities.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week, new projects may come to you at your workplace, which will give you a chance to showcase your abilities. Keep in mind that cooperation and dedication with the team will bring you success. In personal life, there will be an atmosphere of warmth and love in family relationships. Spend time with your loved ones and talk to them openly. This will strengthen your relationships. From a health point of view, keep in mind that to avoid stress, give some time to meditation or yoga. For good health, give importance to a proper diet and exercise regularly. This is the time to be cautious in financial matters. Control unnecessary expenses and strengthen your savings habit. Overall, this week is going to bring positive changes for you. Be mentally prepared for whatever challenges come and keep your willpower strong.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week, many new possibilities are going to start in your life. Your creativity will flourish, and you will find new ways to express your ideas. Especially in your workplace, you will get support from colleagues, which will help you speed up your projects. In personal life, harmony in relationships will increase. If you were in a dispute, this week you will get a chance to resolve it. Spending more time with your loved ones will be beneficial for your mental health. In terms of health, meditation and yoga can help bring inner peace to you. An old problem that was bothering you is likely to be resolved this week. Be cautious in

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 26 TO JUNE 1 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 26

Ganesha says major job adjustments are possible thanks to your planetary position. The future holds plenty of promising new prospects for you, along with prizes and recognition. By participating in social activities, you will meet influential people who will do you favors and give you advantages. A boost will be given to those who desire to travel abroad for business or pleasure. You will be bursting with energy, making it simple for you to carry out your plans. Nonetheless, health will require attention.

MAY 27

Ganesha says you are a natural-born learner with a keen intellect and a thirst for knowledge. Your analytical mind and problem-solving skills make you an excellent candidate for careers in science, research, or technology. You have a curious and adventurous spirit that will take you far in life. This year, the stars align in your favor, and you can expect new opportunities to arise. Your love for learning will lead to exciting new discoveries, and you will find yourself embarking on new adventures and taking on new challenges.

MAY 28

Ganesha says you have a deep sense of compassion and empathy that makes them excellent caretakers, healers, or social workers. You have a gift for understanding others' emotions and can offer comfort and support when needed. This year, your desire to make a positive impact in the world will be especially strong. You may find yourself drawn to humanitarian causes or volunteering your time and resources to help those in need. Remember to take care of yourself, too, and prioritize self-care and rest.

MAY 29

Ganesha says you are a fiercely independent individual with a strong desire to carve out your own path in life. You have a natural entrepreneurial spirit and can excel in business or creative pursuits. This year, you will have the courage and determination to pursue your dreams and take risks that lead to greater fulfillment. You may find yourself breaking free from the status quo and exploring new horizons. Your willingness to take chances and embrace change will pay off in the long run.

MAY 30

Ganesha says you have a natural charm and charisma that draws others to them. You have a gift for communication and can excel in public speaking or sales. Your magnetic personality makes you a natural leader, and people look up to you for guidance and inspiration. This year, your confidence and charm will open doors to new opportunities and connections. You may find yourself embarking on a new romantic relationship or forming a new professional partnership. Remember to stay true to yourself and trust your intuition.

MAY 31

Ganesha says you have a strong sense of self and a unique perspective on the world. You are a natural-born leader and can excel in any field that allows you to express your creativity and originality. This year, you will find that your innovative ideas and fresh perspective are valued by others and lead to success. Your passion and drive will help you overcome any obstacles that come your way. Remember to stay focused on your goals and maintain a healthy work-life balance.



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

JUNE 1

Ganesha says you have a gift for diplomacy and bringing people together. You are a natural pacemaker and can excel in any field that requires teamwork and collaboration. This year, your interpersonal skills will be especially valuable as you navigate new relationships and collaborations. You may find yourself taking on a leadership role in a group project or mediating conflicts between others. Remember to stay patient and compassionate, and trust in your ability to bring people together towards a common goal.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwalla.com or info@bejandaruwalla.com | +91 81412 34275

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financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and focus on your savings. New investment opportunities may come your way, but think carefully before you invest. Remember, this week will be an environment of positivity and confidence for you. Keep moving strongly towards your goals and stay away from negativity.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week, a new beginning is indicated for Pisces people. Your sensitivity and insight will be widely recognized. Your relationship with colleagues at the workplace will strengthen, which will enable you to maintain harmony within the team. This week is a good time to express your thoughts and feelings. This will improve your personal and professional relationships. Do not be afraid to share your ideas; the unique perspective you have can inspire others. In terms of health, it is time to take care of yourself. Try to maintain mental and

physical health through yoga or meditation. You have to take some time for yourself, so that you feel refreshed again. Your inclination towards

spirituality will also increase this week. It will help you achieve inner peace and balance. Try reading some new books or meditating. Remember, positivity is all

around you. The biggest lesson of this week will be to listen to your heart and not hesitate to express your feelings.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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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. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

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Shani Jayanti: The birth of Lord Shani

Shani Jayanti, also known as Shanishchara Jayanti, marks the birth anniversary of Lord Shani (Saturn), one of the most revered and feared deities in Hindu astrology and mythology. It is a day of immense spiritual significance, especially for devotees seeking relief from malefic planetary influences. Lord Shani is regarded as the stern dispenser of justice, karma, and discipline. His influence is often associated with trials and tribulations, but also with deep spiritual growth and liberation through perseverance and righteousness.

Etymology and Meaning

- **Shani:** The word "Shani" comes from the root "Shanaye Kramati Sa?", which means "the one who moves slowly". True to his name, the planet Saturn takes around 30 years to complete one orbit around the Sun, the slowest among the Navagrahas (nine celestial influences).
- **Jayanti:** A Sanskrit term meaning "birth anniversary" or "celebration of birth".

Thus, Shani Jayanti is the celebration of the birth of the slow-moving planetary deity, Lord Shani.

Birth of Lord Shani

According to Skanda Purana and Bhavishya Purana, Lord Shani is the son of Surya Dev (Sun God) and Chhaya, the shadow form of Surya's consort Sanjana. When Sanjana could no longer bear the intense radiance of Surya, she created her shadow duplicate Chhaya to serve her husband and retreated into penance. In time, Chhaya gave birth to Shani.

Shani's birth was accompanied by several omens-his complexion was dark, his gaze austere, and his presence invoked fear even among gods. It is said that when Shani first opened his eyes as a newborn, Surya's chariot horses staggered, and the sun's brilliance dimmed-a symbolic indication of his powerful gaze.

Rituals and Observances

Shani Jayanti is considered a particularly favorable time for performing Shani Shanti puja, dosha nivaran rituals, and acts of charity, all aimed at pacifying the potentially challenging effects of Saturn's transit, especially during periods like Sade Sati and Shani Dhairya.

Early Morning Devotion

Devotees wake up during the Brahma Muhurat and take a ritual bath, after which they dress in black or dark blue garments, the colors associated with Shani. Worship begins with the Abhishekam (ritual bathing) of Shani idols using:

- Mustard oil
- Black sesame seeds
- Pancharnam (a mixture of milk, curd, honey, ghee, and sugar)
- Water and sandalwood paste



Important information

Shani Jayanti 2025

Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Amavasya Tithi Begins : 26 May 2025 at 12:11 PM

Amavasya Tithi ends : 27 May 2025 at 08:31 AM

Relation of shani dev with other planets

Shani Dev is considered to be the lord of Capricorn and Aquarius. Mercury and Venus are considered friends of Shani Dev while Sun, Moon and Mars are considered as their enemies. At the same time, their relation with the Guru is of equanimity.

Saturn in astrology

Saturn is said to be the best among the Navagrahas, because it stays on one zodiac for the longest time. Saturn stays in one sign for two and a half years. No other planetary sign lasts so long. Sun, Moon, Mars are considered enemies of Saturn while Mercury and Venus are friendly planets. Jupiter is even planet.

Saturn sitting in the Ascendant is not good and gives trouble to the native. If we talk about numerology, then the number 8 is considered to be of Saturn. If the sum of the digits of the date of birth of any person is 8, then its numeral will be Shani Dev. If the person is born on 8th, 17th, 26th, then the Ankadhipati is Shani Dev. In such a

situation, it becomes important for the person to get his grace by pleasing them.

How to please Shani Dev

Black clothes, jamun fruits, urad dal, black shoes and black things should be donated to avoid the angry vision of Shani Dev. Shani Darshan on every Saturday also has significance. By donating, Shani Dev is pleased and gives grace. The grace of Shani Dev can also be obtained by worshiping Hanumanji. Even before donating, taking advice of astrologers can be more fruitful and gives relief from sufferings.

Major Celebrations

Shani Shingnapur (Maharashtra)

The most prominent celebration takes place at the Shani Shingnapur Temple in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. Known for its tradition of doorless homes symbolizing trust in divine justice, the village attracts thousands of devotees who perform mass oil abhishekam and take vows to lead honest, humble lives.

Thirunallar Shani Temple (Tamil Nadu)

In southern India, Thirunallar in Karaikal witnesses large gatherings of pilgrims who take a dip in the Nala Theertham, a sacred tank believed to cleanse Saturn-related afflictions.

Kokilavan Dham (Uttar Pradesh)

Located near Mathura, this temple is

visited by thousands who believe that Lord Krishna pacified Shani Dev here. Special homams and prayers are conducted throughout the day.

Astrological Relevance

Astrologically, Shani is associated with structure, discipline, longevity, trials, and wisdom earned through hardship. His transit brings lessons that are often difficult but ultimately transformative. Saturn rules over:

- Capricorn and Aquarius
- Saturday (Shanivar)
- The nakshatras Pushya, Anuradha, and Uttara Bhadrapada

Devotees observing Shani Jayanti believe that worship on this day mitigates the effects of ongoing planetary doshas and opens the path to peace, prosperity, and spiritual evolution.

The Symbolism of Shani

Shani is both feared and revered. His gaze is believed to be so intense that even gods avoid it. Yet, his role in Hindu cosmology is crucial. He ensures that no deed goes unnoticed and no sin unpunished, emphasizing the cosmic law of cause and effect. His difficult influence is ultimately purifying-it breaks ego, tests faith, and reveals inner strength. A popular legend recounts that Lord Hanuman once rescued Shani Dev from the clutches of Ravana, earning his undying gratitude. Since then, it is believed that true devotees of Hanuman are protected from Saturn's harsher effects.

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Donald Trump will visit Canada for the...

attendance will be Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

G7 shows unity at financial summit

This week, finance ministers from the G7 countries, as well as heads of the World Bank Group (WBG), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Financial Stability Board (FSB), participated in a three-day summit in Banff, Alta.

They discussed global trade, artificial intelligence and the war in Ukraine.

"After 50 years of working together, transcending national differences and promoting global prosperity, the value of the G7 is clear," the communique reads. "We held a productive and frank exchange of views on the current global economic and financial situation, the risks and opportunities common to our countries, and ways to address them."

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, along with chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve Jerome Powell, represented the American delegation for this portion of the summit.

Canada's Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne concluded the three-day meeting saying there was a sense of unity among the G7 members.

"The best proof of unity is that we have a joint communique," Champagne said.

The communique does not mention Trump's tariffs, but addresses the multiple, complex global challenges," and "are committed to pursuing our shared policy objectives."

Hand over wanted terrorists, EAM tells...

Let's not pretend Pakistan is not involved. The state is involved. The army is up to its neck in it." His remarks came ahead of an all-party Indian delegation's visit to Europe from May 25. The delegation will travel to France, Italy, Denmark, the UK, Belgium and Germany where the leaders will reinforce India's stance that all terror links, direct and indirect, trace back to Pakistan.

The minister rejected any justification for terrorism, calling it an "unacceptable international crime". On Kashmir, he reiterated India's position that Pakistan must vacate illegally occupied territories and said, "Our position is clear. The illegal occupiers (Pakistan) must return what belongs to India. No third-party intervention is acceptable. This is a bilateral issue."

In New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal echoed Jaishankar's message. "Talks and terror cannot go together. We remain open to discussing the extradition of wanted terrorists whose list was provided to Pakistan some years ago," he said. Regarding any future dialogue on J&K, Jaiswal said, "Discussions will only proceed if Pakistan vacates illegally occupied Indian territory."

On the Indus Waters Treaty, Jaiswal

said it would remain suspended until Pakistan "credibly and irrevocably" ended cross-border terrorism. He quoted PM Narendra Modi's warning that "water and blood cannot flow together".

On Opposition's allegations that Jaishankar admitted that India informed Pakistan about the retaliatory strikes "at the start", Jaiswal said, "We informed Pakistan after the May 7 action." (Source: TNS)

UAE, Japan express solidarity with...

In Japan, the delegation met Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, who expressed heartfelt condolences to the victims of the recent Pahalgam terror attack and extended sympathies to those injured.

The delegation also met former PM of Japan Yoshihide Suga, who is the Vice President of Liberal Democratic Party and chairman of Japan-India Association. Jha told the Japanese leaders, "India has zero tolerance for terrorism and that it does not differentiate between terrorists and those supporting them."

The delegation sought Japan's support in the fight against terrorism and, in this context, called for giving effect to the UN Security Council Press Statement of April 25, 2025, that underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and to bring them to justice.

Meanwhile, Shinde held talks with UAE Minister of Tolerance Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Chairman of the Defense Committee Ali Al Nuaimi and other leaders in Abu Dhabi.

"Terrorism is a threat not just to a single nation or region, but it is a global threat. We believe that we, as an international community, should come together, especially the Members of Parliament, to work on putting plans and strategies and engage in creating a better future for all humanity," Al Nuaimi told mediapersons in Abu Dhabi.

(Source: PTI)

Trump administration ends Harvard's...

Harvard called the move "unlawful" in a statement.

"We are fully committed to maintaining Harvard's ability to host our international students and scholars, who hail from more than 140 countries and enrich the University - and this nation - immeasurably," the university responded.

"We are working quickly to provide guidance and support to members of our community. This retaliatory action threatens serious harm to the Harvard community and our country, and undermines Harvard's academic and research mission."

The Trump administration's decisions could affect thousands of international students who study at the university. Over 6,700 international students were enrolled at the institution last academic year, university data shows, making up 27% of its student body. News quickly spread through the

international community on campus Thursday, sparking fear and frustration among the thousands of students whose futures were suddenly in limbo.

"We're seeing a lot of confusion on this," Sarah Davis, an Australian student receiving a graduate degree, told BBC Newshour.

"The news has come only five days before a lot of us are due to graduate the university, and this obviously is going to have a lot of very uncertain implications for whether we're able to stay on in the United States afterwards and keep working here," said Ms Davis, who is president of the Australia and New Zealand Caucus at the Harvard Kennedy School.

"We're all just sitting back and waiting to see whether or not we get communications about what the next steps are from the university."

Leo Gerdén, a 32-year-old undergraduate from Sweden, remembers the day he received his admission letter to Harvard as the best day of his life. With less than a week until graduation, he didn't imagine his time at the prestigious campus ending like this.

"International students are being used as poker chips in a battle between the White House and Harvard," Mr Gerdén told the BBC. "It's incredibly dehumanizing."

The administration has launched investigations into dozens of universities across the countries and wrung concessions from other major US institutions like Columbia University in New York.

But in April, Harvard University became the most prominent institution to push back, announcing it would sue the Trump administration after it sent the school a list of lengthy demands. The White House later said the list was sent by mistake.

It has demanded Harvard change its hiring, admissions and teaching practices to help fight antisemitism on campus. It has threatened to revoke the university's tax-exempt status and freeze billions of dollars in government grants.

Harvard earlier this year said it had taken many steps to address antisemitism, and that the government's demands were an effort to regulate the university's "intellectual conditions".

The standoff has continued to escalate.

In April, Noem threatened to revoke the university's access to student visa programs if it did not comply with a sweeping records request from the administration, pertaining to international students.

In Thursday's letter, Noem said Harvard must comply with a list of demands to have an "opportunity" to regain its ability to enroll international students.

That included providing the government with all disciplinary records for non-immigrant students enrolled at Harvard over the past five years. Noem also demanded Harvard turn over electronic records, videos, or audio of "illegal" and "dangerous or violent" activity by non-immigrant students on campus.

The notice gave Harvard 72 hours to comply. In her post on X, Noem warned

that the move should "serve as a warning to all universities and academic institutions across the country."

The Trump administration has attempted to curtail individual visas for international students, causing confusion on university campuses across the US and leading to a wave of lawsuits.

In some cases, those revocations appeared to affect foreign students who participated in political protests or have had previous criminal charges, such as driving infractions.

In a separate court case on Thursday, a federal judge in California blocked the Trump administration from cancelling the legal status of international students across the US while challenges to the policy play out in court.

"We came here because if what America stands for: freedom of speech, academic freedom, a vibrant intellectual community," Mr Gerdén said of his international classmates. "And now Trump is threatening all those values."

"Without the international students, Harvard is simply not Harvard anymore," he said. (Source: BBC)

CBI chargesheets J&K ex-Gov Malik...

The case, which dates back to Malik's tenure as Governor between August 2018 and October 2019, centers on the suspected manipulation of the tendering process by top officials and private entities involved in the project.

The CBI had registered an FIR and launched an investigation in April 2022 following public statements made by Malik claiming that he was offered Rs 300 crore in bribe to clear two controversial files - one of which was linked to the project.

In February 2024, the CBI had carried out raids on more than 30 locations, including Malik's residences in Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir as well as the premises of his close aides and officials associated with the project.

In the FIR, the CBI had claimed that the protocol of opting for transparent re-tendering through e-procurement and reverse auction was not followed despite a resolution at the 47th board meeting of Chenab Valley Power Projects Pvt Ltd. (CVPPPL) - the agency overseeing the project. Instead, the contract was directly awarded to Patel Engineering Ltd, raising serious questions about procedural violations and favoritism.

During investigation, several individuals, including former CVPPPL chairman Navin Kumar Chaudhary and former officials MS Babu, MK Mittal and Arun Kumar Mishra, came under scrutiny.

After three years of probe, the central agency submitted its findings in the chargesheet before a special court in Jammu. Patel Engineering Ltd, the company that ultimately secured the lucrative contract, has also been named in it.

Meanwhile, Malik in a message on X said he was admitted to the hospital and not in a condition to talk to anyone. The former governor said he was getting calls from many well-wishers which he was unable to take. (Source: TNS)

The Pearl City, Hyderabad with its unmatched blend of history and modernity, hypnotizes everyone, whoever sets his/her foot in this beautiful city of Nizams. With a history as old as 400 years and the status of metropolitan city, Hyderabad promises a unique refreshing experience to all.

From historical monuments to natural getaways to mouth-watering world famous cuisine to appealing shopping places and thrilling entertainment parks, this city has it all to keep you glued. There are many tourism places to visit in Hyderabad, from families, young group of friends, children to senior citizens, everyone will find something of their interest in Hyderabad.

This city is a place worth visiting at least once in a lifetime. In fact, it is impossible for anyone to soak in the multifarious charms which the city has to offer in a limited time span.

Located on the banks of the Musi River, the city of Hyderabad was established in 1591 CE by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shahies. The city is noted for its unique culture, a lineage which can be traced back to the Asaf Jahi rulers, who were great patrons of literature, art, architecture, culture, jewelry collection and rich food.

The moment you emerge from the Hyderabad airport, the city that immediately hits the eye is a sprawling metropolis of shopping malls, flyovers and office buildings with glass facades. And you are left wondering, where did the largest princely state of the Nawabs vanish? The city of Hyderabad depicts an interesting confluence of the traditional and the modern, the past and the present. So, don't feel betrayed by these inventions, synonymous of modernity as alongside the metropolis Hyderabad, also exists the Old City with an altogether unique charm of its own.

Hyderabad can be divided into the historic city established by Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah on the southern side of the Musi River that forms the Old City, while the New City encompasses the urbanised area on the northern banks.

The Old City is composed of a maze of disorienting alleyways that expand outward from the Charminar. Most of the historical attractions are situated in the old city. Here is a list of the most popular tourist spots in Hyderabad; the ones which you mustn't not miss:

Charminar

The capital city of Telangana, Hyderabad is a popular tourist destination and presents its visitors with a mesmerising contrast of age old traditions, culture at one end and modern facilities, amenities of a metropolitan city at the other end. Hyderabad is one city, which has no dearth of tourist attractions.

The very well known Charminar of Hyderabad is located at the Old City. This square shaped structure with a height of 56 m and breadth of 30 m was constructed in 1591. It was built by Sultan Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah in the honor of his wife Bhagmati.

Also referred as the 'Arc de Triomphe of the East', Charminar is adorned with

Hyderabad: The Pearl City



four towers in each corner. The minarets on each side, is of 48.7 m height, each with four storeys. Chaminar has a small mosque as well on the top floor. There are 45 prayer spaces which are still visited by people,

architectural marvel Golconda Fort is well connected to the rest of the city. Built by Qutub Shahi Kings, this fort presents an impressive structure, with eight gates and 87 bastions.

Its impressive structure has majestic walls which are as high as 15 to 18 foot and a parameter of close to 11 km. Along with brilliant architecture, this fort also captivates its visitors with its system of acoustics, its water supply system, 'Rahban' cannon and Ramdas' prison which has carved Hindu deity in it.

Ramoji Film City

Since 1991, Ramoji Film City has been alluring tourists from every corner of the country. One of the largest film studios in the world it has the capacity to house almost 50 film units within a given point of time.

It is also listed in Guinness Book of World Records as well. Spread over 2500 acres, it is situated about 30 km away from Hyderabad. Its brilliant architecture and sound technical facilities make it suitable for all the pre and post production of a film.

Hussain Sagar Lake

Connecting the twin cities, Hussain Sagar Lake boasts of being the largest artificial lake in Asia. On the tributary of Musi River, it was excavated during Ibrahim Quli Qutub Shah's reign, in 1562 AD. It has got its name after Hussain Shah Wali.

The main attraction is 16 m high white granite statue of Lord Bhudda with a weight of 350 tonnes, situated at the middle of the lake. The lighting show here is worth watching.

One can take a ferry ride to the statue, which takes and brings back visitors at regular intervals. One can indulge in various recreational activities which are offered here such as boating with the choice of speed boats as well as motor boats, water-skiing, parasailing and cruising. The 48 seater launch offering dinner to its guests is a perfect place for private parties.

Birla Mandir

Located atop 280-foot-high hillock of Kalapahad, the beautiful Birla Mandir has derived its name from the industrialist Birlas who have constructed Birla temples in various parts of the country. Constructed in 1976, it is said it took close to 2000 tonnes of white marbles to build this stunning temple which was brought from Rajasthan. It has drawn its architecture from the amalgamation of three known architectural designs - South Indian Architecture, Utkal temple Architecture and Rajasthani Architecture.

The temple has 11 ft. tall statue of Lord Lakshminarayana with a magnificent lotus carved around it. It also has separate shrines for deities such as Venkateswara, 'Padmavati' and 'Andal' as well. The complex also houses a separate temple of Lord Bhudda.

particularly on Fridays. Lighting in the evening is quite glamorous and makes for a worth watching site.

Golconda Fort

Just 11 km away from the city, the

History This Week MAY 23 - 29

MAY 23



Birthday - Journalist Margaret Fuller (1810-1850) was born in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts. She became the first American woman to serve as a foreign correspondent, reporting for the New York Tribune. Her book *Women in the Nineteenth Century*, published in 1845, is considered the first feminist statement by an American writer, and brought her international acclaim. Sailing from Italy to the U.S. in 1850, she died, along with her husband and infant son, in a shipwreck off Fire Island, New York.

Birthday - The first American female attorney Arabella Mansfield (1846-1911) was born near Burlington, Iowa (as Belle Aurelia Babb). She was certified in 1869 as an attorney and admitted to the Iowa bar, but never practiced law. Instead she chose a career as a college educator and administrator. She was also instrumental in the founding of the Iowa Suffrage Society in 1870.

MAY 24



May 24, 1844 - Telegraph inventor Samuel Morse sent the first official telegraph message, "What hath God wrought?" from the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., to Baltimore.

May 24, 1881 - A boating disaster occurred in Canada when Victoria, a small, double-decked stern-wheeler carrying over 600 passengers on the Thames River keeled over then sank, killing 182 persons.

MAY 25

May 25, 1787 - The Constitutional Convention began in Philadelphia with delegates from seven states forming a quorum.

May 25, 1994 - After 20 years in exile, Russian author Alexander Solzhenitsyn returned to his homeland. He had been expelled from Soviet Russia in 1974 after his three-volume work exposing the Soviet prison camp system, *The Gulag Archipelago*, was published in the West.

May 25, 2020 - George Floyd, an African American man, died during an arrest by Minneapolis police officers, including Derek Chauvin, who knelt on his neck for over nine minutes, despite Floyd's repeated pleas that he could not breathe. The fatal encounter was captured on a bystander's video and led to widespread protests against racial injustice and

police brutality.



Birthday - American author and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. His works include: *Nature* (1836), *Essays, First Series* (1841), *Essays, Second Series* (1844), *Poems* (1847, 1865), *Representative Men* (1850), *English Traits* (1856), *The Conduct of Life* (1860), and *Society and Solitude* (1870).

MAY 26

May 26, 1940 - The Dunkirk evacuation began in order to save the British Expeditionary Force trapped by advancing German armies on the northern coast of France. Boats and vessels of all shapes and sizes ferried 200,000 British and 140,000 French and Belgian soldiers across the English Channel by June 2nd.



Birthday - Interpretive dancer Isadora Duncan (1878-1927) was born in San Francisco. She revolutionized the entire concept of dance by developing a free-form style and rebelled against tradition, performing barefoot in a loose fitting tunic. She experienced worldwide acclaim as well as personal tragedy. Her two children drowned, her marriage failed, and she met a bizarre death in 1927 when a scarf she was wearing caught in the wheel of the open car in which she was riding, strangling her.

Birthday - Actor, singer Al Jolson (1886-1950) was born in St. Petersburg, Russia (as Asa Yoelson). One of the premier American vaudeville entertainers of his day, he appeared in the first motion picture with full sound, *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927.

MAY 27

May 27, 1937 - In San Francisco, 200,000 people celebrated the grand opening of the Golden Gate Bridge by strolling across it.

Birthday - Legendary Wild West figure Wild Bill Hickok (1837-1876) was born in Troy Grove, Illinois. He was a frontiersman, lawman, legendary marksman, army scout and gambler. On

August 2, 1876, he was shot dead during a poker game by a drunk in the Number Ten saloon in Deadwood, in the Dakota Territory. In his hand he held a pair of eights and a pair of aces which became known as the 'dead man's hand.'



Birthday - American politician Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978) was born in Wallace, South Dakota. Humphrey was a mainstay of liberal Democratic politics, championed civil rights, and was considered by political friends and foes alike to be a truly decent man. He served as vice president under Lyndon Johnson. In 1968, Humphrey was the Democratic candidate for president, but lost to Republican Richard Nixon in a very close race.

MAY 28

May 28, 1961 - Amnesty International was founded by London lawyer Peter Berenson. He read about the arrest of a group of students in Portugal then launched a one-year campaign to free them called Appeal for Amnesty. Today Amnesty International has over a million members in 150 countries working to free prisoners of conscience, stop torture and the death penalty, and guarantee human rights for women.



Birthday - William Pitt the Younger (1759-1806) was born at Hayes, Kent, England. Following in his father's footsteps, he became British prime minister at age 24 and served from 1783 to 1801 and again from 1804 to 1806. Pitt was influenced by Adam Smith's economic theories and reduced Britain's large national debt brought on by the American Revolution.

Birthday - All-around athlete Jim Thorpe (1888-1953) was born near Prague, Oklahoma. He won the pentathlon and decathlon events at the 1912 Olympic Games and also played professional baseball and football.

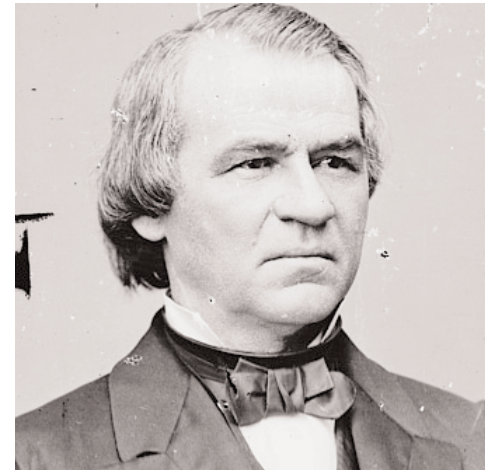
MAY 29

May 29, 1453 - The city of

Constantinople was captured by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul. This marked the end of the Byzantine Empire as Istanbul became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

May 29, 1660 - The English monarchy was restored with Charles II on the throne after several years of a Commonwealth under Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell.

May 29, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the Virginia Plan was proposed calling for a new government consisting of a legislature with two houses, an executive chosen by the legislature and a judicial branch.



May 29, 1865 - Following the American Civil War, President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation granting general amnesty to Confederates. The amnesty excluded high ranking Confederates and large property owners, who had to apply individually to the President for a pardon. Following an oath of allegiance, all former property rights, except slaves, were returned to the former owners.

Birthday - American revolutionary leader Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Studley, Virginia. He is best remembered for his speech in 1775 declaring: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

Birthday - German historian Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) was born in Blankenburg-am-Harz, Germany. He authored the influential book *The Decline of the West* which argued that civilizations rise and fall in regular cycles.



Birthday - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963) the 35th U.S. President was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was the youngest man ever elected to the presidency and the first Roman Catholic. He was assassinated in Dallas, November 22, 1963, the fourth President to be killed by an assassin.

IPL 2025: Marsh's maiden ton helps LSG tame GT

AHMEDABAD (TIP)

Mitchell Marsh struck his maiden IPL century, while Nicholas Pooran hit his fifth half-ton this season as Lucknow Super Giants registered a consolation 33-run win over Gujarat Titans in an Indian Premier League match here on Thursday, May 22.

LSG have already been eliminated from the tournament, while GT were through to playoffs even before Thursday's match.

Sent in to bat, LSG rode on Marsh and Pooran's whirlwind knocks to post a massive 235 for 2.

Marsh scored 117 off 64 balls, studded with 10 boundaries and 8 sixes, while Pooran made a blazing 56 not out off 27 deliveries as the duo shared a 121-run stand for the second wicket.

Marsh was especially harsh on GT spinner Rashid Khan in the 12th over, milking him for 25 runs, including two sixes and three boundaries, as the Australian reached the 100-run mark off 56 balls.

Earlier, Marsh also shared a 91-run opening-wicket stand with Aiden Markram (36).

Chasing, GT were restricted to 202 for 9 by LSG.

Shahrukh Khan (57 off 29) top-scored for GT, while Sherfane Rutherford made 38. Besides, skipper Shubman Gill made 35, while Jos Buttler scored 33 off 18 deliveries.

William O'Rourke (3/27) was the pick of the bowlers for LSG.



"Huge difference between 210 and 230": GT skipper Shubman Gill

Gujarat Titans (GT) skipper Shubman Gill reflected on the match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Thursday, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

He told the team conceded extra runs while bowling and highlighted the impact of the opponent's scoring in the middle overs.

He acknowledged the positives, such as Rutherford and Shahrukh's batting, and emphasised the importance of regaining momentum for the playoffs.

"We gave 15-20 runs extra. Wanted to stop them around 210. Huge difference between 210 and 230. We bowled well in the powerplay, didn't get any wickets, but after the powerplay in the 14 overs, they scored around 180 runs, which was a lot. (On the positives) We were right in the game till the 17th over, but it was never easy chasing 240. Lots of positives for us - Rutherford and Shahrukh's batting was a big plus. (Looking forward) Getting back some momentum would be key, and would want to get back to winning ways heading into the playoffs," Shubman Gill said in the post-match presentation.



Geneva Open: Novak Djokovic avenges Madrid defeat vs Arnaldi

Novak Djokovic advanced to the semi-finals of the 2025 Geneva Open with a commanding straight-sets victory over Matteo Arnaldi on Thursday, May 22. The 24-time Grand Slam champion took just one hour and 39 minutes to dispatch his Italian opponent 6-4, 6-4 on Centre Court.

The win also served as sweet revenge for Djokovic, who had lost to Arnaldi at the Madrid Open earlier this year. That match marked Djokovic's fourth first-round exit in his last five tournaments in 2025. Notably, the Geneva win came on Djokovic's 38th birthday.

In the opening set, Djokovic secured an early break to go up 2-1 and never looked back. However, the second set posed more of a challenge. Arnaldi broke early to lead 3-1, extending the advantage to 4-1 and appearing poised to force a deciding set.

But Djokovic responded in trademark fashion, reeling off five consecutive games to take the set and seal the match. Despite hitting two double faults, the Serbian star dominated on second serve, winning 78 per cent of those points (14 of 18), compared to Arnaldi's 43 per cent (9 of 21).

Next up, Djokovic will face Cameron Norrie in the semi-final. Norrie booked his place by defeating Australia's Alexei Popyrin 7-6(6), 6-4. Djokovic is now just two wins away from claiming his 100th ATP title, with his most recent title being the 2023 US Open.

Currently, without a coach after parting ways with Andy Murray earlier this month, Djokovic is also making his return following a brief absence from the Rome Masters.

In related news, the French Open draw was announced on Thursday, with Djokovic set to face Mackenzie McDonald in the first round. McDonald notably defeated Rafael Nadal, who retired last year after the Davis Cup tie against the Netherlands, at the 2023 Australian Open.

Records galore for England as Root blazes his way to become fastest to 13,000 Test runs

NOTTINGHAM (TIP)

England's flamboyant Joe Root shattered South Africa's legendary Jacques Kallis' record for the fastest to 13,000 Test runs and took a step closer towards dethroning India's legendary Sachin Tendulkar from the summit of the highest-run scorer in the format during the opening day of their one-off fixture against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge.

In a high-scoring opening day where England's top-order tormented the tourists, Root wasn't at his best and notched 34 before surrendering his wicket to Blessing Muzarabani. In his 153rd match, Root stepped on the crease, 28 runs shy of the milestone.

In the 80th over of England's first innings, he sprinted for a single off Victor Nyauchi to breeze past the iconic Proteas all-rounder's record, who scripted the milestone to his name in the 159th match, six more than what Root took.

The 34-year-old's exploits came to an end courtesy of Zimbabwe's short-ball play. Muzarabani hit the deck and lured the English star to pull the ball away. Root couldn't control the trajectory and holed it straight to Sean Williams.

As he returned to the dressing room, wondering if he had left runs on the field, Root became just the fifth batter to cross 13,000 runs in Test format. After adding another feather to his cap, Root stands 2,916 runs away from Sachin's elusive tally of 15,921.

Throughout the opening day, Zimbabwe, hot on the heels after a Test win over Bangladesh, were tormented by England's



'Bazball' playing top-order after opting to bowl on a dry surface. Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley pounced on every loose delivery under Nottingham's cloudy skies.

At exactly run a ball, Duckett brought up his fifth Test hundred. Crawley arrived at the three-digit mark for the first time since July 2023 and 28 innings ago. Crawley and Duckett expressed their knack for runs and raised a rollicking opening stand worth 231, England's highest at home since 1960.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.