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Pakistan's military actions will be met with a 'very, very firm response': EAM Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister Jaishankar warns Pakistan of "firm response"; meets with Iranian and Saudi counterparts in New Delhi



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar made this remark when he met with Iran Foreign Minister, Seyed Abbas Araghchi on the sidelines of 20th India-Iran JCM, in New Delhi on May 8, 2025.

Photo Credit: ANI

MAY 9, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Pakistan's military actions will be met with a "very, very firm response", said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, May 8. Mr Jaishankar conveyed this to his Iranian counterpart Seyed Abbas Araghchi during the 20th India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting held in New Delhi. He also hosted Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al - Jubeir before meeting the Iranian delegation.

"Our response was targeted and measured. It is not our intention to escalate this situation. However, if there are military attacks on us, there should be no doubt that it will be met with a very, very firm response," said Mr. Jaishankar.

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The Trump administration is considering suspending habeas corpus: Miller



MAY 9, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): The Trump administration is looking to suspend habeas corpus to expedite the removal of migrants who are not legally in the country without giving them the right to challenge detention, according to White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller. Habeas corpus is a legal procedure that allows people in custody to challenge the government's decision to detain them before a court or judge, ensuring individuals cannot be imprisoned without due process of law. Miller's comment echoes efforts by the administration to use the current state of illegal border crossings to claim there is an invasion.

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G-7 Foreign Ministers condemn the egregious terrorist attack in Pahalgam



Canada and the US joined foreign ministers of G-7 and the High Representative of the European Union in condemning the egregious terrorist attack at Pahalgam while appealing to both India and Pakistan to de-escalate military operations.

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

MAY 9, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Canada and the US joined the foreign ministers of G-7 and the High Representative of the European Union in condemning the egregious terrorist attack at Pahalgam while appealing to both India and Pakistan to de-escalate military operations.

The Foreign Ministers' issued a joint statement on Friday, May 9 saying: 'We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of

CONTD ON PAGE 44

Indo-Pak conflict 'none of our business', says USVP Vance

MAY 9, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C.

(TIP): US Vice-President JD Vance on Friday, May 9, said the conflict between India and Pakistan is "fundamentally none of our business," even as he added that America is urging both the countries to de-escalate.

"What we can do is try to encourage these folks to de-escalate a little bit, but we're not going to get involved in the middle of war that's fundamentally none of our business and has nothing to do with America's ability to control it. You know, America can't tell the Indians to lay down their arms. We can't tell the Pakistanis to lay down their arms. And so, we're going to continue to pursue this thing through diplomatic channels," Vance has said in an interview with Fox News. "Our hope and our expectation is that this is not going to spiral into a broader regional war or, God forbid, a nuclear conflict,"

CONTD ON PAGE 44



The US Vice-President says they can only encourage both the countries to de-escalate, but they are not going to get involved in the middle of a war that has nothing to do with America



Newark Mayor Ras Baraka.

File photo

ICE Arrests and Releases Newark Mayor at Immigrant Detention Facility Protest

MAY 9, 2025

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was released Friday, May 9 night after being held following his arrest outside the gates of an immigrant detention facility.

Baraka walked out of U.S. Custom Services in Newark shortly before 8 p.m.

"This thing that's happening right now in America is wrong," the mayor told a large crowd of supporters waiting for his release. "It's just an example of the work we have to do."

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Andy Singh

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COMMENT

Welcoming the First American Pope: A Beacon of Hope in a Divided World

The election of the first American Pope marks a truly historic moment not just for the Roman Catholic Church, but for the entire world. At a time when humanity is torn by conflicts, weighed down by prejudice, and fractured by divisions of race, religion, and ideology, the emergence of a spiritual leader from the Americas offers a fresh ray of hope.



Pope Leo XIV

The Indian Panorama warmly welcomes Pope Leo XIV and prays for his success in guiding not only the 1.4 billion Catholics under his care, but also in offering moral and spiritual leadership to the global community.

It is expected that this new Pontiff will rise to the occasion and lend his voice to the urgent cause of peace, tolerance, and compassion. His American origins may well infuse his papacy with a new sense of openness, cultural diversity, and a deep understanding of the contemporary struggles facing the world. We hope he will use his immense moral authority to remind world leaders and ordinary citizens alike that our shared humanity is far more powerful than any division we create.

The Indian Panorama has always upheld the belief that the world is one family-Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. We have consistently advocated that all people are equal in the eyes of God, that no one should be discriminated against based on race, color, religion, caste, or creed. The God who created us did so in His own image-not to divide us, but to unite us in love, dignity, and respect.

At a time when hate speech, extremism, and violence are escalating across continents-from wars in the Middle East to racial and religious intolerance in liberal democracies-the moral clarity of a global spiritual leader is desperately needed. The Pope's voice must rise above the cacophony of conflict and call for unity, justice, and mercy.

As he begins his pontificate, The Indian Panorama hopes and prays that the new Pope will become a tireless advocate for peace, a defender of the marginalized, and a unifier of divided communities. Let his sermons echo with the virtues of humility, fraternity, and service. Let his leadership bring people together-not just Catholics, but all faiths and all nations-under the shared banner of human dignity.

May his papacy be remembered as a turning point in our collective journey toward a world more just, more compassionate, and more at peace.

A Tragic Cycle Repeats: India-Pakistan Hostilities and the Need for Lasting Peace

The renewed hostilities between India and Pakistan have once again cast a dark shadow over South Asia. The April 22 massacre of 28 Hindu tourists in Kashmir-allegedly by Pakistan-backed terrorists-has shaken the region and reawakened the ghosts of a tragic past. Once again, we find ourselves trapped in the vicious cycle of violence, retaliation, and brinkmanship. This cycle is not just a South Asian concern-it is a danger to global peace.

In 1947, the partition of British India tore apart a united land of shared heritage, culture, and kinship. India, embracing secularism and pluralism, set out to be a diverse democracy. Pakistan, born as an Islamic republic, built its identity partly in opposition to India. The conflict over Jammu & Kashmir-a Muslim-majority region ruled by a Hindu monarch-ignited the first Indo-Pak war. Two more wars followed, in 1965 and 1971, the latter resulting in the creation of Bangladesh.

Despite international attempts at mediation and decades of diplomacy, Kashmir remains a flashpoint, fueling both nationalistic fervor and militant agendas.

Pakistan's long-standing policy of backing non-state actors in Kashmir has resulted in years of insurgency and civilian suffering. In 2019, the Indian government revoked Article 370, stripping Jammu & Kashmir of its special status. While seen as a nationalistic victory by many in India, the move provoked discontent among Kashmir's Muslims and was widely criticized abroad. Pakistan responded with renewed political rhetoric and continued support for terror networks.

Meanwhile, India's domestic politics have become increasingly polarized, with accusations that the ruling establishment is undermining secularism and marginalizing minorities. This ideological shift has made constructive dialogue with Pakistan nearly impossible.

The April 22 massacre was a heinous act-targeting innocent tourists who had come to experience Kashmir's natural beauty. The loss of these 28 lives is a stark reminder of how civilians are caught in the crossfire of unresolved political and religious tensions.

India's response was swift. Precision strikes were launched against known terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied territory, carefully avoiding civilian and military targets. Yet, Pakistan retaliated, interpreting this as an act of aggression-thus escalating an already volatile situation.

Neither country can afford another war. Pakistan's economy is in crisis-beset with inflation, debt, and weak governance. Its military obsession has drained public welfare, leaving hospitals under-resourced, schools underfunded, and millions of youth without opportunities.

India, while rising economically, still faces vast internal challenges-poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, and an overburdened healthcare system. A military conflict would drain resources better spent on human development.

The future demands a different vision. India must reclaim its secular, inclusive identity and resist the allure of majoritarian politics. Pakistan must dismantle its terror infrastructure and cease viewing Kashmir solely through a religious and military lens.

The global community must play a more assertive role. The United States, European Union, China, Russia, and key Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and the UAE must use their influence to urge de-escalation. A peaceful, prosperous South Asia aligns with global security and economic interests.

The citizens of India and Pakistan are not born enemies. They share language, food, music, and deep ancestral ties. It is not the people but the extremists-whether state actors or shadow forces-who perpetuate animosity.

Let the April 22 tragedy serve not as a prelude to more bloodshed, but as a call to conscience. Let it awaken both governments to the futility of violence and the promise of peace. Let this be the moment we choose dialogue over destruction, reconciliation over rivalry.

Only by walking the path of peace can we fulfill the unfinished promise of 1947-a subcontinent where freedom, dignity, and development are the birthright of all.

By Indrajit Saluja



Dr. Avinash Gupta Re-Elected as Regional Director of AAPI Mid-Atlantic II for a Second Consecutive Term

MAY 6, 2025

NEW JERSEY (TIP): The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) proudly announces the re-election of Dr. Avinash Gupta as Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic II region for a second consecutive term. This reappointment reflects Dr. Gupta's exceptional leadership, steadfast commitment to healthcare excellence, and unwavering dedication to the Indian-American medical community.

A board-certified cardiologist in Cardiology, Nuclear Cardiology, and Clinical Lipidology, Dr. Gupta has been serving the New Jersey community since 1994. He completed his residency and fellowship at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn and maintains strong ties with his medical alumni networks in the U.S. and Ranchi, India.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gupta has mentored numerous Indian medical graduates, helping them secure competitive residency positions across the U.S. His mentorship extends beyond medical graduates—he actively encourages high school students to

explore careers in medicine, many of whom have gone on to pursue and gain admission to prestigious medical schools.

Dr. Gupta currently serves as the Chief of Cardiology and is a former President of the Medical Staff at Monmouth Medical Center - Southern Campus. His leadership also extends into community and cultural spheres—he has served as President of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) and President of the Bihar-Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA).

A lifelong advocate of charitable healthcare, Dr. Gupta is the driving force behind the PRAN-BJANA Charitable Clinics, which deliver critical medical services to underserved populations in both India and the U.S. He has also served as President of MOCAAPI and held key roles on AAPI's Membership and Liaison Committees. In 2023, he became the first Indian-American appointed to the Ocean County Board of Health.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Gupta led a team of over 50 healthcare professionals to vaccinate 3,500 residents

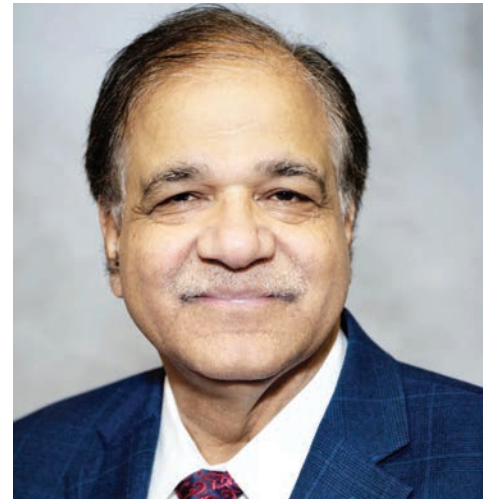
in Ocean County. He also initiated transcontinental telemedicine services, offering free consultations from the U.S. to patients in India and other countries—efforts that drew national recognition, including features on NBC.

Dr. Gupta's deep commitment to cultural and spiritual engagement is equally remarkable. He chairs the Executive Boards of Siddhivinayak Temple USA and the Indian Cultural Center in Toms River, NJ.

His wife, Dr. Geeta Gupta, a practicing internist, and their son, Abhinav Gupta, currently serving as Chief Resident in General Surgery at the University of Southern California (USC), support him in his endeavors.

Dr. Gupta envisions a future where AAPI continues to grow its membership—particularly among young physicians—while fostering unity in diversity, strengthening CME programs, and advancing advocacy efforts for issues that directly impact physicians' practices.

Dr. Gupta has received numerous accolades for his selfless service,



Dr. Avinash Gupta

including the Humanitarian Gala Award from MMC-SC and the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Award from the Consulate General of India in New York.

With his re-election, Dr. Avinash Gupta reaffirms his commitment to uplifting the medical community through mentorship, collaboration, and service, continuing a legacy built on compassion, leadership, and action.

Anand Marg Hosts Vision and Value Event at Hilton Long Island; Announces Major Wellness Center Project in Connecticut

MAY 4, 2025

MELVILLE, NY (TIP): In a spiritually uplifting and community-empowering event, Anand Marg held its "Vision and Value" program at the Hilton in Long Island, New York, on May 4th. The event celebrated the recent acquisition of 101 acres of pristine land in Stafford, Connecticut, where the Anand Kalpataru Health and Wellness Center is now being established.

The gathering brought together distinguished community leaders, philanthropists, and spiritual seekers to support this noble initiative, which aims to offer holistic healing, spiritual retreat, natural living, and community service for generations to come.

Mr. Naveen Shah, Chairman of the Navika Group and the lead sponsor of the event, presented the project's vision and shared plans for developing a world-class health and wellness center. His leadership was warmly received by all attendees and has sparked meaningful support from the wider East Coast community.

The program commenced with a devotional performance from the Bhagavad Gita, led by Srimati Purnima Desai, Founder and Chairperson of Sikshayatan and Sriniketan, setting a serene and spiritual tone for the evening. The event concluded with a cultural song and a community dinner that fostered unity and inspiration.

Key leaders recognized for their contributions



and presence included:

- Acarya Abhiramananda Avadhuta, Sectorial Secretary of the New York Sector, along with his committed team: Acharya Kovid Brahmacharii, Brother Timir Prabhakar, Sister Sefali, Brother Shukhdev Ji, and Acarya Anudhananda Avadhuta
- Brother Jasvir Singh (Jasbir Singh Jai), board member and event lead coordinator
- Esteemed community supporters: Anju Sharma Ji, Sanju Sharma Ji, Shashi Ji, Dilip Ji, Vijay Khanna Ji, Musafir Gulati Ji, Har Govind Ji, Omkar Singh Ji, Arish Sahni Ji, Haridas Ji, Anuj Jain Ji, Gobind Bhatija Ji, and Radhu Ji.
- Shri Indrajit Saluja Ji, senior journalist and professor, for his honored presence

The Anand Kalpataru Health and Wellness Center will include:



- A meditation hall for spiritual practice
- A holistic health center
- Dormitories, cottages, and nature-inspired accommodations
- Space for retreats, yoga, community service, and eco-living

Anand Marg warmly invites individuals and families across New York, New Jersey, Boston, Connecticut, and the East Coast to join this sacred mission. Contributions, both large and small, will help shape a legacy of wellness, spirituality, and self-realization.

"This project is a blessing not just for today but for the future of humanity," said an Anand Marg spokesperson. "We welcome all with open hearts to be part of this divine journey."

(Bases on a Press release)

Alexandra Badaway of North Brunswick Is Named Middlesex College Class of 2025 Valedictorian

MAY 8, 2025

MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ - Alexandra Badaway of North Brunswick will speak as class valedictorian at the 2025 Middlesex College Commencement Ceremony on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at the Jersey Mike's Arena.

"When I found out I was named valedictorian, I felt an overwhelming mix of pride, gratitude, and disbelief. It was a full-circle moment," said Badaway.

After overcoming a health crisis, financial struggles, and personal loss, beginning her academic journey at Middlesex College offered Badaway a fresh start. She credits programs like the Equal Opportunity Fund for providing her with the resources to not just survive, but thrive.

"I needed a place to heal and grow. Middlesex College offered me more than academics; it gave me a sense of belonging and a community that believed in me," said

Badaway. "It was here that I found my purpose and started rewriting my story."

As Badaway became more comfortable in the college environment, she found herself falling into a "big sister" role for her peers on campus. She led the Juvenile Justice Reform Club, became a Bonner Leader, an ESL tutor, and a resource for students who faced language and academic barriers like she once had.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Badaway will earn her associate degree in business administration at the College's 58th commencement ceremony

Growing Concerns Over Indian Parents Sending Children Unaccompanied to US Borders



Indian families, particularly from Gujarat, are sending their minor children alone to U.S. border crossings, often with nothing more than a handwritten chit bearing contact details.

Picture for representation only

MAY 7, 2025

TUSCAN, AZ (TIP): A growing and deeply troubling trend is unfolding along the United States' southern and northern borders: Indian families, particularly from Gujarat, are sending their minor children alone to U.S. border crossings, often with nothing more than a handwritten chit bearing contact details. The hope, according to officials and media reports, is that once inside the system, these children will pave the way for their parents to obtain legal status in the U.S.

This alarming phenomenon has seen a sharp increase in recent years. According to a media report, between 2020 and 2023, the number of unaccompanied Indian children apprehended at U.S. borders rose by a staggering 233 percent. In the fiscal year 2023 alone, U.S. border authorities took 730 Indian minors into custody, most between the ages of 10 and 14. Some were as young as four. Nearly 1,700 such minors were intercepted between 2022 and November 2024.

These children often arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border—popularly known as the "Donkey route"—though some are also encountered along the U.S.-Canada border. In many cases, they are left intentionally by smugglers or other migrants traveling with them, while the child carries only a piece of paper with a relative's phone number.

Human smuggling networks in Gujarat, particularly in Mehsana and Gandhinagar districts, are believed to be orchestrating many of these journeys. Families who are already in the U.S. illegally sometimes pay these smugglers to bring their children across, betting on the assumption that the U.S. government will place the minors in their custody. Once reunited, these parents may then attempt to adjust their own immigration status.

In some of the more deceptive cases, unrelated children are paired with adults pretending to be their guardians.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin UK based philanthropist sets up four hospitals in Punjab

MAY 7, 2025

LONDON / JALANDHAR (TIP): Kulwant S Dhaliwal (67), a former cloth merchant in the UK, turned philanthropist after the tragic loss of his mother and father-in-law to cancer. This personal loss shifted his life's mission towards the early detection of cancer and providing treatment to underprivileged patients.

Nearly two decades ago, Dhaliwal retired early from his business to devote himself to his humanitarian work. He now spends more time in Punjab than in the UK, overseeing projects run by his NGO, the World Cancer Care Society. His efforts have led to the establishment of three cancer hospitals and one eye hospital across the state. Additionally, his NGO organizes free cancer diagnostic camps in almost 11,000 of Punjab's 12,700 villages. He also operates over 18 mobile units equipped with mammography, cancer screening equipment, diabetes and blood pressure testing kits, ECGs, eye checkups and other medical tools. Through his NGO, Dhaliwal also runs a free medical langar, providing medicines to needy patients.

The first cancer hospital was opened at Suchi Pind in Jalandhar, where it has been operating for over ten years. "I opened another hospital in Nanaksar near Ludhiana and construction is underway for a new hospital in Anandpur Sahib, which we expect to complete by the end of this year," Dhaliwal shared. His eye hospital is in Lohian town, Jalandhar. Since January 1 of this year, through his eye camps, Dhaliwal's team has screened over 100,000 patients and distributed many pairs of high-quality spectacles. Additionally, he has organized major



Kulwant S Dhaliwal has set up four hospitals in Punjab, the state he comes from. He says about his philanthropic work: "I'm fulfilling my mother's wish to work for the cause of cancer. She was diagnosed too late to be saved and I am committed to raising awareness about early cancer symptoms to help others avoid the same fate".

health check-up camps in Mansa, Sangrur and Barnala, with support from large organizations like Trident. These camps are not limited to Punjab, as Dhaliwal's team has also extended their outreach to parts of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Dhaliwal's exceptional philanthropic contributions were recently recognized by Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who honored him for his charitable work. Speaking about his mission, Dhaliwal stated, "I'm fulfilling my mother's wish to work for the cause of cancer. She was diagnosed too late to be saved and I am committed to raising

awareness about early cancer symptoms to help others avoid the same fate. Wherever I go, I urge women to ensure they eat home-cooked food, as there is minimal exposure to pesticides and fertilizers. Pure food is essential." He added that the Global Punjabi Association, of which he is an active member, has also been a major supporter of his cause.

Dhaliwal, originally from Moga, studied at DAV College in Jalandhar and spent much of his early life in the city. He chose to establish his largest hospital setup near Jalandhar, in recognition of his roots and the community that supported him.

Indian-origin Dubai-based billionaire Balvinder Singh Sahni jailed for money laundering

MAY 6, 2025

DUBAI (TIP):



Balvinder Singh Sahni, also known as Abu Sabah, has been sentenced to five years in prison for money laundering and other financial crimes.

other countries. His firm owns several properties in Dubai, including residential buildings, office spaces, and a luxury hotel.

Well-known in Dubai's elite circles, Sahni is famous for his luxury cars and flashy lifestyle. In 2016, he made headlines when he paid dinar 33 million for the car number plate "D5" for one of his Rolls-Royces.

The case against Sahni and 33 others, including his son, began in 2024, according to reports in local media.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Three Indian-origin persons found dead after a shooting in Newcastle City

MAY 1, 2025

SEATTLE (TIP): Three Indian-origin people were found dead after a shooting at a home in the US state of Washington, according to local media reports.

The incident took place on April 24 in Newcastle City.

The dead were identified as Harshavardhana Kikkeri (44), Shwetha Panyam (41) and Dhruva Kikkeri (14). The Seattle Times reported on Tuesday.

While the deaths of Shwetha and Dhruva were ruled as homicide by the police, Harshavardhana died by suicide, the report quoted the King County medical examiner's office as saying.

Neighbors told the local media that a young family lived in the home where the shooting took place.

On the night of the shooting, authorities were called to the townhouse on 129th Street after receiving a 911 call. A television station said its crew saw a child being escorted from the home and comforted by investigators.

Unconfirmed reports said Harshavardhana, alongside Shwetha, was the owner of an India-based AI tech company Holoworld.

According to the company's website, it was founded in 2018 by the two, with Harshavardhana serving as the CEO and CTO, and Shwetha as president.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Harshavardhana Kikkeri (44), Shwetha Panyam (41) and Dhruva Kikkeri (14) were found dead after a shooting in Newcastle City in Washington State

Indian American plastic surgeon helps remove spinal tumor through eye socket

MAY 6, 2025

MARYLAND (TIP) : In a first-of-its-kind surgery, a team including an Indian American plastic surgeon has successfully removed a rare cancerous tumor wrapped around the spine and spinal cord of a 19-year-old woman - through her eye socket (orbit).

Although surgeons use a "transorbital" approach to access tumors in the brain and sinuses, this is the first time it has ever been used to remove a spinal tumor, according to a University of Maryland Medical Center press release.

In this case, the young woman had a slow-growing developmental bone tumor called a chordoma in her spine. Only about 300 chordomas are diagnosed in the United States every year.

The patient, who has no evidence of cancer, required multiple surgeries and received extraordinarily complex care from a multidisciplinary team led by Mohamed A.M. Labib, a UMMC neurosurgeon and Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). The team included Indian American facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Kalpesh T. Vakharia,

Dr. Labib developed the novel surgical plan to remove the spinal tumor after exploring the transorbital approach in the Department of Neurosurgery's Skull Base 360° Laboratory using cadavers. He called the eye socket, "the third nostril," in preliminary research looking at new ways to access hard-to-reach skull base



Indian American facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Kalpesh T. Vakharia has successfully removed a rare cancerous tumor wrapped around the spine and spinal cord of a 19-year-old woman - through her eye socket (orbit). It's a first-of-its-kind surgery.

tumors published in the Journal of Neurosurgery in October 2023.

In addition to the three surgeries last spring, the patient, Karla Flores, now 20, of Rosedale, MD, was treated with proton radiation therapy to destroy any lingering cancer cells. A neurosurgeon also fused the C1 and C2 vertebrae in her neck to stabilize the spine.

In other transorbital procedures, surgeons have made incisions next to or above the eye. In this case, Dr. Labib worked with Dr. Vakharia, who carefully cut through

the conjunctiva, the transparent membrane protecting the eye, inside the lower eyelid without disturbing the eye. That process also involved making an incision inside the patient's mouth. Dr. Vakharia removed the bottom of the eye socket, and a portion of the cheek bone, to carve out a large enough pathway for surgeons to thread surgical tools into the sinus to reach the cervical spine.

"We wanted to develop a surgical plan where there would be no external scars and it would be impossible to tell that the patient even had surgery," said Dr. Vakharia, Chief of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Director of the Facial Nerve Center at UMMC and an Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at UMSOM.

Working in tandem with Dr. Andrea M. Hebert, a head and neck surgeon and an Associate Professor of Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at UMSOM, Dr. Labib was able to drill through bone in the vertebrae to access the tumor and painstakingly dissect it, using a variety of surgical instruments.

After the tumor was removed, Dr. Vakharia rebuilt the bottom of the eye socket using a titanium plate and rebuilt the cheek with bone from the patient's hip. He said of the experience, "It was amazing to have had the opportunity to be part of surgery that had never been done before."

FDA names Indian American hematologist-oncologist Dr. Vinay Prasad as its new vaccine chief



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has named Dr. Vinay Prasad as its new vaccine chief.

MAY 7, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has named Indian American hematologist-oncologist Dr. Vinay Prasad, an outspoken critic of the agency's decision to approve Covid shots in children, as its new vaccine chief.

The FDA commissioner, Dr. Marty Makary, announced Tuesday Dr. Prasad would lead the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), the branch responsible for vaccine approvals and other biological products.

A professor at the University of California, San Francisco, in Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, he will replace Dr. Peter Marks. Marks, who assisted in leading Operation Warp Speed during the Covid-19 pandemic, departed the FDA in March. The role has been occupied by an acting director since then.

"Dr. Prasad brings the kind of scientific rigor, independence, and transparency we need at CBER - a significant step forward," said Makary

in a post on X.

Dr. Prasad is well known for his strong views, especially his criticism of how the FDA handled Covid-19 vaccine boosters. He opposed the emergency use authorization of Covid-19 boosters, claiming there was not enough solid data from randomized clinical trials.

In a 2021 blog post and an accompanying video, Prasad suggested the national response to Covid might bring on the collapse of democracy, invoking the rise of Hitler and the Third Reich in Germany.

On the blog that year, Prasad downplayed the anti-vaccine activism of Robert F. Kennedy Jr. - now the secretary of health and human services - specifically his role in a 2019 measles outbreak in

In 2024, he publicly criticized his predecessor, Dr. Marks, saying he was "either incompetent or corrupt to authorize a booster without clinical, randomized data."

After Marks left the FDA, Prasad didn't hold back his opinion. "You could replace Peter Marks with a bobblehead doll that just stamps approval, and you would have the same outcome at FDA with lower administrative fees," he posted online. He also called Marks "one of the most dangerous, pro-pharma regulators of the 21st century" and a "mediocre academic."

Prasad has also denounced the continued use of Covid vaccines in young children, calling it "absurd" and said changes in the virus strain may affect how well the vaccines work and how safe they are.

Indian American entrepreneur Tejpal Bhatia becomes Axiom Space CEO

MAY 3, 2025

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): Tejpal Bhatia, a former Indian American entrepreneur and Google executive, has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Axiom Space, a leader in commercial space infrastructure and human spaceflight services.

Bhatia takes over after serving as Chief Revenue Officer for the company over the past four years and replaces previous CEO, executive chairman, and co-founder Dr. Kam Ghaffarian.

Ghaffarian will continue as executive chairman of Axiom Space.

Since joining Axiom Space in 2021, Bhatia has pioneered landmark deals and missions, notably leading the industry's first-ever sovereign government purchases of commercial human spaceflight missions to the International Space Station, including the groundbreaking Axiom Mission-1 (Ax-1) through Axiom Mission-4 (Ax-4), according to a media release.

He secured over \$1 billion in contracts and oversaw Axiom Space's four groundbreaking human spaceflight missions, transforming spaceflight into a repeatable and scalable commercial offering.

He also oversaw high-impact, cross-industry collaborations, such as partnering with Prada on NASA-awarded, next-generation spacesuits for the Artemis III lunar mission, and with Nokia to integrate high-speed cellular connectivity into the lunar exploration



Tejpal Bhatia has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Axiom Space

spacesuits - establishing Axiom Space's position as a leading innovator and commercial integrator for human space exploration.

"I've been inspired by space exploration since childhood, and leading Axiom Space at this critical inflection point in human spaceflight is the realization of a lifelong ambition," said Bhatia. "We are accelerating our

investment in next-generation technologies - spacesuits, orbital infrastructure, and microgravity research and manufacturing - and we're actively seeking passionate, visionary engineers, technologists, and entrepreneurs who want to help build humanity's future in space."

As the commercial space industry's only full-service orbital mission provider, Axiom Space helps nations and organizations build human spaceflight programs, develop astronaut selection programs, and provide expertise to expand the international community of space explorers to a larger and more diverse representation of humanity.

"Axiom Space was founded to expand the boundaries of what's possible in space, and Tej has been instrumental in turning that vision into a reality," said Ghaffarian. "His blend of entrepreneurial drive, global perspective, and deep commitment to our mission will ensure Axiom Space's leadership at the forefront of the rapidly growing commercial space market."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

STATE BUDGET

Final state budget includes Gov. Hochul's affordability measures as she prepares for tough 2026 re-election fight

MAY 8, 2025

ALBANY (TIP): The long-overdue state budget deal includes several measures Gov. Kathy Hochul pushed to ease New York's affordability crisis as she gears up for a tough re-election campaign next year.

The \$254 billion-plus Fiscal Year 2026 budget, which state lawmakers were still voting on Thursday, is chock-full of actions aimed at lowering everyday costs. The plan includes one-time inflation refund checks for over 8 million tax filers, a middle-class tax cut, universal free school lunches, and a statewide housing voucher pilot program.

"I vowed to deliver on a sweeping affordability agenda that does something that is so profound, but yet so simple: putting more money back in your pockets," Hochul said during an April 30 press conference. "And promises made, promises kept."

The governor will sign the affordability-focused fiscal plan just months before heading into what is shaping up to be a tough race for re-election. She has doubled down on combating rising costs, along with stemming fears around crime, as challengers on both the left and right are lining up to run against her next year.

Her focus on the issue also appeared to be a response to the 2024 presidential election, in which many Americans cited high inflation and public safety concerns



Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks about budget and affordability

Photo : Darren McGee/ Office of Governor Kathy Hochul

as reasons they voted for President Trump.

Hochul's rebate checks gambit promises to put a collective \$2 million back in New Yorkers' pockets. It will go to New Yorkers who filed a 2023 tax return and had a state adjusted-gross income of up to \$150,000 if they were single filers, and up to \$300,000 for joint filers.

Individual filers who made up to \$75,000 will get a \$200 check, while those

who made between \$75,000 and \$150,000 will get \$150 checks. Joint filers who made up to \$150,000 will receive a \$400 check, while those who made between \$150,000 and \$300,000 will receive \$300 checks.

The governor is also cutting income taxes for 8.3 million middle-class New Yorkers, making up to \$323,000 annually for joint filers.

Her plan will also make free public school breakfasts and lunches universal,

a move her office says will save families an estimated \$165 a month on groceries.

CRITICS DECRY 'DUBIOUS' SAVINGS

However, the budget drew backlash from state lawmakers, charging that the governor's affordability measures are surface-level and will not meaningfully lower costs for New Yorkers.

Brooklyn state Sen. Andrew Gounardes, in a statement, charged the spending plan "nickels and dimes" vital social safety net programs, while spending billions on "dubious tax breaks and gimmicks."

"New Yorkers will get a paltry, one-time 'rebate check' for a few hundred dollars and a minuscule tax cut-eventually," he said in a Thursday statement.

Gounardes also blasted Hochul's expansion of the state's child tax credit, which promises to give families earning below a certain income threshold up to \$1,000 per child under age four to cover expenses like groceries and rent. He said it falls far short of his own proposal to implement a so-called "Working Families Tax Credit" - legislation that would see the state give families up to \$1,600 per child.

"And while expanding the child tax credit for young children is better than nothing, the vast majority of families will get a credit that doesn't come close to the rising cost of living that is pushing them to the brink," he said.

NYC budget: Mayor Adams unveils \$115 billion re-election year plan flush with new spending

MAY 1, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The mayor's spending plan is up roughly \$600 million from his \$114.5 billion preliminary budget released in January and \$3 billion from the Fiscal Year 2025 budget adopted last June. It comes at a time when the city faces President Trump's threats of large-scale federal funding cuts and the looming possibility of a recession, but does not add any new funds to the city's \$8.5 billion in reserves to the chagrin of several pols and good government groups.

Adams has been framing the fiscal blueprint as the "best budget ever," one that will help working-class New Yorkers like the students who attend Bayside High School and his late mother, Dorothy Mae Adams-Streeter. The framing dovetails with Adams' re-election platform focused on affordability and public safety.

"When my team and I came together to develop this budget, I thought of my younger self and how my mother worked three jobs just to put food on the table for me and my siblings," Adams said during his Thursday budget address. "She was betrayed by the city. This budget is for her and it's for young Eric, who struggled in life and in school. And for all of you, this budget makes sure that you don't have to struggle



Mayor Eric Adams announced his re-election year executive budget at his alma mater of Bayside High School in Queens. Thursday, May 1, 2025.

Photo: Michael Appleton/Mayoral Photography Office

the way that me and my family did."

With the release of Adams' executive budget, negotiations will begin in earnest between his office and the City Council over the final shape of the spending plan, which must be passed by a July 1 deadline. The two sides of City Hall have had hard-fought battles over the budget in years past, a dynamic that could be exacerbated by City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams' bid to unseat Mayor Adams, to whom she is not

related, in this year's election.

In a departure from Adams' previous budget announcements, many of which were marked by his wide-ranging cuts aimed at offsetting the city's massive spending on migrants, he has made his re-election-year budget rollout a celebratory affair. Adams claims he is able to spend more on popular city programs this year because of his "strong fiscal management," better than expected tax revenue, and

success in cutting spending on the migrant crisis.

The mayor's Budget Director Jacques Jiha said they are also using money gleaned from past savings and tax revenues to cover \$1 billion the city expected in migrant aid from the state that Gov. Kathy Hochul did not deliver.

However, City Council leaders have often argued Adams made cuts unnecessarily because the city had enough money in its coffers all along. The plan still does not fully restore some funding cuts to levels championed by the City Council in its own budget plan released last month.

Speaker Adams and Council Finance Chair Justin Brannan, in a joint statement, said Mayor Adams' budget "for the first time" funds many of the priorities they included in their fiscal plan.

"This is how the budget process should work, but it's disappointing that it took three years for this administration to become tired of being entirely on the wrong side of doing right by New Yorkers," they said. "There remains work to fill gaps in funding for programs left out of this budget, but this is a better start from the Executive Budget than past years."

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Prem Bhandari Congratulates Devendranath Tankoo on Appointment as Finance Minister of Trinidad & Tobago

MEGA JAIPUR FOOT CAMP IN THE REGION SOON



Indian High Commissioner Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit with Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

MAY 4, 2025

NEW YORK / PORT OF SPAIN (TIP): Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, extended his heartfelt congratulations to Devendranath Tankoo over the phone on his appointment as the new Finance Minister of Trinidad & Tobago. Bhandari described Tankoo as a great supporter of the Jaipur Foot movement and expressed full confidence in his leadership and vision.

Bhandari also welcomed the re-election of Kamla Persad-Bissessar as the Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago, marking her return to the highest office after a decade. He later sent a formal congratulatory letter to Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar, applauding her leadership and unwavering commitment to public service.

He mentioned that a Mega Jaipur Foot Camp will soon be organized in Trinidad & Tobago to benefit hundreds of differently-abled individuals by providing them with free artificial limbs. Bhandari acknowledged the vital role played by Indian High Commissioner Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit in facilitating



Newly sworn-in Finance Minister of Trinidad & Tobago Devendranath Tankoo, Indian High Commissioner Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, and other dignitaries. (File Photo)

this initiative. He also noted that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has given its in-principle approval for the upcoming camp.

Reflecting on past milestones, Bhandari recalled that in 2016, Jaipur Foot USA, through its parent organization Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), held a mega camp in Mhow, Indore, to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. That historic event was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the year 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs launched the 'India for Humanity' initiative as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. In collaboration with BMVSS, this initiative has since promoted the spirit of seva (service) through the organization of Jaipur Foot camps around the world.

Since 2018, under the "India for Humanity" initiative 32 international Jaipur Foot camps have been successfully conducted across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Bhandari emphasized that Prime Minister Narendra Modi strongly believes in the ancient Indian philosophy encapsulated in the Maha Upanishad (Chapter 6, Verse 71): "Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam" - "The world is one family." Inspired by this timeless ideal, many more humanitarian camps are being planned for the future.

Bhandari said that Padma Bhushan D.R. Mehta, Founder and Chief Patron of BMVSS, will personally travel from Jaipur, India, to attend the upcoming camp in Trinidad & Tobago.

He also shared that since its inception in 1975, by D R Mehta, BMVSS has benefited nearly 2.3 million differently-



Finance Minister Devendranath Tankoo and Dr Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad & Tobago

abled individuals worldwide, including 114 international camps, making it the world's largest NGO serving the differently-abled.



Indian High Commissioner Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, accompanied by his Wife, attends Victory Celebration Dinner with Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

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THE FRAGMENTATION IN THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST TERROR



By T.S. Tirumurti

Gone are the days of a united fight against, and 'zero tolerance' to terror; a different yardstick applies when it comes to India, which is a victim of state-sponsored terror

The Pahalgam terror attack of April 22 has exposed, yet again, the fragmentation in the global fight against terror and Pakistan's resort to terrorism when it fears normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir. While a number of countries have condemned the Pahalgam attack, they have, at the same time, called upon India and Pakistan to exercise restraint. The United States Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, went to the extent of calling on both parties to "work towards ... a responsible resolution that maintains long term peace and regional stability in South Asia". U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance "hoped" that India's response would not lead to a wider regional conflict. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said that "settling disagreements" between New Delhi and Islamabad on a bilateral basis should be by political and diplomatic means. The European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas could not even get around to calling it a "terror attack".

THE END OF A COLLECTIVE FIGHT

Gone are the days of "zero tolerance" to terror. Gone are the days when the perpetrators of terror were called out and accountability demanded. Some have even asked India for "proof" of Pakistan's complicity, conveniently forgetting inter alia the Pulwama (2019) and 26/11 Mumbai (2008) terror attacks. In effect, they are calling on India, the victim, to be restrained and to not go after Pakistan, the perpetrator and backer.

India should not be surprised. To begin with, the appetite for a flare-up in Asia is low after the raging wars in Ukraine, Gaza and West Asia. Moreover, successful elections in Jammu and Kashmir and tourists flocking to Kashmir are red flags for Pakistan. To top it all, the global fight against terror is no longer a collective fight. It is now left for each state to fend for itself. The consensus reached after the 9/11 terror attacks in the U.S. in 2001, to fight terror comprehensively, seems to have run its course. The world has gone back to the era of "my terrorist" and "your terrorist."

Europe is focused on "its" terrorists - right-wing extremism and terror. The U.S., under former President Joe Biden, focused on REMVE, or racially and ethnically motivated violent extremism. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is keen only to use Islamophobia as an excuse to condone terror. Canada has told India that "your" terrorists are not "my" terrorists and that any terrorist threat against India from its soil is covered under its freedom of expression - in effect asking India to wait till a terror act is committed before approaching them. China has blocked proposals submitted by India in 2022 to "black-list", under the UN Security Council 1267 sanctions regime, terrorists operating against India from Pakistani soil. Now that Pakistan is in the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2025-26 (as a non-permanent member), these will remain blocked for at least two more years.

The world is blindsided by the spread of terror in Asia and Africa. Terrorism in Africa has spread exponentially, from the Sahel to Mozambique. The Global Terrorism Index 2025 points out that the Sahel is now the epicenter of terrorism, accounting for over half of all terrorism deaths in the world. But the international community says they are "your" terrorists not "my" terrorists and is short-changing Africa.

A DIFFERENT YARDSTICK FOR INDIA

However, a different yardstick applies when it comes to India, which is the biggest victim of state-sponsored terror from Pakistan. First, it is about "regional stability" and not about fighting terror as Pakistan has successfully sold the "nuclear war" bogey to the world. Even as they egg Ukraine on in its war with "nuclear"



The global fight against terror is no longer a collective fight'

Photo credit: UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

Russia, the thought of two developing countries using nuclear arms scares the West enough to call on India to stop fighting cross-border terror. It is quickly forgotten that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who called on Russian President Vladimir Putin not to use nuclear arms in the Ukraine war for which he was thanked by the U.S. among other countries.

Further, it is now common knowledge that in Pahalgam, the terrorists singled out the tourists based on religion and shot them. A Muslim pony ride operator was shot while trying to save the tourists. The terror attack, which The Resistance Front (a proxy of the Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba) claimed that it had carried out - it retracted this statement later - was clearly done to raise tensions and create a communal divide in India.

While the whole world cries hoarse in condemning Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia, why does it become silent when calling out the recent attack for what it is, i.e., Hinduphobia? When even protests in American university campuses are being dubbed anti-Semitic or Islamophobic and portrayed in religious terms, rather than contextualizing them in terms of the 52,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza or Israeli hostages still with Hamas, to maintain radio silence on Hinduphobic attacks is glaring, if not unexpected. Even U.S. presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, was confronted with accusations of belonging to a "pagan, wicked" faith while on the campaign trail.

But there has been a refreshing departure - the statement by the U.S. Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, who characterized the Pahalgam attack in religious terms, as a "horrific Islamist terrorist attack" and recognized that the targets were Hindus. A silver lining is the extradition of Tahawwur Rana from the U.S. to India for the Mumbai attacks, even if big fish, David Headley, is still in the U.S.

Further, predictably, Pakistan used its presence in the UNSC to move for an emergency closed session on a "deteriorating regional environment and rising tension" posing "a serious risk of escalation". In 2019, a similar closed meeting took place, at China's behest, just after Article 370 was abrogated, but fizzled out. The meeting now was no different and no document was issued. It underlined once again that the P-5 (the five permanent UNSC member states), with the exception of

China, is in no mood to play the "Kashmir" game, which it considers to be a bilateral matter between India and Pakistan (even if parts of it have been ceded by Pakistan to China).

India's move to keep the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance has also been targeted by Pakistan at the UNSC. India will no doubt keep the pressure on the UNSC to stop any outcome document, unlike how a similar issue was dealt with in 2021 between Ethiopia and Egypt on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. Any one country in the UNSC can stop a statement.

THE PATH AHEAD

Consequently, if the world is so concerned about India not using kinetic options to fight terror from where it originates, should not India's "strategic" partners demand accountability from Pakistan rather than substituting harsh words for real action or calling on "both sides" to "defuse" tensions? To deter Pakistan, India's close Gulf partners, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which are themselves undertaking internal socio-religious reforms, need to step up. The international community must act to deter and sanction Pakistan, and not merely react episodically. If it refuses to act, India will act alone. Apart from the current slew of options, India will also have to think ahead

Having built a strong international framework to combat terror, including terror financing and misuse of emerging technology, the international community cannot step back on combating terror, especially state-sponsored terrorism. Three years after raising it for the first time in the UN General Assembly in 2022, India has yet another opportunity to take the lead in combating religio-phobia against non-Abrahamic religions. This time its campaign should go beyond the UN, where select Indian Missions should take up the issue bilaterally with their host countries.

All this points to one thing. India should not only create geopolitical space for itself through its strategic autonomy and multi-alignment policy, but must also be prepared to use it when it matters. There is no doubt that such parleys are on.

(T.S. Tirumurti was Ambassador/Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, New York from 2020 to 2022)

THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF AN INDIA-U.S. ENERGY FUTURE

By Arunabha Ghosh



Nuclear energy and critical minerals can be the bedrock of a deepening energy and technology partnership

United States Vice-President J.D. Vance recently highlighted the U.S.'s willingness to cooperate with India more closely on energy and defense. India's foreign policy establishment outlined the need for cooperation on energy, defense, technology and the mobility of people. The developments may have been news, but the issues are not new. These topics have increasingly defined India-U.S. relations over the years despite changes in administration, but with some change in emphasis. There is an opportunity now for renewed investment in them.

India's energy security will be guided by three imperatives: having sufficient energy resources at predictable prices, minimal disruptions in supply chains, and progress towards an increasingly sustainable energy mix. Nuclear energy and critical minerals will matter in these respects and can be the bedrock of further deepening energy and technology partnership between Washington and New Delhi.

A CRITICAL MINERALS COMPACT

The energy transition will unfold not only via electrons but also with elements. China's restrictions in April on exports of rare earths were just the latest move in periodic disruptions for more than a decade. On the one hand, China controls nearly 90% of global rare earth processing capacity. On the other, it leverages this market power to serve its strategic purposes. The result: the minerals needed for new energy technologies, advanced electronics or defense equipment are contingent on fragile global supply chains.

In 2024, India and the U.S. signed a memorandum of understanding to diversify these supply chains. Three principles must now guide India-US cooperation on critical minerals.

First, critical minerals must be viewed as the pillar of multiple sectors, and not just as a mining silo. They are needed across the economy - and in the strategic sectors on which India and the U.S. wish to collaborate. This broad framing prioritizes long-term strategy and enables cross-sectoral skills and technology exchange.

Second, policies for critical minerals must play out at bilateral and plurilateral levels. They must establish guarantees of supply and frameworks for cooperation. Demand creation, not supply coercion, must drive this relationship. An India-U.S. critical minerals consortium could look into joint exploration and processing. India, with its emerging mineral exploration base, and the U.S., with its deep capital and technology, should co-invest in third-country projects across Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

Beyond the bilateral relationship, the Quad (including Japan and Australia) can be a capability multiplier. This includes collaboration on minerals processing technology. Further, data

'FOR INDIA'S ENERGY SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE U.S. MUST OFFER GREATER ASSURANCE IN STRATEGIC AND SHARED INTERESTS'



U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm and Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri in Washington D.C. on September 16, 2024.
File photo: PIB

transparency and traceability of these minerals are crucial. For this, establish a dedicated India-U.S. Mineral Exchange - a secure digital platform for real-time trade, investment, and collaboration on critical minerals. This can especially help vulnerable industries such as electric vehicles, aerospace, and semiconductors. India and the U.S. should also co-develop a blockchain-based traceability standard for critical minerals, inspired by the EU's Battery Passport.

Moreover, India and the U.S. should build joint strategic stockpiles of key minerals to safeguard supply chains against geopolitical or trade disruptions, leveraging existing storage infrastructure in both countries (such as India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves or the US National Defense Stockpile) for cost-effective deployment.

India has made early moves - becoming the first non-G-7 member of the Mineral Security Partnership - and it will host the Quad summit later this year. It is an opportunity to formalize these specific approaches. The Quad countries are also exploring joint engagement with mineral-rich nations.

Third, patience will be key. While a battery plant may take two years to build, exploration of mines and building processing facilities take between 12 to 16 years. A durable India-U.S. critical minerals partnership must be structured with a 20-year horizon and interim targets, consistent with the initial goals of India's own Critical Minerals Mission. To realize these ambitions, India and the U.S. must also invest in the 'plumbing' of the energy partnership: data-sharing protocols, investment tracking,

workforce development, and innovation corridors under platforms such as the U.S.-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

NUCLEAR ENERGY AS NEXT FRONTIER OF LINKAGES

As India's electricity demand surges, we need a reliable source that complements the intermittency of solar and wind to build a stable, secure grid. Even as battery costs have fallen dramatically, nuclear power offers another firm, low-carbon source essential to achieving India's net-zero goals.

India has an ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047. Converting this into action will need a shift in momentum. Currently, nuclear energy contributes just over 8 GW, or about 2% of India's installed capacity. To meet the 2047 target, India must commission approximately 5GW-6 GW annually from the early 2030s. Studies by institutions, including the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), suggest that achieving net zero by 2070 could require nuclear capacity exceeding 200 GW under certain scenarios.

To realize this vision, India must implement three pivotal reforms. First, shorten deployment timelines to ensure scale. Reducing the build time of nuclear projects from, say, nine to six years could cut the levelized cost of electricity by 8%. This calls for standardized designs, faster approvals, and skilled project delivery.

Second, enable private sector participation. That means having credible offtakers to reduce risks,

structure competitive bids, and offer long-term purchase commitments. Small Modular Reactors, with their lower capex and flexibility and lower land requirement, become bankable only when private capital has clear incentives and predictable returns. Applications include the use of nuclear energy for green steel or to service rapidly rising demand for Artificial Intelligence. The overall capital requirement for 100 GW of nuclear power is enormous: up to \$180 billion by 2047. The exposure of domestic banks and non-banking financial companies to the power sector is approximately \$200 billion. We must rewire our financial system to support this transition. The growth of nuclear as a viable source of energy and international cooperation rests on assurances of clear policies and offtake and payment guarantees, collaboration with global firms for tech transfer and co-creation, and rules and standards for waste management.

ISSUE OF SAFETY

Third, amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 to enable private investments in nuclear power plants. India's indigenous reactor designs can be modularized. The recent approval for Holtec International to transfer SMR technology to Indian companies, including Larsen & Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers, is an example of the potential of India-U.S. collaboration in this direction. However, India should always prioritize nuclear safety by adopting advanced waste handling and decommissioning technologies, especially as it could lead the manufacturing of Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). With smaller emergency zones and air-cooling capability, SMRs suit water-scarce regions but demand robust, centralized waste management and repurposing strategies from the start.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook report (April 2025) shows concerning levels of global uncertainty amid trade and tariff tensions. For India's energy security and sustainable economic development, bilateral relations between India and the U.S. must offer greater assurance in strategic and shared interests. India's continued growth story and the U.S.'s technological prowess and capital are mutually complementary. A resilient energy future needs a long-term vision, not just the pursuit of short-term wins, a road map, and a resilient architecture of cooperation.

(Dr Arunabha Ghosh is an internationally recognized public policy expert, author, columnist, and institution builder. He is the founder-CEO of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), one of Asia's leading policy research institutions and among the world's 20 best climate think tanks.)

Manipur: A Stain on the Nation's Conscience



By Dave Makkar

The ethnic violence that engulfed Manipur in May 2023, pitting the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities against each other, has exposed profound systemic failures. Beyond the immediate tragedy, the crisis raises urgent questions about governance, justice, and national unity. The ethnic violence that erupted between the Meitei and Kuki communities, is indeed a stain on the nation's conscience. Here's why:

HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE

THE TOLL OF THE CONFLICT IS STAGGERING:

- 260 fatalities, 1,500 injured, and over 70,000 displaced.
- Widespread reports of sexual violence, arson, and targeted killings, including the harrowing video of two Kuki women paraded naked—a moment that sparked national outrage.
- Destruction of 250+ religious sites and entire villages, displacing families into overcrowded, under-resourced relief camps.

Despite these horrors, the state and central responses were marked by delays, indifference, and failure to protect vulnerable communities.

COLLAPSE OF GOVERNANCE

The violence revealed a near-total breakdown of constitutional machinery:

- Law enforcement bias: Allegations of police inaction or complicity deepened distrust, particularly among Kuki communities.
- Segregation: The state fractured into ethnically divided zones—Meitei-dominated valleys and Kuki-Zomi hills—with parallel administrations emerging.
- Judicial condemnation: The Supreme Court labeled the violence a "constitutional failure," mandating a Special Investigation Team (SIT) amid



Manipur: The Humanitarian Crisis and Ethnic Conflict

Photo credit: Stratheia Policy Journal

accusations of institutional apathy.

LEADERSHIP VACUUM

The crisis underscored alarming political failures:

- Delayed response: The Prime Minister broke his silence only after the viral video of women being paraded naked, shook the entire nation, drew national attention, framing his remarks reactively rather than proactively.
- Absenteeism: Despite the scale of the crisis, PM Modi has yet to visit Manipur, eroding public trust in the central government's commitment to reconciliation. The Prime Minister's absence has not gone unnoticed - it has been a source of anger and disappointment for many in the state and across the country. His lack of engagement is more than a political misstep; it is a moral failure that casts a shadow on the government's commitment to national unity and equal treatment for all citizens.
- State government's role: Chief Minister N. Biren Singh faced allegations of bias and mishandling, yet the BJP retained him, delaying accountability until Feb. 2025. The "double engine sarkar" (2 Engine Government; Central & State governed by same party BJP) slogan

rang hollow as coordination between state and central governments faltered.

ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT

1. **HISTORICAL TENSIONS:** Decades of friction between the Meiteis (valley-based, majority Hindu) and Kuki-Zomi tribes (hill-dwelling, predominantly Christian) over land, identity, and political representation.
2. **TRIGGER:** The Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status, opposed by hill tribes fearing marginalization. This is even though in the Imphal Valley of Manipur, most businesses and real estate are predominantly owned and controlled by the Meitei community, which is the largest ethnic group residing in the valley. The Meiteis form the majority population in this central part of the state and have historically been the primary stakeholders in urban and commercial development, especially in Imphal, the capital city. Outsiders can't buy property or land; they can rent or lease from Meiteis. The Kuki and Naga communities, while significant in Manipur as a whole, primarily inhabit the hill districts, and own land in those areas due to constitutional protections under Article 371C and related land laws.
3. **MISINFORMATION:** Social media amplified hate speech and competing narratives, fueling polarization.

TIMELINE OF A CRISIS

- Pre-2023: Simmering tensions over ST status demands, land rights, and religious divides.
- May 2023: A Tribal Solidarity March in Churachandpur sparked clashes, arson, and mass displacement. Internet shutdowns followed.
- May-July 2023: Escalating violence, sexual assaults, and destruction of villages. Security forces criticized for inaction.
- August 2023: Supreme Court intervenes; orders SIT.
- 2024: Segregation hardens; peace talks stall; schools remain closed; armed groups entrench.

PATHWAY TO HEALING

1. Truth and Reconciliation: An independent commission to address grievances and foster dialogue.
2. Justice and Rehabilitation: Compensate victims, rebuild infrastructure, and ensure accountability for atrocities.
3. Institutional Reform: Strengthen impartial policing and equitable resource allocation.
4. Political Will: Central leadership must engage directly, prioritizing unity over electoral calculus.

A MIRROR TO THE NATION

Manipur's tragedy is not an isolated failure but a reflection of deeper fissures: the erosion of trust in institutions, the politicization of identity, and the neglect of marginalized voices. For a nation that celebrates "unity in diversity," the crisis demands introspection and action. Until accountability replaces apathy, Manipur will remain a dark chapter in India's story—one that challenges its democratic conscience. It reveals how minorities and marginalized communities can be left behind if vigilance, empathy, and constitutional values are not actively upheld. Calling it a "stain" is not rhetorical—it is a factual indictment of a nation that must do better.

(Compiled by Dave Makkar from various sources on the internet & writings of eminent writers. Dave is a social activist based in New Jersey, US. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

Neutralizing Terrorism Without Escalating Tension



By Dr. Mike Ghouse

Neutralizing terrorists is undoubtedly a positive development. I welcome efforts dedicated to dismantling terrorist networks and restoring safety for civilians. I'm especially appreciative of the Indian government's initiative to differentiate between Islam and the extremist acts carried out by a radical few. Such distinctions are vital for promoting harmony and mutual respect.

While Pakistan continues to grapple with the challenge of eliminating extremism, India has proactively addressed the pressing issue of terrorism. These actions are commendable and signify a step toward a more secure region.

Public Sentiment and the Path to Peace
People on both sides of the border-

Pakistani and Indian alike—long for an end to violence. It's high time we commit ourselves to long-lasting peace. Even if the timing of these efforts coincides with political agendas or election seasons in states like Bihar, the net impact remains a positive stride toward regional stability.

Rather than inflaming tensions, our mission must be to build an atmosphere in which everyone, regardless of nationality or faith, feels secure and free from the fear of terrorism.

DE-RADICALIZATION FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE : Our shared future hinges on eliminating the threat of terrorism. That begins with re-educating and guiding individuals—whether they are misguided Muslims in Pakistan or misguided Hindus in India—away from extremism and toward peaceful coexistence. Teaching the value of unity, empathy, and collective prosperity is key to steering younger generations in the right direction. First, we must commit to being free from

hatred for each other, no matter how difficult it is. Love conquers the world; it always has been.

FROM SPACE TO STABILITY: TIME TO EXPLORE PEACE : Both India and Pakistan have demonstrated remarkable achievements in space exploration. Now, we must shift our focus toward exploring our potential to nurture peace and societal well-being. No democratic leader should be chosen unless they prioritize dialogue, peace-building, and diplomacy over nuclear posturing and aggression. The journey to peace requires resilience. We must learn to bear frustrations in the short term to secure a safer, more stable tomorrow for all citizens.

THE IMPORTANCE OF TRANSPARENCY AND TRUTH : Peace thrives where trust exists. To move forward with a clear conscience, we must be transparent about tragic incidents like the Pulwama and Pahalgam attacks. It's essential for both the ruling party and the opposition in India to seek and share



concrete evidence. This will reassure peace advocates and uphold our collective integrity.

FINAL THOUGHTS : Lasting peace in South Asia isn't just an aspiration—it's a responsibility. When our neighbors are secure and at peace, we too enjoy that serenity.

Let us commit to fostering understanding, ensuring justice, and living in harmony for the sake of future generations. The future generation should look up to the leadership and admire them for giving them a better future, we owe it to them.

(Dr. Ghouse is the President and founder of the Center for Pluralism and director of the World Muslim Congress. He is an Interfaith Wedding Officiant for InterfaithMarriages.org and a Muslim Wedding Officiant. He is a Muslim, Pluralist, activist, speaker, author, and social scientist. He can be reached at Mikeghouse@gmail.com)



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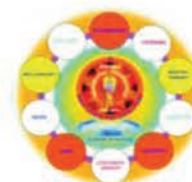
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HEALTH IS WEALTH

AAA-DC Launches Golden Jubilee Celebrations with Grand Eid Milan Event



Singing AMU Tarana

MAY 5, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The Aligarh Alumni Association of Metro Washington (AAA-DC), a leading non-profit organization committed to preserving the legacy of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), launched its Golden Jubilee year with a vibrant Eid Milan celebration at the Rockville Senior Center in Maryland. This milestone event began a year-long commemoration of five decades of community service, educational support, and cultural enrichment.

The evening began on a spiritual note with Ezzah Haziq's soulful recitation of a Qur'anic sura. AAA-DC President Afzal Usmani welcomed the guests, emphasizing the importance of commencing the Jubilee year with Eid Milan—an occasion that beautifully symbolizes unity, gratitude, and renewal. He reiterated AAA-DC's mission to promote education, cultural heritage, and social harmony in the spirit of AMU's founding ideals.

Mohammad Basil's thoughtful address reflected the vision and enduring impact of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, AMU's visionary founder, whose legacy continues to guide generations toward enlightenment and progress.

Maryam Usmani, Shumaila Imran, and Mohammad Basil conducted an interactive trivia quiz on AMU's history to engage the younger generation. Children who answered correctly received prizes, adding a festive and educational dimension to the evening.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Sir Syed Lifetime Achievement Awards, recognizing individuals who have made outstanding contributions to education and

community service:

Mr. Tariq Husain, a former World Bank executive and lifelong advocate for educational initiatives, was inspired by his proud AMU alumni parents.

Dr. Syed Amir has been a guiding force within AAA-DC for over two decades, and his leadership has been instrumental in elevating the association's educational mission.

Dr. Razi Raziuddin and Dr. Arati Raziuddin were recognized for their unwavering dedication to AAA-DC's goals.

Mr. Mustafa Hashmi (posthumously), a former president and devoted leader, was also honored with a lifetime scholarship established in his name at AMU.

Accepting his award, Mr. Tariq Husain said, "Sir Syed Ahmad Khan has been a towering figure of inspiration for me since childhood. I'm deeply honored to be recognized by AAA-DC, which has long served as a beacon of education and community upliftment."

Dr. Syed Amir reflected on the event's success, calling it "a glittering celebration entirely orchestrated by the younger generation of Aligarhians—a sign of continuity and renewal." He acknowledged the pioneering contributions of past leaders, including Drs. Abdullah, Rafat Hussain, Razi Raziuddin, Arati Raziuddin, Tariq Farooqi, Fazal Khan, Aftab Ansari, Hashima Hasan, Ms. Farzana Farooqi, Ms. Shakila Raza, and Ms. Ayesha Khan, who have gracefully passed the torch to new leaders.

A soulful musical performance by the Montgomery Nawabs, a Gaithersburg-based ensemble of South Asian professionals, elevated the evening. Their renditions of ghazals and songs



Celebrating Eid American style with cake cutting captured the audience's imagination and underscored the rich cultural heritage cherished by the AMU community. The group includes Dr. Mohammed Akbar, Khursheed Bigram, Dr. Qazi Hamid, and Mir Karamath Ali, who exemplify intellectual pursuit and artistic expression.

The event was honored by the presence of distinguished leaders from various community organizations, including Aquil Ahmed (University of Karachi Alumni Association), Arif Mahmood (Harf-e-Sukhan), Mohammed Akbar (Hyderabad Association of Washington Metropolitan Area), Nasir Chippa (Association of Indian Muslims), Nuzaira Azam (Global Beat Foundation), Parvez Uppal (Pakistan Association), Shah Fazal Abbas (Arbab-e-Zauq), and Tahira Aziz (Urdu Academy of Maryland). Notable attendees also included Afshan Nizami, daughter of the late Z. A. Nizami, founder of Sir Syed College of Engineering and Technology in Karachi, as well as Saeeda Huque and Firoza Salahuddin, whose presence was warmly acknowledged.

Founded in 1975, AAA-DC has grown into one of North America's most prominent AMU alumni organizations. With a robust calendar of events—including the annual Sir Syed Day Celebration, International Mushaira, Independence Day Mushaira & Kavi Sammelan, and community picnics—the Association fosters Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb and strengthens cultural bonds.

AAA-DC also raises funds for scholarships at AMU and supports community education centers across India. Its partnerships with organizations such as the Association of Indian Muslims (AIMS), the Hyderabad Association of Metro Washington Area (HAWMA), the Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations, the National Council of Asian Indian Associations (NCAIA), and the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, Metro-Washington (GOPIO-Metro Washington), have broadened its humanitarian reach and impact.

As AAA-DC enters its 50th year, it continues to uphold the timeless values of Aligarh-education, enlightenment, and unity. The association invites the community to participate in its upcoming signature events, including the Sir Syed Day Celebration in October, the Annual International Mushaira, and the Independence Day Mushaira & Kavi Sammelan.

Mohammad Haziq ably coordinated the Eid Milan event and served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Treasurer Salman Shahid concluded the night by extending heartfelt thanks to all volunteers, participants, and guests for their enthusiastic support and contributions to a memorable evening.

The author thanks Mr. Afzal Usmani and Dr. Mohammad Akbar for the photographs.

(Based on a press release issued by Zafar Iqbal, PhD)



Saudi Arabia Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir visited India unannounced amid tensions with Pakistan. Photo: PTI

Saudi Arabia says mediating between India and Pakistan for de-escalation

MAY 10, 2025

RIYADH (TIP): Saudi Arabia on Saturday, May 10 morning, confirmed it was working to mediate between India and Pakistan for de-escalation.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said upon the directives of the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Member of the Council of Ministers, and Climate Envoy Adel al-Jubeir visited India and Pakistan during the period of May 8-9, 2025. "The visit comes as part of the Kingdom's efforts towards de-escalation," Riyadh said.

Earlier, the Saudi Arabia Deputy Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir

had an unscheduled visit to Delhi where he met both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

He later visited Islamabad and met the top political and military brass there.

(TNS)

A Night of Verse and Solidarity: Chicago's Urdu Mushaira Unites Hearts

ECHOES OF PEACE: URDU MUSHAIRA LIGHTS UP CHICAGO WITH LOVE AND VERSE
HEARTSTRINGS AND GHAZALS: A NIGHT OF URDU ELEGANCE AND SOLIDARITY IN UNITED STATE OF AMERICA

MAY 7, 2025

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): On the evening of May 3, 2025, the National India Hub in Schaumburg transformed into a vibrant tapestry of poetry, culture, and unity as it hosted An Evening of Unity - Urdu Mushaira & Cultural Night. This soul-stirring event, bought by the host Iftekhhar Shareef was organized by Ashfaq Sharief, Khurram Syed, and Mohammed Hafeez, drew a diverse crowd to celebrate the timeless beauty of Urdu poetry while fostering a powerful message of peace and solidarity. From evocative verses to heartfelt tributes, the night resonated with the spirit of community, transcending borders and beliefs.

The evening was graced by Chief [Host] Guest: Iftekhhar Shareef, First Overseas Citizen of India, Guest of honor Ausaf Sayeed, a prominent community leader, and former Consul General of India in Chicago. The event, which commenced at 7:00 PM, was a houseful affair, with attendees eagerly awaiting performances by luminaries such as Imran Pratapgarhi, a celebrated poet and Member of Parliament from India, and Lata Haya, a poetic powerhouse from Bombay. Joining them were international guest Sohail Zarrar from London, UK, Dr Noor Amrohvi from Dallas, Texas, and local Chicago poets, including Nazar Naqvi, Kashif Haidar, Dr. Lateef Saif, Mehboob Ali, and Fahad Khan.

Amplifying this call for peace, Shareef addressed the persistent scourge of terrorism, particularly India's enduring struggle. "We've gathered to condemn the terrorist act in Kashmir last week," he declared. "Terrorism has no place in the world, regardless of the country. India has faced this for over 70 years, and we earnestly plead: this must not recur. We urge governments, the global community, and the President of the United States to denounce such acts." Highlighting Imran Pratapgarhi's presence, Iftekhhar Shareef praised the poet's dynamic leadership in joining this unified stand against violence, elevating the mushaira's message to a global stage.

The event was emceed by Ashfaq Sharief. Dr. Noor Amrohvi and Ashar

Mehdi did the Nezamat for the poets.

The mushaira began with a poignant moment of silence, led by Ashfaq Sharief, to honor the victims of a recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir. Followed by the U.S. and Indian National Anthem. This solemn tribute set the tone for the evening, as poets and attendees united in condemning terrorism and advocating for peace. Iftekhhar Shareef emphasized, "Urdu is a language for everyone, irrespective of religion Hindu, Muslim,

brought an international flair, reflecting Urdu's global resonance. Local poet Fahad Khan opened the mushaira with verses like, "We tried enmity with ourselves again / Tired of life, we tried suicide," striking a chord with their raw emotion. The performances, moderated by Ashar Mehdi, flowed seamlessly, with each poet contributing to the evening's rich mosaic of thought and feeling.

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, reflecting on his deep connection to Urdu, shared, "My father

Evening for Peace and Unity." Known for his popular poetry, prestigious awards, and widely attended mushairas, Dr. Noor continues to be a celebrated voice for the Urdu-Hindi speaking community.

Beyond poetry, the evening was a cultural feast, with delectable food available to complement the soulful ambiance. The audience, a vibrant mix of ages and backgrounds, remained engaged despite a delayed start due to traffic challenges. Organizers apologized for the inconvenience, promising an even grander event in the future to accommodate Pratapgarhi's massive fan base, which sold out tickets in just days.

The mushaira concluded with a standing ovation for the poets and organizers, followed by the national anthems of the USA and India, symbolizing the shared values of both nations. Flowers were presented to the guest poets, and Minhaj Akhtar, President of the IOC Committee - Midwest region, joined in honoring the performers. Iftekhhar Shareef's closing remarks reiterated the event's commitment to fostering peace and cultural harmony, leaving attendees inspired and uplifted.

This mushaira was more than an evening of poetry; it was a movement of hearts united for peace and humanity. Asian Media USA is proud to support such initiatives that showcase the power of Urdu to bridge communities. Events like these remind us of our shared heritage and the urgent need to stand against division and violence. We congratulate Iftekhhar Shareef, the organizers, and the poets for creating a night that will resonate in Chicago's cultural landscape for years to come." Mr. Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman and Founder of Asian Media USA

This unforgettable evening not only celebrated Urdu's lyrical legacy but also reinforced its role as a beacon of unity in a fractured world. As attendees left the National India Hub, they carried with them the echoes of verses that spoke of love, resilience, and hope-proof that poetry can indeed change hearts and minds.

(Photograph and press release by Asian Media USA)



Christian, Sikh. It bridges hearts through Bollywood songs, poetry, and shared culture." His words echoed the event's theme of unity, highlighting Urdu's universal appeal. Imran Pratapgarhi, a star of the night, captivated the audience with his powerful nazms and ghazals. His poem Lab Pe Aati Hai Dua reimaged Allama Iqbal's classic, weaving a heartfelt prayer for peace in conflict-torn regions like Palestine. "When bullets fly anywhere, it is humanity that dies," he declared, urging the world to embrace love over hatred. His Lal Qila personifying the Red Fort as a witness to India's history, stirred patriotic fervor, earning thunderous applause. Pratapgarhi's ability to blend social commentary with poetic finesse left the audience spellbound.

Lata Haya's soulful recitations added a lyrical charm, while Sohail Zarrar

and uncle were renowned poets in Chicago. Urdu is not just a language; it's a legacy of unity." He praised the organizers for creating a platform that celebrates cultural diversity, noting Chicago's growing prominence as a hub for Urdu literature. The event also acknowledged the contributions of Asian Media USA, whose media coordination ensured widespread coverage, amplifying the mushaira's message.

Dr. Noor Amrohvi is a Literary Icon and Community Leader in Dallas. He is a distinguished poet and businessman originally from India, has emerged as one of the most prominent literary figures in the Dallas, Texas area. As the chairman of Al-Noor International, he has made significant contributions to Urdu literature and culture, organizing acclaimed international events like "An

US considers special status for Greenland amid Trump push for control

MAY 9, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US officials are discussing a plan to pull Greenland into America's sphere of influence using a type of agreement that the United States has used to keep close ties with several Pacific Island nations, according to two US officials and another person familiar with the discussions.

Under the plan being considered, the Trump administration would propose to Greenland's leaders that the island enter into a so-called compact of free association, or Cofa, with the United States.

While the precise details of Cofa agreements - which have only ever been extended to the small island nations of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands

and Palau - vary depending on the signatory, the US government typically provides many essential services, from mail delivery to emergency management to military protection. In exchange, the US military operates freely in Cofa countries and trade with the US is largely duty-free.

Donald Trump, who during his first administration floated the idea of acquiring Greenland, has pressed even harder since taking office in January, refusing to rule out taking the island by force. Denmark, which governs the island, has sharply rebuffed the idea.

A Cofa agreement would stop short of Trump's ambition to make the island of 57,000 people a part of the US. It is not the only Greenland plan on the table, the



A picture of the beautiful Greenland

sources said, and it would face many practical hurdles.

Some officials at the national security council and the national energy dominance council, which Trump established, are involved in the talks, two of the sources said. The national economic council is also involved, one of those sources added.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Celebrating their 75th anniversary in Canadian politics, East Indians send 25 of their nominees to Parliament



--->By Prabhjot Singh

The rapidly growing East Indian community, as the Canadian regime of the early 20th century used to describe it, is rejoicing at its overwhelming success in the just-concluded federal elections.

As almost every fourth of its candidates- 25 of 96-was declared successful in the election to the 45th House of Commons, the community could not have asked for more in a country where its population is less than 4 per cent of the total 40 million.

Riding a wave of political successes, both for the ruling Liberals and the main Opposition, the Conservatives, the community lost its sole national party leader when the New Democratic Party chief, Jagmeet Singh, was defeated in the Burnaby riding in British Columbia.

Quick to admit his defeat, Jagmeet Singh has offered to step down from the leadership of the party. Another politician of the East Indian clan to lose the election has been federal minister Kamal Khera. She lost to a compatriot Conservative candidate, Amarjeet Gill from Brampton West.

Since 1993, when the East Indians sent three of their nominees - Gurbax Singh Malhi, Herb Dhaliwal and Jag Bhaduria (all Liberals) - the community has never looked back, taking its strength to a record quarter century mark in the 45th House of Commons. These 25 East Indian MPs are almost equally divided between two major parties - the ruling Liberals and the main Opposition, the Conservatives. Liberals have 14 and the Conservatives remaining 11 in a House of 343. Their sole representative in the NDP - Jagmeet Singh - no more sits in the House of Commons.

Never before have Conservatives had so many East Indian MPs.

Interestingly, the Canadian voters have elected six Sikh MPs with the same surname - Gill. All of them belong to the Conservatives. They are Parm Gill, Harbinder Gill, Dalwinder Gill, Amanpreet Gill, Sukhman Gill and Amarjeet Gill.

Incidentally, one of two Amarjeets - Amarjeet Sohi, a former Cabinet Minister in Justin Trudeau's government - lost while trying to stage a comeback in federal politics. He is currently the Mayor of Edmonton. He lost to an East Indian and a Sikh candidate, Jagsharan Singh Mahal.

Other former MP, Parm Gill, however, succeeded in re-entering the House of Commons from Ontario. He had been a minister in the previous Stephen Harper Conservative government.

The results of the April 28 polls have shown that the ruling Liberal party, led by its new leader Mark Carney, will be four members short of a clear majority as it could win only 168 seats against 153 it had in the last House.

The Conservatives performed better under their leader, Pierre Poilievre, by improving their tally from 120 in the previous House to 144, but had the misfortune of losing their leader from a riding - Carlton - he had been representing for a long time.

NDP led by Jagmeet Singh performed miserably as it could retain only 7 of its 24 seats. Jagmeet was among the losers. The third major political outfit, Bloc Québécois,

too, performed below its expectations and ended with 23 seats, 10 short of its strength of 33 in the previous House.

Though both the ruling Liberals (15) and the main Opposition Conservatives (24) gained numbers, neither could clear the majority mark, thus leaving the country to its third consecutive government. Though the first two minority Liberal governments in 2019 and again in 2021 were led by Justin Trudeau, this time a seasoned banker and a newcomer to electoral politics, Mark Carney, spearheaded the party campaign amidst threats of tariff war and repeated mocking by the US President Donald Trump to make Canada 51st state of his country.

In 2004, when Liberals led a minority government with 135 members in a House of 301, things did not change much except for a majority government each by the Conservatives (Stephen Harper in 2011 with 166 of 308 seats) and the Liberals (Justin Trudeau in 2015 with 184 seats - the highest by any party in the current centennial). All the remaining - 2006 Conservatives, 2008 Conservatives, 2019



Liberals and 2021 Liberals - were minority governments.

Unlike many other democracies, Canada has successfully demonstrated over the years the concept and success of minority government, though none of these has completed its full term in office. The last Liberal government, first led by Justin Trudeau and then Mark Carney, survived a couple of no-confidence motions to survive for nearly three years, mainly due to an understanding with one of the Opposition parties - the NDP.

How Mark Carney now manages a confidence vote on the Throne speech and financial bills would be an issue of animated interest. The defeated leader of the Conservatives, Pierre Poilievre, says that his party would continue to confront the minority government on issues of Canadians' interest.

How long the new Mark Carney government lasts is anybody's guess. For the time being, the strong East Indian community is feeling relieved for its increased presence in the House of Commons and hopes that toxic issues like immigration, international students, and above all, relations with India, would be taken up on a priority basis for a lasting peace.

The community would also be watching with tremendous interest as how many of its 14 Liberal MPs get represented in the new Cabinet of Mark Carney, with names of Anita Anand, Bardish Chagger,

Maninder Sidhu, Randeep Serai, and Anju Dhillon running high on the list.

HERE IS THE LIST OF THE EAST INDIANS ELECTED TO SIT IN THE 45TH HOUSE OF COMMONS:

LIBERAL PARTY (14 MPS)

1. Anita Anand - Oakville East / Ontario
Re-elected. Former Defense and Treasury Board Minister. Academic and legal scholar with a University of Toronto background.

2. Bardish Chagger - Waterloo / Ontario
Fourth-term MP. Former Minister for Diversity, House Leader, and Small Business. Strong community credentials in Kitchener-Waterloo.

3. Iqinder Gaheer - Mississauga-Malton / Ontario

Second-term MP. Harvard Law graduate; legal professional with a business background from the Schulich School of Business.

4. Ruby Sahota - Brampton North / Ontario

Fourth-term MP. Former Chief Government Whip and Minister. Lawyer

by training; active in women's and multicultural advocacy.

5. Maninder Sidhu - Brampton East / Ontario

Third-term MP. Entrepreneur and founder of The Kindness Movement Charity. Focused on education and international development.

6. Sonia Sidhu - Brampton South / Ontario

Worked in the healthcare field as a diabetes educator and research coordinator.

7. Amandeep Sodhi - Brampton Centre / Ontario

First-time MP. Limited background details available; emerged as a grassroots community choice.

8. Param Bains - Richmond East-Steveston / British Columbia

Second-term MP focus on youth engagement.

9. Sukh Dhaliwal - Surrey Newton / British Columbia

Re-elected. Veteran MP and businessman. Known for strong links with both Indian and Canadian diaspora groups.

10. Gurbax Saini - Fleetwood-Port Kells / British Columbia

First-time MP. Background yet to be fully detailed; described as a rising Liberal face in British Columbia

11. Randeep Sarai - Surrey Centre / British Columbia

Fourth-term MP. Lawyer, entrepreneur,

and Chair of the Justice Committee. Longstanding civic involvement.

12. Anju Dhillon - Dorval-Lachine / Quebec

Re-elected. Among the early Punjabi women in federal politics. Legal and advocacy background.

13. Gary Anandasangaree - Scarborough-Guildwood-Rogue Park

Re-elected, former Minister

14. Juanita Nathan - Pickering-Brooklyn

First-time MP

CONSERVATIVE PARTY (11 MPS)

1. Amarjeet Gill - Brampton West / Ontario

First-time MP. Defeated sitting minister Kamal Khera. Known for grassroots organizing.

2. Shuvaloy Majumdar - Calgary-Heritage

Second time MP

3. Harbinder Gill - Windsor West / Ontario

First-time MP. Local economic campaigner with a focus on jobs and manufacturing revival.

4. Parm Gill - Milton East / Ontario

Returned to federal Parliament after serving provincially. Former Ontario minister. Experienced legislator.

5. Arpan Khanna - Oxford / Ontario

Second-term MP. First elected in a 2023 by-election. Focused on youth participation and infrastructure.

6. Amanpreet Gill - Calgary Skyview / Alberta

First-time MP. Background not publicly documented at the time of the election.

7. Dalwinder Gill - Calgary McKnight / Alberta

First-time MP. Veteran realtor and community activist. Known for neighborhood-level engagement.

8. Jasraj Hallan - Calgary East / Alberta

Re-elected. Advocate for affordable housing. Prominent voice on economic policy within the party.

9. Jagsharan Mahal - Edmonton Southeast / Alberta

First-time MP. Defeated former mayor Amarjeet Sohi. Known for education and interfaith outreach.

10. Tim Uppal - Edmonton Gateway / Alberta

Re-elected. Deputy Leader of the Conservative Party. Former Harper cabinet minister. MBA holder from Ivey.

11. Sukhman Gill - Abbotsford South-Langley / British Columbia

First-time MP. Farmer and agriculture advocate. Strong rural base and ties to Moga, Punjab.

(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)

Pope Leo XIV: Robert Prevost, from Peru missionary to first American pontiff

US Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church on Thursday, May 8, taking the name Pope Leo XIV. After serving as missionary and archbishop in Peru, Prevost presided over one of the most revolutionary reforms of Pope Francis's pontificate, for the first time appointing women to an influential body involved in the nomination of bishops.

Robert Francis Prevost – who has chosen the papal name Leo XIV – may not be the Latin American Jesuit wildcard that his predecessor, Pope Francis, was, but his election is similarly historic.

In the figure of the 69-year-old former head of the Augustinian order, the Roman Catholic church has its very first US leader. Until Thursday evening, the idea of the fisherman's ring being slipped on to a North American hand was seen as a fairly distant possibility. The Vatican's longstanding opposition to a US pope stemmed largely from the optics of having a pontiff from a political superpower and a country with such a hegemonic cultural and secular global influence.

But all that changed after a short conclave that chose a man who had been a cardinal for only a little more than two years. While his appointment is likely to be welcomed by progressive factions within the church, it was probably not the news that some of his more conservative, Trump-aligned US brother cardinals had been hoping for.

Despite being born in Chicago on 14 September 1955, Prevost has never been a typical US Catholic cleric – not least because he also holds Peruvian citizenship. After giving his solemn vows in 1981 and studying in Rome, he was sent to a mission in Peru. He would go on to spend many years there as judicial vicar and as a professor of canon, patristic and moral law at a seminary in Peru's third city, Trujillo, before being appointed bishop of another northern city, Chiclayo, in November 2014.

Those who know him from his time in Peru – where the church has often been beset by tensions between leftwing proponents of liberation theology and uber-traditionalist Catholics – recall a calm and grounded leader who would sit down to breakfast with his fellow priests after morning prayers.

"No matter how many problems he has, he maintains good humour and joy," the Rev Fidel Purisaca Vigil, the communications director for Prevost's old diocese in Chiclayo, told the Associated Press.

As a recent profile in *Crux* noted, Prevost acquired a reputation over the years as a hard-working and "moderating influence" among Peru's ideologically disparate bishops, a talent that will prove invaluable during his papacy.

In January 2023, Francis – who himself had to manage competing theological strains during his time as leader of the Jesuits in the turbulent, violent and oppressive Argentina of the 1970s – made Prevost a cardinal.



Newly elected Pope Robert Francis Prevost arrives on the main central loggia balcony of the St Peter's Basilica for the first time, after the cardinals ended the conclave, in The Vatican, on May 8, 2025. Credit: ALBERTO PIZZOLI/AFP via Getty

Until Thursday, May 8, evening, Prevost's most high-profile Vatican roles had been as president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, which oversees the selection of new bishops from around the world.

His strong connection to Latin America, combined with his more recent roles at the top of the church, may have gone a long way in endearing him to those who would not usually countenance the idea of a US pope.

Prevost's recent CV also makes clear his proximity to Francis and he will doubtless be seen by many as a surprise, if welcome, kind of continuity candidate.

Donald Trump, who hailed the appointment, calling the arrival of the first US pope "a Great Honor for our Country", seldom saw eye-to-eye with Francis. The late pope was forthright in his criticism of Trump's border and immigration policies – not least his desire to wall off Mexico.

"A person who thinks only about building walls, wherever they may be, and not of building bridges, is not Christian," Francis said in February 2016. "This is not the gospel."

The blunt rebuke did not land well with Trump. "For a religious leader to question a person's faith is disgraceful," he said in response. "No leader,



especially a religious leader, has the right to question another man's religion or faith."

Whether Trump is right to be looking forward to meeting Pope Leo XIV – "it will be a very meaningful moment!" – will depend on the degree to which the new bishop of Rome emulates his predecessor.

Towards the beginning of his widely admired papacy, Francis insisted that the

church should not be remote, nor cloistered, nor complacent in its relationship with the world.

"'Mere administration' can no longer be enough," he wrote. "Throughout the world, let us be 'permanently in a state of mission'." Francis was adamant that the church he led for 12 years would be a church for "todos, todos, todos" (everyone, everyone, everyone). He also said he preferred a church "which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security".

More than a decade on, the streets – from Gaza and Ukraine to Sudan and Kashmir – have only become more bloody and more violent. As he addressed the world from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica on Thursday, May 8, Pope Leo XIV's first words were: "Peace be with you."

His subsequent message, stressing the importance of peace, dialogue and missionary evangelisation, befitted the former leader of a mendicant order dedicated to poverty, service and pastoral work. But in his plea for peace to "enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are", there was also, perhaps, more than a trace of his much-loved and much-missed predecessor. *Source: The Guardian*

7 Jaish terrorists killed while trying to infiltrate Jammu's Samba

The Border Security Force (BSF) foiled a major infiltration attempt along the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district killing seven terrorists suspected to be affiliated with Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), sources told India Today TV.

The operation unfolded around 11 pm on May 8, when BSF troops detected suspicious movement near the Samba border. "At around 2300 hours on 8 May 2025, BSF foiled a major infiltration bid at the International Boundary in Samba district, J&K," the BSF confirmed in a post on X.

A video showed BSF troops causing extensive damage to Pakistani post Dhandhar while killing at least seven terrorists to foil a major infiltration bid. The incident came amid rapidly escalating military tensions between India and Pakistan. Earlier on Thursday, India thwarted a Pakistani attempt to target multiple military installations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur using missiles and drones, signalling a dangerous uptick in hostilities. Pakistan's attack came a day after India carried out strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) on May 7, killing around 100 terrorists.

Senior govt official, toddler among 5 killed in Pakistani shelling across Jammu region

Five persons, including a senior J&K government official and a two-year-old girl, were killed as intense mortar shelling and drone strikes by Pakistan hit Jammu region early Saturday, May 10, officials said.

Residents of Jammu city and other major towns of the division woke up to air raid sirens and deafening sounds of explosions around 5 am, while the border residents spent a sleepless night in the wake of intense shelling from across the border.

"Pakistan's blatant attempt to violate India's sovereignty and endanger civilians is unacceptable. Indian Army will thwart all enemy designs," they said. Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri, and his two staff members were seriously injured when an artillery shell hit his official residence in Rajouri town, the officials said.

They were rushed to the Government Medical College where Thapa succumbed to his injuries, they said.

Condoling Thapa's death, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X, "Devastating news from Rajouri. We have lost a dedicated officer of the J-K Administration Services."

BSF destroys terrorist launch pad in Sialkot's Looni in Pakistan

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a strong retaliatory move after unprovoked firing by Pakistan Rangers on Friday, May 9, night, the Border Security Force (BSF) confirmed it had destroyed a terrorist launch pad in Looni, located in Pakistan's Sialkot district across from Jammu's Akhnoor sector.

The action was a calibrated response to the ceasefire violation that began around 9 pm on May 9.

"The terrorist launch pad at Looni was completely destroyed," BSF said in a statement issued on Saturday, emphasising the force's commitment to neutralising cross-border threats.

This development marks a significant escalation in tensions along the International Boundary, even as Indian forces remain on high alert to ensure the nation's security and sovereignty.

India repels Pak attacks for second night in a row

India hit back at Pakistan on Friday night after repelling Pakistani drone strikes at 26 locations in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, as Islamabad ratcheted up hostilities for the second straight day, raising fears of a full-blown conflict. Three civilians were injured in an armed drone strike in Punjab's Ferozepur town. Drones were sighted across a wide arc of locations – ranging from Baramulla and Srinagar in the north to Bhuj in the west – along both the international border and the Line of Control, the army said.

"The Indian armed forces are maintaining a high state of alert, and all such aerial threats are being tracked and engaged using counter-drone systems.



Pakistani drones that were neutralised in Bathinda on Thursday night. PTI

The situation is under close and constant watch, and prompt action is being taken wherever necessary," the army said.

The strikes came a day after Pakistan targeted 36 locations inside India with 300 to 400 Turkish-origin armed drones and used civilian airliners as a shield to attack military sites, prompting New Delhi to strike Islamabad's air defence systems at four places and destroying one of them.

On May 9 night, Indian forces launched an appropriate and proportionate counter-strike. A number of civilian flights were operating in airports such as Lahore and Islamabad at the time of the drone strikes, lending credence to India's claim earlier in the day that Pakistan was using civilian flights as a shield to attack its neighbouring country.

"An armed drone targeted a civilian area in Ferozepur, resulting in severe

injuries to members of a local family. The injured have been provided medical assistance and the area has been sanitised by security forces," said the army officials.

The drones included suspected armed drones posing potential threats to civilian and military targets, said the officials.

"Citizens, especially in border areas, are advised to remain indoors, limit unnecessary movement, and strictly follow safety instructions issued by local authorities. While there is no need for panic, heightened vigilance and precaution are essential," the army said. The shower of drone strikes on military sites seen on May 9 night represented the third wave of attacks by Pakistan since India's Operation Sindoor struck nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir in the early hours of Wednesday.

On May 7 night, India had thwarted Pakistani attacks on 15 places and on Thursday night, repelled attacks at 36 locations. On all three occasions, New Delhi launched a swift counter-attack, inflicting damage on Pakistani air defence systems.

The escalations represent the worst face-off between the two nuclear-armed neighbours in decades and ratcheted up fears of a full-blown conflict.

Air raid sirens wailed and blackouts imposed across a wide swathe of cities and hamlets – from Srinagar to Jodhpur and Bilaspur to Ambala, just 200km away from the national capital. Visuals showed a shower of golden streaks across the night sky and bright flashes where defence systems engaged with incoming projectiles as loud bangs pierced the silence.

New low for Pak, it's deliberately hitting religious sites: India's foreign secretary

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on May 9 took on Pakistan for deliberately firing at religious sites in India and also falsely accusing New Delhi of trying to hit Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak.

Misri said Pakistan was targeting and shelling places of worship, including gurdwaras, convents and temples. "This is a new low even for Pakistan," he said during a media briefing. The Foreign Secretary questioned Islamabad for denying having carried out last night's attacks on India. This, he said, was "an official and blatantly farcical denial by Pakistan's state machinery". "The gurdwara in Poonch, in particular, was attacked by Pakistan and a few members of the Sikh community, including a gurdwara priest, lost their lives in the



attack," he said.

Misri said Pakistan had been making "outrageous claims that India was itself targeting cities like Amritsar and putting blame on Islamabad". "That we will attack our own cities is the kind of deranged fantasy that only Pakistan can come up with," he said.

The Foreign Secretary also mentioned how Pakistan was lying on India targeting the Nankana Sahib Gurdwara (west of Lahore) through a drone attack. "Pakistan is again trying to impart a communal hue to the situation to create discord," Misri said the Christ School, run by the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate, was hit in Poonch and two students were killed.

A Pakistani shell also struck a Christian Convent of Nuns belonging to the congregation of the Mother of Carmel.

Kartarpur corridor closed indefinitely

Misri said the services at the Kartarpur Sahib corridor had been suspended until further notice. The 4.7-km-long corridor connects Indian border in Gurdaspur with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.

'Dangerous message': India on IMF bailout to Pak, abstains from vote

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Friday, May 9, cleared a loan of about \$1 billion to Pakistan with India abstaining from the vote and describing the move as "dangerous". India, an active IMF member, said rewarding continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism "sends a dangerous message to the global community, exposes funding agencies and donors to reputational risks, and makes a mockery of global values".

India said while the concern that fungible inflows from international financial institutions, like the IMF, could be misused for military and state-sponsored cross-border terrorist purposes resonated with several member countries, "the IMF response is circumscribed by procedural and technical formalities".

"This is a serious gap highlighting the urgent need to ensure that moral values are given appropriate consideration in the procedures followed by global financial institutions. The IMF took note of the India's statements and its abstention from the vote," a statement from the Ministry of Finance said.

The PTI, meanwhile, quoted the Pakistan PMO as saying that the IMF has approved immediate disbursement of about \$1 billion to Pakistan under the ongoing Extended Fund Facility.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed satisfaction over the approval of a \$1 billion instalment for Pakistan by the IMF and the failure of India's high-handed tactics against it," the PTI report said. India registered a very strong protest at the IMF and said Pakistan military's deeply entrenched interference in economic affairs posed a significant risks of policy slippages and reversal of reforms.

"Even when a civilian government is in power now, the army continues to play an outsized role in domestic politics and extends its tentacles deep into the economy. A 2021 UN report described military-linked businesses as the "largest conglomerate in Pakistan". The situation has not changed for the better; rather the Pakistan Army now plays a leading role in the Special Investment Facilitation Council of Pakistan," said India which is engaged in thwarting constant escalations by Pakistan.

Ministry of Finance sources here said India abstained from the IMF vote on approving a loan to Pakistan not due to a lack of opposition, but because IMF rules do not permit a formal "no" vote. "By abstaining, India conveyed its strong dissent within the IMF's constraints," Indian government sources said.

India questioned the effectiveness of ongoing IMF assistance, noting that Pakistan has received support in 28 of the past 35 years, including four programmes, in just the last five without meaningful or lasting reform. It firmly opposed providing funds to a country that continues to sponsor cross-border terrorism and warned that such support carries reputational risks for global institutions.

India vs Pakistan: Comparision of military capabilities of two nations

Amid heightened tensions following the Pahalgam attack that killed 26, India on Wednesday retaliated with strikes on nine terror sites in Pakistan and POK, maintaining it has shown 'considerable restraint' in selection of targets.

"Justice is served", the Indian Army tweeted earlier on Wednesday, May 7, as it announced the codename of the mission.

According to reports, among the precise targets hit were the Markaz Subhan Allah at Bahawalpur, Sarjal at Tehra Kalan, Markaz Abbas in Kotli, and Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad, all linked to the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Other targets included the Markaz Taiba at Murdike, Markaz Ahle Hadith at Barnala, and Shwawai Nalla camp at Muzaffarabad, all associated with the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba.

A report by India Today, Rafale jets armed with SCALP cruise missiles and HAMMER precision-guided munitions were used for the strikes on terror camps in Pakistan.

Precision strike weapon systems from the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, including loitering munitions, were employed in Operation Sindoor, sources told ANI.

The coordinates for the attacks were provided by intelligence agencies, and the strikes were carried out entirely from Indian soil.

According to Global Firepower Index 2025, which lists world's most powerful armies, India secured fourth place while Pakistan slipped from ninth to twelfth position.

The Global Firepower Index considers data from over 60 factors, which includes the country's GDP, population, military strength, and purchasing power among other aspects to determine the fighting potential of a country.

Here is a comparison showcasing the relative conventional fighting strengths of India and Pakistan in 2025.

Defence budget

India is the second most populated country in the world and Pakistan ranks at number five. India's defence budget for 2025-26 has been set at Rs 6.8 lakh crore (\$79 billion), reflecting a 9.5% increase over the previous fiscal's budget estimates. Meanwhile, Pakistan is expected to increase its defence budget by Rs 159 billion for the fiscal year 2025-26, taking the total allocation to Rs2,281 billion, according to reports.

Military strength

In terms of soldiers, India ranks second globally, with 1,455,550 active personnel. Additionally, India



possesses a reserve force of 1,155,000 soldiers, stated the index. Meanwhile, Pakistani army boasts 654,000 soldiers. India has 2,527,000 paramilitary forces while Pakistan has 500,000 paramilitary forces.

India has 4,201 tanks while Pakistan has 2,627. India also boasts advanced systems such as T-90 Bhishma and Arjun tanks, BrahMos missiles, and the Pinaka rocket system.

India has 148,594 armoured vehicles, three times more than Pakistan.

Pakistan also has more self-propelled artillery systems than – a staggering difference of 662 between the two nations.

Airforce

Pakistan possesses a total of 1,399 aircraft, including 328 fighter jets, stated the Index. Meanwhile, India has 2,229 aircraft with 513 jets. India has 6 aerial tankers while Pakistan has 4. In terms of helicopters, India has 899 while Pakistan has 373.

Navy

India has a long maritime border with economic and security interests in the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and

the Indian Ocean. Meanwhile, Pakistan has a maritime border along the Arabian Sea only. India has a much stronger and larger Navy than Pakistan with a fleet strength of 293 compared to its arch-rival's 121.

Two aircraft carriers - INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant and other platforms like destroyers, corvettes, frigates, and submarines, make India a Blue-water navy. It means India as a maritime force can operate globally and can bring its fighter jets and other lethal weapon systems to any part of the world with its carriers. The US Navy is the largest Blue Water Navy in the world.

India has 18 submarines while the neighbouring country has 8. Pakistan also has zero destroyers.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has zero aircraft carriers, and its limited strength makes it a 'Green-water Navy' that can operate in its region.

According to News18, intel report said that the forensic analysis and survivor testimony confirmed the use of military-grade weapons and communication devices, indicating logistical support from trained handlers.

Source: Moneycontrol

India in history this Week

MAY 9 TO MAY 15

09 MAY



1540 King of Shishodia dynasty Maharana Pratap was born in Udaipur, Mewar, who struggled with Mughal Emperor Akbar for many years.

1866 Freedom fighter, philanthropist, thinker and reformer Gopal Krishna Gokhale was also born on this day.

2010 India's Vandana Shiva was selected for the Sydney Peace Prize for women's empowerment and environmental protection in developing countries.

1653 The world-famous historical building and the Taj Mahal, one of the world's wonders, was completed after 22 years of continuous work.

1866 Birth of great leader, social reformer and thinker Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

1874 The first horse-drawn tram car started in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1946 The first Satyagraha movement against the Portuguese rule started in Goa under the leadership of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

1986 The first person to reach Mount Everest, Himalaya, Tenzing Norgay died in 1986.

1998 Famous Indian Ghazal singer and actor Talat Mehmood died in 1998.

10 MAY

1526 After victory in the first battle of Panipat, Babur entered Akbarabad (Agra), the capital of erstwhile India.



2002 India's famous poet Kaifi Azmi passed away.

1993 Santosh Yadav became the first female climber to reach Everest, the world's highest mountain peak twice.

1857 The first battle of freedom struggle started from the cantonment of Meerut.

1857 Indian fighters started a revolt in Delhi from the British East India Company.

1946 Jawaharlal Nehru was elected the leader of the Congress party in India.

11 MAY

1784 Treaty between the British and Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore.

1951 President Rajendra Prasad inaugurated the newly constructed Somnath Temple.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was elected the President of India. He succeeded Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

1998 India announced three nuclear tests at Pokaran in Rajasthan.

2000 According to the population clock, India's population reached one billion.

2007 The Bahujan Samaj Party secured a majority in the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections and party leader Mayawati took over as the chief minister.

1960 The first contraceptive pill market was made available in 1960.

2005 In 2005, the World Bank appointed a neutral expert on the Baglihar project to settle Indo-Pak differences.

2011 India and Pakistan agreed to start a bus service between Lahore and Amritsar.

1918 India's famous classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai was born in 1918.

2002 Princess of Bhopal politics and India's first female pilot Abida Sultan died in 2002.

12 MAY

1459 Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur.

1666 Under the treaty of Purandar, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj reached Agra to meet Aurangzeb.

1915 The revolutionary Rasbihari Bose left India aboard the Japanese yacht Sanuki Maru.

1993 Famous Hindi poet Shamsheer Bahadur Singh passed away.

1921 The first National Hospital Day was celebrated.

1926 Airship Norgay became the first vessel to fly to the North Pole.



1949 Vijayalakshmi Pandit became the first foreign woman ambassador of independent India.

13 MAY

1905 Birth of former President of India Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

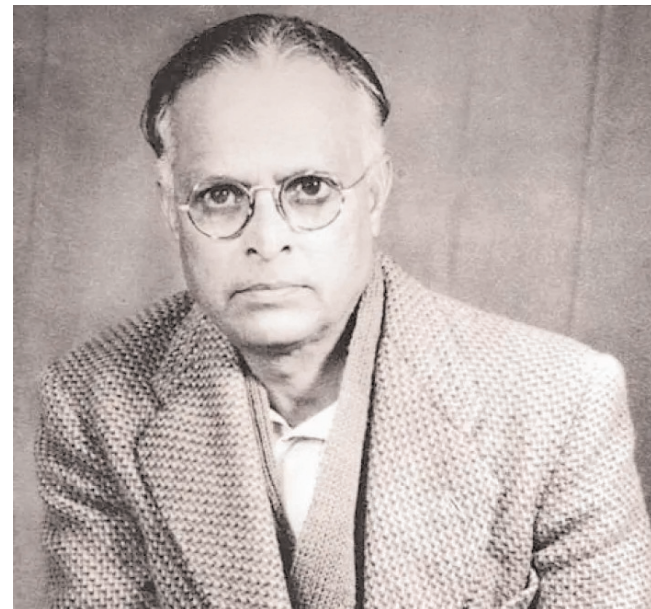


1952 The first session of Parliament was called in independent India.

1962 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan became the second President of the country.

1978 The country's first flag carrier INS Delhi was relieved

1998 India conducted two more nuclear tests, regardless of the criticism and pressure around the world.



2001 The death of RK Narayan, one of the biggest names in Indian literature.

1648 Construction of the Red Fort in Delhi was completed.

2000 Lara Dutta of India was elected Miss Universe.

1956 Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, the spiritual leader who founded the Art of Living Foundation, was born.

1918 The famous Bharatanatyam dancer T. Balasaraswati was born.

14 MAY

1992 India banned LTTE, a Sri Lankan rebel organization known as the Tamil Tigers. Apart from India, many other countries also banned the Tamil Tigers.

1944 British troops captured Kohima in 1944.

2001 Seven agreements in India and Malaysia.

2010 Considering 22 between India and Russia in 2010 in defense, nuclear energy, space, science and technology, hydrocarbons, trade and investment etc.

1923 Mrinal Sen, the famous producer and director of Indian films, was born.

1981 Indian inventor and computer scientist Pranav Mistry was born.

1943 Allah Baksh died during the British rule, was a zamindar, government contractor, freedom fighter and politician.

15 MAY

1907 Birth of freedom fighter Sukhdev Thapar.

1967 Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was born.

1817 Birth of social reformer Devendra Nath Tagore.

1242 Sultan of Delhi Muizuddin Bahram Shah's army revolted and killed Sultan.

1933 India's First Army Commander in Chief Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa passed away.

2005 Indian aircraft landed in Canada after 20 years.

2008 Manjula Sood of Indian origin became the first Asian woman to become mayor in Britain.

1923 Indian comedian Johnny Walker was born in 1923.

1817 Eminent scholar and religious leader Devendranath Thakur was born in 1817.

India-Pakistan standoff after Pahalgam attack

On 23 April 2025, a standoff emerged between India and Pakistan, which was sparked by the 2025 Pahalgam attack, a terrorist attack in the Baisaran Valley of Jammu and Kashmir, killing 27 people, including 25 Hindu tourists, a Christian tourist, and a local Muslim, as well as injuring more than 20 others. The Resistance Front (TRF) initially claimed responsibility for the attack.

Armed skirmishes between India and Pakistan were reported along the Line of Control (LoC) beginning on 24 April, raising fears of further escalation between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

The standoffs were followed by a diplomatic crisis which emerged between the two countries, as India accused Pakistan of sponsoring the attack. India initiated the expulsion of Pakistani diplomats, recalled its own diplomatic staff, suspended visa services, closed its borders, and announced its withdrawal from the Indus Waters Treaty, while Pakistan denied the allegations and responded with trade restrictions, closure of airspace and border crossings, and suspension of the Simla Agreement. India's Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) also strongly urged Indian citizens to avoid travelling to Pakistan, and called on those currently in the country to return at the earliest opportunity.

Between 24 April and 6 May, Pakistan and India engaged in heavy skirmishes including cross-border firing and artillery shelling.

On 7 May 2025, India launched missile strikes on Pakistan, codenamed Operation Sindoor. According to India, the missile strikes targeted the militant groups Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba. According to Pakistan, the Indian strikes targeted civilian areas, including mosques, killing 31 Pakistani civilians. In retaliation to the strikes, Pakistan said they had downed a number of Indian jets and damaged Indian infrastructure.

On 8 May, India said that Pakistani army attempted a drone and missile strike across several Indian cities including Amritsar which were intercepted by the S-400 missile system. According to Indian authorities, the strike was negated. This claim was rejected by Pakistani governmental authorities and the Sikhs for Justice, both of whom stated that the Indian Army mistakenly struck itself in Amritsar and blamed it on Pakistan to fuel anti-Pakistan sentiment among Sikhs. The Indian Ministry of Defense said that it carried out SEAD/DEAD operations in response and claimed to have neutralized the air defense systems in Lahore.

There were a number of misinformation campaigns across both the countries' media outlets following the strike.

Background



An Islamist armed insurgency broke out in Jammu and Kashmir in the late 1980s, which resulted in the exodus of Kashmiri Hindus from the region and the insurgency has been ongoing since.

On 22 April 2025, a terrorist attack at Baisaran Valley near Pahalgam in the Anantnag district of Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir killed at least 26 tourists and injured more than 20 others. According to eyewitness testimonies provided to Indian media outlets, assailants reportedly questioned potential victims about their religious identity before opening fire, specifically targeting non-Muslims.

The attack became among the deadliest attacks against Indian civilians in the region since 2000. The Resistance Front (TRF), believed to be an offshoot of the Pakistan-based, UN-designated terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, initially claimed responsibility. They stated that the attack was in opposition to Indian government policy allowing Indian citizens to live and work in Kashmir, that resulted in non-local settlement in the region. Four days later, they retracted their claim.

Diplomatic crisis

On the night of 23 April 2025, the Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri held a special press briefing after a meeting with the CCS. He announced India's decision to temporarily suspend the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan with immediate effect until Pakistan ceases its support for cross-border terrorism. He further announced the closure of the integrated check post at Attari-Wagah Border, a travel ban for all Pakistani nationals to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme, and cancellation of all previously issued visas. Additionally, Pakistani military advisers at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi were expelled,



One of the terror sites targeted during Operation Sindoor in Muridke town of Pakistan's Punjab province, on Wednesday, May 7. (AP)

while their Indian counterparts in Islamabad were withdrawn, and the staff strength of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was reduced from 55 to a minimum of 30. The posts of such military advisors were deemed abolished.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry expressed condolences to the families of the victims, and its defense minister Khawaja Asif dismissed the allegations of his country's involvement in the attack and regarded such events as revolutions. However, in an interview with Sky News, while responding to allegations of terrorism, Asif said that Pakistan had backed terrorist activities at the direction of United States, Britain and the West going back three decades.

Pakistan responded to the suspension of the treaty by describing it as inappropriate and lacking seriousness. Pakistan also warned India of a comprehensive retaliation in response to the actions announced by the Indian government in the aftermath of the

incident, further stating that any action affecting water resources would be considered an act of war. On 24 April, Pakistan suspended visas issued to Indian nationals and closed its airspace to Indian aircraft, expelled Indian diplomats and instructed Indian military advisers to depart the country no later than the 30 April.

Pakistan also cut off all trade with India. Pakistan also suspended the Simla Agreement, on 24 April 2025 in retaliation. The Attari-Wagah border ceremony was also reduced and the symbolic handshake did not take place. Cross-border families were affected where their visas revoked.

Initial standoff

A joint cordon and search operation was initiated by the Indian Army, paramilitary forces, and Jammu and Kashmir Police. A temporary lockdown was imposed in Pahalgam, and Indian Army helicopters were deployed to track down the militants, who reportedly fled to the upper reaches of the Pir Panjal range.

From page 19

On 25 April, soldiers demolished the family residences of two individuals suspected of involvement in the Pahalgam attack. An Indian soldier was killed and two other soldiers wounded during a gunfight with insurgents in the Basantgarh region of Udhampur. Senior Lashkar-e-Taiba Commander Altaf Lalli was also killed in the gunfight.

Both Pakistani and Indian air forces conducted intensive flights near the LoC. An Indian Border Security Force soldier belonging to the 182nd battalion of the BSF was captured by Pakistan Rangers after he accidentally entered the Pakistani side of the Ferozepur border.

Also on 24 April, the Indian XV Corps reported that it had thwarted an infiltration attempt by insurgents near Uri and killed 2 insurgents.

Between 24 April and 5 May, Indian and Pakistani army engaged in skirmishes and exchanged small arms firing. Reportedly, Pakistan's army initiated small arms firing across various sectors along the LoC, which was described as "unprovoked" by Indian media. The Pakistani army stated it shot down two Indian military quadcopter drones along the LoC in the Satwal sector and in the Manawar sector of Bhimber district.

On 28 April, Pakistani Defense Minister Asif stated that an attack from the Indian armed forces was "imminent". On 30 April, Pakistan claimed it has "credible intelligence" that India is going to launch military action within several hours. On the night of 29 April, Pakistani forces opened fire on the international border along Kashmir. On 1 May, Indian Home Minister Amit Shah said that no terrorist involved in the attack would be spared by India.

On 3 May, a soldier from the Pakistan Rangers was captured by BSF after crossing the border to India.

On 5 May, the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs announced an "effective civil defense in the event of a hostile attack" on 7 May across 7 states. Such drills were last conducted by India during 1971. As per reports, the drill includes operationalisation of Air Raid Warning Sirens, crash blackout measures, training of civilians on civil defense and evacuation plans.

Release of river water

Following the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 on 23 April 2025, local media in Muzaffarabad, Pakistan, reported on 26 and 27 April that India had released water from the Uri Dam into the Jhelum River unannounced, resulting in flooding. Additional reports indicated a sharp decline in water levels of the Chenab River in Sialkot, Pakistan, with satellite imagery showing significant drying of the riverbed. On 4 May 2025, India had closed the Baglihar Dam on the Chenab River and was planning a similar move at the Kishanganga Dam on the Neelum River.

Operation Sindoor

7 May

On the night of 6/7 May, launched "Operation Sindoor" hitting "terrorist infrastructure" in Pakistan. The operation lasted 23 minutes and consisted of missile strikes carried out



using combat jets. The Rafale fighter jet equipped with the SCALP cruise missile was used.

The targets include Bahawalpur, Muridke, Gulpur, Bhimber, Chak Amru, Bagh, Kotli, Sialkot and Muzaffarabad. Reportedly, the Bahawalpur strike killed close aides and family members of Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on 8 May that at least 100 militants had been killed in the missile strikes.

According to reports and witnesses, at least two aircraft were said to have gone down - one in India and another in Indian-administered Kashmir but analyzing witness photos from one wreckage site in the India-administered Kashmir, independent weapons researchers identified the debris as an external fuel tank for likely a Rafale or Mirage fighter jet. Pakistani sources later reported shooting down five Indian fighter jets over Indian airspace. The Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif called the attacks "cowardly" and vowed response.

Afterwards, the Pakistan Army began heavy mortar firing targeting the town of Poonch, killing 15 civilians. Among the dead were Mohd Zain Khan, aged 10, and

Zoya Khan aged 12. The shelling mainly targeted civilian infrastructure, including homes, vehicles, and public infrastructure.

8 May

On the following night, Pakistani authorities said that several Indian drones intruded in Pakistani airspace, and 12 Indian drones were shot down. As per Pakistan, these drones were sent into nine different locations including the cities of Karachi and Lahore, and one of the drones struck a Pakistani military facility near Lahore.

Later, Pakistani army attempted a drone and missile strike across several Indian cities, including Amritsar which were intercepted by the S-400 missile system.

According to Indian authorities, the strike was negated. In response, Indian army carried out SEAD/DEAD operations and claimed to have neutralized the air defense systems in Lahore. Additionally, Indian Armed Forces were reportedly "compelled to respond to bring Mortar and Artillery fire from Pakistan to a halt".

This was the first combat use of the Indian S-400 missile system or

Sudarshan.

Which countries back India? Which nations stand with Pak?

UNITED STATES

US President Donald Trump said that India and Pakistan had "gone tit-for-tat" and hoped that the two nuclear-armed Asian neighbours would avoid any further escalation. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio also discussed ways to ease tensions between India and Pakistan during a call with his Saudi Arabian counterpart on Wednesday, May 7.

ISRAEL

Israel extended strong support for India just hours after the precision strike in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, posted on X, saying that Israel backs India's right to defend itself. "Terrorists should know there's no place to hide from their heinous crimes against the innocent," he added.

UNITED KINGDOM

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the UK is speaking to both India and Pakistan to encourage dialogue and help reduce tensions. "Rising tensions between India and Pakistan will be of serious concern for many across Britain," Starmer told Parliament.

TURKEY

Turkey has shown strong support for Pakistan. The Turkish Ambassador to Pakistan met with Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to express his country's backing following what he called "India's unprovoked violation of Pakistan's sovereignty".

CHINA

China has called on both India and Pakistan to show restraint and avoid any moves that could make the situation worse. Responding to India's strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), a spokesperson from China's Foreign Ministry said: "China finds India's military operation early this morning regrettable. We are concerned about the ongoing situation. India and Pakistan are and will always be each other's neighbours. They're both China's neighbours as well."

RUSSIA

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has urged both India and Pakistan to stay calm and avoid any steps that might make tensions worse. She said, "Russia resolutely condemns acts of terrorism as it opposes any manifestations of it and accentuates the need to join forces globally for an effective fight against this evil."

UAE

UAE Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan has called on India and Pakistan "to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace."



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Mother's Day is a holiday honoring motherhood that is observed in different forms throughout the world. In the United States, Mother's Day 2025 falls on Sunday, May 11. The American incarnation of Mother's Day was created by Anna Jarvis in 1908 and became an official U.S. holiday in 1914. Jarvis would later denounce the holiday's commercialization and spent the latter part of her life trying to remove it from the calendar. While dates and celebrations vary, Mother's Day traditionally involves presenting moms with flowers, cards and other gifts.

What Is Mother's Day?

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honor of the mother goddesses Rhea and Cybele, but the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Once a major tradition in the United Kingdom and parts of Europe, this celebration fell on the fourth Sunday in Lent and was originally seen as a time when the faithful would return to their "mother church"—the main church in the vicinity of their home—for a special service.

Over time the Mothering Sunday tradition shifted into a more secular holiday, and children would present their mothers with flowers and other tokens of appreciation. This custom eventually faded in popularity before merging with the American Mother's Day in the 1930s and 1940s.

Ancient Civilizations, Mother Worship

A. Prehistoric Reverence

- Early societies, as far back as 30,000 BCE, crafted mother goddess figurines, such as the Venus of Willendorf, signifying fertility and the power of life-giving femininity.
- These symbols were associated not just with reproduction, but with sustenance, protection, and emotional well-being.

Ancient Egypt

- Isis, the Egyptian goddess, was considered the ideal mother. Myths described her as a devoted wife and a protective mother who resurrected her husband Osiris and raised her son Horus.
- Annual rituals and hymns praised her as a divine caregiver and queen of heaven.

Greek and Roman Civilizations

- In Greece, Rhea, mother of the Olympians, was honored in spring festivals. Offerings were made at altars, often in outdoor natural settings symbolizing fertility.
- Romans celebrated Hilaria around March 25, coinciding with the vernal equinox. People wore disguises, sang songs, and paraded to temples dedicated to Cybele, the "Great Mother."

Christianity and the Emergence of Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday was originally a religious observance in parts of Europe

Mother's Day: A celebration of maternal love and sacrifice



during the 16th century. Celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent, it was when Christians returned to their "mother church" for worship. Over time, it evolved into a more secular tradition where children honored their biological mothers. The holiday became particularly popular among the working class, as it was often the only day domestic servants could reunite with family.

Mother's Day Origins in the United States

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both



worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

Anna Jarvis Turns Mother's Day Into a National Holiday

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar.

From page 22

Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood.

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Jarvis Decries Commercialized Mother's Day

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity. While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.

Mother's Day Traditions and Celebrations Around the World

While versions of Mother's Day are celebrated worldwide, traditions vary depending on the country. In Thailand,



for example, Mother's Day is always celebrated in August on the birthday of the current queen, Sirikit.

Another alternative observance of Mother's Day can be found in Ethiopia, where families gather each fall to sing songs and eat a large feast as part of Antrosht, a multi-day celebration honoring motherhood.

In the United States, Mother's Day continues to be celebrated by presenting mothers and other women with gifts and flowers, and it has become one of the biggest holidays for consumer spending. Families also celebrate by giving mothers a day off from activities like cooking or other household chores.

At times, Mother's Day has also been a date for launching political or feminist causes. In 1968 Coretta Scott King, wife of Martin Luther King Jr., used Mother's Day to host a march in support of underprivileged women and children. In the 1970s women's groups also used the holiday as a time to highlight the need for equal rights and access to childcare.

In India, on Mother's Day, families come together to honour the invaluable role that mothers play in their lives,

celebrating the selfless love and sacrifices of mothers nationwide. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, children often present their mothers with flowers and cards as tokens of affection.

In Japan, the carnation gifted to mothers symbolises love and gratitude, while Ethiopian families gather for large celebratory feasts. Mexicans honour mothers through serenades and poetry readings, and in Nepal, a special religious festival called Mata Tirtha Aunsi is observed.

Regardless of the specific customs, the essence of Mother's Day thus remains universal: it is a time to cherish and acknowledge the profound impact that mothers and maternal figures have on our lives.

Role mothers play in our lives

This Mother's Day, the biggest tribute one can pay to their mother is to convey the heartiest thanks for everything they have done and have been doing for us.

Raising her kid

The first and foremost role a mother

plays in this world is taking the responsibility of bearing her child. This is honestly an obligation that can never be repaid to her. It is said that it is easy to bear a child but it is extremely difficult to raise them well. But haven't our mothers performed these tasks beautifully? It is certainly impossible to thank her enough.

Her love and care is completely irreplaceable

Nobody on this planet can match up to the love and care that a mother showers upon you. From being teary-eyed when we get hurt in childhood to waiting for us to eat food before her, a mother offers unconditional love and support. Be it any age and phase of your life, we all need mom's words to overcome a bad situation.

Proper environment for the right development

There is no denying that a mother is responsible for what kind of environment her child is growing up in, since the very beginning. This has a direct or indirect impact on the kid's mental health development. It is the mother, who needs to make sure that her child is getting an appropriate space for creativity, and studies.

Behavioural development

A mother has to make sure that her kid is getting the proper opportunity to explore his likeness and interests. It is only the mother who is very well versed with her child's behaviour. She has to be all ears whenever her kid is speaking his heart out.

Imparting routine and discipline

Since day one of your school life, it is your mother who has told you to go to bed when it is bedtime. She has woken you up for school. These are very simple ways how a mother makes your routine. Once you are back from school, she tells you to sit for your homework before going out to play. These may seem like small things but they end up playing a big role instilling discipline.



ALVIN AILEY DANCE COMPANY MAKES NATIONAL TOUR FINALE CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND AT NJPAC

BY MABEL PAIS

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER (alvinailey.org), one of the world's most popular dance companies, will return to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Mother's Day Weekend, Friday-Sunday, May 9-11, 2025, as the finale on its 2025 national tour.



Judith Jamison in John Butler's Facets

Credit: Jack Mitchell

This season the company celebrates the life and legacy of Artistic Director Emerita Judith Jamison (1943-2024). Led by Interim Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, the passionate spirit and extraordinary technique of Ailey's dancers will be showcased in three exciting performances featuring world premieres, new productions, repertory favorites, and Ailey classics.

Other NJPAC activities include Ailey Day - a free community day of dance classes (May 3), a Schoolltime Performance for young students (May 9), a special panel discussion paying homage to Judith Jamison (May 9) and this summer, AileyCamp Newark returns July - August, providing students ages 11-14 a life-changing experience through dance and the arts and culminates with a final performance (August 6).



Alvin Ailey Dancers

Credit: Courtesy, njpac.org

Ailey's 32 dancers include two New Jersey natives: Montclair's Chalvar Monteiro (chalvarmonteiro.com) and Newark's Christopher Taylor (ailey.org/people/christopher-taylor); and three AileyCamp alumni: Solomon Dumas, De'Anthony Vaughan and Taylor, who attended the inaugural AileyCamp Newark in 2011.

PROGRAM

This year's exciting world premieres include: **Sacred Songs** by Matthew Rushing, former AILEY dancers Jamar Roberts's **Al-Andalus Blues** and Hope Boykin's **Finding Free**, and **Many Angels** - the first premiere for the Company by Lar Lubovitch.

'**Sacred Songs**' features music used in the original 1960 premiere of Alvin Ailey's seminal 'Revelations' but later omitted, resurrecting and reimagining those spirituals-with the collaboration of creative associate and musical director Du'Bois A'Keen-as an offering to our present need for lamentation, faith, and joy. To coincide with the tour, A'Keen has released a 'Sacred Songs Suite' album featuring his brilliant team of musicians in a live recording of the soundtrack, along with some bonus songs. The spirituals, influenced by the sounds of jazz, West African drums, gospel, hip hop, and calypso, are available to purchase as an album or individually and on all streaming platforms for free.

'**Al-Andalus Blues**' is an abstract ensemble piece that journeys back in time to the golden age of Al-Andalus, evoking the northern African Moors who flourished in the south of present-day Spain prior to the Christian Reconquista. 'Finding Free' is an insightful collaboration with pianist Matthew Whitaker's original score, examining the challenges and restrictions throughout life's peaks and valleys. 'Many Angels' features Lubovitch's renowned lush choreography and musicality set to Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 5, meditating on the question by 13th century theologian St. Thomas Aquinas 'How many angels can dance on the head of a pin?'

Additional productions include a special 25th anniversary production of Ronald K. Brown's spellbinding 'Grace.' Set to Duke Ellington's classic 'Come Sunday,' Peven Everett's hit 'Gabriel,' and the irresistible pulse of Fela Kuti's Afro-Pop, 'Grace' depicts individuals on a journey to the promised land, expanding from a single angel-like figure in white to the fireball intensity of 12 powerful dancers. In addition to 'Grace,' another favorite returning to the AILEY stage is Elisa Monte's 'Treading,' a sculptural, mesmerizing duet featuring fluid, intricate movements that combine with Steve Reich's evocative music to create an aura of mystery and sensuality.

Newark audiences will be inspired by the power of Alvin Ailey's must-see American masterpiece 'Revelations,' acclaimed around the world for sending hearts soaring and lifting audiences to their feet with its perfect blend of reverent grace and spiritual elation. Since its debut in 1960, 'Revelations' has been moving audiences with its powerful storytelling and soul-stirring music, evoking timeless themes of determination, hope, and transcendence. An intimate reflection of Mr. Ailey's childhood memories of growing up in the South and attending services at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Texas, 'Revelations' pays homage to the rich cultural heritage of the African American community and explores the emotional spectrum of the human condition.

The compelling story of the life, work, and legacy of Alvin Ailey is also the subject of 'Portrait of Ailey,' a new eight-part documentary series available for free on PBS LearningMedia. Created by Ailey II Artistic Director Emerita Sylvia Waters, 'Portrait of Ailey' uses rare historical film and still images as well as contemporary footage to create a sweeping narrative of Mr. Ailey as a performer, choreographer, celebrity, teacher, social activist, arts advocate, and the creator of an enduring institution. All eight chapters are currently available online, including a spotlight on Mr. Ailey's muse, Judith Jamison ('The Whole Dancer' - ny.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/alvin-ailey-the-whole-dancer-video/portrait-of-ailey - chapter).

Fri 5.09 @ 8:00 p.m. Public Performance (pre-show panel discussion @ 6:00pm)

Grace / Finding Free / Cry (special excerpt) / Revelations

Sat 5.10 @ 8:00 p.m. Public Performance

Sacred Songs / Treading / Many Angels / Revelations

Sun 5.11 @ 3:00 p.m. Public Performance

Grace / Finding Free / Cry (special excerpt) / Revelations

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS:

Sat 5.03 @ 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Ailey Day

A favorite annual event for families in the Newark area, this free program offers dance classes for children and adults taught by professional artists, including Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater alumni, Ailey Arts In Education Teaching Artists and students, and more.

Fri 5.09 @ 12:30 p.m. SchoolTime Performance

OPEN TO SCHOOLS ONLY (NOT THE GENERAL PUBLIC)

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's school-time performance introduces area students to the magic of Alvin Ailey's must-see masterpiece 'Revelations.' The hour-long educational experience, moderated by one of Ailey's dancers, also features excerpts of Ailey classics and an insider's look behind-the-scenes to inspire young people.

Fri 5.09 @ 6:00 p.m. Panel Discussion in Tribute to Judith Jamison

A special pre-performance event paying homage to Judith Jamison with panelists to be announced soon. Available free to the evening's performance ticket holders.

Wed 8.06 @ 7:00 p.m. AileyCamp Newark Performance

A unique summer day camp program for middle school students ages 11-14, AileyCamp will operate in 10 cities across the country, including Newark (July 1 - August 8; now accepting applications - ailey.org). In partnership with AILEY Arts In Education & Community Programs, NJPAC founded this six-week program for Newark kids in 2011. More than a dance program, AileyCamp provides young people a safe space to develop their self-esteem, creative expression, and critical thinking skills, ultimately helping them reach their unlimited potential. The 2025 summer camp culminates with a special performance by the students on the NJPAC stage on Wednesday, August 6 at 7pm.

****Program subject to change.****

TICKETS

Tickets vary - FREE to \$94. To purchase tickets, visit NJPAC.org/dance or the box office at One Center Street, Newark, NJ or call 1.888.GO.NJPAC (466.5722).

ALVIN AILEY AMERICAN DANCE THEATER

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater (ailey.org), recognized by U.S. Congressional resolution as a vital American "Cultural Ambassador to the World," grew from a now-fabled March 1958 performance in New York that changed forever the perception of American dance. Forged during a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, the Company was established to uplift the African American experience while transcending boundaries of race, faith, and nationality with its universal humanity. Founded by Alvin Ailey, the posthumous recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom - the nation's highest civilian honor. Before his untimely death in 1989, Mr. Ailey named Judith Jamison as his successor, and for 21 years she led the Company to unprecedented success. For more information, visit ailey.org.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Learn more at NJPAC.org

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

MELISSA ERRICO PERFORMS SONDHEIM'S NEW YORK SIGNATURE SONGS

BY MABEL PAIS



Melissa Errico

Photo: Courtesy njpac.org

MELISSA ERRICO is a Tony Award-nominated Broadway actress, singer, and author. Melissa will perform Stephen Sondheim's greatest New York songs in *'Sondheim in the City'* for two sensational performances on Saturday May 17th at 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at NJPAC's Chase Room.

Relive the songs of Stephen Sondheim as Melissa performs *'Another Hundred People,' 'Everybody Says Don't,' 'Opening Doors,' 'Good Thing Going,' 'Broadway Baby,' 'Being Alive'* and many more.

"Errico is the finest interpreter of Sondheim's music in America today"
- THE NEW YORKER

"The premier Sondheim interpreter."
- BILLBOARD MAGAZINE

"Her new album 'Sondheim In The City' is a New York house tour of thrill and heartbreak."
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

"A lot of things make a Melissa Errico show exciting - the way she immerses herself in every moment, the technical brilliance of her vocal abilities, the immaculate scripts that create the framework of the show, and the sheer star power that the lady exudes, as well as that intelligence and utter fearlessness. This is a take-no-prisoners performer, and this is a leave-it-all-on-the-floor show."
- BROADWAY WORLD

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL called **Melissa's first Sondheim album, 'Sondheim Sublime,' "the best all-Sondheim album ever recorded."**

Touring the world with her inimitable thematic concerts, from Singapore to Paris to San Francisco and beyond, she has built a unique niche in the world of theater and jazz.

Steven Reineke, principal conductor of the New York Pops, introduced her Carnegie Hall debut as "Melissa Errico is a unique force in the musical life of New York City: a Broadway star, a concert artist, and an author who regularly contributes essays to The New York Times. There's really no one like her!"

Her concerts in the past year alone have included a Paris duet in 2023 with her frequent singing partner Isabelle Georges, broadcast nationally on Radio France, followed by a sold-out cabaret at the historic Le Bal Blomet. In that same summer, she opened for music icon George Benson at the Montreal Jazz Festival. A writer from London Jazz News wrote that: "Errico was energized, making sure with every breath that she would get the audience in the 3000-seater Pelletier really on her side. Every high note was heroically held, and she got a standing ovation from this audience.



Melissa Errico

Photo: Courtesy njpac.org

Montreal audiences always want to show their warmth, and this one made her deservedly welcome."

A uniquely wide-ranging performer, a specialist in the seemingly very different musics of Stephen Sondheim and Michel Legrand, her 2018 album, *'Sondheim Sublime,'* was called by The Wall Street Journal "The best all-Sondheim album ever recorded," and her November Carnegie Hall debut performance included three Sondheim numbers, including *'Losing My Mind'* and *'Move On.'* On the other shore of her expertise, in 2019 she wrote the eulogy for Legrand in The New York Times and was the only American performer asked to appear at the now-legendary two-day memorial concert at Paris' Le Grand Rex.

First known for her starring roles on Broadway, including 'My Fair Lady,' 'High Society,' 'Anna Karenina,' 'White Christmas,' 'Dracula,' and 'Les Misérables,' Melissa has had a wide-ranging career from television and film to recording. She starred in the CBS show 'Central Park West' and played roles on 'Blue Bloods,' 'The Knick,' and more, as well as 'Billions' on Showtime. She has starred in many non-musical roles by Shaw and Oscar Wilde, including 'Dear Liar' in the spring of 2023, playing George Bernard Shaw's original Eliza Doolittle.

Though a constant in the New York theater, she has become equally known for her music and concert work worldwide, with sold-out concert dates from Ravinia to Caramoor and Wolf Trap - including the 92nd Street Y, Joe's Pub, Town Hall, and Lincoln Center's Allen Room. Errico's history with Sondheim began when he selected her to star as Dot in *'Sunday In The Park With George'* at The Kennedy Center, then as Clara in *'Passion'* at Classic Stage Company; then in the NY City Center Encores! production of *'Do I Hear A Waltz?'* In 2020, she sang *'Children and Art'* in the Sondheim 90th Birthday Concert *'Take Me To The World,'* and was featured on PBS television in a documentary special in which she sang a feminist version of *'Finishing The Hat'* and joined Adam Gopnik and Raul Esparza to talk Sondheim on *'Poetry in America.'* She was also featured in The New York Times tribute to Sondheim in November 2021 as one of the top ten

interpreters of his work. Her second Sondheim album, *'Sondheim In The City,'* was released on February 16, 2024, and earned her more praise from the Times as, "one of Sondheim's deepest-hearted but lightest touch interpreters."

In addition to Sondheim, nothing in her work has been more constant than her association with Legrand. Having starred in his sole Broadway show, *'Amour,'* she went on to collaborate with him on the iconic album *'Legrand Affair.'* Warner Music/Ghostlight Records also reissued her symphonic album, which Legrand arranged and conducted, as *'Legrand Affair'* (Deluxe Edition).

A student of the great American songbook, Melissa's album *'Out Of The Dark: The Film Noir Project'* was released by Warner Music/Ghostlight Records, and garnered the 2023 Bistro Award for the best Concept Album. The recording was supported by coast-to-coast noir concerts, including Feinstein's/54 Below, with the Ronnie Scott's Band in London, and at NYC's Birdland Jazz Club for a sold-out 10-performance Valentine's Week residency. Of her Noir project, The Wall Street Journal opined that: "Melissa Errico's new album, *'Out of the Dark: The Film Noir Project'* gives us noir music the way we imagine it...melancholy, bittersweet tales of isolation and loneliness, beauty and betrayal-especially relevant at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic."

She is currently working on expanding her collected New York Times essays about a singer's strange life on the stage and road, gathered under the heading *'Scenes From An Acting Life,'* into a book.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

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Website: njpac.org/takeastand

Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand

Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

NJ SYMPHONY'S XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTS MOZART BACH AND ABELS

BY MABEL PAIS

New Jersey Symphony presents Music Director Xian Zhang conducting Mozart, Bach and Abels, with the Symphony's principal violins, Eric Wyrick and Francine Storck, stepping up to perform Bach's Double Concerto with the orchestra. Schedule of concert locations, dates, and times is below.



Gregory McDaniel, music conductor

On Saturday May 17, 2025, at 2 pm at NJPAC in Newark, Colton Conducting Fellow Gregory McDaniel (njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/artist-initiatives/new-jersey-symphony-colton-fellowship) joins Zhang for a special Discover Series performance for families.

XIAN CONDUCTS MOZART

Music by Mozart, Bach, and Abels
Princeton - Friday, May 16, 8 pm, Richardson Auditorium
Newark - Saturday, May 17, 8 pm, NJPAC
Newark - Sunday, May 18, 3 pm, NJPAC
 Event page - (njsymphony.org/events/detail/xian-conducts-mozart-1)

XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTOR

Eric Wyrick violin
 Francine Storck violin
 New Jersey Symphony

ON THE PROGRAM:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Eine kleine Nachtmusik
 Johann Sebastian Bach Double Concerto for Two Violins
 Michael Abels Delights and Dances
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Symphony No. 35, "Haffner"

DISCOVER MOZART & BACH

New Jersey Symphony Family Concert
NEWARK - SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2 PM, NJPAC

Event page - (njsymphony.org/events/detail/discover-mozart-bach)

XIAN ZHANG CONDUCTOR

Gregory D. McDaniel conductor
 Bill Barclay host
 Eric Wyrick violin
 Francine Storck violin
 Annamaria Witek cello
 New Jersey Symphony

The Symphony's Discover concerts are inspired by Leonard Bernstein's masterful way of putting young audiences at the center of music-making. This interactive, one-hour concert will feature inside tips, listening cues, and fun facts that make for the perfect Saturday afternoon family outing! This will also be a Relaxed Performance, designed to accommodate the differing sensory needs of our patrons.

For more information, visit these pages at njsymphony.org.

For more about Discover Mozart & Bach - (njsymphony.org/events/detail/discover-mozart-bach)

For more about Relaxed Performances - (njsymphony.org/visit/accessibility-1/what-is-a-relaxed-performance)

TICKETS

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

THE 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.

Learn more about Xian Zhang at njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/musical-leadership/xian-zhang

GREGORY D. MCDANIEL

Gregory D. McDaniel is a passionate conductor who is active in many different musical surroundings.

Praised for his "impeccable musicality and technique" (La Presse - Montreal), McDaniel was recently featured in concert with the Orchestre Métropolitain in Québec, conducting Lili Boulanger's D'un Matin de printemps. Last summer, as a member of the Orchestral Conducting Academy at the Académie du Domaine Forget de Charlevoix, he worked with the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec under the tutelage of conductors Thomas Rosner and Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

Learn more about Gregory D. McDaniel, at njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/musical-leadership/gregory-d-mcdaniel

BILL BARCLAY

Barclay is a writer, director and composer, described as a "personable polymath" (London Times), Barclay's original works have been described as "witty and incisive" (The New York Times), "quietly transfixing" (The New Yorker), and "quite simply exquisite" (The Guardian). Venues include The Hollywood Bowl, The Kennedy Center, The Royal Albert Hall, Buckingham Palace, Shakespeare's Globe, the Barbican, Washington National Cathedral, St Martin-in-the-Fields, and The Southbank Centre. Broadway and West End credits include 'Farinelli and the King,' 'Twelfth Night,' and 'Richard III' all starring Sir Mark Rylance.

Major tours include 'The Chevalier' (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Music of the Baroque, 8 others); 'Secret Byrd' for The Gesualdo Six and Fretwork (20 cities on tour); 'Anthony & Cleopatra' (LA Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra and others); and 'Peer Gynt' (Boston, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestras). He has been commissioned five times by The Boston Symphony Orchestra, appearing across eight seasons. To learn more about Bill Barclay, visit concerttheatreworks.com/bill-barclay

ERIC WYRICK

Violinist Eric Wyrick has been concertmaster of the New Jersey Symphony since 1998. Recently retired from the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Eric had been a member of the internationally-acclaimed ensemble for 38 years.

As soloist with the New Jersey Symphony, Wyrick has delighted New Jersey audiences with performances of the great solo violin repertoire ranging from unusual

and underperformed works such as the Schumann, Strauss, and Busoni violin concertos to presenting the complete Bach 'Brandenburg Concertos' and the Vivaldi 'Four Seasons' as soloist and leader. Wyrick has featured collaborations with contemporary local New Jersey composers Darryl Kubian and Steve Mackey in their solo compositions as well as a special revival of Princeton's legendary Edward T. Cone Violin Concerto. Read more at njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/musical-leadership/eric-wyrick.

FRANCINE STORCK



Francine Storck, violinist
 Photo: Courtesy njsymphony.org

Francine Storck is principal second violin of the New Jersey Symphony. A native of Princeton, she began playing professionally with the Collegium Musicum of Princeton at the age of 16. She attended the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where she was concertmaster

of the Orchestra, played with the Toledo Symphony, and was a prizewinner at the Fischhoff Chamber Music Competition with her quartet's performance of Bartók's String Quartet No. 6 and Beethoven's 'Grosse Fugue.'

Learn more at njsymphony.org/musicians/detail/francine-storck.

ANNAMARIA WITEK

Annamaria Witek is a freshman at The John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University as a student of Tomoko Fujita. Witek began playing cello in third grade in the music program of the South Orangetown Central School District. She studied with Madeleine Golz for seven years and has also studied with Karen Poleshuck, Sam Bae, and Nicole Johnson. She was principal cellist of the New Jersey Symphony's Academy Orchestra and was the winner of the 2024 NJ Symphony Henry Lewis Concerto Competition. Annamaria was cellist of the NJ Symphony Anne Lieberman String Quartet for two years and is also a founding member of BridgeMusik in Rockland County. Learn more at dropbox.com/scl/fi/ffeto3h40kn4xsj0pdye/Annamaria-Witek-bio.pdf?rlkey=r791ersg1900x8a5wjygd45f8&e=1&st=g26m9ads&dl=0

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.

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

Indian stars Shah Rukh Khan, Kiara Advani, and more shine bright at fashion's grandest fest - Met Gala 2025

The former VP of America Kamala Harris makes surprise debut in tailored Off-White gown

The event, an annual fundraising affair for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute, featured celebrities who were dressed as per the theme of this year's edition: "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style"



Shah Rukh Khan, Priyanka Chopra Jonas, Diljit Dosanjh, and Kiara Advani pose at the Met Gala in New York City, New York, U.S., May 5
Photo Credit: @sabyasachiofficial/Instagram

MAY 6, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Stars from film, music, and fashion converged at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, United States, on Tuesday (May 6), for the Met Gala, dubbed as 'fashion's biggest night out.' The event, set to raise funds for the Costume Institute, grabbed the attention of viewers all around the world, but this year's edition was particularly special to India as some of its biggest stars made stunning appearances at the blue carpet.

The event undoubtedly belonged to the 'Baadshah of Bollywood,' superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who made a grand debut to become the first-ever Indian male actor to attend the Met. One of the biggest living icons of Indian cinema, Khan dazzled on the Met carpet in a sublime black suit with gold accessories, a walking cane, a brooch and a long pendant bearing the letter K - for King Khan. Khan's outfit was crafted by ace Indian designer Sabyasachi Mukherjee, who also joined Khan on the blue carpet.

Meanwhile, Met Gala habitue Priyanka Chopra Jonas turned heads on the blue carpet with a tailored polka dot suit dress, a bespoke creation by Olivier Rousteing of Balmain. Accenting her gorgeous ensemble were dazzling high jewelry from Bvlgari, the luxury Italian house for which Chopra serves as a global ambassador.

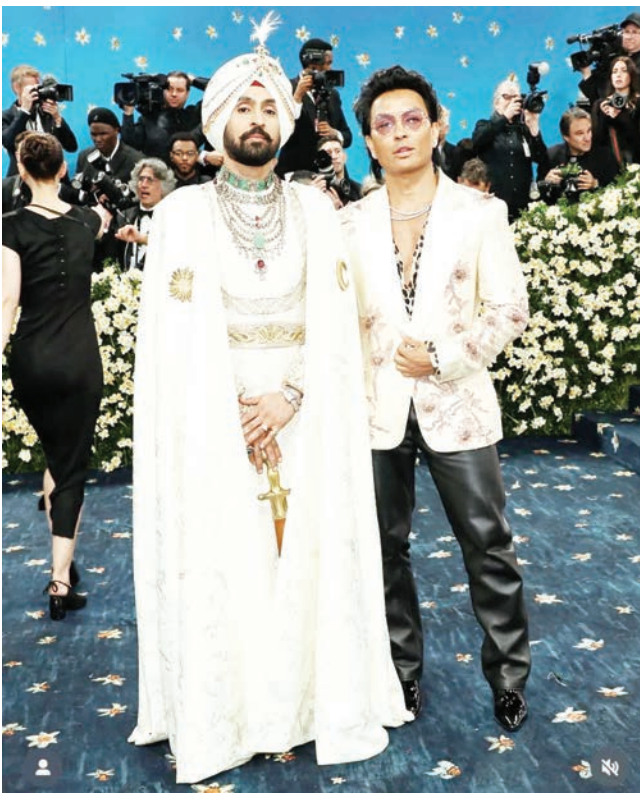


Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra pose during the Met Gala, an annual fundraising gala held for the benefit of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute with this year's theme 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,' in New York City, New York, U.S., May 5, 2025.

The star, accompanied by her husband and singer Nick Jonas, made her fifth appearance at the Met.

Bollywood fans who were glued to the live stream of the event also saw Indian actor Kiara Advani make her debut at the Met Gala. Kiara, an accomplished female star currently expecting her first child, glowed on the Met carpet in a stunning black-gold-white ensemble. In a tender celebration of motherhood, her black gown with gold embellishments and a long white trail bore a heart-shaped mini plate for the baby.

Oh, how can we forget Diljit Dosanjh's mesmerizing drip! The Indian pop star and actor, in his debut appearance at the Met Gala, wore a stunning royal Punjabi outfit. The custom-made number celebrating Diljit's cultural roots is by ace designer Prabal Gurung.



Met Gala 2025: Diljit Dosanjh brings royalty to New York. (L-R) Diljit Dosanjh and Prabal Gurung attend the 2025 Met Gala Celebrating "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style" at Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 05, 2025 in New York City.

The costume was also a nod to the evening's dress code, "Tailored To You," which meant the guests were bringing a part of their own cultural flair to their attire. The theme of the Met Gala is selected per the theme of the Costume Institute's latest exhibition. And this year, the theme was "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style," inspired by Monica L. Miller's book 'Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity.'

United States' former Vice President Kamala Harris made a memorable appearance at the 2025 Met Gala, marking her debut at the fashion industry's biggest event.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Harris stunned in a bespoke black-and-cream gown designed by Off-White creative director IB Kamara, perfectly capturing the essence of the evening's theme,



Kamala Harris, wearing a gown designed by Off-White creative director IB Kamara Photo Credit: @cameronsmithphoto/Instagram

'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style.'

Harris's Met Gala look departed from her typical well-tailored pantsuits. The outfit, featuring a dramatic sleeve and silk scarf, was a masterclass in elegance and sophistication.



Kamala Harris with Off-White creative director IB Kamara Photo Credit: @cameronsmithphoto/Instagram

Kamara's inspiration behind the design was to highlight Harris's strength and confidence, qualities he believes are at the core of dandyism. "The precise simplicity of this black and cream look for Kamala D. Harris complements her own strength and confidence, two qualities I consider to be the core of dandyism," Kamara said, as quoted by The Hollywood Reporter.

The Met Gala is an annual fundraising affair for the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute. Started in 1948 by American fashion publicist Eleanor Lambert, the event has grown in prestige and scale over the years. (TIP)



Ayushmann Khurrana, Rashmika Mandanna shoot final leg of Thama in Ooty

Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna's much-awaited vampire comedy, 'Thama' has reportedly entered its final phase of filming. Directed by Aditya Sarpotdar, the film's last and most crucial schedule began on April 28 in the misty hillsides of Ooty, Tamil Nadu, and will continue through May 25.

According to a report in Mid-Day, the team is currently stationed around Doddabetta Peak in the Nilgiri forests, shooting important sequences involving the lead pair's love story as well as the film's climax. "Starting April 28, Ayushmann and Rashmika filmed their portions in the forests of Ooty. They are currently filming in and around Doddabetta Peak. In this leg, the director will shoot some portions of the love story between the leads. After Nawazuddin joins the unit in the third week of May, they will shoot the backstory of how he became a vampire, and the climax," a source told the publication.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who plays a vampire with a shadowy past, is expected to join the unit in mid-May. His character's origin story, which is set in the past, is a key component of the film's narrative and will be shot during this schedule.

'Thama', derived from the name Ashwatthama—the immortal warrior from the Mahabharata—is a genre-bending mix of comedy, horror, and mythology. The story revolves around a historian, played by Ayushmann, who sets out to uncover the mythological roots of vampirism in Indian folklore. Set across two time periods, the plot moves between modern-day India and the ancient kingdom of Vijayanagar, tied together by a haunting tale of unfulfilled love.

Once the Ooty schedule wraps up, only two songs remain to be filmed. The makers, in their announcement video, revealed that they are aiming for a Diwali 2025 release.

Bhumi Pednekar calls 'The Royals' a modern blend of 'Bridgerton' and 'Schitt's Creek'

Actor Bhumi Pednekar says her debut web series "The Royals" is a blend of modern-day "Bridgerton" and "Schitt's Creek", capturing the dysfunctional dynamics of a royal family with a touch of comedy and romance. Billed as a modern-day rom-com, the Netflix show stars Ishaan Khatter as Aviraaj Singh, a reluctant new-age prince, and Pednekar as Sophia Shekhar, a self-made CEO of a start-up, who team up to transform the former's haveli into a luxury B&B experience.

As their journey unfolds, viewers can expect a rollercoaster ride of romance, comedy and a whole lot of drama, reads the official synopsis.

"It is (like) a modern-day 'Bridgerton' because of the setting and the world that's been created, but definitely a bit of 'Schitt's Creek' because there's the royal family and the dysfunctionality and everything that happens with them.

"But I grew up reading 'Mills & Boon' (romance novels), and I'm a very, very big fan of it. This ('The Royals') is a very classic boy-girl romance. It's just that there's no damsel-in-distress. It's refreshing," Pednekar told PTI in an interview.

"Bridgerton" is a British costume



drama set in the 19th century's regency era, whereas the Canadian show "Schitt's Creek" follows the trials and tribulations of the formerly wealthy Rose family. Both series are available on Netflix.

"The Royals" is created by Rangita and Ishita Prithish Nandy and directed by Priyanka Ghose and Nupur Asthana.

While romance is at the core of "The Royals", the series ambitiously delves into larger themes such as privilege, power dynamics, and the complexities of contemporary life, including the entourage trend and the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Calling AI a "disruptive" tool, Pednekar said one must use this technological innovation "responsibly".

Sreeleela to replace Janhvi in Dostana 2

Rewinding back to a fallout between Karan Johar and Kartik Aaryan in 2021, the makers of Dostana 2 shared an official post on a recasting to take place for the film. The official announcement by Dharma Productions confirmed that Kartik Aaryan was no longer a part of the project.

For the unversed, Dostana 2 was set to be Lakshya's big Bollywood debut. However, it was Kill in 2024, the action thriller that marked a promising debut by Lakshya.

Now, according to an exclusive report by News18 Showsha, Sreeleela who has been gaining a lot of popularity lately, might replace Janhvi Kapoor in Dostana 2. Sreeleela is also currently busy shooting for Anurag Basu's untitled musical with Kartik Aaryan. There is also a lot of online buzz about Kartik Aaryan and Sreeleela dating.

A close source has told News18, "The story of Dostana 2 will remain the same but the cast and the director have been changed. Janhvi Kapoor, who was roped in to play the female lead earlier, is no longer a part of the film. Instead, the makers are considering Sreeleela for the part. Her dance number in Pushpa 2: The Rule has made her a much sought-after name in the movies. And the team of Dostana 2 are extremely keen on having her in the film."

The source further added, "There's a lot of demand and positive word-of-mouth for Sreeleela, who is currently shooting for Anurag Basu's next with Kartik Aaryan. The makers of Dostana 2 decided to recast the film, hoping to feature a set of actors who haven't shared screen space in the past. It will indeed be interesting to see her chemistry with her co-stars."

The source concluded by saying that previously Collin D'Cunha of Call Me Bae fame was supposed to direct Dostana 2. But there are ongoing talks about Advait Chandra now taking over the director's seat.



Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman reunite for 'Practical Magic 2'

Warner Bros. has announced that the sequel to the beloved 1998 film 'Practical Magic', starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman, is set to hit theaters on September 18, 2026.

The Hollywood Reporter has confirmed that Susanne Bier will direct the film, 'Practical Magic 2,' which will be written by Akiva Goldsman, who co-wrote the original film's script.

The sequel promises to bring back the magic of the original film, with Bullock and Kidman reprising their roles as Sally and Gillian Owens, two sisters from a line of witches.

Denise Di Novi, the producer of the original film, will produce the sequel alongside Bullock and Kidman.

Di Novi emphasised the importance of honouring the original film, stating that sequels often go wrong when they try to reinvent the wheel.

While plot details for the sequel have not been shared, fans of the original film eagerly anticipate the Owens sisters' return.

The first film followed Sally and Gillian as they navigated love, family, and their magical powers.

Despite the original film's mixed reception, it has developed a cult following over the years.

Interestingly, 'Practical Magic 2' will share its release date with another highly anticipated film, the Resident Evil reboot directed by Zach Cregger.

"Practical Magic" received mixed reviews and flopped at the box office, but the supernatural story became a cult favorite in subsequent years. Warner Bros. tried to expand the "Practical Magic" property in 2019 with the prequel series "Rules of Magic," but



the HBO series was scrapped and never came to fruition.

Susanne Bier is directing "Practical Magic 2" from a screenplay by Akiva Goldsman, who co-wrote the first movie. Though the production timeline is hazy, Kidman told Variety in

February that the sequel is "moving ahead rapidly." Bullock and Kidman, who each have collected Oscar statues in the decades following "Practical Magic," will produce the sequel alongside the original film's producer Denise Di Novi.



Rihanna and Ciara end 14-year feud at 2025 Met Gala with heartfelt reunion

Pop icons Rihanna and Ciara made headlines at the 2025 Met Gala as they publicly reunited 14 years after their Twitter spat. Both stars were seen smiling and photographed inside New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art on May 5, posing alongside their partners A\$AP Rocky and NFL star Russell Wilson marking a moment of warmth and reconciliation.

During the event, Ciara, 39, was seen joyfully placing her hand on Rihanna's baby bump. The "Diamonds" singer, 37, had announced just hours earlier that she and A\$AP Rocky were expecting their third child. Ciara later appeared on The Sherri Show on May 6, expressing her happiness about their encounter. "It was so sweet running into her I'm so proud of her," she said. As reported by People, the once-tense relationship between the two singers dates back to a 2011 exchange sparked by Ciara's comments on Fashion Police.

After Rihanna responded sharply on Twitter, the two engaged in a brief war of words before Rihanna apologized. Though they had kept a low profile since, Ciara revealed to Sherri that Rihanna had sent her a "sweet DM" a few months ago, reigniting their friendship.



Halle Berry starved herself in the run-up to the Met Gala

Hollywood actress Halle Berry didn't eat "anything all day" in the build-up to the Met Gala. The 58-year-old actress arrived at fashion's biggest event but admitted that after leaving the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

She treated herself to some fried chicken after starving herself all day so that she could fit into her somewhat revealing LaQuan Smith dress, reports 'Female First UK'.

She told E! News, "I haven't eaten anything all day, trying to wear this dress. They told me I could have a little treat for myself, and come here and get some Cane's chicken. So, I'm like, yes, I'm there".

As per 'Female First UK', the Academy Award-winning star was then asked when she was left most "star-struck" during the evening and revealed that her "jaw dropped" when she got to witness a performance given by 'Isn't She Lovely' crooner Stevie Wonder. She said: "I didn't know this would

happen but Stevie Wonder performed tonight, and that was just a jaw-dropping moment, I had no idea that I would get to see it like that. He has such a good voice, it was just a real treat".

The 'Never Let Go' actress was dressed in a LaQuan original and explained that her personal "highlight" of the night came when she got to see several others wearing clothes also designed by him, more than a decade after she started working with the luxury fashion brand founder. She added, "I think seeing everybody out looking so dandy-ish and I think it was really special that I went with LaQuan, he designed my dress, I was his muse. To see him shine tonight and see his creations come to life on all the people he dressed was really special. It was so fun and so easy".

"He showed me some sketches. I chose two that I really liked, so he made two dresses. The dresses were gorgeous. I could hardly choose. I asked LaQuan, 'Which one would you like me to wear?' So, I chose his favourite", she added.

EU PLEDGES ONE BILLION EUROS FOR UKRAINE DERIVED FROM FROZEN RUSSIAN ASSETS

LVIV (TIP): The EU on May 9 pledged to disburse one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) from the proceeds of frozen Russian assets to Ukrainian arms companies to help Kyiv fight off Moscow's invasion.

Brussels has been scrambling to beef-up its support to Ukraine following the election of Donald Trump, the US president having repeatedly criticised his country's support for Ukraine.

"We have just made available 1 billion euros for the Ukrainian defence industry so that Ukraine could better defend itself," the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas said in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

"This funding will directly support Ukrainian defence companies and secure additional military aid over the coming months, which are critical."

The West has frozen around \$300 billion of Russian central bank assets -- most of which are located in Europe -- over Moscow's February 2022 invasion.

The EU has moved to tap the proceeds -- interest payments -- on them to fund support to Ukraine, a move denounced by Moscow as theft. (AFP)

ISRAEL REVISES ADVISORY ASKING ITS NATIONALS TO 'LEAVE IMMEDIATELY' KASHMIR REGION

JERUSALEM (TIP): Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, Israel has updated the existing travel advisory for its nationals urging those in the Kashmir region to "leave immediately."

The revised advisory came on May 7 after the Indian military carried out strikes against terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan's Punjab province earlier in the day.

Pakistan army carried out one of the most intense artillery and mortar shelling in years targeting forward villages along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry called on Israelis to avoid visiting the Jammu and Kashmir region, with the exception of Ladakh.

Israelis currently in Kashmir should "leave immediately" and obey the instructions of local security forces, the ministry said.

This is in line with the existing travel advisory issued by the National Security Council, it added.

India launched Operation Sindoor early Wednesday hitting nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Punjab province of Pakistan in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. (PTI)

WFP warns of record hunger levels in West and Central Africa

09 MAY 2025

DAKAR (TIP): The UN World Food Programme sounded the alarm on May 9 over escalating hunger in west and central Africa as needs reach "record levels".

More than 36 million people are struggling to meet their food needs, a number that could rise to 52 million people during the lean season between harvests this summer, the agency said in a statement.

"Persistent conflict, displacement, economic deterioration and recurrent extreme weather in West and Central Africa are driving millions of people towards emergency levels of hunger," it said.

The WFP had previously referred to an "unprecedented crisis" at the end of March due to a 40-per cent reduction in its funding for 2025.

The halt of aid programmes under the US Agency for International Development (USAID), made by President Donald Trump upon his return to the White House, along with cuts to aid spending by several Western countries, have worsened the situation.



The WFP had said at the end of April that it would have to reduce its workforce by 25 to 30 percent worldwide.

Five million people risk losing assistance altogether unless urgent funding is received, the WFP said.

"We are at a tipping point and millions

of lives are at stake," said Margot van der Velden, the WFP's regional director for West and Central Africa.

"Without immediate funding, WFP will be forced to scale down even further both in the number of people reached and the size of food rations distributed." (AFP)

Hamas met Gaza mediators this week, but 'no progress' seen, say sources

09 MAY 2025

CAIRO (TIP): A Hamas delegation held two meetings with Egyptian and Qatari mediators in Doha this week but they produced no breakthrough in the search for a Gaza truce, sources close to the group said on May 9.

"Egyptian officials met twice with a high-level Hamas delegation led by (chief negotiator) Khalil al-Hayya (and) Qatari officials on Wednesday and Thursday in Doha," one source told AFP.

A second source said the talks were "serious" but made "no concrete progress".

Israel's military resumed its offensive on the Gaza Strip on March 18, ending a two-month truce that saw a surge in aid into the war-ravaged territory and the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Israel announced plans on Monday to expand its military campaign, drawing a chorus of international criticism.

Israel's military has said the expanded operations approved by the security cabinet on Sunday would include displacing "most" of Gaza's population.

An Israeli security source said there was still a "window of opportunity" for a hostage release deal to be struck to coincide with US President Donald Trump's May 13 to 16 visit to the region.

But one of the sources close to Hamas told AFP Friday: "We do not expect an agreement to be concluded" by then.

The comment came after Hamas rejected an Israeli proposal for a 45-day truce with hostages to be released in exchange for Palestinian prisoners and



ISRAEL'S MILITARY HAS SAID THE EXPANDED OPERATIONS APPROVED BY THE SECURITY CABINET ON SUNDAY WOULD INCLUDE DISPLACING "MOST" OF GAZA'S POPULATION. AN ISRAELI SECURITY SOURCE SAID THERE WAS STILL A "WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY" FOR A HOSTAGE RELEASE DEAL TO BE STRUCK TO COINCIDE WITH US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S MAY 13 TO 16 VISIT TO THE REGION.

a relaxation of the devastating aid blockade Israel imposed on Gaza on March 2.

Senior Hamas official Bassem Naim told AFP Wednesday that the group insisted on a "comprehensive agreement" to end the war.

Nearly all of Gaza's 2.4 million people have been displaced at least once during the war, sparked by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people on the Israeli side, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed at least 52,760 people in Gaza, also mostly civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry that the United Nations regards as reliable. (AFP)

Israel bombs crowded markets, schools, kills 92 Palestinians, including children and two journalists

08 MAY 2025

DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP): Israeli strikes across Gaza killed at least 92 people, including women, children and two journalists, officials said Wednesday, as Israel prepares to completely occupy the territory, with the genocidal war now entering its 20th month.

Two Israeli airstrikes on Wednesday targeted an area in central Gaza, killing at least 33 people and wounding 86, including several children, though the actual death toll is likely higher, according to health officials.

This came as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday there is "doubt" about the survival of three hostages previously believed alive in Gaza. The statement came a day after U.S. President Donald Trump said only 21 of 24 hostages believed alive had survived.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has so far killed at least 52,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Israel has also targeted and killed over a thousand healthcare workers, aid workers and more than 200 journalists.

Wednesday's strikes included two attacks on a crowded market area in Gaza City, health officials said.

Footage posted online showed the aftermath with men found dead, including one still seated in a chair inside a Thai restaurant used by locals as a gathering spot, and several children lying motionless on the ground, covered in blood.

Journalist Yahya Sobeih, who freelanced for several local outlets, was



among those killed, according to Gaza's media office. He had recently shared a photo on Instagram of his newborn daughter.

Victims of the blasts, some with severe injuries, were taken to nearby Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza health ministry spokesperson Zaher al-Wahidi told The Associated Press.

Another local journalist, Nour Abdu, was killed while covering an attack early Wednesday morning at a school turned shelter in Gaza City, the media office said. That strike killed 16 people, according to officials at Al-Ahli Hospital, while strikes in other areas killed at least 16 others.

And an attack Tuesday night on a school sheltering hundreds of displaced Palestinians killed 27 people, officials

from the Al-Aqsa Hospital said, including nine women and three children. The school has been struck repeatedly since the war began.

In Bureij, an urban refugee camp, paramedics and rescuers rushed to pull people out of a blaze after a large column of smoke and fires pierced the dark skies above the school shelter.

The new bloodshed on Wednesday comes days after Israel approved a plan to completely occupy the Palestinian territory, forcibly displacing Palestinians to southern Gaza and taking control of aid distribution along with private security companies.

Israel is also calling up tens of thousands of reserve soldiers to carry out the plan. Israel says the plan will be

gradual and will not be implemented until after Trump wraps up his visit to the region later this month.

Any escalation of fighting would likely drive up the death toll. And with Israel already controlling some 50% of Gaza, increasing its hold on the territory, for an indefinite amount of time, could open up the potential for a military occupation, which would raise questions about how Israel plans to have the territory governed, especially at a time when it is considering how to implement Trump's vision to take over Gaza.

Since Israel ended a ceasefire with the Palestinian resistance group Hamas in mid-March, it has unleashed fierce strikes on Gaza that have killed hundreds and captured swaths of territory. Before ending the truce, Israel halted all humanitarian aid into the territory, including food, fuel and water, setting off what is believed to be the worst humanitarian crisis in 19 months of war.

World Central Kitchen, the food charity, said it had run out of supplies after serving 130 million meals in Gaza over 18 months and could no longer offer bread or meals at most of its centers. The group, in social media posts, urged Israel to allow loaded trucks it has waiting at the border to enter Gaza.

Key interlocutors Qatar and Egypt said Wednesday that mediation efforts were "ongoing and consistent." But Israel and Hamas remain far apart on how they see the war ending. Hamas has said it is prepared to release all of the hostages for a permanent end to the war and a long-term truce with Israel. (AP)

UK Parliament debates India-Pakistan conflict, appeals for de-escalation

08 MAY 2025

LONDON (TIP): The rising tensions between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack and Op Sindoor targeting terror camps in PoK was debated at length in the British Parliament, with members across parties appealing for UK efforts to aid de-escalation in the region.

India launched Operation Sindoor early Wednesday, hitting nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan's Punjab province in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

UK Foreign Office Minister Hamish Falconer opened the debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday with a statement reiterating Prime Minister Keir Starmer's earlier remarks over the importance of diplomacy and dialogue.

He also expressed concerns related to the very personal aspect of the conflict for a large number of British Indians and British Pakistanis in the country.

Our consistent message to both India and Pakistan has been to show restraint.

They need to engage in dialogue to find a swift, diplomatic path forward, said Falconer.



The UK has a close and unique relationship with both countries. It is heartbreaking to see civilian lives being lost. If this escalates further, nobody wins.

We clearly condemned the horrific terrorist attack last month, he said referring to the Pahalgam terror attack and said it was the worst such attack for many years for that region.

Now, we need all sides to focus urgently on the steps needed to restore regional stability and ensure the protection of civilians, Falconer said.

He asserted that the UK will continue

to work closely with international partners in pursuit of short-term de-escalation and longer-term stability.

We now need to see calm heads.

Britain will continue to play its full part for de-escalation and diplomacy, he said.

UK shadow foreign secretary Priti Patel highlighted India's right to take reasonable and proportionate steps to defend itself, and to dismantle the vile terrorist infrastructure that has caused death and continues to threaten Indian security.

Terrorists based in Pakistan threaten

India and western interests it was the country that Osama bin Laden was hiding in ? and because of the long history of violence being inflicted by terrorists on India, the UK has in place long-standing security cooperation agreements with India, noted the British Indian MP.

She went on to question if Britain could offer specific support that might help avert escalation and also asked for the government's assessment of who carried out the terror attack in Kashmir on April 22.

India-born Labour MP Jas Athwal addressed the Commons on a personal note, highlighting that his parents were born in Pakistan.

I know only too well that neither nation will take a backward step, so what can the minister do to assure me and my residents in Ilford South that we will do everything possible to bring both the superpowers to the negotiating table to restore peace to this volatile part of the world, he asked.

Conservative Party MP Bob Blackman called for terrorist bases to be removed once and for all? from Pakistan.

It was made clear at the time by India that either Pakistan removes the terrorist spaces along the line of control, or India would remove them nine sites were hit; Those were terrorist bases where terrorists were being trained to commit further atrocities in India, he said. (PTI)

HELICOPTER CRASH IN SRI LANKA KILLS SIX

09 MAY 2025

COLOMBO (TIP): A Sri Lankan Air Force helicopter crashed on Friday during a demonstration flight, killing six of the 12 personnel on board, the military confirmed.

The incident occurred at Maduru Oya, east of the capital Colombo, when a Bell 212 helicopter plunged into a lake as part of preparations for a "fast-roping" manoeuvre—a display in which troops descend by rope from a hovering helicopter. The exercise was part of a graduation ceremony for Special Forces commandos.

"There were 12 people on board, and six survived with minor injuries," a military official told AFP. Among the deceased were four commandos and two Air Force gunners.

The ceremony was immediately called off, and an investigation into the cause of the crash is currently underway.

This marks the deadliest air force incident since January 2020, when a Chinese-built Y-12 aircraft crashed in Haputale, around 200 kilometers east of Colombo, killing all four crew members. The most fatal helicopter crash in Sri Lanka's history occurred in September 2000, when an Mi-17 helicopter went down in central Sri Lanka, killing all 15 people on board. (AFP)

PAKISTAN CLOSES AIRSPACE FOR 48 HRS AFTER INDIA'S OPERATION SINDOOR

07 MAY 2025

KARACHI (TIP): Pakistan on Wednesday announced a 48-hour closure of its airspace for all air traffic after India carried out a military strike on terror targets in Pakistan and PoK.

Shortly after the military strike by India, Pakistani aviation authorities closed the airspace over Islamabad and Lahore and diverted flights to Karachi.

Later, the entire airspace was closed for 48 hours as a precautionary measure.

However, aviation authorities reopened the airspace after an eight-hour closure.

International and domestic flights resumed this morning, with the majority of them departing from the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi or Lahore.

However, airspace in Lahore was closed again for 24 hours after a brief resumption.

A heavy rush was witnessed at the Jinnah Airport in Karachi as delayed international and domestic flights took off or landed there.

A spokesperson for the Civil Aviation Authority said that flights from West Asian countries and other destinations are now fully operational as per schedule. He added that domestic flights had also become operational until further notice. (PTI)

Pakistan Economic Affairs ministry's a/c deactivated after trolling

10 MAY 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): The official X account of Pakistan Ministry of Economic Affairs was deactivated on Friday following a massive backlash over its post requesting "more loans" from the international community, given the ongoing conflict with India following Operation Sindoor.

Embarrassed by the development, Pakistan claimed the account had been hacked and described the post as "fake news".

The post on the official X handle of the Pakistan ministry also tagged the World Bank social media account. "Govt of Pakistan appeals to International Partners for more loans after heavy losses inflicted by enemy. Amid escalating war and stocks crash, we urge international partners to help de-escalate. Nation urged to remain steadfast..." read the post, which was removed subsequently, and the account was deleted.

As the post became viral and drew hilarious responses online, India's Press Information Bureau of India (PIB) took a dig at the authorities in the neighbouring country. It responded with a Bollywood meme comprising a still



from a comedy movie, Golmaal, and a popular dialogue – "Ye Koi Tareeka Hai Bheek Mangneka?" (Is this a way to beg?)

Meanwhile, the PIB's Fact Check Unit continued flagging fake news and manufactured stories on social media.

The unit debunked a news report by China's English newspaper, China Daily, which claimed that at least three Indian jets had crashed in Kashmir. The Unit clarified that it used an old image from 2019. (PTI)

Thousands rally in Bangladesh seeking ban on former PM's party

09 MAY 2025

DHAKA (TIP): Thousands of people rallied on Friday outside the residence of Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, demanding he ban the political party of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Yunus, 84, has led an interim government since Hasina was overthrown by student-led mass protests in August 2024 and fled into exile as crowds stormed her palace.

Friday's rally came after the sudden departure of Abdul Hamid, a former leader of Hasina's Awami League party, from Bangladesh early Thursday.

A crowd, mainly made up of young people, had started gathering outside Yunus' residence on Thursday night.

HASNAT ABDULLAH, THE CHIEF ORGANISER OF THE NEWLY FORMED NATIONAL CITIZEN'S PARTY, SAID THE DEMONSTRATION WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL THEIR DEMANDS WERE MET.

"Sheikh Hasina robbed the people of Bangladesh of their democratic rights. She manipulated the system to prevent any real opposition from participating in the election," Kamrul said.

"We saw Abdul Hamid leave the



country safely. The actions of certain advisers are highly suspicious. The delay in justice appears to be part of a broader plan to bring back the fallen dictator and her party," he added.

Hasina remains in self-imposed exile in India and has defied an arrest warrant from Dhaka over charges of crimes against humanity.

According to the United Nations, up to 1,400 protesters died in July when Hasina's government launched a brutal crackdown on the opposition, casualties for which she and Hamid are being investigated.

At least three police officers responsible for overseeing airport arrivals and departures have been

dismissed for negligence, according to officials, after Hamid's departure.

While citizens are generally barred from assembling outside the chief adviser's residence, the student demonstrators were allowed through.

The government said on Friday it was seriously considering the demand raised by various quarters to ban the Awami League.

"The government has begun communicating with different political parties to reach a final decision on the matter. It has reviewed UN-documented evidence of atrocities committed by the Awami League and its affiliates," the statement said. (AFP)



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PARTNERS



Rules for saving your marriage

If your marriage is in trouble, the chances are that you and your partner are stuck in trying to control rather than learn. Changing your intent can heal your marriage.

- Be honest with yourself regarding your primary intention. Which category do you fall into - the intent to protect or the intent to learn?

Is your primary intention to protect yourself from your fears with some form of controlling behavior - such as anger, blame, criticism, withdrawal of love, threats, compliance, or resistance? Is having power over your partner and winning more important to you than being loving to yourself and your partner? Do you make your partner responsible for your feelings? Are you more devoted to getting love and avoiding rejection rather than to mutuality, caring, and sharing love?

Is your primary intention to learn about loving yourself and your partner? Are you more devoted to mutuality, caring and sharing love than to being right, winning, having your way, or making your partner responsible for your feelings? Is learning more important to you than whether or not you receive approval?

Basic to all the other rules is being in the intent to learn about loving yourself and others. If your primary intent is to protect yourself from pain and rejection with controlling behavior, you will have no chance of improving your relationship. You will continue to create the very problems you are attempting to avoid with your controlling behavior.

- Let go of the past. Hanging on to old grievances is part of the intent to protect - blaming your partner for your pain rather than taking responsibility for whatever choices you made that resulted in your unhappiness.
- Disengage from conflict as soon as one person is not open to learning. There is no point in trying to talk out problems and issues until both people are open to learning. If you are open and your partner is not, then give up trying to solve problems by talking about them and unilaterally figure out how to take loving care of yourself in the face of your partner's choices.
- Keep your eyes on your own plate, sharing only about yourself and your own learning. Let go of analyzing or defining your partner. Let go of interrogating questions that are really attacks. These behaviors are controlling and invasive. Your



job is to define yourself, not your partner! The more you define your own inner worth and let go of attempting to define your partner, the better your relationship will become.

Do your own Inner Bonding work to deal with your issues of abandonment and engulfment, and to define your own worth and lovability. Rather than making your partner responsible for your fears of abandonment or your fears of losing yourself, do your inner healing work to move beyond these fears. Take full 100% responsibility for these fears rather than making your partner responsible for causing them.

- Accept your lack of control over the other person, choosing instead to see your partner as his or her own person. Learn to cherish the differences rather than try to make your partner into you. Support your partner in becoming all he or she came to this planet to be. Support your partner in what brings him or her joy, taking responsibility for whatever fears your partner's independence brings up for you.
- Make kindness to your self and others your guiding light, even when your fears are triggered.

Once again, if you are stuck in the mindset of protection and control, you will not be able to make these choices. Your intent to learn is basic to being able to make these choices and improve your relationship. You are in charge of your intent and you always have the option to let go of the intent to protect/control and move into the intent to learn about loving yourself and your partner.

FOOD CORNER



Mishti doi

Mishti Doi is synonymous with Bengal in East India. The Bengalis are famous for their sweet preparations and Mishti Doi is among their most well-known desserts. Mishti Doi tastes great but is amazingly simple to make.

Ingredients

1 liter full cream/ whole milk, 3-4 tablespoons yogurt, 250 grams sugar,

Method

- Boil the milk in a heavy-bottomed pan, on a medium flame until it is reduced to half its original volume. Stir frequently to prevent the milk from scorching. When done, cool the milk till it is just lukewarm.
- Put the sugar in another pan and heat over a low flame to melt. Allow the sugar to caramelize (brown). Remove from the fire when done, add the reduced milk to this caramelized sugar and mix well to blend.
- When the milk and sugar are thoroughly mixed, add the yogurt to the mixture and stir gently to mix.
- Pour into the desired container and keep in a warm dark spot for the Mishti Doi to set. The best taste results are achieved by setting the Mishti Doi in an earthenware pot.
- When the Mishti Doi has set and is firm, chill for a few hours and serve.

Mango Kulfi

Ingredients

2 fresh, ripe, sweet mangoes (use 3 mangoes if they are not very pulpy), 1 1/2 cups evaporated milk, 2 1/2 cups thickened double cream, 1 3/4 cups sweetened condensed milk, 2 tablespoons almond meal

Method

- Remove the mango pulp carefully. Put all of the ingredients in a blender and mix them until they are completely smooth.
- Pour the ice cream mixture into molds or bowls, or into one large bowl and freeze it until it is almost set.
- Remove the bowl or bowls from the freezer and whisk it thoroughly until all of the lumps are gone. This prevents ice crystals from forming in the kulfi and gives it a smooth texture. Put the ice cream back into the freezer and leave it until it is set.

Multani mitti face packs for all types of skin

Multani mitti is very effective for skin glow. It is good cleanser that brightens our skin immediately. Multani mitti is a clay substance used as a cleanser, toner. Multani mitti is rich in magnesium chloride helps to reduce acne.

Multani Mitti and Aloe Vera face pack

Ingredients

Multani mitti, Aloe vera gel

Procedure

- Mix multani mitti with some aloe vera gel to form a paste.
- Apply it on your face and leave it for few minutes so that it dries.
- Rinse with water.

Multani mitti and Tomato face pack

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons of tomato juice, 2 tablespoons of

multani mitti



Procedure

- Mix multani mitti with tomato juice.
- Apply it on your face and leave it for 10 minutes so the skin absorbs the needed nutrients.
- Rinse with warm water.

Multani Mitti and Honey face mask

Ingredients

- 1 spoon of multani mitti
- 1-2 spoons of honey

Procedure

- Mix Multani mitti with honey to form a paste.
- Apply it evenly on the face.
- After a few minutes, rinse it.

Migraine drug to reduce depressive symptoms in patients

A migraine drug has shown to significantly reduce symptoms of depression in patients—the first trial to show improvements in both the conditions using a single drug, researchers said.

In the study involving 540 patients, 'fremanezumab' was found to reduce days of migraine in a month and symptoms of depression, compared to a placebo (inactive substance producing no effects). The drug, administered as an injection beneath the skin (subcutaneous), is available in India.

Published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Neurology, the study is the first to demonstrate significant improvements in migraine and depressive symptoms—often seen to co-exist in patients—with a single drug, the researchers, including those from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, US, said. Patients of migraine—a common neurological condition marked by recurring headaches—have been studied to be two to four times more likely to develop depression. The two conditions are suggested to have common genetic basis and biological processes that control levels of brain chemicals, such as serotonin and glutamine.

The researchers said that patients having migraine and depression are treated with antidepressants—which work by improving serotonin levels. Serotonin helps regulate mood, and low levels can cause sadness, anxiety and irritability.

However, antidepressants are not uniformly effective for migraine. Further, data is limited on the efficacy of migraine therapy in people also experiencing psychiatric conditions.

The trial was conducted over a 28-week period at 61 centres across 12 countries, including the US, UK, France, and Germany, between July, 2020, and August, 2022.

The participants were randomly assigned to receive a



monthly dose of fremanezumab (225 milligrams) or a placebo at the study's start and at the end of week four and week eight.

"Although treatment with fremanezumab and placebo both resulted in clinically meaningful reductions in depressive symptoms, fremanezumab achieved statistical significance vs placebo at week 8," the authors wrote.

They suggested that the reduced depressive symptoms could be an indirect effect of the drug actively treating migraine, although further analyses are required to understand this.

The results "suggest that fremanezumab was effective in a difficult-to-treat clinical population with migraine and comorbid major depressive disorders and may also be effective in alleviating psychiatric comorbidities, therefore reducing the cumulative burden on patients."

Source: PTI



Have plenty of curd daily to reduce anxiety

Having probiotics can not only regulate gut bacteria—trillions of microorganisms in the gut which perform key functions in the immune system and metabolism—but also improve brain function and, thus, reduce anxiety, find researchers.

Probiotics are living organisms found naturally in some foods that are also known as "good" or "friendly" bacteria because they fight against harmful bacteria and prevent them from settling in the gut.

The research also suggests that mental disorders could be treated by regulating the intestinal microbiota, but there was no specific evidence to support this.

"Gut microbiota can help regulate brain function through something called the 'gut-brain axis,'" found the researchers from the Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine.

To reach this conclusion, the researchers reviewed 21 studies that had looked at 1,503 people collectively.

The team found that probiotic supplements in seven studies within their analysis contained only one kind of probiotic, two studies used a product that contained two kinds of probiotics, and the supplements used in the other five studies included at least three kinds.

Overall, 11 of the 21 studies showed a positive effect on anxiety symptoms by regulating intestinal microbiota, meaning that more than half (52 per cent) of the studies showed this approach to be effective.

Of the 14 studies that had used probiotics as the intervention, more than a third (36 per cent) found them to be effective in reducing anxiety symptoms, while six of the remaining seven studies that had used non-probiotics as interventions found those to be effective—a 86 per cent rate of effectiveness. Non-probiotic interventions were also more effective.

Most of the studies did not report serious adverse events, and only four studies reported mild adverse effects such as dry mouth and diarrhoea.

Magnesium is the new star of supplements

The rising popularity of magnesium supplements, largely fuelled by wellness influencers, reflects a broader shift toward proactive and self-directed healthcare. These supplements have suddenly exploded into the market, with dozens of influencer-backed and celebrity-backed companies promising everything from 'glow skin' to 'increased productivity' to 'a better night's sleep.' According to the Global Wellness Economy Monitor 2024, the wellness industry reached a record \$6.3 trillion in 2023 and is projected to hit \$9 trillion by 2028.

Where did this trend come from, and how did magnesium become the new star of supplements?

While this trend has contributed to increased awareness about the importance of micronutrients like magnesium, it also raises concerns around misinformation and self-medication.

But first, let's break down what magnesium actually does in the body, and why it's suddenly getting so much attention.

What does magnesium do?

Magnesium is an important mineral that is naturally present in the environment. The human body also contains a sufficient amount of magnesium that enables more than 300 enzymes to perform from the smallest to the greatest functions in the body.

Magnesium is involved in protein synthesis, muscle and nerve function, blood glucose control, blood pressure regulation, energy production, oxidative phosphorylation, glycolysis (a function that helps



break down glucose) and improving sleep quality.

This mineral also transports other minerals like calcium and potassium to various cells to help maintain heart rhythm.

Usually, an adult body contains 25 grams of magnesium, with 50% to 60% present in the bones and most of the rest in soft tissues.

Since our bodies cannot make magnesium, we need to consume it from our diet.

As much as this mineral is important for the body, a global study published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Nutrition, Prevention & Health, revealed that magnesium is the second-most common deficiency after vitamin D among Indians, particularly those who have diabetes.

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Astronomers discover Earth-like exoplanets common across the cosmos: Study

Astronomers have discovered that super-Earth exoplanets are more common across the universe than previously thought.

While it can be relatively easy to locate worlds that orbit close to their star, planets with wider paths can be difficult to detect.

Still, researchers estimated that for every three stars, there should be at least one super-Earth present with a Jupiter-like orbital period, suggesting these massive worlds are extremely prevalent across the universe.

Using the Korea Microlensing Telescope Network (KMTNet), an international team of researchers has discovered that super-Earth exoplanets are more common across the universe than previously thought, according to a new study.

By studying light anomalies made by the newly found planet's host star and combining their results with a larger sample from a KMTNet microlensing survey, the team found that super-Earths can exist as far from their host star as our gas giants are from the sun, said Andrew Gould, co-author of the study and professor emeritus of astronomy at The Ohio State University.

"Scientists knew there were more small planets than big planets, but in this study, we were able to show that within this overall pattern, there are excesses and deficits," he said. "It's very interesting." While it can be relatively easy to locate worlds that orbit close to their star, planets with wider paths can be difficult to detect.

Still, researchers further estimated that for every three stars, there should be at least one super-Earth present with a Jupiter-like orbital period, suggesting these massive worlds are extremely prevalent across the universe, said Gould, whose early theoretical research helped develop the field of planetary microlensing.

The findings in this study were made via microlensing, an observational effect that occurs when the presence of mass warps the fabric of space-time to a detectable degree.

When a foreground object, such as a star or planet, passes between an observer and a more distant star, light is curved from the source, causing an apparent increase in the object's brightness that can last anywhere from a few hours to several months.

Google brings Gemini 2.5 Pro IO edition, it is tuned for coding and software development

Google is set to host its annual event — Google I/O 2025 — on May 20. According to the rumours, the event will unveil several upcoming software updates, including Android 16, Android XR, and new Gemini AI features. However, a few days ahead of the event, Google DeepMind CEO, Demis Hassabis couldn't wait and introduced improvements to its "most intelligent model". Calling it "pre-I/O goodies", Hassabis said that the Gemini 2.5 Pro (Preview) now has "massively improved coding capabilities".

Google Gemini 2.5 Pro (I/O Edition): New improvements

Google has brought forward the release of an enhanced version of its Gemini 2.5 Pro model, now dubbed "Gemini 2.5 Pro (I/O Edition)," ahead of its initial unveiling planned for I/O 2025.

The updated model—labelled gemini-2.5-pro-preview-05-06—features major upgrades in its ability to handle programming tasks. According to Google, it delivers marked improvements in "code transformation, code editing, and developing complex agentic workflows." This version builds upon the first 2.5 Pro model, which launched in late March.

Thanks to what Google describes as "overwhelming enthusiasm for this model," the company chose to release it two weeks earlier than expected. The upgrade is now live within the Gemini app—where the Canvas workspace stands to gain the most—and is also available via the Gemini API through Google AI Studio and Vertex AI.

Gemini 2.5 Pro AI model

Google's Gemini 2.5 Pro is the first model in the Gemini 2.5 family. Google says that every model in the Gemini 2.5 lineup — including those yet to come — has been built as a "thinking model, capable of reasoning through their thoughts before responding, resulting in enhanced performance and improved accuracy." With the latest Gemini 2.5 Pro release, that design focus has been pushed further to handle more demanding and intricate tasks.

The company highlights that the model "tops the LMArena leaderboard — which measures human preferences — by a significant margin." It also leads the way in academic



benchmarks, taking first place in both mathematics (AIME 2025) and science (GPQA diamond), doing so "without test-time techniques that increase cost, like majority voting."

Among its standout features is a major upgrade in programming performance, which Google describes as "a big leap over 2.0" with "more improvements to come." The model is especially strong when it comes to building rich, interactive web apps and agent-driven code tools, in addition to its capabilities in "code transformation and editing."

In evaluations focused on autonomous software engineering, Gemini 2.5 Pro scored an impressive 63.8 per cent on SWE-Bench Verified, using a tailored agent-based approach — a result that underlines its growing competency in real-world coding challenges.

Elon Musk's Neuralink patient makes YouTube video with brain implant



edit footage and, with the help of AI trained on recordings from before he lost his voice, narrate the video in his own synthetic voice.

"Neuralink has given me freedom, hope, and faster communication. It has improved my life so much. I'm so happy

to be involved in something big that will help many people," Smith said.

The implant has also allowed Smith to play video games with his children and communicate outdoors—something impossible with his previous technology. While the system isn't yet fast enough for real-time conversation, Smith's progress signals hope for others with severe paralysis.

Smith's journey has not been without challenges, from extensive medical testing to the realities of living with a terminal illness. Yet, with the support of his wife and family, he remains optimistic.

As Neuralink continues its clinical trials, Smith's experience shows the possibilities of brain-computer interfaces, offering new hope to those living with ALS and other debilitating conditions.

Brad Smith, a husband and father of two, has become the first nonverbal person with ALS to receive a Neuralink brain implant, offering a powerful glimpse into how technology is transforming lives once thought isolated by disease.

Smith, diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 2020, has lost the ability to move or speak. Relying on a ventilator, he previously communicated using an eye-gaze device, which only worked in dark rooms and limited his interactions with the world.

The Neuralink device, about the size of five stacked quarters, was implanted in Smith's motor cortex and contains over 1,000 electrodes. It interprets his neural signals, allowing him to move a cursor on his MacBook Pro.

While early training focused on imagining hand movements, Smith found more success by thinking about moving his tongue or clenching his jaw to control the cursor and click virtually.

In a video posted online, Smith demonstrated how he used the BCI to

India, UK reach free trade deal, PM Modi calls it 'historic milestone'

India and the United Kingdom have concluded an "ambitious and mutually beneficial" free trade agreement (FTA) that will deepen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership and catalyse trade and investment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after a conversation with his British counterpart Keir Starmer.

The deal was finalised three years after Modi and his former British counterpart Boris Johnson set a target of concluding the FTA by October 2022. Since then, the negotiations had been affected by differences on a range of issues, including tariffs on alcohol and automobiles, and political turmoil in the UK.

"Delighted to speak with my friend PM @Keir_Starmer. In a historic milestone, India and the UK have successfully concluded an ambitious and mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement, along with a Double Contribution Convention," PM Modi said in a post on X on Tuesday evening.

"These landmark agreements will further deepen our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and catalyse trade, investment, growth, job creation, and innovation in both our economies. I look forward to welcoming PM Starmer to India soon," he said.

The two leaders described the development as a historic milestone that will foster trade, investment, innovation and job creation in both economies. They agreed that the agreements between the "two big and open market economies" will open new opportunities for businesses, strengthen economic linkages, and deepen people-to-people ties, according to a readout from the Indian side.

Starmer said "strengthening alliances and reducing trade barriers with economies around the world" is part of the UK's "Plan for Change" to deliver a



Secretary of State Jonathan Reynolds with Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal.

stronger and more secure economy, the readout said.

Further details about the trade deal were expected by Tuesday evening in the form of formal announcements by both sides. The breakthrough in the trade negotiations followed two back-to-back visits to the UK last week by commerce minister Piyush Goyal for meetings with British trade secretary Jonathan Reynolds to push the talks across the finish line.

According to the UK government's latest trade data, India was Britain's 11th largest trading partner in the four

quarters to the end of Q4 2024 and accounted for 2.4% of total UK trade.

Total trade in goods and services between India and the UK was worth £42.6 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2024, an increase of 8.3% from the four quarters to the end of Q4 2023. This included Indian exports to the UK worth £25.5 billion in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2024 (an increase of 10.1% compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2023), and UK exports to India amounted to £17.1 billion in the same period (an increase of 5.8% compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2023).

Sensex, Nifty face heavy volatility after India avenges Pahalgam attack

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty faced heavy volatility trade after India launched missile strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

The Sensex hit the day's high of 80,844.63 and an intra-day low of 79,937.48. The NSE Nifty hit a high of 24,449.60 and a low of 24,220.

Both the benchmark indices depicted range-bound trading during the morning trade. The BSE benchmark gauge traded 87.81 points lower at 80,553.26, and the Nifty quoted 16.55 points down at 24,365.05.

Retaliating for the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian armed forces on early Wednesday carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke.

"What stands out in 'Operation Sindoor' from the market perspective is its focused and non-escalatory nature. We have to wait and watch how the enemy reacts to these precision strikes by India. The market is unlikely to be impacted by the retaliatory strike by India since that was known and discounted by the market," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

The main catalyst of the market resilience in India is the sustained FII buying of the last 14 trading days which has touched a cumulative figure of Rs 43,940 crore in the cash market, he said.

"FIIs are focused on the global macros like weak dollar, slower growth in the US and China in 2025, and India's potential outperformance in growth. This can keep the market resilient. However, investors have to watch the developments in the border," Vijayakumar added.

Moody's Ratings has cut India's GDP growth projections for 2025 to 6.3 per cent, from 6.5 per cent, saying economies globally will see a slowdown on account of heightened US policy uncertainty and trade restrictions.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2025-26 (May update), Moody's said geopolitical stresses, like tension between India and Pakistan, also have a potential downside risk to its baseline growth forecasts. Costs to investors and businesses are likely to rise as they factor in new geopolitical configurations when deciding where to invest, expand, and/or source goods, Moody's said.

Moody's cut India's growth projections to 6.3 per cent for 2025 calendar year, but retained it at 6.5 per cent for 2026. This compares with a 6.7 per cent growth in 2024. Moody's expects the Reserve Bank

Moody's cuts India's GDP forecast to 6.3%



of India to lower benchmark policy rates further to support growth.

"Economic growth was already set to slow this year back to its potential rate. We lowered our global growth projections for 2025 and 2026 further on

account of the policy shifts and more intense policy uncertainty than we had previously expected, especially in the largest two economies, the US and China," Moody's said.

Stating that policy uncertainty is further slowing growth in 2025, Moody's said it is likely to take a toll on consumer, business, and financial activity. Despite a pause and reduction in some tariffs, policy uncertainty and trade tensions, especially between the US and China, are likely to dampen global trade and investment with consequences across the G-20.

Moody's lowered GDP growth projections for the US to 1 per cent in 2025 and 1.5 per cent in 2026 from 2 per cent and 1.8 per cent. That compares

with growth of 2.8 per cent in 2024.

For China, Moody's expects growth to be 3.8 per cent in 2025 and 3.9 per cent in 2026, lower than 5 per cent in 2024.

It said that in addition to trade policy uncertainties, Moody's baseline forecasts incorporate a degree of financial market volatility and continued political tensions in multiple geographies.

"In April, financial market metrics reflected uncertainty-induced risk aversion and repricing of some financial assets. Frequent bouts of intense financial market volatility that tighten liquidity and significantly raise the cost of capital could erode economic resilience, posing risks to growth," Moody's added.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, you will have many opportunities that will boost your confidence. In your personal life, your relationships will grow stronger, and you will enjoy time spent with family. In the work sphere, making new plans and collaborating with others will be beneficial. Focus on yourself this week. Take care of your health. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy. Also, practice meditation and yoga to keep away from mental stress. Your creativity will be at its peak at this time, so use your artistic abilities. This is the right time to start a new project or hobby. Expand social networks; new friends and associates can lead you to new possibilities. Keep in mind that it is important to maintain patience in any situation. Positive changes are likely for you this week; just move forward with faith in yourself.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week will bring new energy. Try to maintain balance in your personal and professional life. Although challenges may come, your patience and stability will help you deal with every situation. Be cautious in financial matters. Think well before making any investment or big expenditure. This is a good time to spend time with family. Happiness will increase in your domestic life and relationships will strengthen. Be health conscious. Try meditation or yoga for mental peace. This week will give you an opportunity for self-reflection, which will help you get clarity on your desires and goals. Listen to your heart this week and stay true to your intentions. Happiness is with you, you just need to recognize it. Take advantage of every moment and spread positive energy around you.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week is going to be very exciting for Gemini. You will be able to make new connections by using your communication skills to the fullest. Your thoughts and ideas will flow, which you would like to share with your colleagues and your loved ones. This week, you may learn some new technology or unfamiliar things related to knowledge. Taking advantage of your curious nature and getting involved in a new activity will prove beneficial. Your social activities may also increase. This is the

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 12, 2025 TO MAY 18, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

right time to meet friends, reconnect with old contacts, and connect with new people. This week will be positive for you from a financial point of view as well, but expenses need to be taken care of. In your personal life, it will be important for you to spend a little more time with your close ones and connect with them emotionally. This is the time to increase communication and understanding with each other. In terms of health, use your energy properly and be conscious of a balanced diet. Pay attention to mental health; meditation or yoga will be beneficial. In summary, this week is a time for you to communicate, learn, and make new connections. Maintain your curiosity and move forward with positivity.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week brings particularly positive signs for you. This week, you will be able to understand your emotions better. Your sensitivity will get a new direction, which will help you build even stronger bonds with your loved ones. At work, this is the right time to increase communication with colleagues. Any problem can be solved if you share your thoughts with clarity. Your hard work will pay off, and you will receive praise. Health-wise, try to add some exercise to your routine. For mental health, meditation and yoga can help bring balance to your life. This week, you will find it especially pleasurable to get involved in social activities and meet friends. To maintain your emotional health, do not forget to be alone from time to time and talk to yourself. Overall, this week will be full of love, support, and self-dedication for you. Listen to your heart and move forward with positivity!

LEO



Ganesha says this week brings many opportunities and challenging situations for Leo. It is time to recognize your self-confidence and leadership potential. Your ideas and views will gain importance in the workplace, making you an inspiring element among your colleagues. If some disputes were going on in personal relationships, this week is a good time to resolve them. Express your words and feelings clearly; this will strengthen relationships. Try to communicate to increase mutual understanding. In terms of health, do not forget to include exercise and a balanced diet in your routine. This will make you feel energetic and fresh. This is the right time to focus on meditation and yoga for mental health. Participate in social activities; this is a golden opportunity to make new friendships and strengthen old relationships. This week, there will be positive energy around you; make the most of it. Be bold in your words and actions this week, and inspire others.

Everyone will be impressed by your leadership, and the result of your efforts will also be extremely positive.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week, you will face many new possibilities in your workplace. This is the time for you to share your ideas and work on new projects. Collaboration with fellow workers will bring you success, but be careful to avoid unnecessary stress. There may be some changes in your family life as well. Family members seek your advice, and your guidance will provide them with guidance. Spending time with your loved ones will give you mental peace. In terms of health, this week is a week to be a little cautious. Focus on proper diet and regular exercise, so that your energy level remains good. From a financial point of view, an old payment may bring you relief. Use discretion while planning your expenses. This week, maintain your inner composure and make decisions by staying calm. Your confidence will help you overcome many obstacles.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is a time of harmony and balance for Libra natives. You will be able to strike a balance between your personal and professional life. Relationships with family and friends will be strong, and you will feel inspired to spend time with them. This week, you will get an opportunity to express your creative ideas. This will motivate you to get involved in new projects. You will have supportive and helpful people in your workplace, which will increase your chances of success. However, this week you need to pay attention to your emotions. You may experience instability for some days, so try to keep yourself calm and balanced. Meditation and yoga will help strengthen your mental state. Your health will also need attention. Regular exercise and adopting a balanced diet will improve your mental and physical health. Believe in yourself this week, and adopt positivity. The environment around you will help you fulfill your ambitions.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, the doors of new possibilities are opening for you. You will start your activities with new energy and enthusiasm. This is the time for self-analysis and self-construction. Recognize the strength within you and use it to achieve your goals. Some tension is possible in personal relationships, but you can resolve it with communication and empathy. Spending time with your loved ones will give you mental peace. Do not hesitate to express your deepest feelings, it will strengthen your relationships. On the career front,

your efforts are likely to be rewarded. Your hard work and dedication will increase your recognition among your bosses and colleagues. Thoughtful steps will help you achieve success. In terms of health, it is important to take care of your mental and physical health. Yoga and meditation can keep you calm. Take some time for yourself this week and participate in your favorite activities. This week, be full of confidence and radiate positivity. Whatever you do, do it with all your heart, and you will get the result.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week is the time for new beginnings. The curiosity and energy within you will lead you to new experiences. This week, you may learn something new, whether it is in a new hobby or professional life. Your thoughts will be positive, and people around you will be attracted to your energy. Participating in social activities will prove beneficial for you, and you may make new friends. The importance of communication will increase in personal relationships. Spend time with your partner and try to share your feelings. This will strengthen you and your relationship. There is a need to be health conscious. Doing yoga or meditation will improve mental peace and physical health. This week, be cautious in money matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and focus on financial planning. Make the most of this week of your curiosity and courage, and move forward with positive energy.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says the overall outlook for Capricorns will be very positive this week. New opportunities will be welcomed in your professional life, which will increase the possibility of advancement in your career. Your hard work and dedication will make your superiors appreciate your work. You will also find satisfaction and love in personal relationships. Spending time with family will increase mutual understanding and bring warmth to relationships. Participating in social activities with your friends will also give you happiness. This week is going to be better for your health, although you will have to take a little care of your diet. Regular exercise and yoga will keep you full of energy. Also, take time for self-reflection this week. Reflect on your goals and make concrete plans to achieve them. Your self-confidence and dedication will take you to new heights of success.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says many positive changes can come in your life this week. Your creativity

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 12 TO MAY 18 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 12

Ganesha says today, the celestial forces urge you to draw upon the caring and nurturing characteristics inherent in your identity. These traits, centered on kindness and empathy, are your superpowers. Your intuition, sharp as ever, may lead you towards individuals or situations that require a gentle touch and a listening ear. Don't hold back from demonstrating genuine emotions; these authentic displays can help strengthen bonds and deepen connections with those you cherish.

MAY 13

Ganesha says the universe gives you an abundance of creativity today. This may manifest itself in various forms, such as a flair for art, a knack for writing, or an innovative approach to resolving issues. Allow yourself to be taken by surprise at your resourcefulness. Stay patient, maintain an open mind, and let the ideas flow. Remember, the most brilliant flashes of inspiration often occur when

you least anticipate them.

MAY 14

Ganesha says the cosmos urges you to step into the social arena today. An excellent day for networking and meeting new people, letting your true colors shine, and inspiring others with your unique perspective. Reach out, connect, and let conversations flow organically. Remember, authenticity has a magnetic pull - you never know whose life you might touch.

MAY 15

Ganesha says the power of perseverance takes center stage today. You may encounter hurdles and obstacles, but remember that your strength lies in your unwavering determination and resilience. Trust your capabilities and soldier on, because even the tiniest steps, when taken consistently, can lead to impressive progress over time.

MAY 16

Ganesha says today's guiding principle is balance. Strive for equilibrium in all aspects of your life, whether it's between work and play, or giving and receiving. Your peace of mind and satisfaction hinge upon achieving this delicate harmony. Remember, it's not just okay, but essential, to decline when you need to - taking care of yourself should always be a priority.

MAY 17

Ganesha says today, the cosmos seems to align favorably for you, nudging you towards personal growth and self-improvement. Don't hesitate to step beyond your comfort zone. Explore uncharted territories, seek fresh experiences, and you may discover new facets of your personality. Remember, life begins at the end of your comfort zone.

MAY 18

Ganesha says as you wake up today, it's the perfect time for introspection and



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

goal-setting. Reflect on the day that's passed and think about what you want from the day ahead. This is not about the month or the year, but about now. Set your intentions, plan your actions, and remember that every sunrise presents a brand new opportunity to begin afresh.

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will be at its peak, which will enable you to adopt new ideas and implement them. You will get an appreciation for your efforts at work, and this time may indicate promotion or new responsibilities. Your social life will also be active this week, where you will get the opportunity to make new friends and strengthen old relationships. There may be minor squabbles with family members, but it will be resolved soon. Be patient and try to end differences through conversation. In terms of health, yoga and meditation will help improve your mental state. Regular exercise will increase energy levels. Make sure to take time to give yourself some rest. This week, you will be ready to express your feelings. Honesty and transparency will be essential in love relationships. Maintain good communication with your partner. Overall, this week will be full of possibilities for you, which can open new directions for you. Be prepared and take full advantage of all the opportunities.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week marks a new beginning for Pisces. You will be able to express your feelings at this time, and this will give you a chance to

strengthen your relationships. Sharing your emotions openly will deepen your relationship with your loved ones. On the business front, you may get some new opportunities. Do not be afraid to share your ideas. This is the right time to bring out the creativity you have. Try to

maintain better coordination with the team, this will increase empathy and cooperation in the workplace. In terms of health, you need to focus on your mental health. Meditation and yoga will be good for you. Apart from this, you should take adequate rest and maintain balance in

your daily routine. Take care of your dreams this week. Positive thinking and clarity can open up new possibilities for you. Trust your intuition, and take whatever decision you take with all your heart. This is the time to understand yourself and follow your inner feelings.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥



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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

Sikh History This Week

MAY 9 TO MAY 15

9th May

1915 Bhai Sahib Randhir Singh arrested for participation in an unsuccessful attempt to attack Ferozepur Fort.

1988 Indian government killed numerous innocent GurSikhs at Sri Darbar Sahib.

10th May

1479 Prakash Utsav, Third Patshah, Guru Amar Das Ji.



1887 Maharaja Dalip Singh sought help of Russian ruler Alexander III to fight against the British government.

1924 6th Jatha of 500 Akalis, led by Prem Singh of Kokri, started its march to Jaito.

1930 Master Tara Singh arrested for marching in support of atrocities against Pathans.



1955 Agitation launched against the imposition of ban on the slogan Punjabi Suba Zindabad was launched. 10,000 courted arrests. This is known as a small agitation for Punjabi Suba.

1984 Giani Pratap Singh, Jathedar Sri Akal Takhat is murdered.

11th May

1835 Dost Mohd. agitated over Sikh occupation of Peshawar in 1834 made war preparation but left battle field at Attock. Dost Mohd., agitated over Sikh occupation of Peshawar, wrote to Maharaja Ranjit Singh to hand over Peshawar or be prepared to face a war. Ranjit Singh sent an equally strong rejoinder. Dost Mohd. made a religious issue to incite fellow tribals against Sikhs and made elaborate preparations. Maharaja Ranjit Singh sent a large force under Hari Singh Nalwa but also played the diplomatic game of breaking away minor tribal chiefs with money and allurements. Gulab Singh and Avitabile were sent to Kohat and Venfura joined Maharaja Ranjit Singh at Attock. Dost Mohd. realising his weakness left the field with bag and baggage during night on this day.

1922 Sunder Singh Makhsuspuri and Arjan Singh of Sundh were arrested and Kishan Singh Gargaj narrowly escaped.

1981 Akali party passed resolution Sikhs are a Nation. The Akali Party passes the resolution Sikhs are a Nation. On Mar. 25, 1981 the SGPC unanimously passed the resolution Sikhs are a nation. With the passing of such a resolution by the Sikh Parliament and with the ratification of this resolution by the Jathedar of the Akal Takht on April 21, 1981, the issue stood finally decided by the whole of the Sikh nation. On May 11, 1981, the Akali Party also passed a resolution to that effect.

12th May



1710 Battle of Chaaper Chheri in which Nawab Wazir Khan was killed.

1979 Calcutta Gurdwara Burnt.

1984 Murder of Sri Ramesh, editor of Hind Samachar.

13th May

1665 Guru Tegh Bahadur reached Bilaspur.

Guru Tegh Bahadur accompanied by his mother Nanaki, and members of his Darbar reached Bilaspur. Guru Sahib was attending the bhog ceremony of Bilaspur's ruler at the urgent request of his wife Rani Champa Devi.



1673 Gobind Rai married Jitan at Chak Nanaki.

1710 Famous battle of Chapar Cheri fought near Sarhind. Banda Bahadur defeated and killed Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind.

Having won the battle of Chapar Cheri, the Khalsa army seigned the city of Sirhind. Before entering the city, on this day, the Khalsa army had to face another severe battle. Five hundred Sikhs lay martyrs to the fort guns. The city, however, fell to the Khalsa army in the afternoon. destruction of life and property in the city was boundless. Various descriptions mention that the city was reduced to ruins. Whole families were killed.

Large amounts of wealth plundered not only by the victorious army but also by robbers and dacoits.

Banda Singh ransacked Saharanpur and renamed it Bhanagar. Banda Bahadur established his camp at Mukhlispur (a small fortress constructed by Mukhlis Khan for camping during hunts in the Shivalik Hills.) Banda Bahadur repaired the fortress and renamed it Lohgarh. Banda Bahadur struck coins and adopted a seal for his order. The coins were issued in the name of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh Sahib.



1835 Maharaja Ranjit Singh surrounds the forces of Mohammad Khan.

14th May

1710 Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind.

Banda Singh Bahadur conquered Sirhind and established a Sikh government. Baz Singh was appointed governor and Baba Ali Singh got Naibship (joint Governernship). The Khalsa kesri flag was hoisted over Sirhind fort.

15th May

1629 Mukhlis Khan reaches Amritsar with his forces to fight Guru Har Gobind Sahib.

1765 Conquest of Lahore by the Khalsa Forces. Ahmad Shah reached Lahore via Eminabad during his 7th invasion. Sikhs attacked his outposts conquered Lahore and assembled at Amritsar.

1850 Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Singapore aboard ship named "Mohammed Shah" guarded by soldiers of the 70th regiment. Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketmen and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmira Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

Buddha Purnima is celebrated as Lord Gautama Buddha's Birthday. Vaishakh Purnima is also called Buddha Purnima. Gautama Buddha's name was first Prince Siddhartha Gautama. Buddha means 'Knowledgeable and knowledgeable person', Gautama Buddha is also known as Shakyamuni.

Buddha Jayanti is the birthday of God Gautam Buddha. Siddhartha Gautam was born in Kapilavastu of Nepal in 623 BC. At the age of thirty five, he attained enlightenment (nirvana) underneath a Bodhi tree at Bodhgaya (modern day India). He delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, India. At the age of eighty, He died at Kushinagar, India.

Buddha Purnima is the biggest festival day for followers of Buddhism. Buddha was born on the full moon day. Buddha attained nirvana on the day of full moon and left this world on the day of Vaishakh sukla full moon. This day is celebrated as Buddha Purnima in the whole world. Several types of celebrations have been organized on this day. Celebrations are organized according to customs and culture of different countries in different countries.

More than 50 million people celebrate this day with great fanfare in the world that believe in Buddhism today. It said to that Buddha is the ninth incarnation of Lord Vishnu for Hindu devotees. Therefore, this day is also considered holy for Hindus.

The exact date of Buddha's birthday is based on the Asian lunisolar Calendar. The date for the celebration of Buddha's Birthday varies from year to year in the Western Gregorian calendar, but usually falls in April or May. It can be celebrated in June in the years of leap.

Quest and Enlightenment

Siddhartha first studied under renowned teachers like Alara Kalama and Uddaka Ramaputta, mastering their meditative techniques. Dissatisfied, he turned to extreme asceticism, starving himself until he was skeletal.

Realizing that neither luxury nor self-torture leads to truth, he adopted the Middle Way-a balanced path between extremes.

He then meditated under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya, vowing not to rise until he attained liberation. After days of intense meditation and battling inner demons (Mara, the tempter), he attained Enlightenment at dawn on a full moon day.

He became the Buddha, or "Awakened One."

Teachings of the Buddha (Dharma)

Buddha traveled across India for the next 45 years, teaching people of all backgrounds. His teachings were practical, ethical, and universal.

The Four Noble Truths:

- Dukkha: Life is inherently unsatisfactory.
- Samudaya: The root of suffering is craving (tanha) and ignorance.
- Nirodha: It is possible to end suffering.
- Magga: The way to end suffering is



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Buddha Purnima 2025

Monday, 12 May 2025

Featured in religions: Buddhism

Date falls in: Full moon of the month of

the Noble Eightfold Path.

The Noble Eightfold Path:

Divided into three core aspects-Ethical Conduct, Mental Discipline and Wisdom:

- Right View
- Right Intention
- Right Speech
- Right Action
- Right Livelihood
- Right Effort
- Right Mindfulness
- Right Concentration

Other Key Concepts:

- Anicca (Impermanence): All things are transient.
- Dukkha (Suffering): Suffering is universal.
- Anatta (Non-self): There is no permanent self or soul.
- Karma: Intentional actions have consequences.
- Samsara: The cycle of birth and rebirth.
- Nirvana: Liberation from the cycle of samsara.

What is Nirvana?

Nirvana is the supreme goal in Buddhism. It is not a place but a state of liberation from suffering, desires, and

Vaishakh, usually in April (first), May or June (last).

Also called: Buddha's Birthday or Buddha Day

the cycle of rebirth. It is described as:

- The unconditioned, beyond time and space,
- Free from all attachments and ego,
- A state of perfect peace, bliss, and wisdom.

When the Buddha attained enlightenment, he achieved nirvana in life. Upon his death at Kushinagar, he attained Mahaparinirvana, the complete and final liberation, never to be reborn.

Rituals, Observances of Buddha Purnima

Across the Buddhist world, the day is marked by peaceful celebrations, spiritual reflection, and acts of kindness.

Temple Activities:

- Chanting of sutras and parittas (protective verses).
- Meditation sessions and Dharma talks by monks.
- Processions with Buddha statues and symbols of the Triple Gem (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha).

Devotional Practices:

- Offering of flowers, fruits, and butter lamps.
- Bathing the Buddha statue in scented water, symbolizing inner purification.
- Observing the Five Precepts: no killing, stealing, sexual

misconduct, lying, or intoxication.

- Engaging in acts of compassion: feeding the poor, freeing animals, helping the sick.

Cultural Expressions:

- In Sri Lanka: Colorful Vesak lanterns (Vesak koodu) decorate homes and streets.
- In Thailand/Myanmar: Devotees release birds and fish as symbolic acts of freedom.
- In Tibet: The whole month is considered sacred (Saga Dawa), and merit-making activities multiply.
- In Japan: Known as Hanamatsuri, celebrated with flower offerings and sweet tea poured over baby Buddha statues.

Symbolism of Buddha Purnima

Each of the three events celebrated on Buddha Purnima has deep spiritual meaning:

- Birth: Represents the emergence of a spiritual light in the world.
- Enlightenment: Symbolizes awakening to truth, wisdom, and compassion.
- Parinirvana: Represents freedom from the cycle of suffering and rebirth.

Relevance in the Modern World

Buddha Purnima is not merely a commemoration-it is a call to awaken. In today's world of turmoil, his message offers:

- A path of peace over violence,
- Mindfulness over distraction,
- Compassion over hatred,
- Wisdom over ignorance.

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Nestled in the southern part of Rajasthan, Chittorgarh is not just a city but a living testament to India's rich history, valor, and timeless heritage. Known as the land of Rajput bravery, pride, and sacrifice, Chittorgarh continues to be one of the most iconic tourist destinations in India. It is a city where every stone speaks of a tale—of courage, devotion, and honor.

Chittorgarh is known for Chittorgarh Fort, the largest fort in India built on a hilltop, spreading over an area of around 700 acres. The capital of the erstwhile kingdom of Mewar, the magnificent fortress will always be remembered for the courageous self-sacrificing Jauhar performed by Rani Padmini to thwart the conquest of the fort by Alauddin Khilji.

Chittorgarh Fort

Built by local Maurya rulers (often confused with imperial Maurya Rulers) in 7th century A.D, the Chittorgarh Fort in Rajasthan is one of the largest forts in India. The Chittorgarh Fort, plainly known as Chittor is spread majestically over a hill of 590 feet in height and is spread across 692 acres of land is a fine example of the popular Rajput architecture. The imposing structure of the fort has many gateways built by the later rulers of the Maurya clan. Chittorgarh Fort was previously the capital of Mewar and is now situated in the city of Chittorgarh. Chittorgarh Fort reverberates with tales of heroism and sacrifice and displays the Rajput culture and values in the real sense. Owing to its magnificent edifice, the Chittorgarh Fort was declared a UNESCO's World Heritage Site in the year 2013.

There is a long road of 1 km that leads to the Chittorgarh Fort and is quite steep. It is often considered to be the pride of the state as there are many historical sacrifices related to it. Chittorgarh Fort is also called the Water Fort as it had 84 water bodies once, but now there are only 22 of them left. The two major attractions of the fort are the towers Vijay Stambh and Kirti Stambh. Vijay Stambh refers to the tower of victory and the Kirti Stambh means tower of fame. The towers are illuminated in the evening and it looks even more beautiful. Apart from the towers, there are many palaces and temples within the premises of the fort, most notable being Meera Temple.

Padmini Palace

Padmini Palace is the palace where Rani Padmini lived after she married Rawal Ratan Singh, the ruler of Mewar Kingdom who ruled between 1302 and 1303 CE. The majestic palace is a historical monument related to the self-sacrifice of Rani Padmini after Chittorgarh was attacked by the Sultan of Delhi, Alauddin Khilji. The two storey monument stands rather strong right at the centre of the Chittorgarh Fort elevated on rocky terrain. The fort is surrounded by a lotus pool which adds to the charm of the monument. One can imagine how glorious this site would have been when the royal ladies used it, the pool having colourful lotuses depicting grace and beauty in the rugged Chittor Fort. Those exploring Chittorgarh Fort must visit the Padmini

Chittorgarh: A timeless journey through valor and heritage



Palace. Tourists from all over the world visit Chittorgarh to explore the grand historic monument and hear stories of adventure and sacrifice of the Rajputs of the Mewar Kingdom. The Padmini Palace is where the Rajput women sacrificed their lives when the palace was attacked by Alauddin Khilji. It marks their loyalty and strength to fight or die instead of facing dishonour. When compared to other palaces on the premises, the Padmini Palace is smaller but is considered to be an attractive and a captivating one because of Rani Padmini's beauty, intelligence and charm and the tragic story associated with her end. The rich history of the palace is even more fascinating when one explores the monument themselves.

Maha Sati

About 110 km away from Chittorgarh, this is the sacred place where Udaipur Rulers used to be cremated. This beautiful structure, glistening in the sun attracts tourists also because of a water reservoir which it believed to have the waters of Ganges emerging from it. The Ahar Cenotaphs have 19 chhatris to commemorate the 19 Kings who were cremated here. In all, there are more than 250 cenotaphs here.

Rana Kumbha's palace

Rana Kumbha palace is where Rana Kumbha lived and spent his royal life. Its charming and artistic architecture makes it a must visit for tourists visiting Chittorgarh. Lord Shiva temple in the nearby and light and sound show in its complex makes it an unforgettable experience.

Kalika Mata Temple

It is one of the most important temples



of Chittorgarh and the city's tour isn't complete without a visit to this temple. The splendid sculpture of the temple is what attracts most tourists. It is dedicated to Kalika an incarnation of Goddess Durga. The entire temple, built

on a platform, boasts of Prathira architectural style. The ceiling, pillars and gates all have intricate designs. Even though the temple is partially in ruins, one will still marvel at its architectural credibility.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Pakistan's military actions will be met with a 'very, very firm response': EAM Jaishankar

Mr. Araghchi had earlier called for de-escalation of tension between India and Pakistan. Mr. Jaishankar described the April 22 Pahalgam attack as a "particularly barbaric terrorist attack".

Earlier, in a sign of quick-footed diplomacy, Mr. Al Jubeir arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday, May 7 night. His arrival coincided with the arrival of the Iranian Foreign Minister who was here for a day-long visit in the backdrop of India hitting terror targets inside Pakistan on Wednesday, May 7.

"A good meeting with Adel Al Jubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia this morning. Shared India's perspective on firmly countering terrorism," said the External Affairs Minister after meeting with Mr. Al Jubeir. Official sources said. India did not seek mediation from either Saudi Arabia or Iran.

India had briefed a number of foreign envoys about its findings into the Pahalgam attack and Saudi Arabia was among those countries whose envoys were kept informed by the Indian officials. Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar had also spoken to Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan after India assured action following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Trump administration is considering suspending habeas corpus: Miller

"Well, the Constitution is clear, and that, of course, is the supreme law of the land, that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus can be suspended in a time of invasion. So, it's an option we're actively looking at. Look, a lot of it depends on whether the courts do the right thing or not," Miller said to the press outside of the White House on Friday, May 9.

In the United States, the writ of habeas corpus is enshrined in the Constitution. There are a number of pending cases challenging the Trump administration's deportation of migrants based on habeas claims.

It's unclear whether the idea of suspending habeas corpus is currently under serious discussion at the White House.

G-7 Foreign Ministers condemn the egregious terrorist attack in Pahalgam

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the High Representative of the European Union strongly condemn the egregious terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22 and urge maximum restraint from both India and Pakistan. Further military escalation poses a serious threat to regional stability. We are deeply concerned for the safety of civilians on both sides.

"We call for immediate de-escalation and encourage both countries to engage in direct dialogue towards a peaceful outcome. We continue to monitor events closely and express our support for a

swift and lasting diplomatic resolution," the statement said.

Interestingly, Canada has refrained from issuing any statement or making its stand public on the ongoing armed conflict in the South Asian subcontinent.

However, condemnation of egregious terrorist attack on innocent tourists at Pahalgam in Kashmir on April 22 has been well received in diplomatic circles.

Prime Minister Mark Carney has exercised restraint in making any statement on contentious issues like Canada-India bilateral relations that touched a new low during his predecessor Justin Trudeau's time. Early this week, he visited the US for a meeting with President Donald Trump.

Canada has strong segments of immigrants from both India and Pakistan.

Economists say an escalation in military operations would impact not only the economy of the Indian subcontinent but also have a cascading effect on geopolitics and the global economy.

Though the G-7 Foreign Ministers have appealed to both India and Pakistan for exercising utmost restraint to de-escalate military operations, the situation continues to be grim and tense with neither of the sides willing to scale down the hostilities.

The United States, the United Kingdom, France and other G-7 nations have been cautious and guarded in their statements without getting drawn into any controversy over blame game for the present crisis.

Indo-Pak conflict 'none of our business', says USVP Vance

Vance said. "Right now, we don't think that's going to happen," he added.

The remarks by Vance are in line with the country's President Trump's "America first" foreign policy-calling for a retreat from America's role as a mediator in foreign conflicts.

The remarks by US Vice-President came as Pakistan made a failed attempt to attack military establishment in Jammu, Pathankot and several other cities. India's air defense system intercepted and neutralized at least eight missiles launched by Pakistan.

The drone strikes launched by Pakistan marked the latest round of tit-for-tat attacks between the two countries. India has maintained that it targeted "terrorist infrastructure" with its "Operation Sindoor" launched inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Vance, Second Lady Usha Vance and their three children were on their first official visit to India when terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22. Two weeks after the attack, India launched "Operation Sindoor" on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK.

On Thursday night, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urging both the countries for an "immediate de-escalation". Besides, Iranian and Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministers were also in New Delhi on Thursday.

Vance, who has played a significant

role in foreign policy in the new Trump administration, traveled to India last month, where he said that India could retaliate against "terrorists" in Pakistan but said the US did not want that to spiral into a broader regional conflict. (TNS)

ICE Arrests and Releases Newark Mayor at Immigrant Detention Facility Protest

"My family and a lot of our families came here to Newark from the South, fleeing Jim Crow and deep segregation," Baraka noted in a brief but emotional speech.

"We were from the first undocumented people here. Our relationship to immigrants is clear," he added, before he asked the crowd to clear the protest area and head home.

Baraka was arrested earlier Friday afternoon by ICE officers outside the Delaney Hall immigrant detention facility in Newark after he was physically dragged through the gate and placed in handcuffs.

On Friday evening, U.S. Judge Andre Espinosa, a federal magistrate judge, ordered Baraka immediately released, city officials said.

Earlier, U.S. Attorney Alina Habba said Baraka was trespassing and "ignored multiple warnings" from Homeland Security Investigations to leave the property.

"He has willingly chosen to disregard the law," Habba, whom President Donald Trump appointed as the state's interim top federal prosecutor, said on X. "That will not stand in this state. He has been taken into custody. NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW."

Baraka, who is a Democratic candidate for governor in the June primary election, was outside the gates of Delaney Hall, a facility he has opposed, on Friday afternoon.

ICE officers arrest N.J. mayor outside immigrant detention center

He had been with three members of New Jersey's congressional delegation - U.S. Reps. Rob Menendez, LaMonica McIver, and Bonnie Watson Coleman - who had come to inspect the facility.

Baraka was allowed to enter the gates to the facility but wasn't allowed into the building with the other elected representatives. He was told he had to go outside the gate and an aide to one of the congresspeople informed Baraka that ICE were discussing arresting him.

In an interview shortly after 9 p.m. on CNN, Baraka said he was treated well while in custody.

"They (Homeland Security) treated me with dignity. And I appreciate that," the mayor said.

"It was a humiliating experience and uncomfortable for me overall," he continued.

Baraka said he was charged with federal trespassing. But he added: "I didn't break any laws. I did not enter that place unlawfully."

Baraka disputed the contention that it was a publicity stunt as he runs for governor.

"I think the publicity stunt is this idea that we should violate the court orders, violate the Constitution of the United States, that we should run roughshod over state and local laws," he said.

When asked if he had any regrets



about what happened, Baraka said, "I went down there to support my congresspeople...I went down there to support them in a press conference, and I would do it again."

In a later interview on MSNBC, Baraka said he was considering his next steps.

"I will confer with my lawyers to figure out what's the best pathway forward on this," he said. "I think they completely violated my rights ... I have the right to go anywhere in this city, particularly in places where I think our laws are being violated."

Baraka and other city officials went to Delaney Hall to serve summonses on its private owner-operator, the GEO Group of Boca Raton, Florida.

The summonses assert that GEO has refused to grant fire and code officials access to Delaney Hall and has placed a padlock on the gate, violating state law.

City officials had tried to serve the summonses on the GEO Group on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, when a company representative refused to accept them each time, forcing city officials to leave them on the gate, a retractable chain link fence topped with razor wire.

Opposition to Delaney Hall's reopening intensified in February when ICE and the GEO Group announced they had reached a deal for the company to operate the facility under a 15-year contract worth \$1 billion to the GEO Group.

Baraka is running in a tightly packed six-way primary race for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination to succeed term-limited Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy. The mayor has a base in Newark, is making a big appeal to Black voters, and has gained support from progressive groups, most notably opponents of Trump's immigration policies.

Politicians, including almost all of the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor, took to social media Friday to comment on Booker's arrest. His Democratic colleagues voiced support and called for his release, while Republicans condemned Baraka's actions.

History This Week MAY 09 - 15

MAY 9

May 9th - Victory Day in Russia, a national holiday commemorating the defeat of Nazi Germany during the "Great Patriotic War" (World War II) honoring the 20 million Russians who died in the war.



May 9, 1862 - During the American Civil War, General David Hunter, Union commander of the Department of the South, issued orders freeing the slaves in South Carolina, Florida and Georgia. He did so without congressional or presidential approval. The orders were countermanded by President Abraham Lincoln ten days later.

Birthday - Abolitionist leader John Brown (1800-1859) was born in Torrington, Connecticut. He led an attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in October of 1859, to secure weapons for his "army of emancipation" to liberate slaves. Inside the arsenal, Brown and his followers held 60 hostages and managed to hold out against the local militia but finally surrendered to U.S. Marines under the command of Colonel Robert E. Lee. Ten of Brown's men, including two of his sons, were killed. Brown was taken prisoner. He was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and hanged on December 2, 1859.

MAY 10

May 10, 1869 - The newly constructed tracks of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways were first linked at Promontory Point, Utah. A golden spike was driven by Leland Stanford, president of the Central Pacific, to celebrate the linkage. It is said that he missed the spike on his first swing which brought roars of laughter from men who had driven thousands upon thousands of spikes themselves.

May 10, 1889 - A riot erupted outside the Astor Place Opera House in New York as British actor William Charles Macready performed inside. Angry crowds revolted against dress requirements for admission and against Macready's public statements on the vulgarity of American life. The mob then shattered theater windows. Troops were called out and ordered to fire, killing 22 and wounding 26.



May 10, 1994 - Former political

prisoner Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as president of South Africa. Mandela had won the first free election in South Africa despite attempts by various political foes to deter the outcome.

MAY 11

May 11, 1862 - To prevent its capture by Union forces advancing in Virginia, the Confederate Ironclad Merrimac was destroyed by the Confederate Navy. In March, the Merrimac had fought the Union Ironclad Monitor to a draw. Naval warfare was thus changed forever, making wooden ships obsolete.

May 11, 1969 - During the Vietnam War, the Battle of "Hamburger Hill" began. While attempting to seize the Dong Ap Bia Mountain, U.S. troops repeatedly scaled the hill over a 10-day period and engaged in bloody hand-to-hand combat with the North Vietnamese. After finally securing the objective, American military staff decided to abandon the position, which the North Vietnamese retook shortly thereafter. The battle highlighted the futility of the overall American military strategy.

Birthday - Songwriter Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was born (as Israel Isidore Baline) in Tyumen, Russia. At the age of four, Berlin moved with his family to New York City and later began singing in saloons and on street corners to help his family following the death of his father. Although he could not read or write musical notation, he became one of America's greatest songwriters, best known for songs such as God Bless America, White Christmas, There's No Business Like Show Business, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Puttin' On the Ritz, and Oh! How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning.



Birthday - Modern dance pioneer Martha Graham (1893-1991) was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She began her dance career at age 22 in the Greenwich Village Follies. She later incorporated primal emotions and ancient rituals in her works, bringing a new psychological depth to modern dance. In a career spanning 70 years, she created 180 dance works. She performed until the age of 75.

MAY 12

May 12, 1937 - George VI was crowned at Westminster Abbey in London, following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. King George reigned until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his daughter Elizabeth, the current reigning monarch.

May 12, 1949 - Soviet Russia lifted its blockade of Berlin. The blockade began on June 24, 1948 and resulted in the Berlin airlift. For 462 days - from June 26, 1948, until September 30, 1949, American and British planes flew about 278,000 flights, delivering 2.3 million tons of

food, coal and medical supplies to two million isolated West Berliners. A plane landed in Berlin every minute from 11 Allied staging areas in West Germany. The planes were nicknamed "candy bombers" after pilots began tossing sweets to children. They also flew out millions of dollars worth of products manufactured in West Berlin.



Birthday - British nurse and public health activist Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) was born in Florence, Italy. She volunteered to aid British troops in Turkey where she improved hospital sanitary conditions and greatly reduced the death rate for wounded and sick soldiers. She received worldwide acclaim for her unselfish devotion to nursing, contributed to the development of modern nursing procedures, and emphasized the dignity of nursing as a profession for women.

MAY 13

May 13, 1846 - At the request of President James K. Polk, Congress declared war on Mexico. The controversial struggle eventually cost the lives of 11,300 U.S. soldiers and resulted in the annexation of lands that became parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah and Colorado. The war ended in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

May 13, 1943 - During World War II in North Africa, over 250,000 Germans and Italians surrendered in the last few days of the Tunis campaign. British General Harold Alexander then telegraphed news of the victory to Winston Churchill, who was in Washington attending a war conference. The victory re-opened Allied shipping lanes in the Mediterranean.



May 13, 1981 - Pope John Paul II was shot twice at close range while riding in an open automobile in St. Peter's Square in Rome. Two other persons were also wounded. An escaped terrorist, already under sentence of death for the murder of a Turkish journalist, was immediately arrested and was later convicted of attempted murder. The Pope recovered and later held a private

meeting with the would-be assassin and then publicly forgave him.

MAY 14

May 14, 1607 - The first permanent English settlement in America was established at Jamestown, Virginia, by a group of royally chartered Virginia Company settlers from Plymouth, England.

May 14, 1804 - Meriwether Lewis and William Clark departed St. Louis on their expedition to explore the Northwest. They arrived at the Pacific coast of Oregon in November of 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September of 1806, completing a journey of about 6,000 miles.

May 14, 1796 - Smallpox vaccine was developed by Dr. Edward Jenner, a physician in rural England. He coined the term vaccination for the new procedure of injecting a milder form of the disease into healthy persons resulting in immunity. Within 18 months, 12,000 persons in England had been vaccinated and the number of smallpox deaths dropped by two-thirds.

May 14, 1942 - During World War II, an Act of Congress allowed women to enlist for noncombat duties in the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC), the Women Appointed for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES), Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Semper Paratus Always Ready Service (SPARS), the Women's Reserve of the Marine Corp.

Birthday - German physicist Gabriel Fahrenheit (1686-1736) was born in Danzig, Germany. He introduced the use of mercury in thermometers and greatly improved their accuracy. His name is now attached to one of the major temperature measurement scales.



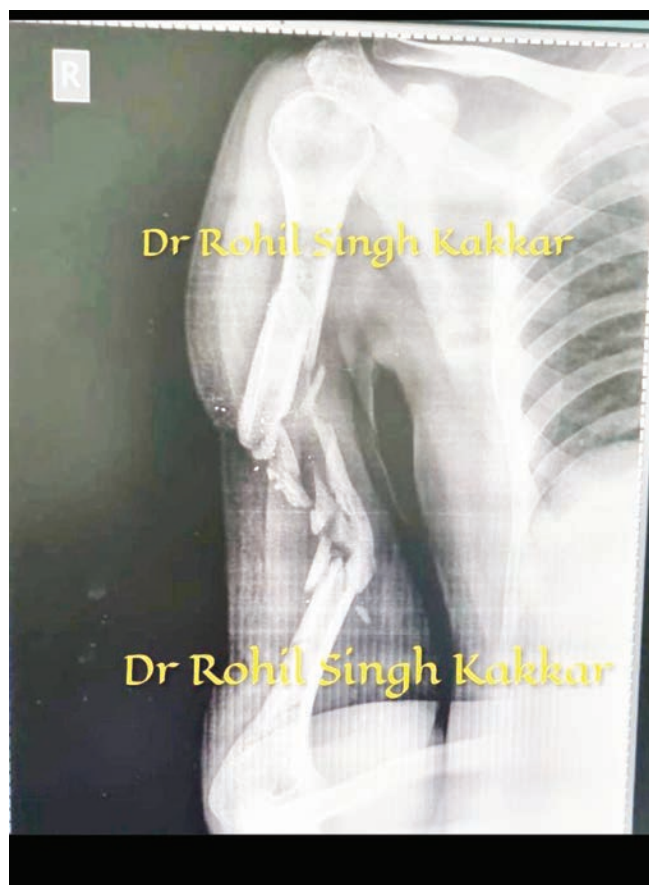
Birthday - British landscape and portrait painter Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788) was born in Sudbury, Suffolk, England. Among his best known works: The Blue Boy, The Watering Place and The Market Cart.

MAY 15



May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

BREAKTHROUGH IN MEDICAL SCIENCE

IAF soldier's arm saved from amputation
in Orthopedic surgery in IndiaBy Dr Yash Goyal
Special Correspondent,
TIP

Injured patient's arm

MAY 4, 2025

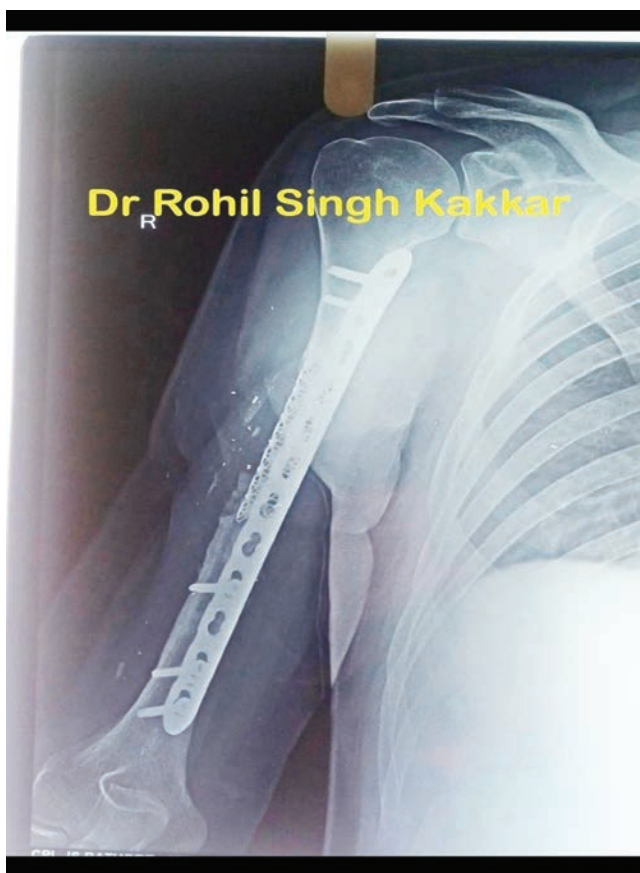
JAIPUR (TIP): In a remarkable feat of medical breakthrough in India, an Indian Air Force soldier who sustained a gunshot wound in his right humerus (the long bone connecting the shoulder to the elbow) was saved from amputation, and shortening, and his arm was saved through constructive surgery by an orthopedic Ian Jaipur's Eternal Hospital Sanganer recently.

Dr. Rohil Singh Kakkar, a Consultant Orthopedic Surgeon at EHS successfully performed a rare and complex arm-saving surgery in Kishangarh on an Indian Air Force personnel who had sustained severe injuries.

Kakkar told TIP that the patient, 32-year-old Jitendra Singh Rathore, suffered a critical injury while on duty, sustaining a gunshot wound that shattered his right humerus (the long bone connecting the shoulder to the elbow). The injury resulted in a severely displaced and comminuted humeral shaft fracture, associated with a 22x15 cm wound and a 10 cm segmental bone loss. After receiving initial emergency care at a military hospital, the attending doctors recommended either amputation or shortening of the arm due to the extent of the damage, Kakkar said.

Seeking alternative solutions, the patient's family consulted Dr. Kakkar, who, after assessing the case, proposed a highly challenging reconstructive surgery that could potentially save the arm.

Dr. Kakkar explained that detailed preoperative planning, including CT scans and X-rays, was undertaken to accurately assess the extent of bone loss and the fracture pattern. A 12-centimeter fibula bone graft was harvested from the patient's right leg to bridge the defect in the humerus. The procedure involved the meticulous removal of metal debris and dead bone fragments from the arm—a particularly risky step due to the proximity of major nerves and blood vessels. For reconstruction, a custom-made 100 mm titanium spinal mesh cage was utilized, engrafted with an autologous fibular graft and



The patient's arm after surgery



Dr Rohil Singh Kakkar, Orthopedic surgeon

modified hydroxyapatite blocks, and mechanically stabilized with a long plate and screws.

Overwhelmed by the success of the surgery, the surgeon stated that this is the first documented case in the state of Rajasthan and probably in India where a customized 100 mm spinal cage implant, combined with a fibular graft, was used to reconstruct a humerus.

The surgery was a resounding success, and supportive physiotherapy for the patient's right arm commenced the very next day. This achievement not



The patient moving his hands after successful constructive surgery



Dr Samin K Sharma, Chairman of Eternal Hospital

only saved Jitendra's arm but also marked a new milestone in complex orthopedic surgery in the region, he claimed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Samin K. Sharma, Chairman, Eternal Hospital asserted, "This is an outstanding achievement by Dr. Kakkar and his team. Saving the arm of a young Air Force soldier in such a complex case shows great surgical skill and dedication. We are proud of our doctors who are constantly raising the standards of medical care."

IPL 2025 suspended amid India-Pakistan tensions

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Indian Premier League has been suspended for a week amid mounting security concerns following the military escalation between India and Pakistan, the BCCI announced on Friday, May 9. The announcement comes after the Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals clash in Dharamsala was called off due to safety issues. The venue is located less than 100 kilometres from Pathankot, where air raid alerts were sounded, prompting the BCCI to take the call.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to suspend the remainder of the ongoing TATA IPL 2025 with immediate effect for one week. Further updates regarding the new schedule and venues of the tournament will be announced in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders," the BCCI said in its official release.

"The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after due consultation with all key stakeholders following the representations from most of the franchisees, who conveyed the concern and sentiments of their players, and also the views of the broadcaster, sponsors and fans; while the BCCI reposes full faith in the strength and preparedness of our armed forces, the Board considered it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders," the statement further read.

The match in Dharamsala, which had started later than scheduled due to rain, was abruptly halted when floodlights in the



stadium went out. Initially believed to be a technical glitch, the situation quickly escalated when players and officials were informed of the security risks posed by the air raid alerts. A player also told the Indian Express that there was "panic" among both teams, and foreign players were particularly worried for their safety. Australian media had earlier reported that their players had also expressed concerns over their safety and were "ready" to return home.

The crowd in Dharamsala, which had filled up about 80% of the stadium's capacity, was evacuated for safety reasons. Fans were also heard shouting anti-Pakistan slogans as they made their way out of the venue. In the aftermath, the BCCI, along with the IPL's governing body, reviewed the rapidly evolving security situation.

In its statement, the BCCI also expressed

solidarity with the Indian government and the Indian Armed Forces.

"At this critical juncture, the BCCI stands firmly with the nation. We express our solidarity with the Government of India, the Armed Forces and the people of our country. The Board salutes the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts under Operation Sindoor continue to protect and inspire the nation, as they lead a resolute response to the recent terrorist attack and the unwarranted aggression by Pakistan's armed forces," read BCCI's release.

The immediate impact of the security threats has already been felt, as flights to and from Dharamsala have been suspended, with the team buses being redirected for a safer exit.

In a significant retaliation following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, India launched precision missile strikes on terror hubs across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The offensive, targeting key camps of terror groups Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, marked a decisive retaliation aimed at dismantling cross-border terror networks.

The strikes were followed by heightened military alertness along the border, prompting security measures across several Indian states. By Thursday, a state of heightened alert was visible on the ground. Multiple districts across Punjab; Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, enforced complete blackouts amid air raid sirens and reports of explosion-like sounds in Jammu.



Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025 postponed

The Neeraj Chopra Classic 2025, which was set to be held on May 24 at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru, has been postponed until further notice in the wake of the escalating cross-border tensions between India and Pakistan.

"In light of the current situation, the inaugural edition of the NC Classic stands postponed until further notice. This decision has been made after careful thought and consultation, with the well-being of athletes, stakeholders, and the broader community as the top priority," a statement from NC Classic on social media.

Neeraj said standing "firm" with India in the "critical moment" matters most while sending his thoughts to the nation's Armed Forces. He confirmed that a revised schedule will be released later.

"We believe in the unifying power of sport. But, in this critical moment, standing firm with the nation matters most. All our gratitude and thoughts at this point are only with our Armed Forces, who are at the forefront for our nation. A revised schedule for the NC Classic will be provided in due course. Jai Hind," the statement concluded.

Rohit Sharma announces retirement from Test cricket

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Rohit Sharma on Wednesday, May 7, announced his retirement from Test cricket with immediate effect, ending the relentless speculation surrounding his future in the longest format and leaving India in need of a new captain for the upcoming five-match series against England.

Having already retired from T20 Internationals after leading India to the World Cup trophy last year, the 38-year-old Rohit will now only be seen captaining the national team in the ODI format.

"Hello everyone, I would just like to share that I am retiring from Test cricket. It's been an absolute honour to represent my country in whites.

"Thank you for all the love and support over the years. I will continue to represent India in the ODI format," he posted on Instagram with a picture of his Test cap after PTI's newsbreak.

The BCCI also confirmed that Rohit will continue to be the ODI captain.

"Thank you, Captain. End of an era in whites! ImRo45 bids adieu to Test cricket. He will continue to lead India in ODIs. We are proud of you, Hitman," BCCI posted on 'X'.

India will have a new Test captain for the five-Test series in England starting June 20 with possible



candidates being Jasprit Bumrah, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant. Bumrah captained the side in a couple of Tests during the tour of Australia.

As of now, Rahul and Gill are front-runners due to vice-captain Bumrah's recurrent fitness issues. Bumrah though can't be totally ruled out.

Rohit, the man who led India in four ICC tournament finals, winning two of them, is a bonafide legend in the

ODIs with more than 11,000 runs and 32 centuries.

He bows out from Tests as India's most prolific batter in the second half of his career, overall scoring 4301 runs in 67 Tests with 12 hundreds and 18 half centuries at an average of 40.57.

"Rohit is determined to play the 2027 ODI World Cup and he will do everything in his power to remain fit and play the mega-event," a source close to the Indian skipper told PTI. The circumstances leading up to his announcement on Wednesday were far from ideal.

If a source close to Rohit is to be believed, the champion batter had decided on retiring from Tests after India won the Champions Trophy in March.

And though it was known to the men who mattered, the speculation around his future was allowed to swirl in the media by officials who preferred not to come on record.

"The retirement from Test cricket was on Rohit's mind since India won Champions Trophy. A new WTC (World Test Championship) cycle was starting and hence he thought this was the best time," the source close to Rohit added.

"If Rohit had decided that he would call it quits in Tests, where does the question of dropping him comes?," a former BCCI office-bearer, who has watched Rohit closely over the years, thought aloud.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andrah 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



New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public



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.

Join our Vision.
Give the gift
of sight today.

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