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Elon Musk slams 'ingratitude' after Trump's 'very disappointed' remark

"Look, Elon and I had a great relationship. I don't know if we will anymore," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office



U.S. President Donald Trump and Elon Musk.

File photo | Photo Credit: Reuters

JUNE 6, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Tensions between Donald Trump and Elon Musk exploded into public view Thursday, as the US president said he was "very disappointed" by his billionaire former aide's criticisms and Musk hit back in real time on social media.

"Look, Elon and I had a great relationship. I don't know if we will anymore," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office after Musk slammed his tax and spending mega-bill as an "abomination".

The world's richest man responded by live-tweeting on his X social media platform as Trump spoke on television, saying that the Republican would not have won the 2024 election without him and slamming him for "ingratitude."

CONTD ON PAGE 44

PM Modi invited to attend G7
Summit in Canada, says 'looking forward
to meeting MCark Carney'



Canada's Prime Minister
Carney called up Modi
as the prime minister
thanked him for the
invitation to the Summit

Narendra Modi / File
photo

JUNE 6, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Signaling a revival of the India-Canada ties, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to Canada at the invitation of his counterpart Mark Carney.

Modi will be a part of the G7 summit being hosted by Canada from June 15 to 17.

Modi posted on X about the visit, ending days of speculation that the PM may miss the G7 summit, a first since 2019. India is not a member of the G7 but is invited as one of the larger economies.

Modi mentioned about the phone call with Carney saying, "Congratulated him on his recent election

CONTD ON PAGE 44

Judge puts temporary hold on Trump's
latest ban on Harvard's foreign students



"Harvard's more than
7,000 F-1 and J-1 visa
holders - and their
dependents - have
become pawns in the
government's escalating
campaign of retaliation,"
Harvard wrote Thursday
(June 5) in a court filing.

JUNE 6, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A federal judge has temporarily blocked a proclamation by President Donald Trump that banned foreign students from entering the U.S. to attend Harvard University.

Trump's proclamation was the latest attempt by his Republican administration to prevent the nation's oldest and wealthiest college from enrolling a quarter of its students, who account for much of its research and scholarship. It's the second time in a month Harvard's incoming foreign students have had their plans thrown into jeopardy, only to see a court intervene. Alan Wang, a 22-year-old from China who is planning to start a Harvard graduate program in August, said it has been an emotional roller coaster.

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"China absolutely impossible factor to
ignore in India's confrontation with
Pakistan": Tharoor



A multi-party
delegation led by
Congress MP
Shashi Tharoor
during a meeting
with US Vice-
President JD
Vance, in
Washington DC,
USA.
@ShashiTharoor
via PTI

JUNE 6, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): China is an "absolutely impossible factor to ignore" in India's latest confrontation with Pakistan, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has said, emphasizing that a thaw in relations between Delhi and Beijing over the past few months was "seemingly making good progress" before the conflict.

Tharoor, who is leading a multi-party parliamentary delegation to the US, said, "I'm not going to mince my words, but we are aware that China has immense stakes in Pakistan." His remarks came during an interaction with representatives of think tanks organized at the

CONTD ON PAGE 44



President Trump issued a
proclamation restricting the
entry of people from a dozen
countries into the U.S., citing
national security concerns

Trump issues travel ban for 12 countries

JUNE 5, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Trump issued a proclamation Wednesday, June 3, restricting the entry of people from a dozen countries into the U.S., citing national security concerns.

Trump's order states that he has decided to "fully restrict and limit" entry from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

He is also partially restricted and limited entry of nationals from seven countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos,

CONTD ON PAGE 44



Andy Singh

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COMMENT

A Wound That Refuses to Heal: On the 41st Anniversary of Operation Blue Star

By Indrajit Saluja



In the summer of 1984, a tragic and defining chapter unfolded in Indian history-Operation Blue Star, a military action ordered by the Indian government under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to flush out Sikh militants, including the leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who had taken refuge in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. What was executed as a counterinsurgency operation turned into a national trauma, especially for the Sikh community. Four decades on, its memory remains raw, its pain festering like an open wound.

The operation was launched on June 1, 1984, and reached its devastating peak between June 5 and 8, with the Indian Army storming the holiest shrine of the Sikhs-the Harmandir Sahib, popularly known as the Golden Temple. The timing of the operation-coinciding with the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev, when the temple was thronged with pilgrims-added to the grief and shock experienced by the community.

wrenching. The historic structure was reduced to rubble, its walls perforated by bullets, its sanctity desecrated by tanks and artillery fire. Rare manuscripts, scriptures, and artworks were destroyed, a loss that can never be compensated.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND CIVIL FALLOUT

The immediate aftermath of Operation Blue Star saw Punjab placed under virtual martial law, with strict curfews, mass arrests, and widespread surveillance. Thousands of Sikh youths were detained without charge or trial under preventive detention laws such as the National Security Act and the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act. Families were broken, civil liberties suspended, and a climate of fear hung over the state for years.

The Sikh community across India and abroad was devastated. The wounds deepened with Operation Woodrose, a lesser-known but equally brutal military campaign in rural Punjab that

those entrusted with safeguarding the country's unity and diversity. The barbarity of storming a sacred shrine, especially when peaceful alternatives had not been fully exhausted, felt to many Sikhs like a deliberate provocation, a message that their faith and heritage were dispensable in the pursuit of state power.

Many Sikhs ask, rightly: Would such an operation have been carried out in any other place of worship with similar force and timing? The sense of betrayal remains intense. What compounded the trauma was the lack of accountability, no official apology, and the subsequent anti-Sikh pogroms in November 1984 after Indira Gandhi's assassination, where thousands more were murdered in cold blood-with state complicity and impunity.

A MEMORY THAT REFUSES TO FADE

For Sikhs around the world, Operation Blue Star is not just history-it is lived memory. It is their Holocaust moment, a violent rupture that has shaped the community's relationship with the Indian state ever since. Just as the Jewish people have not forgotten the Holocaust, the Sikhs have not forgotten Blue Star. It is their green wound, unhealed and perhaps unhealable.

Memorials in gurdwaras, stories passed from generation to generation, and annual commemorations serve not only as acts of remembrance but as assertions of identity and resistance against forgetting. While governments have changed and political narratives evolved, no amount of time has dulled the pain of watching tanks roll into the most sacred site of Sikhism.

A CALL FOR JUSTICE AND HEALING

Even today, many Sikhs feel that the state has not adequately acknowledged the enormity of what was done. Truth-telling, accountability, and real justice have been scarce. There is an urgent need for the Indian state to engage in genuine reconciliation, not through token gestures, but through institutional reform, historical honesty, and an apology that truly acknowledges the depth of hurt inflicted.

Operation Blue Star was more than a military operation-it was a violation of trust, a rupture in the secular promise of India. Whether the movement led by Bhindranwale was right or wrong is a debate for historians and political scientists. What is beyond debate is that the handling of the situation was catastrophic, and the brutality inflicted on an entire community has left scars that remain visible even today.

As India celebrates its democratic credentials, it must also confront the ghosts of its past. For the Sikhs, 1984 is not over. It is a continuous echo, a festering sore that demands to be seen, acknowledged, and remembered.



The Akal Takht in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar was destroyed during Operation Blue Star

June 7, 1984 picture

THE TOLL: LIVES LOST AND SANCTITY VIOLATED

Official figures of casualties remain controversial. The Indian government at the time claimed around 492 civilian deaths, including militants and pilgrims. However, independent estimates and Sikh organizations argue the number was significantly higher, with figures ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 civilians, many of whom were unarmed worshippers trapped inside the complex. 83 Indian Army personnel also lost their lives, and over 200 were injured.

The damage to the Akal Takht, the highest seat of temporal authority for the Sikhs, was particularly heart-

followed Blue Star, aimed at rooting out "suspected militants." Thousands of young Sikh men "disappeared" or were extrajudicially killed, their bodies never returned to their families.

BETRAYAL OF A COMMUNITY

The Sikhs, who make up just about 2% of India's population, have contributed far beyond their numbers to the defense and development of the nation. They fought valiantly for India's freedom, and after independence, they stood at the nation's borders, defending it in every war. Yet in 1984, they were made to feel like outsiders in their own land.

The very sanctum sanctorum of Sikhism was turned into a battlefield by

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SMALL-TOWN INDIAN-ORIGIN HACKER EARNS SPOT IN NASA'S CYBER SECURITY HALL OF FAME



Ram Jee Raj, a 17-year-old ethical hacker from Pahepur, near Samastipur in Bihar State of India, recently discovered a major vulnerability on the official website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and has since been inducted into NASA's Cyber Security Hall of Fame

JUNE 2, 2025

SAMASTIPUR / NEW YORK (TIP) : A teenager from a small village in Bihar, India has captured international attention with his remarkable talent in cybersecurity. Ram Jee Raj, a 17-year-old ethical hacker from Pahepur, near Samastipur, recently discovered a major vulnerability on the official website of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and has since been inducted into NASA's Cyber Security Hall of Fame, reports local media channel.

Despite having no formal training, Raj is a self-taught cybersecurity enthusiast who learned coding, game development, and web development by watching online tutorials and reading on his own. His interest in technology was sparked during childhood through video games, which gradually evolved into a deeper passion for understanding software, systems-and eventually, ethical hacking.

According to reports, Raj uncovered a serious flaw in NASA's website and responsibly reported the issue by emailing the agency with technical details and a suggested fix. Five days later, NASA confirmed the vulnerability, took corrective action, and sent Raj an official acknowledgment and commendation.

His accomplishment is even more inspiring given his background. Raj is the son of Rinkesh Kumar, a resident of Pahepur. He is also currently working on a startup focused on using AI to revolutionize farming-an innovation he hopes will benefit India's agricultural communities.

"I consider myself a white-hat hacker," Raj has said in interviews, referring to ethical hackers who help organizations improve security. His success story is already inspiring other young Indians, especially those from rural areas, to explore careers in technology.

Indian-origin Garhshankar youth Vishal Rana lieutenant in Canadian Army

MAY 31, 2025

CHANDIGARH / TORONTO (TIP):

A Garhshankar youth Vishal Rana, son of retired Subedar Sardari Lal Rana, has become an example for those youths who want to go abroad with dreams of a bright future but earn their living by doing small jobs there.

He has made his family proud by getting commissioned in the Canadian Army. By becoming a lieutenant, he has set an example for the youth.

Vishal Rana of Garhshankar has made his family proud by getting commissioned in the Canadian Army.



Indian-origin Sikh man forced to remove turban, kirpan in Abu Dhabi; kept in custody for 20 days



Abu Dhabi police detained Dalvinder Singh and forced him to remove his turban, a religious symbol of the Sikhs

JUNE 5, 2025

ABU DHABI (TIP): Manpreet Singh, a resident of New Delhi, has appealed the Indian government regarding the torture and harassment of his father, Dalvinder Singh, faced in Abu Dhabi.

Talking to the media, Manpreet narrated the traumatic experience his father endured. Dalvinder Singh, an Amritdhari Sikh from Kaithal, travelled to Abu Dhabi on a tourist visa as part of a group tour on April 21. When the group visited the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) Temple, the Abu Dhabi police stopped Dalvinder Singh, questioning him about his kirpan. Despite efforts by the tour guides and the temple management to explain about the religious significance of the symbols, the authorities were not convinced and arrested him.

Manpreet said his father had to face humiliation and mental torture during his 20-day detention. Despite the CID, Baniyas jail authorities, and Al Rhaba jail authorities initially denying the arrest, they later blamed Dalvinder for arguing with the police. However, Dalvinder Singh does not know the local language of UAE or English, making the allegation baseless; and it was also not mentioned in the court order.

During his detention, Dalvinder Singh was kept in inhumane conditions. His turban, kada, and kanga were forcibly removed, leaving him bareheaded and depriving him of his religious beliefs.

In the final days of his detention, he was shifted to Al Wathba Central Jail. He was served non-vegetarian food - even though he's a vegetarian. He was deported without his turban, causing severe humiliation during his flight to India.

In search of Dalvinder Singh, Manpreet and his father-in-law were sent from one jail to another. It was only after the intervention of the Indian embassy that Baniyas jail authorities accepted his arrest. Despite court orders for his eviction, the process was delayed by 15 days.

Manpreet Singh appealed to the Indian government to take up the matter with its counterpart in UAE to ensure such incidents do not occur again.

Three Punjab-origin men who went missing while travelling to Iran rescued



The three Punjab men missing in Iran have been rescued. They have been identified as Hushanpreet Singh from Sangrur, Jaspal Singh from SBS Nagar, and Amritpal Singh from Hoshiarpur.

JUNE 4, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Three men from Punjab, who had gone missing in May while they were travelling to Iran, have been rescued by Tehran police, sources said on Tuesday, June 3.

The three rescued men have been identified as Hushanpreet Singh from Sangrur, Jaspal Singh from SBS Nagar, and Amritpal Singh from Hoshiarpur. They had gone missing shortly after arriving in Tehran on May 1.

The three men were allegedly duped by an illegal travel agent who promised them work permits in Australia. Instead, the agent routed them through Iran via the dunki route. Later, it was alleged that they were kidnapped.

Their families had claimed that the kidnappers demanded a ransom of Rs 1 crore and threatened to kill the men if the payment was not made.

The relatives alleged that the kidnappers shared pictures and videos showing the men with their hands tied by ropes and visible cuts and bruises on their bodies. The families said they were able to communicate with the men during the initial days, but the contact was lost after May 11.

Last week, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had said it is working closely with Iranian authorities to locate the three men, with efforts under way to ensure their safe and early return.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, confirming the ongoing coordination, had said, "We are trying to locate them for their safety, security and eventual return home."

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Indian American entrepreneurs join Bill Gates' Giving Pledge

JUNE 2, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American entrepreneurs Bharat Desai and Neerja Sethi have joined the Giving Pledge, a global philanthropic initiative founded by Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, and Warren Buffett.

Desai and Sethi are among 11 new signatories-eight couples and three individuals-in its largest cohort since 2021, who committed in the past year to donate most of their wealth to philanthropic causes.

Established in 2010 to encourage the ultra-wealthy to commit most of their fortunes to philanthropy, the Giving Pledge now boasts more than 250 signatories from 30 countries.

Desai with a net worth of \$1.6 billion and Sethi with a net worth of \$1 billion co-founded Syntel, an IT consulting and outsourcing company in 1980 right from their apartment. They support economic mobility, education and entrepreneurship.

They also donate through their foundation, the Desai Sethi Foundation



Bharat Desai and Neerja Sethi have joined the Giving Pledge, a global philanthropic initiative founded by Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates, and Warren Buffett.

(DSF), which supports underprivileged youth in Florida and Michigan. The couple also gives millions annually to a

donor advised fund, while also supporting a number of nonprofits.

Desai graduated from the Indian

Institute of Technology, Bombay and received his MBA from University of Michigan. Sethi graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and her MBA from Delhi University and has also received her M.S. in Computer Science from Oakland University.

As part of this week's "annual gathering," pledge signatories will "focus on learning, connection, and continued efforts to turn their philanthropic commitments into catalytic action."

"I'm excited to welcome these new Pledgers to our community of people who share a core belief: that we can solve urgent global challenges through giving our resources back to society," said Bill Gates. "There's never been a greater need for philanthropy-and there has never been a greater opportunity to have an impact in our own lifetimes."

Nine of the new signees hail from the U.S., one from Australia and one from the U.A.E. Six of the new pledgers are members of Forbes billionaires' list and have a combined estimated net worth of \$9.3 billion.

Indian American MIT student banned from graduation ceremony after pro-Palestinian speech



Megha Vemuri, the 2025 class president of MIT, is the latest in the list of students to face discipline after protesting the war in Gaza.

JUNE 2, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): An Indian American student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was barred from attending her graduation ceremony after delivering a speech denouncing the war in Gaza, according to media reports.

Megha Vemuri, the 2025 class president of MIT, is the latest in the list of students to face discipline after protesting the war in Gaza.

Vemuri told CNN that after her speech, the university's senior leadership informed her she was not allowed to attend Friday's commencement ceremony and was barred from campus

until the event concluded.

School officials confirmed that they told Vemuri that she was prohibited from attending the undergraduate ceremony.

MIT leadership said that they stand by the punishment they issued to Vemuri.

"MIT supports free expression but stands by its decision, which was in response to the individual deliberately and repeatedly misleading Commencement organizers and leading a protest from the stage," a school spokesperson said in a statement.

The school said that she would receive her degree.

Vemuri, who grew up in Georgia, was a scheduled speaker at Thursday's OneMIT Commencement ceremony in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she took to the podium, with a keffiyeh - a symbol of pro-Palestinian solidarity - draped over her graduation robe.

She praised her peers for protesting the war in Gaza and criticized the university's ties to Israel.

An MIT spokesperson told CNN Vemuri's speech on Thursday "was not the one that was provided by the speaker in advance."

Vemuri's father Sarat said that she was

a double major, in computation and cognition and linguistics, and was told that she would receive her diploma by mail.

Vemuri said she was grateful for her family, who have been present this week, supporting her. She says she's not disappointed about not getting to walk the stage.

"I see no need for me to walk across the stage of an institution that is complicit in this genocide," Vemuri said.

"I am, however, disappointed that MIT's officials massively overstepped their roles to punish me without merit or due process, with no indication of any specific policy broken," she added.

He called MIT's purported support of free speech hypocritical.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) has condemned the university's decision to ban Vemuri from the ceremony.

"MIT must respect academic freedom and respect the voices of its students, not punish and intimidate those who speak out against genocide and in support of Palestinian humanity," CAIR-Massachusetts Executive Director Tahirah Amatul-Wadud said in a

statement.

College campuses across the US have witnessed protest encampments and accusations of antisemitism since the Hamas-led attack on Israel in October 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza.

The tensions coupled with the Trump administration's attacks on universities, have left some school communities wrestling with how to balance civility and safety with open expression and debate, The New York Times said.

New York University recently said it was withholding the diploma of a student who condemned "genocide" in Gaza while delivering a graduation speech. Several students at Harvard, Columbia and other universities nationwide are also facing disciplinary threats.

At the start of the school year in September, MIT issued new school rules surrounding when and where students can protest on its campus.

School leadership has responded more strictly toward unsanctioned demonstrations this year, which was a departure from the prior school year when protestors camped out on campus.

Indian American physician and writer Abraham Verghese underscores immigrants' contributions to American life

JUNE 2, 2025

STANFORD (TIP): Indian American physician and writer Abraham Verghese has underscored the vital role of immigrants in the life of the nation underlining the contributions of international students living, studying, and working in the U.S.

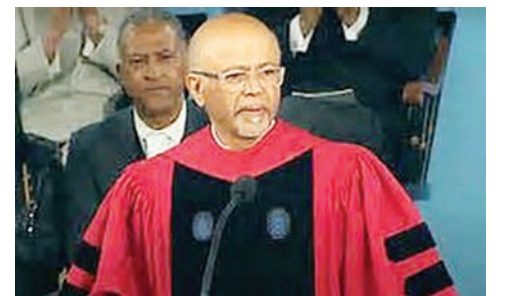
"When legal immigrants and others who are lawfully in this country, including so many of your international students, worry about being wrongly detained and

even deported, perhaps it's fitting that you hear from an immigrant like me," he said at Harvard's 374th Commencement last week.

Verghese, who teaches at Stanford, was the principal speaker at Commencement, which unfolded as a federal judge in Boston extended a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration's revocation of Harvard's ability to host international students and scholars, the Harvard Gazette reported.

He also spoke directly to the contributions of foreign-born doctors at hospitals across the country.

"We were recruited here because American medical schools simply don't graduate sufficient numbers of physicians to fill the country's need," said Verghese, who spent two years early in his career at what is now Boston Medical Center. "More than a quarter of the physicians in the country are foreign medical graduates, many of them ultimately settling in places



Abraham Verghese has underscored the vital role of immigrants in the life of the nation underlining the contributions of international students living, studying, and working in the U.S.

that others might not find as desirable."

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Dr. Avinash and Dr. Geeta Gupta Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by BJANA at 50th Golden Anniversary & Global Conclave

MAY 30, 2025

NEW JERSEY (TIP): The Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA) honored Dr. Avinash and Dr. Geeta Gupta with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at its 50th Golden Anniversary and Global Conclave, recognizing their transformative contributions to healthcare, social welfare, and community service.

For decades, the Guptas have provided vital healthcare to underserved tribal and rural populations in Jharkhand and Bihar. In partnership with ASHA Jharkhand NGO, they lead PRAN-BJANA, a mobile medical clinic offering free care, including diagnostics and medicines, to remote villages. With over 115 camps conducted and 10,000+ patients treated, their model blends in-person outreach with telehealth consultations from the U.S., dramatically expanding access to care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Guptas led vaccination drives in New Jersey, serving over 3,500 Indian Americans, and provided critical virtual care to patients in India, easing hospital burdens and directing resources efficiently. Their initiatives included establishing a 10-bed COVID Care Center, donating ambulances and oxygen concentrators, and supporting families in distress.

Beyond healthcare, the Guptas champion education and cultural preservation. In 2008, they founded the Dr. Avinash Gupta Foundation, providing scholarships to



BJANA honored Dr. Avinash and Dr. Geeta Gupta with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award at its 50th Golden Anniversary and Global Conclave, recognizing their transformative contributions to healthcare, social welfare, and community service.

meritorious but underprivileged students in Jharkhand. As Chair and Chief Trustee of the Shri Siddhivinayak Temple USA & Indian Cultural Center, they've raised over \$2 million for community initiatives.

A former President of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Dr. Avinash Gupta has been

instrumental in organizing the largest India Day Parade outside India, celebrating Indian heritage across the Northeast. He has also served as President of MOCAAPI, BJANA, and the Medical Staff at Monmouth Medical Center - Southern Campus, and currently serves on the Ocean County Board of Health.

Dr. Gupta has tirelessly advocated for Indo-American collaboration, fair representation, and challenged media biases, all while mentoring young Indian professionals and physicians in the U.S.

PREVIOUS AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS:

Humanitarian Gala Award, 2020 - Monmouth Medical Center

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Award, 2020 - Consulate General of India, NY

Proclamation for COVID Service, 2021 - State of New Jersey

Extraordinary Leadership Award, 2020 - AAPI

Healthcare Heroes Award, 2020 - BJANA

India Day Parade Honoree, 2019 - FIA

Service to Homeland, 2019 - BCCI, Patna

25 Years of Service, 1994-2019 - RWJBarnabas Health

Through their unwavering dedication, the Guptas have brought relief to thousands, uplifted communities, and inspired countless individuals across continents. Their journey reflects the true essence of service, compassion, and global impact.

A Lotus In The Mud celebrates Yoga Day in a spiritual way

The June 22 event on Long Island is in partnership with the Brahma Kumaris and in association with the Indian Consulate



Indian Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan: Chief Guest

**JUNE 4, 2025
GREAT NECK, NY (TIP):** In a world increasingly obsessed with external forms of wellness, a profound initiative is set to remind us of yoga's inner essence. 'The Spirit of Yoga', a special International Day of Yoga celebration, is being co-hosted by the globally respected Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization and the

premier conscious media platform ALotusInTheMud.com on June 22 at the serene Global Harmony House in Great Neck on Long Island.

GOING BEYOND POSTURES

While most Yoga Day celebrations revolve around physical postures and public demonstrations of flexibility, 'The Spirit of Yoga' program seeks to reclaim yoga's soul, rekindling its spiritual roots.

"We are focusing on yoga as a way of being - anchored in awareness, self-realization, and harmony," says Parveen Chopra, Founding Editor of ALotusInTheMud.com and co-moderator of the event. "Yoga, as in Patanjali's 8-limbed path, finds its fulfillment in dhyana, asanas are just a part and accessory."

GUESTS AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAM

The event will witness a lineup of dignitaries, spiritual leaders and practitioners who bring wisdom, inspiration, and the lived experience of yogic values to about 250 seekers in the hall, and many more attending virtually.

- Chief Guest: Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, who will speak on India's gift of yoga to the world.
- Spiritual Blessings by: BK Mohini Didi, the revered Chief Administrative Head of the



BK Mohini Didi, head of the Brahma Kumaris international, will give Blessings



Parveen Chopra, Founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, will be co-moderator of the event.



Guest of Honor Eddie Stern is yoga instructor and founder of the Broome Street Ganesha Temple in Manhattan



Andonia Fthenakis, an Integrative Healing Arts Practitioner, will present sound bath meditation.

Brahma Kumaris international organization.

- Guest of Honor: Eddie Stern, yoga instructor and founder of the Broome Street Ganesha Temple in Manhattan.
- Raja Yoga Meditation: Guided by Sister Gayatri Naraine, the NGO representative of the Brahma Kumaris at the United Nations.
- Sound Bath Meditation: By Andonia Fthenakis, an Integrative Healing Arts Practitioner, to foster energetic alignment and deep relaxation.
- Dance of Yoga: A creative interpretation of yogic expression by Dr. Anjali Grover, MD, integrating

movement and meaning.

"In today's commercialized wellness world, yoga is often reduced to fitness," says Sr. Gayatri Naraine. "But the true spirit of yoga is about connecting to our highest self, to the Supreme, through spiritual awareness."

ABOUT THE BRAHMA KUMARIS

A global spiritual movement active in over 130 countries, the Brahma Kumaris offer courses in Raja Yoga meditation, value-based living, and inner leadership. Their Americas headquarters, located at Global Harmony House, serves as a lighthouse for peace, knowledge, and self-transformation.

www.GlobalHarmonyHouse.org

ABOUT 'A LOTUS IN THE MUD'

A not-for-profit online wellness and spirituality magazine, ALotusInTheMud.com is rooted in timeless wisdom yet deeply relevant to modern life. Featuring interviews and articles from sages and scientists alike, it bridges Eastern spirituality with Western inquiry. Launched from New York in 2023, it has grown as a powerful platform for spiritual journalism, bringing together voices from diverse traditions to help and heal people and the world.

www.ALotusInTheMud.com

THE SPIRIT OF YOGA EVENT DETAILS

Date: Sunday, June 22, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Followed by refreshments

Venue: Global Harmony House, 46 South Middle Neck Road, Great Neck, NY 11021

Free entry | Register by June 15 at

<https://tiny.cc/spirit-of-yoga-2025>

Contact for press, partnerships, or participation queries:

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ALotusInTheMud.com: + 1 516 710 0508

Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA and President of RANA, Hosts Dinner Reception for visiting Union Minister Ramdas Athawale

Athawale commits full support for the upcoming camps being organized in memory of Dr. Ambedkar in Delhi and Mumbai,



RANA and Jaipur Foot Ladies presenting a bouquet to the Union Minister Ramdas Athawale

JUNE 4, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Shri Ramdas Athawale, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, who is on a visit to New York, was honored at a special dinner reception hosted in Long Island by Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA and President of the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA).

The Minister shares a longstanding association with Jaipur Foot USA. In 2023, he inaugurated two major camps for the differently-abled (Divyangjan) in Hyderabad and Tirupati. These camps were organized in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of NY, NJ, CT & NE - an organization known for hosting the world's largest India Day Parade outside India - and Jaipur Foot USA's parent body, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS).

Speaking at the event, Mr. Bhandari highlighted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration of the "Panch Teerth" - five sacred sites associated with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life:

1. Mhow - his birthplace,
2. Nagpur - Deeksha Bhoomi,
3. London - where he pursued higher education,
4. Delhi - where he passed away,
5. Mumbai - where he was cremated.

To commemorate Dr. Ambedkar's 125th birth anniversary in 2016, BMVSS organized two Jaipur Foot camps - one in Mhow and the other at Deeksha Bhoomi in Nagpur. Mr. Bhandari announced that, under the guidance of BMVSS Founder and Chief Patron Padma Bhushan Shri D.R. Mehta, preparations are underway for upcoming camps in Delhi and Mumbai.

He expressed gratitude for the continued support that BMVSS and Jaipur Foot USA have received from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of External Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Mr. Bhandari also commended India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish, for organizing a special event at the UN on June 10 on Jaipur Foot and BMVSS to showcase India's pioneering work in lower limb disability empowerment. The event will feature the impactful contributions of BMVSS in India and globally. BMVSS Founder and Chief Patron Mr D.R. Mehta and BMVSS President Ambassador Satish Mehta will arrive in New York on June 9 to participate in the event.

Since its inception in 1975, BMVSS has benefited over 2.4 million differently-abled individuals by providing them with Jaipur Foot and other assistive devices. The organization has conducted 114 international camps in 44 countries, including 32 camps under the 'India for Humanity' initiative - fully sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Mr. Bhandari, who recently visited Guatemala and Trinidad & Tobago, said that Jaipur Foot camps have been approved by the Ministry of External Affairs in :

- Guatemala - 600 limbs
- Sudan - 600 limbs
- Trinidad & Tobago - 800 limbs

All three camps will be conducted later this year.



Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari spoke at length about the enormous work being done by Jaipur Foot under the leadership of Mr. D. R. Mehta, Founder and Chief Patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), parent body of Jaipur Foot.

Seen in the picture, from L to R: Rajeev Bhambri, Ajay Patel, K.K. Mehta, Prem Bhandari, Ramdas Athawale, Harish Thakkar, Dilip Chauhan, Ravi Jargarh

He further shared that an artificial limb fitment center will soon be opened in Malawi with MEA support, following the announcement made by President Droupadi Murmu last year.

Minister Athawale assured Mr. Bhandari of his full support for the upcoming camps in Delhi and Mumbai, being organized in memory of Dr. Ambedkar. He also praised the transformative work carried out by Jaipur Foot USA's parent organization BMVSS in India and around the world.

Minister Athawale further said he would request Prime Minister Narendra Modi to consider establishing a memorial for Dr. Ambedkar in New York. In response, Mr. Bhandari stated that his family would be the first to contribute toward this noble cause.

Prem Bhandari presented to the Union Minister a brochure of Jaipur Foot

The dinner was attended by prominent community leaders and members from RANA, Jaipur Foot USA, BRUHUD Seniors New York, AIA, AAPI, RAJMAI, REDIO, and other Indian-American organization.

DIGNITARIES AND ATTENDEES

- K.K. Mehta - President, Rajasthan Foundation
- Arvind Bhandari - One of the Founders of RANA
- Dasrath Dugar, Former President, RANA
- Dilip Chauhan - Deputy Commissioner, Mayor's Office, New York City
- Ajay Patel - President, BRUHUD Seniors New York
- Dr. Shashi Saha - Trustee, AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)
- Harish Thakkar - Representative, AIA (Association of Indians in America)
- Haridas Kotawala - Former President, Indian Diamond and Color Association
- Neelam Modi - Treasurer, RANA (Rajasthan Association of North America)
- Dr. Raj Modi - Member, RANA
- Dr. Raj Bhayani - Community leaders
- Rajeev Bhambri - Secretary, Jaipur Foot USA
- Ravi Jargarh - Secretary, RANA
- Vilas Savargaonkar, Member, Jaipur Foot
- Atul Kothari - Board Member, RANA
- Dulichand Baid, Board Member, RANA
- Navneet Goyal, Board Member, RANA
- Amit Saraf, Board Member, RANA
- Amit Shorewala, Board Member, RANA
- Prominent leaders from the Indian-American community across New York and New Jersey
- Representatives from RAJMAI, REDIO, AAPI, AIA, and BRUHUD Seniors NY



Union Minister Athawale (right) and Prem Bhandari hold the Jaipur Foot Brochure.

(Based on a press release)

ELON MUSK GOES NUCLEAR

The world's richest man and the president of the United States are now openly fighting



By David A. Graham

From the moment Elon Musk bounded onstage, midriff bared, to campaign for Donald Trump, cynics predicted that the two men's egos were too large to allow for a lasting alliance. Improbably, however, the bond persisted, despite the rocky rollout of the U.S. DOGE Service, disagreements over legislation, and even covers of *The New Yorker* and *Time* that seemed designed to troll Trump and drive a wedge between the men.

Now it seems the cynics weren't wrong—just premature in their predictions. A feud that simmered all week broke into outright hostility this afternoon, with Trump appearing to threaten to cancel all of the contracts and tax subsidies Musk's companies have with the government, and Musk alleging that Trump hasn't released files related to Jeffrey Epstein because he's implicated in them. The falling-out feels both inevitable and still shocking. (The Germans must have a word for this situation; perhaps Trump could ask Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who visited the White House today.)

It was only Friday that Trump and Musk held an amiable press conference in the Oval Office to mark the end of Musk's time as a "special government employee," as he returns to his somewhat battered companies. Trump presented Musk with a key to the White House-gilded, but you knew that—and Musk promised to continue to offer Trump advice as much as desired. "I hope so," the president replied. He's apparently having second thoughts now. "I'm very disappointed in Elon," Trump said in an appearance alongside Merz.

The rift opened over the past few days, as Musk began campaigning against the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the sprawling legislation that Republicans are trying to move through both houses of Congress to extend Trump's first-term tax cuts, slash entitlements, and achieve whatever else of the president's agenda they can cram in or sneak past members and the Senate parliamentarian.

"This massive, outrageous, pork-filled Congressional spending bill is a disgusting abomination," Musk posted on X on Tuesday. "Shame on those who voted for it: you know you did wrong. You know it." In another post, he wrote, "Bankrupting America is NOT ok! KILL the BILL." In yet another: "The Big Ugly Bill will INCREASE the deficit to \$2.5 trillion!" And a fourth: "This bill was never shown to me even once and was passed in the dead of night so fast that almost no one in Congress could even read it!"

What Musk wants is not entirely clear. His understanding of government spending has always been muddled, which is one reason DOGE was doomed to miss its cost-cutting targets. His sudden emergence as a strict deficit hawk is difficult to believe, though if he's really concerned, he could call for higher taxes. (Somehow it's not surprising that a multibillionaire would prefer to cut social services for average



Elon Musk with President Trump in the Oval Office

File photo credit: Brandon

citizens.) One hint about the true source of his fury is that he keeps bringing up reductions in subsidies for electric vehicles, something that could directly affect his bottom line.

At first, in an unusual display of circumspection and restraint, the White House tried to avoid directly responding to Musk. Then officials began pushing back, mostly in policy terms. Trump unleashed a flurry of announcements last night that seemed intended to distract from Musk. But then Trump's patience ran out, producing today's sound bite. The president also said he'd rather Musk criticize him personally than the bill, which sounds false.

The situation puts Trump in an ironic position: He likes to be the guy on the outside, attacking government officials for failing to accomplish some impossible task. Now Musk is doing that to him, while Trump has to defend the imperfect process of legislation. As of this writing, Musk had pinned to the top of his X profile a repost of many screenshots of Trump arguing for fiscal discipline before having won his first term. "Where is this guy today??" Musk sniped.

A clash between Musk and Trump will be a test of what happens when two of the greatest promoters in mass-media history square off. Both are adept at driving a news cycle; both are the owners of social-media platforms; and although X is much larger than Truth Social, Trump also has the advantage of being, you know, the president of the United States. Which of them can control the news more?

But the most interesting clash is the one between two guys who thought they had bought each other off. For a time, they both must have thought they had a great deal. Trump got at least a quarter of a billion dollars in campaign support from Musk, and he got the joy of having the world's richest man as his sidekick. Maybe Trump even believed that DOGE would be able to make huge budget cuts via improvements in efficiency.

Musk, meanwhile, was able to wield unprecedented power as an unelected, unconfirmed bureaucrat. In 2023, during an onstage discussion, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked the South African-born Musk, "You can't be president of the U.S. last time I checked, right?" Musk replied with a smirk, "Not officially." For a moment, he seemed to achieve that unofficial reign. DOGE was given wide latitude. Musk skulked around the Oval Office with his young son and mugged in interviews with the president. He could also help direct contracts to his companies, hurt competitors, and install allies in key posts. At the peak of their bond, and a nadir of propriety, the president arranged an infomercial for Tesla on the White House lawn.

Now, as they drift apart, both men are feeling burned. "I've helped Elon a lot," Trump groused today. Later, he unloaded on Musk on Truth Social. "Elon was 'wearing thin,' I asked him to leave, I took away his EV Mandate that forced everyone to buy Electric Cars that nobody else wanted (that he knew for months I was going to do!), and he

just went CRAZY!," Trump wrote, adding in a threat: "The easiest way to save money in our Budget, Billions and Billions of Dollars, is to terminate Elon's Governmental Subsidies and Contracts. I was always surprised that Biden didn't do it!"

Musk's anger, though just as hot, was tinged with imperious presumption. "Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Dems would control the House and the Republicans would be 51-49 in the Senate," Musk wrote on X this afternoon. "Such ingratitude," he added. You can kind of see his point: He thought that investing massive amounts of money into Trump would allow him to get whatever he wanted from Trump, and Trump did little to dispel that impression. Musk's transparency about DOGE's actions was wanting, but he's making it crystal clear what he thought he bought. Trump and Musk are both learning the limitations on their purchases—and the public is getting an illustration of the danger of someone like Musk having so much personal influence on the government.

(David A. Graham is a journalist based in Durham, North Carolina. He is a staff writer at The Atlantic, where he covers politics, criminal justice, music, and other topics. His coverage of the 2020 presidential election won the 2021 Toner Prize for Excellence in National Political Reporting.)

END OF PAX AMERICANA: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

THE DECLINE OF PAX AMERICANA MIGHT JUST BE THE INVITATION THE WORLD NEEDED TO IMAGINE AND CREATE SOMETHING BETTER, BASED INDEED ON A GENUINELY RULES-BASED ORDER AND NOT EXCEPTIONALISM.



By Khushi Mishra
& Dr. A. Adityanjee

For much of the 20th and early 21st centuries, the international order operated under the broad shadow of Pax Americana—a term that implied not just military supremacy, but the cultural, economic and institutional dominance of the United States. From shaping the post-WWII Bretton Woods institutions to setting the terms of global diplomacy, America attempted to fashion a world order in its image with some success. However, today, that benign shadow of all-pervasive Uncle Sam is receding. Not with a dramatic collapse but through slow erosion—an unravelling marked by shifting power centers, declining institutional legitimacy, and ideological fragmentation. The end of Pax Americana is not a future possibility but a present condition, albeit starting with a slow decline. And its consequences stretch far beyond the U.S., rippling across continents, alliances, and geopolitical imaginations.

CRACKS IN THE FOUNDATION

The U.S. was not just a superpower but the architect of a system that promised liberal democracy, free markets and so-called rules-based multilateralism. After the break-up of the former Soviet Union, it became the sole hyperpower in the nineties. However, cracks began to show long before the term "American decline" entered the mainstream. The unnecessary war in Iraq and the prolonged occupation and nation-building in Afghanistan revealed the limits of hard power. The 2008 financial and banking crisis exposed vulnerabilities in the very model America exported.

Domestically, political dysfunction and extreme political polarization and racial strife eroded the internal coherence necessary to sustain global leadership.

The Trump administration 1.0 did not invent this decline—it merely amplified it. Unilateral withdrawals, erratic diplomacy, and an "America First" posture ruptured long-standing alliances and triggered a recalibration among both adversaries and allies. Trust, once the bedrock of American hegemony, began to fade.

Doubts about the cognitive competence of a series of US presidents have contributed to the lack of confidence in the US decision-making at the highest level. Trump 2.0 administration's MAGA (Make America Great Again) policies are contributing to the pervasive lack of faith in US decision-making process by the international community and the comity of civilized nations.

MULTIPOLAR DRIFT AND THE RETURN OF STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

As the U.S. retreats from the center, other players have moved in—not to replicate American leadership but to reconfigure the playing field altogether. China's rise is not simply about GDP or military capacity but about narrative control.

Beijing offers an alternative to Western liberalism—development without democracy and influence without direct intervention. However, China's debt trap BRI scheme and wolf warrior diplomacy have not gained it any new friends.

The US has tried to face the economic challenge from rising China by de-risking and decoupling its economy and has instituted near-shoring, friendshoring and onshoring. Despite economic constraints, Russia has strategically asserted itself through information warfare, military entrenchments and diplomatic offensives.

Meanwhile, middle powers and regional powers like India, Brazil, Türkiye, European Union, Saudi Arabia, Iran and South Africa are asserting strategic autonomy. No longer content with junior-partner status, they are reshaping regional alliances, experimenting with new



institutional arrangements, and occasionally resisting U.S. pressure outright.

In this emerging order, power is no longer unipolar or bipolar or even cleanly multipolar—it is diffused, competitive and unpredictable. We are heading towards an era of nascent oligo-polarity.

EUROPE AND THE LIMITS OF TRANSATLANTIC DEPENDENCE

In Europe, the end of Pax Americana feels less like liberation and more like abandonment. The postwar European project was built on the twin foundations of American security and economic partnership. As U.S. foreign policy became more transactional, Europe began grappling with an uncomfortable reality: the transatlantic safety net may no longer hold.

Calls for "strategic autonomy" are gaining momentum, particularly in France and Germany. From digital sovereignty to independent defense capabilities, the EU is slowly inching towards a more self-reliant posture. However, internal divisions and bureaucratic inertia make this transformation uneven and uncertain.

Europe, once a pillar of Pax Americana, is now navigating its future in a more volatile world.

VOICES FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH

In the Global South, reactions to the unravelling of American primacy are more complex. For many, the liberal international order was less about freedom and more about hierarchy. Structural adjustment programs, conditional aid, and numerous but selective military interventions without UN Security Council approval left deep scars.

Yet, the same U.S.-led rules-based order also enabled global development financing, diplomatic recognition and conflict resolution mechanisms.

As U.S. influence wanes, new opportunities and new risks emerge. China's infrastructure-first developmental model through the Belt and Road Initiative offers an alternative, but it comes with its own dependencies and debt trap schemes.

A previous version of the BRI project was named One Belt, One Road (OBOR), an acronym that was lampooned as ODOR (One Debt, One Road). China's maritime claims against the exclusive economic zones of several ASEAN countries and its refusal to comply with the international tribunal verdict of 2016 does not inspire any confidence about its benign intentions as a rising superpower.

Russia's engagement, often transactional, fills security vacuums but seldom addresses long-term governance needs. The Global South is not passively watching this transition—it is actively negotiating, leveraging and resisting in ways that challenge old hierarchies.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE CENTRE NO LONGER HOLDS?

The end of Pax Americana does not signal a complete collapse of the global order. There is an ongoing Cold War 2.0 between the reigning hegemon and the rising

hegemon without a complete binary division of the comity of nations.

Global South is hedging and not willing to take sides in this new Cold War 2.0. Whether these two competing nations will fall into Thucydides' trap is yet to be seen. We are witnessing the slow emergence of a multiplex world—a complex, culturally diverse, and normatively contested international system. In such a world, no single actor sets the rules. Power is negotiated, legitimacy is localized, and the global order is constantly in flux.

Burgeoning US debt to the tune of \$38 trillion also questions the stability of the post-World War II financial system. Several countries are selling the US Government treasury bonds and buying gold for fiscal stability. Financial transactions are no longer based on the supremacy and hegemony of the US dollars.

Many countries are doing bilateral trade using regional and local currencies, bypassing the dollar. China has encouraged the use of the Yuan or Renminbi for international trade since the 2008 banking crisis in the US. China's own economy is facing headwinds, with the housing sector insolvent and high unemployment among college graduates. The debt-to-GDP ratio for China is currently 300%.

China's attempts to browbeat Japan and other countries by leveraging its monopoly of rare earth and mineral supply chains have not endeared it to the rest of the world. De-dollarization is not imminent. It is a slow and steady process, but it will not be replaced by Humanization. Despite talks of a future BRICS currency, there aren't many takers for it in the BRICS-plus grouping, barring China.

This transition is not without danger. Without a stable hegemon, flashpoints can become firestorms. Institutions built for a different era may prove inadequate in managing 21st-century crises—from pandemics and cyber wars to climate change and artificial intelligence. At the same time, this flux creates possibilities for reimagining global governance beyond Western templates. It invites pluralism, regionalism and new solidarities.

CONCLUSION

Pax Americana was always as much a myth as it was a reality—one held together by narratives of exceptionalism and promises of liberal peace. That myth is now unravelling, not because America has disappeared, but because the world has changed irreversibly.

The erosion of U.S. primacy is not merely a geopolitical event; it is a civilizational moment. It challenges us to rethink power without hegemony, order without uniformity, and progress without domination. No country in the world, however, wants the replacement of Pax Americana with Pax Sinica. China's lack of transparency and failure to acknowledge its role in the lab-created Wuhan virus pandemic have made the world suspicious of China's intentions.

This is not the end of international cooperation, but it may be the end of a very aggressive and one-size-fits-all globalization. As the world turns into a multipolar mosaic, the future lies not in nostalgia for the lost primacy of an American melting pot, but in constructing new frameworks—messy, plural, negotiated, and perhaps more just.

The decline of Pax Americana might just be the invitation the world needed to imagine and create something better, based indeed on a genuinely rules-based order and not exceptionalism.

(Dr. A. Adityanjee is President of the Council of Strategic Affairs and Chairperson, Board of Directors)

INDIA'S \$4-TRILLION ECONOMY MASKS INEQUITY AND JOBLESS GROWTH



By Deepanshu Mohan

Consider this: India's per capita GDP still hovers around \$2,480, compared to Japan's \$33K or Germany's \$54K

"A forward-looking economic agenda would include a progressive wealth tax, higher marginal rates on capital gains and closing of corporate loopholes that erode the tax base. Expanding public investment in child and elder care infrastructure could unlock female labor force participation while generating millions of dignified jobs. Moreover, formalizing informal employment through universal social protection floors, streamlined labor codes and digital inclusion can offer security without sacrificing flexibility. Fiscal policy must evolve beyond scarcity-thinking and towards rights-based provisioning, treating education, health and employment not as charity but as citizenship guarantees."

India has taken an economic leap, overtaking Japan to become the fourth largest economy in nominal GDP. At \$4 trillion, the Indian economic landscape sits just behind the US, China and Germany. But size-driven growth alone does not confer greatness. Nor does scale guarantee substance. In the Indian context, economic size also has very little to offer on distributive equity. Beneath the din lies a quieter, sobering narrative, one of persistent inequality, vast informal labor, low human development and frayed social safety nets. India's economic expansion remains acutely uneven in distribution and experience. It has produced islands of affluence in a sea of precarity.

This is not to deny the real progress India has made. But we must ask: aspiration fulfilled for whom? Because when growth is judged by volume rather than value and size by nominal metrics rather than lived outcomes, it risks becoming a mirage, a spectacle of progress untethered from social reality.

Consider this: India's per capita GDP still hovers around \$2,480, compared to Japan's \$33K or Germany's \$54K, and lagging behind even Vietnam and the Philippines. India's \$4-trillion GDP, when divided among its 1.4 billion citizens, shows cracks. Thus, India's average citizen earns approximately 1/22nd of a German and slightly less than 1/14th of a Japanese. The symbolism is striking: two nations once seen as economic underdogs now offer a higher average standard of living than the world's fourth largest economy.

This is a call to distinguish economic size from developmental depth. This problem is conceptual. Aggregate GDP is a blunt instrument, better suited to measuring production than prosperity. It counts luxury condominiums and slums at the same time, billionaires and daily wagers alike and tells us who owns assets, who can access formal credit, who inherits safety nets and who remains locked out.

In India, economic mobility is still tethered to geography, caste, gender and inheritance. Without meaningful redistribution, through progressive taxation, asset reform or targeted social investment, the system will remain one of exclusion rather than inclusion.

According to the World Inequality Report, the top 1 per cent of Indians command 22.6 per cent of the national income and a staggering 40.1 per cent of the wealth. The bottom 50 per cent earn just 15 per cent of the income and



Big gap: The top 1% Indians command 22.6% of the national income and 40% wealth.

File photo

Also Read <https://www.theindianpanorama.news/opinion/modi-selling-rising-gdp-as-a-sign-of-prosperity-to-the-deprived-masses-of-india/>

hold a mere 6.4 per cent of wealth. In Germany and Japan, the bottom 50 per cent hold nearly 20 per cent of national income.

The imbalance in India's rise is most visible in its labor market. This is a paradox where growth coexists with joblessness and expansion leaves the majority of workers behind. Despite over three decades of liberalization, India's growth model remains stubbornly capital-intensive, privileging high-margin sectors such as finance, IT and real estate while neglecting the labor-absorbing capacity of manufacturing, agriculture and small-scale enterprises. The result? A "jobless growth" trajectory that fuels GDP numbers but fails to create meaningful employment for millions.

Over 90 per cent of the workforce is employed informally, without social security, pensions or formal contracts. This becomes a structural fault line. It depresses labor productivity, narrows the tax base and exacerbates inequality by excluding the majority from rights-based protections.

According to the India Employment Report 2024, youth unemployment has risen from 5.7 per cent in 2000 to 17.5 per cent in 2019. The quality of jobs remains poor, often informal, low-wage and devoid of upward mobility. More alarming is the female labor force participation, which languishes below 25 per cent. Cultural constraints, safety concerns, poor transport and a lack of childcare facilities play a role, but so does an architecture that favors capital subsidies over investments in public infrastructure and services. Japan and Germany, despite ageing populations, have increased women's workforce engagement through robust maternity benefits, subsidized childcare and flexible work arrangements.

Meanwhile, India's middle class is under increasing strain. Household debt surged to 42.9 per cent of GDP by mid-2024 from 36.6 per cent in June 2021, while household savings fell from 84 per cent of total savings in 2000 to 61 per cent in 2023.

The disconnect between India's capital-rich growth and labor-poor reality underscores the need for a rethink.

With a tax-to-GDP ratio of just 6.8 per cent as of

December 2024 (it was 9.1 per cent in September), India finds itself with too little fiscal muscle to fund ambitious public goods or progressive welfare. Germany's tax-to-GDP ratio is 38 per cent and Japan's 34.1 per cent. This reflects not only the tax capacity of the state but also the tax intention.

This constraint is compounded by the narrow base of direct taxation. India has hesitated to meaningfully tax wealth, inheritances or large capital gains, mechanisms used widely in OECD economies to fund equitable growth. Welfare schemes provide only subsistence and not any structural uplift. The absence of fiscal federalism also hobbles inclusive development. State governments, responsible for health, education and infrastructure, remain financially starved and dependent on the Centre's transfers. This limits the potential for targeted interventions that account for regional disparities in poverty, caste exclusion and gender gaps.

A forward-looking economic agenda would include a progressive wealth tax, higher marginal rates on capital gains and closing of corporate loopholes that erode the tax base. Expanding public investment in child and elder care infrastructure could unlock female labor force participation while generating millions of dignified jobs. Moreover, formalizing informal employment through universal social protection floors, streamlined labor codes and digital inclusion can offer security without sacrificing flexibility. Fiscal policy must evolve beyond scarcity-thinking and towards rights-based provisioning, treating education, health and employment not as charity but as citizenship guarantees.

If India is to truly ascend not just in rankings but also in the lived reality of its people, it needs a structural course-correction. It must resolve to building an economy not just of the few, but for the many.

(Deepanshu Mohan is a Professor of Economics and Dean, IDEAS, Office of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Director, Centre for New Economics Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University.)



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More Information: www.rentalapp.us

Your household must meet these income restrictions:



AMI	Unit Size	# Units	Monthly Maintenance*	Household Size	Household Income**
50%	1 BR	1	\$1206		\$38,000- \$54,750 \$38,000- \$66,000 \$38,000- \$74,250
	2 BR	10	\$1449		\$45,700- \$66,000 \$45,700- \$74,250 \$45,700- \$82,450 \$45,700- \$89,050
60%	1 BR	8	\$1478		\$46,600- \$69,300 \$46,600- \$79,200 \$46,600- \$89,100
	2 BR	76	\$1776		\$56,000- \$79,200 \$56,000- \$89,100 \$56,000- \$98,940 \$56,000- \$106,860
	3 BR	38	\$2021		\$56,600- \$89,100 \$56,600- \$98,940 \$56,600- \$106,860 \$56,600- \$114,780 \$56,600- \$122,700
70%	2 BR	1	\$2103		\$63,800- \$92,400 \$63,800- \$103,950 \$63,800- \$115,430 \$63,800- \$124,670
80%	1BR	1	\$2024		\$63,900- \$92,400 \$63,900- \$105,600 \$63,900- \$118,800
	2BR	2	\$2431		\$76,700- \$105,600 \$76,700- \$118,800 \$76,700- \$131,920 \$76,700- \$142,480

* Occupancy Preferences May Apply

* Resident's are responsible for electricity, electric stove, electric heat, and electric hot water. Income guidelines & permitted household size are subject to change.

**Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies. Asset limits also apply.

Governor Kathy Hochul ■ HCR Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas ■ www.hcr.gov/lotteries ■

NYHousingSearch.gov

Application Due Date: June 10th, 2025

Must be postmarked June 10th, 2025 by this date. Sending more than one (1) application may disqualify you.

How to Apply:

Online: www.rentalapp.us

Request Application By Phone or Email: 516-437-0900 ext 26, mgmtinfo@thedfdgroup.com

By Mail or In-Person: 100 Schoolhouse Road Levittown NY 11756

Include your address & the name and address of the building where you want to apply.

Lottery Date & Location: June 24th, 2025 at 1pm at 100 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Hauppauge, NY 11788/ Recording available via

YouTube: D&F Development@dfdevelopment6768

The lottery will determine which applications will be reviewed for tenancy.



YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

- If you have experienced housing discrimination:
<https://dhr.ny.gov/journey-fair-housing>
or call 844-862-8703
- Learn about how your credit and background check will be individually reviewed: <https://on.ny.gov/3uLNIw4>



ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION

- 15 units are adapted for mobility impairment
- 6 units are adapted for hearing/vision impairment
- [All] units are adaptable to be wheelchair accessible
- Reasonable accommodation and modifications may be requested

AIA NY Chapter organizes Annual Benefit Gala; Honors five exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to the community

JUNE 2, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest national association of Asian Indians in America, founded in 1967. AIA's mission is rooted in promoting the interests of Asian Indians, fostering community engagement, and celebrating our cultural diversity.

In a remarkable evening that blended grace, celebration, and community pride, (AIA), NY Chapter, held its Annual Benefit Gala on June 1st, 2025 at the elegant Pearl Banquet Hall. The event drew over 350 guests, including dignitaries, The Consul General of India in New York and elected officials included Nassau County executive, community leaders, medical and healthcare industry, and other professionals, all gathered to honor five exceptional individuals for their outstanding contributions to community.

AIA-NY honored five exceptional individuals, each hailing from different industries, regions of India, and fields of expertise. Their outstanding achievements and excellence in their respective domains made them truly deserving of recognition. We proudly referred to them as the 'Five Ratnas' (jewels) of our gala, symbolizing their invaluable contributions to their fields and the community.

1. Dr. Karthik Gujja, M.D., M.P.H.

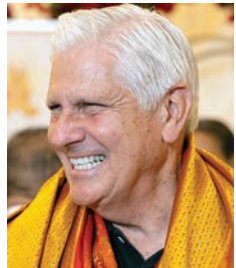
A Visionary in Cardiovascular and Endovascular Care

2. Navneet Sikka, Youth Ambassador, honoring a Visionary Leader, recognizing exceptional achievements in business, entrepreneurship, and social activism, Distinguished Businesswoman, Dedicated Social Activist.

3. Dr. Hetal Gor, MD, FACOG - Excellence in OBGYN, Recognizing outstanding contributions in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical Director, Women's



The Honorees - Dr. Karthik Gujja, Navneet Sikka, Dr. Hetal Gor, Devendra Shrivastava, and Ramesh C. Gupta, with the organizers.



The dignitaries- Ambassador Binay S Pradhan, Consul General of India, in New York, Hon. John C. Liu - New York State Senator, Hon. Bruce Blakeman - Nassau County Executive, Hon. Rosemary Walker - Nassau County Legislator, Hon. Seth Koslow - Nassau County Legislator, Hon. Jennifer DeSena - Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead, Hon. Ragini Srivastava - Town Clerk, Town of North Hempstead

Value through Research and Innovation in New York Founder, R&S Chemicals Pioneering Advances in Organic and

India.

President Beena Kothari extended her sincerest appreciation to all attendees,



Distinguished guests

OBGYN, CEO, Health Media

4. Devendra Shrivastava, MD, Honoring a Distinguished Medical Leader, Recognizing a respected figure in the medical community for outstanding contributions and dedication to excellence in Medical Director of Dialysis Services,

5. Ramesh C. Gupta, Ph.D. Synthetic Organic Chemistry Expert President, Chem-Master International, Inc. Driving



Prof. Indrajit Saluja, Hon. Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Executive and Dr. Dipak Nandi

Medicinal Chemistry, North Carolina.

The Gala proudly recognized three distinguished individuals for their outstanding contributions:

The distinguished honor of the evening was bestowed upon the Chief Guest, Honorable Binaya S. Pradhan Consul General of India.

Leadership Award in the field of education was given to Dr. Christine Mannino, President of Queensborough Community College.

The Excellence Tribute in Public Service award was conferred upon Mr. Ashok Lavasa, a retired IAS officer from India, in recognition of his remarkable achievements.

The honor of the evening was bestowed upon Chief Guest, Nassau County, Executive Bruce Blakeman and Honorable Binaya S. Pradhan Consul General of

including distinguished dignitaries, elected officials, special guests, and esteemed honorees. President Beena Kothari congratulated the honorees and expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the AIA team for making the event a resounding success. The President extended her heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Gobind Munjal, National President of AIA, as well as all past National Presidents and NY Chapter Presidents, for graciously attending the Benefit Gala and for their unwavering support.

Messages of best wishes and congratulatory messages from:

Elected officials in attendance included:

- Ambassador Binay S Pradhan, Consul General of India, in New York
- Hon. John C. Liu - New York State Senator
- Hon. Bruce Blakeman - Nassau County

Executive

- Hon. Rosemary Walker - Nassau County Legislator
- Hon. Seth Koslow - Nassau County Legislator
- Hon. Jennifer DeSena - Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead
- Hon. Ragini Srivastava - Town Clerk, Town of North Hempstead
- Chandee Singh represented Senator Charles Schumer's Office
- Harry Malhotra represented Hon. Joe Saladino - Supervisor, Town of Oyster Bay's Office

Those who sent their good wishes and congratulations included:

- Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli - New York State Comptroller
- Congressman Tom Suozzi
- Hon. Edward P. Romaine - Suffolk County Executive
- Hon. Rich Schaffer - Supervisor, Town of Babylon

The beautiful gala commenced with a captivating opening ceremony, featuring 8-year-old Kiana Vyas daughter of Vimal and Harsh Vyas, who performed the Ganesh Vandana.

Sujata Seth melodiously sang the Indian National Anthem.

Maya Kaul rendered the American National Anthem.

Their outstanding performances set the tone for a memorable evening.

An exultant Beena Kothari, President of AIA, New York Chapter, the organizers of the gala stated to The Indian Panorama that the event was a resounding success. The objective of the gala was to raise funds for the upcoming Deepavali festival, which was realized.

Ms Kothari said that she and her team extended their gratitude to everyone who contributed to the event's success.



Dr. Samin Sharma, Chairman of the AIA Board



Dr. Tarun Wasil

"We're excited to celebrate Deepavali with a grand event showcasing Indian culture, traditions, and Indian-American cultural programs. The event's success was made possible by the tireless efforts of the NY core team and dedicated volunteers, whose meticulous planning and selfless service brought this milestone celebration to life", Ms Kothari added.

Ms Kothari expressed her gratitude for the Gala Chair Mr. Kanak Golia, and the Gala Finance Chair Haridas Kotahwala.

Save the Date: Our iconic Deepavali event, held annually for 37 years in Manhattan at South street Seaport, will now take place on Long Island at Tanner Park, Copiague.

Join us on October 11th (rain date: October 12th) to continue the Indian traditional Diwali festivities with your family!

D.R. Mehta: A Revolutionary Force of Compassion, Innovation, and Social Justice



By Prem Bhandari



D.R. Mehta: Founder and Chief Patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS)

In a world often dominated by personal ambition and fleeting recognition, few individuals leave behind a legacy that truly transforms millions of lives. One such revolutionary figure is Mr. D.R. Mehta - the visionary founder and Chief Patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), the parent body of the world-renowned Jaipur Foot.

Founded in 1975, BMVSS under Mr. Mehta's leadership has become the world's largest organization for the rehabilitation of the physically challenged. It has provided dignity and mobility to more than 2.4 million beneficiaries, offering artificial limbs, calipers, and other aids - all completely free of cost to those in need, 95% of whom live below the poverty line.



A Jaipur Foot camp was organized at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, on April 14, 2016, to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated. In the picture, among others, from L to R: Prem Bhandari, D.R. Mehta, differently-abled Kamala-recipient of an artificial limb, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Narendra Modi.

What sets Mr. Mehta apart is his patient-first, humane approach. With an open-door policy and same-day prosthetic fittings, BMVSS operates around the clock to ensure that patients don't just get help - they get it with dignity, speed, and compassion. His model has not only inspired millions but has also caught the attention of prestigious institutions. Both Harvard Business School and IIM Bangalore have written case studies on BMVSS and Jaipur Foot. Renowned management guru Prof. C.K. Prahalad even featured BMVSS in his iconic book *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*.

Mr. Mehta's impact is international. He has spearheaded 114 limb-fitment camps across 44 countries, including conflict-ridden areas like Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine. His model blends technology with empathy, partnering with institutions such as Stanford University, MIT, and IITs to continuously upgrade BMVSS's innovation. TIME Magazine recognized the Jaipur Knee, developed with Stanford, as one of the 50 Best Inventions of the World in 2009.

A staunch Gandhian, Mr. Mehta practices what he preaches. Through initiatives in remote, violence-hit areas like Sukma and Dantewada, he has brought hope where it was long lost. His literary work includes over 70 books on Gandhism and peace, and he holds key positions in Gandhian institutions.

In recognition of his unparalleled service, Mr. Mehta has received numerous awards, including the Padma Bhushan (2008), Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavna Award (2012), and international honors such as the TECH Museum Innovation Award (USA).

Before his social work journey, Mr. Mehta was a distinguished IAS officer (1961 batch), holding critical positions in both state and central governments. He served as

A Jaipur Foot camp was organized at Nagpur-Diksha Bhoomi- on October 14, 2016.

Seen in the picture, among others, from L to R: D.R. Mehta, Prem Bhandari, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Phadnavis. Seated is a differently-abled boy who received an artificial limb



Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, and later as Chairman of SEBI, where he oversaw landmark reforms in India's capital market from 1995 to 2002.

Born in 1937, Mr. Mehta is an alumnus of Rajasthan University, Royal Institute of Public Administration (London), and the Alfred Sloan School of Management, MIT. He has also served on MIT's board for Asia, Europe, and Africa.



A Jaipur Foot camp was organized at Mahudi, Ahmedabad. It was hosted by Ajay Patel, President, BRUHUD Seniors, in memory of his late father Shashikant Bhai Patel. D.R. Mehta addressed the gathering. Seen in the picture, among others, from L to R: Ajay Patel, Prem Bhandari, Harsh Vardhan Shringla, former Foreign Secretary of India, S.J. Haider, Chief Secretary, Gujarat



Jaipur Foot and its Founder & Chairman, D.R. Mehta stand tall at Times Square, New York

In a time when the world searches for authentic leadership, Mr. D.R. Mehta stands tall as a true hero- a revolutionary who turned empathy into action, and vision into global impact.

(Prem Bhandari is the Founding Chairman, Jaipur Foot USA (subsidiary of BMVSS); President of Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA); Co-founder & Chairman, Rescuing Every Distressed Indian Overseas (REDIO); Chief Advisor, BRUHUD NY Seniors & Team Aid)

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) Praises ITServe's Support for STEM Education and Professional Development Programs at Columbus Chapter Meeting



Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) speaking at the ITServe Alliance Columbus Chapter's Monthly meeting at Sonesta Columbus Downtown, Columbus, OH on May 28, 2025.

JUNE 2, 2025

COLUMBUS, OH (TIP): "Information technology is essential to the modern workforce," said Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio), during his keynote address at ITServe Alliance Columbus Chapter's Monthly meeting at Sonesta Columbus Downtown, Columbus, OH on May 28, 2025.

Sen. Husted, who was the chief guest at the event, while lauding the many initiatives and the mission of ITServe Alliance, said, "ITServe's support for STEM education and professional development programs enhances companies' abilities to succeed." On his official website, it is posted that Sen. Jon Husted "met with ITServe's Columbus chapter. ITServe is the largest association of IT services in the nation."

Anju Vallabhaneni, President of ITServe Alliance said, "It is encouraging to see that the dedicated efforts of our ITServe PAC and CPAC teams over the past few years along with the support of Monte are now yielding visible results. We were honored to host Senator Jon Husted, the influential Republican leader filling the Senate seat vacated by Vice President JD Vance."



Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) speaking at the ITServe Alliance Columbus Chapter's Monthly meeting at Sonesta Columbus Downtown, Columbus, OH on May 28, 2025.

Vallabhaneni, while expressing his appreciation and gratitude to the Sen. Husted, who serves on the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and the Special Committee on Aging, said, "We truly appreciate the time he spent with us and the valuable insights he shared. His perspectives on current affairs and the evolving role of IT and AI in the industry were both timely and thought-provoking."

"ITServe Alliance, the largest association of IT companies with nearly 2,500 member companies from across the nation has been consistently working to protect the needs of its members," said Siva Mooppanar, President-Elect of ITServe. "To that end, ITServe Alliance has been consistently working with the Lawmakers on behalf of its members on Capitol Hill and with the US Administration."

While urging the ITServe members to come and actively participate at the upcoming Capitol Hill Day, Sateesh Nagilla, Director of ITServe Alliance Policy Advocacy Committee (PAC) & Immigration said, "The Capitol Hill Day planned to be

organized by ITServe Alliance in Washington, DC on June 11, 2025 offers us a unique and powerful way to advocate for policies and legislation that impact the small and medium size IT industries in the United States. We are encouraged by the overwhelming support from our members, who have expressed keen interest in being part of this critical event, where we have the opportunity to meet in person with US Representatives and Senators, including influential committee chairs and members, whose decisions impact our businesses."



Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) is escorted by the organizers to the venue

Capitol Hill Day is a vital part of ITServe Alliance, which was born out of the necessity to be the voice of IT companies in the United States, advocating for our rights, with the objective of educating lawmakers working toward meaningful changes that will benefit the IT industry and the larger society across the nation.

The fundamental pillars of ITServe PAC are: Education, Advocacy, and, Strategic Legal Initiatives. The Capitol Hill Day is part of the overall mission of ITServe Alliance in making the lawmakers and the larger American community aware about the need for favorable immigration programs to businesses by meeting, collaborating, and advocating with Congressmen and Senators to work together and help write and amend laws that are helpful to ITServe community.

Dr. Anil Makhija, Dean's Distinguished Professor of Finance until 2024, having served for ten years as Dean and John W. Berry, Sr. Chair in Business of the Max M. Fisher College of Business. Dr. Makhija shared his thoughts on Business Education for Tomorrow, an insightful session that the members can adapt to their businesses.

Phani Yenugu, Columbus Chapter President, thanked the guests, ITServe national leaders, Sponsors, and Chapter members, who were at the Monthly Meeting that was attended by dozens of ITServe members from the region. "Columbus monthly meeting was a grand success with great turnout," Yenugu said. "Many thanks to the core team for their unwavering efforts. Special thanks to Anju Vallabhaneni, National President for the guidance and efforts to pull local businesses to the meeting."



The organizers and guests with Sen. Jon Husted

ABOUT ITSERVE ALLIANCE:

Founded in 2010, ITServe's vision has been to empower local communities by creating, retaining, and fostering employment opportunities within the United States. ITServe has an active membership of 2,500 + members, and 24 Chapters established across the United States, who are small & medium-sized companies that create local employment and fulfill the growing demand for highly skilled professionals in America.

Together, the ITServe members have 175,000+ IT professionals employed throughout the U.S. and generate over \$12 billion in revenue annually. ITServe and its member community are committed to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and actively contributing to local communities nationwide, particularly in the realm of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education.

For information on ITServe and its many noble initiatives, please visit: www.itserve.org

A Soulful Odyssey: Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan Mesmerizes Chicago at Al Larson Prairie Center

Raga & Resonance: A Night of Classical Magic with Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan



Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan: Global King of Raga, Sufi, and Ghazal

JUNE 2, 2025

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): On the enchanting evening of May 31, 2025, the Al Larson Prairie Center for the Arts in Schaumburg, Illinois, transformed into a sanctuary of soul-stirring melodies, as the legendary Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan took center stage for an unforgettable night of Hindustani classical music, Sufi, and ghazals. Organized by Khurram Syed under the esteemed banner of DK Omsheel Production and with the gracious support of Chicago community leader Mr. Iftexhar Sharif, the first overseas citizen of India, this cultural extravaganza, titled Soulful Classical, Sufi & Ghazals, brought together connoisseurs of music for a four-hour journey from 8:00 PM to midnight. The event was a testament to the timeless allure of Indian classical music, weaving together tradition, artistry, and emotional depth.

The evening was masterfully hosted by Amin Haider, whose eloquent commentary and storytelling added a profound layer to the experience. Haider's insightful introductions, peppered with anecdotes from Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan's illustrious career, illuminated the maestro's journey from a musically inclined youth to a globally revered artist. One such story captivated the audience: a young Ustad, at just 16, faced the daunting challenge of performing classical music a genre unfamiliar to him at Delhi's Daulat Ram College. Despite his inexperience, his innate talent shone through, earning praise from none other than Pandit Debu Chaudhary, who paused the performance to personally tune the tanpura, ensuring the young artist's brilliance was perfectly showcased. This anecdote set the tone for an evening that celebrated not just music, but the resilience and passion of a maestro whose name is synonymous with excellence.

Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan, a scion of the Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana, delivered a performance that was nothing short of transcendent. His mastery over khayal, thumri, dadra, Sufi kalams, bhajans, and ghazals left the audience spellbound. From the intricate taans of Raga Puriya Kalyan to the emotive renditions of traditional and original bandishes, such as "More Ghar Aaja" and "Ab To Tumhi Sang Lagan Lagai," his voice carried the weight of centuries-old traditions while infusing them with contemporary resonance. His performance was a seamless blend of technical precision and emotional depth, reflecting the legacy of his mentors. His father Padma Shri Ustad Ghulam Sadiq Khan is a renowned Hindustani Classical Vocalist and his maternal grandfather Padma Bhushan Ustad Mushtaq Husain Khan.

The evening was further enriched by the soulful performance of Chicago's own Payel Ganguly, whose brief yet powerful presentation paid homage to the traditions that continue to inspire artists across generations. Her authentic and heartfelt rendition added a local flavor to the night, earning her resounding applause and cementing her place as a rising star in the classical music scene.



Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan is welcomed with a bouquet

The musical ensemble was elevated by the exceptional accompaniment of Shehzad Marcus on keyboard, whose melodic flourishes provided a rich backdrop to the vocal performances. Young tabla prodigy Abhijeet Kastha demonstrated a masterful command of rhythm, weaving intricate patterns that complemented the maestro's vocals with



A view of the audience

precision and flair. The seamless coordination between the artists created an immersive experience, transporting the audience to the heart of India's musical heritage.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Nayab Hamid Ali Khan, son of the legendary Ustad Hamid Ali Khan, and community leaders such as Paul Chopra, Ramesh Punatar, Chris Veteran, and Syed Razi, alongside US and Indian Army veterans. Their presence underscored the event's significance as a cultural milestone for Chicago's South Asian community. Although Mr. Iftexhar Sharif, the chief guest, was unable to attend due to an unforeseen schedule change, the evening was honored by the presence of Amir Mohammed Khan, a renowned ghazal singer, as the Guest of Honor.

Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan's performance was not just a concert but a celebration of a legacy that spans continents. With over 15 albums to his name and performances across prestigious stages in the UK, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Thailand, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Oman, the Ustad has carried the torch of Hindustani classical music to global audiences. His contributions have earned him accolades such as the Central Fellowship Award from the Ministry of Culture, the Global Achievement Award in 2017, and the Dr. Radhakrishnan Award in 2018. Notably, his performance at the President's House during Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's tenure remains a highlight of his illustrious career.



The event poster

The event's success was bolstered by the generous support of sponsors, including Masood Ali of Ali's Catering, Ena Agnihotri of Radisson Hotel in Schaumburg, Urdu Institute, Aftab Baig of Monty's Banquet, Windy City Pharmacies, South Asian Seniors, United States Disability Cricket, and Universal Seniors Association. Their contributions ensured a flawless execution, making the evening a cherished memory for all attendees.

Special thanks to Mahesh Kumar of Melody and Soul of Playback USA, whose expert sound engineering delivered pristine acoustics, amplifying every note's brilliance.

This evening was a radiant celebration of India's musical heritage, brought to life by the unparalleled artistry of Ustad Ghulam Abbas Khan and the vibrant contributions of Chicago's own Payel Ganguly. Payel Ganguly's authentic rendition in Chicago earned warm applause, complemented by Shehzad Marcus on keyboard and tabla prodigy Abhijeet Kastha. Notable guests, including Nayab Hamid Ali Khan, and Guest of Honor Amir Mohammed Khan, attended.

"Event was not only showcased the depth of Hindustani classical music but also highlighted the cultural unity and passion of Chicago's South Asian community. Events like these remind us of the power of music to transcend borders and connect hearts, and we look forward to supporting more such cultural milestones in the future" Editor's Note by Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman and Founder of Asian Media USA

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

MPs of Indian descent miss a place in the list of Parliamentary Secretaries named by Prime Minister Mark Carney



--->By Prabhjot Singh

JUNE 5, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Disappointments were galore as none of the MPs of Indian descent could find a place in an exhaustive list of Parliamentary Secretaries announced by the Prime Minister, Mark Carney, for building Canada strong.

Mark Carney named 39 Parliamentary Secretaries. He also announced that Élisabeth Brière will serve as Deputy Chief Government Whip, and Arielle Kayabaga will serve as Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

"Canada's new parliamentary secretary team will deliver on the government's mandate for change, working collaboratively with all parties in Parliament to build the strongest economy in the G7, advance a new security and economic partnership with the United States, and help Canadians get ahead," Mark Carney said in a statement after making the appointments.

Of the 14 Liberal MPs of Indian descent, four figure in the Council of Ministers of Mark Carney. They are Anita Indira Anand (Foreign Affairs), Maninder Sidhu (Minister of International Trade) and two Secretaries of State, Ruby Sahota (Combatting crime) and Randeep Serai (International Development).

Some of the senior members of the

Liberal caucus of Indian descent include Sukh Dhaliwal, Anju Dhillon, Sonia Sidhu and Bardish Chagger.

While Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade, is currently on a visit to France after touring several countries in South America, Anita Indira Anand will embark on a two-day visit to the United Kingdom and France from tomorrow.

An official communiqué stated that Canadians elected this new government with a mandate to define a new economic and security relationship with the United States, to build a stronger economy, to reduce costs, and to keep our communities safe. Parliamentary secretaries will support their respective cabinet ministers and secretaries of state to deliver on this mandate.

Members of the new parliamentary secretary team will be attached to Ministers of various departments. They are:

Karim Bardeesy - Industry; Jaime Battiste - Crown-Indigenous Relations; Rachel Bendayan, Kody Blois - attached with Prime Minister; Sean Casey - Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence; Sophie Chatel - Agriculture and Agri-Food; Madeleine Chenette - Canadian Identity, Official Languages and Sport; Maggie Chi - Health; Leslie Church - Labour, Seniors, Children and Youth, and Jobs and Families (Persons with Disabilities); Caroline Desrochers - Housing and Infrastructure; Ali Ehsassi - King's Privy Council, Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy (Canada-U.S. Trade); Mona Fortier- Foreign Affairs;

Peter Fragiskatos - Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; Vince Gasparro - Combatting Crime; Wade - Environment and Climate Change; Claude Guay - Energy and Natural Resources; Brendan Hanley - Northern and Arctic Affairs; Corey Horgan - Energy and Natural Resources; Anthony Housefather - Emergency Management and Community Resilience; Mike Kelloway - Transport and Internal Trade; Ernie Klassen - Fisheries; Annie Koutrakis - Jobs and Families; Kevin Lamoureux - Leader of the Government in the House of Commons; Patricia Lattanzio - Justice and Attorney General of Canada; Ginette Lavack - Indigenous Services; Carlos Leitao - Industry; Tim Louis - King's Privy Council for Canada and Canada-U.S. Trade, Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy (Intergovernmental Affairs and One Canadian Economy; Jennifer McKelvie - Housing and Infrastructure; Marie-Gabrielle Ménard - Women and Gender Equality and Small Business and Tourism; David Myles - Canadian Identity and Culture and Official Languages and Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State (Nature); Yasir Naqvi becomes Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and International Development; Taleeb Noormohamed - Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation; Rob Oliphant - Foreign Affairs; Tom Osborne - Treasury Board; Jacques Ramsay - Public Safety; Pauline Rochefort - Rural Development; Sherry Romanado - National Defence; Jenna Sudds - Government Transformation, Public Works, Procurement and Defence



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney named 39 Parliamentary Secretaries. None of them is of Indian descent.

Procurement); and Ryan Turnbull - Finance and National Revenue, Canada Revenue Agency and Financial Institutions.

(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.)

Minister Sidhu advances Canada's trade priorities with G7 trade ministers

JUNE 5, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): This week, Maninder Sidhu, Canada's Minister of International Trade, hosted a meeting with G7 trade ministers in Paris, France.

Minister Sidhu led an important discussion on the G7's role in contributing to a trade environment that supports our shared goals of driving economic growth, creating good-paying jobs, and building long-term prosperity. The G7 trade ministers engaged on pressing issues that are impacting the global economy.

Minister Sidhu reaffirmed Canada's commitment to the rules-based global trading system and the principles that underpin it. He highlighted the need for open, stable markets that ensure predictability amidst economic uncertainty, which is particularly important for small and medium-sized enterprises disproportionately affected by trade disruptions.

The minister also emphasized the importance of addressing the impacts of non-market policies and practices



Maninder Sidhu, Canada's Minister of International Trade met with Laurent Saint-Martin, France's Foreign Trade Minister in Paris, and discussed how the two countries can grow trade and investment with more trade missions to create more jobs and mutual prosperity.

on our workers, businesses and economies.

"While the rules-based global trading system continues to face complex and evolving challenges, it is the foundation of economic security and prosperity. The G7 is a vital forum to address the challenges that affect not only its members' economies, but also the global economy. I will continue to work closely with my G7 counterparts to support Canadian businesses of all sizes in finding trade opportunities in diverse markets and to build Canada as the strongest economy in the G7." - Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade

The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal grouping of seven of the world's most advanced economies, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the European Union.

As the G7 President this year, Canada will host the G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta from June 15 to 17, 2025.

Embassy of India in Guatemala Launches IDY 2025 Countdown

AMBASSADOR AND MUNICIPAL MAYOR HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra delivering remarks emphasizing India-Guatemala cultural ties and the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health.'

JUNE 5, 2025

SAN PEDRO CARCHA, GUATEMALA (TIP): The Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Municipality of San Pedro Carchá, organized a press conference today to promote the upcoming 11th International Day of Yoga at San Pedro Carchá, Cobán, scheduled for June 13, 2025. Approximately 200 participants, including Municipal Mayor Lic. Erwin Alfonso Catún Maquín and other dignitaries, attended the event. Major newspapers, print, video, and digital media were present, amplifying the message of IDY2025, which is expected to draw around 10,000 participants, fostering wellness and unity under the theme "Yoga for One Earth, One Health."

This marks the first time the Embassy has ventured beyond Guatemala City to host IDY, choosing San Pedro Carchá as the destination after successfully organizing three large-scale IDY events at Mariscal Zavala, Guatemala City. In 2022, approximately 2,500 participants attended under the theme "Yoga for Humanity"; in 2023, 3,500 joined for "Yoga for Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"; and in 2024, a record 5,000 participated in "Yoga for Self and Society." The overwhelming support from local authorities, sponsors, Indian companies, and the public has fueled the Embassy's ambition to engage 10,000 participants in San Pedro Carchá, with 12,000 already registered, reflecting unprecedented enthusiasm.

In his address at the IDY2025 press conference in San Pedro Carchá, Ambassador H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra passionately underscored the deepening cultural and economic bonds between India and Guatemala, transcending the vast geographical distance that separates the two nations. He reflected on how India, once relatively unfamiliar to many in Guatemala, has gained remarkable recognition through sustained efforts in cultural exchange, economic collaboration, and community engagement. Elaborating on the 2025 International Day of Yoga theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," he emphasized yoga's holistic impact on individual and collective well-being. He explained that the theme underscores yoga's unique ability to harmonize physical health, mental clarity, and environmental consciousness, aligning with global calls for sustainable living. Ambassador Mohapatra extended heartfelt gratitude to key partners who have made the IDY2025 preparations possible. He specifically thanked Municipal Mayor Lic. Erwin Alfonso Catún Maquín and the Municipality of San Pedro Carchá for their unwavering commitment to hosting this landmark event. He also acknowledged the invaluable contributions of Talita Kumi, the Association of Don Bosco, the Education Department, and local authorities, whose collaborative efforts have ensured broad community participation. Additionally, he expressed deep appreciation for Indian companies, notably Lukah Medical, for their generous sponsorship, which includes providing essential resources like food and t-shirts for participants. In a call to action, Ambassador Mohapatra warmly invited the general public, community leaders, and media representatives to join the IDY2025 celebration on June 13, 2025, in San Pedro Carchá, aiming to make it the largest yoga event in Guatemala's history with an anticipated 10,000 participants. He urged media outlets to amplify the event's message, emphasizing the importance of widespread awareness to inspire more Guatemalans to embrace yoga's benefits.



Municipal Mayor Lic. Erwin Alfonso Catún Maquín addressing the IDY2025, praising the Embassy's initiatives and inviting the community to join the historic yoga event in San Pedro Carchá

In his remarks Municipal Mayor Lic. Erwin Alfonso Catún Maquín delivered a heartfelt address, expressing immense pride and gratitude for hosting this historic event in collaboration with the Embassy of India. He emphasized the significance of bringing the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) to San Pedro Carchá, marking the first time the Embassy has chosen a location outside Guatemala City for this global

celebration. Mayor Catún praised Ambassador H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra for his unwavering dedication to strengthening ties between India and Guatemala. He noted that the Ambassador's initiatives, including healthcare support, job creation through Indian companies, and cultural programs like yoga, have significantly uplifted the region. He expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts of local organizations, including Talita Kumi, the Association of Don Bosco, and the Education Department, which have rallied to ensure the event's success. Remarks from other key dignitaries underscored the event's significance. Arturo Lucas, representative of Don Bosco Center, praised yoga's transformative impact on youth. Jorge Mario Pelaez, Departmental Government Representative, noted yoga's role in fostering unity. José Armando Tzul, General Director of Talita Kumi, lauded the Embassy's inclusive approach. Lic. Anibal Alfonso Juarez Sierra, Departmental Director, stressed yoga's health benefits. Mr. Manikandan Krishnan, Director of Lukah Medical, expressed pride in supporting this global wellness initiative.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra handed over 3 busts of Mahatma Gandhi to Municipal Mayor and Don Bosco at the IDY 2025 press conference in San Pedro Carcha, symbolizing peace and India-Guatemala friendship



Ms. Ruth Morales, Yoga teacher of the Embassy of India, leading a captivating Yoga performance at the IDY 2025 press conference

Pedro Carchá,

During the IDY2025 press conference, Ambassador H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Municipal Mayor Lic. Erwin Alfonso Catún Maquín, and representative of Don Bosco Centre jointly unveiled three busts of Mahatma Gandhi, symbolizing peace, non-violence, and India-Guatemala friendship. These busts will be installed at prominent locations in Cobán, including the Don Bosco Center, the Municipality of San Pedro Carchá, and a third key public site, to inspire future generations with Gandhi's universal values. The unveiling, attended by dignitaries, media, and community members, marked a significant cultural milestone, reinforcing the Embassy's commitment to fostering shared ideals and strengthening ties with San



Prominent dignitaries from the Coban region unite at the IDY 2025 press conference, celebrating the upcoming world's largest Yoga gathering outside India

The main event of the International Day of Yoga 2025 on 13 June 2025 in Coban promises to be a landmark celebration of health, harmony, and holistic well-being. The event is expected to witness participation of over 10,000 yoga enthusiasts, making it the largest yoga gathering outside India. The program will be held in a grand open-air venue and will feature a mass yoga demonstration based on the Common Yoga Protocol, with the theme focused on promoting "Yoga for One Earth, One Health". Accompanied by a vibrant local Mariamba band, the atmosphere will reflect the unity of mind, body, and spirit through movement and rhythm. Prominent Guatemalan dignitaries, community leaders, and yoga practitioners will grace the occasion and share their reflections on the relevance of yoga in today's fast-paced world. This historic gathering will place Guatemala at the global center stage, as the world witnesses its deepening connection with India's ancient wisdom and universal message of well-being. Parallel celebrations will also be held in Honduras and El Salvador, albeit on a smaller scale, reinforcing the regional embrace of yoga as a tool for inner peace and collective harmony. The event will highlight how the practice of yoga fosters discipline, reduces stress, and enhances the quality of daily life, making it not just a form of exercise, but a transformative lifestyle accessible to all.

The road to Operation Bluestar: The tumultuous prelude in Punjab

“History does not occur in a vacuum—it accumulates, builds, and sometimes explodes.” Such was the case with Operation Bluestar, the Indian Army’s June 1984 military action inside the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. The event shocked the nation, wounded the Sikh psyche, and catalyzed a decade of turmoil. But to truly understand why such an extreme step was taken, one must explore the complex mosaic of Punjab’s political, social, and religious landscape in the decades leading up to it.

Operation Bluestar did not emerge in isolation. It was the result of a turbulent and complex socio-political environment in Punjab in the late 20th century, marked by rising communal tensions, political miscalculations, and the growing assertiveness of Sikh identity politics. The operation, conducted by the Indian Army in June 1984 to remove Sikh militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was the culmination of years of festering conflict, deep mistrust, and institutional failures. This article outlines the critical developments that led to this watershed moment in Indian history.

Historical and Political Background

Post-Independence Sikh Aspirations: After independence in 1947, the Sikhs, a prominent and influential community in Punjab, felt marginalized in the new Indian nation-state. Despite their significant contribution to the freedom struggle and sacrifices during the Partition, many Sikh leaders believed that their religious and cultural identity was not adequately recognized.

The Punjabi Suba movement (1955-1966), led by the Shiromani Akali Dal, aimed to create a separate Punjabi-speaking state. Though the movement was partially successful with the reorganization of Punjab in 1966, many Sikhs still felt that the political structure did not fully accommodate their aspirations.

The Anandpur Sahib Resolution (1973)

A major turning point was the adoption of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution by the Akali Dal in 1973. While its primary focus was to demand greater federal autonomy and assert Sikh identity, it was often misinterpreted by opponents as a secessionist document. Key demands included:

- Devolution of power to states (especially Punjab)
- Control over river waters
- Recognition of Sikhism as a distinct religion
- Protection of Sikh institutions and culture

The central government, under Indira Gandhi, viewed these demands with suspicion, fearing they might encourage separatist sentiments.

The Rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale

Emergence as a Religious Leader: Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, the head of the Damdami Taksal (a Sikh seminary), initially gained prominence as a



To dislodge Bhindranwale, the army used the main gun of a tank to fire at the Akal Takht, nearly reducing it to rubble in the process.

preacher aiming to revive orthodox Sikh practices. His popularity surged among rural Sikhs due to his austere lifestyle and sharp critique of moral decline and drug abuse in Punjabi society.

Politicization of Bhindranwale

In the late 1970s, the Congress party under Indira Gandhi allegedly promoted Bhindranwale to weaken the Akali Dal and fragment Sikh politics. However, this move backfired as Bhindranwale grew increasingly independent and militant in his approach.

By the early 1980s, he was being seen as a spokesperson for Sikh grievances. His fiery speeches, demand for justice in cases of discrimination against Sikhs, and opposition to the central government attracted large followings—especially among the rural youth.

Rise of Militancy in Punjab

From 1978 onward, Punjab witnessed a series of violent events:

- 1978 Amritsar clash: Bhindranwale supporters clashed with the Nirankaris, a heterodox sect, leading to 13 Sikh deaths. This incident catalyzed a sense of injustice among Sikhs.
- 1981-1983: A wave of assassinations, including the killing of Lala Jagat Narain (editor of a prominent anti-Bhindranwale newspaper), and numerous targeted killings followed. Though Bhindranwale denied direct involvement, he was

widely blamed.

- Law and order deteriorated rapidly. Civilians, police officers, and public officials were attacked, contributing to a climate of fear and chaos.

Occupation of the Golden Temple Complex

By late 1983, Bhindranwale and his armed followers took up residence inside the Akal Takht within the Golden Temple complex, turning it into a fortified base. This action was both symbolic and strategic—it reinforced his religious authority and gave him protection from police action.

The Role of the Central and State Governments

Governor's Rule in Punjab: In 1983, after the assassination of DIG A.S. Atwal (right at the Golden Temple's steps), the Punjab government was dismissed, and President's Rule was imposed. However, the breakdown of democratic processes further alienated the Sikh population.

Failure of Dialogue

Multiple attempts to open dialogue between the Akalis and the central government failed due to mutual distrust. Akali leaders feared backlash from radicals, while the central government remained convinced that strong-arm tactics were needed.

Indira Gandhi's government oscillated between conciliatory gestures and coercive policies, failing to take decisive

action in either direction.

Escalation and Final Crisis

Militarization of the Temple: Throughout early 1984, the Golden Temple complex became heavily militarized. Trenches were dug, weapons smuggled in, and defensive positions set up. Intelligence agencies noted a growing cache of arms and the presence of trained militants under Bhindranwale and retired army officer General Shabeg Singh, who organized the defense.

Nationwide Impact

The growing unrest in Punjab had national implications:

- The rail and road transport system was frequently disrupted.
- Hindu-Sikh communal relations deteriorated, especially with inflammatory media coverage.
- Rumors of foreign (particularly Pakistani) involvement in fomenting separatism spread.
- The demand for Khalistan, a separate Sikh homeland, though not universally supported by Sikhs, became a rallying cry for extremist elements.

Government's Dilemma

Indira Gandhi faced a political and strategic crisis:

- Delay in action could lead to further strengthening of militants.
- Forceful action inside the Golden Temple-Sikhism's holiest shrine—could provoke mass outrage.

Ultimately, after secret deliberations, the decision was made to launch Operation Bluestar in early June 1984, targeting Bhindranwale and his followers entrenched in the temple complex.

A Crisis of Governance and Identity

The situation in Punjab leading up to Operation Bluestar was the result of layered crises—historical grievances, political manipulation, religious assertion, and administrative paralysis. What began as a struggle for identity and federal rights became militarized under state negligence and communal polarization. The tragic events of June 1984 were not inevitable, but the product of a series of missteps, miscommunications, and a lack of visionary leadership on all sides.

Even today, the scars of this period remain fresh in the Sikh psyche, with the events of 1984 serving as a powerful reminder of how identity, politics, and religion can converge to cause national trauma.

Operation Bluestar: The siege of Golden Temple and the tragedy that followed

Operation Bluestar, executed in June 1984, was one of the most traumatic episodes in independent India's history. Conceived by the Indian government to flush out Sikh militants from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, Punjab, it became a military operation of immense scale — unprecedented in its political, religious, and human costs. It left a deep scar on the Sikh psyche, led to significant loss of life and heritage, and forever altered the course of Indian politics and Sikh-Centre relations.

Operation Bluestar, conducted between June 1 and June 10, 1984, was a military operation ordered by then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to remove Sikh militants, including the heavily armed followers of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, from the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar, Punjab. The assault, carried out by the Indian Army, not only resulted in significant casualties and damage but also triggered a tragic chain of events including the assassination of Indira Gandhi and the genocidal violence against Sikhs in November 1984.

The Build-Up to the Operation

By the early 1980s, Punjab was in the grip of rising militancy, with radical Sikh groups demanding Khalistan—a separate Sikh homeland. The central figure of this movement was Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a fiery preacher who positioned himself as a defender of Sikh rights and identity. He had taken up residence in the Akal Takht, one of the holiest Sikh sites within the Golden Temple complex, along with hundreds of armed followers.

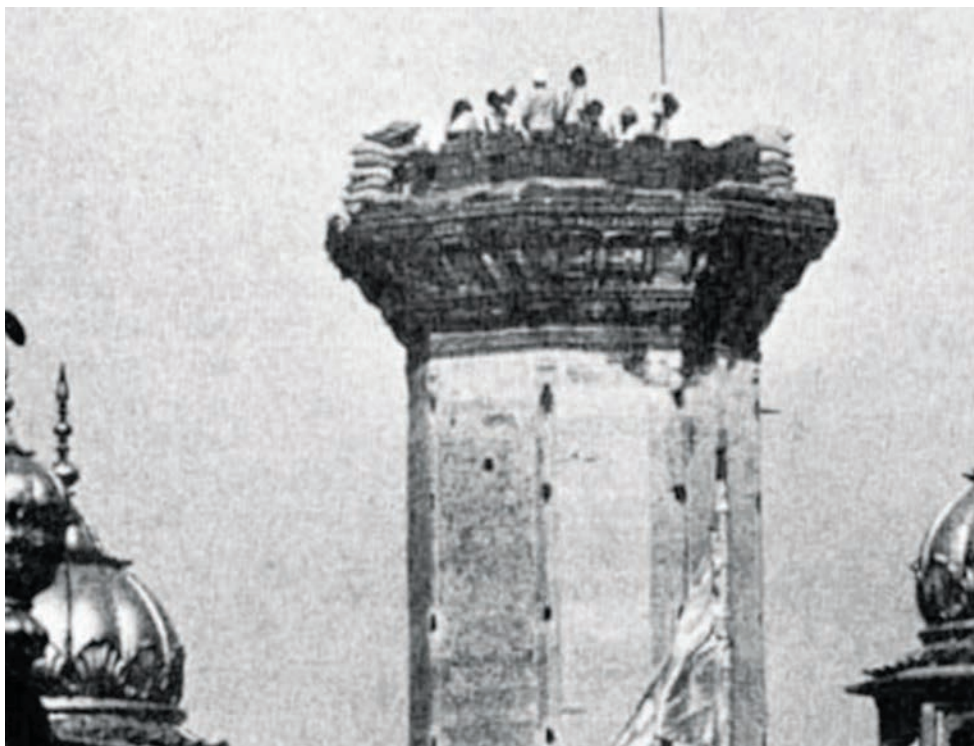
Tensions escalated as violence spread across Punjab. Political deadlock between the Indian government and the Akali Dal deepened, and bombings, assassinations, and communal killings increased. By early 1984, the Golden Temple complex had become a fortress, and the government considered the situation untenable.

Operation Bluestar Begins

On June 1, 1984, the Indian Army began preliminary operations by surrounding the temple complex. Officially, the army claimed it was responding to provocation from inside the temple. On June 3, a full curfew was imposed in Punjab, communication lines were cut, and news media was barred—effectively sealing the region.

The main assault began on the night of June 5 and continued until June 6, involving elite army units including the Para Commandos and Sikh Regiment soldiers. Tanks and artillery were brought into the sacred complex, and the Akal Takht was fired upon with heavy ordnance.

Destruction of the Akal Takht



One of the most painful outcomes for the Sikh community was the near-total destruction of the Akal Takht, the highest seat of earthly authority for Sikhs, which had been converted by militants into a fortified bunker. The Indian Army used tank fire and shelling to neutralize resistance, reducing the historic building to rubble. Ancient manuscripts, relics, and scriptures were lost or destroyed.

Damage to the Golden Temple Complex

- Bullet marks pockmarked the marble walls of the Harmandir Sahib.
- Sacred pools turned red with blood.
- Libraries and the Sikh Reference Library were set ablaze; priceless historical texts were lost forever.
- More than 100 gurdwaras across Punjab were raided as part of related operations (Operations Woodrose and Trident).

Death Toll and Casualties

There is no consensus on the number of people killed during Operation

Bluestar.

- Official government figures put the number of deaths at about 492 militants and civilians and 83 soldiers, with 249 injured.
 - Independent sources and Sikh groups estimate 3,000-7,000 deaths, many of them civilians and innocent pilgrims caught in the crossfire during a sacred time (Guru Arjan Dev's martyrdom anniversary), when the complex was crowded.
 - Women, children, and elderly pilgrims were among those killed.
 - Eyewitnesses and survivors spoke of wounded being denied medical help, and unarmed men being shot or dragged away.
- The operation caused deep psychological trauma to survivors and thousands of families, many of whom never recovered the remains of their loved ones.

Aftermath & Wider Repercussions

Assassination of Indira Gandhi

On October 31, 1984, Indira Gandhi was

assassinated by her two Sikh bodyguards in retaliation for Operation Bluestar. This led to anti-Sikh pogroms, especially in Delhi, where over 3,000 Sikhs were killed, women were raped, properties were destroyed, and entire neighborhoods burned down with police and political complicity.

Rise in Militancy

Operation Bluestar radicalized many Sikh youth. The sense of betrayal and desecration pushed many into the armed separatist movement. From 1984 to the early 1990s, Punjab saw intense insurgency, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and heavy militarization.

Army Mutinies

Several Sikh soldiers across regiments mutinied in response to the assault on the Golden Temple. Around 5,000 were arrested or dismissed. The army, one of the most respected institutions, faced internal rupture along communal lines.

4. Social and Political Fallout

The trust between the Indian state and the Sikh community was shattered. Many Sikhs felt alienated, fearful, and unsafe. Even moderate voices in the Sikh community were pushed to the margins, as polarizing forces gained ground. Politically, it laid the groundwork for the rise of Hindu nationalism in the 1990s and deepened communal cleavages.

Cultural and Religious Trauma

For Sikhs, Operation Bluestar was not just a political or military event—it was a spiritual wound. The Golden Temple is not merely a place of worship; it is the soul of the Sikh faith. To see tanks roll in, the Akal Takht bombed, pilgrims gunned down, and sacred texts destroyed was a trauma akin to sacrilege.

The operation is now remembered by Sikhs as the Teeja Ghallughara (Third Holocaust), following:

- The Chhota Ghallughara of 1746 (approx. 10,000 Sikhs killed),
- The Wadda Ghallughara of 1762 (approx. 30,000 Sikhs massacred).

Ardaas (Sikh prayers) in many gurdwaras now incorporate remembrance of this event, embedding it into Sikh collective memory.

Operation Bluestar left behind more than just rubble and blood—it tore through the fabric of India's secular promise, fractured national unity, and deeply wounded the Sikh community's psyche. The scars of June 1984 continue to shape Sikh identity, Indian politics, and public memory.

No official apology has ever been issued. No full reckoning of the deaths, disappearances, and destruction has occurred. And until the state addresses its moral responsibility—through truth, justice, and reconciliation—the ghosts of Operation Bluestar will not be laid to rest.

Operation Bluestar and its deep impact on the Sikh psyche: The third ghallughara

Operation Bluestar, executed by the Indian Army in June 1984 at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, was not merely a military offensive—it became a watershed moment in the history of Sikhism. For the Sikh community, it was not a battle against terrorism but an unforgivable desecration of their holiest shrine, an assault on their collective identity, and the beginning of a long era of emotional, political, and spiritual rupture. In Sikh history, the term Ghallughara, meaning "holocaust" or "massacre," has been used to describe periods of mass violence inflicted upon the Sikh people. Operation Bluestar is remembered as the Teeja Ghallughara (Third Holocaust)—a modern-day catastrophe that left a deep scar on the Sikh psyche.

Historical Context: Sikh Ghallugharas

The Sikh community has endured repeated episodes of persecution and massacres known as Ghallugharas:

- Chhota Ghallughara (1746): A brutal massacre by Mughal forces in which thousands of Sikhs were killed.
- Wadda Ghallughara (1762): The Great Massacre where Afghan invader Ahmad Shah Abdali killed tens of thousands of Sikhs in one day.
- Teeja Ghallughara (1984): The storming of the Golden Temple by the Indian Army, followed by the anti-Sikh riots post-Indira Gandhi's assassination.

These historical traumas are etched deeply into the Sikh collective consciousness as moments of suffering and sacrifice, but also resilience.

Devastation of the Golden Temple Complex

The Indian Army's use of tanks, heavy artillery, and infantry inside the sacred Golden Temple complex caused massive physical destruction:

- Damage to the Akal Takht: The Akal Takht, the supreme temporal authority of Sikhism, was heavily damaged. It was reduced to rubble, which was an unimaginable blow to Sikh spiritual sovereignty.
- Destruction of the Sikh Reference Library: The library housed centuries-old scriptures, historical documents, handwritten manuscripts, and relics of the Gurus. Its burning was perceived as a deliberate attempt to erase Sikh history.
- Widespread Casualties: Estimates of deaths vary, but it is widely accepted that hundreds, possibly thousands, of militants, civilians, and pilgrims died during the assault. The presence of unarmed pilgrims and non-combatants inside the complex intensified the trauma.

Desecration and Violation



The Golden Temple is not only a place of worship but a sanctuary, a symbol of Sikh identity and spiritual refuge. The operation violated this sanctity, leaving many Sikhs feeling profoundly betrayed and humiliated. The act of soldiers entering the shrine with weapons and destroying sacred sites was seen as sacrilege.

Impact on the Sikh Psyche

Collective Trauma and Spiritual Wound: Operation Bluestar was not experienced as a simple military action but as an assault on Sikh identity and spirituality.

- The sense of violation was akin to a profound spiritual wound. The Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal Sikh scripture, and the sanctity of the Harmandir Sahib were perceived to be attacked.
- Many Sikhs described feelings of shock, disbelief, and grief, similar to collective mourning for a devastating loss.
- This trauma entered the cultural memory as a form of existential crisis, shaking the foundations of Sikh confidence in the Indian nation-state.

A Crisis of Faith and Identity

For many, Bluestar triggered a deep crisis of faith - not in Sikhism itself, but in the protection that the Indian state was supposed to offer its minorities. The event forced Sikhs to re-examine their place in India.

- Feelings of alienation and vulnerability intensified.
- The Sikh community felt targeted, marginalized, and feared further erosion of their political and cultural rights.
- Many Sikh youth turned towards assertive identities, including militancy, as a way of reclaiming dignity and protecting their heritage.

The Aftermath



Senior army officers involved with Operation Bluestar, AS Vaidya (centre), K Sundarji (left) and KS Brar in Amritsar.

The trauma of Bluestar was compounded by the horrific anti-Sikh riots that erupted in November 1984, after the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards.

- Over 3,000 Sikhs were massacred in Delhi alone, with thousands more killed in other parts of India.
- The widespread nature of the violence, often with alleged complicity or passive support of political actors, deepened feelings of betrayal.
- This event reinforced the perception of systemic persecution, making the Sikh community feel under siege.

The combined effect of Operation Bluestar and the 1984 pogroms is often described as a modern Ghallughara, reshaping Sikh political and social consciousness.

Sociopolitical and Cultural Ramifications

- Rise in Sikh Militancy and Calls for Khalistan
- Operation Bluestar galvanized militant groups advocating for a separate Sikh homeland, Khalistan.
- The event became a rallying cry for

those who saw armed struggle as the only means to protect Sikh interests.

- While the majority of Sikhs did not support violence, the trauma legitimized radical political voices in many communities.

Diaspora Mobilization

- Sikh diaspora communities in Canada, the UK, and the US responded with protests, fundraisers, and political lobbying.
- Bluestar strengthened Sikh identity abroad and heightened advocacy for human rights and justice.
- The diaspora became crucial in keeping the memory alive and pushing for international awareness.

Memory, Mourning, and Identity Preservation

Commemoration as a Collective Process

- Every year, Sikhs commemorate the anniversary of Operation Bluestar with memorial prayers (Ardas), candlelight vigils, and seminars.
- The event is remembered in literature, music, and art, serving both as a mourning and a form of resistance.

Passing Trauma Across Generations

- The trauma has been passed down through oral histories, storytelling, and family narratives.
- New generations understand Bluestar as part of their identity, often with strong feelings of justice, remembrance, and resilience.

Psychological Effects: Trauma and Healing

- Many Sikhs suffered from post-traumatic stress, depression, and a sense of helplessness.
- Counseling and support structures were limited, especially in the 1980s and 1990s.
- Over time, Sikh organizations and mental health professionals have worked to address this trauma through community healing initiatives.

An Unhealed Wound

Operation Bluestar was more than a military event—it was a collective trauma that profoundly altered Sikh consciousness. It was a moment when the sanctity of faith, the integrity of identity, and the sense of security for millions of Sikhs were violently shattered. The memory of the Teeja Ghallughara continues to influence Sikh politics, culture, and spiritual life. Until the wounds of 1984 are acknowledged and healed with justice and reconciliation, the pain and mistrust remain a defining feature of Sikh relations with the Indian state.

British Sikh MPs call for independent probe into UK role in Operation Bluestar

British Sikh Members of Parliament Warinder Juss and Jas Athwal on Thursday reiterated their demand in the UK Parliament for an independent investigation into the involvement of the then Margaret Thatcher-led Conservative government in India's Operation Blue Star in June 1984.

Juss, who represents the governing Labour Party in Wolverhampton West in northern England, and Athwal, who is the Labour MP for Ilford South in the east of the country, raised the matter during the "Business of the House" session with the Leader of the House of Commons, Lucy Powell.

They highlighted the 41st anniversary of the anti-militant Indian military operation at Golden Temple and pointed to Powell's assurance to their fellow Sikh Labour MP, Tan Dhesi, earlier this year of the "need to get to the bottom of what happened".

"Documents revealed in 2014 showed that the Thatcher government had helped their Indian counterpart by providing advice for Operation Blue Star," said Juss.

"Since 2014 there have been many calls to establish the extent of the British government's involvement, and many assurances have been given. Will the Leader of the House give a statement to the House announcing an independent, judge-led public inquiry to, in her own words, get to the bottom of what happened," he asked.

Powell responded by acknowledging the concerns of members of the country's Sikh community but said she did not have an update since the last time the matter was raised in Parliament in early January.

"When I was asked about this issue previously, I did follow up, and I am sorry to say that I am still waiting," she said.

Athwal intervened later during the session to highlight that this week coincides with the anniversary of Operation Blue Star.

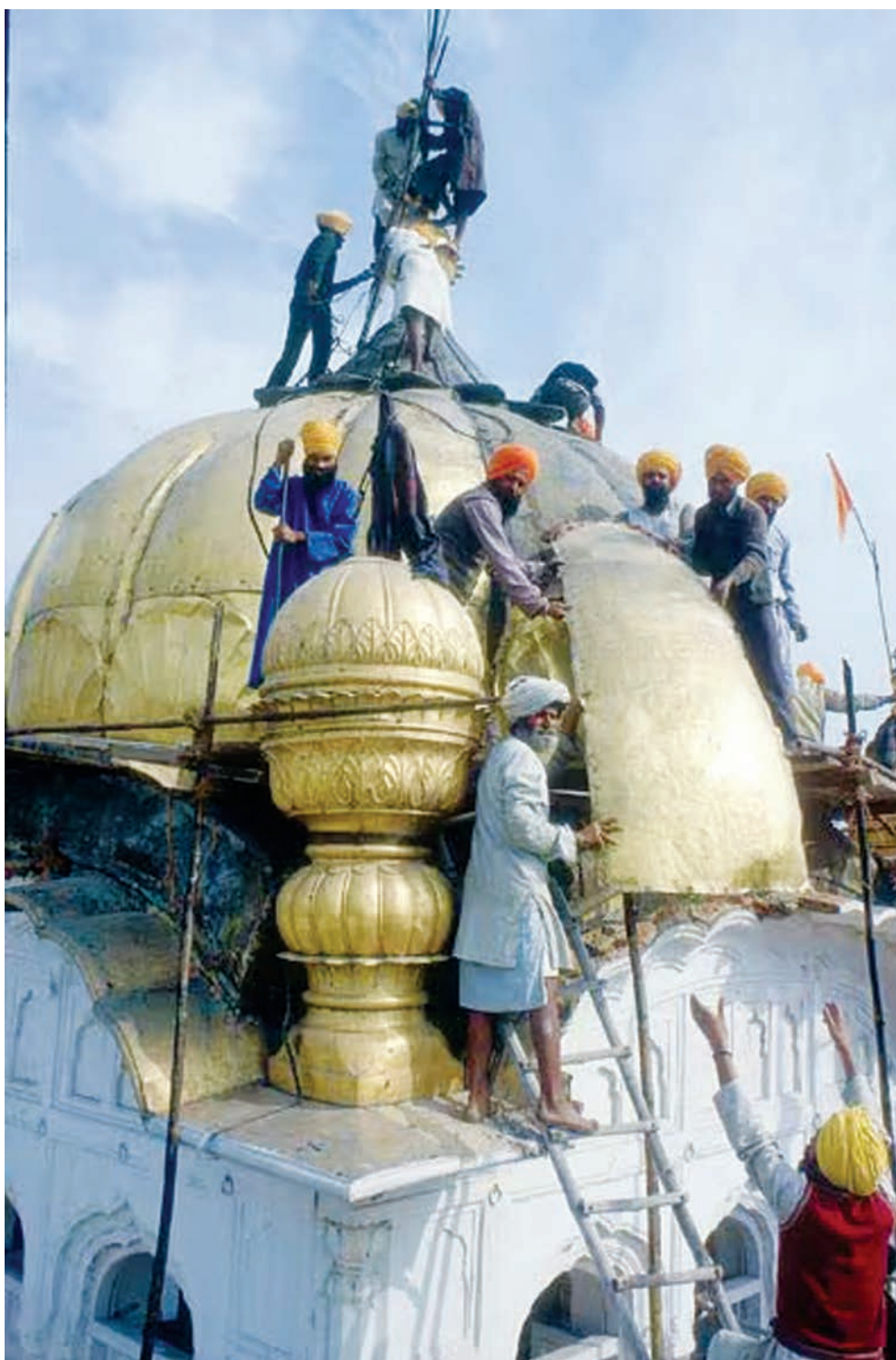
He said: "Some 41 years later, questions about British involvement in the desecration of the holiest Sikh site in Amritsar remain unanswered. Labour promised in its 2017 and 2019 manifestos to hold an inquiry, and the Prime Minister [Keir Starmer] and the Deputy Prime Minister [Angela Rayner] pledged to do so before the last election.

"Will the Leader of the House allow time for an update from the Foreign Secretary on the progress of implementing that inquiry and ensure that promises made in opposition are fulfilled in government?" Powell reiterated that she understood how important it was for the British Sikh community to see "progress on this issue".

"That is the second time that it has been raised with me this morning. I will



The Akal Takht and Darshni Deori under repair following Operation Bluestar.



Repairs begin at the Golden Temple after the operation.

ensure that the Foreign Secretary [David Lammy] is aware of the concerns being raised again on the Floor of the House and that the update I previously

Sikhs who left Indian Army over Operation Bluestar slam SGPC: 'Never gave us our due'

Sikhs who deserted the Indian Army in 1984 over Operation Bluestar have accused the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) of not giving them appropriate recognition.

Samuh Sikh Dharmi Fauji June 1984 Parivar Welfare Association has announced to launch a movement on June 6 to press the SGPC to acknowledge their contributions and grant them the honour they believe is due to them.

In local parlance, Sikhs who deserted the army over Bluestar are called "dharmi fauji".

Association president Baldev Singh said SGPC had failed to support them. He said while SGPC claims the number of dharmi faujis is 309, the actual number is 2,875.

Baldev, who was serving as a havildar in the Indian Army and was posted in Mizoram at the time, left his barracks in June 1984. He said SGPC only provided compensation of Rs 50,000 to families of dharmi faujis who served jail terms, and Rs 1 lakh to the families of those who died.

Baldev said during Operation Bluestar, launched to flush out militants holed up in gurdwaras, Sikh soldiers from various states across India, including Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, deserted their barracks and marched toward Amritsar to protect the Golden Temple, the Akal Takht, and other gurdwaras. "Approximately 4,500 Sikh soldiers left the army during this period and later came to be known as dharmi fauji (religiously motivated army deserters)," he said.

asked for is made available to Members and this House," she said.

The first demand for an independent inquiry arose a few years ago when it emerged that British military advice was given to Indian forces prior to Operation Blue Star.

The then British Prime Minister, David Cameron, had ordered an internal review into this discovery, which led to a statement in Parliament declaring that Britain's role had been purely "advisory" and the Special Air Service (SAS) advice had "limited impact" on Operation Blue Star in June 1984.

Source: PTI

Bengaluru stampede: Top RCB official and 3 from event management company arrested

BENGALURU (TIP)

Bengaluru city police late on Thursday (June 5, 2025) night arrested a top official of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) franchise and three from the event management company DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., who organised the victory celebrations for the team in the city that led to stampede and 11 deaths.

The arrests came hours after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced at a press conference the suspension of city police commissioner B. Dayananda and directed police to arrest RCB and the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for the stampede.

Nikhil Sosale, the head of marketing and revenue, RCB at Diageo India Pvt. Ltd., was reportedly arrested from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) while he was flying out to Mumbai, sources said. The city police have also arrested three from DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.. All the four have been presently at Cubbon Park Police Station where they are being interrogated, sources said.

Cubbon Park Police had registered a suo motu FIR against RCB franchise, KSCA officials and DNA Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., booking them for culpable homicide, illegal assembly among other serious charges for the stampede that killed 11 on Wednesday, June 4.

"The stampede incident...was due to RCB franchise, DNA, and KSCA administrative committee giving permission for the programme and arranging the programme at KSCA stadium without adequate arrangements for the programme, without adequate



security for fans to enter peacefully, without balanced arrangements for fans," said the first information report in Kannada, filed at the Cubbon Park police station.

"Additionally, thousands of fans gathered around the stadium due to RCB's official posts on social media and social networking sites providing misleading information about free entry for the public at gates, leading to fan gatherings. This incident occurred due to this reason," the FIR added.

The police invoked sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 118 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt by using dangerous weapons or means), 121 (voluntarily causing hurt or grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 190 (liability of members of an unlawful assembly for offences

committed in pursuit of a common object), 132 (assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging their duty), and 125 (12) (acts endangering life or personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

A combative Siddaramaiah appeared at a press conference hours later, announcing that five police officers — police chief B Dayananda, Bengaluru (west) ACP Vikash Kumar Vikash, Bengaluru (central) DCP Shekar H Tekkannavar, Cubbon Park ACP C Balakrishna and inspector AK Girish — will be suspended and a one-man judicial commission headed by retired high court judge Michael D'Cunha will submit a report in 30 days.

"FIRs have been registered, and instructions have been issued to arrest the representatives of these organisations," Siddaramaiah said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was tasked with carrying out a parallel investigation into the role of these three entities. "Since I became an MLA, minister, deputy CM, and now CM, no such incident has occurred. This tragedy has shaken us deeply," he added.

But the Opposition continued to gun for his resignation. "CM Siddaramaiah and deputy CM DK Shivakumar are directly responsible for the tragic stampede," said Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka.

The tragedy occurred on Wednesday afternoon as hundreds of thousands of people thronged the Chinnaswamy stadium, hoping to catch a glimpse of their cricket heroes who had won their first IPL trophy the previous night. The team landed at the HAL airport at 2.45pm, and were received by Shivakumar. The first felicitation ceremony was organised by the state government at the Vidhana Soudha around 4.30pm.

But by then, pandemonium had already broken out outside the stadium. As crowds swelled ahead of the 6pm event — RCB had announced a victory parade and limited entry free passes — the police closed all gates. At this point, around 250,000 fans had gathered, threatening to burst through the barricades, climbing over cars and climbing trees.

The first deaths were reported around 3.30pm. Only two ambulances were present and 1,318 policemen were deployed, the government told the high court on Thursday. In comparison, around 5,000 were deployed for the 2024 World Cup victory parade in Mumbai.

Home, vehicle loans to become cheaper as RBI cuts repo rate by 50 basis points

MUMBAI (TIP)

The RBI on Friday, June cut, repo rate by a higher-than-expected 50 basis points to prop up growth, which has slowed to a four-year low of 6.5 per cent in FY25.

Following the rate cut, the key policy rate eased to a three-year low of 5.5 per cent, providing relief to home, auto and corporate loans borrowers.

This is the lowest repo rate in three years.

The repo rate—the rate at which banks borrow funds from the RBI—had last stood at 5.40 per cent on August 5, 2022.

After a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial development, as well as the economic outlook, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to reduce the repo rate by 50 basis points, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.



Since February 2025, the RBI has reduced the policy rate by 100 basis points. In its previous policy review in April, it had also trimmed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6 per cent.

After reducing repo by 100 bps in quick succession, monetary policy is left with limited space to support growth, he added.

This is the first time since Covid-19 that the RBI has passed on three consecutive rate cuts, beginning February 2020.

Malhotra, however, retained the GDP forecast for the current fiscal at 6.5 per cent. The inflation projection was lowered to 3.7 per cent from the earlier estimate of 4 per cent, supported by expectations of a good monsoon.

The MPC felt that the front-loading of the rate cuts would help growth, he added.

The Rate-setting panel changed the stance to neutral from 'accommodative'.

Rafale fuselage to be made in Hyd as Tata inks deal with Dassault

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The main body of future Rafale fighter jets will be produced in India, outside France for the first time, with French aircraft maker Dassault Aviation and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) on Thursday, June 5, announcing their partnership to build Rafale fuselage at a facility being set up in Hyderabad, in a move that is seen as a big leap for the government's wide-ranging Make-in-India initiative.

India has signed a Rs 63K-cr deal with France to buy 26 Rafale M aircraft for the deal.

The Hyderabad facility will supply the fuselages for India and other international markets 2028 onwards, the two firms said. Some of the 26 Rafale Marine fighters ordered by India for its navy will come with locally produced fuselages, people aware of the matter said.

Dassault Aviation and TASL have signed four production transfer agreements to manufacture the Rafale fuselage in India and called it a significant step forward in strengthening the country's aerospace manufacturing capabilities and supporting global supply chains.

"Under the scope of the partnership, TASL will set up a cutting-edge production facility in Hyderabad for the manufacture of key structural sections of the Rafale, including the lateral shells of the rear fuselage, the complete rear section, the central fuselage, and the front section," the two firms said in a joint statement issued in Saint-Cloud and Mumbai.

Ram Temple moves towards completion, idol of 'Raja Ram' consecrated

The idol of Raja Ram was consecrated and the Ram Darbar inaugurated at the Ram Jamnabhoomi complex on Thursday, June 5, a major step towards completion of a grand temple that has been at the intersection of political and religious discourse for three decades.

The city was festooned and lit up as priests gathered at the first floor of the Ram temple to install the almost five-feet white marbled statue of Raja Ram, the god in his royal form, amid the chanting of hymns and elaborate rituals.

The Ram Darbar also features the idols of Sita, Lakshman, Bharat, Shatrughn and Hanuman. The day, chosen to coincide with the occasion of Ganga Dussehra, comes 16 months after the consecration of Ram Lalla, the child god, on January 22, 2024.

While Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the top government brass and a host of celebrities were present at the high octane occasion then, the event this time was quieter.

PM inaugurates world's highest railway bridge over Chenab in J&K

JAMMU (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Chenab railway bridge, the world's highest rail bridge, marking a historic milestone in India's infrastructure journey.

After landing at the Air Force station in Udhampur, PM Modi flew to the Chenab bridge site to formally inaugurate the marvel. This visit marks his first trip to Jammu and Kashmir following Operation Sindoor, a military strike across the border in retaliation to the Pahalgam terror attack in April that claimed 26 lives.

Modi also spoke with chief minister Omar Abdullah, railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, and union minister Jitendra Singh while viewing an exhibition on the USBRL project.

During the visit, PM Modi also interacted with engineers, workers, and officials who were involved in the execution of the ambitious project that connects Kashmir to the rest of India by rail.

The iconic structure, built across the Chenab river, is part of USBRL project that now connects Kashmir with the rest of the country through rail.

Following the Chenab railway bridge inauguration, Modi is also set to inaugurate India's first cable-stayed Anji bridge, further enhancing connectivity in the region.

He will also flag off two Vande Bharat Express trains between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar, completing the full 272-km USBRL stretch.

The world's highest railway arch bridge is standing at 359 metres above the riverbed—35 metres taller than the Eiffel



Prime Minister Narendra at the Chenab Bridge, the world's highest railway arch bridge, in Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir, Friday. (PTI)

Tower. The USBRL project, built at an estimated cost of Rs 43,780 crore, features 36 tunnels stretching 119 km and 943 bridges, offering all-weather rail connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of India. The completion of this mega project is seen as a turning point for regional development and national integration.

The prime minister said the link would “transform mobility, bring prosperity and improve the quality of life for the people of Kashmir.”

To ease movement in border regions, Modi will also inaugurate multiple road and flyover projects. These include the Rafiabad-Kupwara road widening on NH-701, the Shopian bypass on NH-444, and flyovers at Sangrama and Bemina junctions in Srinagar.

Centre announces Census in 2027; caste to be counted

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India will count its population by March 1, 2027, in a census to be held after an unprecedented 16-year gap, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced on Wednesday (June 4, 2025). This will be the country's first digital census, and the first in independent India to include an enumeration of castes as well.

The census will be conducted in two phases by February 28, 2027 and the data will have a reference date of 12 a.m. on March 1, 2027. However, the government has not yet notified the date of commencement of the exercise. The notification of the Centre's intention to conduct the census, and the dates of the two phases will be “published in the official gazette tentatively on June 16 as per provision of section 3 of the Census Act 1948.”

As per the constitutional mandate, the first census after 2026 can be used as the basis to redraw Lok Sabha constituencies. The next general election is expected to be held in 2029.

The last census was held in 2011 and the subsequent exercise scheduled to take place in 2021 was delayed indefinitely, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 30, the Union Cabinet had decided to include caste enumeration as part of the next census exercise.

For the Union Territory of Ladakh

and the non-synchronous snow-bound areas of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date for the population count will be 12 a.m. on October 1, 2026.

India's census is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948 and the Census Rules, 1990, and will be completed in two phases: first, the house listing and housing schedule; and then, the population enumeration. Both phases usually span a period of 11 months from April 1 to February 28 the following year. This time around, caste will be enumerated in the second phase.

The last census was conducted in 2010 and 2011, with the first phase completed between April 1 and September 30, 2010, and the second phase from February 9 to February 28, 2011.

A senior official said that the process of the census begins with the issuance of the notification in the gazette of India. “The second and final phase will begin on February 27 and conclude on March 1, the same year,” the official added. The 24 lakh enumeration blocks that were finalised for the planned 2021 census are likely to be used for the 2027 exercise. Around 30 lakh enumerators, including a sizeable number of government school teachers, will be trained afresh on the mobile application that has been readied for the exercise.

Source: The Hindu

Shashi Tharoor's son grills him on Pak role in Pahalgam terror attack

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who is in the United States leading an all-party delegation, was asked a question by his son, Ishan, on Thursday, June 5, about Pakistan's involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Ishan Tharoor asked whether any country had asked the delegation led by his father for evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the deadly Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22 that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. He also asked about Pakistan's consistent denial of its involvement in the attack. To this, Tharoor said India would not have retaliated in the way it did if there was not convincing evidence against Pakistan.

Responding to his son's question, Tharoor said, “I'm very glad you raised this. I didn't plant it, I promise you,” before adding that no country had asked for any such evidence.

“Very simply, no one had any doubt, and we were not asked for evidence. But the media have asked in two or three places. Let me say very clearly that India would not have done this without convincing evidence,” Tharoor said.

Further elaborating on Pakistan's involvement in terrorism, Tharoor highlighted the country's 37-year pattern of terror attacks accompanied by repeated denials. He brought up the Mumbai attacks in 2008 and Osama Bin Laden's location near an army base in

Pakistan.

“But there were three particular reasons I want to draw your attention to all of you. The first is that we've had a 37-year pattern of repeated terror attacks from Pakistan, accompanied by repeated denials. I mean, Americans haven't forgotten that Pakistan didn't know, allegedly, where Osama bin Laden was until he was found in a Pakistani safe house right next to an army camp in a cantonment city. That's Pakistan,” Tharoor said.

“Mumbai attacks- They denied having anything to do with it. One of the terrorists was captured alive. His name, his identity, and his address are in Pakistan. Everything was revealed under interrogation. He told us where he was trained and what was done,” he added.

Tharoor also talked about the recording of the Pakistani handler giving minute-by-minute instructions to the killers in Mumbai, which he said was recorded by both Indian and US intelligence.

“We know what Pakistan's all about. They will dispatch terrorists. They will deny they did so until they're actually caught with red hands. That's the first,” he added.

Shashi Tharoor highlighted that the Resistance Front (TRF), which he called a “well-known proxy front of the Lashkar-e-Taiba”, claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack “within 45 minutes or so” of the tragedy.

India in history this Week

JUNE 6 TO JUNE 12

06 JUNE



1929 Actor, politician and social activist Sunil Dutt was born in Jhelum West Punjab.

1674 Kshatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was crowned.

1981 A train fell in Bihar's Bagmati river, killing 800 of the 1000 people on board.

1997 In Bangkok, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Thailand formed an economic cooperation group called 'Bistek'.

07 JUNE

1893 Mahatma Gandhi used civil disobedience for the first time in South Africa.

1914 Film director, writer and journalist Khwaja Ahmed Abbas was born on June 7 in Panipat.

1974 Indian tennis superstar Mahesh Bhupathi was born on 7 June in Chennai.

1975 The first match of the first World Cup was played between India and England at Lord's Stadium. India lost in this match.

1631 Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's wife Mumtaz Begum died at the age of 39 in Burhanpur.

1989 India's second satellite Bhaskar I was launched with a Soviet rocket.

2006 India decides to give one billion rupees to Nepal for economic reconstruction.

2008 The Uttar Pradesh government declared 4% VAT on LPG to be completely abolished.

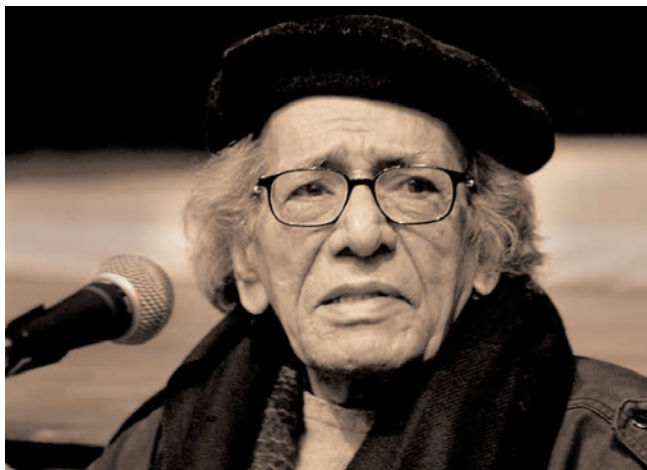
08 JUNE

1948 India's first airline, Air India, started air service between India and Britain.

1658 Aurangzeb captured the fort of Agra and Shah Jahan was imprisoned.

1936 The Indian State Broadcasting Service, the official radio service of India, was renamed All India Radio.

2004 After 122 years, the amazing sight of Venus transit was seen again in many countries of the world including India.



2009 Famous screenwriter, theatrical director, poet and actor Habib Tanvir passed away.

09 JUNE

1964 Lal Bahadur Shastri became the second Prime Minister of India.

2001 The pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the French Open doubles title.

1900 Freedom fighter Birsa Munda died in Ranchi jail under suspicious circumstances.



2011 India's famous painter MF Hussain died in London.

10 JUNE

1986 India won the Test match at Lord's for the first time by defeating England by 5 wickets.

1888 The famous agitator Balraj Bhalla was born.

1900 General Jayantinath Chaudhary of the Indian Army was born.

1946 Gandhiji refused to be excited for his victory. This is because it was not a triumph of truth over liars.

1955 Internationally renowned badminton player Prakash Padukone was born.



1987 Famous Hindi film actor Jeevan passed away.

2008 The 54th National Film Awards were announced, 'Lage Raho Munnabhai' being voted the best popular film.

1958 Litterateur and public servant Anup Sethi was born on 10 June 1958

11 JUNE

1897 Ramprasad Bismil, the freedom fighter of India, was born.



1866 Allahabad High Court was established. It was earlier known as Agra High Court.

1964 Ashes of Jawaharlal Nehru, the ashes of his ashes were scattered all over the country.

1930 A cyclonic storm blew a train off the railway near Himtnagar, Gujarat, in which one person was killed and many more were injured.

1932 Renowned businessman Meenu Modi was born.

12 JUNE

1932 It is the birthday of India's famous Bharata Natyam dancer and actress Padmini.



1975 The Allahabad High Court found the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi guilty of corruption.

1972 D.G., who wrote an eight-volume treatise on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Tendulkar died

1998 Decision not to give loans to India and Pakistan by G8 countries due to nuclear tests.

2001 India-Bangladesh talks on border issue begin.

2002 Beginning of child labor prohibition day. The purpose of this day was to spread awareness among the people about child labor.

2007 Sikh students in schools in Australia were allowed to carry the religious symbol Saber.

1752 Chanda Sahib surrendered in 1752 in Karnataka.



2016 Saina Nehwal won the Australian Open title for the second time in 2016.

2008 Renowned film director Mrinal Sen was awarded at the 10th Osiana Cinefan Film Festival in 2008.

1935 Shyama was born one of the famous actresses of Indian cinema.

1976 Sanskrit scholar and great philosopher Gopinath Kaviraj died.



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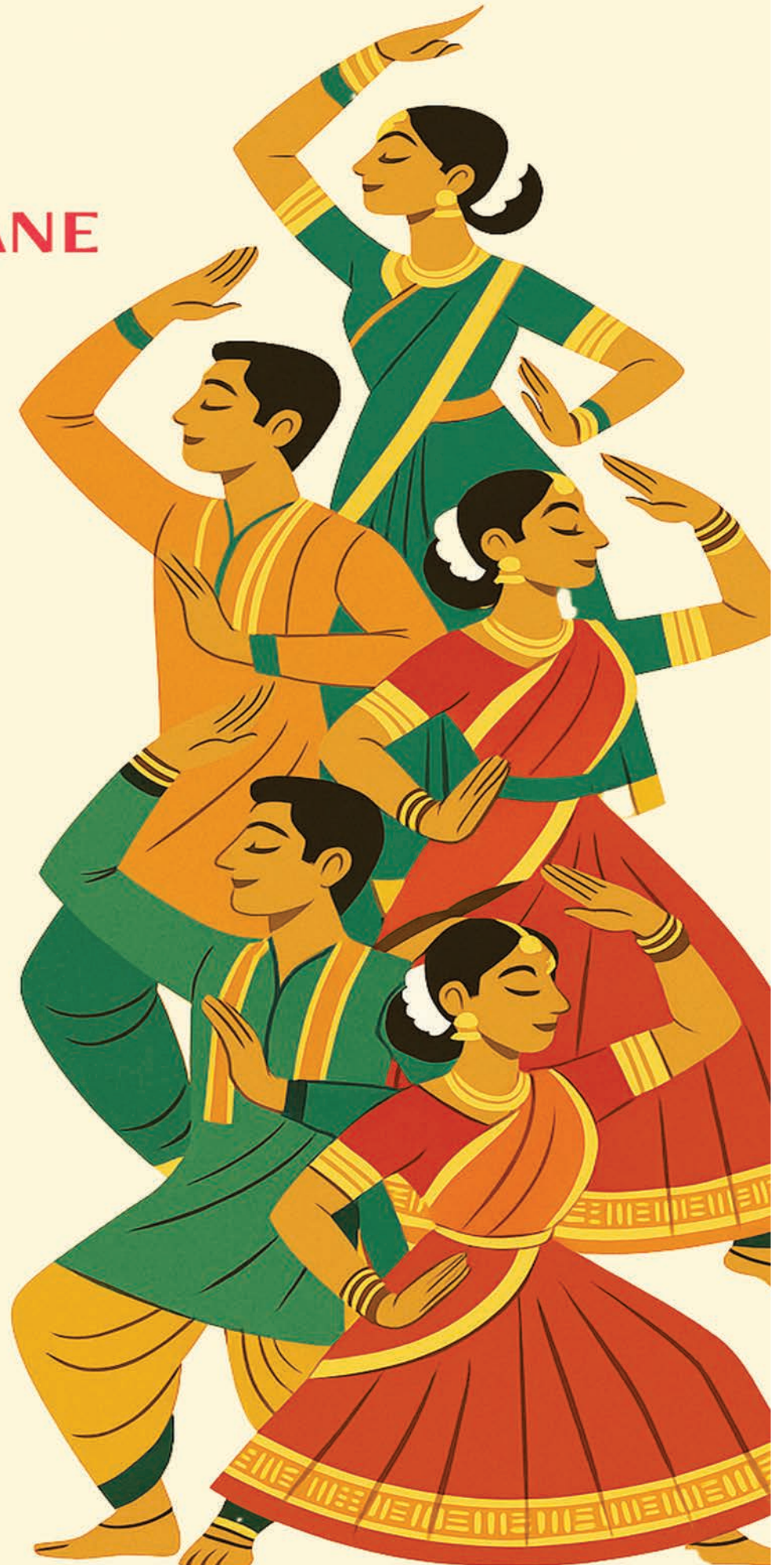
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INDIAN PANORAMA



NYIFF MARKS MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY WITH DIVERSE LINEUP, TRIBUTE TO SHYAM BENEGAL, FILM ON JAMES IVORY

BY MABEL PAIS

The New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF - nyiff.us), the longest-running and prestigious U.S. festival dedicated to Indian independent cinema, returns for its milestone 25th edition, June 20–22, 2025 spotlighting bold new voices, storied auteurs, and urgent narratives from the Indian subcontinent and its global diaspora.

Film screenings will take place at Manhattan's Village East by Angelika (181-189 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10003), with tickets and full programming details available at nyiff.us. All the films have English subtitles.

NYIFF 2025 FILM LINEUP

The 2025 lineup includes 22 feature-length films — 18 narratives and 4 documentaries — spanning more than a dozen languages and regions. From Tamil and Odia to Assamese, Hindi, and Malayalam, the selection reflects both the diversity and the evolving language of Indian cinema. The festival program also includes 21 short narrative and documentary films.

OPENING FILM - EMERGING VOICES

'The Fable' - East Coast Premiere

Director: Raam Reddy; **Cast:** Manoj Bajpayee, Priyanka Bose, Deepak Dobriyal

'The Fable,' Raam Reddy's visually arresting drama debuted at the 2024 Berlinale. The film merges surrealism and psychological tension against the Himalayan backdrop. Director Reddy, whose debut 'Thithi' won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno Film Festival and an Indian National Film Award, returns with what critics have called a "lyrical, genre-defying triumph." 'The Fable' took home Best Film at the Leeds International Film Festival.

With haunting performances and a stellar ensemble including Tillotama Shome in a cameo, 'The Fable' sets the tone for a weekend of cinema that is as thought-provoking as emotionally resonant.

CENTERPIECE

'Kennedy'

Director: Anuraj Kashyap; **Cast:** Rahul Bhat; Sunny Leone



Centerpiece: 'Kennedy.'

Courtesy, nyiff.us.

'Kennedy,' the noir thriller that bowed in Cannes' Midnight Section, headlines as the centerpiece. Anchored by Rahul Bhat's intense lead performance — building on his recent acclaim for the series 'Black Warrant' — the film tackles corruption and inner demons.

CLOSING FILM

'Little Thomas'

Director: Kaushal Oza; **Cast:** Rasika Dugal, Gulshan Devaiah

'Little Thomas,' is a coming-of-age dramedy set in 1990s Goa, marking the directorial debut of Kaushal Oza. Dugal (Delhi Crime, Mirzapur) and Devaiah (Hunrrrr, Ulajh), will be in attendance alongside the

crew.

OFF-SCREEN CELEBRATION AT CHATTI

Following the closing night, the festival will host its official after-party at Chatti, a buzzy new Manhattan hotspot by chef Regi Mathew. Known for its contemporary twist on Kerala cuisine, the venue offers an intimate setting to toast the future of Indian cinema.

HONORING MASTER STORYTELLERS: SHYAM BENEGAL AND JAMES IVORY

The festival pays tribute to Shyam Benegal, a titan of Indian parallel cinema who passed away in 2024. NYIFF will screen a 4K restoration of 'Manthan' (1976), his landmark film about India's White Revolution, restored by the Film Heritage Foundation. The film premiered at the Cannes Classics in 2024.



Manthan

Courtesy, Film Heritage Foundation

Also on the slate is 'An Arrested Moment,' a short documentary from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, directed by Dev Benegal. The film explores Oscar-winner James Ivory's enduring fascination with Indian art and culture.



An Arrested Moment

Courtesy, Film Heritage Foundation

NARRATIVE FEATURES REFLECT INDIA'S MULTITUDES

Other Feature Narratives Include:

- 'Angammal' (Tamil) — Vipin Radhakrishna's emotional film - adapted from a short story by Perumal Murugan, delves into generational resilience and women's agency in rural South India.
- 'Humans in the Loop' (Hindi) — Aranya Sahay's near-future narrative explores the ethics of AI in an increasingly mechanized society.
- 'I'm Not An Actor' (Hindi/English) — Starring Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Aditya Kriplani's film blurs fiction and reality in a searing critique of fame and identity.
- 'Kaisi Ye Paheli' (Hindi) — Ananyabrata Chakravorty's thriller examines a mother-son relationship and a series of murders.
- 'Madam Driver' (Hindi/Gujarati) — Indrajit

Nattoji delivers a witty, heartfelt tale of a middle aged woman learning to drive.

- 'Parab' (Odia) — Chinmay Das brings indigenous voices to the forefront in this powerful tale of resistance and land.
- 'Parikama' (Hindi/English/Italian) — A multicultural cinematic journey along the Narmada River and the dams built around it from veteran director Goutam Ghose.
- 'Pyre' (Hindi) — Vinod Kapri crafts a haunting drama about an elderly couple facing loneliness and abandonment in a small Himalayan village.
- 'Riptide' (Malayalam) - LGBTQ Double Feature celebrating Pride Month: — Afrad VK's moody, melodious gay romance that interweaves reality, fantasy and legend. Followed by the short film 'IYKYK' (Hindi) by Bonita Rajpurohit.
- 'Second Chance' (Hindi) — Subhadra Mahajan's film tracks the narrative of a young woman's grief, healing, and rediscovery.
- 'Simple Manusan' (Tamil) — A collaborative directorial debut from Shobaan Nagarajan and Haran Kaveri that explores marriages, culture and identity among the Tamil community in Kuala Lumpur.
- 'Sunday Special' (Kannada) — Abhilash Shetty's film about a young girl who wants a chicken meal.
- 'The Ancient' (Bengali) — In Suman Ghosh's new film Sharmila Tagore returns to Bengali cinema after 14 years playing the role of an 80-year-old woman with a deteriorating mental state.
- 'The Other Side' (Malayalam) — Indu Lakshmi's debut feature has a teenager coping with her mother's death and an oppressive patriarchal society.
- 'The Tiger' (Marathi) — Nikhil Mahajan delivers a rousing tale of climate change, and the struggle between humans and tigers in a rural village.
- 'Village Rockstars 2' (Assamese) — Rima Das returns with a follow-up to her internationally acclaimed and National Award winning debut, continuing the story of children and their musical dreams.

Suman Gollamudi, Executive Director of the Indo-American Arts Council, which presents NYIFF, adds: "This festival has long been a space where India's cinematic legacy meets its most daring futures. At 25, we are not just celebrating the past — we are investing in what's next."

TICKETS, SCHEDULE & UPDATES

Tickets, schedule, full program details and updates are available at nyiff.us.

THE NEW YORK INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL (NYIFF)

The New York Indian Film Festival is presented annually by the Indo-American Arts Council dedicated to promoting Indian arts and culture in the United States. Since its inception in 2001, NYIFF (nyiff.us) has showcased the best in Indian cinema, celebrating the diversity and creativity of filmmakers from India and around the world.

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

'EVENING OF ROSES' HONORS INTER-FAITH BRIDGE-BUILDER'S PASSION

BY MABEL PAIS

SR. ROSE THERING, Catholic nun-pioneer who promoted understanding and tolerance of Jewish-Christian faiths will be honored by Seton Hall University celebrating the 31th anniversary of the fundraising event in memory of her.

EVENING OF ROSES PROGRAM

WHAT: EVENING OF ROSES

WHEN: Thursday, June 12th, 2025, 6 p.m. Cocktail Reception and 7 p.m. Program

**WHERE: Bethany Hall, Seton Hall University,
400 South Orange Avenue
South Orange, New Jersey 07079**

"I know the power of teachers. It is my deepest wish that teachers in our public and parochial schools, with scholarship assistance, will be able to enroll in Jewish-Christian Studies at Seton Hall University to stem the tide of ignorance in our schools and in society."

— **Sister Rose Thering, O.P., Ph.D.**

Founded in 1993, the Sister Rose Thering Fund (SRTF) for Education annual gala raises money for student scholarships while honoring those who work tirelessly to advance Sister Rose's legacy by fostering understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians, and people of other religious traditions through advocacy and education.

Sister Rose was very active in building bridges between Jews and Christians. When asked why she did this, her immediate response was: "Because an understanding and an appreciation of Jews and Judaism and the State of Israel helps me personally. I hope and pray to become a better person, a better Christian."

The state of New Jersey's 1994 legislated Mandate for Teaching Genocide and Holocaust Studies recognizes that "there is an inescapable link between violence and vandalism and ethnic and racial intolerance" and accordingly mandates: "Every board of education shall include instruction on the Holocaust and genocides in an appropriate place in the curriculum of all elementary and secondary school pupils."

2025 HONOREES

RABBI MICHAEL BERENBAUM



Rabbi Michael Berenbaum, honoree

Courtesy, shu.edu.

**Distinguished Professor
Director, Sigi Ziering Institute
Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies**

Rabbi Michael Berenbaum is the Director of the Sigi Ziering Institute: Exploring the Ethical and Religious Implications of the Holocaust and a Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University.

The author and editor of 24 books, he was also the Executive Editor of the Second Edition of the 'Encyclopaedia Judaica.' He was Project Director overseeing the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the first director of its Research Institute and later served as President and CEO of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, which took the testimony of 52,000 Holocaust survivors in 32 languages

and 57 countries.

His work in film has won Emmy Awards and Academy Awards. He has developed and curated museums in the United States, Mexico, North Macedonia, and Poland and his award-winning exhibition 'Auschwitz: Not Long Ago.' 'Not Far Away' has been in Madrid and Malmo, New York, Kansas City, and, most recently, at the Ronald Reagan Library in California and will soon open in Boston.

REV. DR. FORREST M. PRITCHETT

**Director, Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK Jr.) Leadership Program
Senior Adviser to Provost on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Rev. Dr. Forrest M. Pritchett, more commonly addressed as Rev. Pritchett, is a long-time civil rights activist, mentor, and adviser. With 53 years of experience in higher education, including his over 40-year career at Seton Hall, which began in 1978, he currently serves as the



Rev. Dr. Forrest M. Pritchett, honoree

Courtesy, shu.edu.

director of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Program, and the senior adviser to the provost for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Throughout his years at Seton Hall, he has functioned as the Assistant Dean of the Black Studies Center, a faculty mentor in Freshman Studies, an adjunct professor in the departments of Africana, Interdisciplinary, and Religious Studies, and the program director of the Seton Hall Gospel Choir. He is well known for coordinating the annual MLK, Jr. Day Symposium, which provides perspectives on racism, privilege, and justice while educating students on the principles of MLK as a civil rights leader. He has seen initiatives like the Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Association grow immensely, now supporting up to 20 students each year financially.

As someone who has inspired generations of Pirates through his many roles and has contributed greatly to numerous campus organizations, the university continues to embrace Pritchett as a servant leader and a pillar of the campus community who has helped to challenge the University to be and do better.

SISTER ROSE THERING



Sister Rose Thering with Nobel Laureate Eliezer (Elie) Wiesel

Courtesy, shu.edu

"Children, our young people, are our future. A major challenge of our times is to face resolutely the responsibility to future generations."

Sister Rose Thering (1920-2006), a nun of the Dominican Order, was a lifelong activist who fought anti-Semitism within the Catholic Church.

Sister Rose Thering, in her doctoral research (1957-1961), did the pioneer investigation/examination of the most widely used Catholic religion teaching materials to see how we taught about other faith, ethnic, and racial groups. It was a self-study that dealt primarily with our teachings about Jews and Judaism.

A basic summary was taken to Vatican II (the Second Ecumenical Council of the Catholic Church) during the deliberations before the issuance of the Vatican document *Nostra Aetate: Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions* in 1965. The document caused considerable debate at Vatican II but was finally passed on the last day of deliberations. The 15 Latin lines of text have had a deep and lasting effect on how Jews are viewed by the Catholic Church and remain strongly fixed in church teachings to this day.

'Sister Rose's Passion,' a 39-minute documentary film on her life, won an award at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2004 and was nominated for an Academy Award in 2005.

Sr. Rose spent more than 40 years at Seton Hall University - teaching, speaking, developing programs, shepherding groups of religious and lay people to the Holy Land where she traveled more than 54 times.

Sister Rose Thering passed away at her convent, The Siena Center of the Racine Dominicans in Wisconsin, on May 6, 2006.

The Sister Rose Endowment for Holocaust and Jewish-Christian Studies honors her for her belief in the power of teachers to impart knowledge and understanding to young people. Learn more at shu.edu/sister-rose and shu.edu/sister-rose/evening-of-roses.

THE SISTER ROSE THERING FUND (SRTF)

For more information on The Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies, call (973) 761-9006 or email at srtf@shu.edu.

For updates on news & events, follow the organization @ facebook.com/SRTF25

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

NYSJFF AS PART OF FESTIVAL SEPHARAD NYC REVEALS FILM LINEUP

BY MABEL PAIS

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

Experience exclusive screenings, June 9-13 with premieres from France, Israel, Morocco, Iran & Beyond and Live Musical Performances, including Grammy winners at the American Sephardi Federation, Center of Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011. (212) 294 8350.

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

2025 NYSJFF FILM LINEUP

June 9, 2025 - 'Three Men and a Cradle'

Dir: Coline Serreau; 1985; France; French; 106m

Three young men - Jacques, Pierre, and Michel - share an apartment in Paris, and have many girlfriends and parties. Once, during a party, a friend of Jacques' tells him he has a quite compromising package to deliver, and asks him if he can leave it discreetly at their place. Jacques agrees and, as he works as a steward, flies away for a one-month trip in Japan, telling Pierre and Michel about the package. Then, one of Jacques' former girlfriends drops a baby before their door, making Pierre and Michel believing it is the package they are waiting for. Their lives are then completely changed.

June 9 - 'Yael Naim: A New Soul' - World Premiere

Dir: Jill Coulon; 2025; France; French w/Eng subtitles; 55m

'Yael Naim: A New Soul' is an intimate documentary that traces the extraordinary path of Yael Naim — from her early days in Israel to becoming an international music sensation. Blending exclusive personal home videos, her photos, animation and paintings and told by herself, the film offers a revealing look at the moments that shaped her artistry and identity.

From the quiet solitude of songwriting to the global spotlight of her hit 'New Soul,' from her first years to her midlife crisis, we follow Yael as she navigates the challenges of fame, explores her multicultural roots, and redefines what it means to be an artist, a mother and a woman in search of authenticity. A moving portrait of resilience, creativity, and the universal language of music.

June 10 - 'Le Pays D'Origine'

Dir: Elizabeth Wotling; 2025; France; French; 25m

I've never been to Tunisia, the country where my mother was born. After the death of my grandmother, the last witness to this life on the other side of the Mediterranean, I had to say goodbye to the Paris flat where I had always seen her. In the rooms, which are gradually becoming empty, I search through the furniture and objects for traces of the country of origin that I don't know.

June 10 - 'Neuilly Poissy'

Dir: Grégory Boutboul; 2024; France; French; 97m

Daniel is a successful entrepreneur and gifted speaker who juggles his booming business with a balanced family life. However, due to a financial irregularity, he is forced to move from his luxurious apartment in Neuilly to a small 9 m² cell in Poissy prison. Switching from a suit and tie to a tracksuit, Daniel finds himself in a world whose rules he does



The 90s – The Revelry (Hillula)

Credit: Courtesy, americansephardi.org

not understand. But thanks to his sense of humor and his talent for getting by, Daniel will try to adapt to his new life.

June 10 - 'Jinxed' - US Premiere

Dir: Hanan Savyon & Guy Amir; 2024; Israel; Hebrew; 104m

'Jinxed' is a dark comedy about Benny and Reuven, two unlucky repairmen whose routine TV fix turns into a nightmare when they find a dead body in a client's apartment. As their bumbling cover-up spirals out of control, they're mistaken for murder suspects, tangled in mafia ties, police investigations, and personal betrayals. With bad luck chasing their every move, they become accidental triple agents, trying to outwit everyone to save themselves in a chaotic, twist-filled ride.

June 11th - 'Song of the Sephardim in Izmir'

Dirs: Brooke Saias & Anna Clare Spelman; 2022; USA; English, Turkish, Ladino; 15m

In Izmir, an ancient Turkish city rich with religious history and culture, Ceni is working to preserve Ladino — the endangered language of Sephardic Jews. Ceni's family migrated to Turkey centuries ago, following the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. Like many others in her generation, Ceni grew up with parents and grandparents who spoke Ladino at home, but the language wasn't passed down. Preparing for a musical performance organized by Nesim Bencoya, director of the Izmir Jewish Heritage Project, Ceni finds a deep connection with her Sephardic heritage and hopes to save Ladino for future generations.

June 11 - 'Neither Day Nor Night'

Dir: Phinehas Veuillet; 2024; Israel; Hebrew, French w/Eng subs; 105m

A Sephardic Baalei Teshuva family faces rejection from the insular Ashkenazi Haredi community in Bnei Brak when their gifted son is denied entry to a top Yeshiva. As the father fights back, the family is ostracized, leading to a crisis that challenges their faith, identity, and place in the religious world.

June 11 - 'Matchmaking 2' - New York Premiere

Dir: Erez Tadmor; 2024; Israel; Hebrew w/Eng subs; 110m

Baruch Auerbach, (Maor Schwietzer) is already an 'Alter,' a Yeshiva guy who missed the time when he was eligible to marry and has since been living in a Yeshiva in a small room, when he receives an assignment from Malki (Irit Kaplan) the matchmaker to drive her young daughter Shira, (Omer Nudelman), from the airport, but things get complicated when the flight is delayed. Baruch and Shira are forced to spend Shabbat in the airport, Baruch falls in love for the first time in his life with a girl he does not stand a chance. He experiences an emotional roller-coaster that shake him to the core. Only when it dawns on him how much he has misunderstood his life, his heart will open for the love he deserves.

June 12 - 'Over My Dead Body'

Dir: Meital Cohen Navarro; 2020; USA; Farsi, English; 25m

When a young Persian-American Jewish woman reveals her Muslim fiancé to her family, she's forced to choose between love and tradition. Set in present-day Los Angeles, the film confronts taboo topics like interfaith relationships and cultural expectations within an Iranian-Jewish immigrant family. Shot in English and Farsi, it offers a raw look at identity, loyalty, and the cost of following one's heart.

June 12 - 'The 90s – The Revelry' – ('Hilula') - New York Premiere

2023; Israel; Hebrew; 110m

Following a weird dream he had, Prosper takes his entire neighbourhood to the grave of the Baba Sali in Netivot, but the driver takes a wrong turn.

June 12 - 'The Last Righteous Man' - US Premiere

Dir: Rafael Balulu; 2024; Israel; Hebrew; 70m

'The Last Righteous Man' portrays the story of the Abuhatzzeira family, a Jewish-Moroccan dynasty that has been leading Jewish-Moroccan and Israeli communities for two centuries. Through the story of Baba Sali and his younger brother Baba Khaki, the film reveals a story of a Moroccan aristocratic rabbinical family and its transformation to a leading family in Israel. The film moves between Morocco and Israel, from the great wave of immigration from Morocco to present-day Israel, through the biography of Baba Sali and Baba Khaki, and the public activity of the second generation: Rabbi Baruch Abuhatzzeira and Aharon Abuhatzzeira, who took the reins of leadership, shaping Israeli culture, society and politics.

June 13 - 'Giado: Holocaust in the Desert'

Dir: Golan Rise, Sharon Yaish; 2023; Israel; Italian, Hebrew; 55m

At just 20 years old, Yosef Dadosh was one of 3,000 Libyan Jews deported by the Italians to the Giado concentration camp — an often-overlooked corner of Holocaust history. Amid the searing heat and brutal conditions of the desert, Yosef secretly kept a diary, recording the atrocities he witnessed and endured. Hidden for 70 years, his words are now uncovered, offering a rare and poignant firsthand testimony. Through a powerful blend of animation and a meticulously crafted model of the camp, this film resurrects Yosef's memories with haunting intimacy. As his story unfolds — one he never shared, even with his children — we are drawn into a deeply human narrative of silence, survival, and the enduring need to remember what history tried to erase.

- World Premiere: Yael
- U.S. Premiere: Jinxed
- U.S. Premiere: The Last Righteous Man (Baba Sali)
- New York Premiere: Matchmaking 2
- New York Premiere: The 90s – The Revelry (Hillula)

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

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The pay range for the positions will be \$40, 000 to \$65,000 (per annum) plus group life insurance, health, and dental insurance (fully paid for by the bank) and 401k benefits.

Interested candidates may please send resume to: vppna.nyb@statebank.com, pna.nyb@statebank.com on or before June 15, 2025.

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Rekha's cult classic Umrao Jaan set to return to theatres

One of Indian cinema's most iconic films, 'Umrao Jaan', starring the legendary actor Rekha, is set to return to the big screen. It is returning to theatres on June 27, restored in 4K resolution.

The 1981 classic has undergone restoration led by the National Film Archive of India (NFAI) and the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), bringing the 19th-century poetic epic to life for a new generation of cinephiles.

Directed by Muzaffar Ali, 'Umrao Jaan' is a cinematic gem celebrated for its soulful storytelling, music, and rich portrayal of Awadhi culture. The film was originally produced by SK Jain & Sons and Integrated Films, and has long been revered for Rekha's unforgettable portrayal of the courtesan-poet, a performance that earned her the National Film Award for Best Actress.

PVR Inox announced the re-release on Instagram. "A story of elegance, love, and timeless music! Revisit Umrao Jaan in stunning 4K – a cinematic jewel restored, reimagined, and reborn with our Curated Shows. #UmraoJaan re-releasing at PVR INOX on June 27!," read the caption.

To mark the occasion, filmmaker Muzaffar Ali will also launch a limited-edition coffee table book, offering a rare glimpse behind the scenes of the film's making. The book features never-before-seen photographs, original costume sketches, calligraphy, poetry, and personal anecdotes from the set. It will be released in tandem with the film's theatrical re-release.

Speaking about the film's revival, Ali said in a statement, "Umrao Jaan was not just a film - it was a journey into the soul of a lost culture, a forgotten tehzeeb. Through her pain, poetry, and grace, we tried to resurrect the elegance of an era where love and longing spoke in verse. I had actors who brought a lot of heft to their characters, and then there was Rekha, who lived Umrao Jaan and truly immortalised it. I am thrilled that the film is back on the big screen for a whole new generation to discover a time and culture that's very much a part of our being."

The film's illustrious cast also includes Farooq Shaikh as Nawab Sultan, Naseeruddin Shah, Raj Babbar, Shaukat Kaifi, Dina Pathak, and Gajanan Jagirdar, among others. It also marked the debut of the late Farrukh Jaffar, who portrayed Umrao's mother in the film.

'Hope I die with my shoes on': Aamir Khan says Mahabharat could be his last spectacle

Actor Aamir Khan has hinted at his final film project, which could be a grand cinematic spectacle. The 60-year-old, who has spoken about his desire to make 'Mahabharat' for long, stated that the epic-drama might be his last movie. "I hope I die with my shoes on..." he said while talking about the film. The 'Sitaare Zameen Par' actor feels that the grandeur of this project is going to be such that after making the film based on India's ancient text by sage Ved Vyas, he will have nothing else left to do.

The superstar raved about the sheer grandeur and emotional resonance of 'Mahabharat' in a podcast with Raj Shamani. While speaking about the scale of creating the epic on-screen, he said, "It's layered, it has emotion, it has scale, everything you find in the world, you will find in 'Mahabharat'."

He further said, "Maybe after

doing this, I will feel that I have nothing left to do. I cannot do anything after this, as the material of this film is going to be like that."

The actor concluded, "I hope that I die with my shoes on, but since you are asking, this is the one thing I can think of. Perhaps after this, I will feel that I don't need to do anything else."

In a previous interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Aamir spoke about his vision for 'Mahabharat' and said, "That's one of my biggest ambitions. We'll see who we should cast based on who's appropriate for which part."

The actor further said, "I don't think you can tell the 'Mahabharat' in one film, so it will be multiple films. I am looking at the large scale." While pointing out that the film might need multiple directors, he concluded, "To complete it within a set time, we will need more than one director."



Metro...In Dino trailer: Anurag Basu film explores love, life, longing in busy city

The trailer for 'Metro In Dino' is out now. This marks the return of director Anurag Basu with the final chapter of his much-loved hyperlinked storytelling trilogy. After 'Life in a Metro' and 'Ludo', Basu brings the film showcasing contemporary bittersweet relationships, highlighting different shades and emotions of love.

Set in the heart of a bustling city, the trailer shows four different couples across different age groups. It highlights how love finds its way even in the middle of the hustle and chaos of city life, facing its own challenges, and painting an everlasting 'everything comes together at the end' picture.

The trailer begins with Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan sharing a cab ride. Though they start as just friends, their bond slowly turns into love. Other couples are also shown, revealing their past and present struggles. All of them are going through difficult phases in their relationships. Meanwhile, the film's song, by Pritam, has already caught the audience's attention and is getting great love from fans.

According to the filmmakers, 'Metro In Dino' isn't just a film, it's an emotional tribute to the people and feelings that often get left behind in the fast life of the city. Whether it's about love or discovering yourself, the trailer shows relatable stories.



Backed by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Anurag Basu Productions, the film features a stellar ensemble cast including Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen

Sharma, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and Ali Fazal.

The film is all set to release in theatres on July 4, 2025.

Daniel Craig returns as Detective Benoit Blanc in the newest Knives Out mystery trailer

If there's one thing OTT has mastered, it's turning murder mysteries into comfort food. Knives Out — the now-iconic whodunnit series crafted by Rian Johnson — has managed to stay razor-sharp through its clever storytelling, absurdly rich characters, and the ever-charismatic presence of Daniel Craig as detective Benoit Blanc. Now, the long-awaited trailer for the third film, Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery, has finally dropped, and it's everything fans had hoped for, and then some.

This time, Benoit Blanc isn't just solving another murder — he's entering a whole new tone. With a slightly rugged new look and that unmistakable Southern drawl, Craig returns to anchor what appears to be a darker, more gothic entry in the franchise. As always, he's backed by an all-star cast: Josh O'Connor, Glenn Close, Josh Brolin, Mila Kunis, Jeremy Renner, Kerry Washington, Andrew Scott, Cailee Spaeny, Daryl McCormack, and Thomas Haden Church are all set to appear, adding major star power to this next mystery.

The internet, as expected, had a lot to say. Reddit lit up the moment the trailer hit screens, with reactions ranging from hyped to emotional. "Southern Gothic Knives Out? Fuck yeah I'm in," declared one user, perfectly summing up the collective mood. Another said, "I'm happy to see the tonal shift from movie to movie. I wasn't a fan of Glass Onion. It was a little too on the nose for me, but I recognise a lot of people enjoyed it. Hoping to enjoy the third one as much as



I did the first — this trailer certainly does much more to appeal to my tastes." One comment read, "Love all the previous movies in this franchise; can't wait to see what they do with this one."

Another fan added, "I'm digging the murder mystery genre lately. Between this and the Brannagh Poirot movies, I have been spoiled." Still, perhaps the highest praise came from a fan reflecting on Daniel Craig's post-Bond career: "Daniel Craig could do this series for the rest of his life and I wouldn't complain... love that he's found his niche so quickly after his long stint as 007. I don't think any other James Bond actor has ever found such a compelling franchise after 007 like Craig has, very impressive ??."

Knives Out began with a simple but delightfully twisted premise: a wealthy

crime novelist dies on his 85th birthday, and everyone in the family is a suspect. The 2019 original was both a tribute to Agatha Christie-style mysteries and a clever social satire, earning critical acclaim and box office success.

Its sequel, Glass Onion, took Benoit Blanc to a Greek island for a tech billionaire's murder-mystery party that turns fatally real. While some fans found it too on-the-nose, others praised its playful critique of the ultra-rich and clueless.

Now, with Wake Up Dead Man, it seems Johnson is once again shifting gears — taking us deeper into darker territory while maintaining the franchise's ridiculously enjoyable plotting. And thank goodness, because murder has never looked so good!



Danny DeVito makes shocking admission about 'lusting after' Michelle Pfeiffer

Danny DeVito made a shocking admission about his former co-star Michelle Pfeiffer. The 80-year-old confided in Collin Farrell for Variety's Actors on Actors series, published Monday, that he "lusted after" the Scarface star while working with her in Batman Returns.

"She was a goddess," DeVito said of Pfeiffer while discussing the actresses who played Catwoman alongside him and Farrell in their respective Batman films. Both veteran actors played the iconic villain Penguin, aka Oswald Cobblepot - DeVito in Tim Burton's 1992 film and Farrell in Matt Reeves' The Batman.

Farrell shared that he did a "couple of scenes" with Zoë Kravitz, who played Catwoman in the 2022 film. "She was wonderful," he added. Meanwhile, DeVito gushed over Pfeiffer, saying, "If I knew she was going to be in a scene that day... I got all flushed."

The Man on the Moon star joked that he would "put extra makeup on — 'Give me another pound of makeup.' It was very difficult." When Farrell asked what it was like working with Pfeiffer, DeVito said, "Just so wonderful. And I lusted after her."

Blake Lively drops 2 claims against Justin Baldoni in trial prep



The latest twist in the simmering Blake-Baldoni legal drama, is: *drumrolls* — her dropping two of her claims against her It Ends With Us arch-nemesis. Now before you raise your eyebrows, no these aren't the sexual harassment claims which are essentially the kingpin of Blake's entire case. On June 2, Blake requested a withdrawal and dismissal of her claims against Justin, citing intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

So has she had a change of heart, seeing the freefall Justin's career and reputation has taken since this saga broke out into the public scene? That's an easy no.

Blake's lawyers, Esra Hudson and Mike Gottlieb, in a statement to PEOPLE asserted, "Once again, this is a routine part of the litigation process that is being used as a press stunt. We are doing what trial lawyers do: preparing our case for trial by streamlining and

focusing it; they are doing what they do: desperately seeking another tired round of tabloid coverage".

But Justin's legal team has their own story to tell. The emotional distress claims have reportedly been pulled back by Blake, in the possibility of an order being issued as per which Blake would have to "identify her medical and mental health care providers", including access to therapy notes and relevant medical information, reveals a letter penned by Justin's lawyer Kevin Fritz, addressed to Judge Lewis J. Liman in U.S. District Court Southern District of New York. The letter also curtly concluded, "Ms. Lively cannot have it both ways".

Now as far as Blake goes, she "continues to allege emotional distress, as part of numerous other claims in her lawsuit, such as sexual harassment and retaliation, and massive additional compensatory damages on all of her claims", asserted her lawyers.

SOUTH KOREAN LAWMAKERS APPROVE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS INTO MARTIAL LAW, YOON'S WIFE

05 JUN 2025

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea's liberal-led legislature overwhelmingly passed bills Thursday to launch special investigations into former President Yoon Suk Yeol's short-lived imposition of martial law in December and criminal allegations against his wife, targeting the ousted conservative a day after his liberal successor took office.

The National Assembly also passed a bill to initiate an independent investigation into the 2023 drowning death of a marine during a search-and-rescue operation for flood victims, an incident the Democratic Party, which holds majority, accuses Yoon's government of covering up.

The bills previously had been vetoed by Yoon during his term and by South Korea's caretaker government after his Dec. 14 impeachment.

President Lee Jae-myung, a Democrat who won Tuesday's snap election triggered by Yoon's removal from office, is expected to sign the bills.

Many members of the conservative People Power Party refused to participate in the votes, which took place after one of the party's lawmakers accused the liberals of being driven by vendetta.

Kim Yong-min, a Democratic Party lawmaker, said the conservatives were effectively defending Yoon's imposition of martial law by repeatedly opposing investigations into it.

"That's why they failed to win public support and were rejected by voters in the presidential election," he said in a speech.

Lee, who drove the legislative efforts to impeach Yoon, pinned his presidential campaign on unity, promising not to target conservatives and calling for an end to political polarization.

Yet Lee has vowed a full investigation into Yoon's martial law imposition and the allegations surrounding his wife, moves that could overshadow the new government and inflame tensions as Yoon faces a high-stakes rebellion trial carrying a possible death sentence.

The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office has indicted Yoon on charges accusing Yoon of masterminding a rebellion and enacting martial law as an illegal bid to seize the legislature and election offices and arrest political opponents.

Liberals have insisted independent investigations into Yoon are essential, saying probes by prosecutors, police and an anti-corruption agency were inadequate and hampered by Yoon's refusal to cooperate. (AP)

Israel says it has recovered the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages from the Gaza Strip

05 JUN 2025

TEL AVIV (TIP): Israel has recovered the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack that ignited the war in the Gaza Strip, officials said Thursday.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remains of Judith Weinstein and Gad Haggai were recovered and returned to Israel in a special operation by the army and the Shin Bet internal security agency.

"Together with all the citizens of Israel, my wife and I extend our heartfelt condolences to the dear families. Our hearts ache for the most terrible loss. May their memory be blessed," he said in a statement.

Kibbutz Nir Oz announced the deaths of Weinstein, 70, and Haggai, 72, both of whom had Israeli and U.S. citizenship, in December 2023.

The military said they were killed in the Oct. 7 attack and taken into Gaza by the Mujahideen Brigades, the small armed group that it said had also abducted and killed Shiri Bibas and her two small children. The army said it recovered the remains of Weinstein and Haggai overnight into Thursday from the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

A teacher who helped children and a chef who played jazz

The couple were taking an early morning walk near their home in Kibbutz Nir Oz on the morning of Oct. 7 when Hamas militants stormed across the border and rampaged through several army bases and farming communities.

In the early hours of the morning, Weinstein was able to call emergency services and let them know that both she and her husband had been shot, and send a message to her family.

Weinstein was born in New York and taught English to children with special needs at Kibbutz Nir Oz, a small community near the Gaza border. The kibbutz said she also taught meditation techniques to children and teenagers who suffered from anxiety as a result of rocket fire from Gaza. Haggai was a



retired chef and jazz musician.

"My beautiful parents have been freed. We have certainty," their daughter, Iris Haggai Liniado, wrote in a Facebook post. She thanked the Israeli military, the FBI and the Israeli and U.S. governments and called for the release of all the remaining hostages.

The couple were survived by two sons and two daughters and seven grandchildren, the kibbutz said.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages. They are still holding 56 hostages, around a third of them believed to be alive, after most of the rest were released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israeli forces have rescued eight living hostages from Gaza and recovered dozens of bodies.

Israel's military campaign has killed over 54,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were civilians or combatants. The offensive has destroyed large parts of Gaza and displaced around 90% of its population of roughly 2 million Palestinians.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar

have been trying to broker another ceasefire and hostage release after Israel ended an earlier truce in March and imposed a blockade that has raised fears of famine, despite being eased in recent weeks. But the talks appear to be deadlocked.

Hamas says it will only release the remaining hostages in return for more Palestinian prisoners, a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. It has offered to hand over power to a politically independent Palestinian committee.

Netanyahu has rejected those terms, saying Israel will only agree to temporary ceasefires to facilitate the return of hostages. He has vowed to continue the war until all the hostages are returned and Hamas is defeated or disarmed and sent into exile.

He has said Israel will maintain control over Gaza indefinitely and will facilitate what he refers to as the voluntary emigration of much of its population to other countries. The Palestinians and much of the international community have rejected such plans, viewing them as forcible expulsion that could violate international law. (AP)

Russian strike kills five, including one-year old in Northern Ukraine, hours after Trump calls Putin

05 JUN 2025

KYIV (TIP): At least five people, including a one-year-old child, were killed in a Russian drone strike on the northern Ukrainian city of Pryluky overnight, regional governor Viacheslav Chaus said Thursday.

The attack came just hours after Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to Trump, Putin "very strongly" said that Russia will retaliate for Ukraine's weekend drone attacks on Russian military airfields.

Six more people were wounded in the attack and have been hospitalized, Chaus said. According to him, six Shahed-type drones struck residential areas of Pryluky early Thursday morning, causing severe damage to residential buildings.

Hours later, seventeen people were wounded in a Russian drone strike on the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv early Thursday, including children, a pregnant woman, and a 93-year-old woman, regional head Oleh Syniehubov wrote on Telegram.

At around 1:05 a.m., Shahed-type drones struck two



apartment buildings in the city's Slobidskyi district, causing fires and destroying several private vehicles.

"By launching attacks while people sleep in their homes, the enemy once again confirms its tactic of insidious terror," Syniehubov wrote on Telegram. (AP)

New Zealand MP Laura McClure displays deepfake AI nude image of herself in Parliament to urge legal reform



05 JUN 2025

NEW ZEALAND (TIP) : In a bold move to highlight the threat of deepfake technology, New Zealand Member of Parliament Laura McClure displayed an AI-generated nude image of herself during a parliamentary session. The

image, the MP said was created in under five minutes using readily available online tools.

"This image is a naked image of me, but it's not real," McClure said, adding that the ease with which such convincing fake images can be produced.

She described the experience as "absolutely terrifying," noting the psychological impact even when knowing the image was fabricated.

McClure shared the image on her Instagram account, and said, "Today in Parliament, I showed an AI-generated nude deepfake of myself to show how real and easy these are to create. The problem isn't the tech itself, but how it's being misused to abuse people. Our laws need to catch up."

The MP is advocating for legislative amendments to include deepfakes under existing laws that prohibit the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. She said in Parliament that deepfakes can be as harmful, if not more so, than real images, as they can depict individuals in fabricated, often degrading scenarios.

McClure's actions have sparked a national debate on the ethical and legal challenges of deepfakes, highlighting the urgent need for updated laws to protect against digital abuse. (NIE)

Newly elected South Korea's President Lee Jae-myung says he'll bolster US-Japan ties and pursue talks with North

04 JUN 2025

SEOUL (TIP): South Korea's new President Lee Jae-myung vowed Wednesday to restart dormant talks with North Korea and bolster a trilateral partnership with the U.S. and Japan, as he laid out key policy goals for his single, five-year term.

Lee, who rose from childhood poverty to become South Korea's leading liberal politician vowing to fight inequality and corruption, formally began his term earlier Wednesday, a day after winning a snap election that was triggered in April by the removal of then-President Yoon Suk Yeol over his ill-fated imposition of martial law late last year.

In his inaugural address at the National Assembly, Lee said that his government will deal with potential North Korean aggressions with "strong deterrence" based on the solid South Korea-U.S. military alliance. But he said he would "open a communication channel with North Korea and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula through talks and cooperation."

He said he'll pursue pragmatic diplomacy with neighboring countries and boost trilateral Seoul-Washington-Tokyo cooperation based on the robust South Korea-U.S. alliance.

"Through pragmatic diplomacy based on national interests, we will turn the crisis posed by the major shift in global economic and security landscapes into an opportunity to maximize our national interests," Lee said.

It was unclear whether Lee's election



would cause any major, immediate shift in South Korea's foreign policy. Lee, previously accused by critics of tilting toward China and North Korea and away from the U.S. and Japan, has recently repeatedly stressed South Korea's alliance with the U.S. as the foundation of its foreign policy.

The toughest external challenges awaiting Lee are U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policy and North Korea's advancing nuclear program. But experts earlier said whoever becomes president can't do much to secure major progress in South Korea's favor on those issues.

During his inauguration speech, Lee didn't directly mention trade issues with the U.S.

Lee said revitalizing a slowing domestic economy would be his top priority and that his government would immediately launch an emergency task force to wage a "head-on battle" against the threats of recession. He also

promised more aggressive government spending to help spur economic activity.

South Korea's central bank cut its key interest rate and sharply lowered its growth outlook for 2025 to 0.8%, as it moved to counter U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff hikes and weak domestic demand worsened by recent political turmoil.

Lee's term began immediately without the usual two-month transition period after the National Election Commission formally confirmed his election victory.

In a telephone call with Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Kim Myung-soo, Lee asked the military to closely monitor North Korean moves and maintain a solid readiness based on the combined South Korea-U.S. military alliance, according to local TV footage.

Lee later visited the national cemetery in Seoul to pay respects to late Korean leaders, patriots and war dead who are buried there. (AP)



FRENCH SINGER NICOLE CROISILLE, OF 'A MAN AND A WOMAN' FAME, DIES AT 88

04 JUN 2025

PARIS (TIP): Nicole Croisille, a French singer who sang on the soundtrack of the hit 1966 film "A Man and a Woman", has died, her agent told AFP on Wednesday. She was 88.

Croisille died "following a long illness" in Paris during the night of Tuesday-Wednesday, Jacques Metges said.

"Until the end, she fought with lots of force and courage," he added.

Croisille was best known internationally for her work on the film soundtrack of "A Man and a Woman", including the solo "Today it's You" and several duets.

She was also beloved in France for other hits during the 1970s including "Telephone-moi" (Call me), "Parlez-moi de lui" (Tell me about him) and "Une femme avec toi" (A woman with you).

"I have only sung love songs and I know what I have brought to people," she said in an interview with Paris Match in 2017.

In addition to singing, Croisille was also a dancer and an actress. (AFP)

VIETNAM SCRAPS TWO-CHILD LIMIT AS BIRTH RATE DECLINES

04 JUN 2025

HANOI (TIP): Vietnam's communist government has scrapped its long-standing policy of limiting families to two children, state media said Wednesday, as the country battles to reverse a declining birth rate.

The country banned couples from having more than two children in 1988, but a family's size is now a decision for each individual couple, Vietnam News Agency said.

The country has experienced historically low birth rates during the last three years, with the total fertility rate dropping to just 1.91 children per woman last year, below replacement level, the ministry of health said this year. Birth rates have fallen from 2.11 children per woman in 2021, to 2.01 in 2022 and 1.96 in 2023.

This trend is most pronounced in urbanised, economically developed regions, especially in big cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City as the cost of living rises.

Tran Minh Huong, a 22-year-old office worker, told AFP that the government regulation mattered little to her as she had no plans to have children. (AFP)

NEPAL'S EX-PM MADHAV KUMAR NEPAL BOOKED IN LAND SCAM CASE

05 JUNE 2025

KATHMANDU (TIP) : Former Nepali Prime Minister and leader of the opposition Madhav Kumar Nepal has been charged with corruption by the anti-graft agency in connection with an alleged land scam. It is the first time that a former Prime Minister has been booked for corruption in the Himalayan nation.

The anti-graft agency, Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), on Thursday afternoon registered a case against Nepal along with 94 others on the land scam, court officials confirmed to ANI.

"CIAA registered the case at the Special Court on Thursday against Nepal and other defendants," a Special Court official confirmed to ANI.

This is the first time that a Nepali Prime Minister has been charged in a corruption case in the nation's history. The case involves alleged misappropriation of land acquired for a private company under government exemptions for land ownership ceiling.

As per the charges, the anti-graft agency has demanded NRs 186 million from the former Prime Minister.

Madhav Kumar Nepal, now the chairman of CPN-Unified Socialist (CPN-US), while in power on February 1, 2010, had approved the purchase of 815 ropani (1 ropani equals 0.0509 hectares) of land in Banepa, Kavre, under the ceiling exemption for purposes including yoga centres, Ayurvedic institutes, and the herbal industry.

The decision was made through a meeting of the council of ministers led by then Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal.

The same cabinet meeting also approved the purchase of land under ceiling exemption: 75 bighas (1 bigha equals 0.677 hectares) in Dang, 300 ropanis in Lamjung, 250 ropanis in Syangja, 15 bighas in Chitwan, 25 bighas in Dhanusha, 150 ropanis in the Kathmandu Valley, and 40 bighas in the Bara-Parsa area within five years.

After receiving Cabinet approval, the private company's Nepal Chief purchased 593 ropanis, 5 annas, and 3 paisas of land in the areas of Nasikasthan, Sanga, Mahendrajyoti, and Chalal Ganeshsthan in Banepa.

The decision-making process to grant approval for purchasing land under the ceiling exemption involved then Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, then Land Reform Minister Dambar Shrestha, then Chief Secretary Madhav Ghimire, then Secretary Chhabiraj Pant, along with other high-ranking officials and employees.

Within a month of receiving approval to purchase land under the ceiling exemption, on February 19, 2010, the company's Chief submitted an application to the then Land Reform Minister Shrestha seeking permission to sell the land acquired under the exemption. (ANI)

PAK SECURITY FORCES KILL 14 TERRORISTS IN NORTHWEST PAKISTAN

04 JUN 2025

PESHAWAR (TIP): Security forces mowed down 14 terrorists in an intelligence-based operation at a tribal district bordering Afghanistan in northwest Pakistan, military media wing said on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations, "On June 2-3, 2025, an intelligence-based operation was conducted by the security forces in general area of Datta Khel, North Waziristan district, on a reported presence of terrorists."

The troops raided a terrorist hideout in the area.

"After an intense exchange of fire, 14 khwarij were sent to hell," the statement said.

"Sanitisation operations are being conducted to eliminate any other



terrorists found in the area. The security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of sponsored terrorism from the country," it added. (PTI)

Bangladesh opens trial of deposed ex-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

02 JUN 2025

DHAKA (TIP): A special tribunal set up to try Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina began proceedings Sunday by accepting charges of crimes against humanity filed against her in connection with a mass uprising in which hundreds of students were killed last year.

The Dhaka-based International Crimes Tribunal directed investigators to produce Hasina, a former home minister and a former police chief before the court on June 16.

Hasina has been in exile in India since Aug. 5, 2024, while former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan is missing and possibly also in India. Former police chief Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun has been arrested. Bangladesh sent a formal request to India to extradite Hasina in December.

State-run Bangladesh Television broadcast the court proceedings live.

Hasina and her Awami League party had earlier criticized the tribunal and its prosecution team for their connection with political parties, especially with the Jamaat-e-Islami party.

IN AN INVESTIGATION REPORT SUBMITTED ON MAY 12, THE TRIBUNAL'S INVESTIGATORS BROUGHT FIVE ALLEGATIONS OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY AGAINST HASINA AND THE TWO OTHERS DURING THE MASS UPRISING IN JULY-AUGUST LAST YEAR.

According to the charges, Hasina was directly responsible for ordering all state



forces, her Awami League party and its associates to carry out actions that led to mass killings, injuries, targeted violence against women and children, the incineration of bodies and denial of medical treatment to the wounded.

The charges describe Hasina as the "mastermind, conductor, and superior commander" of the atrocities.

Three days after Hasina's ouster, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus took over as the nation's interim leader.

The Yunus-led administration, which has already banned the Awami League party, amended relevant laws to allow for the trial of the former ruling party for its role during the uprising.

In February, the U.N. human rights office estimated that up to 1,400 people may have been killed in Bangladesh over three weeks in the crackdown on the student-led protests against Hasina, who ruled the country for 15 years.

The tribunal was established by Hasina in 2009 to investigate and try crimes involving Bangladesh's independence war in 1971. The tribunal under Hasina tried politicians, mostly from the Jamaat-e-Islami party, for

their actions during the nine-month war against Pakistan. Aided by India, Bangladesh gained independence from Pakistan under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina's father and the country's first leader.

In a separate development, Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Sunday cleared the path for the Jamaat-e-Islami party to regain its registration as a political party after a decade — a decision that would enable the party to take part in elections.

The country's top court overturned a previous High Court verdict and said it is now up to the Election Commission to formally restore the registration of Bangladesh's largest Islamist party and their election symbol.

Yunus said his administration would hold the election by June next year, but the Bangladesh Nationalist Party headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Hasina's archrival, wants the election to be held in December this year. The relation between Zia's party, which is the largest in absence of Hasina's party, and the Yunus-led government has recently been frosty over the polls schedule. (AP)



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Walnuts may help fight ageing

Eating an overall healthy diet, including certain foods such as walnuts and other whole foods, may reduce the risk of physical function impairments throughout the ageing process in women, a new study has found.

Women who consumed 1-2 servings of walnuts per week (1/4 cup per serving) showed reduced risk of developing impairments in physical functions, the study said. Walnuts are unique among nuts in that they are primarily composed of polyunsaturated fat (13 grams per ounce), which includes alpha-linolenic acid (ALA), the plant-based omega-3 fatty acid.

They are the only nut to contain a significant amount of ALA with 2.5 grams per one ounce serving, the study noted.

"There is a lot of research that looks at specific health conditions in ageing, such as diabetes and heart disease, but less attention to research on quality of life and ability to maintain independence with ageing," said Francine Grodstein, Professor at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in the US.

Further, a higher intake of fruits and vegetables, lower intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, trans fat and sodium and moderate alcohol intake were diets most associated with reduced rates of incident physical impairment.

Among food components, the strongest relations were found for increased intakes of oranges, orange juice, apples, pears, romaine or leaf lettuce and walnuts.

Overall diet quality, rather than individual foods, may have a greater impact on reducing risk of physical function impairments, emphasised the paper published in the Journal of Nutrition.

For the study, the team looked at data from 54,762 women in the Nurses' Health Study, which tracked women for over 30 years.

Between 1992 and 2008, the team



examined these participants' association between the dietary habits of the participants and subsequent impairment in physical function.

Helps weight loss

Contrary to what people believe, walnuts can form a part of weight management diet. Several studies have suggested that regular consumption of walnuts is unlikely to cause weight gain or obesity. In fact, an ounce of walnuts contains 2.5g of omega 3 fats, 4g of protein and 2g of fibre that help provide satiety. Any successful weight management plan must include satiety factor; so walnut is undoubtedly the right food to consider if you are into a weight management programme. Despite being 'dense in calories, walnuts can be an important tool in helping you lose weight.

Induces sleep

Walnuts contain a compound called melatonin, responsible for conveying messages regarding the cycle of light and dark to the body. Since melatonin is already synthesised by the body, consumption of walnuts increases the blood levels of melatonin, thereby inducing sleep. That's why

eating walnuts can be a great way to improve sleep.

Great for your hair

Walnut is a good 'hair food' too. This is because walnuts contain biotin (vitamin B7) that helps strengthen hair, reduce hair fall and improve hair growth to certain extent. In addition to walnuts, you can try these foods to prevent hair loss.

Prevents heart disease

Among all the dietary plants and nuts, walnuts contain the highest amount of antioxidants. Around 100 g of walnuts will give more than 20 mmol antioxidants, which makes them extremely effective in combating heart disease by their ability to destroy free radicals. They are also loaded with omega-3 fatty acids that lowers bad cholesterol and increases the production of good cholesterol making it a great snack to keep your heart in great health.

Prevents diabetes

All types of nuts are associated with a lowered risk of diabetes and walnuts are no exception. According to a study, women who consumed 28 grams of walnuts twice a week were 24% less likely to develop type 2 diabetes.



Nawabi Pulao

Ingredients

- 1/2 kg chicken
- 1/4 kg mutton
- 1/2 kg rice
- 1 cup curd, well beaten
- 1 cup milk
- 3 onions
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup green peas, shelled
- 1 pod arlic
- 1 big piece of ginger
- 1 tsp rose water
- Ghee or oil for frying
- Salt to taste

Method

- Clean and wash rice and soak it in water for 15 minutes.
- Cook the rice till half done. Keep aside. 3. Clean and cut the mutton into cubes. Joint the chicken. Boil the eggs and keep aside.
- Slice the onions. Grind ginger and garlic to a paste.
- Heat ghee in a frying pan, add onions, ginger-garlic paste and fry well.
- Add the jointed chicken and fry. Add 3 cups of water and salt to taste and cook on slow fire till the meat is tender and only 1/3 of the gravy is left.
- Add some more ghee and the well beaten curd. Cook on a slow fire until the curd gets absorbed.
- Add 1 tsp of rose water after the meat has cooled.
- Take a heavy bottomed pan and arrange alternate layers of rice and cooked meat taking care that the first and last layers are that of rice.
- Place in an oven and cook for about 15-20 minutes on low heat.
- Garnish with fried onions, quartered boiled eggs and boiled green peas.

Hydrate, exfoliate, moisturize to avoid dry skin

Save your skin from dryness and dehydration. Increase water intake and exfoliate the dead skin cells to achieve smooth skin, says an expert.

An expert from Advanced Beauty and Cosmetic Clinic has shared a few tips to get spotless skin:

- Hydrate: Hydrating yourself is absolutely essential to keep your skin healthy. A lot of water content from the body is lost while you sweat during summer season. Therefore, it is essential to increase water intake by a couple of glasses every day.
- Avoid caffeinated drinks and keep away from aerated drinks too as they further dehydrate the skin. Instead, opt for freshly squeezed lime juice or go for coconut water and other fresh juices.
- Exfoliate: Exfoliation helps in the removal of dead skin cells and in achieving smooth skin. You can do



it yourself at home with the right mix.

- Oatmeal, honey, lemon, curd, cucumber are some of the ingredients that can work wonders on your skin. In summer season, exfoliate at least thrice a week to remove dead skin and improve blood circulation.

- Moisturize: It is necessary to moisturise your skin before you step out in the searing sun. This will keep your skin hydrated and prevent it from becoming dry and scaly.

Apply a light and non-greasy moisturiser after you step out from a shower and before applying sunscreen. Follow this procedure in the night.

- Balanced diet: It is not just water that helps you to stay hydrated; indulging in fresh fruits, leafy vegetables and salads help as well. Eat the right food to nourish your skin and stay fit during summer. Avoid boiling or steaming vegetables for too long, as this will reduce their water content. Junk food, beverages, non-vegetarian and spicy preparations are a strict no-no as well during summer.

Add moringa powder in your diet today to boost your health

Moringa powder is a nutrient-rich supplement made by drying and grinding the leaves of the Moringa oleifera tree, often referred to as the "miracle tree." Native to parts of Africa and Asia, this green powder is packed with vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and essential amino acids. It has long been used in traditional medicine for its powerful health-boosting properties. When added to the diet, whether mixed into smoothies, sprinkled over meals, or brewed as tea, moringa powder can provide a broad range of nutritional benefits. In this article, we share a list of benefits you can achieve from moringa powder.

Ways moringa powder can boost health when added to the diet

Rich source of antioxidants

Moringa powder is abundant in antioxidants like quercetin, chlorogenic acid, and beta-carotene. These compounds help neutralise free radicals in the body, reducing oxidative stress that contributes to chronic diseases, aging, and cellular damage. By lowering oxidative stress, moringa supports better skin health, brain function, and cardiovascular protection.

Boosts immunity

Loaded with immune-supporting nutrients like vitamin C, vitamin A, iron, and zinc, moringa powder strengthens the body's defence mechanisms. Vitamin A enhances white blood cell function, while vitamin C promotes the production of antibodies and the absorption of iron—vital for immune cell performance. Regular consumption can reduce the frequency and severity of infections.

Supports healthy blood sugar levels

Moringa contains compounds like isothiocyanates that help regulate blood sugar. Studies have shown that moringa powder can lower post-meal blood glucose levels and improve insulin sensitivity. This makes it especially



beneficial for individuals managing type 2 diabetes or those at risk of insulin resistance.

Enhances digestive health

Moringa powder is a good source of fibre, which aids in digestion by promoting regular bowel movements and maintaining a healthy gut microbiome. It also contains anti-inflammatory compounds that may soothe the digestive tract, reducing symptoms like bloating, constipation, and gastritis.

Improves heart health

The antioxidants and anti-inflammatory agents in moringa powder help reduce bad cholesterol (LDL) and triglyceride levels while increasing good cholesterol (HDL). These effects lower the risk of arterial plaque buildup and hypertension, thus supporting cardiovascular health and lowering the risk of stroke and heart disease.

Balances hormones

Moringa powder has been shown to positively affect hormonal balance, especially in women. Its high levels of plant compounds can help regulate oestrogen and reduce symptoms related to hormonal fluctuations, such as mood swings, fatigue, and menstrual irregularities.



Study finds effect of coffee on a sleeping brain

Coffee can help you stay awake, but what does caffeine actually do to your brain once you're asleep? Using AI, a team of researchers has an answer: it affects the brain's 'criticality'.

In a study published in April in Nature Communications Biology, a team of researchers from Universite de Montreal shed new light on how caffeine can modify sleep and influence the brain's recovery -- both physical and cognitive -- overnight.

The research was led by Philipp Tholke, a research trainee at UdeM's Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience Laboratory (CoCo Lab), and co-led by the lab's director Karim Jerbi, a psychology professor and researcher at Mila -- Quebec AI Institute.

Working with sleep-and-ageing psychology professor Julie Carrier and her team at UdeM's Centre for Advanced Research in Sleep Medicine, the scientists used AI and electroencephalography (EEG) to study caffeine's effect on sleep.

They showed for the first time that caffeine increases the complexity of brain signals and enhances brain "criticality" during sleep. Interestingly, this was more pronounced in younger adults.

"Criticality describes a state of the brain that is balanced between order and chaos," said Jerbi.

"It's like an orchestra: too quiet and nothing happens, too chaotic and there's cacophony. Criticality is the happy medium where brain activity is both organised and flexible. In this state, the brain functions optimally: it can process information efficiently, adapt quickly, learn and make decisions with agility," added Jerbi.

Added Carrier: "Caffeine stimulates the brain and pushes it into a state of criticality, where it is more awake, alert and reactive. While this is useful during the day for concentration, this state could interfere with rest at night: the brain would neither relax nor recover properly."

Source: ANI

US scientists develop tool to detect Covid-19 virus using bioluminescence

Researchers have developed a new virus detection tool that uses light to find infections quickly and accurately.

The device is called LUCAS (short for Luminescence CAscade-based Sensor) and could help doctors and patients detect diseases like Covid-19, HIV, and hepatitis in under 25 minutes.

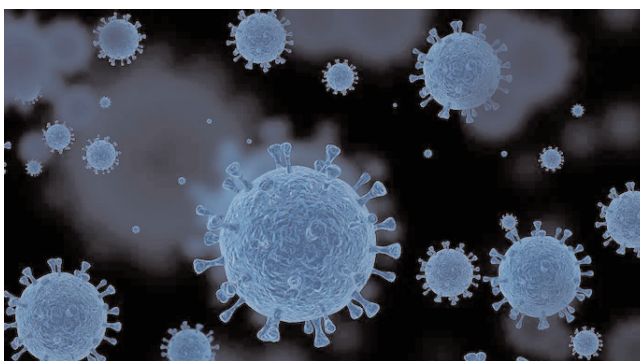
LUCAS works by using a special natural enzyme that makes things glow, just like how fireflies light up. This glow helps doctors "see" if harmful viruses are present in a person's blood or nasal sample.

While older tests using this method gave weak and short-lasting signals, LUCAS produces a signal that's 500 times brighter and lasts 8 times longer.

Dr. Hadi Shafiee, who led the study at Mass General Brigham (the largest hospital-based research firm in the US), explained how difficult it can be to detect viruses in body fluids. The findings are published in Nature Biomedical Engineering.

"Finding a virus particle in blood is like finding an ice cube in a jelly-filled Olympic swimming pool while blindfolded," said Dr. Shafiee. But with LUCAS, that becomes a lot easier.

The researchers tested LUCAS on samples from people with Covid-19, HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C, and found that the tool gave accurate results 94% of the time.



It was able to do this in just 23 minutes, much faster than many lab tests.

What makes LUCAS even more special is that it's portable and easy to use. This means it could be used in both hospitals and remote areas where access to labs is limited.

The team hopes that LUCAS could one day also help detect other diseases, such as Alzheimer's, as scientists discover new warning signs or biomarkers. The researchers are now working on improving it further so it can test for multiple infections at once.

"Early detection makes a huge difference in treatment. Our goal is to make that early detection easier and available to everyone," said Dr. Sungwan Kim, a researcher on the team.

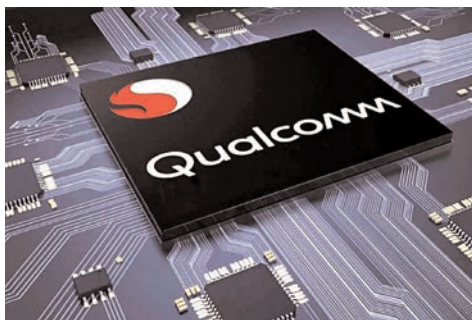
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Qualcomm fixes multiple zero-day chip flaws after Google warns of active exploits by hackers

Chipmaker Qualcomm has rolled out security patches to fix three serious zero-day vulnerabilities affecting its Adreno GPU (graphics processing unit) driver, after Google warned that hackers were actively exploiting these flaws in targeted attacks. The issues came to light after Google's Threat Analysis Group (TAG) shared evidence that the vulnerabilities — tracked as CVE-2025-21479, CVE-2025-21480, and CVE-2025-27038 — were being used in the wild. These flaws affect dozens of chipsets and could allow attackers to gain control of a device or install spyware.

"There are indications from Google Threat Analysis Group that CVE-2025-21479, CVE-2025-21480, CVE-2025-27038 may be under limited, targeted exploitation," Qualcomm said in a security advisory on Monday.

The first two vulnerabilities, CVE-2025-21479 and CVE-2025-21480, were reported to Qualcomm in January by Google's Android Security team. These issues are related to incorrect authorisation in the GPU's graphics framework, which can lead to memory corruption. The third flaw, CVE-2025-27038, was reported in March and is described as a use-after-free bug — a type of memory corruption that happens when a program continues to use memory after it has been freed.

The third vulnerability is believed to be connected to the rendering process in Chrome when using Adreno GPU drivers. Qualcomm said it provided patches for all three vulnerabilities to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in May. The company says that the patches for the issues affecting the Adreno Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) driver have been made available to OEMs in May together with a strong recommendation to deploy the update on affected devices as soon as possible.

While the specific devices affected were not listed, Qualcomm advised users to contact their device makers for patch information. "We encourage end users to apply security updates as they become available from device makers," Qualcomm spokesperson Dave Schefcik said in a statement.

Google also confirmed that its Pixel line of smartphones were not affected by these vulnerabilities, a Google spokesperson told TechCrunch.

Google working on AI tool to answer emails in your style

Artificial intelligence may one day cure diseases and resolve the climate crisis, but for now, the Google DeepMind CEO has his sights set on a more relatable goal: conquering the modern email inbox. Demis Hassabis revealed during his keynote at the SXSW festival in London that his team is developing an advanced AI-driven email system aimed at lifting the burden of routine digital correspondence. "The thing I really want, and we're working on, is can we have a next-generation email," he said. He added, "I would love to get rid of my email. I would pay thousands of dollars per month to get rid of that."

The system would automatically manage everyday messages, respond in the user's tone, and help prioritise what needs urgent attention, essentially functioning as a digital personal assistant. "Something that would just understand what are the bread-and-butter emails, and answer in your style — and maybe make some of the easier decisions," Hassabis explained.

While AI is often touted as a solution to humanity's grandest problems, Hassabis cautioned against inflated short-term expectations. "Its impact is overhyped in the short term," he noted, but added that AI will bring "profound longer-term changes to society."

In addition to streamlining communication, Hassabis envisages AI as a counterforce to the very systems built by tech companies to capture attention.



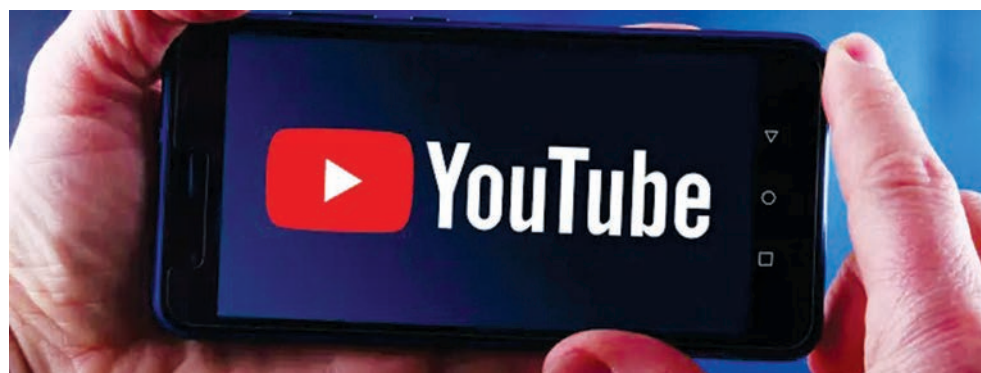
"I'm very excited about the idea of a universal AI assistant that knows you really well, enriches your life by maybe giving you amazing recommendations, and helps to take care of mundane chores for you," he said. "[It] basically gives you more time and maybe protects your attention from other algorithms trying to gain your attention. I think we can actually use AI in service of the individual."

Hassabis also touched on the race to develop artificial general intelligence (AGI) — systems capable of human-level

reasoning across diverse tasks. He had initially assumed this effort would be spearheaded by academia, but the speed of AI's commercial uptake has drawn major corporations into the fray far earlier than expected.

With the stakes rising, he urged the United States and China to collaborate on safety protocols and global standards. "I hope at least on the scientific level and a safety level we can find some common ground, because in the end it's for the good of all of humanity," he said. "It's going to affect the whole of humanity."

YouTube app will stop working on these iPhone and iPad models



YouTube has quietly rolled out a new app update that ends support for a number of older iPhones and iPads. With the latest 20.22.1 version, the YouTube app now requires iOS 16 or later to function, cutting off access for Apple devices that can't go beyond iOS 15.

This means users still using the iPhone 6s, iPhone 6s Plus, iPhone 7, iPhone 7 Plus, or the first-generation iPhone SE won't be able to install or update the YouTube app anymore. Support has also ended for the iPod touch 7th generation, which is also stuck on iOS 15.

On the iPad side, YouTube now demands iPadOS 16 or later, which leaves behind models like the iPad Air 2 and iPad mini 4. These devices, despite being reliable for basic use, are no longer compatible with the latest version of the app.

While the YouTube app won't run on these devices, users still have the option to access the platform via the mobile browser by visiting m.youtube.com. However, that experience lacks many features found in the app, such as smooth navigation, offline support, and better video streaming tools.

The shift reflects an ongoing trend where developers are increasingly focusing on newer devices with more advanced software. YouTube's decision to

drop support for older iPhones comes around the same time as Apple officially labelled the iPhone 6 as "obsolete", meaning it no longer qualifies for repairs or service through official channels.

Interestingly, WhatsApp also implemented a similar move a few days back. The Meta-owned messaging platform has now restricted its service to iPhones running iOS 15.1 or higher, and Android phones running Android 5.0 or above. This ends WhatsApp support for a range of smartphones launched before 2014, including models like the iPhone 5s, iPhone 6, Samsung Galaxy S3, HTC One

X, and Sony Xperia Z.

According to Meta, older devices lack the security standards and system capabilities required to support modern versions of WhatsApp. The company said it routinely assesses which devices still make sense to support, and gradually phases out ones with minimal user share and outdated hardware.

For users still relying on these legacy devices, these changes signal that it may finally be time to consider an upgrade, especially if daily-use apps like YouTube and WhatsApp are beginning to leave them behind.

India calls for WTO action on non-tariff barriers, improved conflict resolution

PARIS (TIP)

India has called for sweeping reforms to the World Trade Organization (WTO) during a high-level mini-ministerial meeting of 25 member countries in Paris, pressing for action against non-tariff barriers and the restoration of the WTO's stalled dispute settlement mechanism. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal outlined India's vision for a modernized WTO, emphasizing the need to address trade distortions and bolster multilateral governance ahead of the organization's crucial ministerial conference next year.

Speaking to reporters after the Australia-convened meeting, Goyal detailed India's three-pronged reform agenda: tackling non-tariff barriers that restrict market access, addressing distortions caused by non-market economies, and reviving the WTO's dispute settlement system, which has been paralyzed since 2009 due to U.S. opposition to appellate body appointments. The minister stressed the importance of preserving the WTO's consensus-based decision-making and special treatment for developing nations, which India views as cornerstones of the organization's legitimacy.

The dysfunctional dispute settlement system has left countries without a mechanism to resolve trade disputes, undermining the WTO's enforcement capabilities. While some members have proposed the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA) as a temporary solution, Goyal expressed



Minister Piyush Goyal at the India-France Business Conference. ANI

doubts about its effectiveness. "Only one or two members spoke about it, but there doesn't seem to be much consensus or traction. I haven't heard of any cases resolved through MPIA," he remarked.

India also firmly opposed efforts to expand the WTO's mandate beyond traditional trade issues, particularly rejecting a China-led Investment Facilitation for Development proposal supported by 128 countries. Goyal argued that such initiatives risk fragmenting the multilateral system and creating divisions among members. "Issues mandated at the WTO should take priority and be resolved first. Non-trade issues should not be introduced, as they would deepen differences," he said.

The Paris discussions also tackled longstanding challenges, including

agricultural trade reforms and environmental concerns. Key priorities included finding permanent solutions for public food grain stockholding programs and addressing overfishing practices that threaten marine ecosystems. Goyal emphasized resolving existing mandated issues before introducing new frameworks, reflecting India's focus on completing unfinished business.

Despite growing tensions within the 166-member organization, Goyal dismissed claims of an existential crisis for the WTO. "One should not jump to conclusions about a crisis," he said, advocating for pragmatic solutions within existing frameworks. He highlighted a collective resolve among participating countries to strengthen the WTO, respect its core principles, and promote global trade growth.

Trump signs order to double steel, aluminium import tariffs to 50%

WASHINGTON (TIP)

A 50% tariff on steel and aluminium imports into the United States went into effect on Wednesday, June 4, doubling the previous rate as President Donald Trump cited national security concerns for the dramatic escalation in trade protections.

The new tariff rates, increased from an earlier 25% rate, were announced by Trump in a statement on Tuesday. The president claimed legal authority to impose the tariffs through Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, which allows the president to address national security risks arising from imports.

"In my judgement, the increased tariffs will more effectively counter foreign countries that continue to offload low-priced, excess steel and aluminium in the United States market and thereby undercut the competitiveness of the United States steel and aluminium industries," read Trump's statement



released by the White House.

Trump said the earlier 25% tariff rates, first announced in February and implemented on March 12, had helped America's steel industry but had not enabled companies to maintain the capacity needed to meet national defence needs.

"I have determined that increasing the previously imposed tariffs will provide greater support to these industries and

reduce or eliminate the national security threat posed by imports of steel and aluminium articles and their derivative articles," Trump said.

The tariff increase comes amid broader trade disputes at the World Trade Organisation. Several countries, including India, have formally challenged the US measures, characterising them as "safeguard measures" that violate WTO rules and threaten retaliatory action.

In May, India formally notified the WTO that it viewed America's tariffs on steel and aluminium as safeguard measures and indicated it could suspend "concessions and other obligations" given to the US and that it retains the right to enforce retaliatory measures. On May 22, America rejected India's characterisation of the tariffs as safeguard measures and refused to engage in talks on the matter.



Most Asian markets rise as US data feeds rate-cut hopes

Asian shares mostly rose on Thursday, June 5, after soft US economic data boosted expectations the Federal Reserve will soon cut interest rates and put the focus on key jobs figures coming at the end of the week.

Investors were also keeping track of developments in Donald Trump's trade war and signs of movement on possible talks between the US president and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Wall Street provided an uninspiring lead as a report by payroll firm ADP showed private-sector jobs rose by 37,000 last month, a sharp slowdown from April's 60,000 and less than a third of what was forecast in a Bloomberg survey.

Another survey showed activity in the services sector contracted in May for the first time since June last year.

The readings stoked concerns that the world's number one economy was stuttering, with the Fed's closely watched "Beige Book" study noting that "economic activity has declined slightly".

It flagged household and business caution caused by slower hiring and heightened uncertainty surrounding Trump's policies.

However, the readings ramped up bets on a Fed cut, with markets pricing in two by the end of the year, with the first in September.

Still, there is some concern that the US president's tariff blitz will ramp up inflation, which could put pressure on the Fed to keep borrowing costs elevated.

Most of Asia rose in early trade, with Hong Kong, Sydney, Singapore, Taipei and Wellington up. Shanghai was flat and Tokyo fell ahead of a closely watched Japanese government bond auction.

Seoul rallied more than two percent on continued excitement after the election of a new president ended a six-month power vacuum. The won rose around 0.4 percent, building on a recent run-up.

Jakarta edged higher as Indonesia's government began rolling out a \$1.5 billion stimulus package after Southeast Asia's biggest economy saw its slowest growth in more than three years in the first quarter.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says that this week, the doors of many new opportunities will open for you. The time has come to reap the fruits of your efforts and hard work. Positive changes are likely in the job or business. Maintain harmony with the team, as collective efforts can help you achieve your goals. In personal life, relationships will be infused with new energy. For those who were facing stress for some time, this is the time for harmony and harmony. Spend time with your loved ones and experience the warmth of love. In terms of health, this week will be full of good energy for you. Follow regular exercise and a balanced diet. This is also the right time to adopt a new health plan. Keep in mind that staying full of strength and enthusiasm is the key this week. Be ready for new experiences and trust your intuition. This week is going to take you to new heights.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week marks a new beginning for you. On the work front, you will be full of energy and inspiration. Your hard work will pay off, and colleagues will appreciate your ability. This is the right time to breathe new life into old projects. In personal life, it will be necessary to spend time with your loved ones. Strengthen communication with them and try to resolve any disputes if there are any. You will get good support from family members, which will boost your morale. In terms of health, pay attention to your mental health. Meditation and yoga will be beneficial for you. Amidst the busy schedule, it is important to take some time for rest. There are signs of a change in careers, so take your financial decisions carefully. Control expenses as needed. It is important to keep yourself in positivity this week and wait for new opportunities.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week, the situation is going to be very exciting for Gemini natives. There are signs of new possibilities opening up in your life, especially in the workplace. Your communication skills will be great, which will help you build good relations with colleagues and partners. It is time to express your ideas with clarity. If you are working on a new project, then use your creativity to the fullest. You will also be active in social life, there will be opportunities to make new friends and spend time with old friends. A little hard work is needed in personal relationships. Promote

communication with your partner; this will increase mutual understanding and love. Be careful in health matters, too; regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy level. This week, try to take some time for yourself, and do not ignore your interests and hobbies. It is important to take care of your mental and emotional well-being. This week, keep your expectations a little balanced and take every challenge as a new experience.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week, a lot of positive opportunities and changes will come your way. You will get a chance to spend time with family members, which will strengthen your relationship even more. Mentally, you will feel calm and balanced, which will help you focus on your goals. Your hard work in the workplace can get meaningful results. Your efficiency and dedication towards work will impress your superiors, which can lead to an opportunity for promotion or new responsibilities. Maintain proper coordination with colleagues, as this teamwork will help you move forward. You may see some improvement in your health. Regular exercise and proper diet will make you feel more energetic. Practice meditation or yoga for mental health. There are good prospects in love life this week as well. Be communicative and act wisely in relationships. If you are new in a relationship, then this is the time to know each other. If you are married, it would be best to ignore minor arguments. Maintain positivity in every field this week and move forward by being firm towards your goals.



LEO

Ganesha says new opportunities may arrive this week. This is the time to boost your confidence and take precise steps towards your goals. At the workplace, you will be able to showcase your creativity, which will make you stand out. In personal life, there will be harmony in relationships. Try to spend time with your loved ones; their presence will give you mental peace and energy. From a financial point of view, expenses need to be controlled so that they can be secured for the future. In terms of health, focus on meditation and yoga. These will help improve your mental health. Move forward with positive energy this week and make sure that you believe in your abilities.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week is a golden opportunity to create a balance between personal and professional life. This is the time to focus on yourself and adopt new strategies for growth. You should keep regularity in your actions and strive for perfection in whatever you do. This week, there will be clarity in your thoughts, which will help you solve difficulties

easily. Pay attention to health, especially mental health. Yoga and meditation will prove beneficial for you. Your relationships require a little sensitivity. Communicate with your loved ones and try to understand their feelings. You will have to exercise some discretion in family matters. Be cautious in financial matters as well. Control expenses and be careful with the accumulated money. This time is good for investment, but go ahead with a complete plan. Overall, this week will be busy for you, but the fruits of your efforts will be sweet. Continue to try to adopt self-reliance and new ideas.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week, a sense of harmony and cordiality will prevail in your life. You will be able to establish better communication in your relationships, which will help you stay connected with everyone. It is time to make important decisions in the workplace; trust your intuition and move forward thoughtfully. Be cautious in financial matters, and avoid unnecessary expenses. Spending time with family will give you mental peace, so try to spend some quality time with your loved ones. Your creativity can touch new dimensions, so take time to adopt your hobbies. Be careful in terms of health, especially since it is necessary to pay attention to mental health. If you practice meditation or yoga, it will be beneficial for you. Participating in social activities will establish new friendships and relationships. This week will bring balance and positivity for you. Keep the energy around you positive and include others in your thoughts and feelings.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week is going to be a positive and encouraging week for Scorpio natives. Winds of change are going to blow in your life, which can give you a new direction. Especially in the field of work, your efforts will show good results. Everyone will appreciate your strength and dedication. In personal relationships, this week is a time to increase conversation and understanding. Moments spent with family members will strengthen your relationships. If you are in a special relationship, then you will get a chance to do something special at this time, which will breathe new life into your relationship. Your mental state will also remain strong, which will help you focus on your plans. In terms of health, a little regular exercise and proper diet will maintain your energy level. This week, recognize your inner strength and keep moving towards your goals. Maintain a positive attitude and be ready to face challenges. Trust your intuition, it will show you the right path.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week's horoscope is going to bring happiness and positivity to your life. At this time, you will be

enthusiastic about your goals and inspired to have new ideas. This week will also be very good for your social life, where you can meet old friends and make new connections. At the workplace, your hard work on a project or task will pay off. You will be able to use your abilities in the right direction, and this will lead to advancement in your career. But, keep in mind that you should not ignore health due to work pressure. Taking time for rest and meditation will be important. Sweetness will also remain in family relationships. Spending time with your loved ones will give you mental peace. If you are worried about something, do not hesitate to share it. People around you will be ready to help you. Be careful in financial matters. There may be sudden expenses, so it will be better to keep expenses under control. This week, also take time for meditation and self-reflection. Listening to your inner voice will give you clarity, and you will be able to decide the direction ahead. Move forward with positive thinking and keep moving towards success in all areas.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is a time of overall growth and positive change for Capricorn natives. You will discover new possibilities in your workplace, which can give a new direction to your career. Collaboration with fellow workers will increase, and your ideology will be full of hard work and dedication. In personal life, there will be opportunities to spend time with family. Your relationship will deepen, and you will be able to spend a good time with people close to you. There will be an exchange of ideas, which will lead to better mutual understanding. In terms of health, there is a need to focus on fitness. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will improve your health. Meditation and yoga can have a positive effect on your mental balance. By participating in social activities, you can make new friends and increase your network. This week will be full of enthusiasm, dedication, and positivity for you. By being sensitive to your goals, you can increase your abilities even more.



AQUARIUS

This week can bring new life and energy. Your social relationships will improve, and new friends will be made. Cooperation with the team at the workplace will increase, which will get your ideas recognized. Try to maintain balance in personal life; do not hesitate to share your feelings. It is also important to be cautious about health this week; if there is any health problem going on already, then taking steps in the right direction will be beneficial. If you are interested in art or creativity, then this week is a good time to work on new projects. Forgetting the worries of the past will help you move forward. Your attitude will be positive, and you will be ready to embrace new opportunities. Be

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 9 TO JUNE 15 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JUNE 9

Ganesha says in a professional sense, things are a lot better, and you'd be moving around with more vigor and assurance. Your business or job may alter for the better. Expect recognition and financial advantages from those who work in the creative industries, such as writing, art, and other creative fields. Undoubtedly, health would require greater focus. For spiritual and physical well-being, meditation and yoga should be practiced. Children will offer assistance and bring in some joyful and positive news.

JUNE 10

Ganesha says you'll become more self-assured. With my exceptional company entrepreneurship talents, you would gain. Numerous new tasks and projects would increase your prosperity. court and government favor for some. Uneasy times at home could result from a misunderstanding with your spouse. The entire family's emotions will be lifted later by some thrilling news from abroad. Making new allies would be possible through travel. some new relationships. Concerns about a family member's infant's health may arise.

JUNE 11

Ganesha says your happiness and financial success now. To attain your objectives, you must make no effort. Entrepreneurs will explore fresh, more lucrative opportunities. Real estate and stock investments would both be very profitable. If there are any property problems, they will be resolved to your satisfaction. Your spouse's health should be a worry. It appears likely that your medical costs will go up. Spending time with friends would be beneficial because they would be understanding of your issues.

JUNE 12

Ganesha says you should prepare yourself for new jobs and positions with significant duties. As previous investments start reaping rewards, your financial situation stabilizes. Prosperity and happiness are brought into the home by better finances. In terms of romance, this time is good for ladies and girls. It is possible to experience some financial gains from inheritance or pricey presents from family members. It would be possible to travel frequently and earn high money for it. Some people may make a long trip abroad. Be careful not to lend or borrow money.

JUNE 13

Ganesha says your financial situation would improve, but your savings would not go as planned. Your finances would always be tight due to unforeseen, unanticipated bills. for some, an increase in responsibilities or a change in employment. A new business deal or financial transaction will have lucrative outcomes. Your personality will be profoundly affected if a spiritual person suddenly comes into your life. Your spouse will be sympathetic and show you love and affection. Gains due to ancestry for some. Be wary of acquaintances who act too amiably.

JUNE 14

Ganesha says your confidence and enthusiasm would be valued by your employer. Many tasks that you previously deemed unattainable would be possible for you to complete. Making new contacts would result in financial gains. It will be interesting and intellectually stimulating to go on vacation or hang out with friends. Both friends and family will be encouraging. You'll be bothered by minor domestic conflicts and worry. Take special care of your health; consequently, watch what you eat.



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

JUNE 15

Ganesha says people would be impressed by your charisma and communication skills. Although your salary would increase, it would be very challenging for you to preserve money because of your unpredictable spending. New romance is for single people, but your productivity will probably suffer if you constantly daydream about this special someone. If you want to reach your goals, you shouldn't let anything hinder your career aspirations. Family members' elders and kids will need a lot of your attention. Lawyers and doctors can anticipate a fantastic period.

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careful in financial matters and avoid making investments without thinking. This week, focus on your plans and make beneficial decisions for the long term. As you will make this week a source of inspiration for yourself, embrace it happily.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week's horoscope indicates new possibilities in your life. This week is an important time to understand your inner feelings and sensations. There will be warmth in relationships with family and friends, which will make you feel mentally at peace. You may face some new challenges at work, but your creative ideas and intuition will help you succeed. Your contribution to teamwork will be important. Focus on building good relationships with colleagues, as this will help you move forward. In personal life, your relationship with someone special may deepen. Share your inner feelings, this will strengthen the bond between you. It is also important to pay attention to health issues; proper diet and exercise

will keep you feeling refreshed. This week, it will be beneficial to adopt the practice of meditation, which will help

you maintain mental clarity and balance. Do not be afraid to express your feelings, as this will further increase your inner

strength. Maintain a positive attitude towards hopes and dreams, and accept this week as a new beginning.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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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

JUNE 6 TO JUNE 12

6th June

1628 Guru Har Gobind Sahib fought and won the first battle of Amritsar against the Mughal army.

1663 Janam, Bhai Mohkam Singh, one of the first five GurSikh initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam Singh was born at Dwarka to father Teerath Chand Shanbae and Mata Dev Bhai. Bhai Mohkam Singh was one of the first five GurSikhs initiated into the Khalsa order. Bhai Mohkam died while fighting at Chamkaur.

1711 The Khalsa Dal forces, under the leadership of Banda Singh Bahadur, defeated the forces of Delhi emporer, Bahadhur Shah, at Behrampur.

1737 Martyrdom Bhai Mani Singh Ji.

1984 Operation Bluestar: Indian Army occupied the Sikh Shrines, archives, libraries, museums. Most of them were later set abalze.



The fascist Indian Armed Forces, under the orders of Indira Gandhi (then prime minister) and Zail Singh (then President) launched the final assault on the Golden Temple complex. Today, the whole Sikh Nation salutes all those GurSikh martyrs who gave their lives while protecting the sanctity of Sri Akal Takhat and Sri Darbar Sahib. So many GurSikhs were killed that although the army paid Rs. 50 for picking up a dead body and loading it onto the awaiting trucks, there weren't enough people to get this work done. People clearing dead bodies were also given permission for retain all valuables recovered from the body. The most notable GurSikhs included Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalae, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh. Giani Puran Singh, Darbar Sahib's high priest, was told by the soldiers that the bodies of Bhindranwalae, Amrik Singh and General Shahbeg Singh were found in the courtyard of Sri Akal Takhat. Ropes were tied to the body of Gen. Shahbeg Singh. His body seemed to have been dragged from Sri Akal Takht.

7th June



1864 Maharaja Dalip Singh married Miss Bamba in Alexandria, Egypt.

1984 GurSikhs from rural Punjab march to defend Sri Darbar Sahib despite the heavy presence of armed forces.

1984 Operation Bluestar: Sikh soliders rebellion. Several Sikh solidiers killed. Thousands of the Sikh

solidiers arrested. The shocks of operation Bluestar were not limited to Amritsar and Punjab. As Sikh solidiers learned of this sacrilege of Sri Darbar Sahib, they anguise resulted in rebellions at several places. However, these rebelions were supressed, several Sikh solidiers killed and thousands of the Sikh solidiers arrested.

1984 Destruction of Sikh Reference Library by Indian Armed forces. The army deliberately set fire to the Sikh Reference Library. Valuable archives and material of significant historical importance were destroyed in this fire. This was yet another extremely sad incident. The army claims that the library caught fire during crossfire. However, according to Government of India's White Paper, the library caught fire because the militants were firing homemade grenades after using a match. Please note, that the exact date on this event is on question.

8th June

1924 Waryam Singh of Dhugga was killed at Chak No. 54, district Lyallpur.

1956 Gian Singh Rarewala announced his intention to join Congress.

1981 Secret meeting of Akali Dal where strong opinions were expressed for Khalsitan.

1984 Operation Woodrose started. Sikh youth from villages picked up and eliminated. MacCarthy style witch hunt led to killing of hundreds of Sikhs and arrest of thousands of Sikhs.

1984 Giani Zail Singh, President of India, visits Darbar Sahib after Indian Amry's assault there.

1984 Khushwant Singh returned his "Padam Sri" in protest of Indian army's attack on Darbar Sahib.

9 June

1716 Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and select Sikhs were tortured to death under orders of Badshah Farukhsiyar. Baba Banda Singh Bahadur was offered life on embracing Islam. After his refusal, his son was murdered before his eyes. The child's heart was thrust into Banada Singh's mouth. Then his right eye was pulled out followed by the pulling out of his left eye. Then his left foot was chopped off, next to fo were his arms. Then his flesh was cust off bit by bit. His brain was struck with a hammer. So was Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, along with his infant son and a few select followers, was mercilessly tortured to death in Delhi by the order of Emporer Farukh Siyar (successor to Bahadhur Shah). The remaining Sikhs were beheaded on June 10, 1716.

1946 Punjab board established.

1946 Sikhs rejected Cabinet Mission proposals.

1949 Hindu members of the Panjab University opposed Punjabi as a medium of instruction.

10th June

1716 Remaining Sikhs captured with Baba Banda Singh Bahadur were beheaded.

1746 Lakhpat Rai killed more than 10,000 Sikhs. This is known as "Chhota Ghalughara", small carnage. Over



10,000 Sikhs out of a total population of 15,000 were killed. This disaster goes by the name of "chhota ghalughara", small holocaust (as against the great holocaust of 1762). After the 1745, Sarbat Khalsa resolution, Sikhs attacked Lahore one evening and decamped with a large booty. Yahya Khan who had taken over as Governor asked Diwan Lakhpar Rai to displace the Sikhs from the nearby swamp hounts. One of the units led by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia on the way to the hills clashed with his younger brother Jaspat Rai and chopped of his head. Lakhpat Rai now in rage vowed to erase the Sikhs from the pages of history. Lakhpat Rai with the help of the provincial forces fell upon the Sikhs concentrated in the marshes of Kahnuwan on Ravi. Some cut their way through hostile hillmen to Kiratpur. The main body turned back and after heavy losses crossed the Bease and the Sutlej into Malwa. 7000 Sikhs were killed, and another 3000 taken prisoners were executed at Nakhas, horse market. In March of 1747, Yahiya Khan, the Governor of Lahore, was ousted by his brother Shah Nawaz Khan and Lakhpat Rai was put in prison.

1842 During midnight, at the instance of Dhian Singh Dogra, Maharani Chand Kaur's skull was crushed with grindstone by her maids who themselves were put to death later in the day.

1896 Death of Attar Singh Bhadaur.

1957 Vir Singh passed away.

1974 Giani Kartar Singh, an Akali Leader died at Patiala.

1978 Nirankari Gurbachan Singh declared apostate by Akal Takht. A Hukamnan was issued to the Sikhs for social boycott of the' Nirankari Mafia organization by Akal Takht.

11th June



1595 Prakash Utsav, Sixth Patshah, Guru Hargobind Ji.

1982 Kulwant Singh Nagoke killed in fake encounter. This murder marked the begining of the era of fake encounters.

1982 15 Birs of Sri Guru Granth Sahib were burned at village Makha, district Bathinda.

1984 Dal Khalsa announced its Government in Exile.

1984 Dawinder Singh Garcha, an Congress(I) member for Ludhiana, resigned his position in protest of Indian Army's attack on Darbar Sahib, Amritsar.

12th June

1985 Jathaedar Pritam Singh Gojran demanded the formation of sovereign Sikh State.

1960 The Sikh procession in connection with Punjabi Suba agitation was fired upon at Delhi. Sardar Harbans Singh and three others accepted shahadat.

1984 Badal and Surjit Singh Barnala arrested under Indian Security act.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1**Elon Musk slams 'ingratitude' after...**

House defends Trump mega-bill after Musk appeals to 'Kill the Bill'

In an extraordinary rant as visiting German Chancellor Friedrich Merz sat mutely beside him, 78-year-old Trump unloaded on SpaceX and Tesla boss Musk in his first comments on the issue.

"I'm very disappointed, because Elon knew the inner workings of this bill better than almost anybody sitting here... All of a sudden, he had a problem," Trump said when asked about Musk.

The clash comes less than a week since Trump held a grand Oval Office farewell for Musk as he wrapped up his time leading the cost-cutting Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

South African-born Musk, 53, hit back minutes later, saying Trump's claims he had advance sight of the bill were "false."

"Whatever," he added above a video of Trump saying Musk was upset about the loss of subsidies for electric vehicles.

Musk then ratcheted up the public spat even further, saying the Republican would have lost the election without his support. He was the biggest donor to Trump's campaign, to the tune of nearly \$300 million.

"Without me, Trump would have lost the election," Musk said on X. "Such ingratitude."

Tesla shares fell sharply on Wall Street, down eight percent, after his comments, in a sign of the huge stakes for a falling out between the world's richest man and its most powerful.

'A little make-up?'

A wistful-sounding Trump took reporters through the break-up with Musk on live television, in what at times sounded more like a therapy session than a meeting with a foreign leader.

Trump talked about Musk's farewell appearance in the Oval Office on Friday, when he turned up with a black eye that he said was caused by a punch from his son.

Musk at the time was also facing reports of drug use on the Trump campaign trail.

"You saw a man who was very happy when he stood behind the Oval desk, and even with the black eye. I said, you want a little make-up? We'll get you a little makeup," Trump said.

"But he said, 'No, I don't think so,' which is interesting and very nice. He wants to be who he is."

Trump said he could understand why Musk was upset with some steps he had taken, including withdrawing a nominee to lead the NASA space agency whom the tech tycoon had backed.

Trump says he's withdrawing the nomination of Musk associate Jared Isaacman to lead NASA

Through it all, the visiting German chancellor sat silently.

Merz had prepared to avoid a repeat of the ambushes that Trump unleashed on the Ukrainian and South African presidents in the Oval Office -- but in the end it was Musk that the US president ambushed.

At the center of the bitter row is Trump's "big, beautiful bill" on tax and spending.

The centerpiece of his domestic agenda, it aims to continue tax cuts from his first term -- and could define his second term and make or break Republican prospects in the 2026 midterm elections.

Musk however called it a "disgusting abomination" on Tuesday, on the grounds that it will increase the US deficit.

A day later, the magnate called for Republicans to "kill the bill," and for an alternative plan that "doesn't massively grow the deficit." (Source: Reuters)

PM Modi invited to attend G7 Summit...

victory and thanked him for the invitation to the G7 Summit in Kananaskis later this month."

Making a shift from the era of Justin Trudeau when India and Canada levelled serious allegations against each other, Modi said in his post, "As vibrant democracies bound by deep people-to-people ties, India and Canada will work together with renewed vigor, guided by mutual respect and shared interests. Look forward to our meeting at the Summit (G7)."

In international summits, the host country has the discretion, particularly regarding guest invitations, agenda setting, and the overall tone of the summit. The discretion allows the host to tailor the event to its priorities and to promote its own foreign policy objectives.

The G7 is a grouping of the most industrialized economies in the world-the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Canada. Summits are also attended by the European Union (EU), the IMF, the World Bank and the UN.

India-Canada relations nosedived following the killing of Khalistani separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023. Trudeau accused India of being involved in the assassination. India called Trudeau's charges baseless. (TNS)

Trump issues travel ban for 12 countries

Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela.

"These restrictions distinguish between, but apply to both, the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants," the order states.

Driving the news: The order that was made moments before he directed an investigation into President Biden, goes into effect Monday, per the proclamation.

It includes exceptions for lawful permanent U.S. residents, existing visa holders, other special visas, adoptions, and for athletes traveling for the World Cup, Olympics or other major sporting events.

Exceptions will be made "case-by-case for individuals for whom the Secretary of State finds, in his discretion, that the travel by the individual would serve a United States national interest," the order states.

What he's saying: "The recent terror attack in Boulder, Colorado, has underscored the extreme dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted," Trump said in a video posted on Truth Social Wednesday evening.

"We don't want 'em," the president said, blaming his predecessor, Biden, for "his open door policies."

Trump added, "We cannot have open migration from any country where we cannot safely and reliably vet and screen those who seek to enter the United States."

Context: The proclamation comes after Trump issued an executive order on Jan. 20 directing the State Department, Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence to draft a report on whether there's a national security risk posed by entry to the U.S. from certain countries.

Flashback: Trump issued a similar executive order during his first term, banning travel to the U.S. by citizens of predominantly Muslim countries, including Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

The order, often referred to as a "Muslim ban," was highly controversial and was met with legal challenges. The administration was forced to revise the order and the Supreme Court ultimately upheld a version of it.

Biden rescinded the ban on his first day in office.

President Trump is again prioritizing travel bans, furthering his administration's crackdown on unauthorized immigration.

Trump's first term travel bans caused immediate confusion, humanitarian concern and were slammed as discriminatory.

"China absolutely impossible factor to...

Indian Embassy here on Thursday, June 5.

The largest single project under the Belt and Road Initiative is the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Tharoor said, adding that 81 per cent of Pakistani defense equipment is from China.

"Defense may be the wrong word here. Offense in many ways," he said.

"China is an absolutely impossible factor to ignore in what has been our confrontation with Pakistan," Tharoor said.

He noted that despite the tensions between China and India since the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020, "we had actually begun a thaw with China in September of last year, which was seemingly making good progress before this tragedy occurred."

Tharoor added that "then we saw a very different China" in terms of its practical support for Pakistan, even on the Security Council.

"We have no illusions about what the challenges are

in our neighborhood, but I want to remind you all that India has consistently chosen a path of keeping open channels of communication, even with our adversaries," he said.

"We have tried as much as possible to focus on development, on growth, on trade. Our trade with China is still at record levels. It's not that we are adopting a posture of hostility, but we would be naive" not to be aware of these other currents around, he said.

Pakistan is currently a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Following the April 22 Pahalgam attack, the UN Security Council had on April 25 issued a press statement on the 'terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir' in which the members had condemned it in "the strongest terms".

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice," the press statement had said.

However, the press statement did not mention The Resistance Front as the group responsible for the attack after Pakistan managed to get the name removed with the support of China.

In October last year, India and China firmed up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

Days after the agreement was finalized, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan, Russia, and took a number of decisions to improve ties.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in November last year in Rio de Janeiro on the sidelines of the G20 Summit and the two met again in February this year in Johannesburg.

During a conversation at the Council on Foreign Relations earlier in the day, Tharoor was asked about the Chinese military equipment that Pakistan used in the conflict against India and if there is a reassessment over this.

"Frankly, the reassessment took place while the fighting was going on," Tharoor said.

He added that when India saw what the Pakistanis were attempting to do using Chinese technology, for instance, the 'kill chain' that the Chinese specialize in, where the radar, GPS, planes and missiles are all linked together and they react instantly, "we simply did things in a different way. Otherwise, we wouldn't have been able to hit" 11 Pakistani airfields and "we wouldn't have been able to breach the Chinese-supplied air defenses.

"So it's clear that assessments were taking place while the fighting was happening, and we were recalibrating our strategies in order to end as effectively as we were able to end," Tharoor said.

"The fact is China has immense stakes in Pakistan, the largest single project on the Belt and Road Initiative is the one in Pakistan - the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor. So we have no illusions about the degree of commitment that China may well be feeling towards Pakistan." (Source: PTI)

Judge puts temporary hold on Trump's...

"I cannot plan my life when everything keeps going back and forth. Give me some certainty: Can I go or not?" Wang said.

Wang was born and raised in China but attended high school and college in the U.S. He's now in China for summer vacation. Recently he has been exploring options in countries with more appealing immigration policies, including Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Harvard filed a legal challenge on Thursday, asking for a judge to block Trump's order and calling it illegal retaliation for Harvard's rejection of White House demands. Harvard said the president was attempting an end-run around a previous court order.

A few hours later, U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston issued a temporary restraining order against Trump's proclamation. Harvard, she said, had demonstrated it would sustain "immediate and irreparable injury" before she would have an opportunity to hear from the parties in the lawsuit.

Nirjala Ekadashi: The austerity of devotion, the gateway to liberation

In the vast ocean of Sanatana Dharma, Ekadashi stands as an island of purification and spiritual elevation. Each month, on the 11th lunar day, the devotee is offered a divine opportunity to transcend the pull of the material world through fasting, prayer, and surrender to Lord Vishnu. Yet among these luminous days, there is one that blazes with unmatched brilliance—Nirjala Ekadashi, the most austere, the most powerful, and the most sanctifying of them all. Observed during the Shukla Paksha of Jyeshtha month (May–June), when the sun blazes overhead and thirst scorches the throat, Nirjala Ekadashi calls the devotee to sacrifice even water, the very essence of life, in pursuit of a higher truth. This Ekadashi is more than a fast—it is a pilgrimage of the soul, an offering of the self at the lotus feet of Lord Vishnu. It is the day when the body is silenced, and the spirit speaks.

The Legend of Bhima and the Divine Grace of Vyasa Muni

The story of Nirjala Ekadashi is rooted in the Mahabharata tradition, and preserved in the Padma Purana.

Bhima, the mighty son of Vayu and one of the Pandava brothers, was renowned for his enormous appetite and strength. His devotion to dharma and loyalty to Krishna were unwavering, yet he struggled with one command of spiritual discipline—fasting on Ekadashi.

Despite the encouragement of his noble mother Kunti and his devout brothers—Yudhishtira, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva—Bhima admitted to his grandfather Sage Vyasa that he could not bear hunger and especially not thirst. He feared that he would fail in observing Ekadashi and thus lose the spiritual merit.

Vyasa, filled with compassion, told him:

"O Bhimasena! If you cannot observe all the Ekadashis, then observe one—Nirjala Ekadashi—with complete faith, without food or water, from sunrise to sunrise. This will bestow upon you the merit of all 24 Ekadashis and cleanse you of all sins."

Bhima agreed. He undertook the Nirjala fast with great difficulty, yet he endured it with the fire of bhakti (devotion) and emerged spiritually awakened. Since then, Nirjala Ekadashi has also been called Bhimaseni Ekadashi, and its observance is praised as the essence of all Ekadashis combined.

The Spiritual Meaning of Fasting Without Water

The word "Nirjala" means "without water." To abstain from food is difficult, but to abstain from water, especially in the heat of Jyeshtha, is a supreme form



Important information

Nirjala Ekadashi 2025

Friday, 06 June 2025

Ekadashi Tithi starts : 06 June 2025 at

02:15 AM

**Ekadashi date ends : 07 June 2025 at
04:47 AM**

of tapasya (austerity). It is a symbolic gesture of:

- Self-surrender: Placing one's entire bodily needs at the feet of God.
- Renunciation of ego: "I do not rely even on water, Lord, but only on Your grace."
- Concentration on the soul: Turning away from the body's call and toward the eternal Self (Atman).

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna declares:

"Whoever offers Me with love and devotion a leaf, a flower, a fruit, or water, I accept that offering of devotion." (Gita 9.26)

But on this day, the devotee offers even water itself as a sacrifice.

How Nirjala Ekadashi Leads the Soul to Liberation

According to the Skanda Purana, those who observe Nirjala Ekadashi with faith and devotion:

- Are forgiven for all sins, even the most grievous.
- Do not meet the messengers of Yama, the god of death.
- Are escorted to Vaikuntha, the eternal abode of Lord Vishnu, by

divine beings.

- Achieve freedom from the cycle of birth and death (moksha).

The fast is not meant to be mere physical deprivation. It is a sacrifice born of devotion (bhakti-yajna). The body may thirst, but the heart must sing with the name of the Lord. That is the true essence of Nirjala.

The Path of Devotion on Nirjala Ekadashi

Even those unable to fast fully due to health or age can observe this sacred day with devotion, purity, and spiritual intent. What matters most is bhava—the inner feeling of surrender.

Spiritual Practices on Nirjala Ekadashi

- Waking early before sunrise and taking a sacred bath.
- Offering prayers to Lord Vishnu, especially as Madhusudana or Narayana.
- Chanting the Vishnu Sahasranama, reading the Bhagavad Gita or Srimad Bhagavatam.
- Meditating and singing bhajans in praise of the Lord.
- Performing charity—especially

giving water, fans, clothing, or food to the poor.

- Feeding cows, Brahmanas, or saints, a deeply purifying act.
- Even a glass of cool water offered to a thirsty soul in the name of the Lord on this day brings great merit.

Method of observing the fast

Before observing the Nirjala fast, pray to God, "O Lord! Today I observe a Nirjala fast, and tomorrow I will eat food. I will observe this fast with devotion. May all my sins be destroyed by your grace." On this day, one who remains without water himself and donates a pitcher full of pure water to a Brahmin or a needy person with this mantra, attains special virtue.

Rules and importance of the fast

This fast should be observed by both men and women. On this day, keeping a waterless fast and worshipping Lord Vishnu in the form of Sheshashayi has special importance. On this day, one should chant the mantra "Om Namo Bhagwate Vasudevay" and donate cows, clothes, umbrellas, fruits etc.

In the Ekadashi fast, consumption of water is prohibited except for bathing and achamana. There should not be more than six mase of water in achamana, otherwise it becomes similar to drinking alcohol. Food should not be eaten on this day, because eating food breaks the fast.

GOPIO Manhattan and Tirlok Malik / Happy Life Yoga Celebrate International Yoga Day 2025



JUNE 5, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): On the occasion of International Yoga Day 2025, the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), which is an international network of people of Indian origin. Emmy-nominated filmmaker and Founder and speaker of "Happy Life Yoga," Tirlok Malik, in collaboration

with The Indian Panorama and the Indian American Forum, will host a vibrant, interactive Happy Life Yoga event featuring a lineup of speakers from diverse walks of life. Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, will be the Chief Guest. Other distinguished speakers include Dr. Thomas Abraham (Chairman of GOPIO International), Prakash Shah (GOPIO President), and Meera Gandhi (founder and CEO of Giving Back Foundation). Professor Indrajit Saluja (Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama), Indu Jaiswal (Chairperson of Indian American Forum), Beena Kothari (President of AIA NY), Praveen Chopra (Founder of Lotus in the MUD), Anil Narang (Vegan Ambassador), Dr. Renee Mehrara, Neha Lohia (Filmmaker) and Sneha Jain (Filmmaker).

The theme for this year centers around

a universal question:

"HOW TO STAY PEACEFUL AND HAPPY IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD TODAY?"

The International Day of Yoga is a day of recognition for yoga, celebrated annually around the world on 21 June, following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014. The initiative for International Yoga Day was taken by India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in his 2014 UN address.

The event promises to be energetic, informative, and celebratory, filled with meaningful insights and practical takeaways. Host Tirlok Malik will engage in thoughtful conversations with the panelists, unveiling their mantras for happiness. While celebrating Yoga's ever-growing relevance in today's world, Malik will share the philosophy behind his Happy Life Yoga, a lifestyle practice inspired by the ancient wisdom of

Ayurveda, Yoga, and Indian philosophy. His unique, no-mat-needed workshop encourages self-love and well-being as essential steps toward happiness, making ancient knowledge relevant and accessible for the modern world.

Supported by several New York-based media outlets, the event will be a joyous tribute to Yoga's timeless impact. Tirlok Malik and the team warmly invite everyone to join in this global celebration of well-being, mindfulness, and joy.

"Eat right, think right, move right is the simplest way to be healthier and happier."

- Tirlok Malik (Founder of Happy Life Yoga).

ZOOM ID AND PASSCODE: Meeting ID: 709 536 8686, Passcode: gopio OR LINK <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7095368686?pwd=c3J5UUdncDJYOExpR3ByTU14OXprZz09&omn=88284190252>

Indian American civil rights lawyer Anuj Dixit running for Congress from California

PARMINDER AUJLA

JUNE 4, 2025

SACRAMENTO (TIP): Indian American civil rights lawyer Anuj Dixit, a son of immigrants from India, is running for Congress in California's 41st congressional district, to challenge Republican hardliner Ken Calvert.

Dixit, with a six-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force father, says he is running for Congress to shake up a system that's been rigged for decades by insiders like Calvert with fresh energy and bold ideas to make Washington work for the middle class.

A resident of the Inland Empire, a metropolitan area centering around the cities of San Bernardino and Riverside, he'll make it easier to open a business, find a good-paying job, and help more Americans get ahead in life, according to his website. Dixit will lead the charge on going after big businesses that buy elections and dodge taxes and fight to cut middle-class taxes and make California more affordable, it says.

This race is one of the top red-to-blue priority contests in the country and will be critical to Democrats' efforts to flip the U.S. House in 2026, according to Indian American Impact Fund which has endorsed Dixit.

A bold new voice for the Inland Empire, Dixit represents the next generation of leadership, focused on delivering real results for working and middle-class families, the political advocacy group stated in a press release.

"After coming of age in the post-9/11 era, Dixit dedicated his life to fighting for justice-defending voting rights, advocating for fair elections, and standing up for our democratic values," it says. "Now, he's running for Congress to bring that same commitment to Washington."

"We're thrilled to endorse Anuj Dixit, a fierce advocate for democracy and



Anuj Dixit, a son of immigrants from India, is running for Congress in California's 41st congressional district, to challenge Republican hardliner Ken Calvert.

opportunity. Anuj understands the challenges facing working and middle-class families because he's lived them-and he's spent his career fighting for the rights and dignity of others," Chintan Patel, Executive Director of Indian American Impact Fund, stated.

"He's ready to make it easier for people to start small businesses, find good-paying jobs, and afford the basics-like buying a car, owning a home, and building financial security. At a time when trust in government is low and the cost of living is high, Anuj is offering a clear and hopeful vision rooted in accountability, transparency, and results. He's exactly the kind of leader we need in Congress-and we're proud to stand with him."

"I'm honored to have the support of the Indian American Impact Fund," stated Dixit. "This organization has led the way in making sure that communities like mine-often overlooked and underestimated-finally have a seat at the table. "As the son of immigrants, a civil rights lawyer, and someone who's spent his life fighting for fairness, I share that mission deeply. In Congress, I'll continue that work-standing up for the Inland Empire and building a government that listens to and delivers for the people it serves."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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Mount Abu: The Oasis of Rajasthan

Mount Abu, nestled in the Aravalli Range of the Sirohi district in the state of Rajasthan, is the only hill station in this otherwise arid region of India. Perched at an altitude of approximately 1,220 meters (4,003 feet) above sea level, Mount Abu offers a unique blend of natural beauty, spiritual significance, and cultural heritage. Often referred to as the “Oasis of the Desert,” Mount Abu has served as a retreat for royalty, sages, and tourists alike for centuries.

Explore a number of Jain temples, including the Dilwara Temples, a complex carved of white marble, or visit the nearby Achalgarh fort, which houses many beautiful temples of its own.

SUNSET POINT

One of the most well-known spots in Mount Abu, Sunset Point is located to the south-west of Nakki Lake. Best visited at dusk, this picturesque point commands magnificent views of the Aravali ranges. Thronged by travellers throughout the year, it is surrounded by numerous food stalls and souvenir shops. To get to Sunset Point, grab your camera and walk up the cobblestone pathways along the Nakki Lake for about a km. Those who do not wish to take a walk can also opt for pony rides.

DILWARA TEMPLES

The five marble temples of Dilwara are a sacred pilgrimage place for the Jain community, and rank among India’s finest temple architecture. Located in the northern part of the hill-station, these Jain temples are about two-and-a-half-kms away from the bustling town of Mount Abu. They comprise of five temples—Vimal Vasahi, Luna Vasahi, Pithalhar, Parshvanath, Mahavir Swami—each of which is dedicated to a revered Jain guru. Built in 11th and 13th centuries, the temples boast of opulent entrances, minutely-carved ceilings, doorways, pillars and panels and intricately-designed domes. Mahavir Jayanti, the most important festival of Jains, is celebrated with full vigour here and many Jain pilgrims visit the temples during the festival each year.

NAKKI LAKE



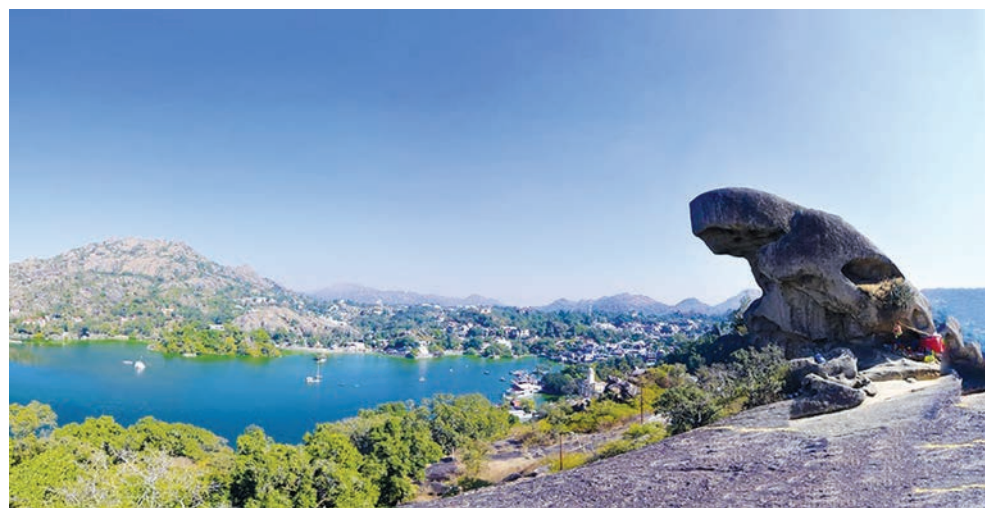
Believed to have been dug out by a god using his nails, the sacred Nakki Lake is one of the landmarks of the hill town of Mount Abu. About half a mile long, the lake is deeper towards the dam on the west. Carry your picnic hamper, a book and camera and spend a peaceful afternoon on the banks of the lake. Boat riding is another activity that interests visitors here. A pleasant stroll around the lake will lead you to Toad Rock, a boulder that looks just like a toad about to hop into the lake. The 14th-century Raghunath Temple stands near the lake’s southern shore.

ACHALGARH FORT

Bordered by massive walls that enclose a few beautiful temples inside, the Achalgarh Fort offers interesting glimpses of Mewar architecture. Built in the year 1452 by the famous Rajput ruler of Mewar, Rana Kumbha, the fort is situated 11 kms to the north of Mount Abu. Various viewpoints from the fort offer scenic lookouts onto the hill town, the Aravali ranges and the picturesque sunset views.

ADHAR DEVI TEMPLE

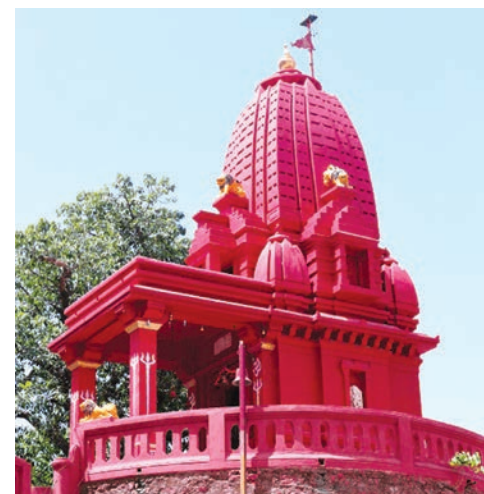
Situated atop a cliff in a cave, a visit to the Adhar Devi Temple, also known as Arbuda Devi Temple requires you to climb 365 steep steps, but the strenuous journey is worth the effort. Offering a bird-eye-view of the hill-station from the



top, the temple is constructed out of a large rock, and visitors have to stoop and crawl to enter the inner shrine. Located 3 km away from Mount Abu, the temple is dedicated to Goddess Durga and is considered as one of the prominent religious spots in the hill town. The temple is visited by hordes of Hindu pilgrims during Navratri, a nine-day Hindu festival that is celebrated with full gusto.

Adhar Devi Temple is quite old and legend has it that ‘Adhar’ of the Goddess fell here. It is also believed that goddess’s image hangs in the mid air. Besides, the temple has a number of gorgeous statues that you can admire and looking at those arts will make you praise the artists from the bygone era. And the view of mountains and forests you get to see after climbing those hundreds of stairs

will make you forget all the tiredness and fatigue. It is recommended you wear proper and comfortable clothes and footwear because the climb uphill is really tiring.



History This Week

JUNE 06 -12

JUNE 6

June 6, 1944 - D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

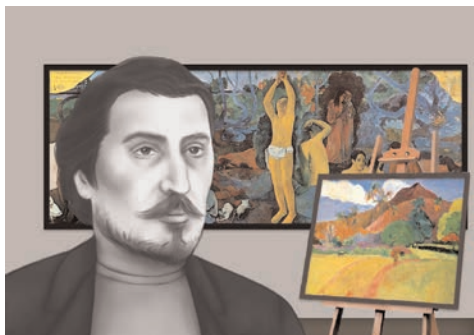
June 6, 1978 - By a vote of almost two to one, California voters approved Proposition 13, an amendment to the state constitution severely limiting property tax rates.



Birthday - American patriot Nathan Hale (1755-1776) was born in Coventry, Connecticut. During the American Revolution, he volunteered for a dangerous spy mission in Long Island and was captured by the British on the night of September 21, 1776. Brought before British General William Howe, Hale admitted he was an American officer. Howe ordered him to be hanged the following morning. As Hale mounted the gallows he uttered, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

JUNE 7

June 7, 1965 - The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Connecticut law banning contraception. In *Griswold v. Connecticut*, the Supreme Court guaranteed the right to privacy, including freedom from government intrusion into matters of birth control.



Birthday - French painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) was born in Paris. He worked as a stockbroker, then became a painter in middle age. He left Paris and moved to Tahiti where he developed an interest in primitive art. Among his best known paintings; *Vision After the Sermon* (1888), *When Shall We Be Married?* (1892), *Holiday* (1896), and *Two Tahitian Women* (1899). His style using broad, flat tones and bold colors, inspired artists such as Edvard Munch, Henri Matisse, and the young Pablo Picasso.

JUNE 8



June 8, 1874 - Apache leader Cochise died on the Chiricahua Reservation in southeastern Arizona. After a peace treaty had been broken by the U.S. Army in 1861, he waged war against settlers and soldiers, forcing them to withdraw from southern Arizona. In 1862, he became principal chief of the Apaches. He and 200 followers avoided capture by hiding in the Dragoon Mountains. In June of 1871, Army General George Crook assumed command in Arizona and managed to win the allegiance of many Apaches. Cochise then surrendered. He disappeared briefly in the spring of 1872, but returned and settled on the reservation where he died.

Birthday - American architect Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin. He designed about 1,000 structures and is considered the most influential architect of his time. He became the leader of a style known as the Prairie School featuring houses with low-pitched roofs and extended lines that blend into the landscape. He once wrote, "No house should ever be on any hill or on anything. It should be of the hill, belonging to it, so hill and house could live together each the happier for the other."

JUNE 9

June 9, 1898 - The British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong, located on the southeastern coast of China. Hong Kong, consisting of an area measuring 400 square miles, was administered as a British Crown Colony until July 1, 1997, when its sovereignty reverted to the People's Republic of China.



Birthday - Composer and lyricist Cole Porter (1893-1964) was born in Peru, Indiana. He published his first song *The Bobolink Waltz* at the age of ten. His Broadway career was launched in 1928 when five of his songs were used in the musical play *Let's Do It*. Among his many contributions to the Broadway stage; *Fifty Million Frenchmen*, *The Gay Divorcee*, *Anything Goes*, *Leave It to Me*, *Du Barry Was a Lady*, *Something for the Boys*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Can Can* and *Silk Stockings*.

JUNE 10

June 10, 1652 - In Massachusetts, silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America, in defiance of English colonial law. The first coin issued was the Pine Tree Shilling, designed by Hull.

June 10, 1942 - In one of the most infamous single acts of World War II in Europe, all 172 men and boys over age 16 in the Czech village of Lidice were shot by Nazis in reprisal for the assassination of SS leader Reinhard Heydrich. The women were deported to Ravensbrück concentration camp where most died. Ninety young children were sent to the concentration camp at Gneisenau, with some later taken to Nazi orphanages if they were German looking. The village was then completely leveled until not a trace remained.



Birthday - African American actress Hattie McDaniel (1889-1952) was born in Wichita, Kansas. She won an Academy Award in 1940 for her role as 'Mammy' in *Gone with the Wind*.

Birthday - Judy Garland (1922-1969) was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota (as Frances Gumm). She is best remembered for her portrayal of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* (1939) and other films including *Meet Me in St. Louis* (1944) and *Easter Parade* (1948). She became one of the most popular concert performers of the 1950s and '60s and broke box-office records in New York City and London. She was found dead of an overdose of sleeping pills in London on June 22, 1969.

JUNE 11

June 11, 1991 - Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines erupted, spewing ash into the air, visible over 60 miles. The surrounding areas were covered with ash and mud created by rainstorms. Nearby U.S. military bases were also damaged.

June 11, 1994 - After 49 years, the Soviet military occupation of East Germany ended. At one time there had been 337,800 Soviet troops stationed in Germany. Over 300,000 Russians died during World War II in the Battle for Berlin.



Birthday - German composer Georg Richard Strauss (1864-1949) was born in Munich. His best known works include; *Till Eulenspiegel* (1895), *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (1896) and *Don Quixote* (1898).

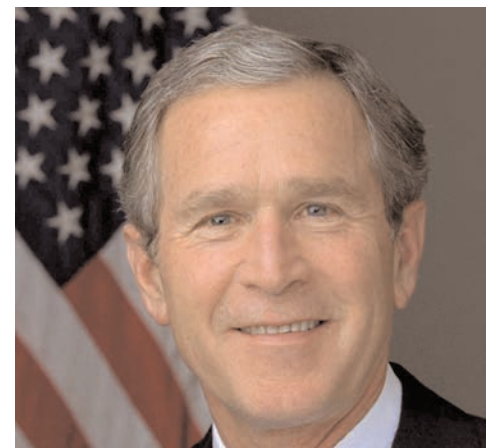
Birthday - American feminist and politician Jeannette Rankin (1880-1973) was born in Missoula, Montana. She was the first woman elected to the U.S. Congress. She was a reformer and a pacifist and was the only member of Congress to vote against a declaration of war against Japan following the attack

on Pearl Harbor in December of 1941.

Birthday - Undersea explorer Jacques Cousteau (1910-1997) was born in Ste-Andre-de-Cubzac, France. In 1943, he helped invent the first underwater breathing apparatus, called the Aqualung. He is best known for his Emmy Award winning television series, *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*, which premiered in the U.S. in 1968.

Birthday - American football coach Vince Lombardi (1913-1970) was born in Brooklyn, New York. In 1959, he became head coach of the Green Bay Packers, winning five NFL titles and two Super Bowls in nine seasons. He is generally regarded as the greatest coach and the finest motivator in football history. He retired in 1968, but was lured back to coach the Washington Redskins. He contracted cancer after coaching the Redskins for just one season and died September 3, 1970, in Washington, D.C.

JUNE 12



Birthday - George Bush, the 41st U.S. President, was born in Milton, Massachusetts, June 12, 1924. During World War II, he became the youngest pilot in the U.S. Navy. Following the war, he co-founded a Texas oil equipment manufacturing company. He then entered politics, serving in a variety of roles including in the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, as U.S. liaison to China, C.I.A. director, and two terms as vice-president under Ronald Reagan. Elected to the presidency in 1988, President Bush is best remembered for forging a successful multinational military alliance following the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, by Saddam Hussein's Iraqi army. However, following the defeat of Iraq, Bush was beset by domestic problems in the U.S. which resulted in a significant drop in popularity and his loss in the 1992 election to Bill Clinton.

Birthday - Anne Frank (1929-1945) was born in Frankfurt, Germany. She is perhaps the best known victim of the Nazi Holocaust. Anne and her family moved from Germany to Amsterdam to flee Nazi persecution, then went into hiding in a small attic after Holland was invaded by Nazis. Anne, a girl on the verge of womanhood, was unable to go outside for any reason. In 1942, she began a diary to cope with the boredom, fear, annoyances, and loneliness of captivity. Her family's hiding place was eventually discovered and Anne and her family were deported to Nazi concentration camps. She contracted typhus and died at Bergen-Belsen in 1945. After the war, her father published her diary, which inspired the world, revealing a young woman who had managed to remain hopeful, despite it all.

Kohli lifts IPL title finally — No. 18 meets destiny on 18th year

AHMEDABAD (TIP)

11.20 pm. The chiselled, sweat-glistened face of Virat Kohli was filled with impatience. The maiden IPL title for him and the Royal Challengers Bengaluru was a good over away.

He was desperate for that famous Kohli run — fingers pointed heavenwards with a wide grin plastered across the face.

11.25 pm: Josh Hazlewood successfully defended 29 runs in the 20th over. But all Kohli could do was to hide his face in his palms with tear-filled eyes and baulk. Teammates soon enveloped him as their endearing No. 18 met his destiny after 18 years.

Was it the credit-rolling moment of an extraordinary relationship between a player and franchise that lasted 18 years through mind boggling highs and heartbreaking lows?

It's a weird thought at this moment of personal and collective glory. But it could not be avoided as the journey came to its much-desired full circle.

The first chapter of the Kohli and the RCB series began in 2008, and it has transformed into a long-drawn TV drama like the 'Young and Restless'.

Kohli was young and restless 18 years back — an irreverent, chubby South Delhi dandy who just wanted to take on the whole world in pursuit of victory.

An anomaly in the dressing room that then contained Rahul Dravid, Anil Kumble, Jacques Kallis etc.

But RCB trusted Kohli, and their former owner Vijay Mallya, a horse lover, let him be his own and allowed him time to mature into a thoroughbred.

Perhaps, he fitted seamlessly into the upmarket and bold image of the franchise. It was a soap opera.

But the relationship took a new turn in 2011. The Royal Challengers trusted a 22-year-old with the leadership role.

Many 22-year-olds could have wilted in the high-pressure environment, but not this 22-year-old.

An innate love for camera, headlines, and the will to fight and learn helped him embrace the job wholeheartedly.

Kohli was in the hot seat for 12 years and 143 matches, and he remained firm there too even when the team failed to bag a trophy.

Gradually, he established a close connection with Bengalureans. His charisma was a big factor in turning the city dwellers into RCB faithfuls.

It wasn't an instant link like the one Chennai established with MS Dhoni, but it was more slow brewing like the maturing of a top of the line wine.

That was partially because Dhoni came to the Super Kings as India's T20 World Cup 2007 winning captain, and he was already a national icon, a success symbol of youthfulness.

Kohli too had led India to the 2008 U19 World Cup by the time the inaugural season of the IPL began, but the Indian cricketing world



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli holds the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 championship trophy during the team's victory lap at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Tuesday, June 3, 2025. PTI

was not yet ready to accept Kohli as a young prodigy.

It took them some time to see the genius of Kohli, but even then Kohli was famous but was not loved. However, he remained a persuasive conversational centrepiece.

Kohli was at the forefront of his club's PR pushes, its face on the social media, he reiterated the inner synergy he feels to the red and gold jersey.

In fact, Kohli was a magnificent distraction for RCB fans from their lack of trophy triumph until now.

A driven individual, it does not need any second guessing to realise that Kohli felt the hurt seeing a bare cupboard even as two rival Southern clubs added trophies.

The Super Kings marched to a record five titles and Sunrisers Hyderabad and Deccan Chargers jointly bagged two.

Mumbai Indians under his revered comrade Rohit Sharma too clinched five titles.

But Kohli never showed the angst in public or never thought of severing his ties with RCB. In fact, he always underlined his closeness to the outfit.

"In terms of desires, everything is okay. But being with RCB is never going to go away. For me, what's more valuable is the relationship and the mutual respect that has been created over so many years. "The love that I have received from the fans, I don't think any silverware or any trophy can come close to that," Kohli had told RCB podcast last month.

But he would have dreamt of holding that trophy aloft one day, and it came on a sweat-drenched Ahmedabad night.

The finest showman of this decade of cricket, the lead guitarist of the IPL and T20s stood crowned. Nothing else mattered more on this emotional moment.

Source: PTI



Dommaraju Gukesh

Norway Chess 2025: D Gukesh takes down Wei Yi for his fourth win

The reigning World Champion Dommaraju Gukesh continues to make chess history, securing his fourth victory at the 2025 Norway Chess tournament, according to Chess.com.

In Round 9, he defeated China's formidable Wei Yi, reaching 14.5 points and narrowing the gap between himself and tournament leader Magnus Carlsen to just half a point.

Wei played the rock-solid Petroff in this game, but had the commentators fearing he'd stumbled into world championship preparation when Gukesh went for what they called the "rare move" 8.Qd3, and then shuffled the queen to c4.

Gukesh took big risks in the opening against GM Wei Yi but turned it all around again to win in style.

Carlsen sacrificed a pawn against GM Fabiano Caruana but ultimately converted an extra pawn in the endgame.

GM Hikaru Nakamura took a classical draw against GM Arjun Erigaisi before winning smoothly in armageddon.

All three classical games in Women's Norway Chess 2025 ended decisively and with a major shakeup in the standings. GM Anna Muzychuk beat Women's World Champion GM Ju Wenjun to take a two-point lead.

The former leader GM Koneru Humpy achieved a winning position against GM Lei Tingjie but blundered and lost a piece, leaving her in second. IM Sara Khadem won her second classical game of the event, against GM Vaishali Rameshbabu.

Earlier, Gukesh pulled off a stunning victory against former World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in Round 6 of the ongoing Norway Chess 2025 tournament, turning the game around from a losing position on Sunday.

Carlsen reflected on his clash against Gukesh, "The dream of playing a really good tournament burst with that game... I wanted a score that reflects the fact I think I'm still significantly better at chess & since I couldn't achieve that, a potential win of the tournament would not mean as much," Carlsen said in a video posted by Chess.com on X.

Source: ANI

Team India departs for England for opening series of WTC 2025-27 cycle

MUMBAI (TIP)

The Indian cricket team left for England from Mumbai Airport on Friday, June 6, for a five-match Test series, which is part of the 2025-27 ICC World Test Championship cycle.

The series will be held from June to August 2025, with matches scheduled at Headingley in Leeds, Edgbaston in Birmingham, Lord's and The Oval in London, and Old Trafford in Manchester.

This will be India's first bilateral Test series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month. The team is undergoing a transition, with Shubman Gill taking over as captain and R Ashwin, Rohit Sharma, and Virat Kohli stepping away from the longest format.

India has not won a Test series in

England since 2007. To prepare, several Indian players had already arrived earlier to represent India A in warm-up matches against the England Lions. The rest of the touring party is scheduled to arrive in the UK on Friday. Ahead of the Test series, India 'A' are currently playing a three-match unofficial Test series against the England Lions. The first match ended in a draw, while the second unofficial Test is set to begin on Friday, June 6, at the County Ground in Northampton.

On Thursday, England announced their squad for the opening Test at Headingley. The English side has seen several changes since their 4-1 Test series defeat in India last year. Veteran pacer James Anderson has retired, and players like Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes, and Ollie Robinson have been dropped.

India's Test squad for England series

Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

The English squad

Ben Stokes (Durham) - Captain, Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Brydon Carse (Durham), Sam Cook (Essex), Zak Crawley (Kent), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Josh Tongue (Nottinghamshire), Chris Woakes (Warwickshire).



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