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Trump Announces New Tariffs on Heavy Trucks, Drugs and Kitchen Cabinets

The reason for this is the large-scale flooding of these products into the United States by other outside Countries, says President Donald Trump



U.S. President Donald Trump. -Photo credit: AP

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday, September 25, 2025, announced a new round of tariffs, saying the United States will impose a 100% tariff on imported branded drugs, 25% tariff on imports of all heavy-duty trucks and 50% tariff on kitchen cabinets.

Mr. Trump also said he would start charging a 30% tariff on upholstered furniture next week.

He said the new heavy-duty truck tariffs were to protect manufacturers from "unfair outside competition" and said the move would benefit companies such as Paccar-owned Peterbilt and Kenworth and Daimler Truck-owned Freightliner.

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Ex-FBI director James Comey indicted on two charges as Trump pushes to prosecute political enemies



Comey, one of Trump's frequent targets, indicted on counts of making false statements and obstruction of a congressional proceeding

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): James Comey, the former FBI director and one of Donald Trump's most frequent targets, was indicted on Thursday on one count of making a false statement to Congress and one count of obstruction of a congressional proceeding, the latest move in the president's retribution campaign against his political adversaries.

The indictment, filed in federal district court in Alexandria, Virginia, shows Comey's charges centered on whether he lied and misled lawmakers

during testimony in September 2020 about the Russia investigation.

While the precise details were not clear in the sparse, two-page indictment, it appeared to reference Comey's testimony that he had never authorized someone at the FBI to leak to the news media about the Trump or Hillary Clinton investigations - a claim prosecutors alleged was false.

"No one is above the law. Today's indictment reflects this Department of Justice's commitment to holding those who abuse positions of power accountable for misleading the American people," Pam Bondi, the US attorney general, said in a statement on Thursday.

The indictment followed Trump's instruction to Bondi to "move now" to prosecute Comey and other officials he considers political foes, in an impatient and extraordinarily direct social media post trampling on the justice department's tradition of independence. It also came less than a week after Lindsey Halligan was installed as the top

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Pakistan PM Sharif, Field Marshal Munir meet Trump at White House



Sharif met Trump in New York on the margins of the UNGA session on Tuesday.
Video grab/X@s4iqbal

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir met US President Donald Trump in the White House.

Sharif is in the US for the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He made a brief visit to the US capital from New York for the meeting with Trump on Thursday, September 25. It was the Pakistani PM's first visit to the

White House.

Munir, who was hosted by Trump for lunch at the White House early this summer, accompanied Sharif for the meeting, which was also attended by Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Sharif met Trump in New York on the margins of the UNGA session on Tuesday, September 23, when the US president held a multilateral meeting with leaders from Arab nations and others, including Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye.

Sharif arrived at the White House around 4.52 pm and was greeted by senior administration officials. Trump signed several executive orders and was speaking to reporters when Sharif and Munir arrived at the White House.

The Pakistani PM's motorcade was seen leaving the White House around 6.18 pm, according to the White House pool. In his remarks to reporters after signing the executive orders, Trump again said that he has stopped seven wars.

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Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested by a police party in Leh, two days after violent protests by supporters of the movement for statehood and extension of Sixth Schedule of Constitution.

Photo Credit: ANI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk arrested in Leh

SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was arrested Friday, September 26, 2025, by a police party in Leh, two days after violent protests by supporters of the movement for statehood and extension of Sixth Schedule of Constitution left four persons dead and 90 others injured, officials said.

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Andy Singh

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COMMENT

The Folly of Threats: Why Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's Campaign Harms the Sikh Cause

The provocation for this comment comes from the latest threats issued by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the legal advisor and de facto leader of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), an outfit that claims to fight for an independent Khalistan. Pannun, in a video message circulated ahead of Diwali, warned the people of Punjab against celebrating the festival of lights. According to him, lighting diyas and celebrating Diwali would invite dire consequences; instead, he instructed Sikhs to only celebrate Bandi Chhod Divas, the day commemorating the release of Guru Hargobind Singh Ji from Mughal captivity in Gwalior.

This attempt to intimidate Sikhs into replacing a festival celebrated by all Indians with a narrower, sectarian alternative is deeply troubling. It is not the commemoration of Bandi Chhod Divas that is objectionable - Sikhs have always marked the occasion with reverence and joy - but rather the threatening tone that alienates Sikhs from their compatriots and turns a religious celebration into a divisive political tool.



When Pannun threatens ordinary citizens for celebrating Diwali, he is not advancing a political argument; he is engaging in intimidation

The essential point is this: while it is the democratic right of any group to voice its demand for autonomy or even independence, there can be no justification for violence or intimidation as instruments of political struggle. History is full of examples where nations reorganized peacefully. The Soviet Union broke into multiple republics, Czechoslovakia split amicably into two states, and even within South Asia, Bangladesh emerged after a brutal but decisive conflict rooted in overwhelming popular will. None of these outcomes relied on one man sitting overseas issuing threats to ordinary citizens about how they should celebrate their festivals.

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is a US-Canada-based lawyer who has made himself the face of the Khalistan movement abroad. Through Sikhs for Justice, an organization banned in India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Pannun has tried to keep alive the embers of a separatist project that has little resonance among Sikhs in India today. Punjab, scarred by two decades of militancy from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, has moved on. Its people, who lost thousands of lives to terrorism, crave peace, prosperity, and stability. For them, Khalistan is not a dream but a nightmare

of the past.

Yet Pannun and his handful of associates continue to exploit the openness of Western democracies to stage referendums, spread propaganda, and issue threats against Indian institutions and leaders. India has repeatedly lodged protests with Washington and Ottawa, pointing out that such activities are inimical to the spirit of friendship between India and these countries. Both the US and Canada count India as a strategic partner - in trade, technology, and geopolitics - and it is only reasonable that they restrain individuals and groups who use their soil to undermine the sovereignty of a friendly nation.

THE RIGHT TO DISSENT VS. THE WRONG OF TERROR

It is important to draw a sharp distinction between the right to dissent and the wrong of terror. Every people, in principle, have the right to articulate aspirations for self-determination. This is embedded in international law and reflected in the UN Charter. But the methods used to pursue such aspirations matter as much as the goals. When Pannun threatens ordinary citizens for celebrating Diwali, he is not advancing a political argument; he is engaging in intimidation. When his organization calls for violent attacks on Indian institutions, it crosses the line from advocacy to terrorism.

Contrast this with legitimate struggles for statehood or autonomy in other parts of the world. The Baltic states, for instance, did not threaten ordinary Russians with violence during their independence movements; they built broad-based consensus and leveraged global support. In Czechoslovakia, the "Velvet Divorce" between Czechs and Slovaks was negotiated without bloodshed. Even when violence was part of national movements - as in Bangladesh's struggle in 1971 - it was waged against oppressive regimes, not targeted at civilians celebrating cultural or religious festivals.

By resorting to threats, Pannun not only delegitimizes his own cause but also tarnishes the global image of Sikhs, a community widely admired for its valor, industriousness, and generosity.

SIKHISM'S UNIVERSAL MESSAGE VS. PANNUN'S DIVISIVE RHETORIC

Sikh history and philosophy stand in stark contrast to Pannun's divisive politics. The Sikh Gurus envisioned a community rooted in equality, compassion, and justice. Guru Nanak's teachings transcended religion and geography, speaking to humanity at large. Guru Hargobind Singh Ji, whose release Bandi Chhod Divas celebrates, did not ask his followers to divide themselves from others but fought for the freedom of all, including 52 Hindu princes held in captivity.

Diwali itself has long been a shared festival - celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, each attaching their own historical and spiritual meaning. To threaten Sikhs not to celebrate it is to deny

By Indrajit Saluja



the pluralism and openness that lies at the heart of Sikh identity. Far from empowering the community, such rhetoric isolates Sikhs from their fellow Indians and feeds suspicion abroad.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA, THE SIKH DIASPORA, AND HOST NATIONS

For India, Pannun's threats are a reminder of the painful decades of militancy in Punjab when thousands died in a futile insurgency. The Indian state has a duty to protect its citizens from intimidation, whether domestic or international. New Delhi has rightly pressed Washington and Ottawa to curb the activities of SFJ, and will continue to do so with greater urgency as Pannun escalates his rhetoric.

For the Sikh diaspora, Pannun's antics are a double-edged sword. While some young Sikhs abroad may be swayed by emotive appeals to identity, most recognize that threats and intimidation discredit their community. Sikhs are among the most successful immigrant groups in Canada, the US, and the UK, contributing disproportionately in politics, business, and public life. Allowing a fringe separatist narrative to dominate public perception risks undoing decades of goodwill and hard-earned respect.

THE PATH FORWARD

It is time for Sikhs, both in India and abroad, to condemn Pannun and SFJ with one voice. Their campaign is not only against India but against the very spirit of Sikhism, which has always stood for universal brotherhood. The Sikh community's achievements across the world - from farming in Punjab to business in Canada, from military valor to humanitarian service - cannot be overshadowed by the reckless threats of a handful of individuals.

The path forward lies in reaffirming what has always been true: that differences of opinion, even on questions as profound as statehood, must be addressed through dialogue, democratic processes, and peaceful advocacy. Violence, intimidation, and threats have no place in the discourse of civilized societies.

The right to demand Khalistan, or any other political goal, is not in itself illegitimate. What is illegitimate is the use of threats and terror to advance that demand. By warning Punjabis not to light diyas on Diwali, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun has crossed a moral and political red line. He has shown that his campaign is less about the aspirations of Sikhs and more about stoking fear and division.

India has walked this road before. It survived Partition, militancy, and secessionist violence. It will not be shaken by the video threats of one man abroad. What is at stake now is the reputation of the Sikh community and the credibility of the democracies that host Pannun. If the US and Canada truly value their friendship with India, they must ensure that their soil is not used to incubate threats against a partner nation.

Let it be said clearly: political objectives may be anyone's right, but the method of terror and intimidation will never be legitimate.

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KAMLA PERSAD BISSESSAR: A Diaspora Daughter Who Rose to Lead a Nation



Prof. Indrajit Saluja with Prime Minister Bissessar in New York in 2010

New York is once again the arena of world diplomacy, with the 80th United Nations General Assembly drawing presidents, prime ministers, and kings from every corner of the globe. Among them this year is Prime Minister Kala Persaud Bissessar of Trinidad and Tobago. On September 27, the Consulate of Trinidad and Tobago will host a reception in her honor, and I feel especially privileged to be among those invited. For me, this is not just another diplomatic occasion. It is personal, filled with memories of earlier encounters with a leader whose journey I have watched with admiration for more than a decade.

MY FIRST ENCOUNTER: 2010 IN NEW YORK

The first time I welcomed her to this city was in 2010, just months after she had been sworn in as the first woman Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. The Indo-Caribbean community here turned out in force. There was music, dancing, flags waved proudly, and the energy of a people celebrating a historic achievement.

I was there that day, and I recall the emotion clearly. It was not only the joy of Trinidadians and Tobagonians at seeing one of their own ascend to leadership; it was also the pride of the Indian diaspora worldwide. A daughter of indentured laborers' descendants had risen to the summit of power in a sovereign state. When I had the privilege of meeting her, I found her warm and gracious, with a quiet confidence that suggested she was ready for the enormous responsibility history had placed upon her shoulders.

HONORED IN THE LAND OF HER ANCESTORS



Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago was conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman by the President of India, Pratibha Devisingh Patil at the 10th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Sammelan at Jaipur, January 9, 2012

Divas in Jaipur. There she was honored with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest award given by the Government of India to members of the diaspora.

The symbolism was profound. She stood on Indian soil as a head of government, representing a Caribbean nation, yet embodying the resilience of those who had left that same soil in bondage generations earlier. Her speech that day fused pride in her Indian heritage with an unshakable devotion to Trinidad and Tobago. It was a reminder of how the diaspora, far from being rootless, carries with it a living heritage that enriches every land it touches.

FROM SIPARIA TO STATE HOUSE

Prime Minister Bissessar's biography is as inspiring as it is improbable. Born in Siparia in 1952, she grew up in modest circumstances, yet excelled academically. She studied at the University of the West Indies, trained as a lawyer at Hugh Wooding Law School, and pursued further studies abroad. She entered politics with the United National Congress, rising steadily to serve as Attorney General, Minister of Education, and finally, in 2010, as Prime Minister.

Her years in office were marked by investments in education, social development, and infrastructure. In the turbulent and competitive world of Caribbean politics, her leadership was sometimes contested, but her historic significance is unchallenged. She was the first woman to lead her nation, and the first woman of Indian descent to serve as head of government in the entire Western Hemisphere. That distinction alone secures her place in history.

PART OF A GLOBAL STORY

In many ways, Kamla Persad - Bissessar's story is part of a larger global narrative: the ascent of diaspora-origin leaders who are reshaping the politics of their adopted homelands. In recent years, we have seen Kamala Harris, the first woman Vice President of the United States, proudly acknowledge her Indian and Caribbean roots. Rishi Sunak became the first British Prime Minister of Indian descent, while António Costa leads Portugal with equal pride in his Goan heritage. Across the world, diaspora-origin leaders are demonstrating that heritage is not a limitation but a source of strength.

Prime Minister Bissessar stands tall among them. Long before Kamala Harris took her oath of office in Washington, before Sunak entered 10 Downing Street, Bissessar had already made history in Port of Spain. She showed that a woman of Indian origin could command the confidence of a diverse electorate and guide the destiny of a modern nation. She was, in many ways, a trailblazer for this new era of diaspora leadership.

A SYMBOL OF RESILIENCE AND REPRESENTATION

For me, her leadership represents the triumph of the Indo-Caribbean story. When the first ships brought indentured laborers from India to Trinidad in 1845, no one could have imagined their descendants would one day lead the nation. Theirs was a life of hardship, cut off from their homeland, toiling in plantations under difficult conditions. Yet they preserved their culture, their faith, and their dignity.

Prime Minister Bissessar is the flowering of that resilience. Her story tells us that the sacrifices of those ancestors were not in vain. It tells us that heritage, when combined with opportunity, can produce leaders of global significance.

She is also a beacon for women worldwide. Leadership remains a male-dominated arena, and women who enter it often face prejudice and resistance. Bissessar's rise, therefore, was not merely personal—it was symbolic. She proved to young girls in Trinidad, in India, and everywhere else that they too could aspire to the highest office.

WELCOMING HER ONCE AGAIN

Now, in 2025, as she comes once again to New York, I feel a sense of continuity. I was there when she first came in 2010, buoyed by fresh victory. I was there in India when she was honored as a daughter of the diaspora in 2012. And I will be there again this week, to greet her as a seasoned leader, her legacy already secure, her place in history already written.

The reception on September 27 will surely echo with pride, laughter, and music. But for me it will be more than a celebration—it will be a reflection on the extraordinary journey of a woman who has connected continents, bridged cultures, and embodied the resilience of her people.

I confess to a personal pride in her story. I see in her rise a reflection of our own diaspora's struggles and triumphs. I see the perseverance of ancestors who left India with nothing but courage and faith. I see the dignity of women who refused to be confined by tradition or prejudice. And I see the future of diaspora communities across the world, who now know that leadership at the highest levels is within their reach.

As she steps into this week of diplomacy and dialogue, I offer her my warmest welcome and my heartfelt wishes. May her engagements be successful, may her leadership continue to inspire, and may her journey remind us all of what is possible when heritage and history combine with vision and courage.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad Bissessar is not just a leader of her nation. She is part of a global chorus of diaspora voices now shaping the world. She was among the first to show that it could be done. And for that, as I prepare to greet her once more in New York, I say with pride: welcome back, Madam Prime Minister.

Two years later, I met her again, this time in India at the 2012 Pravasi Bharatiya

Indian Americans Celebrate PM Narendra Modi's Birthday and Honor Shri Parshottam Rupala

300 community members in New Jersey gathered to showcase unity, cultural pride, and recognition of diaspora leadership.



Shri Parshottam Rupala, Member of Parliament and former Union Minister speaks at a gathering of Indian community members on September 22.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP): The Indian American community delivered a powerful testament to cultural unity and national pride on September 22, 2025, as distinguished leaders gathered in New Jersey to honor Shri Parshottam Rupala, Member of Parliament and former Union Minister. The exclusive Community Reception transformed a prestigious gathering into an extraordinary celebration of enduring bonds connecting India's diaspora to their homeland.

The atmosphere pulsed with energy as community leaders, professionals, and families converged, their collective achievements serving as living proof of the Indian American success story. The event brought together an impressive

roster of dignitaries and respected community stalwarts.

Shri Parshottam Rupala, revered as the "Lion of Saurashtra" for his three decades of unwavering public service, delivered a compelling address that resonated deeply with attendees. "You embody the spirit of modern India," Shri Rupala declared. "Your achievements on American soil reflect the limitless potential of our motherland and strengthen the ties that bind our nations together."

Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Chairman of the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) NY-NJ-CT-NE, offered passionate remarks in Gujarati, honoring Shri Rupala's dedication to Gujarat and India. Vaidya's heartfelt address highlighted how the Modi government's visionary diaspora policies have revolutionized India's relationship with its overseas communities, creating unprecedented opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. Kenny Desai, Past President of FIA, delivered an emotionally charged tribute, recounting Shri Rupala's journey from his early inspiration during the "Jan Seva Yatra" at age 13 to his current parliamentary role. Desai captured the essence of Shri Rupala's philosophy through Zaverchand Meghani's poetic wisdom: relentless progress "one step ahead, beyond the chest of the sea," symbolizing unwavering commitment to national service.

Dr. H.R. Shah, Chairman of TV Asia,

brought historical perspective, tracing Gujarat's proud legacy of producing national leaders. His remarks connected Gujarat's contribution to India's freedom struggle with its continued leadership in the modern era, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's transformative tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister.

Mr. Piyush Patel emphasized how under Modi's leadership, Gujarat has achieved the distinction of being India's number one state. He praised Shri Rupala's 34 years of dedicated political service, highlighting his unwavering commitment as a "pure BJP man" who has consistently served party and nation with distinction.

FIA President Saurin Parikh added his voice to the testimonials, reinforcing the community's unified support for India's parliamentary leadership, while FIA Convenor Mr. Sreekanth Akkapalli warmly welcomed attendees during the Navratri season, emphasizing how the community's presence transformed the reception into a genuine homecoming.

Dr. Avinash Gupta, Past President of FIA, represented the Shree Siddhivinayak Temple USA and multiple community organizations, bringing scholarly perspective and emphasizing the importance of preserving the Indian American narrative for future generations. The cultural richness was enhanced by Abhesinh Rathod's stirring rendition of the beloved Gujarati song "Mor Bani Thangat Kare," which speaks to cultural

pride and resonated deeply with the diaspora audience.

The reception, meticulously organized by Federation of Indian Associations NY NJ CT NE in collaboration with prominent organizations including Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, GANA, BJANA, TV9 USA, TV Asia, Parikh Worldwide Media, Shree Siddhivinayak Temple USA, UPFNA, FISANA, World Vegan Vision, Sai Datta Peetham and SPCS, represented more than



Shri Parshottam Rupala, Member of Parliament and former Union Minister is being honored. Seen in the picture, from L to R: Ankur Vaidya, Kenny Desai, Shri Parshottam Rupala, Saurin Parikh

ceremonial recognition. It embodied the living relationship between India and its diaspora - a community excelling in their adopted homeland while remaining deeply rooted in cultural heritage.

The highlight came with the presentation of a special proclamation to Hon. Rupala, acknowledging his tireless service and role in strengthening India-diaspora relations.

As attendees departed with renewed appreciation for their dual identity as proud Americans and passionate advocates of India, the event reinforced that the Indian American community continues serving as cultural ambassadors, strengthening diplomatic and economic ties between the world's two largest democracies.

This gathering demonstrated how shared values of excellence, service, and cultural pride drive the community's remarkable success story, ensuring distance cannot diminish the bonds uniting India with its global family.



Happy Birthday to Shri Narendra Modi

New York Celebrates Narendrabhai Modiji's 75th Birthday



At the birthday celebration. L to R: Lakinder Kumar, Kamal Gupta, Jagdish Sewhani, Ajay Bajaj, Nick Garg, Satvinder Singh Satta, Vijay Bajaj

NEW YORK (TIP): Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modiji's 75th Birthday was celebrated in New York. It was a festive atmosphere with chanting of Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

Speaking at the event Jagdish Sewhani, President of the American India Public Affairs committee said that Prime Minister Narendrabhai Modi is not only the most popular Leader of India but also most popular Leader of the World. Modi ji is the most consequential leaders of the 21st century and has shaped India's journey and global standing. Under his dynamic and visionary leadership Bharat has grown by leaps and bounds. Today Bharat is the fourth largest economy in the world and very soon it's going to be the third largest economy.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

OFBJP-USA NJ Chapter Celebrates 75th Birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi with Enthusiasm and Community Spirit



VIJAY SHAH
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
EDISON, NJ (TIP): Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party (OFBJP-USA), New Jersey Chapter, organized an event on September 20, 2025, at the ITV

OFBJP NJ Chapter members with Dr. Sudhir Parikh and Mrs. Parikh at ITV Gold during 75th Birthday celebration of Narendra Modi ji

Gold Auditorium in Edison, New Jersey, to celebrate the 75th birthday of Indian Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Two Indian American Scientists Arvind Murugan and Saad Bhamla named Schmidt Polymaths



Arvind Murugan and Saad Bhamla - have been named Schmidt Polymaths with six other global scientists and engineers working in a variety of disciplines.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP) : Two Indian American scientists - Arvind Murugan and Saad Bhamla - have been named Schmidt Polymaths with six other global scientists and engineers working in a variety of disciplines.

They will each receive up to \$2.5 million over five years to pursue research in new disciplines or using new methodologies, Schmidt Sciences announced.

As Schmidt Polymaths, the researchers pursue new approaches compared to previous work. The new cohort of polymaths will answer questions like how to expand access to healthcare with low-cost technologies, what happens to our chromosomes when we age and how to create more accurate computer simulations of climate.

"Our world is one deeply interconnected system-but to study it more deeply, we've divided it into

increasingly narrow categories," said Wendy Schmidt, who co-founded Schmidt Sciences with her husband Eric. "Schmidt Polymaths see the bigger picture, pursue answers beyond boundaries and expand the edges of what's possible. Their work can help steer us all toward a healthier future, for people and the planet."

The eight selected scientists represent the fifth cohort of the highly selective Schmidt Polymaths program. Awardees must have been tenured-or achieved similar status-within the previous three years.

Drawn from universities worldwide and selected through a competitive application process, Schmidt Polymaths are required to demonstrate past ability and future potential to pursue early-stage, novel research that would otherwise be challenging to fund-even without the current dramatic declines in U.S. funding for science.

Indian American 2025 Schmidt Polymaths are:

Arvind Murugan, Associate Professor of Physics, University of Chicago.

Dr. Murugan will use experiments to explore how molecules can learn and compute by doing what comes naturally, revealing how evolution and synthetic biology can harness hidden powers in the physics of matter without micromanaging every detail.

Murugan obtained a BS in mathematics from the California Institute of Technology. He earned his PhD in high energy physics from Princeton University. He then transitioned to working on problems at the intersection of biology, theoretical computer science and statistical physics at the Institute for Advanced Study and the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Harvard University. He joined the physics faculty at the University of Chicago in the fall of 2015.

The major thrust of his research is how physical and

biological systems can learn from their environmental history and manifest neural network-like behavior.

His current work focuses on learning in molecular self-assembly and mechanical systems; and on the biological side, in the evolution of molecular error correction.

He was a Simons Investigator in the Mathematical Modeling of Living Systems, an NSF CAREER awardee and a recipient of the International Prize in Biophysics from Tel Aviv University.

Saad Bhamla, Associate Professor in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Bhamla will develop low-cost technologies to tackle planetary-scale challenges, including AI-enabled point-of-care diagnostics in low-resource environments. They will also engineer autonomous morphing machines that adapt, evolve and learn like living systems.

The BhamlaLab explores fundamental and applied research questions through the development of new experimental tools and techniques at the intersection of soft matter, organismic physics and global health.

Bhamla has a PhD, Chemical Engineering from Stanford University and a BS, Chemical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Schmidt Sciences is a nonprofit organization founded in 2024 by Eric and Wendy Schmidt that works to accelerate scientific knowledge and breakthroughs with the most promising, advanced tools to support a thriving planet.

The organization prioritizes research in areas poised for impact including AI and advanced computing, astrophysics, biosciences, climate, and space-as well as supporting researchers in a variety of disciplines through its science systems program

Indian-origin 73-year-old 'undocumented' Sikh widow deported from US after 33 years

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

BERKELEY, CA (TIP): A 73-year-old "undocumented" Sikh woman, who lived in the US for over 30 years, was detained and deported to India by immigration authorities in California earlier this week without being given the chance to even say goodbye to her relatives, her advocate said.

A widow, she had moved to the US in 1990s and had been living there with her two sons. She used to work there as a tailor in a clothing shop in Berkeley and was lovingly called 'Bibi ji' or 'Dadima'.

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, Deepak Ahluwalia, the advocate, said, "Bibi ji (Harjit Kaur) is on her way back to Punjab. She has already landed in India."

Ahluwalia posted on Instagram that she had exhausted all her options and that the real problem was that the ICE was unable to procure her travel documents that she required to go back to India.

Kaur was detained by immigration authorities in California after she went for a routine check, triggering protests and concerns among her family and community members. Kaur, a resident of East Bay in northern California for more than 30 years, was detained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials during a routine check, a report in Berkeley's side, a non-profit news portal, said earlier.

Her family along with hundreds of community members organized a protest, demanding the immediate release of Kaur, who was detained after the ICE officials asked her to come to its San Francisco office for additional paperwork. She was then taken to a detention center in Bakersfield, Ahluwalia said. In the post, Ahluwalia claimed Kaur was



73-year-old Harjit Kaur who lived in the US for over 30 years, was detained and deported to India by immigration authorities in California

taken from Bakersfield to Los Angeles where she was put on a flight to Georgia and thereafter to New Delhi.

He also claimed that Kaur's family members urged the authorities to give her a chance to say final goodbye to her relatives before she was sent back, but permission was denied.

"We were able to get her travel documents. We were trying to negotiate with the ICE attorney and the government for her to depart on a commercial flight. We booked a ticket for Monday. We also asked the

authorities to release her for 24-48 hours, even under ankle monitoring, to give her a chance to say final goodbye," Ahluwalia said.

"But around 2 am on Saturday, they took her from Bakersfield, drove her to Los Angeles in handcuffs, and put her on a flight to Georgia without even notifying the attorney, or giving any prior notice," Ahluwalia claimed.

In Georgia, Kaur was kept at a temporary facility for detainees, he said.

He also talked about the inhumane treatment given to her, "She was not even given a bed for nearly 60-70 hours and made to sleep on the floor with a blanket. She was unable to get up as she had a double knee replacement surgery."

"She was not even given water to take her medicines and was instead given ice on paper plate. Prior to the flight on Monday, she and some other detainees were given wet wipes and told to just clean up before boarding the plane from Georgia to Armenia. From Armenia, she came to Delhi on an ICE chartered plane," he said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin student killed in road mishap in Australia

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

MELBOURNE (TIP): A 27-year-old man from Sirsa district died in a road accident in Melbourne, Australia. The victim, Prabhjot Singh from Haripura village, was working at a recycling plant when he was hit by a truck.

According to his family, Prabhjot was working on securing a truck latch when a nearby loader suddenly reversed, crushing him between the two vehicles. He suffered severe injuries to his chest and abdomen. The accident occurred last Friday.

He was rushed to hospital by the Australian police, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Prabhjot had gone to Australia on a student visa around four years ago and was working as a truck driver to support himself.

His family was informed by his friends in Melbourne, leaving them in deep shock. Prabhjot was the only son of his parents. His father, Harnek Singh, is a farmer.

Bringing the body back to India is expected to cost nearly Rs 26 lakh. His friends and a local NGO in Australia have raised the required amount. The body is expected to arrive at Delhi airport by Friday.

Prabhjot last visited his village in January for his cousin's wedding and returned to Australia in March.



Prabhjot Singh from Haripura village from Sirsa District in Haryana has died in a road accident in Melbourne, Australia

AIA-NY to hold 38th Deepavali Festival on Long Island

The iconic Indian community event on Oct 11 near Jones Beach in Babylon will include all the features it is known for: fireworks, cultural performances, Meena Bazar, and ethnic food, promises AIA-NY President Beena Kothari.



The famed fireworks are now moved to Overlook Beach near Jones Beach on Long Island's south shore



AIA NY Chapter President Beena Kothari and her team are striving for a unique Diwali experience

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The annual, iconic Deepavali Festival, organized by the Association of Indians in America (AIA), New York chapter, will be held this year at the Overlook Beach near Jones Beach on Long Island's south shore.

AIA-NY's 38th Deepavali Festival in Babylon on October 11 is being held under the leadership of Beena Kothari, who has a record of successfully organizing major community events, including the India Day Parade in

Hicksville twice. She has become a proud pioneer now as she guides the move of AIA's Deepavali Festival from Manhattan to Long Island.

Inviting everyone to the all-day celebration of India's most beloved festival, Beena Kothari mentions that they have planned an exciting lineup of programs highlighting our rich culture and heritage to entertain and engage everyone in the family, from kids to seniors. Admission to the public event is free, she confirms. Overlook Beach in Babylon is conveniently located and easily accessible from Nassau and Suffolk counties, as well as Queens.

The fireworks show, the most exciting part of the AIA Deepavali celebration, is scheduled for 7 pm on the shore (instead of on the water, as in previous years at the South Street Seaport) and will last 20-30 minutes.

The most significant event will be the 30-minute Ramayana Musical Live Dance Drama. A presentation about Ram Setu has also been planned. Jains' Diwali connection will be celebrated - on this day Bhagwan Mahavira attained liberation in 527 BCE.

Many lawmakers, dignitaries, including the Consul General of India, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and celebrities will grace the festivities in big numbers.

Entertainment includes Indian classical and folk dances.

(Photo D 2 here)

A Special Fashion Show by Prashant Goyal, Celebrity Designer, and a surprise Bollywood star appearance will add glamor to the evening.

Kids Corner, from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, will offer games and fun activities, including henna painting.

Adults can head out to the Health and Wellness Zone and try out free Yoga and Zumba sessions.

Retail and corporate booths will be set up in a tented area. Women will be seen thronging Meena Bazar. Food stalls will

serve Indian cuisine and masala chai.

Maharaja and Maharani mannequins will beckon visitors to the photo booth. To welcome visitors from different communities, their women will be dressed in colorful saris. Visitors can participate in Rangoli and art competitions.

People can still purchase tickets to the VIP dinner scheduled for 5:30 pm in an enclosed area. Purchase of raffle tickets may win you exciting grand prizes.

Main sponsors of the celebration include Bolla Oil, Mount Sinai, New York Cancer and Blood Specialists, Cheap-o-air, Navika Group, ICICI Bank, and Ranju & Ravi Batra.

Global TV channels, Zee and Sony, will show highlights of AIA Deepavali 2025. Local media supporters include Parikh Worldwide Media, TV Asia, Radio Zindagi, Jus TV, The South Asian Times, The Indian Panorama, The Indian Eye, Hum Hindustani, and Bollywood Insider.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION OF INDIANS IN AMERICA

AIA is the oldest Indian community organization in America, set up in 1967 with the motto of 'Indian Heritage American Commitment'.

AIA-NY President Beena Kothari highlights that the chapter's achievements include New York City's official recognition of Diwali as a holiday starting in 2024, the 2013 release of the USPS Diwali stamp, and celebrating the festival at Gracie Mansion and the White House in 2006.

AIA-NY celebrates Diwali as the festival of joy and happiness, as it is common to Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhists, and people of many different countries, including Indo-Caribbeans.

Contact for sponsorship and other details: Mrs. Beena Kothari,
Ph: +1 631 988 1280,
theaianypresident@gmail.com

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Prem Bhandari inaugurates World Food Movement New York/New Jersey's new meal sponsorship initiative



Prem Bhandari inaugurated the World Food Movement New York/New Jersey's new meal sponsorship initiative with cooking food in the kitchen at India Heritage Foundation, Edison.

SEPTEMBER 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP):The World Food Movement (WFM), inspired by the Akshaya Patra Foundation and ISKCON Bangalore, has launched a new initiative to provide freshly cooked meals to those in need.

Shri Prem Bhandari, Chairman of



Prem Bhandari at the inauguration of the World Food Movement's new initiative to provide freshly cooked meals to the needy.

L to R: Prabhu Shyam Kishor Dasa, Alok Kumar, FIA Trustee and Chairman of Bihar Jharkhand Association, Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA and President of the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), Rajeev Bhambri, Secretary General, Jaipur Foot USA, Prabhu Sarvalakshan

Jaipur Foot USA and President of the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), who graced the occasion as the esteemed guest, inaugurated the initiative with personally serving in the WFM kitchen, participating in every stage from cooking to packing meals. Widely recognized for his humanitarian service



Naveena Neerada Dasa, Executive Director, Strategy and International Relations, Akshaya Patra and World Food Movement, honoring Prem Bhandari.

and leadership within the global Indian diaspora, his presence served as a true source of inspiration for both volunteers and the wider community, WFM organizers said.

Working shoulder to shoulder with volunteers, Bhandari helped prepare and dispatch freshly cooked meal packets for community college students and food insecure individuals across New York and New Jersey.

Following his service in the kitchen, Shri Prem Bhandari contributed \$1,200 to sponsor 100 meals, thereby formally launching the meal sponsorship initiative. He appealed to the diaspora and community members to sponsor meals on occasions such as birthdays, children's birthdays, wedding anniversaries, or other

auspicious days.

The formal launch of this initiative will take place at a special musical fundraising concert, "Melody with a Mission," featuring award-winning artist Abby V, on September 28, 2025, at NJPAC, Newark, NJ, starting at 4:00 PM. The event seeks to bring the community together in support of eradicating hunger.

Naveena Neerada Dasa, Executive Director, Strategy and International Relations, World Food Movement, who honored Shri Bhandari with a Shawl, said:

"It is an honor for us that Shri Prem Bhandari personally served in our kitchen. His commitment to humanitarian service perfectly aligns with our mission."

ABOUT THE WORLD FOOD MOVEMENT (WFM):

The World Food Movement is dedicated to empowering community college students and food insecure individuals in the United States by delivering fresh, wholesome meals that foster well-being, dignity, and opportunity. Guided by the vision that no one should go hungry, WFM strives to ensure easy access to nutritious food for all.



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PROSPECTS OF A DEAL



By Prabhu Dayal

High-level trade talks between India and the United States resumed in New Delhi on 16 September 2025, after a recent thaw in tensions and positive public statements from both President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The latest round of discussion was led by the US delegation's chief negotiator, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Brendan Lynch, and his Indian counterpart, Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal. A key outcome of the "positive and forward-looking" meeting was the mutual agreement to "intensify efforts" toward an early conclusion of a trade agreement.

Relations strained considerably after President Trump imposed new 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports in August 2025. This move was partly a penalty for India's continued purchases of Russian oil amidst the Ukraine conflict. The tariffs significantly impacted trade, with Indian exports to the US falling from \$8.01 billion in July to \$6.86 billion in August. A breakthrough in the diplomatic stalemate occurred in September 2025 after President Trump posted optimistically about the ongoing negotiations on his social media platform, Truth Social. In response, Prime Minister Modi echoed the sentiment on X, expressing confidence in the bilateral trade discussions.

This exchange followed a period of hostile public comments from some US officials. Peter Navarro, a trade adviser in the Trump administration has made repeated critical comments about India, primarily regarding its trade relations with Russia and its high tariffs against the United States. Navarro called India the "Maharaja of Tariffs" and accused it of unfair trade practices. Navarro has also accused India of being an "oil money laundromat for the Kremlin" by importing cheap Russian oil, refining it, and then exporting fuel at a premium. He has repeatedly stated that India's purchase of discounted Russian crude oil provides Moscow with funds for the war in Ukraine.

He has even referred to the conflict as "Modi's war". The Indian Ministry of External Affairs officially rejected Navarro's statements. The MEA spokesperson called the comments "inaccurate and misleading" and stated that India's focus remains on bilateral relations based on mutual respect and shared interests. India has defended its purchase of Russian crude oil, stating that its energy procurement is driven by national interests and market dynamics to keep energy prices stable. In early September 2025, Navarro sparked significant backlash for saying that "Brahmins" were "profiteering at the expense of the Indian people" from the Russian oil trade. The remark was widely condemned in India as casteist and culturally insensitive, drawing criticism from across the political

spectrum. Some observers noted that Navarro may have been alluding to "Boston Brahmins," a U.S. metaphor for entrenched elites.

However, the invocation of caste, even in this context, was met with strong condemnation in India. Recently, on September 13, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick was asked during an interview whether the US is mismanaging "very valuable relationships" with "important allies" like India, Canada and Brazil with the tariffs imposed on these countries. In response, he questioned why India, with its large population, refuses to buy American products, such as corn. He also said that it must reduce its tariffs or face business difficulties with the U.S. Thus, one should not think that the US has softened its position. Significant challenges persist, with India pushing for the removal of the 25 per cent oil-linked penalty tariff.

discussions involve renewed efforts to overcome persistent disagreements, especially concerning tariffs, agriculture, and intellectual property. India has previously signaled it is open to lowering tariffs on a range of industrial products, a move that would please US exporters. Gradual tariff reductions on certain US goods, such as automobiles, premium dairy products, and alcoholic beverages, have been previously discussed. Moreover, India may address concerns about its use of Quality Control Orders (QCOs), which the US views as non-tariff barriers that slow down trade and require US products to be certified by Indian labs. The US feels that the complex and non-transparent nature of India's QCOs restricts market access for American companies. This issue has recently become a flashpoint in ongoing bilateral trade negotiations. Besides, India may face pressure to lower

bilateral MOU on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) was signed in 2020, disagreements persist over issues such as patent protections for pharmaceutical and agrochemical products. India has a different approach to patents to ensure access to affordable medicines for its population. What, then, are the prospects of reaching an India-US trade deal?

Despite renewed talks in mid-September 2025, prospects for a US-India trade deal remain uncertain, primarily due to recent punitive tariffs imposed by the Trump administration and long-standing differences on key issues. While both nations have agreed to "intensify efforts," significant hurdles remain. The current prospects for a comprehensive US-India trade deal are



High-level trade talks between India and the United States resumed in New Delhi on 16 September 2025. -Photo credit: SNS

India has also repeatedly stated its reluctance to open up its protected agriculture and dairy sectors, citing the livelihood of its millions of farmers as a "red line" issue. Having said that, it is a good sign that both nations have agreed to continue negotiations, including virtual meetings, following the latest in-person talks in New Delhi. The goal is to move forward with the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), with the Indian Commerce Minister indicating a potential deal by November 2025. While President Trump has softened his tone on social media, he has not yet removed the punitive oil-linked tariffs, which remain a major obstacle to a breakthrough.

To secure a trade deal with the US, India may make concessions in several areas, though it has historically resisted opening sensitive domestic markets. Ongoing trade

tariffs and ease regulatory hurdles for US medical devices and patented drugs. India has previously offered to increase its purchases of US liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other energy products. Above all, expanding defense purchases from the US could also be part of a broader deal to address strategic and economic concerns. Despite pressure from the US, India has maintained firm resistance on several fronts.

India has consistently refused to grant full market access to US agricultural and dairy products, citing the need to protect the livelihoods of millions of small-scale Indian farmers. India has pushed back against US demands to halt its purchase of Russian oil, which led the US to impose punitive tariffs in August 2025. These remain the key sticking points and have strained negotiations. Moreover, while a

low, particularly under the pressure of recent US tariffs. Progress is unlikely until the US rolls back its punitive tariffs. While recent meetings were described as "positive and forward looking," India noted that the discussions were not a formal negotiation round but a way to take talks forward. If the core disagreements over Russian oil and market access for agricultural products are not resolved, the trade relationship could deteriorate further. The ongoing challenges suggest that negotiators may need to consider a phased or "mini-deal" approach to secure incremental progress rather than a sweeping agreement.

(The writer, a retired IFS officer, served as India's Ambassador to Kuwait and Morocco and as Consul-General in New York)

(First published in The Statesman)

From 1947 Poverty to 2014 Prosperity, and the Myths of Sudden Greatness



By Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

By 2014, before the Modi government came to power, India's GDP had reached nearly \$2 trillion, the 10th largest in the world, with foreign reserves of \$300 billion. Telecom penetration had exploded, highways expanded, and privatized airports transformed city skylines. A once destitute land now stood as a rising economic power.

In May 2014, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) under Narendra Modi stormed to power on the promise of a "New India." The campaign narrative was dramatic: the nation had supposedly wasted seventy years under Congress and other governments in corruption, drift, and poverty, and only under Modi would India rise to greatness. For millions of frustrated voters, weary of scams and inflation, that story was compelling. But it was also misleading. To accept it uncritically is to erase the extraordinary journey that India has traveled since 1947.

India's rise is not the miracle of one leader or one party. It is the long, uneven, but unmistakable climb of a nation that began life among the world's poorest states and, through seven decades of collective struggle, emerged as a major global player.

"To claim that India was stagnant for seventy years before 2014 is to rewrite history. The Green Revolution, the IT revolution, liberalization, space exploration, and nuclear power were achievements of earlier eras. Poverty reduction, literacy gains, and rising life expectancy were the result of decades of collective effort."

1947: FREEDOM IN RUINS

When the Union Jack came down on August 15, 1947, India was free but fractured. Partition had displaced nearly 14 million people and killed over a million in horrific communal violence. Refugees poured into makeshift camps; trains carrying corpses crossed the new borders.

The economic picture was equally bleak. Per capita income was about ₹250 a year (roughly \$50). Life expectancy was 35 years. Literacy stood below 20%. Agriculture was primitive and unable to feed the population. Famines had claimed millions of lives, most recently in Bengal in 1943.

Infrastructure, too, was skeletal. Fewer than 1,500 villages had electricity. India inherited 53,000 kilometers of railways, but they had been designed for extraction, not integration. Industry contributed barely 10% of GDP. Globally, India's share of output had collapsed from 23% in the 18th century to around 3% at independence.

The world doubted India's survival. Winston Churchill predicted disintegration, and American journalists dismissed it as a "basket case." The challenge of building a secular, democratic, and united country out of such poverty and diversity seemed nearly impossible.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Jawaharlal Nehru and the Constituent Assembly chose democracy over dictatorship and pluralism over sectarianism. The Constitution of 1950 was one of the most ambitious in the world, guaranteeing universal suffrage, federalism, and fundamental rights.

In the 1950s and 60s, India invested heavily in institutions: the Election Commission, the Supreme Court, the Planning Commission, and the Indian Administrative Service. Nehru's vision emphasized science and industry: steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, and Durgapur; the Bhakra Nangal Dam; IITs, AIIMS, and national laboratories.

Growth was slow - the infamous "Hindu rate" of around 3%. Licensing and bureaucratic controls bred inefficiency. Food shortages were chronic, forcing

"The myths of sudden greatness may serve short-term politics, but the truth is more powerful: India's destiny has been shaped not by one decade or one leader, but by the collective endurance of its people."

dependence on American PL-480 wheat imports. Yet, India survived as a democracy, while many post-colonial states slid into coups and dictatorships. That survival alone was no small achievement.

GREEN REVOLUTION AND WARS

The 1960s and 70s tested India repeatedly. The humiliating defeat to China in 1962 exposed military weakness, but wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 showcased determination. The 1971 victory reshaped South Asia, leading to the creation of Bangladesh.

At home, the Green Revolution transformed agriculture. With high-yield seeds, irrigation, and fertilizer, wheat production surged, ending chronic shortages. By the 1980s, India was largely self-sufficient in food.

There were darker chapters too. The Emergency (1975-77) suspended democratic rights and censored the press. But India's voters proved resilient, ousting Indira Gandhi in 1977 and restoring democracy. Few developing nations bounced back from authoritarianism so quickly.

1991: LIBERALIZATION AND TAKEOFF

By the late 1980s, India was again in economic distress. Growth lagged, deficits ballooned, and a foreign exchange crisis loomed. In 1991, Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh launched sweeping reforms: dismantling licenses, cutting tariffs, and opening markets.

This liberalization was a turning point. Growth accelerated to 6-8% annually over the next two decades. The IT services revolution, led by Infosys, TCS, and Wipro, turned Bangalore into a global hub. Foreign investment surged, exports expanded, and a confident middle class of 300 million emerged.

The transformation was visible in human development. Literacy rose from 12% in 1947 to 74% by 2011. Life expectancy doubled. Poverty, once above 70%, fell to around 22%. Diseases like polio were eradicated. India joined the club of spacefaring nations and, in 2013, placed a probe into orbit around Mars on its first attempt, stunning the world with cost efficiency.

INDIA ON THE WORLD STAGE

India's diplomacy evolved with its growth. A leader of the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, it later became a member of G20, BRICS, and a sought-after strategic partner. Nuclear tests in 1998 established India as a de facto nuclear power, and the 2008 Indo-U.S. Civil Nuclear Agreement recognized its status.

By 2014, before the Modi government came to power, India's GDP had reached nearly \$2 trillion, the 10th largest in the world, with foreign reserves of \$300 billion. Telecom penetration had exploded, highways expanded, and privatized airports transformed city skylines. A once destitute land now stood as a rising economic power.

INDIA'S HISTORIC JOURNEY: KEY MILESTONES

2014 AND BEYOND: CONTINUITY, NOT CREATION

This was the India the BJP inherited in 2014 - dynamic but troubled, with corruption scandals and



slowing growth under the UPA years. Modi's government accelerated infrastructure building, digitization, and foreign policy assertiveness. Schemes like Ayushman Bharat (health insurance) and Ujjwala Yojana (LPG connections) reached millions. ISRO achieved new milestones with Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1.

But the record is mixed. Demonetization in 2016 disrupted livelihoods without eliminating black money. The GST rollout was chaotic. The pandemic exposed fragile health systems. Youth unemployment has remained stubborn, and inequality has widened.

Politically, India has faced growing concerns about democratic backsliding - shrinking press freedom, partisan use of investigative agencies, and majoritarian rhetoric. International indices like Freedom House and V-Dem have downgraded India's democratic rankings.

MYTHS AND REALITIES

To claim that India was stagnant for seventy years before 2014 is to rewrite history. The Green Revolution, the IT revolution, liberalization, space exploration, and nuclear power were achievements of earlier eras. Poverty reduction, literacy gains, and rising life expectancy were the result of decades of collective effort.

The BJP has added its imprint, but it did not create prosperity out of a vacuum. It stands on foundations built by generations of Indians - farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers, and ordinary citizens - who struggled through scarcity to build capacity.

THE ROAD AHEAD

India today is the world's fourth largest economy, with unmatched potential. But challenges remain: ensuring equitable growth, strengthening education and health, protecting democratic pluralism, and addressing inequality. Propaganda cannot substitute for policy, nor can political myth-making erase the sacrifices of earlier decades.

The real story of India's rise is not a Modi miracle, nor a Nehru legacy alone. It is the cumulative triumph of a people who refused to accept despair. From the shattered land of 1947 to the confident republic of today, India's journey has been long, uneven, and unfinished.

The myths of sudden greatness may serve short-term politics, but the truth is more powerful: India's destiny has been shaped not by one decade or one leader, but by the collective endurance of its people.

(The author welcomes comments)

The interpretation of the law in Trumpland

THE FORMULA IS TO AVOID LEGAL CULPABILITY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO ACTIVATE, DEFLECT OR WEAPONISE THE LAW AT ALL LEVELS



By Arjun Appadurai

There are more than 1.3 million lawyers in the United States, of whom more than 2,50,000 are criminal defense lawyers. Prosecuting attorneys at the State level are about 35,000 in number and about 90 are federal prosecutors. There are more than 4,00,000 law firms in the country, that range from solo practices to large legal firms. The top 30 corporate law firms employ anywhere between 1,000 and 4,000 lawyers each.

What weaves these facts together are some patterns. First, that the top lawyers have large salaries and assets. Second, among this top rank of wealthy attorneys, there is a disproportionate number of revolving door veterans, who have monetized skills and networks gained in one sector (typically, the government) to make enormous sums in another sector (typically, corporate law). Third, many of the most successful beneficiaries of the revolving door are attorneys who are willing to take up controversial criminal defense cases, and to become highly visible in political controversies and causes. These patterns have helped U.S. President Donald Trump to avoid legal culpability repeatedly and at the same time to activate, deflect or weaponize the law at all levels.

All these lawyers are personally wealthy, have moved through numerous revolving doors during their careers, and have monetized their ties to one another and to other influence-brokers, lobbyists and to elected politicians, not least to Mr. Trump. Any sociogram of their public roles in the last decade would make Mr. Trump the nodal figure of their power, and thus the object of their unreserved loyalty.

The unfinished tactical skirmishes between the White House, the Congress, the Department of Justice and the attorneys working on behalf of Ghislaine Maxwell, and the growing chorus of Jeffrey Epstein and Maxwell's victims and their advocates, are lapping dangerously close to the toes of Donald and Melania Trump, and the whole Trump family.

INTEGRAL TO THE TRUMP STRATEGY

Mr. Trump's currently active legal praetorian guard continues a long history in which lawyers have been a vital part of his wealth accumulation and risk mitigation strategies, hired to shield, protect and burnish the vital links between his brand-polishing, his near-fraudulent business tactics, his aversion to taxes, and his obsession with money. The law and lawyers are the medium in which Mr. Trump has been swimming for three decades.

In his career since the 1990s, Mr. Trump, either personally or through one of his companies, has engaged in over 4,000 suits, ranging from defamation to breach of contract, from tax fraud to unmet contractual obligations, from sexual exploitation to inciting mass violence.

The thread that links these hundreds of suits is that they amount to a business



Courts for Mr. Trump are not tools for obtaining equity, justice or compensation'
Photo Credit: The White House

strategy for Mr. Trump, which is founded on a mix of bullying, gambling, evading negative court rulings and enforcing settlements. Indeed, Mr. Trump believes in the law as the main means for making adversarial deals out of court. Courts for Mr. Trump are not tools for obtaining equity, justice or compensation. They are a path to Deals. I have argued elsewhere that Mr. Trump's obsession with deal-making is not about contracts, markets or even about business. It is about winning, either monetarily, reputationally or politically. His completely chaotic approach to tariffs is a clear index of the complete absence of any rational economic calculus in his tariff roller coaster. In the end, tariffs on Brazil and massive extortion from Columbia, Harvard and many other universities belong to the same family of deal-making, which is proudly promoted in the title of Mr. Trump's 1987 book.

Mr. Trump's reckless misuse of the Constitution and his open cynicism about the law as the glue of contractual stability and social reciprocity are grounded in his view of his lawyers as his weapons. We do not know how many of Mr. Trump's 4,000-plus deals he won or lost. But there is ample evidence that many of them were settled "out of court", with optimal money gains for Mr. Trump

and minimum concessions of guilt on his side.

These hired legal revolvers are the tools of Mr. Trump's assault on most democratic institutions and their liberal foundations, in which the sabotage and subversion of the law have been a consistent feature. American universities have been ravaged by new readings of the laws that govern civil rights, affirmative action and racial discrimination. The Congress has been effectively neutered as an organ for overseeing the powers of the executive. The idea of precedent has been cynically suborned by mining it for obscure justifications of tyrannical policies towards migrants, aliens and tourists. The Constitution has been given renewed vitality in the protection of felons, sex offenders and thieves but has been leashed in matters of academic speech, immigrant rights and press freedom. Impunity in the face of the law is the calling card of the Trump regime.

BEYOND LETTER AND SPIRIT

Yet, the law has been the primary recourse of any principled effort to resist Mr. Trump. From Mahmoud Khalil to E. Jean Carroll, from Harvard to The Wall Street Journal, from Maureen Comey to Gavin Newsom, the law is the frontline

and the foundation of most efforts to delegitimize Mr. Trump. But it is hard to deny that Mr. Trump's multiple efforts to subvert the Constitution through its most vulnerable parts appears to be doing vastly better than those of its opponents. How has this been accomplished?

One argument for Mr. Trump's legal victories in law has pointed to his willingness to sacrifice the spirit of the law in favor of the letter. This theory too is not entirely satisfactory, since it overlooks Mr. Trump's cherry-picking of the letter of the law to favor his preferred versions of its spirit.

The truth is that Mr. Trump is equally capricious about both the letter and spirit of the law, and typically subordinates them to any goal which serves his interests. Hence, the idea that he values the letter over the spirit of the law gives him too much credit for some sort of principle.

Another tool in Mr. Trump's subversion of the law to advance his personal pride, prejudice and pocketbook is his success in seducing the Congress, especially The House of Representatives, into his personal dominion. The ruling icon of Congressional subservience to Mr. Trump is MAGA Mike Johnson, the Speaker of the House.

THE CREATION OF A COMPLEX MACHINERY

As far as the law is concerned, this last factor, the principles of reasonable doubt, the presumption of innocence and the right to avoid self-incrimination have been steadily converted from protections for the innocent into the privileges of scofflaws. The biggest such scofflaw is Mr. Trump himself who has escaped massive indictments by one or other loophole designed for more exalted purposes. But he has set the pace for numerous others to escape the full force of the law by turning the fine points of a legal criminal defense into a complex machinery for minimizing, delaying or eliminating punishment for criminal wrongdoing.

The sobering fact is that 90% of criminal cases in the U.S. are settled by plea bargains, arrangements (often with no public disclosure of their negotiating background) between prosecutors and defense lawyers, blessed by judges, to save time, reduce legal costs and prevent massive logjams in court dockets. This pragmatic motivation combines with the more exalted doctrine of the presumption of innocence, to help someone such as Mr. Trump, who exploits the weaknesses of the judicial system. His commitment to a winning deal, in every aspect of his life, is realized by recruiting lawyers who can get him to a favorable deal as independently of the law as he can manage. The Letter of the Law, for Mr. Trump, is just a springboard to the Spirit of the Deal.

(Arjun Appadurai is Emeritus Professor of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University, and lives in Berlin)
(First published in The Hindu)

Suozzi Leads Bipartisan Letter Uniting India and Pakistan Caucuses on South Asian Flood Relief Efforts

The bipartisan letter asks the Secretary of State Rubio for a Member's Briefing on the ongoing recovery efforts in India and Pakistan following last month's devastating floods

September 25, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): In a rare and powerful show of bipartisan unity, Chair of the Pakistan Caucus and active member of the India Caucus, Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY), and his co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Pakistan Caucus Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI), as well as the bipartisan Chairs of the India Caucus, Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) and Rep. McCormick (R-GA) joined in a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio. The letter requested a briefing on the U.S. response to catastrophic floods that recently devastated communities across both India and Pakistan.

This bipartisan letter highlights the devastating toll of the flooding and the personal impact it has had on South

Asian American communities across the United States.

"In the aftermath of last month's horrific floods, I stand with my Indian and Pakistani constituents and admire their resilience in the face of such hardship," said Congressman Suozzi. "In my capacity as Chair of the Pakistan Caucus, and as an active member of the India Caucus, I am proud to join my Co-Chair, Rep. Jack Bergman, along with the India Caucus Chairs, in sending a joint letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Natural disasters do not recognize borders. This bilateral and bipartisan collaboration shows that, in the face of tragedy, we must stand united in our common purpose to support our communities."

The letter, sent September 23, requests

a briefing for Members of Congress on the status of U.S. assistance and recovery coordination. It notes the destruction of homes, businesses, and cultural and religious landmarks, including the Kartarpur Sahib, a powerful symbol of peace between India and Pakistan.

"As Members of Congress who represent large Indian and Pakistani American populations, we are hearing firsthand from families whose ancestral homes have been lost, whose livelihoods have been wiped out," the lawmakers wrote. "We are thankful for the immense help provided by the United States government as well as the Indian and Pakistani diasporas."

Suozzi emphasized that "working across party lines and across borders isn't just possible, it's essential. Our



Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY)

communities deserve that kind of leadership."

Tirlok Malik's Happy Life Yoga Shines at Times Square on World Peace Day 2025



Tirlok Malik captivates the attendees with "Happy Life Yoga" -Photo Credit: John Pina

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): On a sunlit afternoon at the heart of Manhattan, Times Square became a hub of positivity as Tirlok Malik shared the secrets of a happy and peaceful life with an enthusiastic crowd celebrating World Peace Day.

Marking the 21st anniversary of the event, organized by Reverend Paul Sladkus, Founder of Good News Corporation, Malik captivated attendees with his "Happy Life Yoga," emphasizing the power of laughter and inner happiness as essential tools for global peace. "Peace and laughter go together," he told the crowd. "If you are happy yourself, you can bring peace to the world."

The event, graced by an array of global icons, highlighted the universal appeal of Malik's message. Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine attended the celebration, alongside luminaries such as the iconic South African film producer Anant Singh.

The event was supported by the likes of Ringo Starr, Michael Douglas, Sister Jenna, Stevie Wonder, Jane Goodall, Reachel Singh, Rebecca Irby, Shakira, Oprah Winfrey, and Deepak Chopra, each showing their support for peace and wellness initiatives.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Suromurchhana Celebrates Tabla Maestro Padma Shri Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri's 80th Birthday with Grand Concert in NYC



Tabla maestro Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri (left) and Suromurchhana founder, Sanjoy Banerjee (right)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP):

Suromurchhana, a New York based nonprofit organization for Indian classical music, proudly announces a landmark concert event on Saturday, October 25, 2025, at Scandinavia House in New York City. The evening will be a celebration of heritage by commemorating the 80th birth anniversary of living legendary tabla maestro Padma Shri Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri.

This celebration of rhythm and raga will begin at 6:00 PM, and will feature a stellar lineup of acclaimed artists who will pay tribute through performances rooted in deep guru-shishya tradition and musical excellence. Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri, a maestro whose legacy as a tabla virtuoso spans decades, and whose contributions have shaped the very language of percussion in Hindustani classical music, will be performing with vocalist Shri. Sanjoy Banerjee; and Shri Kedar Naphade, a harmonium exponent known for his sensitive accompaniment. Shri. Sanjoy Banerjee is a distinguished vocalist and an exponent of Kirana gharana tradition, who will bring the depth of his rich melodic beauty through his command on the voice - ranging in three octaves, and controlled playfulness with rhythm throughout the evening's program.

The program will commence with Smt. Namami Karmakar, who represents the new generation of Indian classical vocalists, deeply rooted in this tradition and known for her emotive nuanced renditions of raga, bhajan and thumri. She will be accompanied by Shri Dibyarka Chatterjee on tabla and Shri Anirban Chakrabarty on harmonium.

The event will also pay tribute to musical titans and gurus of Shri Sanjoy Banerjee - Pt. A. Kanan and Vidushi Malabika Kanan, who have inspired generations of artists. Whether you're a seasoned rasika or a curious listener, this event offers an unforgettable immersion into the timeless beauty of Indian classical music.

Founded by Shri Sanjoy Banerjee, Suromurchhana is an academy and cultural organization dedicated to teaching, performing, and preserving Hindustani classical music in its purest form. Through training, concerts, workshops and outreach, Suromurchhana builds bridges between generations of artists and audiences. This event is part of Suromurchhana's continuing mission to foster appreciation for Indian classical music and to provide a platform for artists and students alike. "This event is more than a tribute-it's a living dialogue between tradition and expression. Honoring Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri is an honor for us all." - Shri. Sanjoy Banerjee, Artistic Director, Suromurchhana

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Legislator Koslow, Northwell Health Team Up to Host Free Mobile Flu Shot Clinics for Seniors in Merrick and N. Merrick



SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

MERRICK, NY (TIP): Nassau County Legislator Seth I. Koslow (D - Merrick) is once again partnering with Northwell Health's Long Island Jewish Valley Stream Hospital to provide free flu shots for seniors at the Merrick Library on Friday, Oct. 3 and at the North Merrick Library on Friday, Oct. 10. No appointment is required for either of these clinics, which are both scheduled for 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

"Flu shots are an indispensable tool for keeping ourselves safe and healthy during the winter months, and it is an especially important one for Nassau's seniors," Legislator Koslow said. "I am happy to once again be working with Northwell Health and our local libraries to do our part to ensure that every community member who wants this vaccine can conveniently receive it at no charge."

MERRICK EVENT

Friday, Oct. 3, 2025 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Merrick Library
2279 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, N.Y. 11556

NORTH.MERRICK EVENT

Friday, Oct. 10, 2025 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
North Merrick Library
1691 Meadowbrook Road, N. Merrick, N.Y. 11566
Contact Legislator Koslow's office at 516-571-6205 or skoslow@nassaucountyny.gov for additional information.

AAPI Announces 44th Annual Convention During Mini Kick-Off Event and Contract Signing in Tampa, Florida

Leaders, Dignitaries, and Community Partners Gather to Mark the Beginning of a Landmark 2026 Assembly

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

TAMPA, FL (TIP): The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) proudly celebrated a milestone on the journey toward its 44th Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly, scheduled for the July 4th weekend in 2026 in Tampa, Florida. AAPI hosted a mini kick-off event and formal contract signing ceremony, officially launching preparations for what is anticipated to be one of the largest and most impactful gatherings in AAPI history.

"We are delighted to share this exciting milestone as we prepare for the AAPI Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly in Tampa," announced Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI. "This week's contract signing and kick-off meeting bring together physicians, leaders, and community partners, setting the stage for an exceptional and historic event."

The ceremony was attended by a distinguished group, including the Honorable Mayor of Tampa, officials from Visit Tampa Bay, senior executives from Marriott International, and representatives from the Florida Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (FAPI). Their collective presence highlighted the strong partnerships and breadth of support for AAPI's mission and the upcoming convention. In a momentous signing, AAPI leadership and convention partners formally committed to hosting an event expected to attract more than 2,000 AAPI members and international delegates.

Dr. Chakrabarty, joined by Convention Chair Dr. Sagar Galwankar and Convener Dr. Raghu Juvvadi, extended a warm welcome to guests and expressed pride in the organization's collaborative spirit. "The involvement of our community, partners, and leadership underscores the unity and commitment that will make this convention truly special," said Dr. Chakrabarty. "Together, we are preparing not just an assembly, but a celebration of unity, knowledge, and cultural pride-right in the heart of Tampa."

The kick-off event showcased AAPI's significant role in shaping the healthcare landscape in the United States. Attendees included AAPI's national leadership, committee chairs, and community leaders, all committed to advancing the association's goals. Dr. Chakrabarty outlined recent initiatives undertaken by his executive committee, highlighting new programs and partnerships since he assumed the presidency of America's largest ethnic medical organization.

This year's convention is being organized by AAPI, with Dr. Galwankar leading the planning efforts. He emphasized the dedication and hard work of the convention committee members, many of whom hail from the Tri-State region. "We've been working tirelessly to design an attractive program for our annual gathering, featuring educational activities and opportunities for family enjoyment," said Dr. Galwankar. "We anticipate a record turnout and



AAPI Kickoff

encourage early registration to secure your place and avoid disappointment."

The AAPI Convention provides a unique forum for attendees to engage directly with leading physicians who play pivotal roles in healthcare innovation and decision-making. Dr. Raghu Juvvadi, Convention Convenor said, "Participants will have access to alumni networking meetings, educational seminars/workshops, healthcare and immigration policy initiatives, entertainment, and the recognition of AAPI award recipients. These activities reflect the association's commitment to fostering global collaboration and advancing healthcare both in India and the United States."

Physicians of Indian Origin have long been recognized as leading healthcare providers, holding key positions in hospitals and healthcare facilities across the United States and worldwide. As a prominent ethnic medical organization representing nearly 100,000 physicians and fellows of Indian origin, AAPI serves as the collective voice of its members, providing a platform to address their diverse needs and advocate for the wellbeing of their communities both in the U.S. and India. The annual convention is a

vital space for networking, sharing knowledge, exchanging ideas, and renewing dedication to improving health and wellbeing for people everywhere.

"Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country and internationally will convene to participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, develop health policy agendas, and encourage legislative priorities for the coming year," said Dr. Chakrabarty. "We look forward to welcoming everyone to Tampa in 2026 for a truly unforgettable event."

Stay tuned for ongoing updates as AAPI builds toward an extraordinary 2026 Convention and Scientific Assembly in Tampa—an event that promises to unite the brightest minds in medicine, foster lasting professional connections, and celebrate the rich heritage and contributions of Indian-origin physicians to global healthcare.

For more information about registration, sponsorship opportunities, and program details, please visit: www.aapiconvention.org and www.aapiusa.org.

RSS centenary events to begin on Vijayadashami; Bhagwat to address workers, Kovind to be chief guest

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

NAGPUR (TIP): The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh will mark its centenary year with events beginning from Vijayadashami on October 2, which will include an address by its chief Mohan Bhagwat in the presence of former president Ramnath Kovind who will be the chief guest.

Events to commemorate 100 years of the outfit will take place till Vijayadashami in 2026, RSS Akhil

Bhartiya Prachar Pramukh Sunil Ambekar said at a press conference in Reshimbagh here on Monday.

"On October 2, former President of India Ramnath Kovind will be the chief guest at the Vijayadashami programme and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat will address swayamsevaks across the world. Bajaj Finserv chairperson Sanjiv Bajaj, Deccan Industries' KV Kartik and Lieutenant General Rana Pratap Kalita are the special invitees at the programme," Ambekar said.



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat



Suromurchhana
celebrates

80th Birth Anniversary

of
Living legend of tabla

Padma Shri

Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri



Vocal: Sri Sanjoy Banerjee
Tabla: Pt. Swapan Chaudhuri
Harmonium: Sri Kedar Naphade



Vocal: Smt Namami Karmakar
Tabla: Sri Dibyarka Chatterjee
Harmonium: Sri Anirban Chakrabarty

SATURDAY
25 OCT
2025
6 P.M.

at Scandinavia House, New York

58 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016

Tickets: \$100, \$75, \$50 & \$25

For tickets go to: www.suromurchhana.org
www.viewcy.com



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Dinesh Patnaik presents his credentials to the Governor-General of Canada



--->By Prabhjot Singh



Dinesh Patnaik presents his credentials to the Canadian Governor-General, Mary Simon

Six heads of mission after presenting their credentials to the Governor-General of Canada, Mary Simon, in Ottawa on Thursday, September 25, 2025 -Picture by Governor-General's Media team

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Dinesh Patnaik of India was among six new heads of foreign missions in Canada who presented their letters of credence before formally commencing their diplomatic duties in Canada.

With his assuming office, India's full-

fledged diplomatic relations have been restored.

All six new heads of commission presented their credentials to the Governor-General of Canada, Mary Simon, at a ceremony held at Rideau Hall.

Mary Simon officially welcomed all six

new heads of mission to Canada.

The new heads of missions are: Karl Anthony Amadeus Dhaene, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium; Anthony Dessources, Ambassador of the Republic of Haiti; Hanne Ulrichsen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway; Andrii Plakhotniuk, Ambassador of Ukraine;

Dinesh Kumar Patnaik, High Commissioner for the Republic of India; and Stefan Tomašević, Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia

With the presentation of their letters of credence, they formally commenced their diplomatic duties in Canada.

House-to-house delivery of mail will be a thing of the past in Canada

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025.

OTTAWA (TIP): There is a time when traditions become a part of history. And there is one such tradition which is about to be confined to the annals of history.

Door-to-door mail delivery in Canada will soon be a thing of the past. Instead, people with disabilities and in rural and remote areas will have to go to the nearby community mailboxes to get their letters.

Though the number of letters sent through Canada Post has been coming down drastically, there are still ardent followers of hard copies or letters coming as part of surface mail. These are the avid postal mail lovers who are in the habit of checking their mailboxes outside the main doors of their houses every day. Soon, they will have nothing to look for in their mailboxes. It is more true for people living in rural or remote areas. As of today, there are nearly 4 million Canadian households who are privileged to get their letters delivered to their homes.

This facility or privilege is all set to be withdrawn as the Government of Canada announced some far-reaching decisions to save Canada Post, a national institution, older than Canada itself.

Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, issued the following statement:

"Canada Post is a national institution, older than our country itself, that has been serving Canadians for more than 150 years. For generations, postal workers have connected communities in every corner of the country, providing an essential lifeline to hundreds of northern, Indigenous, and rural communities. Canadians continue to rely on it today, and it remains a vital public service.

"At the same time, Canada Post is now facing an existential crisis. Since 2018, the corporation has accumulated more than \$5 billion in losses. In 2024

alone, it lost over \$1 billion, and in 2025, it is already on track to lose close to \$1.5 billion. Earlier this year, the federal government provided a \$1-billion injection to keep the corporation operational. In the second quarter of 2025, Canada Post posted its worst quarterly results ever, losing \$407 million. Today, the corporation is losing approximately \$10 million every day.

"Twenty years ago, Canada Post delivered 5.5 billion letters annually. Today, it delivers only 2 billion, even as the number of households has grown. That means fewer letters are being delivered to more addresses, while fixed costs remain high. At the same time, parcel volumes - which should have been Canada Post's growth opportunity - have declined. In 2019, Canada Post delivered 62% of parcels in Canada; today, its market share has dropped below 24%, with private competitors taking the lead. Structural challenges, combined with outdated restrictions and stalled negotiations between labor and management, have further limited the corporation's ability to adapt.

Soon after the announcement was made by the Minister, an issue was raised in the House of Commons where some MPs from Quebec wanted that door-to-door delivery of letters in rural and remote areas and to the families of disabled persons, should not be impacted.

Joel Lightbound, however, insisted that it was more important to save the institution, which was getting deeper into mounting losses.

The federal government has now directed Canada Post to transition from door-to-door delivery to community mailboxes for four million additional addresses. Joël Lightbound, while addressing a Press Conference, revealed that the Crown agency has also been asked to restructure rural deliveries and shift non-urgent mail from air to ground. Lightbound said that he projects to raise delivery times from three or four days to up to seven days for non-urgent mail. "Canada Post is facing an existential crisis. We need to respond," he



Door-to-door mail delivery in Canada will soon be a thing of the past

said. "I know that Canadians care about the future of Canada Post."

Ottawa plans to address the loss by adopting all recommendations issued by the Industrial Inquiry Commission led by William Kaplan in a May 15 report.

Along with the switch to community mailboxes for four million additional addresses and developing dynamic routes to accommodate daily variations in mail volume, a more straightforward process for increasing stamp rates will be implemented, Lightbound said.

He also announced the government will lift a 1994 moratorium on closing roughly 4,000 post offices that were once located in rural regions but have now transitioned to suburban areas as communities expand. He said that remote and indigenous communities will continue to have access to post offices despite the moratorium being lifted.

Ottawa will also instruct Canada Post to employ part-time workers to meet the demand for weekend and additional weekday deliveries resulting from high volume. These workers will be compensated with the same pay and conditions as full-time employees, along with proportional benefits and pensions. The changes are expected to generate nearly half a billion dollars in annual savings, helping ensure Canada Post's long-term survival, the minister said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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diwali at times square

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Jairam Ramesh slams PM on 'howdy Modi' diplomacy amid US-Pak moves

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Wednesday criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's foreign policy approach, questioning the efficacy of the "Howdy Modi" outreach in the wake of recent US-Pakistan developments.

In a detailed tweet, Ramesh highlighted a series of actions by US President Donald Trump since mid-May 2025, including his repeated claims of brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan that abruptly halted Operation Sindoor. He noted that Trump had made these claims 45 times across four countries, including at the UN. Ramesh also drew attention to Trump's unprecedented White House lunch with Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, whose statements had previously created a "communally charged backdrop" for the Pahalgam terror attack.

He further highlighted Washington's intensifying economic partnership with Islamabad, the reported green signal to a strategic mutual defence agreement between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, and punitive US tariffs and H1B visa changes that have negatively impacted India. "The President is singling out India for its longstanding economic ties with Russia and penalising it," Ramesh said, raising concerns over the PM's diplomatic outreach.

PM pushes self-reliance, hails India's Russia ties

GREATER NOIDA (TIP)

India is moving towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 despite global disruptions and uncertainty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday, Sept 25, highlighting the country's historic ties with Moscow at a time when Washington DC is pushing New Delhi to stop buying Russian oil.

Inaugurating the third edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS-2025) at the India Expo Centre & Mart in Greater Noida, Modi also hailed the reforms in Goods and Services Tax. Later in the day in Banswara, he attacked the Opposition, saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party government was "healing the wounds" caused by Congress rule.

"Today, India is moving towards its goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047. Despite the disruptions and uncertainty taking place in the world, India's growth is impressive. Disruptions do not distract us, but we find new directions from within those circumstances, we find opportunities for a new direction," Modi said in a 29-minute address in Greater Noida.

The PM also underlined his self-reliance pitch, saying India was strengthening the foundation for the coming decades amid disruptions.

"In this changing world, the more a country depends on others, the more



compromised its growth will be. And therefore, it is no longer acceptable for a country like India to depend on anyone, hence India will have to be made self-reliant. Every product we can make in India, we must make it in India," he added.

At the Trade Show, where Russia is the international partner, Modi also underscored India's "time-tested" partnership with Russia, highlighting long-standing defence cooperation between the two countries. "This time, the country partner of the trade show is Russia. That means we are further strengthening a time-tested partnership through this trade show," the PM said. His remarks came amid strain in ties between India and the US, following the Trump

administration slapping an additional 25% tariff on India over the continued purchase of Russian oil. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly this week, US President Donald Trump called India and China the primary funders of the Ukraine war.

Modi further said India's armed forces seek indigenous solutions and aim to reduce external dependence. "The country must become self-reliant, every product that can be made in India should be made here," Modi said. "Soon, production of AK-203 rifles will begin from a factory set up with Russia's help. A defence corridor is also being set up in Uttar Pradesh. Production of several weapons, including BrahMos missiles has already started," he added.

"In India, we are developing a vibrant defence sector, creating an ecosystem where every component bears the mark of 'Made in India'," he said, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's significant role in this transformation. "You all know how much emphasis the government is placing on Make in India and manufacturing. We want to manufacture everything from chips to ships in India. And that is why we are continuously working for your ease of doing business," he added.

Source: HT

Wankhede files defamation case against SRK, Red Chillies, Netflix over his portrayal in Ba**ds of Bollywood

MUMBAI (TIP)

Former narcotics officer and Indian Revenue Services (IRS) officer Sameer Wankhede has filed a defamation suit in the Delhi High Court against Red Chillies Entertainment, owned by actor Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, along with Netflix and other associated parties.

The suit seeks a permanent and mandatory injunction, a declaration, and damages, citing what Wankhede describes as a "false, malicious, and defamatory" portrayal in the Netflix series Ba**ds of Bollywood*.

According to the petition, the series, produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and streamed on Netflix, presents a distorted and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies. Wankhede contends that this depiction has the potential to erode public trust in law enforcement institutions.

Wankhede, who previously led high-profile narcotics investigations, including the one involving Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan, claims the



series was deliberately conceptualised and produced to malign both his personal and professional reputation. "The portrayal is both prejudicial and

irresponsible," he asserts, noting that the legal case concerning him and Aryan Khan is still pending before the Hon'ble Bombay High Court and the

NDPS Special Court in Mumbai.

The petition also highlights a scene in which a character makes an obscene gesture, raising the middle finger, immediately after uttering the national slogan "Satyamev Jayate," which forms part of India's National Emblem. Wankhede contends, "This act constitutes a serious violation of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, and is punishable under Indian law."

Additionally, Wankhede alleges that the content violates several provisions of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), arguing that the series contains obscene and offensive material designed to provoke and outrage national sentiment.

This legal action comes amid ongoing debates about the depiction of real-life figures and institutions in dramatized streaming content, raising questions about artistic freedom versus defamation and public responsibility.

Don't demean Hindu society: Supreme Court on Succession Act

Noting that it would be wary of shattering the Hindu social structure and its basic tenets that have been in existence for thousands of years, the Supreme Court has said it would move cautiously while examining challenges to provisions of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956.

"Do not demean the structure of the Hindu society that we already have. As a court, we are putting you to caution. There is a Hindu social structure and you do not bring it down... We do not want our judgment to break something that has been there for thousands of years," a Bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan said. The top court was hearing petitions challenging Section 15 of the Act, according to which when a Hindu woman dies intestate, her property devolves to her husband's heirs first before her own parents.

The comments came after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing one of the petitioners, submitted that the provisions under challenge were exclusionary and discriminated against women. He said women can't be denied equal inheritance rights simply because of traditions.

On behalf of the Centre, Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj defended the Act as "well-crafted" legislation and alleged that the petitioners were seeking to "destroy the social structure".

While women's rights were important, there had to be a balance between social structure and giving rights to women, the Bench said, while sending the parties to the Supreme Court's mediation centre to explore the possibility of an amicable settlement, pending consideration of the broader issues.

Agni Prime missile fired from train: What it means for India's nuclear deterrence

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is no stranger to missile launches, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) regularly conducting tests of short-, medium-, and long-range systems. But the 25 September test of the Agni Prime was not just another routine exercise. For the first time, the nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile was fired from a specially designed rail-based launcher, pulled by an Indian Railways locomotive.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hailed the launch as a "first-of-its-kind," congratulating DRDO, SFC and the armed forces for successfully putting India in a select group of nations with canisterised launch capability from an on-the-move rail network.

The demonstration means India now has the ability to launch a nuclear-capable missile not just from land silos, road-based canisters, aircraft and submarines, but also from its vast railway grid.

This rail mobility marks a significant step in India's deterrence posture. It compresses adversary timelines, complicates targeting, and strengthens the credibility of India's second-strike capability under its declared No First Use (NFU) doctrine.

Agni Prime, also referred to as Agni-P, is the sixth missile in India's Agni series. It is a two-stage, solid-propellant intermediate-range ballistic missile with a strike range of up to 2,000 km, covering critical targets across Pakistan and much of China. The missile is canisterised, meaning it is stored and transported in a sealed launch tube. This allows the missile to remain mated with its warhead and ready to fire at short notice, unlike older liquid-fuelled systems that required extensive pre-launch preparation. Solid propellant further reduces reaction time



by eliminating the need for fuelling before launch. Until now, the Agni Prime has been deployed on road-mobile truck launchers. Thursday's test marked its debut on a rail-based platform, opening up a new dimension of mobility and concealment for India's strategic forces.

Why Does A Rail-Based Launch Matter?

Rail launch capability dramatically alters the strategic geometry of deterrence. India's rail network, the fourth-largest in the world with nearly 70,000 km of track, offers vast dispersal and concealment opportunities.

Missiles can now be deployed across the country, far from fixed silos or known bases. They can be hidden in train tunnels, moved under cover of routine traffic, and launched from unexpected locations. This makes it far harder for enemy satellites or surveillance systems to detect and target them in advance.

As the Defence Minister noted, the rail launcher allows "cross-country mobility, rapid reaction capability, and low-visibility deployment." In practice, this

means India's adversaries cannot be certain where the Agni Prime units are located at any given time, nor can they assume they have hours to neutralise them before launch.

Canisterisation, Mobility, And Quick Reaction

The core innovation behind Agni Prime's rail launch lies in the combination of canisterisation and mobility. In a canisterised system, the missile is cold-launched from its tube in a matter of minutes, rather than hours. This alone makes India's nuclear forces far more survivable, since the window for a pre-emptive strike against them shrinks dramatically. Rail mobility amplifies this survivability. A missile mounted on a rail wagon can travel inconspicuously across the network, be staged in operationally advantageous locations, and cycle through movement patterns that complicate enemy surveillance. To an observer, a missile-bearing carriage can resemble an ordinary train coach, blending into the traffic of India's massive network.

Defence Ministry inks Rs 62,370 cr deal with HAL for 97 Tejas Mark-1A jets

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday, Sept 25, signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the procurement of 97 Tejas Mark-1A aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

The deal was sealed for Rs 62,370 crore (Rs 66,550 crore with taxes) and is in addition to the 83 jets ordered in January 2021, taking the total to 180 aircraft. With the latest order, the MoD, which is a majority stakeholder in HAL, has reposed faith in the listed public sector enterprise despite it being 18 months behind schedule in delivering jets under the previous contract.

The fresh order is for 68 fighter jets and 29 twin-seater trainer aircraft along with associated equipment. The deliveries would start during 2027-28 and were expected to complete in next six years, the

MoD said in statement.

As the Centre has been pushing for self-reliance, the newly ordered jets will feature 64 per cent indigenous content, with 67 additional items incorporated beyond those in the earlier contract for 83 planes. The integration of advanced indigenously developed systems such as Uttam Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar and an electronic protection suite would further strengthen the government's 'Aatmanirbharta' initiative, the MoD said. The ministry said the 97 jets would be the most advanced variant of the indigenously designed and manufactured Tejas. A crucial aspect of the contract is the delivery timeline. HAL is facing a delay in supply of F-404 engines for Tejas Mark-1A from US firm General Electric. Nearly a dozen jets are ready at the HAL facility,



but only three engines have been supplied so far. As a result, not a single jet has been delivered to the Air Force, which is battling a dwindling combat strength. The jet deliveries should have started in March 2024 and the engines should have arrived a few months in advance.

The MoD said the project was being supported by a robust vendor base as 105

Indian companies were directly engaged in manufacture of components. The production is expected to generate nearly 11,750 direct and indirect jobs annually over six years, it said.

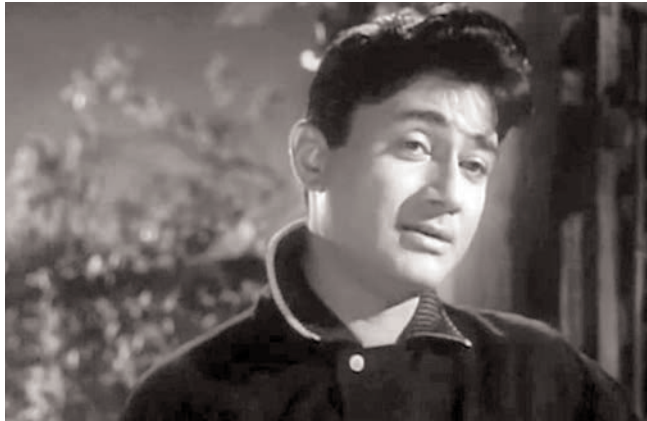
The Tejas programme is aimed at helping the Air Force replace its fleet of MiG-21s, which will be formally phased out at a ceremony in Chandigarh on Friday. The IAF is already operating 40 Tejas Mark-1 jets. The Air Force currently has 31 squadrons (each having up to 18 planes) of fighter jets against the sanctioned 42 to counter a potential two-front challenge from Pakistan and China. With the phasing out of MiG-21, the strength would be down to 29 squadrons. The IAF's fleet of Jaguar, MiG-29 and Mirage 2000, all inducted in phases in the 1980s, is scheduled to retire in batches after 2029-30.

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 2

26 SEPTEMBER

1820 Indian social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born.



1923 Bollywood actor Dev Anand was born in Punjab (Pakistan).

1932 Manmohan Singh, the 13th Prime Minister of the country, was born in a village in the Punjab province of undivided India.

1998 Sachin Tendulkar broke Desmond Haynes' world record by scoring an 18th century in a one-day cricket match against Zimbabwe.

27 SEPTEMBER

1883 The great social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy died.

1907 The great revolutionary Bhagat Singh was born.

1998 Google, the world's largest search engine, was launched.

1871 Vitthalbhai Patel, elder brother of Sardar Patel and famous freedom fighter was born.

28 SEPTEMBER



1929 Swar Kokila Lata Mangeshkar was born.

1838 The last Mughal emperor in India Bahadur Shah Zafar ascended the throne after his father's death.

1977 India's famous poet Sumitranandan Pant died. He is one of the four major pillars of the Chhayawadi era in Hindi literature.

2004 The World Bank named India as the fourth largest economy in the world.

2011 Chief Minister Mayawati announced the creation of three more districts in Uttar Pradesh, comprising 72 districts, namely Panchsheel Nagar, Prabuddhanagar and Sambhal.

1836 Birth of spiritual master Shirdi Sai Baba.

29 SEPTEMBER



1932 The actor, producer-director Mahmood Ali was born.

1959 Aarati Saha became the first Asian woman to cross the English Channel.

1836 Madras Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established.

1971 About 10 thousand people died due to cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal.

1837 The last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II took over the rule of Delhi.

1962 Birla Planetarium opens in Kolkata.

1928 India's first National Security Advisor Brijesh Mishra was born.

30 SEPTEMBER

1993 In Aurangabad district of Maharashtra, more than 10 thousand people died due to earthquake and millions were rendered homeless.



2003 The famous Indian chess player Viswanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess Championship.

2010 The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court ruled in the disputed Babri Masjid case, dividing the land into three parts and giving one part each to Ramlala, Nirmohi Akhara and Waqf Board.

2007 Renowned playback singer Manna Dey was selected for the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2009.

01 OCTOBER

1962 The war started between India and China over the border dispute.

1574 The third Sikh Guru Amardas died.

1847 Anne Besant, a member of the Theosophical Society, who played a major role in India's freedom movement, was born in London.

1854 The introduction of postage stamps started in India.

1919 Famous Urdu poet Majrooh Sultanpuri was born.

1853 Andhra Pradesh became a separate state in India.

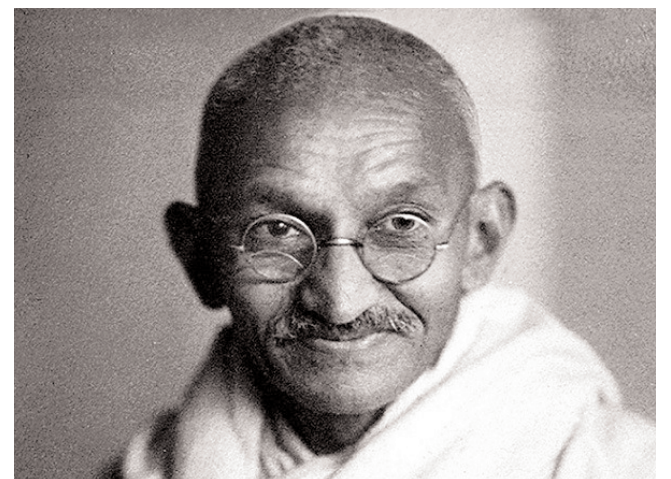
1967 Indian Tourism Development Corporation was established.

1978 The marriage age of girls was increased from 14 to 18 and that of boys from 18 to 21 years.

2003 India overcame Bangladesh's apprehensions about linking rivers.

02 OCTOBER

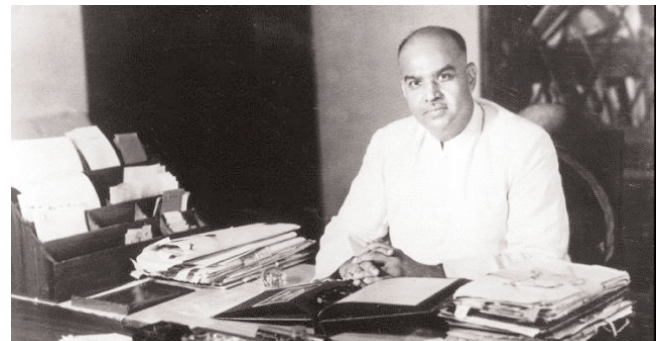
1869 Birth of Mahatma Gandhi in Porbandar, Gujarat. On the strength of non-violence, he contributed significantly to the independence of the country.



1904 Birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri. With his simplicity and the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan', he became popular among the masses. Led the country in the Indo-Pak war of 1965.

1924 The Geneva proposal, brought with the aim of strengthening the League of Nations, was approved by the General Assembly but was not ratified later.

1975 Bharat Ratna honored freedom fighter, politician, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K.K. Kamaraj was born.



1951 Shyama Prasad Mukherjee founded the Bharatiya Jan Sangh.

1952 Initiation of community development program.

1955 The Integral Coach Factory at Perambur, Madras, built the first coach of the rail.

1961 Establishment of Shipping Corporation of India in Bombay (Mumbai).

1971 The President of India dedicated the Birla Sadan to the country. Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in this building and was renamed Gandhi Sadan.

1985 Dowry Prohibition Amendment Act implemented.

1988 The largest road bridge at that time over the sea connecting Mandapam and Pamban was opened for traffic.

2000 Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrived in Delhi on a four-day visit, adding a new chapter to the old friendly relations between India and Russia.

2006 South Africa decided to support India in the nuclear fuel supply case.

Remembering the Mahatma, the legend: Father of the Indian Nation

A few figures in history have left behind as enduring a legacy as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi—the man who led India's freedom struggle and who, through the sheer force of moral conviction, reshaped the way the world thinks about justice, truth, and nonviolence. Known to millions as Bapu (father) and hailed internationally as the Mahatma (great soul), Gandhi was not merely a political leader. He was a reformer, a philosopher, a social experimenter, and above all, a man who believed that the conscience of a people could defeat the might of an empire.

To remember Gandhi is not just to recall India's tryst with destiny in 1947; it is to revisit the extraordinary life of a man who became a legend. His journey from a shy boy in Gujarat to the Father of the Indian Nation is also the story of a nation finding its own voice.

Early Life: The Seeds of a Legend

Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, a coastal town in Kathiawar, Gujarat. His father, Karamchand Gandhi, served as diwan (chief minister) of Porbandar state, and his mother, Putlibai, was a deeply religious woman who spent much of her time in prayer, fasting, and temple rituals. From her, young Mohandas imbibed the values of simplicity, devotion, and self-restraint.

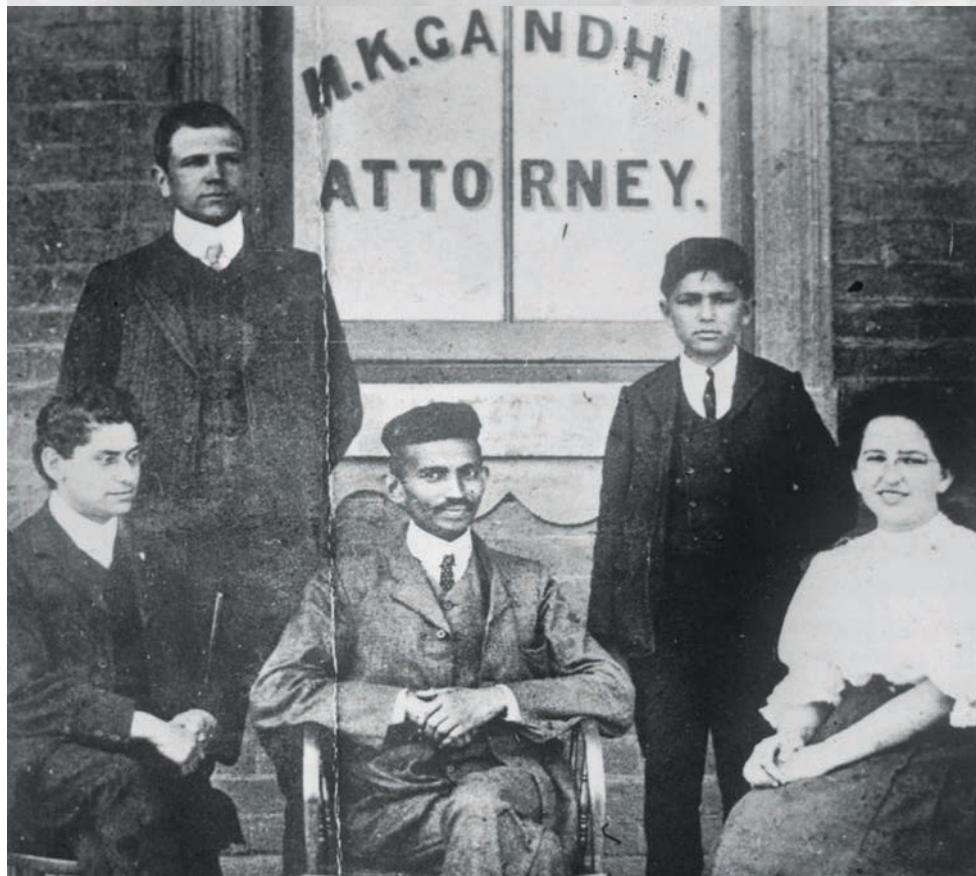
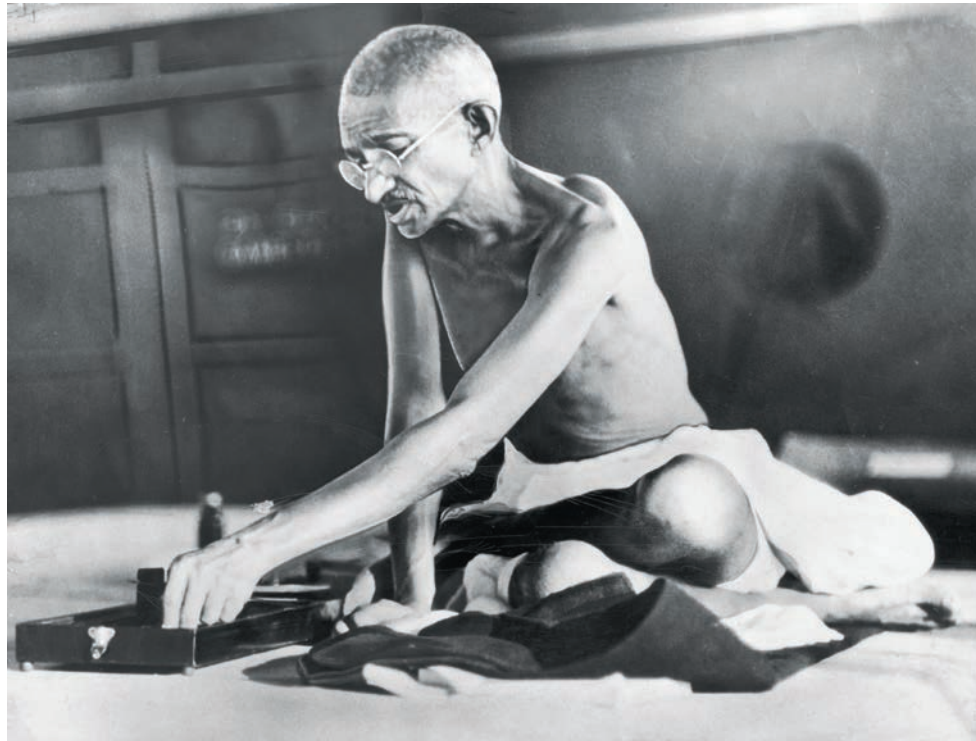
He was the youngest of four children, and his early years were marked by timidity and introspection. Gandhi later admitted that he was not a particularly bright student, though he was conscientious and honest. His shyness was so profound that he would sometimes run home from school immediately after classes, avoiding social contact. Yet, beneath this quiet demeanor was a spirit of inquiry and moral earnestness.

At 13, Gandhi entered into an arranged marriage with Kasturba Makhanji, who was also a teenager. Their early marriage was fraught with quarrels and immaturity, but over the years, Kasturba became his steadfast partner, enduring hardships and prison sentences with him. Gandhi would later reflect that much of his understanding of patience and sacrifice came from her.

In 1888, at the age of 18, Gandhi set sail for London to study law. His family and community initially opposed the idea, fearing that crossing the seas would corrupt his morals, but Gandhi convinced them otherwise. In London, he enrolled at the Inner Temple and began a period of intellectual awakening.

London: A World Opens Up

London in the late 19th century was the heart of the British Empire. For a young Indian student, it was both intimidating and fascinating. Gandhi



struggled initially with food, clothing, and manners. Determined to remain true to his vow of vegetarianism, he often went hungry until he discovered vegetarian restaurants and societies in the city.

This discovery proved transformative. Gandhi joined the Vegetarian Society, met like-minded thinkers, and began reading religious and philosophical works. He studied the Bible—particularly the Sermon on the Mount—which deeply impressed him. He also explored the teachings of Buddhism and Islam, and engaged with Western writers like Leo Tolstoy, Henry David Thoreau, and John Ruskin.

Ruskin's *Unto This Last* left a lasting mark on him, shaping his ideas of equality, simple living, and the dignity of labor. Thoreau's essay on Civil Disobedience introduced him to the concept of principled resistance to unjust laws. These influences would later converge into Gandhi's own philosophy of Satyagraha.

Though he qualified as a barrister in 1891, his return to India brought disappointment. He struggled to establish a law practice in Bombay, lacking both confidence and courtroom presence. Two years later, a legal assignment in South Africa would change everything.

South Africa: The Crucible of Satyagraha

In 1893, Gandhi accepted a one-year contract to assist in a legal case in Natal, South Africa. It was here that he first experienced the brutality of racial discrimination. The defining moment came when he was thrown out of a first-class railway compartment at Pietermaritzburg station, despite holding a valid ticket. Humiliated but unbroken, he resolved to fight against injustice.

Over the next two decades, Gandhi transformed into a leader. He founded the Natal Indian Congress (1894) and organized the Indian community against discriminatory laws. When the government passed the Asiatic Registration Act in 1906, requiring all Indians to register and carry identification passes, Gandhi launched his first campaign of Satyagraha—a nonviolent resistance based on truth and moral courage.

Thousands of Indians courted arrest, faced beatings, and endured imprisonment, yet they remained nonviolent. Gandhi himself was jailed multiple times, but the campaign eventually compelled the South African government to negotiate.

South Africa was Gandhi's political laboratory. It was here that he developed his philosophy of truth (satya), nonviolence (ahimsa), and self-suffering as a means of social change. When he returned to India in 1915, he was not just a barrister—he was a leader with a mission.

Return to India: The Awakening of a Nation

Upon his return, Gandhi spent a year traveling across India, observing village life and immersing himself in the struggles of ordinary people. His mentor, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, advised him to understand India before entering politics. Gandhi lived simply, wearing a dhoti and shawl, eating frugal meals, and staying in ashrams that embodied his ideals of communal living and service.

His first major struggle in India came with the Champaran Satyagraha (1917) in Bihar. Indigo farmers were forced into exploitative contracts by British planters, leaving them impoverished. Gandhi intervened, organizing peasants and pressuring authorities until the system was reformed. It was a resounding success and marked Gandhi's arrival as a national leader.

This was followed by the Kheda Satyagraha (1918) in Gujarat, where famine-stricken farmers resisted tax collection, and the Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918), where he mediated between workers and mill owners. Gandhi's ability to blend moral authority with practical solutions made him unique among India's leaders.

Mass Movements: Nonviolence on the National Stage

Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22)

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919), where British troops killed hundreds of unarmed civilians, deeply shocked Gandhi. He launched the Non-Cooperation Movement, urging Indians to boycott British goods, schools, courts, and honors. For the first time, millions of Indians—peasants, students, merchants, and professionals—participated in a mass struggle for independence.

Though the movement ended abruptly after violence broke out in Chauri Chaura in 1922, it marked a turning point: India's fight for freedom had become a people's movement.

Salt March and Civil Disobedience (1930)

Gandhi's most iconic campaign came in 1930. To protest the British monopoly on salt, he undertook the Salt March, walking 240 miles from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, where he symbolically made salt from the sea. The act galvanized the nation, inspiring civil disobedience across India and capturing global attention.

American journalist Webb Miller, reporting from India, wrote that the world had never seen such courage—ordinary people facing beatings and imprisonment without raising a hand in retaliation.

The Quit India Movement (1942)

During World War II, Gandhi demanded immediate independence, declaring, "Do or Die." The Quit India Movement triggered mass protests, strikes, and uprisings, though it was brutally suppressed. Gandhi was jailed along with other leaders, and though the movement was crushed, it made British rule untenable.

Philosophy: The Soul of Gandhi

Gandhi's leadership was inseparable from his philosophy:

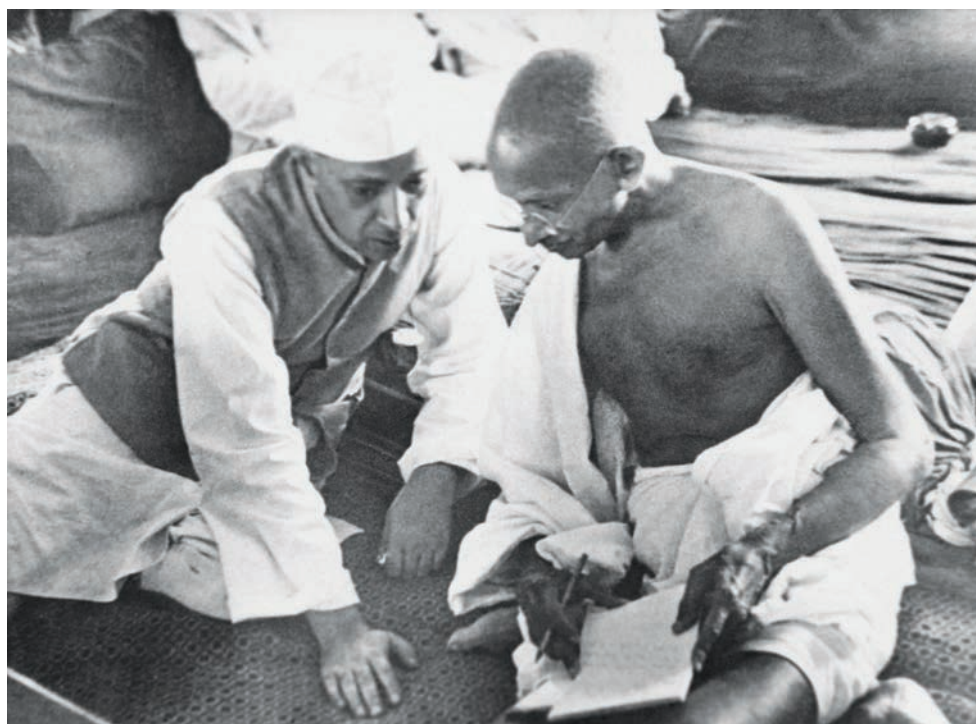
- Ahimsa (Nonviolence): For Gandhi, nonviolence was not cowardice but the ultimate form of courage.
- Satya (Truth): Truth was absolute, and Satyagraha was its weapon.
- Swaraj (Self-Rule): Independence was not merely political freedom but also moral and economic self-reliance.
- Sarvodaya (Welfare of All): Society must uplift its poorest members.
- Simple Living: Gandhi spun his own yarn, wore khadi, and advocated for self-sufficient villages.

His experiments included fasting as a means of purification, promoting interfaith harmony, and advocating for the abolition of untouchability.

Gandhi the Reformer: Beyond Politics

Gandhi believed that independence without social reform was hollow. He worked tirelessly to eradicate untouchability, calling Dalits Harijans (children of God). He promoted women's participation in the freedom struggle, arguing that women's strength lay in their capacity for nonviolence.

His campaign for khadi symbolized



economic independence. By spinning the charkha (spinning wheel), Gandhi urged Indians to boycott foreign goods and revive village industries. To him, the charkha was not just a tool but a symbol of dignity and self-reliance.

Gandhi and his Contemporaries

Gandhi often clashed with other leaders. Subhas Chandra Bose advocated armed struggle, while B. R. Ambedkar

criticized Gandhi's approach to caste. Gandhi's disagreements with Muhammad Ali Jinnah over Hindu-Muslim unity eventually culminated in the tragedy of Partition.

Yet, even his critics acknowledged his moral stature. Jawaharlal Nehru once remarked, "He was like a light that shone in the darkness. The light has gone out, but it will continue to shine in our hearts."

The Final Years and Martyrdom

Independence in 1947 came at a heavy price: the Partition of India and Pakistan. Gandhi, heartbroken by communal violence, dedicated his final months to peace efforts in Bengal and Delhi.

On 30 January 1948, as he walked to a prayer meeting in Delhi, he was assassinated by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu nationalist who opposed his vision of unity. Gandhi's last words—"Hey Ram"—echoed his lifelong devotion to truth and God.

The world mourned. Albert Einstein observed: "Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Global Legacy: Gandhi's Eternal Influence

Gandhi's influence transcended borders. His philosophy inspired Martin Luther King Jr. in the American civil rights movement, Nelson Mandela in the struggle against apartheid, and countless others in movements for justice worldwide.

Even today, his ideas resonate in discussions on peace, sustainability, and human rights. The International Day of Non-Violence, observed on his birthday, is a testament to his enduring relevance.

Criticisms and Complexities

Gandhi was not without critics. Some argue that his methods delayed independence, that his views on caste were paternalistic, and that his economic vision of self-sufficient villages was impractical in a modernizing world.

Yet, even his critics acknowledge that his moral force was unmatched. Gandhi was not infallible, but he was profoundly human—constantly experimenting, learning, and evolving.

Gandhi Today: Relevance in 21st Century

In an age of rising violence, environmental crises, and inequality, Gandhi's message remains vital. His emphasis on nonviolence offers an alternative to conflict; his call for simplicity challenges consumerism; and his vision of sustainability speaks to climate concerns.

Gandhi once said, "*My life is my message.*" That message continues to inspire.

Mahatma Gandhi was more than the leader of a freedom struggle. He was the conscience of a nation and the moral voice of humanity. His life proved that one individual, armed with truth and courage, can challenge the mightiest empire.

He was a man who became a legend, a leader who became a father to a nation, and a soul whose light continues to guide humanity.

As we remember Gandhi, we must not only honor his legacy but also ask ourselves: are we living by his ideals? For Gandhi, freedom was not just the end of colonial rule—it was the beginning of responsibility, compassion, and justice.

In a fractured world, Gandhi's voice calls out with renewed urgency: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN 'AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER' 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR FILM CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

'AVATAR: The Last Airbender In Concert' – The 20th Anniversary Tour (avatarinconcert.com), a collaboration of Nickelodeon, GEA Live, and Senbla, will land in Newark at New Jersey Performing Arts Center on Friday, October 3 at 7:30 p.m. Audiences will be immersed in a two-hour performance with a live orchestra that brings the show's iconic musical score to life in perfect harmony paired with visual highlights and favorite moments from all three seasons of the series.

The news comes as Nickelodeon celebrates the milestone 20th anniversary of 'Avatar: The Last Airbender' with all-new original digital content across the Paramount ecosystem, one-of-a-kind experiences, and brand new consumer products and games. Learn more at avatarinconcert.com. Watch the trailer - vimeo.com/1077948599/2fe6d9f401.

HISTORY

Since its debut on February 21, 2005, Avatar: The Last Airbender has become a fixture with fans around the world, spawning a universe of popular characters, a spinoff series with 'The Legend of Korra,' a recently announced new series, 'Avatar: Seven Havens,' several bestselling book series, an upcoming theatrical film, and a live orchestra tour, 'Avatar: The Last Airbender In Concert.'

"Avatar: The Last Airbender In Concert' marks the 20th anniversary of this franchise in a way that joyfully celebrates the connection fans have with the original series," says Pam Kaufman, President and CEO of International Markets, Global Consumer Products & Experiences, Paramount. "We are thrilled to be able to bring this experience to new cities worldwide, with some fun surprises in store for concert attendees."

ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE

'Avatar: The Last Airbender In Concert – The 20th Anniversary Tour' presents a stunning live orchestral performance of the series' beloved soundtrack, now elevated with a once-in-a-lifetime cinematic experience. This special anniversary edition features a two-hour visual journey through all three seasons of the iconic animated series, projected on a full-size cinema screen with new elements and artistic surprises crafted for this special anniversary edition that offers fresh perspectives on the show's legacy.

Preserving the original dialogue and sound effects, the concert replaces the recorded score with a powerful live orchestra, performing the legendary music of Emmy® Award-winning composer Jeremy Zuckerman, the creative mastermind behind the show's original music, in perfect sync with the action on screen.

"When I started work on 'Avatar: The Last Airbender,' it was a dream to have the music performed by an orchestra," said Zuckerman. "Now, over 20 years



'Avatar: The Last Airbender' with live orchestra, film concert. Courtesy, njpac.org.



'Avatar: The Last Airbender' with live orchestra, composite. Courtesy, njpac.org.

later, with the concert tour, that dream has come true in a way I never could have imagined. It's profound for me to see the Avatar community of fans — so wonderfully diverse — come together to celebrate the show through its music. The atmosphere of joy at the concerts is unlike anything I've ever experienced. I'm elated that more people will continue to share in it."

From taiko and erhu to soaring strings and delicate woodwinds, the music comes alive alongside the adventures of Aang, Katara, Toph, Sokka, Zuko, and more, all brought together by Zuckerman's expanded arrangements and creative collaboration with original series editor Jeff Adams. With a few inspired additions and celebratory touches designed to mark the occasion just for this milestone tour, longtime fans and newcomers alike will experience 'Avatar: The Last Airbender' like never before.

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

For more information about 'Avatar: The Last Airbender In Concert,' tour dates, and tickets, visit avatarinconcert.concert and follow #avatarinconcert; @avatarthelastairbender on Facebook (facebook.com/avatarthelastairbender);

@avatarlegends on Instagram (instagram.com/avatarlegends) and TikTok (tiktok.com/@avatarlegends); and @AvTatarLegends and @avatarthelastairbender on YouTube (youtube.com/@AvatarLegends).

NICKELODEON

Nickelodeon, now in its 46th year, is the number-one entertainment brand for kids. It has built a diverse, global business by putting kids first in everything it does. The brand includes television programming and production in the United States and around the world, plus consumer products, digital, location-based experiences, publishing and feature films. Nickelodeon is a part of Paramount's (Nasdaq: PARA, PARAA) global portfolio of multimedia entertainment brands. Learn more at nick.com.

'AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER'

Nickelodeon's 'Avatar: The Last Airbender' emerged from its three-season run (61 episodes), from February 2005 to July 2008, as one of the most beloved animated properties in history. Honored with a Peabody Award and Primetime Emmy, along with multiple Annie Awards and Genesis Awards, the series follows the adventures of the main protagonist Aang and his friends,

who must defeat Fire Lord Ozai and end the Hundred Year War to restore balance to the Four Nations. Learn more at avatarinconcert.com.

PARAMOUNT LOCATION-BASED ENTERTAINMENT & EXPERIENCES

Paramount Location-Based Entertainment & Experiences brings Paramount's stories and franchises to life across experiential touchpoints, including theme parks, hotel & resorts, water parks, cruises, pop-ups, attractions, themed restaurants, Broadway musicals, touring shows, and more. Driven by iconic consumer brands, Paramount Location Based Entertainment & Experiences operates globally with more than 50 restaurants, 7 hotels & resorts including Nickelodeon Punta Cana, Nickelodeon Riviera Maya and Paramount Hotels in Dubai, theme parks and family centers across the US, the UK, Spain, Germany, Australia, Italy, Belgium, China and Malaysia and stage shows including 'Mean Girls The Musical,' 'The SpongeBob Musical,' 'Clueless,' 'The Musical,' and the family touring hit 'PAW Patrol Live!' Learn more at paramount.com.

GEA LIVE

GEA Live has established itself as the premier partner in location-based entertainment, combining creativity, excellence and credibility to deliver unforgettable events that bring iconic brands to life in all their glory. Learn more at gealive.com.

SENBLA

Founded by Ollie Rosenblatt, Senbla is a London-based concert promoting and production company that operates both nationally and internationally. Senbla works across multiple forms of live entertainment from artist touring, film in concert, one off specially produced shows, outdoor concerts, Dance, family entertainment, theatre and experiential. Learn more at senbla.com.

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

One Center Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102

njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

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Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

NJ SYMPHONY OPENS SEASON WEEKEND WITH DUAL CELEBRATION

BY MABEL PAIS

This October, experience the New Jersey Symphony in new ways! With a wide variety of events from which to select, there is a program for everyone.

The New Jersey Symphony opens the 2025 season, October 10-12 celebrating Music Director Xian Zhang's 10th anniversary with the New Jersey Symphony - a remarkable milestone of a decade filled with musical innovation and spectacular performances.

PROGRAM

Oct 10-12: OPENING WEEKEND
Oct 10 - OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION
5:30 pm: Dinner Prelude
7:30 pm: Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 (one of his most treasured works)
Concert featuring Xian Zhang, Joyce

Yang and the New Jersey Symphony Pianist Joyce Yang, described by The Washington Post as an "astonishing artist," performs the audience favorite in a program that celebrates Music Director Xian Zhang's 10th season with New Jersey Symphony.

Dessert after-party immediately following the concert featuring genre-blending DJ dolltr!ck!

For event details, reservation form and advertising information, visit <https://www.njsymphony.org/assets/doc/Opening-Night-Celebration-Sponsorship-Brochure-v2-5cc7a7a391.pdf>

OPENING NIGHT & CONCERT INFORMATION

For opening night and concert information, visit <https://one.bidpal.net/seasonopening/welcome>

SPONSORSHIP AND TICKETS

For Sponsorship and Tickets, at different levels, visit [https://one.bidpal.net/seasonopening/ticketing\(details=ticketing-summary](https://one.bidpal.net/seasonopening/ticketing(details=ticketing-summary)

ADVERTISING

Artwork is due by September 30, 2025.
MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact Jesse Goodale, Manager of Special Events, at 973.735.1729 or events@njsymphony.org. Please reference Opening Night Celebration.

OPENING WEEKEND - OCT 10-12

For the Opening Weekend Program, visit njsymphony.org/events/detail/tchaikovsky-piano-concerto-no-1



Xian Zhang, Music Director.
Credit: njsymphony.org.

WORLD FAMOUS YOUTUBE CLASSICAL MUSIC COMEDY DUO TWOSSET VIOLIN TAKE THE STAGE

BY MABEL PAIS

Oct 5: TWOSSET VIOLIN with NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY
The world-famous TwoSet Violin—a YouTube classical music comedy duo - Violinists Eddy Chen and Brett Yang - will make a stop at NJPAC in Newark on October 5 at 2 PM on their world tour, bringing their unique brand of earnest and silly musical comedy to a new level in this performance, with the backing of a full symphony orchestra.



Violinists Eddy Chen and Brett Yang.
Credit: njsymphony.org.

tickets, visit my.njsymphony.org/22662/22935; for VIP tickets, visit my.njsymphony.org/23133/23134?z=0. For more information, visit

njsymphony.org/events/detail/twoset-violin-with-the-new-jersey-symphony

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide. Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs. In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information visit njsymphony.org.

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

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

CELEBRATE NAVRATRI AT NEW YORK'S SEAPORT MUSEUM

BY MABEL PAIS

The South Street Seaport Museum celebrates 'Navratri at the Seaport Museum' on Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 2-4pm.

NAVRATRI AT THE SEAPORT MUSEUM

Join the Seaport Museum and The Culture Tree for one of New York City's only public Navratri events — a vibrant and energetic Raas-Garba celebration aboard the historic 1885 tall ship 'Wavertree'!

Anu Sehgal, founder and CEO of The Culture Tree, will begin the afternoon festivities with an introduction to Navratri, the Hindu festival honoring the divine feminine. We will also learn the meaningful connections between 'Wavertree' and India before picking up our dandiya sticks and dancing to the beats of traditional Gujarati music from DJ Tauba. The vibrant dance performance and workshop will be led by Shehnaaz Dance Academy, where they will bring this beautiful celebration to life with the stunning costumes and amazing choreography.

Whether this is your first time or you're a seasoned dancer, this event is open to everyone and welcomes those who want to learn. Dress in your best traditional attire if you're feeling inspired, and join this unforgettable celebration on the main deck of this iron-hulled cargo ship!

The Museum will have a limited number of dandiya sticks available on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure you can fully join the fun, we encourage you to bring your own if you have them.

Don't miss out on this unforgettable afternoon of music, dance, and joy!

REGISTRATION

Advanced registration is encouraged for this event but walkups will be accommodated as possible.

TICKETS

For tickets to the celebration, visit southstreetseaportmuseum.org/navratri

THE CULTURE TREE

The Culture Tree provides South Asian themed educational and cultural programs that enrich the lives of children and their families and promotes a



Raas-Garba dances at NY Seaport Museum.
Credit: theculturetree.com.

deeper connection with their roots and the world around them. We use language, art, puppet shows, dance, food and the holidays to provide an immersive experience. Learn more @ theculturetree.com.

THE 1885 TALL SHIP WAVERTREE

Learn more @ southstreetseaportmuseum.org/about-wavertree
ENJOY MORE THAT THE MUSEUM OFFERS

Access to the historic ships and exhibition galleries at the Seaport Museum is not included with this event. If you would like to explore more that the Museum has to offer, book in advance or ask Museum staff about admission tickets, available Wednesday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm when you check in. Museum admission tickets grant access to the 1885 tall ship 'Wavertree' and 1908 lightship 'Ambrose' at Pier 16 as well as all current exhibitions on view in the introduction galleries inside Schermerhorn Row located at 12 Fulton Street. Admission tickets also include entry to the new 'Maritime City' exhibition in A.A. Thomson & Co. located at 213 Water Street. Learn more @ southstreetseaportmuseum.org/admission

THE SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM

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

CALLING NEWARK HIGH SCHOOLERS TO EXPERIENCE 'TD JAZZ FOR TEENS' PROGRAM

BY MABEL PAIS

The 'TD Jazz for Teens' program is the offer of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) to high schoolers from Newark and beyond, of music lessons and performance experiences. NJPAC, the State's anchor cultural institution, celebrates 28 years of offering the program.

One of the first of many arts education institutions at NJPAC, it has grown into a nationally recognized and revered program producing stellar alumni such as MacArthur "Genius" Fellow Tyshawn Sorey.

REGISTRATION

The 2025-26 school year is about to begin and is now accepting students for both the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters. Registration is now open and teens need to register by Sept. 29.

PROGRAM

'TD Jazz for Teens' is a comprehensive and sequential jazz education program that provides access to top-notch musical training and study with world-class working artists, opportunities for artistic exchange within the community, and college and career exploration. This school year offers classes in jazz history, theory/composition, technique, ensembles, music business, production, and more.

Prospective college students are guided through the application process. Students are given many performance opportunities as members of the James Moody Jazz Orchestra and/or George Wein Scholars Ensemble (performing at the Newport Jazz Festival). All students record their own compositions together in a studio setting. Field trips to Rutgers University-Newark's remarkable Institute of Jazz Studies, the largest archive of jazz-related materials in the world, are regular treats for students.

MARK GROSS, DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION & FACULTY

Since 2015, TD Jazz for Teens has been at the helm of Mark Gross, the Director of Jazz Instruction for NJPAC. A multiple GRAMMY-winning alto sax player and composer, Gross has performed and recorded with a roster of greats, including Dizzy Gillespie, Buster Williams, Nat Adderley, Dave Holland, Wynton Marsalis, and more.

In addition to Gross, a roster of more than a dozen working jazz musicians including saxophonist Wayne Escoffery and guitarist Alex Wintz (himself an alumnus of the program) as well as celebrated percussionist Alvester Garnett and acclaimed, Russian-born trumpeter Valery Ponomarev, a Jazz Messenger, to name a few — make up the TD Jazz for Teens faculty. Even more bold-faced names, including 9x Grammy Award-winning bassist Christian McBride, the Arts Center's Jazz Advisor, vibraphonist



Teen Jazz musicians. -Credit : njpac.org.



Teen Jazz musicians. -Credit : njpac.org.

Stefon Harris, and MacArthur "Genius" and Doris Duke Artist award winner Regina Carter offer master classes working directly with students.

REGISTRATION

Registration is required.

JAZZ FOR TEENS SCHEDULE

When: Fall Semester: Sep 27 – Dec 13, 2025;

Spring Semester: Jan 24 - May 16, 2026,
10:00am-5:00pm EST (schedules vary).

Where: Arts High School, 550 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Newark, NJ, 07102.

Who: Student musicians, ages 13-18.

Fees: Fees accepted are per semester or for the full year.

Scholarships and/or financial aid are available.

For more information, visit

njpac.org/arts-education or call 973.353.7058.

ARTS EDUCATION @ NJPAC

NJPAC's Arts Education offerings reach more than 60,000 students and families through live performances, in-school residency programs and arts training classes. These programs bring the joy of dance, music, theater, and poetry directly to the classroom. Through its innovative residencies, Teaching Artists create stimulating performing arts experiences that engage students' imaginations and build self-confidence through positive self-expression. Its residencies help students learn to work together and develop their creative independence.

In addition to NJPAC's innovative In-School Programs, the Arts Center's comprehensive Arts Education Department offers an Arts Training Program that helps students at every level learn their artistic and technical skills

they need to study acting, dance, instrumental music, vocal music, and musical theater. NJPAC also presents a SchoolTime Performance Series, which introduces students and their families to a world of entertainment and culture. NJPAC's Arts Education programs feature professional artists from a wide variety of traditions and performances of music, dance, storytelling, puppetry, and more.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the most diverse performing arts center in the country, and the anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

NJPAC brings communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city.

Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC Arts & Well-Being develops initiatives and programs that amplify the health benefits of the arts and measure the impact of the Arts Center on community health and well-being. NJPAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org for more information.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

One Center Street, Newark, New Jersey 07102;

njpac.org or 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722)

FOLLOW NJPAC ONLINE:

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YouTube: NJPACtv

FOLLOW NJPAC'S STANDING IN SOLIDARITY SERIES ONLINE:

Website: njpac.org/takeastand

Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand

Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

TD BANK

Learn more @ td.com/us.

On Facebook at facebook.com/TDBank and

On Instagram at instagram.com/TDBank_US.

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

Remembering the diminutive victor

Lal Bahadur Shastri won a victory over Pakistan in 1965

In the pantheon of India's leaders, Lal Bahadur Shastri stands as a figure of quiet strength, humility, and unflinching determination. Often overshadowed by towering personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi, Shastri's life and leadership nevertheless left an indelible mark on the destiny of modern India. Known for his simplicity and honesty, he was a man of small stature but giant moral courage—a "diminutive victor" who proved that leadership lies not in volume or grandeur, but in conviction and character.

Early Life: Humble Roots, High Ideals

Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on 2 October 1904 in Mughalsarai, a small railway town in Uttar Pradesh—the very same date that would forever be remembered as Mahatma Gandhi's birthday. His father, Sharada Prasad Srivastava, a schoolteacher and clerk, died when Shastri was just a toddler, leaving his mother Ramdulari Devi to raise him and his siblings under challenging circumstances.

Growing up in modest conditions, young Lal Bahadur displayed qualities of honesty, resilience, and a keen sense of responsibility. The family was poor, and he often walked miles to attend school, barefoot, to save money for his family. Despite hardships, he excelled in his studies and developed a deep interest in India's struggle for freedom.

Rejecting caste-based surnames, he dropped "Srivastava" and adopted "Shastri"—a title awarded for his scholarly achievements at Kashi Vidyapeeth. This decision was not just symbolic but reflected his lifelong opposition to social divisions and his embrace of simplicity.

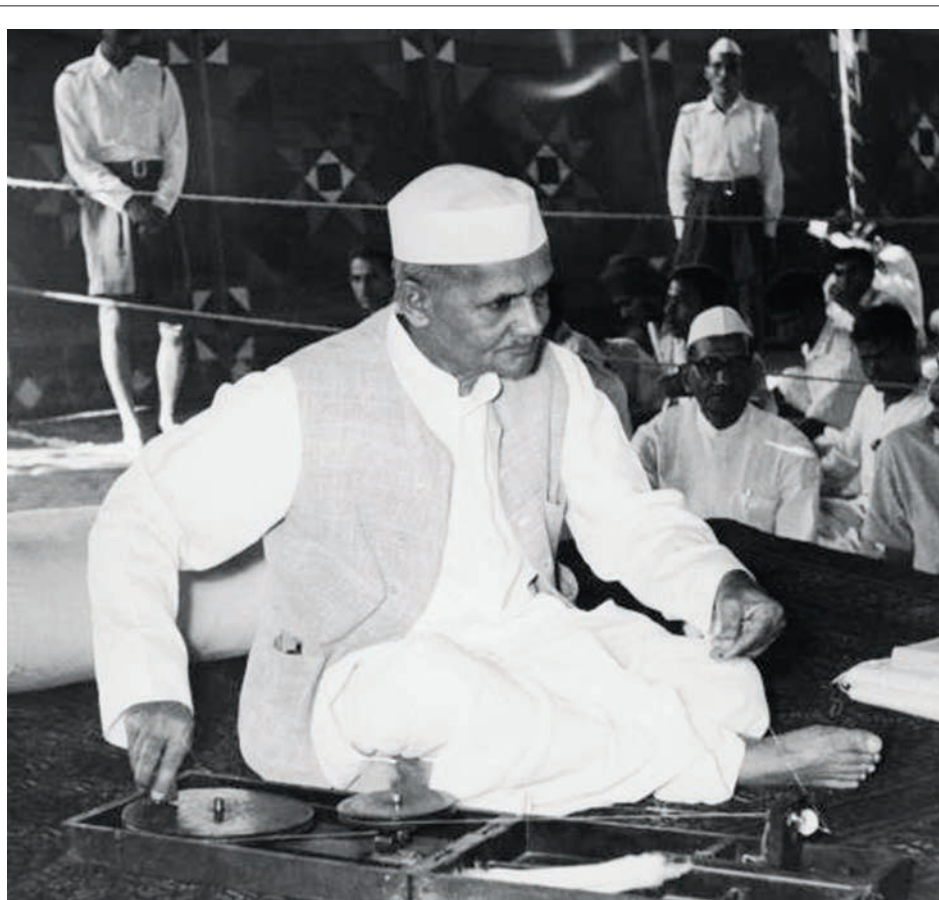
Entry into the Freedom Struggle

Shastri's awakening to politics coincided with the rise of Mahatma Gandhi. Inspired by the call for non-cooperation, he joined the Indian independence movement at a young age, participating in protests and courting imprisonment. He became a member of the Servants of the People Society, an organization founded by Lala Lajpat Rai to train young leaders in social service and national work.

Shastri was arrested several times during the freedom struggle. Yet, unlike some fiery contemporaries, his style of resistance was calm, methodical, and deeply disciplined. He worked quietly, often away from the limelight, but his contributions built a reputation of trustworthiness and integrity among the Congress ranks.

The Leader in Free India

After independence in 1947, Lal Bahadur Shastri steadily rose in political stature. He served in various capacities, demonstrating administrative acumen



The Gentle Warrior: How Lal Bahadur Shastri Led India to Victory in 1965

- In August-September 1965, Pakistan launched Operation Gibraltar (sending infiltrators into Jammu & Kashmir) and later Operation Grand Slam (a military offensive). The aim was to incite an uprising in Kashmir and capture territory while India was still recovering from the 1962 war with China and the death of Nehru.
- Many doubted whether the soft-spoken, diminutive Shastri could stand firm in crisis. But his calm leadership surprised everyone. He authorized the Indian Army to cross the International Border in Punjab—an unprecedented and bold move at the time.
- The Indian forces fought fiercely, capturing strategic areas in Lahore, Sialkot, and the Haji Pir Pass. Pakistan's advances were repelled, and despite initial disadvantages, India held its ground and inflicted significant losses.
- The war ended in September 1965 with a United Nations-brokered ceasefire. Militarily, India had the upper hand, and Shastri emerged as a leader who had given Pakistan a firm response while uniting India.
- His famous slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan", captured the twin spirit of that period—recognizing both the courage of the soldiers who defended the borders and the farmers who sustained the nation through the food crisis.
- So while the war ended in a stalemate diplomatically (with the Tashkent Agreement in January 1966 restoring pre-war positions), the psychological and political victory was very much India's. Shastri was hailed as the victor of 1965, and his leadership restored national confidence after the humiliation of 1962 against China.

and humility that made him a favorite among colleagues and the public.

- As Minister of Railways (1951-56), he introduced reforms aimed at improving safety and welfare, including the introduction of third-class compartments for passengers. When a railway accident caused the loss of lives, Shastri offered his resignation, accepting moral

responsibility—a rare gesture in Indian politics that won him immense respect.

- He later served as Minister of Transport and Communications, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister of Home Affairs, displaying efficiency, humility, and consensus-building skills.

Shastri's reputation was that of a leader who believed in accountability, service, and the idea that public office was a trust to be honored—not a privilege to be enjoyed.

Prime Ministership: A Short but Defining Era

When Jawaharlal Nehru passed away in 1964, Shastri was chosen as India's second Prime Minister. At first, many doubted whether this mild-mannered, soft-spoken leader could fill Nehru's shoes. But Shastri soon proved that quiet resolve could achieve victories where fiery rhetoric could not.

Food Crisis and "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan"

India was facing a severe food shortage in the mid-1960s. Shastri urged citizens to practice self-reliance and famously encouraged people to skip one meal a week to conserve grain. His slogan, "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer), captured the spirit of the times—honoring both the guardians of India's borders and the farmers who fed the nation.

The Indo-Pak War of 1965

Shastri's greatest test came with the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965. Despite India's military disadvantages, Shastri led the nation with calm determination, bolstering morale and ensuring unity. His leadership during the war elevated him from a modest administrator to a national hero.

The war ended with the Tashkent Agreement in January 1966, brokered by the Soviet Union. Tragically, Shastri died in Tashkent soon after signing the accord—under circumstances still debated. His sudden death robbed India of a leader whose simplicity masked immense strength.

Legacy of a Diminutive Victor

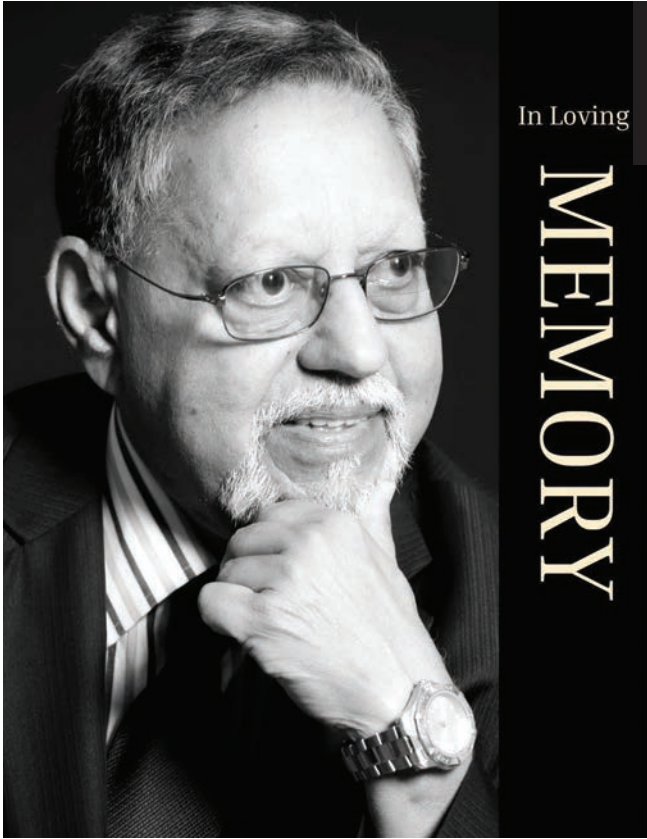
Lal Bahadur Shastri's legacy lies not in dramatic speeches or flamboyant gestures, but in his quiet integrity and his example of leadership rooted in service. He demonstrated that greatness is not measured by height, volume, or charisma, but by honesty, courage, and the ability to inspire trust.

His slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" continues to resonate, reminding us that the strength of a nation rests on the shoulders of both its soldiers and its farmers.

In remembering Shastri, we honor not just a Prime Minister but a man who taught us that simplicity is strength, humility is leadership, and true victory lies in service to the people.

Lal Bahadur Shastri was diminutive in appearance, but he was a giant in spirit. A victor not through force of arms, but through the force of character. His life remains a guiding light in an age still searching for leaders of integrity.

Mr. Harbachan Singh passes away on September 19, 2025



In Loving

MEMORY

Harbachan Singh, Esq., was a devoted husband to Susil Singh and a loving father to Sukhwant, Ramesh, and Praveen.

Born in Klang, Malaysia, he was the fifth of seven children of Kishen Singh and Dhan Kaur and grew up in their devout Sikh family. Before he went to England, he served in the Royal Malaysian Police Force. He then earned his qualification as a Barrister-at-Law in England and later received his master's in public policy from St. John University in New York.

He went on to have a long and distinguished career with the United Nations, where he contributed his expertise to global diplomacy and international relations and served as Chairman of the Committee on Contracts.

After retiring from the UN, he dedicated himself to public service and community leadership, holding senior leadership roles in organizations including Community Board 8 in Queens, New York, the Indian National Overseas Congress (INOC), the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), the Holocaust Center at Queens College, and the Board of Queens General Hospital, to name just a few.

He was also an honored and trusted advisor to politicians at the local, state, and national levels in both the United States and India.

In his later years, he embraced life as a mentor, traveler, and, above all, a beloved grandfather, cherishing the time spent with his grandchildren.

A number of Mr. Singh's associates and friends have condoled his passing away.

RAHUL GANDHI
LEADER OF OPPOSITION
LOK SABHA



23rd Sept, 2025

Dear Shri Ramesh Singh,

I am deeply saddened by the passing of your father Shri Harbachan Singh. He was a remarkable man who was a solid pillar of his community. His lifelong contribution to the Indian Overseas Congress will be remembered.

In your father, the diaspora found a vocal advocate in the public sphere. His vision and energy were a guiding force behind many of the initiatives of the organisation. He was not only a leader but an ambassador of the inclusive ethos of the Congress party abroad. Shri Harbachan Singh will be missed by all those fortunate to have known him. His work will continue to inspire our Indian Overseas Congress chapters across the world.

In this difficult time, I extend my condolences and wish you and your family strength.

Sincerely,

Rahul Gandhi



George Abraham said in his eulogy at the funeral.

We gather here today with heavy hearts to mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Harbachan Singh, the long-serving Secretary-General of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. His sudden departure has left us in shock, and his absence leaves a void that will be very hard to fill.

Harbachan was more than a leader. He was a pillar of strength, a source of inspiration, and a true friend to so many. Over the years, he left an indelible mark on this organization, shaping its vision and values with clarity, dedication, and conviction. His leadership was not confined to titles or positions-it was felt in the way he listened, the way he encouraged, and the way he brought people together.

As Secretary-General, Harbachan ensured that our community remained informed, engaged, and inspired. He approached every responsibility with integrity and an open heart, always receptive to feedback and always striving to make our organization stronger. His tireless service was not just an obligation-it was his calling, a reflection of his deep love for the Indian diaspora and his commitment to its unity.

But beyond his official duties, Harbachan was a man of great warmth and humility. He built bridges where there were divides, nurtured relationships that spanned generations, and embodied the values of inclusiveness that we all aspire to. His kindness, his humanity, and his sense of service touched every person who had the privilege of knowing him.



MANY CONDOLED MR. SINGH'S DEMISE.

PROF. INDRAJIT S SALUJA, CHIEF EDITOR OF THE INDIAN PANORAMA WROTE:

The sudden and untimely demise of Sardar Harbachan Singh has shocked his family, friends and admirers. A loyal friend and a passionate champion of community causes, he will be missed by many individuals who knew him and organizations by the dozens with which he was associated. The void left by him is hard to fill. However, the best tribute we can pay him is to continue to do the good work for the community he championed.

For me his demise is a personal loss. He was a

supporter, patron and dear friend.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and friends and pray for eternal peace to the dear departed soul.



MR. ASHOK K RAMSARAN WROTE:

Harbachan Singh was an intelligent man, a highly respected community person who was actively engaged on issues of interest and concern among various groups and organizations. He will be sorely missed by many.

Condolences to his family on his passing.

INDIAN OVERSEAS CONGRESS EXPRESSED DEEP SHOCK AND SORROW AT THE SUDDEN PASSING OF HARBACHAN SINGH, THE ORGANIZATION'S SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Indian Overseas Congress, USA expresses its deep shock and profound sadness at the sudden passing of Harbachan Singh, the long-serving Secretary-General of the organization.

"He left an indelible mark on the organization, shaping its vision and values, and his passing is a profound loss to all who knew him," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the IOCUSA.

"Throughout his tenure, Mr. Singh was deeply committed to strengthening the organization and advancing its mission. As Secretary-General, he ensured that the public remained informed about IOCUSA's activities and was always receptive to feedback, using it constructively to improve the efficiency and reach of the organization. His dedication, integrity, and tireless service became a guiding light for his colleagues and a source of inspiration for many in the Indian diaspora".

Beyond his official responsibilities, Mr. Singh was admired for his warmth, humility, and unwavering commitment to community service. He built bridges, nurtured relationships, and embodied the values of unity and inclusiveness that the Indian Overseas Congress stands for.

His passing leaves a void that will be hard to fill, but his contributions and legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders and members of the organization. The Indian Overseas Congress, USA extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this time of immense grief.



Dussehra: The eternal triumph of good over evil

The arrival of autumn in India carries with it a unique vibrancy. The monsoon rains retreat, leaving the air crisp and the skies clear. The days are painted in shades of gold, and evenings are touched by gentle cool breezes. It is in this season, between September and October, that India celebrates one of its most significant festivals-Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami.

Across the country, the festival unfolds in myriad forms. In northern India, towering effigies of Ravana are set ablaze, their fiery demise accompanied by fireworks and jubilant cheers. In Bengal, elaborately crafted idols of Goddess Durga are carried in processions through the streets, before being immersed in rivers and seas. In Mysuru, the royal palace is lit up with thousands of bulbs, and caparisoned elephants parade in grandeur. In villages and towns, families honor tools, weapons, and vehicles with offerings of flowers, turmeric, and sandalwood paste, recognizing them as extensions of divine power.

At its heart, however, Dussehra is more than celebration-it is a philosophy. It is the eternal story of the triumph of good over evil, righteousness over falsehood, humility over arrogance. It is the reminder that while evil may rise and flourish for a time, it is always destined to be defeated by virtue, truth, and divine power.

To understand this festival fully, we must travel into its origins, legends, rituals, and diverse expressions across India, and even beyond.

Origins and Ancient Roots

The name Dussehra comes from the Sanskrit words *dasha* (ten) and *hara* (defeat), referring to the destruction of Ravana's ten heads by Rama. Its alternate name, Vijayadashami, translates to "the tenth day of victory," as it falls on the tenth day of the bright lunar fortnight (Shukla Paksha) in the month of Ashwin (September-October).

Vedic and Puranic Foundations

The origins of Dussehra reach deep into Vedic thought. The Rigveda contains hymns celebrating the victory of divine forces (*devas*) over demons (*asuras*), a recurring theme in Indian spirituality. The Atharvaveda refers to rituals marking the triumph of righteousness. By the time of the Puranas, these abstract cosmic battles had crystallized into the stories of Rama's war against Ravana and Durga's destruction of Mahishasura.

Twin Traditions

Two powerful traditions underpin Dussehra:

- **Vaishnavite Tradition:** Dussehra marks the day Rama killed Ravana, symbolizing the victory of *dharma* (righteousness) over *adharma* (unrighteousness).
- **Shakta Tradition:** It marks the day Goddess Durga, after nine nights of fierce battle, slew Mahishasura, symbolizing the triumph of divine feminine power (*Shakti*) over brute force and ignorance.

Thus, Dussehra is both a masculine and feminine celebration of divine victory-making it a uniquely inclusive festival that unites different strands of Hindu spirituality.

The Twin Legends of Victory

Rama and Ravana: The Ramayana Story

The most widely known narrative of Dussehra is rooted in Valmiki's Ramayana. When Ravana abducted Sita and carried her to Lanka, Rama, aided by Hanuman and the *vanara* sena, waged a great war to rescue her. The battle raged for ten days, culminating in Ravana's defeat on the tenth day. Rama, with his divine bow, pierced Ravana's ten heads, symbolically destroying his arrogance and vices.

Symbolism of Ravana's Ten Heads: They are often interpreted as representing the ten human weaknesses-lust, anger, greed, pride, envy, ego, mind, intellect, delusion, and will. Rama's victory is therefore not just physical but spiritual: the conquest of inner demons.

Durga and Mahishasura:

The Devi Mahatmya

Equally significant is the Shakta narrative, as told in the *Devi Mahatmya*. The asura Mahishasura, empowered by a boon that no man or god could kill him, terrorized heaven and earth. In desperation, the gods combined their energies, giving birth to Goddess Durga, an embodiment of cosmic power. For nine nights and ten days, Durga battled Mahishasura and his armies. On the tenth day, she slew the demon, restoring balance to the cosmos.

- **Symbolism:** Mahishasura, the buffalo demon, represents ignorance, ego, and primal instincts. Durga, astride a lion, symbolizes supreme consciousness and the triumph of divine feminine energy.

The Pandavas and Vijayadashami

In the Mahabharata, the Pandavas, after their 13 years of exile, retrieved their weapons hidden in a Shami tree on Vijayadashami. They then launched their victorious campaign, making the day auspicious for new beginnings. This is why even today, people worship the Shami tree and exchange its leaves as symbols of prosperity.

Rituals and Practices

Navratri: The Nine Nights of Worship

Dussehra is the culmination of Navratri, nine nights of worship dedicated to the goddess in her nine forms-Shailaputri, Brahmacharini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skandamata, Katyayani, Kalaratri, Mahagauri, and Siddhidatri. Each day symbolizes a step in the spiritual



journey from ignorance to enlightenment.

Shastra Puja and Ayudha Puja

In many parts of India, especially the South, people worship their tools, weapons, and vehicles on Dussehra. This ritual, called Ayudha Puja, reflects gratitude for the instruments that sustain life and livelihood.

Ramleela and Ravana Dahan

In North India, Ramleela performances-folk plays enacting the Ramayana-are staged in villages and cities. On Dussehra evening, effigies of Ravana, Meghnath, and Kumbhakarna, often towering 50-100 feet high, are set ablaze amid fireworks. The spectacle

draws massive crowds and symbolizes the destruction of evil.

Durga Visarjan

In Bengal, Odisha, and Assam, Dussehra marks the end of Durga Puja. Elaborate idols of Durga slaying Mahishasura are carried in processions with music and dance, before being immersed in water. The immersion represents the cyclical nature of creation and dissolution.

Exchange of Shami Leaves

In Maharashtra, families exchange Shami leaves (believed to symbolize gold) with wishes of prosperity, recalling the Pandavas' return from exile.

Regional Celebrations

North India: Ramleela and Ravana Dahan

Cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, and Delhi host grand Ramleelas, culminating in Ravana Dahan. Ayodhya's Dussehra, linked directly to Rama's legend, is especially revered.

West Bengal and the East: Durga Puja

Nowhere is Dussehra celebrated with more artistry than in Bengal. For five days, massive Durga Puja pandals house idols depicting the goddess slaying Mahishasura. The immersion of idols on Vijayadashami is both joyous and sorrowful, accompanied by the farewell cry: "Asche bochor abar hobe" (She will return next year).

Gujarat: Garba and Dandiya

In Gujarat, the nine nights of Navratri are filled with Garba and Dandiya Raas, folk dances performed in honor of the goddess.

Maharashtra: Shami Rituals and Processions

In Maharashtra, processions and the exchange of Shami leaves define Dussehra. Families worship tools, vehicles, and books, marking the day as auspicious for beginning new ventures.

Mysuru Dussehra - A Royal Spectacle

Among all Dussehra celebrations in India, Mysuru Dussehra stands out as a spectacular fusion of devotion, pageantry, and royal heritage. Its origins date back over 400 years, during the reign of the Wodeyar dynasty, who established the tradition of celebrating Dussehra as a state festival. The festival is closely linked with Chamundeshwari, the presiding goddess of Mysore, believed to have killed the demon Mahishasura atop Chamundi Hill near the city.

The grandeur of Mysuru Dussehra is unmatched:

- **Illuminated Palace:** The Mysore Palace is adorned with over 100,000 bulbs, creating a breathtaking panorama of light visible from miles away.
- **Grand Procession (Jumbo Savari):** On Vijayadashami, the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari is placed on a richly decorated golden mantapa atop a caparisoned elephant. The procession winds through the city streets with folk dances, music, and cultural troupes, creating an immersive display of Karnataka's heritage.
- **Cultural Programs:** Throughout the nine-day Navratri festival, the city hosts classical music concerts, dance performances, wrestling competitions, and exhibitions, blending devotion with art and entertainment.
- **Royal Rituals:** Historically, the Maharaja would participate in ceremonial worship, emphasizing Dussehra as a festival of civic pride and spiritual observance.

Mysuru Dussehra is more than a visual spectacle; it is a symbol of Karnataka's cultural identity, uniting devotion, tradition, and artistic



expression in a way that transcends generations.

Himachal Pradesh: Kullu Dussehra - A Weeklong Celebration of Local Deities

In contrast to Mysuru's royal grandeur, Kullu Dussehra in Himachal Pradesh is deeply rooted in tribal traditions and local faith, celebrated for a full week after Vijayadashami. Its origins trace back to the 17th century, when the Raja of Kullu invited the deity of Raghunath Temple, Rampur, to participate in a local fair, marking the festival as a celebration of community and faith.

The festival is unique in its scale and duration:

- **Deity Processions:** Local deities from villages across Kullu Valley are carried in ornate palanquins to the Dhalpur Maidan, forming a spiritual gathering unparalleled in India. Each deity is accompanied by devotees in traditional attire, folk dancers, and musicians, creating a lively confluence of color, sound, and devotion.
- **Traditional Arts:** Kullu Dussehra showcases Himachali folk dances, music, and rituals, reflecting the rich tribal culture of the region.
- **Community Participation:** Unlike urban festivals, Kullu Dussehra emphasizes collective celebration. Villagers travel for miles to witness the deities and participate in fairs

that offer handicrafts, local produce, and cultural performances.

- **Spiritual Significance:** For locals, Kullu Dussehra is a celebration of divine presence in everyday life, honoring the local gods who protect the valley's communities.

Kullu Dussehra exemplifies the diversity of Indian festivals, showing how Dussehra can take root in local tradition, transforming myth into a living cultural experience.

Central and Tribal India: Bastar Dussehra

Bastar in Chhattisgarh celebrates the longest Dussehra in India, lasting 75 days. Centered on the worship of Goddess Danteshwari, it is primarily a tribal festival featuring rituals, chariot processions, and performances that are unique to Bastar's cultural identity. Unlike other Dussehra celebrations, Bastar focuses on community bonding, local folklore, and traditional governance systems, highlighting the festival's tribal roots.

Odisha and Northeast India

In Odisha, Cuttack Durga Puja is famous for its silver and gold craftsmanship adorning pandals and idols. Assam and Tripura host grand Durga Puja celebrations blending Shakta worship with local folk traditions, including processions, music, and communal feasting.

Art, Literature, and Theatre

Classical Literature

Sanskrit dramatists like Bhavabhuti in Uttara Ramacharita and poets like Kalidasa referenced Rama's victory and Durga's power in their works. These texts embedded the spirit of Dussehra into India's literary imagination.

Folk Theatre and Dance

Ramleela remains the most iconic performance art tied to Dussehra. Recognized by UNESCO as intangible cultural heritage, Ramleela is not just a play but a community celebration blending drama, music, and devotion.

Modern Reinterpretations

In modern theatre and cinema, Ravana has often been reinterpreted—not merely as a villain but as a tragic, scholarly figure. Such reinterpretations highlight the festival's evolving nature and its ability to engage new generations.

Spiritual and Philosophical Significance

Dussehra is not merely about mythological battles. It carries deeper meanings:

- **Ravana's Ten Heads:** A reminder to conquer inner vices.
- **Durga's Victory:** Affirmation of the power of the feminine principle (Shakti).
- **Auspicious New Beginnings:** Vijayadashami is considered the most favorable day to begin learning, business, or journeys.

Global Celebrations

Nepal: Dashain

In Nepal, Dussehra is celebrated as Dashain, the country's longest and most important festival. It honors both Rama's victory and Durga's triumph. Families gather, elders place tika (vermillion mixed with yogurt and rice) on the foreheads of younger relatives, and goats are sacrificed in Durga's honor.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, Dussehra is viewed with mixed feelings. While Ravana is vilified in Indian tradition, many Sri Lankans see him as a cultural hero. Some local festivals even honor Ravana as a wise king.

Indian Diaspora

In countries like the USA, UK, Canada, Trinidad, Guyana, and Mauritius, Dussehra is celebrated with Ramleela performances, Durga Puja pandals, and Ravana effigy burnings, keeping traditions alive far from home.

Modern Relevance

Even today, Dussehra holds lessons for contemporary life.

- **Confronting Modern Ravana:** Corruption, injustice, and social evils are today's Ranas that must be defeated.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Durga's victory highlights the centrality of feminine strength and respect for women in society.

Danish officials believe drone flyovers at 4 airports are meant to sow fear and division

Drones flew over four Danish airports overnight Sept 24 into Sept 25, the latest instance of unexplained drone activity that has raised concerns about security in northern Europe amid growing Russian aggression.

Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen called the incidents a “hybrid attack” because the flights all occurred within roughly the same timeframe. It was not immediately clear who was behind the incidents, but Lund Poulsen said that it appeared a “professional actor” was behind the “systematic” flights. While careful not to directly accuse a specific country, Danish intelligence officials reiterated that they estimate the risk of Russian espionage and sabotage in Denmark as high. “We have seen this in other parts of Europe, and we must also expect to see it in Denmark,” said Finn Borch, the head of the Danish Security Intelligence Service at a news conference Sept 25 night. The goal of the flyovers was to sow fear and division, Danish Minister of Justice Peter Hummelgaard said Thursday, adding that the country will seek additional ways to neutralize drones, including proposing legislation to allow infrastructure owners to shoot them down.

Flights were halted for several hours at Aalborg Airport in northern Denmark, which also serves as a military base. Drone sightings began shortly before 10 p.m. Wednesday and ended just before 1 a.m. Thursday.

Three airports in Esbjerg, Sønderborg and Skrydstrup also were impacted. Skrydstrup is an air base that is home to some of the Danish military’s fighter jets.

Former French president Sarkozy given five-year sentence after Libya case

PARIS (TIP)

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy has been sentenced to five years in jail after being found guilty of criminal conspiracy in a case related to millions of euros of illicit funds from the late Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi.

The Paris criminal court acquitted him of all other charges, including passive corruption and illegal campaign financing.

The ruling means he will spend time in jail even if he launches an appeal, which Sarkozy says he intends to do.

Speaking after Thursday’s (Sept 25) hearing, the 70-year-old, who was president from 2007-12, said the verdict was “extremely serious for rule of law”.

Sarkozy, who claims the case is politically motivated, was accused of using the funds from Gaddafi to finance his 2007 election campaign.

In exchange, the prosecution alleged Sarkozy promised to help Gaddafi combat his reputation as a pariah with Western countries.

Judge Nathalie Gavarino said Sarkozy had allowed close aides to contact Libyan officials with a view to obtaining financial support for his campaign.

But the court ruled that there was not enough evidence to find Sarkozy was the beneficiary of the illegal campaign financing.

He was also ordered to pay a fine of Euro 100,000 (\$117,000, £87,000).

There was a shocked intake of breath in court when the judge read out her sentence.

Sarkozy could be sent to prison in Paris in the coming days – a first for a former French president and a humiliating blow for a man who has always protested his innocence in this trial and the other legal cases against him.

“What happened today... is of extreme gravity in regard to the rule of law, and for the trust one can have in the justice system,” Sarkozy said outside the court building.

“If they absolutely want me to sleep in jail, I will sleep in jail, but with my head held high,” he said.

The investigation was opened in 2013, two years after Saif al-Islam, son of the then-Libyan leader, first accused Sarkozy of taking millions of his father’s money for campaign funding.

The following year, Lebanese businessman Ziad Takieddine - who for a long time acted as a middleman between France and the Middle East - said he had written proof that Sarkozy’s



campaign bid was “abundantly” financed by Tripoli, and that the Euro 50m (£43m) worth of payments continued after he became president.

Among the others accused in the trial were former interior ministers, Claude Gueant and Brice Hortefeux. The court found Gueant guilty of corruption, among other charges, and Hortefeux was found guilty of criminal conspiracy.

Sarkozy’s wife, Italian-born former supermodel and singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, was charged last year with hiding evidence linked to the Gaddafi case and associating with wrongdoers to commit fraud, both of which she denies.

Since losing his re-election bid in 2012, Sarkozy has been targeted by several criminal investigations.

He also appealed against a February 2024 ruling which found him guilty of overspending on his 2012 re-election campaign, then hiring a PR firm to cover it up. He was handed a one-year sentence, of which six months were suspended.

In 2021, he was found guilty of trying to bribe a judge in 2014 and became the first former French president to get a custodial sentence. In December, the Paris appeals court ruled that he could serve his time at home wearing a tag instead of going to jail.

China leads nations with new climate plans, defying U.S. climate denial

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

China led several countries in announcing new climate plans on Wednesday and offered a veiled rebuke of the U.S. president’s anti-climate rhetoric a day earlier at the U.N. General Assembly.

Addressing a climate leaders’ summit hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a live video message from Beijing that by 2035 his country would cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 7% to 10% from their peak.

In addition, Xi said China planned to increase its wind and solar power capacity by six times from its 2020 levels within the next 10 years — helping to increase its share of non-fossil fuels in domestic energy consumption to over 30%. China’s reduction target marked the first time the world’s biggest emitter pledged a cut in emissions, rather than just limiting their growth, though the reduction was less than many observers had expected. Xi urged stronger climate action from the world’s developed countries. He referred, though not by name, to the United States for moving away from the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change. “Green and low-carbon transformation is the trend of our times. Despite some countries going against the trend, the international



Chinese President Xi Jinping addressing a climate summit by video on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Wednesday, Sept 25. Charly Triballeau / AFP - Getty Images

community should stay on the right track, maintain unwavering confidence, unwavering action and undiminished efforts,” Xi said. On Tuesday, President Donald Trump used his U.N. General Assembly speech to blast climate change as a “con job,” to call scientists

“stupid” and to criticize E.U. member states and China for embracing clean energy technologies.

Trump ordered a second withdrawal by Washington from the 10-year-old Paris treaty, which aimed to prevent global temperatures from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius through national climate plans. The U.S. is the world’s biggest historical greenhouse gas emitter and second-biggest current emitter behind China. Ian Bremmer, a political scientist with the Belfer Center, said Trump’s climate denial speech had effectively ceded the market for post-carbon energy to the Chinese.

“Trump wants fossil fuels and the United States is indeed a powerful petro-state,” Bremmer said. “But letting China become the world’s sole powerful electro-state is the opposite of making America great again ... at least if you care about the future.”

Observers had been hoping that China would seize on the U.S. retreat as a moment to announce a reduction target of at least 30% to stay in line with its past goal of net-zero emissions by 2060.

Li Shuo, director of the China Climate Hub at the Asia Society, said China’s announcement was underwhelming in light of its rapid production of renewable energy and electric vehicles.

US has Gaza peace plan and hopes for breakthrough soon, says envoy

The United States shared a 21-point Middle East peace plan at this week's U.N. meetings and is hopeful for a breakthrough on Gaza in the coming days, its envoy to the region said.

U.S. President Donald Trump presented proposals to leaders from several Muslim-majority countries – including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Egypt – during a meeting held on the sidelines of the annual General Assembly on Monday, U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff said.

"I think it addresses Israeli concerns and, as well, the concerns of all the neighbors in the region," he said. "We're hopeful, and I might say even confident that in the coming days we'll be able to announce some sort of breakthrough," he added.

Israel has drawn global condemnation over its war in Gaza, which is nearing the two-year mark with no ceasefire in sight. The conflict has caused major destruction and killed more than 65,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities.

A global hunger monitor says part of the territory is suffering from famine.

The current war began when Hamas stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. About 48 hostages, 20 of whom are believed to be alive, are still being held.

Israel deepens Gaza City offensive as Netanyahu heads to US

CAIRO/JERUSALEM (TIP)

Israeli forces advanced deeper into Gaza City on Thursday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, with U.S. President Donald Trump pursuing a deal to end the Gaza war.

Israeli strikes killed at least 19 people across the Palestinian enclave on Thursday, local health authorities said. They included 11 people from two families in Zawayda town in the central Gaza Strip, where planes hit a residential building.

Israel's military did not comment on the incident but said it had struck 170 targets across Gaza in the past 24 hours and attacked "terror infrastructure" used by militant groups to attack soldiers. Its forces were deep in Gaza City, it said.

Tanks have entered Gaza City as part of an offensive that Israel says is intended to eliminate Hamas following its deadly attack on Israel in October 2023 but which has caused extensive destruction, a humanitarian catastrophe and widespread hunger.

Netanyahu says Gaza City is the Palestinian militant group's last bastion, but hundreds of thousands of civilians remain there, fearing there is nowhere safe for them to go.

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said on Wednesday Washington was confident of securing breakthrough on Gaza in coming days after Trump shared a 21-point Middle East peace plan with leaders of Muslim-majority countries in New York.

Trump also promised Arab leaders he would not allow Israel to annex the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Politico reported. Palestinians want the West Bank for an independent Palestinian state, with Gaza and East Jerusalem.



Displaced Palestinians fleeing northern Gaza due to an Israeli military operation, move southward after Israeli forces ordered residents of Gaza City to evacuate to the south, in the central Gaza Strip September 25, 2025. REUTERS

Netanyahu has declared there will never be a Palestinian state although Britain, France, Canada and other nations this week formally recognised Palestinian statehood. Some of Netanyahu's coalition allies want Israel to annex the West Bank.

Israel has become diplomatically isolated over its military siege of Gaza, with European nations and others increasingly critical of its conduct.

The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Netanyahu for alleged war crimes in the Gaza war. Israel rejects the court's jurisdiction and denies committing war crimes in Gaza.

Netanyahu has retained the backing of the U.S., Israel's most important ally, and Trump told the U.N. this week that moves to recognise a Palestinian state risked rewarding what he called Hamas atrocities

and could encourage continued conflict.

Netanyahu is expected to address the General Assembly on Friday and meet Trump next week. Leaving Israel on Thursday, Netanyahu said he would denounce leaders who had recognised a Palestinian state.

He said he would discuss the war in Gaza with Trump, including defeating Hamas and freeing hostages held in Gaza since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. He said he also intended to discuss efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries that do not officially recognise Israel.

About 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken hostage in the Hamas-led attack on Israel. About 48 hostages remain in captivity, with 20 of them believed to be alive.

Abbas denounces Israel's 'War of Genocide' in UNGA speech

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

On the third day of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addressed the world body via video link, following the Trump administration's refusal to issue visas to him and his delegation.

In his remarks, Abbas made it clear that he does not endorse the actions of Hamas during the October 7 assault on Israel. "Despite all what our people have suffered, we reject what Hamas carried out on the seventh of October," he said, adding that the killing of civilians and the taking of hostages does "not represent the Palestinian people, nor do they represent their just struggle for freedom and independence."

Abbas reaffirmed that the Gaza Strip remains a central part of the Palestinian state. "We have affirmed, and we will continue to affirm, that the Gaza Strip is an integral part of the state of Palestine, and that we are ready to bear full responsibility for governance and security there," he stated.

Rejecting any role for Hamas in the future



government, Abbas insisted, "Hamas will not have a role to play in governance," stressing that armed groups must disarm. "Hamas and other factions will have to hand over their weapons to the Palestinian National Authority as part of a process to build the institutions of one state, one law and one legal security force. We reiterate that we do not want an armed state. Ladies and gentlemen, our wounds are deep and our calamity is great."

Abbas also turned attention to the broader Palestinian struggle, noting, "Seven million

Palestinians are still living the tragedies of the Nakba and displacement since 1948." He said the people of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza continue to endure "the tragedies of the Israeli aggression and occupation for decades," citing years of "occupation, killing, arrests and settlement and the theft of money, property and lands."

Highlighting global inaction, Abbas pointed out, "More than a thousand resolutions at the United Nations, not one of them was implemented. There have been many efforts, many international initiatives, without reaching an end to this tragic situation that the Palestinian people are living under the yoke of occupation."

He reminded the Assembly that the Palestinian authorities had adhered to the Oslo Accords. "We restructured our institutions, and we amended our national charter, and we rejected violence and terrorism and we adopted a culture of peace," Abbas said. "We made all our efforts to build the institutions of a modern Palestinian state that lives side by side in peace and security with Israel, but Israel did not adhere to signed agreements and has worked systematically on undermining them."

Indian among 7 Buddhist monks killed in Sri Lanka monastery cable cart accident

At least seven Buddhist monks, including three foreign nationals, died in a cable car accident at a Sri Lankan monastery on Wednesday, Sept 24, local police told CNN. The monks were among 13 people traveling on the cable car at the Na Uyana Monastery in central Sri Lanka, which spreads over more than 5,000 acres of forest on a mountain range, Pansiyagama Police said.

The incident took place at around 9 p.m. local time (11:30 a.m. ET) on Wednesday, according to police. Of those who were killed, three were foreign nationals from India, Russia and Romania, officers said.

CNN has reached out to the foreign ministries of those countries for comment. Images from the scene of the crash show monks standing in the forest next to the cable car's tracks. The tracks themselves are on a steep incline, and are parallel to a huge, winding set of steps. One video shows a frayed, snapped cable, then a pool of blood next to some of the cable car's structure. Asanga Kiriwatta, a local resident, told Reuters that "the monks were thrown all over the place" in the aftermath of the accident.

India Sends Fresh Aid To Quake-Hit Afghanistan

India on Sept 25 said a fresh consignment of humanitarian aid for Afghanistan, following last month's devastating earthquake, has reached Kabul.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the latest shipment, consisting of three container loads of relief materials, had arrived in the Afghan's capital via the Chabahar port and was handed over to the authorities.

The consignment includes a wide range of essential items such as food supplies, water purifiers, protein powder, tin sheets, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, water storage tanks, generator sets, family tents, blankets, essential medicines, and other medical goods. In a post on social media platform X, the MEA said, "In continuation of India's humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan in the wake of recent earthquake, 3 container loads of supplies of relief materials arrived in Kabul via Chabahar today and were handed over to Afghan authorities." This is the third batch of Indian assistance sent to support those affected by the earthquake. The 6.0-magnitude tremor, which struck on August 31, claimed nearly 2,200 lives and displaced more than 23,000 people.

Nepal interim PM lowers legal voting age from 18 to 16 after Gen-Z protests

KATHMANDU (TIP)

Nepal's interim prime minister, Sushila Karki, announced on Thursday, Sept 25, that the minimum voting age has been lowered from 18 to 16 to boost youth's participation in politics following recent Gen-Z protests.

In her first televised address to the nation since assuming office, Karki said the decision was taken to respond to youth demands for greater representation and to encourage involvement in the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 5 March.

"To find a way out of this complex situation, the government has already started preliminary work for the general election by holding the election in a free, fair and fear-free environment by March 5, after discussing with the Election Commission officials the necessary manpower, budget, election materials, security and legal arrangements. The existing election law has been amended through an ordinance to provide voting rights to the younger generation who have reached the age of 18 and to extend the voter list," she said.

Karki said the government had recommended dissolving parliament and setting the election date immediately after she took office. She was sworn in by President Ram Chandra Paudel on 12 September, and recommended that the president call polls for 5 March 2026.

The prime minister called on citizens across the country -- including voters who had been displaced or scattered -- to



use their franchise and to choose representatives who reflect the aspirations of younger voters.

"I would like to call on all Nepali sisters and brothers to participate enthusiastically in the upcoming elections of the House of Representatives and to select qualified people's representatives who can represent the aspirations of the youth for change. I also call on all political parties, civil society, the media and all relevant stakeholders to actively participate in the successful conduct of free, fearless and fair elections. A peaceful environment is essential for the conduct of the elections. Therefore, I request all sisters and brothers residing in all geographical areas of the country to maintain a peaceful environment with

patience," Karki said.

NO IMPUNITY FOR THOSE RESPONSIBLE, PM SAYS

Sushila Karki said that the government is committed to taking stern action against those responsible for the death of 74 people, including students, during the Gen Z protests.

She became prime minister on September 12, ending days of political uncertainty after the ouster of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli following violent protests by youth-led Gen Z group against his government over corruption and a ban on social media.

The unrest in the Himalayan nation was fuelled by Gen Z after the government's decision to ban social media platforms across the country. The unrest later turned into an anti-corruption movement.

Despite the reversal of the social media ban and the resignation of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, protests continue to rage across Nepal. Demonstrators remained on the streets, with widespread reports of vandalism and arson. Houses and offices of several leaders and government officials were set on fire.

The situation was pathetic to an extent that the Army took over the charge of maintaining law and order.

After multiple rounds of discussions involving Gen Z leaders, President Ram Chandra Poudel and Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel, Sushila Karki was appointed as the interim PM of Nepal.

Pak PM holds meeting with Bangladesh's Yunus, Sri Lanka's Dissanayake in New York

NEW YORK (TIP)

On the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif held separate meetings with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake.

The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral relations and exploring avenues for increased cooperation between the nations. Specific details of the meetings have not been disclosed.

These engagements reflect Pakistan's ongoing efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with neighboring countries in the South Asian.

Sharif had earlier thanked US President Donald Trump for his "leadership role" in finalising a "historic" trade agreement between the two countries.

"I wish to convey my profound



thanks to President Trump for his leadership role in finalisation of the historic US-Pakistan trade agreement, successfully concluded by our two sides in Washington last night," Shehbaz



Sharif said in a post on X. Sharif called it a "landmark deal" that would boost bilateral cooperation and "expand the frontiers of our enduring partnership in days to come."



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Ways to use yogurt for smooth, supple skin

Yogurt has been cherished for centuries as more than just a delicious food. In Ayurveda, Greek traditions, and modern skincare alike, it is celebrated for its cooling, nourishing, and restorative qualities. Rich in lactic acid, probiotics, vitamins, and proteins, yogurt is a natural remedy for achieving smooth, supple, and radiant skin. Instead of relying solely on chemical-laden creams, you can tap into the age-old wisdom of using yogurt in simple, effective skincare routines.

Why Yogurt Works for the Skin

Before diving into different ways of using yogurt, let's understand its benefits:

- **Gentle Exfoliation:** Lactic acid in yogurt dissolves dead skin cells, promoting a brighter complexion.
- **Deep Hydration:** Yogurt moisturizes and softens rough, dry skin.
- **Anti-aging Effect:** Rich in antioxidants and probiotics, yogurt helps reduce fine lines and dullness.
- **Soothing Properties:** It cools and calms irritated or sunburnt skin.
- **Brightening Effect:** Regular use can lighten dark spots, tanning, and uneven skin tone.

Yogurt as a Standalone Face Pack

The simplest method is applying plain, unflavored yogurt directly on the skin.

- Apply a thin layer of chilled yogurt to your cleansed face.
- Leave it on for 15-20 minutes.
- Rinse off with lukewarm water.

This hydrates the skin instantly, leaving it soft, supple, and glowing.

Yogurt and Honey Mask for Deep Moisturization

Honey is a natural humectant that locks in moisture. Combined with yogurt, it makes an excellent hydrating treatment.

- Mix 2 tablespoons of yogurt with 1 teaspoon of

honey.

- Apply evenly on the face and neck.
- Wash off after 20 minutes.

This mask is perfect for dry, flaky skin and adds a dewy glow.

Yogurt and Oatmeal Scrub for Exfoliation

Oats are known for their soothing and anti-inflammatory properties, while yogurt gently exfoliates.

- Blend 2 tablespoons of yogurt with 1 tablespoon of ground oatmeal.
- Massage the mixture gently in circular motions.
- Rinse with cool water.

This natural scrub removes dead cells and impurities, leaving skin silky smooth.

Yogurt and Turmeric Pack for Brightening

Turmeric is famed for its antibacterial and brightening effects.

- Combine 2 tablespoons of yogurt with a pinch of turmeric.
- Apply to the face and leave for 10-15 minutes.
- Wash off with lukewarm water.

This pack brings a natural radiance and helps combat mild acne.



FOOD CORNER

Banana Burfi

Ingredients

5 banana, 100 gm sugar, 1/4 cup butter, 1 teaspoon pistachios, 1/4 cup milk powder, 1 tablespoon cocoa powder, 1 teaspoon crushed lightly cashews, 50 gm ghee

Method

- To make this delicious Navratri special recipe, heat 1 tsp ghee in a pan over moderate flame. Add crushed pistachios and cashews to the pan. Lightly fry them till they turn golden in colour.
- Now take another heavy bottomed pan and heat it over medium flame. Add the remaining ghee and the bananas in it. Mix well. Add sugar and stir well. After a minute, add cocoa powder, milk powder and butter. Reduce the flame and gently stir till all ingredients are evenly combined.
- When the mixture starts to leave the sides of the pan and the bananas are well mashed, remove and transfer to a greased plate. Allow it cool.

Doodhi Ka Halwa

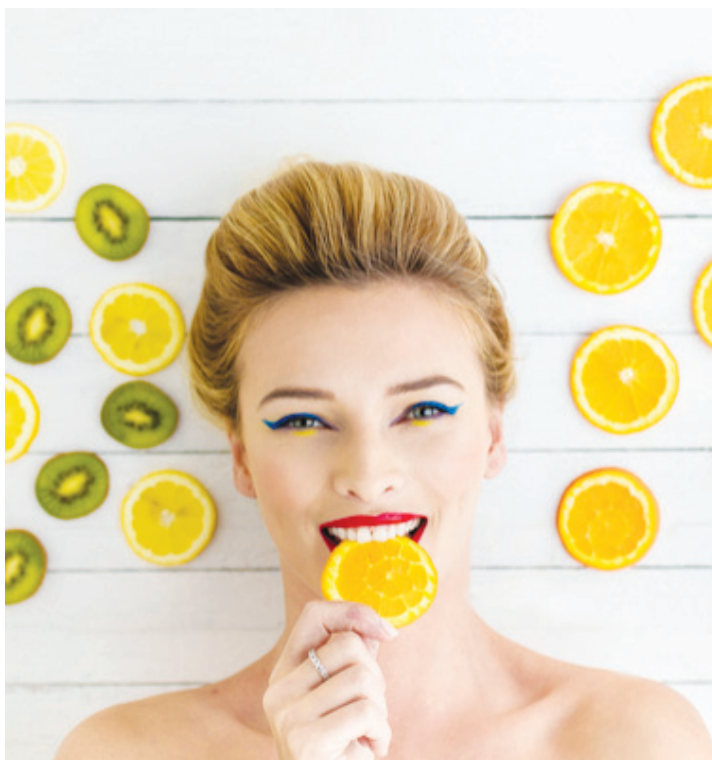
Ingredients

Lauki 300 gms, Milk 500 ml, Sugar 20 gms, Khoya 5 gms, Kishmish 2 gms, Cashewnuts 2 gms, Saffron 5 strands, Desi ghee 5 gms, Cardamom powder 1 gm

Method

- Remove the outer skin of bottle gourd (lauki) and grate it. Squeeze to remove excess water.
- Heat 3 grams of desi ghee in a handi.
- Add the grated lauki and saute for few minutes till it starts to get translucent.
- Now add milk and stir, till the milk boils and starts reducing. Keep stirring as the lauki has to be mashed in the milk and the milk gets completely reduced, this might take 20-30 minutes. Now add sugar and stir till the sugar dissolves completely. Soak the saffron in luke warm water for 10 minutes and add to the halwa.
- Heat the remaining desi ghee and once it is heated, pour over the halwa, mix moderately so that the desi ghee flavor gets infused.
- Finish with cardamom powder.

Four vitamins you need to nourish your skin



Vitamins play a crucial role in nourishing the body and the skin, and their deficiency leads to maladies like dark spots, redness, wrinkles, rough patches and excessive dryness.

Fitness experts list the most important vitamins for a healthy skin and their sources.

Vitamin A

Also called Retinol, this is a compound which stimulates the production of new skin cells and actively works to counter acne and signs of ageing like formation of wrinkles and lines. Vitamin A is found naturally in foods like carrots, sweet potatoes, eggs, dairy products and spinach.

Vitamin B3

Niacinamide or nicotinamide - a form of vitamin B3 - is among the eight vitamins responsible for maintaining good health. This is a water-soluble vitamin known for its anti-inflammatory properties, which is used to treat skin ailments like acne, spots, hyperpigmentation and rosacea - a skin condition characterised by spreading of redness due to rashes. Chicken breast, tuna, salmon, peanuts, green peas,

mushrooms and potatoes are some foods rich in vitamin B3.

Vitamin C

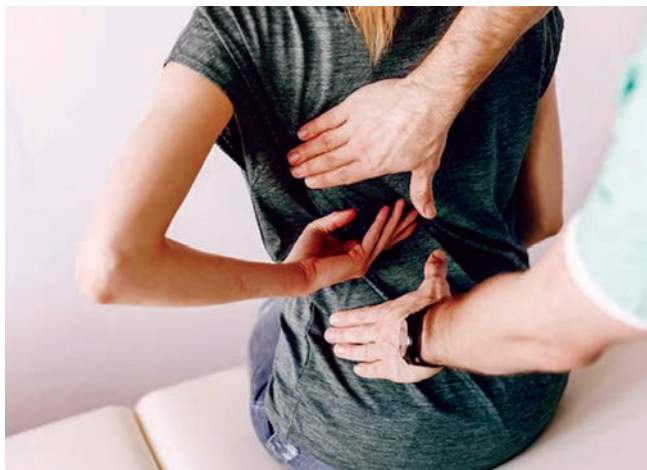
The anti-oxidant properties of vitamin C help prevent acne and protect the skin from the effects of free radicals and creation of collagen structures. Taking adequate Vitamin C can help repair skin and reduce wrinkles. Citrus fruits, strawberries, tomatoes, mangoes, bell peppers, broccoli and Brussel sprouts are some sources of vitamin C.

Vitamin E

Also known as Tocopherol, vitamin E is a powerful anti-oxidant that protects skin from free radicals. Free radicals are generated by internal and external factors.

Their internal generation happens when the body converts food into energy, while externally, the skin gets them through pollution, exposure to UV rays, and excessive smoking and drinking. Natural sources of Vitamin E include almonds, hazelnuts, sunflower seeds, olive oil, spinach, corn and mangoes.

When back pain and cough signal deadly cardiac emergency



Nagging back pain, persistent cough and high blood pressure aren't the usual symptoms linked to a cardiac emergency. But they do, and three people lost their lives.

Cardiologists at Fortis Memorial Research Institute in Gurugram are sounding the alarm: such overlooked symptoms may be early red flags of aortic dissection, a fatal cardiac condition that can strike without warning.

Dr Udgeath Dhir, Director and Head of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery, Fortis Gurugram, describes three cases where patients arrived with symptoms that didn't initially point to a cardiac emergency.

"Back pain and coughing are rarely associated with cardiac ailments by the public or even some clinicians. But they can, in fact, signal serious vascular damage, especially when combined with uncontrolled hypertension," Dr. Dhir explains.

A 59-year-old man experienced sudden chest pain that radiated to his back. What was suspected to be a heart

attack turned out to be a ruptured aorta - the body's main artery. Emergency imaging revealed that the rupture had extended into the pulmonary artery.

A rare window of time allowed for a high-stakes surgery involving the Frozen Elephant Trunk (FET) technique. His entire aorta, from the ascending portion to the descending, was reconstructed, and the aortic valve was preserved.

In another case, a 70-year-old man was suffering from a nagging back pain. Diagnostic tests again revealed a ruptured aorta - this time affecting the coronary arteries. "This type of dissection often kills before medical help can arrive. But timely intervention made all the difference," says Dr. Dhir.

A high-risk surgery was performed, saving his life.

But perhaps the most startling was the case of a 38-year-old man, who collapsed with chest pain during a family wedding. Doctors initially suspected a heart attack. Instead, they found an aortic dissection, which is an often-misdiagnosed condition with a mortality rate that increases with each passing hour.

All three men underwent advanced surgical repair using a combination of the Bentall Procedure, aortic arch replacement, and the Elephant Trunk technique, procedures typically reserved for the most complex cardiovascular cases. Each survived, highlighting the importance of accurate and timely diagnosis.

"These aren't isolated cases," Dr. Dhir cautions. Dissection or rupture of the aorta is becoming more common due to undiagnosed hypertension and delayed treatment, he says.

In fact, if not managed properly, mortality rate is 75%. "We need to start recognising symptoms like unexplained back pain and persistent coughing as potential cardiac red flags," he concludes.

Source: India Today



Evidence remains inconsistent: WHO, EU reject Trump's paracetamol-autism link

The painkiller paracetamol, or acetaminophen, is one of the most widely used medicines during pregnancy worldwide. But earlier this week, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it would slap a warning label on the drug, citing a "possible association" between autism in children and the use of acetaminophen.

This is after US President Donald Trump linked the popular medication (sold under the brand name Tylenol in the US) to autism.

In an anticipated announcement about autism, he bluntly declared, "Don't take Tylenol," repeating the warning without citing scientific evidence.

"Fight like hell not to take it," he added, bringing the debate to the forefront of US health policy.

Major health organisations, including the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Union, have reaffirmed the safety of paracetamol during pregnancy, disputing Trump's claims.

The WHO said that evidence of a link remains inconsistent and urged caution in drawing conclusions.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) stated there is no new evidence requiring changes to current recommendations, adding paracetamol can be used during pregnancy when needed, but at the lowest effective dose and frequency.

"Available evidence has found no link between the use of paracetamol during pregnancy and autism," the EMA said in a statement, adding paracetamol could be used during pregnancy when needed, though at the lowest effective dose and frequency.

Britain's health regulator also confirmed its safe use.

In the same briefing, Trump not only urged parents and pregnant women to avoid Tylenol but also suggested not to take common vaccines together or so early in a child's life.

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Fat or sugar: What really is the cause of type 2 diabetes?

Type 2 diabetes is one of the most widespread lifestyle diseases today, and with rising cases worldwide, people often ask: is sugar the real culprit, or is it fat? The truth is more nuanced than blaming just one.

Sugar's Role

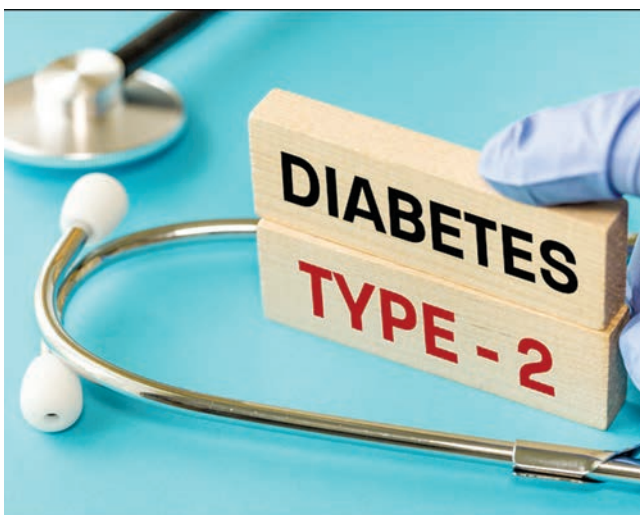
Refined sugars and processed carbs cause sharp spikes in blood glucose. The pancreas is forced to release large amounts of insulin repeatedly, which over time can lead to insulin resistance. Sugary drinks, sweets, and high-fructose corn syrup are strongly linked with increased diabetes risk.

Fat's Role

Fat-especially visceral fat around the abdomen and organs-plays an equally important part. Excess fat in the liver and pancreas interferes with insulin production and use, a process scientists call lipotoxicity. This explains why weight loss often improves or even reverses type 2 diabetes.

The Bigger Picture

It's not simply sugar versus fat. The real issue is overconsumption of both, combined with sedentary lifestyles and genetic susceptibility. Processed foods that are high in sugar and unhealthy fats, along with lack of exercise, create the perfect storm for diabetes to develop.



Prevention and Control

The good news: lifestyle changes can make a huge difference.

- Cut back on sugary drinks and refined carbs.
- Opt for healthy fats like olive oil, nuts, and seeds instead of trans fats.
- Maintain a healthy weight-just a 5-10% reduction can improve insulin sensitivity.
- Stay active with regular exercise.
- Get adequate sleep and manage stress.

Nasa could launch Artemis-II astronauts to the Moon by February 2026

Amid delays, pushbacks, budget cuts and shifting focus away from the Moon towards Mars, Nasa is confident of a lunar landing by 2027.

The American space agency is preparing to make lunar history with Artemis-II, the agency's first crewed mission around the Moon under the Artemis program. It could potentially launch as soon as February 5, 2026, pending final safety reviews and operational developments, if they are completed on schedule.

While the mission remains officially scheduled for no later than April 2026, Nasa officials revealed during a press briefing at Johnson Space Center (JSC), Houston, that a much earlier liftoff is on the cards if preparatory work and hardware validation proceed without major obstacles.

Artemis II is a critical 10-day mission designed to send four astronauts around the Moon aboard the Orion spacecraft, marking the first time in more than 50 years that humans will venture into deep space.

The multinational crew is led by Nasa astronaut Reid Wiseman and includes pilot Victor Glover, mission specialist Christina Koch, and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen. Their journey will utilise a "free-return" trajectory, sending them beyond the Moon, at distances exceeding 9,200 kilometres from the lunar surface, before bringing them safely back to Earth without entering lunar orbit. The launch will be carried out atop Nasa's Space Launch System (SLS), a heavy-lift rocket specifically designed for deep space exploration. The Orion capsule and SLS boosters have been steadily advancing in assembly at Kennedy Space Center, where final integration with the crew module is expected in the coming weeks.

Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 launched, pushing Android gaming and AI to new levels

Qualcomm has officially unveiled the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 chip, marking the latest advance in flagship mobile processors for Android smartphones. As the successor to the 8 Elite, this chip is set to power upcoming high-end devices from brands such as Xiaomi, Samsung, and OnePlus. The Xiaomi 17 series is the first confirmed phone line to use this new chipset, with others expected to follow. Qualcomm's announcement brings a focus on camera improvements, AI advancements, and gains in efficiency and connectivity. The chip's launch signals a continued push from Android manufacturers to compete directly with Apple's iPhone, particularly in video and computational photography.

At the heart of the Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 are several standout features. The chip supports the Advanced Professional Video (APV) codec, a first for mobile processors, allowing "near-lossless" video capture and greater post-production flexibility. Qualcomm also highlights its collaboration with Arcsoft and Dragon Fusion technology, which promises to treat "every video frame as a photo." This "fully computational" video pipeline could reshape mobile videography if widely adopted by phone makers, though previous collaborative features have sometimes seen limited uptake.

Improvements extend beyond video. The Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 boasts a peak CPU speed of 4.6GHz, with rumours of an even faster version for Galaxy devices. Qualcomm says users can expect "20 per cent better performance compared to the Snapdragon 8 Elite chip, although it's unclear if this applies to single- or multi-core workloads." The processor retains a 2+6 core layout and introduces hardware-based AI acceleration, with further support for "hardware matrix acceleration." According to Qualcomm, overall processor efficiency has improved, up to 16 per cent better power savings and a 35 per cent increase in CPU efficiency, potentially translating into longer battery life.

A key element of the new chip is its camera and video processing pipeline. The Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5 supports up to 48-megapixel triple cameras, 108-megapixel single sensors, and advanced video formats like 4K/120fps. The



main change is the addition of the APV codec, which Qualcomm says "lets you capture 'near-lossless' video quality while letting you make adjustments in post-production, such as highlights/shadow tweaks and 'precise' colour grading." Samsung described this codec as offering "perceptually lossless" video quality in 2023, aiming to provide professionals and enthusiasts greater creative control.

Additional camera enhancements include a 20-bit triple ISP and Dragon Fusion computational imaging, co-developed with Arcsoft. This technology enables "advanced AI tone mapping" and is described by Qualcomm as "fully computational," treating each video frame as a high-quality photograph. By leveraging enhanced dynamic range, colour, and shadow detail, the chip aims to offer noticeable gains for mobile photography and video, though adoption by phone manufacturers remains to be seen.

For gaming, the chip supports "full Unreal Engine 5" compatibility with Nanite and Lumen, alongside mesh shading for improved graphics rendering efficiency. Qualcomm has not revealed improvements to ray tracing and stated, "the company told us we'll have to wait for benchmark results." These features are targeted at providing developers with more graphical headroom or reducing power consumption during demanding tasks.

In a first, scientists create AI virus to hunt down harmful bacteria

In a first-of-its-kind breakthrough, scientists have used artificial intelligence to design viruses—bacteriophages—that can hunt down and kill harmful bacteria.

Researchers at Stanford University and the Arc Institute created the world's first entirely AI-generated genome, marking a major leap in computational biology. Until now, AI had been used to design proteins or small gene systems, but building a whole genome—which requires multiple interacting genes and regulatory switches to work in harmony—was a far greater challenge.

"Genome design requires orchestrating multiple interacting genes and regulatory elements while maintaining a balance that enables replication, host specificity, and evolutionary fitness. This increase in complexity introduces new constraints and failure modes that do not arise when only designing a single protein or a two-component system," the team explained in a post on arcinstitute.org.

Testing the AI-made viruses

For the study (not yet peer-reviewed), the team used genomic AI models to generate viral genomes able to



infect and kill specific strains of Escherichia coli, including antibiotic-resistant ones. Out of 302 AI-designed bacteriophages, 16 successfully infected the

bacteria.

The results point to potential new therapies for bacterial infections, but they also raise bigger possibilities. One researcher told Nature: "The next step is AI-generated life."

For their test case, the scientists chose bacteriophage FX174 (phi-X-174), a tiny virus with 5,386 DNA letters and 11 overlapping genes. This same virus was the first to be fully sequenced in 1977 and synthesised in 2003. Now, it has become the first virus designed by AI.

Using a genomic language model named Evo—trained on thousands of similar genomes—the AI generated thousands of candidate designs. After rigorous software checks and lab tests, hundreds of these genomes were synthesised and tested inside E. coli. From them, 16 functional viruses emerged, each carrying dozens to hundreds of mutations never seen before.

One striking design even borrowed a DNA-packaging protein from a distant relative, something human scientists had tried and failed to achieve. Cryo-electron microscopy confirmed the novel protein fit perfectly inside the virus shell.

Amazon to pay \$2.5bn for allegedly duping millions to sign up for Prime

NEW YORK (TIP)

Amazon has reached a historic \$2.5bn settlement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which said the online retail giant tricked customers into signing up for its Prime memberships and made it difficult for them to cancel after doing so.

The Seattle company will pay \$1bn in civil penalties – the largest such fine in the agency's history for a rule violation – and \$1.5bn will be paid back to consumers who were unintentionally enrolled in Prime, or were deterred from cancelling their subscriptions, the agency said on Thursday, Sept 25.

The surprise settlement comes just days after the trial began in the United States District Court in Seattle this week. At the heart of the case is the Restore Online Shoppers' Confidence Act, a 2010 law designed to ensure that people know what they're being charged for online.

FTC officials said Amazon had its back against the wall, and the consumer refund amount exceeded even the agency's expert projections.

"I think it just took a few days for them to see that they were going to lose. And they came to us and they paid out," said Chris Mufarrige, director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, on the settlement negotiations.

Amazon, however, said it was confident it would win the case but that it chose to resolve it quickly instead of going through potentially years of trial and appeals. The company admitted no wrongdoing in the case, which was first filed two years ago.

"Amazon and our executives have always followed the law, and this settlement allows us to move forward and focus on innovating for customers," said spokesman Mark Blafkin in a statement. "We work incredibly hard to



make it clear and simple for customers to both sign up or cancel their Prime membership, and to offer substantial value for our many millions of loyal Prime members around the world."

While a win for consumers and the FTC, the settlement is relatively painless for Amazon: The company takes in about \$2.5bn in sales every 33 hours. Shares of Amazon were nearly unchanged after the news.

Certain Prime customers who are eligible for automatic refunds of up to \$51 include those who may have signed up for a membership via the company's "Single Page Checkout", among other links, between June 23, 2019, and June 23, 2025. Those customers will be reimbursed within 90 days of the settlement order.

Amazon is also on the hook to set up a claims process for more than 30 million customers who may have been affected by the other issues at the heart of the FTC case, including its cancellation process.

Amazon Prime provides subscribers with perks that include faster shipping, video streaming and discounts at Whole Foods for a fee of \$139 annually, or \$14.99 a month.

It is a key and growing part of Amazon's business, with more than 200 million members. In its latest financial report, the company reported in July

that it booked more than \$12bn in net revenue for subscription services, a 12 percent increase from the same period last year. That figure includes annual and monthly fees associated with Prime memberships, as well as other subscription services such as its music and e-books platforms.

The FTC said Amazon deliberately made it difficult for customers to purchase an item without also subscribing to Prime. In some cases, consumers were presented with a button to complete their transactions – which did not clearly state it would also enrol them in Prime, the agency said.

Getting out of a subscription was often too complicated, and Amazon leadership slowed or rejected changes that would have made cancelling easier, according to an FTC complaint.

Internally, Amazon called the process "Iliad", a reference to the ancient Greek poem about the lengthy siege of Troy during the Trojan War. The process requires the customer to affirm on three pages their desire to cancel membership.

The FTC began looking into Amazon's Prime subscription practices in 2021 during the first Trump administration, but the lawsuit was filed in 2023 under former FTC Chair Lina Khan, an antitrust expert who had been appointed by Biden.

As part of the settlement terms, Amazon is prohibited from misrepresenting the terms of the subscriptions. It must fully disclose the costs to be incurred and obtain the customer's express consent for the charge. For example, it must have a clear option for customers to accept or decline a Prime subscription being offered during a purchase, avoiding potentially confusing language such as: "No thanks, I don't want free shipping."

Starbucks to close stores, lay off 900 workers as part of turnaround plan

Starbucks is laying off around 900 non-retail employees and closing some US and Canadian stores as it focuses more of its resources on a turnaround.

The Seattle coffee giant will notify employees whose positions are being eliminated and said that it plans to close an undetermined number of stores in North America in the coming days. A review of Starbucks locations revealed that many are falling short of financial performance targets or are failing to create the environment customers expect, according to a letter sent by Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol.

"Each year, we open and close coffeehouses for a variety of reasons, from financial performance to lease expirations," Niccol wrote. "This is a more significant action that we understand will impact partners and customers. Our coffeehouses are centres of the community, and closing any location is difficult."

Starbucks said on Thursday that it expects to end its fiscal year with 18,300 stores in North America, down 124 from last year.

It's rare for Starbucks to shrink its store count during a fiscal year.

Niccol is a turnaround specialist who was brought into Starbucks a year ago this month to give the brand a jolt. Under Niccol's leadership, the struggling Chipotle chain, where Niccol was CEO for about six years, essentially doubled its revenue and its profit, and stock price, soared.

Starbucks said it will offer severance and support packages for affected employees.

No festive cheer for investors; FIIs continue to exit India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

There is little to no festive cheer for investors as the equity market extended its losing streak for a fifth straight session on Thursday. Persistent foreign fund outflows, weak global cues and renewed concerns around the US H-1B visa norms, which is expected to weigh on the earnings outlook for India's IT sector, dragged sentiment lower.

At the close on Thursday, the Sensex fell 555.95 points, or 0.68%, to 81,159.68, while the Nifty slipped 166.05 points, or 0.66%, to settle at 24,890.85. In the past five trading sessions, the two benchmarks have plummeted about 1.8-1.9% each.

The broader markets also mirrored the benchmarks on Thursday, with

the Nifty Midcap100 and Smallcap100 falling 0.6% each. Sectorally, most indices closed in the red, with realty and IT stocks leading the declines.

Siddhartha Khemka - Head of Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said that on the global front, investors remain cautious ahead of key US economic releases, including GDP and initial jobless claims later on Thursday, followed by the PCE price index (a key gauge of US inflation) due Friday.

Khemka expects markets to remain under pressure in the near term, tracking global headwinds, macroeconomic data releases, and developments around the India-US trade talks. Concerns over economic

growth persist amid the impact of rising global commodity prices, weakening rupee and US tariffs, adding to investor caution.

Analysts at Bata Broking stated that continuous foreign fund withdrawals and uncertainty around US-India trade negotiations fuelled concerns of a potential Q2 GDP slowdown. At the end of last week's trading session (September 19), FIIs sold equities worth Rs 180,443 crore through the exchanges. So far this week, they have been net sellers.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments, said that the significant drag on the market throughout this year has been the sustained selling by FIIs. The FII strategy of selling in India

and buying in other markets has paid rich dividends as evidenced by the huge underperformance of the Indian market vis-à-vis others. While the Nifty is down 3.6% YoY, the Hang Seng is up by 38.6% and Kospi is up by 33.73%.

"This huge underperformance and the high valuations in India have emboldened FIIs to continue selling in India. The reforms being implemented in India along with the low interest rate regime have the potential to push economic growth and corporate earnings growth higher. This should bring FIIs back to the Indian market. But we don't know when this will happen on a sustained basis," added Vijayakumar.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week, you will be full of energy and great ideas. It is time to speed up work, and your hard work will pay off. You may get a chance to work on a new project, and your leadership skills will inspire others. Wise decisions need to be made, especially in financial matters. By keeping a check on expenses, you can move towards your long-term goals. People around you will be able to understand your ideas, which will increase dedication and cooperation. In terms of health, it is advisable to focus on meditation and exercise. Spending some time in yoga or meditation will give you mental peace. In personal relationships, you can solve problems by keeping the dialogue open and working wisely. Attending social events will allow you to expand your network. This week will prove to be better for bringing positive changes in your personal and professional life. Use your energy properly and stay positive.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week, the door to new possibilities can open. You will try to balance your personal and professional life. It will be important to communicate with colleagues at the workplace. Your confidence will help you start new projects. Try to maintain stability in financial matters. Avoid spending without thinking, as it may put you in trouble in the future. Spending time with family members and accepting their suggestions will strengthen your relationships. In terms of health, yoga and meditation will improve your mental health. Small things may stress you, so it is important to maintain mental balance. This week, your efforts will get positive results. Having a little patience will help you achieve your goals. Believe in your inner power, and keep moving forward.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week, new possibilities and opportunities will open up for you. You will be more active in social life, which will give you a chance to develop new friends and relationships. Your cleverness and intelligence in conversation and communication will attract people. On the work front, you will get the opportunity to collaborate better with the team. Your thoughtfulness and ability to share new perspectives in group discussions will increase your recognition. However, keep in mind that it is important to respect everyone's opinion. In personal life, conversations

with your partner or close friends will help strengthen your relationships. It will be good to plan a short trip or vacation, which will refresh your mind. This week, your health also needs attention. Exercise regularly and follow a proper diet. Do meditation, yoga, or sadhana to reduce mental stress. Try to balance on different edges, and remember that your sensitivity is your specialty. Listening to your inner voice will give you the right direction.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week will bring some important opportunities. Your sensitivity and insight will prove to be the biggest helpers at this time. Relationships with your family members will improve, and you will get a chance to spend some quality time with your loved ones. On the professional front, you need to focus on new projects this week. Some new ideas may come to you, which will take your career in a positive direction. If you are interested in some work, then it is time to pursue it. Your health condition will remain normal, but keep in mind that it is important to control stress. Regular exercise and yoga will give you mental peace. This week, your emotions may flow out, so you need to take care of your emotional health. Staying away from negativity and adopting positivity will be beneficial for you. In summary, this week is an opportunity for self-development and collaboration. Strengthen your relationships and welcome new opportunities.



LEO

Ganesha says this time of the week, the door to new opportunities seems to be opening for you. This week will inspire you to reach the highest level in your career. Your balanced approach and dedication will make you see positive changes at the workplace. In personal life, self-confidence will increase, which will help in improving relationships. Try to spend time with your loved ones, as it will make the relationship stronger. In terms of health, energy levels are likely to remain high. However, it is also important to take some precautions, especially for your emotional well-being. Meditation and yoga can be beneficial for you this week. So, stay loyal to your goals this week and maintain a positive attitude. Be ready to embrace new experiences. You will feel your radiance increasing, and you will attract people around you.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week marks a new beginning. Your systematic thinking and practical approach will help you move forward on projects that were stuck for a long time. In work life, try to establish better rapport with colleagues; this will increase the team's efficiency. In your personal life, relationships will warm up.

If you have put off discussing an important issue, now is the right time to share it with your partner. This conversation will make your relationship stronger. In terms of health, try doing yoga or meditation to avoid stress. This will maintain your mental peace and make you more focused. Take some time for yourself at the end of the week; it will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. Overall, this week is going to bring positive changes for you, so move ahead with confidence.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is a positive and inspiring time. This is the right time for you to self-realize and understand the depth of your relationships. Keep balance and justice in all the decisions you are going to take. This week will open up new possibilities in your personal and professional life. If you are considering a new project or partnership, this is the right time for you to go ahead. Your social circle will also grow, which can lead to new friends and associates. There will also be a new freshness in your relationships. If you are with someone special, then the conversation and understanding between you will increase. For single people, you may meet someone new who will prove to be special to you. In terms of health, make sure that you take care of your mental and physical health. Doing yoga or meditation will give you mental peace. This week, focus on your goals and maintain balance in all aspects of your life. This time is going to bring you opportunities for success and happiness.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says many new opportunities may open up for you this week. Deep thinking and a sense of freedom inside you may attract you to new ideas. At work, you will get the fruits of your hard work soon, so stay focused and believe in your abilities. In personal relationships, emotions will deepen. You need to spend quality time with your loved ones. Some old issues may also get resolved, which will give you mental peace. In terms of health, take care of your mental and physical health. If you have recently faced any health-related issues, do not ignore them. Creating a small exercise routine will be beneficial for you. This week, it is important for you to move forward towards your goal and recognize the power within you. This time, full of your confidence, can become the key to your success during new opportunities.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says, enjoy your journey with partners and goals. This week, new experiences will not only make you happy but also expand your perspective. Keep your mind open and welcome new opportunities. In terms of health, a little meditation and rest will be beneficial for

you. It is important to maintain your mental and physical health. Create positivity by channelizing your inner energy in the right direction. The importance of truth and honesty will increase in business and the workplace. Maintain good relations with colleagues and focus on teamwork. This is the time when your hard work is likely to yield results. Your openness and honesty in personal relationships will bring beauty. Spend time with your loved ones, as it will further strengthen your relationships. Your spontaneity and laughter will charm everyone. This week, you will get the opportunity to listen to your inner voice. Listen to your heart and prioritize your desires. It is time for self-reflection, so focus on your dreams and hopes.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, a positive energy flow is being seen. The results of your hard work and dedication will start coming to you this week. Opportunities for progress at work will not only boost your confidence, but will also make you appreciated among your colleagues. Time spent with family and friends will improve mutual relationships. This week is good for you, especially for strengthening the relationships that support you. Take care of small joys and share them with your loved ones. In terms of health, adding a little regularity and exercise to your routine will keep both your mind and body healthy. It is also important to take care of mental health, so adopt the process of meditation and yoga. From a financial point of view, you may get a new financial plan or investment opportunity. Evaluate your options carefully to make the right use of this opportunity. This week, you may have to make some important decisions. Decisions taken with your discretion and thoughtfulness will be right. Remember, stability and balance will take you in the right direction.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says many positive changes are likely to come this week. There will be clarity in your thoughts and resolutions, which will help you move towards your goals. Spending time with family members will strengthen your emotional state, and you will understand them even better. During this time, sharing ideas with close friends will lighten your mind and provide new perspectives. Your social life is also likely to improve by participating in activities, where you can meet new people. On the professional level, the results of the efforts you have made will now become more evident. Your colleagues will appreciate your hard work, and due to this, you may also get new responsibilities. In terms of health, you may feel the need to take some rest in the middle of the week. Meditation and light exercise will bring mental peace.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEP 29 TO OCT 5 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

SEPTEMBER 29

Ganesha says your character and an optimistic outlook toward life can enable you to surround yourself with a large number of friends. Proximity to the water body can benefit you financially in the coming year. One must try to get a job in a city or town near a river or sea. Those of you who are single can overestimate the possibility of getting married. You may have a strong sense of independence and self-assurance. In the coming year, you may roam among intelligent people. This can benefit you in every way. After your marriage, you may be prosperous.

SEPTEMBER 30

Ganesha says in the coming year, your self-assurance can help you become popular and successful. Family and friends may come to you for guidance and support. The domestic front, especially for your children, will bring lots of happiness and love. Shades like yellow, violet, and green are considered lucky for you. Some of you are more likely to inherit property in the coming year, especially from your father's side. Your career may involve a lot of travel in the coming year. You may enjoy developing your spiritual abilities and using them to help oppressed groups of people.

OCTOBER 1

Ganesha says although you have a practical approach and take your obligations seriously, you may need to rein in your tendency to act stubborn and jealous. Your spouse gives you love and affection, and your children excel and can make you proud. A sudden deterioration in the health of a relative can be a cause for concern. You may have the potential to invest extensively in the coming year not only in speculative industries but also in real estate. You can get benefits in kind and cash from family and friends.

OCTOBER 2

Ganesha says your friends may notice your humility and come to you for help and guidance. However, you sometimes get restless and may take hasty decisions as a result. As a result, it can only get worse. You do not enjoy exercising your authority because you can be submissive and meek by nature. However, you will also hate people interfering in your personal matters. You value privacy and prefer to be alone. Your passion for reading and thirst for information can be your asset in the coming year. You will be able to harness this strong power of observation so that you will be able to notice the small movements around you more.

OCTOBER 3

Ganesha says in the coming year, you are likely to see changes both on the professional and domestic front. Some of you may have to suffer financial loss due to betting. It is advised that you lend money only when you are sure that you can get it back. In the coming year, you can take your own decisions because of your independence. You may be serious by nature and value some level of solitude in your life. You may prefer to spend time alone by working on your own projects. You will be seen spending a lot of time in the coming year working as a social worker for hospitals and non-profit organizations.

OCTOBER 4

Ganesha says you will experience many events in the coming year, but it is best never to overreact to unimportant issues. White, blue, purple, and cream are very auspicious colors for you. You are naturally a studious person, and you can be happiest when you are surrounded by literature. You can be prepared to defy tradition and decide what suits you best in matters of love. Those who will get married this year should wish for a prosperous life. Your dedication and hard work will be noticed by your managers, and you may possibly get rewarded for your efforts. You may naturally be good at reading. You enjoy doing it professionally and can find



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

fulfillment in it.

OCTOBER 5

Ganesha says you can strike the ideal balance between religion and logic. You may spend a lot of time traveling in the coming year. You will be fascinated by both music and literature and listening to music can bring peace to your mind. You like to support those who are deeply oppressed. May you have many possibilities to help the less fortunate in the coming year. The subject of your choice will be available for study, and you may be able to delve deeper into it. As a result of this, you can be successful in your academic subject. You may be obsessed with maintaining law and order.

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Focus on self-care, as it is important for your overall well-being. Keep exchanging your ideas in social circles, and do not hesitate to take any new initiative. This week, it is time for you to understand the power of restraint and decision-making.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week will bring many positive opportunities for you. You will get an opportunity to discover your hidden talents, which will help you grow in your professional life. Your colleagues will appreciate your ideas, so don't hesitate to share your proposals. Your emotions will deepen, making you even more sensitive in your close relationships. Family relationships will strengthen, and you will get a chance to spend more time with your loved ones. At the end of this week, you will get mental peace, which will allow you to

start new tasks with new energy. Your financial condition will improve, but it is important to keep an eye on expenses.

Understand the need before making any investment. From a health point of view, focus on regular exercise and a

balanced diet. Be open to new experiences this week and trust your intuition. Good times await you!

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ॥



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AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 26 TO OCTOBER 2

26th September

1563 Bhai Budha Ji was born in village of Ramdas.

BABA BUDHA JI: born on 7 katak sanmat 1563 at Kathunangal (Dist. Amritsar) to father Sudhae and mother Gora. Parents named the child as Buddha. In sanmat 1574, Guru Nanak Dev Ji visited Kathunangal village. While grazing cattle, Buddha met Guru Nanak and served milk in sewa. During their conversation, Guru Nanak declared that though young in age, he was "Budha" in terms of understanding and wisdom. Since then he came to known as Budha.

1914 Kamagata Maru ship arrived at Calcutta where the Budge Budge incident took place.

Kamagata Maru arrived in Calcutta. The forcibly returning ship "Nanak Nam Jahaj" (Koma Gata Maru) was fired upon by the British forces. The police insisted that all returning passengers should board the train bound for Punjab. Only 50 men and 2 children boarded the train while others defied the police. In the combat 19 were killed, 203 were arrested and 32 absconded. Baba Gurdit Singh was one of those who escaped the police net.

1978 8 Sikhs were massacred by Nirankaris while police killed 10 sikhs at Kanpur. The U.P. police arrested a very large number of Sikhs instead of Nirankaris.

27th September

1926 Akali leaders of Gurudwara Sudhar movement, who were confined in Lahore fort during the Akali agitation, were finally released.

28th September

1968 Shiromani Akali Dal organized an All India Akali conference in Batala and demanded autonomy for states.

1981 Akali Dal executive met at Aalamgir and decided to launch Civil disobedience from Nov. 18, 1981 for the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.

29th September



1690 Sahibjadha Baba Jujhar Singh Ji, son of Guru Gobind Singh, was born to Matta Jito. He fought valiantly in the Chamkaur battle and accepted shahidi in the battle of Chamkaur on Dec. 22, 1704.

1914 The Komagata Maru passengers were fired upon at Budge-Budge Ghat (Calcutta) without any provocation. KOMA GATA MARU: Punjabis traveling to foreign land in search of better jobs were being discriminated against at the beginning of 20th century. The Canadian government had issued prohibition against their entry and the British ships had refused to accept any Punjabi travelers. The Canadian law stated, for the purpose of preventing immigration from India and other countries, that only those passengers could land in Canada who travelled on a through ticket without any break in journey from their land of birth. However, no company provided such a service between the Indian and Canadian ports. As a result, many Punjabis were stranded for months in Hong Kong,



unable to get tickets for their final destination, Canada.

1981 Dal Khalsa workers hijacked an Indian Airliner to Lahore. An Indian Airlines Jetliner (Boeing 737) flying to Lahore with 117 persons aboard was hijacked by 5 members Dal Khalsa under the leadership of Gajinder Singh. They demanded the release of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, then in judicial custody following the murder of Jagat Narainm a Hindu newspaper proprietor. The release of all persons detained in connection with the Khalistan movement, a ransom of 5 lakh dollars, and compensation of Rs. 100,000 per family for GurSikhs killed on 20th September at Chowk Mehta after the arrest of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala.



The next day Pakistani commandos effected the arrest of the Dal Khalsa workers. Hijackers identified were:- Gajinder Singh, Satnam Singh of Poanta Sahib, Jasbir Singh of Ropar, Tejinderpal Singh of Jallandar, and Karam Singh of Jammu.

1984 Giani Zail Singh's excommunication notice withdrawn. Giani Zail Singh's notice of excommunication from Guru Khalsa Panth was withdrawn. After the Operation Bluestar, the five Jathedars, comprising highest council of Sikhs, decided to serve notice of excommunication to Giani Zail Singh.



30th September

1632 Guru Tegh Bahadur married Gujar Ji, daughter of Bhai Lal Chabd of Kartarpur, Jalandhar.

1612 Baba Sri Chand dies at the age of 118. Baba SRI CHAND, the eldest son of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, was born

on Bhadoo Sidhi 9th sanmat 1551 to matta Sulakhni in Sultanpur. He lived in Barath village, near Dehra Nanak, Baba Sri Chand never married and later started the Udasi sect (one among the NanakPanthi sects). Though there several visible sects associated with NanakPanth today, the three main sects include, Udasi, Saehajdhari, and Sikhs (including Nihang, Nirmalae, and Kukae) [ref. Mahan Kosh]. Baba Sri Chand passed away on 15th Assu samnat 1668 at the age of 118.

1711 Bahadur Shah gave control fo Amritsar region to Ajit Singh, the adopted son of Matta Sundar Kaur. However, he started pusring his ego and sought his worship. As a result Matta Sundar Kaur Ji asked him to return immediately to Delhi.

1922 Kishan Singh Gargaj addresses a letter to the Secretary of SGPC asking him to give up the policy of non-violence at Guru Ka Bagh.

1922 Meeting at Rajowal to plan the murder of Arjan Singh Patwari, alleged to be responsible for the arrest of Master Mota Singh.

1953 Akali Dal decided to launch an agitation to undo discrimination against the Sikh backward classes.

1981 Restriction imposed on Kirpan on Indian Airline flights.



1st October

1778 The mosque that was constructed on site of Bangla Sahib Gurudwara was destroyed by the Sikhs.

1873 Sri Guru Singh Sabha was first founded and its inaugural meeting at Manji Sahib, Amritsar.

1961 Master Tara Singh broke his fast. Master Tara Singh broke his fast that started on Aug. 15, 1961 to protest against the discriminatory attitude of the government of India in not forming a Punjabi Speaking State demanded by the Sikhs. Prime Ministers offer to appoint a commission of inquiry to look into the matter, prevailed upon Master Tara Singh to break his fast.

1984 Indian Forces handed over the control Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahiban after Operation Bluestar. Giani Zail Singh, as President of India, flew back to Amritsar on this day and handed over the control of Darbar Sahib complex to Singh Sahibans. Jathedar Santa Singh Nihang Singh's Jatha ensured the departure of Indian forces from the complex.

2nd October

1926 First meeting of General Members of SGPC held. The first meeting of General Members elected under guidance of Gurudwara Act of 1925, was held to elect their office bearers. It was at this meeting the name Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) was approved through a resolution and adopted unanimously. Baba Kharak Singh elected President and Master Tara Singh became Vice President.

1986 Sardar Karmjit Singh Sunam was arrested for

Navratri, meaning "nine nights," is one of Hinduism's most spiritually charged festivals, devoted to the worship of Goddess Durga and her nine manifestations, known as Navdurga. These nine nights are not only a time for devotion, fasting, and cultural celebrations but also a period of immense cosmic significance. Few realize that Navratri is deeply interwoven with the concept of the Navgrahas (nine planets of Vedic astrology), which govern the destinies of individuals and civilizations alike.

Through the worship of Navdurga, devotees unknowingly perform remedies for planetary imbalances, reduce karmic afflictions, and harmonize their inner energies with cosmic vibrations. The festival thus becomes both a spiritual and astrological observance, balancing Shakti (divine feminine power) and Graha Shakti (planetary energies).

Scriptural Roots of Navratri and Goddess Worship

The worship of the Goddess during Navratri finds its foundation in key Hindu scriptures:

- **Devi Mahatmya (Durga Saptashati):** Narrates the slaying of Mahishasura, Shumbha-Nishumbha, and other demons by the Goddess. This text is central to Navratri rituals.
- **Devi Bhagavatam:** Describes the cosmic role of the Divine Mother as the Adi Shakti, from whom even Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva derive their powers.
- **Markandeya Purana:** Explains the cyclical worship of the Goddess during specific times of the year, aligning with seasonal and cosmic transitions.
- **Brihat Parashara Hora Shastra (an astrology classic):** Establishes the connection between planetary forces (Navgrahas) and divine energies, including forms of Devi.

These scriptures collectively highlight that Navratri is not only about mythological victories but also about realigning the microcosm of the human being with the macrocosm of the universe.

The Navgrahas: Cosmic Governors of Human Destiny

In Vedic astrology, the Navgrahas are more than planets—they are cosmic forces that influence karma, destiny, and spiritual progress.

- **1. Surya (Sun) - the soul, authority, vitality.**
- **2. Chandra (Moon) - emotions, peace, nourishment.**
- **3. Mangal (Mars) - courage, energy, conflicts.**
- **4. Budh (Mercury) - intellect, logic, communication.**
- **5. Guru (Jupiter) - dharma, knowledge, prosperity.**
- **6. Shukra (Venus) - love, beauty, luxury, arts.**
- **7. Shani (Saturn) - discipline, karmic balance, endurance.**
- **8. Rahu - ambition, desires, worldly attachments.**
- **9. Ketu - detachment, moksha, spirituality.**

Navratri and Navgraha - Amazing secrets of goddess worship



According to sages, each of these forces is pacified by invoking a particular form of Durga during Navratri. This is why Navratri is considered one of the most powerful periods for Navgraha Shanti (planetary pacification).

Navratri, Navdurga, and Navgraha Connection

- **Day 1 - Shailputri (Moon - Chandra)**
Represents mountains and stability.
Moon governs mind, emotions, and water balance.
Worship brings emotional stability, calmness, and relief from mental stress.
- **Day 2 - Brahmacharini (Mars - Mangal)**
Embodiment of devotion, penance, and strength.
Mars governs courage, aggression, and discipline.
Devotion to Brahmacharini redirects Mars' fiery energy toward willpower and spiritual growth.
- **Day 3 - Chandraghanta (Venus - Shukra)**
Her crescent moon resembles a bell (ghanta), symbolizing harmony.
Venus rules love, beauty, and prosperity.
Worship bestows peace in relationships, artistic skills, and material harmony.

Day 4 - Kushmanda (Sun - Surya)

Cosmic creatrix; she radiates solar brilliance.
Sun governs health, authority, and soul energy.
Worship strengthens vitality, leadership, and inner confidence.

Day 5 - Skandamata (Mercury - Budh)

Mother of Kartikeya (Skanda), she embodies nurturing wisdom.
Mercury symbolizes intellect and speech.
Worship sharpens intellect, enhances communication, and promotes maternal protection.

Day 6 - Katyayani (Jupiter - Guru)

Fierce warrior goddess.
Jupiter governs dharma, wealth, and

wisdom.

Her worship ensures righteous action, protection from injustice, and prosperity.

Day 7 - Kalaratri (Saturn - Shani)

Fierce, dark form who destroys ignorance.

Saturn represents karma, patience, and obstacles.

Worship removes fear, evil influences, and Saturn's harsh karmic delays.

Day 8 - Mahagauri (Rahu)

Pure, serene, radiant goddess.
Rahu creates confusion, obsession, and illusions.

Worship purifies desires, removes obsession, and grants clarity of thought.

Day 9 - Siddhidatri (Ketu)

Bestower of siddhis (spiritual powers).
Ketu rules detachment, liberation, moksha.
Worship awakens intuition, spiritual powers, and detachment from material bondage.

Secrets of Goddess Worship During Navratri

- **1. Planetary Pacification Through Devotion**
Navratri acts as a spiritual remedy for planetary afflictions. Instead of complicated yagnas for each planet, Goddess worship during these nine nights naturally balances their effects.
- **2. Activation of Chakras**
The nine forms of Devi correspond to the seven chakras plus two higher energy centers. Daily meditation on the form of Devi during Navratri activates these chakras, leading to physical, mental, and spiritual transformation.
- **3. Seasonal Cleansing**
Navratri is celebrated at the onset of seasonal shifts (spring and autumn), when planetary transitions are strong. Fasting and sattvic living help detoxify the body, preparing it for the climatic change.
- **4. Symbolism of Feminine Shakti**
The Goddess represents Shakti, the primal energy behind creation and sustenance. Navratri worship reminds

devotees that the same energy governing planets also resides within each individual as Kundalini Shakti.

5. Color and Planet Association

Each day of Navratri has a unique color associated with the Goddess and her planetary connection. Wearing these colors amplifies the energy of the day. Example:

- Red (Day 2, Mars),
- Yellow (Day 5, Mercury),
- Blue (Day 7, Saturn), etc.

Rituals and Practices for Planetary Harmony in Navratri

- **1. Chanting Mantras:** Recite Durga Saptashati, Navgraha Stotra, or the day's planetary mantra.
- **2. Lighting Lamps:** Offer ghee lamps to Surya, sesame oil lamps to Shani, etc.
- **3. Offerings (Naivedya):** White rice for Moon, wheat for Sun, green gram for Mercury, etc.
- **4. Fasting:** Helps align planetary energies, discipline Mars and Saturn, and purify the influence of Rahu-Ketu.
- **5. Meditation and Japa:** Chanting "Om Aim Hreem Kleem Chamundayai Viche" invokes the universal Mother, harmonizing all planetary vibrations.

Regional Practices and Navgraha Worship in Navratri

- **North India (Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Himachal):** Daily worship of Navdurga with akhand jyoti (eternal flame) is believed to pacify planetary doshas.
- **West Bengal (Durga Puja):** Shakti is invoked in Mahishasura Mardini form, with emphasis on planetary liberation from demonic energies.
- **Tamil Nadu & Kerala:** Saraswati Puja during the last three days is linked to Jupiter and Mercury energies for wisdom and learning.
- **Maharashtra & Gujarat:** Garba and dandiya symbolize the rotation of planets around Devi as the cosmic center.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump Announces New Tariffs on Heavy Trucks, Drugs and Kitchen Cabinets

Mr. Trump has launched numerous national security probes into potential new tariffs on a wide variety of products.

He said the new tariffs on kitchen, bathroom and some furniture were because of huge levels of imports which were hurting local manufacturers.

"The reason for this is the large scale "FLOODING" of these products into the United States by other outside Countries," Mr. Trump said, citing national security concerns about U.S. manufacturing.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce urged the department not to impose new tariffs, noting the top five import sources are Mexico, Canada, Japan, Germany, and Finland "all of which are allies or close partners of the United States posing no threat to U.S. national security."

Mexico is the largest exporter of medium- and heavy-duty trucks to the United States. A study released in January said imports of those larger vehicles from Mexico have tripled since 2019.

Higher tariffs on commercial vehicles could put pressure on transportation costs just as Trump has vowed to reduce inflation, especially on consumer goods such as groceries.

Tariffs could also affect Chrysler-parent Stellantis which produces heavy-duty Ram trucks and commercial vans in Mexico. Sweden's Volvo Group is building a \$700 million heavy-truck factory in Monterrey, Mexico, due to start operations in 2026.

Mexico is home to 14 manufacturers and assemblers of buses, trucks, and tractor trucks, and two manufacturers of engines, according to the U.S. International Trade Administration.

The country is also the leading global exporter of tractor trucks, 95% of which are destined for the United States.

"We need our Truckers to be financially healthy and strong, for many reasons, but above all else, for National Security purposes!," Trump added.

Mexico opposed new tariffs, telling the Commerce Department in May that all Mexican trucks exported to the United States have on average 50% U.S. content, including diesel engines.

Last year, the United States imported almost \$128 billion in heavy vehicle parts from Mexico, accounting for approximately 28% of total U.S. imports, Mexico said.

The Japanese Automobile Manufacturers Association also opposed new tariffs, saying Japanese companies have cut exports to the United States as they have boosted U.S. production of medium- and heavy-duty trucks.

Ex-FBI director James Comey indicted on two charges as Trump pushes to prosecute political enemies

federal prosecutor in the eastern district of Virginia, after Trump fired her predecessor, Erik Siebert, after he declined to bring charges against Comey over concerns there was insufficient evidence.

Halligan, most recently a White House aide and former Trump lawyer who has no prosecutorial experience, was also presented with a memo earlier this week laying out why charges should not be brought. But the justice department still pushed it through, people familiar with the matter said.

Responding to the indictment, hours after it was filed, Comey said in a video statement posted on Instagram that he was innocent and welcomed a trial.

"My family and I have known for years that there are costs to standing up to Donald Trump, but we couldn't imagine ourselves living any other way. We will not live on our knees, and you shouldn't either," Comey said.

Referencing the farewell email his daughter, Maureen, sent after she was fired from her job as a federal prosecutor in New York, Comey said: "Somebody that I love dearly recently said that fear is the tool of a tyrant. And she's right. But I'm not afraid. And I hope you're not either."

"I hope instead you are engaged. You are paying attention, and you will vote like your beloved country depends upon it. My heart is broken for the Department of Justice, but I have great confidence in the federal judicial system and I'm innocent. So let's have a trial. And keep the faith."

Prosecutors had also sought a third charge against Comey, but grand jurors rejected the request, court documents show.

Ensnared at the White House, Trump celebrated the charges in a post on Truth Social, writing: "JUSTICE IN AMERICA! One of the worst human beings this Country has ever been exposed to is James Comey, the former Corrupt Head of the FBI."

"Today he was indicted by a Grand Jury on two felony counts for various illegal and unlawful acts. He has been so bad for our Country, for so long, and is now at the beginning of being held responsible for his crimes against our Nation. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

Comey was expected to surrender and have his initial appearance in federal district court on Friday morning, according to a person familiar with the matter. Comey is expected to be represented by Patrick Fitzgerald, a former US attorney for the northern district of Illinois.

He faces up to five years in prison if convicted, but legal experts suggested the case may be difficult to prove.

Many current and former justice department officials condemned the filing of charges on Thursday night, criticizing what they viewed as weak evidence for the case.

"This is a sad day for the rule of law. Trump's comments, along with the musical chairs at the US attorney's office, make a mockery of prosecutorial discretion. The president has teed this case up for a dismissal on the grounds of selective prosecution," said Barbara McQuade, a former US attorney for the eastern district of Michigan.

Comey's son-in-law, Troy Edwards, resigned from his job as a federal prosecutor in the US attorney's office in Virginia minutes after the former FBI director was indicted. Edwards wrote in his resignation letter that he was quitting "to uphold my oath to the Constitution and the country".

Mark Warner, a Democratic senator from Virginia, condemned the charges.

"Donald Trump has made clear that he intends to turn our justice system into a weapon for punishing and silencing his critics," he said in a statement. "This kind of interference is a dangerous abuse of power. Our system depends on prosecutors making decisions based on evidence and the law, not on the personal grudges of a politician determined to settle scores."

In social media posts on Saturday, Trump claimed that Comey, Letitia James and a third political opponent, Democratic senator Adam Schiff, were "guilty as hell" and that his supporters were upset that "nothing has been done".

"We can't delay any longer, it's killing our reputation and credibility," Trump posted. They impeached me twice, and indicted me (5 times!), OVER NOTHING. JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!!"

Trump's contempt for Comey stretches back to the early days of his first term, when according to Comey, Trump sought to secure a pledge of loyalty from the then FBI director, who refused. At the time, Comey was leading the criminal investigation into Russian meddling in the US election. Trump dismissed Comey in May 2017.

Pakistan PM Sharif, Field Marshal Munir meet Trump at White House

"In fact, we have a great leader coming, the prime minister of Pakistan coming, and the field marshal (of) Pakistan. Field marshal is a very great guy and so is the prime minister, both. And they're coming, and they may be in this room right now, I don't know, because we're late, and I said maybe they'd like to join. They actually may be somewhere in the beautiful Oval Office," Trump said.

Trump has said on multiple occasions that he ended the recent conflict between India and Pakistan. He repeated the claim in his address to world leaders at the UNGA. Pakistan has nominated Trump for the 2026



Nobel Peace Prize, in "recognition of his decisive diplomatic intervention and pivotal leadership during the recent India-Pakistan crisis".

The last Pakistani prime minister to visit the White House was Imran Khan, who met Trump in July 2019 on an "official working visit". Before him, Sharif's brother and then Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif visited the White House in 2015.

The two countries have reached a trade agreement that entails a 19 per cent tariff on Pakistani imports and will allow Washington to help develop Pakistan's oil reserves. US goods and services trade with Pakistan totaled an estimated USD 10.1 billion in 2024, up 6.3 per cent (USD 523.0 million) from 2023.

The US' total goods trade (exports plus imports) with Pakistan was an estimated USD 7.2 billion in 2024. US goods exports to Pakistan in 2024 were USD 2.1 billion, up 3.3 per cent (USD 67.2 million) from 2023.

US goods imports from Pakistan in 2024 totaled USD 5.1 billion, up 4.8 per cent (USD 233.9 million) from 2023. The US goods trade deficit with Pakistan was USD 3 billion in 2024, a 5.9 per cent increase (USD 166.7 million) from 2023.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk arrested in Leh

Mr. Wangchuk was taken into custody by the police party led by Ladakh DGP S D Singh Jamwal at 2.30 p.m., the officials said.

The home ministry of India had blamed Mr. Wangchuk, a senior member of Leh Apex Body (LAB) which along with Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) is spearheading the agitation in support of the demands for the past over five years, for provocation leading to the violence.

Mr. Wangchuk, who was leading a hunger strike in support of the demands, however, denied the charges. He denounced the violence and also ended the fortnight-long fast following the violence on Wednesday, September 24. (Source: PTI)

Varkala: Kerala's cliffside secret by the Arabian Sea

Kerala has always been known as God's Own Country—lush backwaters, emerald-green palm groves, and golden beaches. Yet tucked away along the Arabian Sea, just 50 kilometers from Thiruvananthapuram, lies Varkala, a destination that blends natural wonder with soulful tranquility. Unlike the bustling shores of Kovalam, Varkala's charm lies in its unique cliffs that rise dramatically above the sea, its spiritual heritage, and its growing reputation as a global hub for yoga and wellness.

In Varkala, mornings begin with fishermen pulling in their nets, afternoons are for languid strolls along cliffside cafés, and evenings end with fiery sunsets that draw applause from nature lovers. Whether you're a backpacker, a seeker of spirituality, or a beach lover, Varkala offers an unforgettable escape.

The Cliffside Wonder

The defining feature of Varkala is its red laterite cliffs that frame the coastline in an almost surreal landscape. Unlike most Kerala beaches, which slope gently into the sea, Varkala's cliffs stand tall and rugged, offering breathtaking views of the ocean. Recognized by geologists as a rare formation along India's coastline, these cliffs are dotted with natural springs believed to have medicinal and curative properties.

Cliffside pathways lined with bohemian cafés, yoga studios, boutique shops, and art galleries create a relaxed, cosmopolitan vibe. From here, a flight of steps leads down to the iconic Papanasam Beach, where the ocean whispers stories both of leisure and legend.

Papanasam Beach - Where Sins Are Washed Away

Papanasam, literally meaning "destruction of sins," is more than just a beautiful stretch of golden sand—it's a sacred site. Locals believe that a dip here absolves sins and grants peace to departed souls. Pilgrims often perform rituals on the shore, while just a few meters away, tourists sunbathe and swim. This curious coexistence of the sacred and the secular gives Papanasam a unique character.

As the sun sets, the beach transforms into a canvas of crimson and gold. Travelers gather with cameras, couples walk hand in hand, and fishermen cast their nets in silhouette—an experience that feels more like a ritual than a daily occurrence.

A Journey Through Spiritual Varkala

Janardanaswamy Temple

Often referred to as the Dakshin Kashi (Benares of the South), this 2,000-year-old temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu adds an ancient heartbeat to the town. Perched on a hill near the beach, its architecture echoes Kerala's temple traditions, and its annual Arattu festival attracts pilgrims in thousands.

Sivagiri Mutt



Varkala is also home to Sivagiri Mutt, established by the great saint and reformer Sree Narayana Guru. The ashram is both a spiritual retreat and a symbol of social reform, advocating the Guru's vision of "One caste, one religion, one God for humanity." The

Sivagiri Pilgrimage, held every December-January, is a vibrant cultural and religious event.

Here, spirituality isn't confined to rituals—it flows into daily life, blending seamlessly with the town's coastal rhythm.

Varkala Cliff Trail

A leisurely walk along the cliff trail is one of Varkala's greatest pleasures. Every few steps reveal a new panorama—surfers riding the waves, fishermen setting out to sea, and cafés playing live music as the aroma of fresh seafood and spiced curries fills the air.

Kappil Beach & Backwaters

Just 6 km north of Varkala lies Kappil, where serene backwaters meet the Arabian Sea. Here, coconut palms sway gently over calm waters, and travelers can enjoy houseboat rides, kayaking, or simply relax in solitude. The Kappil estuary is a photographer's delight, especially during sunrise.

Black Beach & Odayam Beach

For those seeking quieter corners, the northern stretch of Varkala offers Black Beach, known for its volcanic black sands, and Odayam Beach, where tranquility reigns. These spots are perfect for meditative walks or yoga practice at dawn.

The Wellness Capital of Kerala

While beaches and temples attract tourists, Varkala has quietly emerged as one of India's top destinations for yoga and Ayurveda. Dozens of schools offer teacher-training courses, while Ayurvedic centers provide therapies ranging from simple massages to full detox programs.

- Yoga Retreats: Classes overlooking the sea combine traditional postures with meditation and pranayama.
- Ayurvedic Healing: Treatments like Shirodhara, Pizhichil, and herbal steam baths help rejuvenate both body and mind.
- Holistic Cafés: Cliffside eateries serve organic, vegan, and sattvic food, complementing the wellness culture.

For travelers seeking not just sightseeing but inner transformation, Varkala is a sanctuary.

Best Time to Visit

- November to March: Peak tourist season with pleasant weather.
- June to September: Monsoon magic—lush greenery and best for Ayurvedic treatments.
- April to May: Hot but less crowded, with budget-friendly stays.

Getting There

- Air: Trivandrum International Airport (45 km) is the nearest.
- Rail: Varkala Sivagiri Station connects to major cities like Kochi, Chennai, and Bangalore.
- Road: Well-linked by buses and taxis from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Alappuzha.

Manu Bhagavan and Vishakha Desai Unpack the Life of Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit



Manu Bhagavan and Vishakha Desai pose for a photo while holding the book about Madame Pandit.

JAY MANDAL
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

MANHATTAN, NY (TIP): Manu Bhagavan, the Hunter College professor and historian whose new biography, *The Remarkable Madame Pandit: Champion of India, Citizen of the World*, has drawn attention for its archival depth, appeared at Roosevelt House on the evening of September 16 for a moderated conversation with Vishakha Desai, President Emerita of the Asia Society. The program, hosted by the Roosevelt House Human Rights Program, brought together students, scholars, and New York's South Asian community for a discussion of Pandit's life and legacy, followed by a reception and book signing.



Manu Bhagavan (left) is seen at a book signing session. Also in the picture is Gita Sahgal (right, in a white outfit), the granddaughter of Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit

Bhagavan framed Pandit's life as a bridge between Indian nationalism and mid-20th-century internationalism, emphasizing her early role in the independence movement, her service in India's early cabinets, and her pioneering diplomatic career that culminated in her election as President of the UN General Assembly. The event description and publisher materials highlight Bhagavan's use of international archives to complicate familiar narratives about Pandit - portraying her not simply as a first or a symbol, but as a sophisticated practitioner of public diplomacy who engaged major institutions and leaders across the globe.

Desai steered the conversation toward two recurring themes: the gendered obstacles Pandit faced while operating in predominantly male institutions, and the



The audience attentively listens to the conversation between Manu Bhagavan and Vishakha Desai at the Roosevelt House in New York City.

tension between her global commitments and domestic political currents in India. According to the event brief and the moderator's professional interests, Desai probed how Pandit negotiated authority and visibility - how she used family connections and political networks while also crafting an independent international voice. These topics, visible in the event synopsis and promotional text, animated much of the discussion.



Manu Bhagavan delivers a speech at his book launch event

Bhagavan illustrated his points with archival anecdotes and interpretive reframing (as summarized in promotional material): instances of Pandit's decisive interventions at the United Nations, episodes that reveal her readiness to confront colonial and authoritarian power, and episodes of political fallout at home. While the program listing does not publish direct quotes, social posts from the day indicate a lively exchange and a full house, suggesting the material resonated strongly with the audience.



Manu Bhagavan and Vishakha Desai engage in a conversation

During the conversation, Bhagavan also explained how Madame Pandit spoke out against her niece, then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, for imposing the national Emergency in 1975 and jailing opposition political leaders - a rare act of defiance within the Nehru-Gandhi family that underscored Pandit's independence of judgment and commitment to democratic values.

Audience reaction after the talk was enthusiastic. Social media posts and short video clips from the event show a standing-room crowd and a well-attended reception and signing immediately after the conversation, evidence that the book launch drew sustained interest from both academic and public audiences in New York.



One of the displayed saris that Madame Pandit famously wore on significant public occasions.

Photos: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

The highlight of the evening was the presence of Ms Gita Sahgal, Madame Pandit's granddaughter (her daughter's daughter), who also spoke briefly at the event. Adding to the sense of history, the program featured a display of the original sari that Madame Pandit famously wore on significant public occasions.

Bhagavan's biography arrives as scholars and policy practitioners revisit mid-20th-century diplomacy and the role of women in shaping international institutions. The Roosevelt House conversation positioned Pandit as relevant to contemporary debates about gender and diplomacy, postcolonial leadership, and the moral stakes of international engagement, themes that the author and moderator highlighted as central to Pandit's continuing relevance.

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History This Week

SEP 26 - OCT 02

SEPTEMBER 26

September 26, 1687 - The Acropolis in Athens was attacked by the Venetian army attempting to oust the Turks, resulting in heavy damage to the Parthenon.

September 26, 1918 - The last major battle of World War I, the Battle of the Argonne, began as a combined force of French and Americans attacked the Germans along a 40-mile front.

September 26, 1960 - The first-ever televised presidential debate occurred between presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Many who watched were inclined to say Kennedy 'won' the debate, while those who listened only to the radio thought Nixon did better. Nixon, who declined to use makeup, appeared somewhat haggard looking on TV in contrast to Kennedy.

September 26, 1984 - Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.



Birthday - American folk legend Johnny Appleseed (1774-1845) was born in Leominster, Massachusetts (as John Chapman). For 40 years, he traveled through Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois, planting orchards. He was a friend to wild animals and was regarded as a "great medicine man" by Native Americans.

Birthday - Writer T.S. (Thomas Stearns) Eliot (1888-1965) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. He rejected conventional verse and language in favor of free expression.

Birthday - Composer George Gershwin (1898-1937) was born in Brooklyn, New York. Along with his brother Ira, he created enduring songs including The Man I Love, Strike Up the Band, I Got Rhythm and the opera Porgy and Bess.

SEPTEMBER 27

September 27, 1964 - After a 10-month investigation, the Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman had been responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

September 27, 1995 - The Israeli cabinet agreed to give Palestinians control of much of the West Bank which had been occupied by Israel for 28 years.

Birthday - American revolutionary leader Samuel Adams (1722-1803) was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He was a passionate, vocal man who helped ignite the revolution and served as a delegate to the First and Second Continental

Congresses. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation.



Birthday - American political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902) was born in Landau, Germany. He originated the symbols for the two main U.S. political parties, the Democratic donkey and the Republican elephant. Nast was also instrumental in destroying the Tweed Ring, a group of corrupt politicians plundering the New York City treasury.

SEPTEMBER 28

September 28, 1066 - The Norman conquest of England began as Duke William of Normandy landed at Pevensey, Sussex.

September 28, 1542 - California was discovered by Portuguese navigator Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo upon his arrival at San Diego Bay.



September 28, 1978 - Pope John Paul I died after only 33 days in office. He was succeeded by John Paul II.

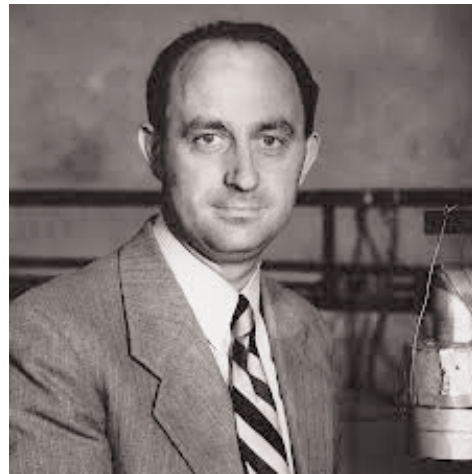
September 28, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord at the White House establishing Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

SEPTEMBER 29

September 29, 1789 - Congress created the United States Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

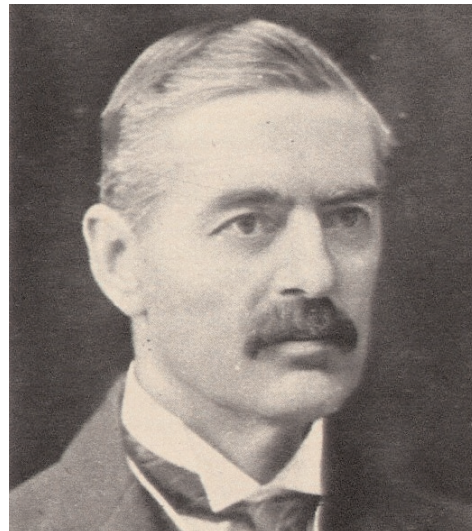
September 29, 1829 - Britain's "bobbies" made their first public appearance. Greater London's Metropolitan Police force was established by an act of Parliament at the request of Home Secretary, Sir Robert Peel, after whom they were nicknamed. The force later became known as Scotland Yard, the site of their first headquarters.

September 29-30, 1941 - Nazis killed 33,771 Jews during the Babi Yar massacre near Kiev.



Birthday - Nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi (1901-1954) was born in Rome. While teaching at the University of Chicago, he developed a method of causing nuclear fission, producing a chain reaction releasing explosive nuclear energy which led to the development of the Atomic bombs.

SEPTEMBER 30



September 30, 1938 - British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England declaring there would be "peace in our time," after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler. The Pact ceded the Czechoslovakian Sudetenland to the Nazis. Chamberlain claimed the agreement meant peace, however, Hitler seized all of Czechoslovakia in March of 1939.

September 30, 1949 - The Berlin Airlift concluded after 277,264 flights carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin, who were blockaded by the Soviets.

September 30, 1955 - Actor James Dean was killed in a car crash in California at age 24. Although he made just three major films, Rebel Without a Cause, East of Eden and Giant, he remains one of the most influential actors.

September 30, 1966 - Nazi war criminals Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released from Spandau prison after serving 20 years. The prison, originally built for 600 inmates, was left with only one prisoner, former Deputy Führer Rudolf Hess.

Birthday - American writer Truman Capote (1924-1984) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana (as Truman Streckfus Persons). He took the last name of his stepfather, becoming Truman Capote. Best known for Breakfast at Tiffany's and In Cold Blood.

OCTOBER 1

October 1, 1908 - Henry Ford's Model T, a "universal car" designed for the masses, went on sale for the first time.

October 1, 1938 - Hitler's troops occupied the Sudetenland portion of Czechoslovakia. In an effort to avoid war, the leaders of Britain and France had agreed to cede the German-speaking area to Hitler, who later broke the agreement and occupied all of Czechoslovakia.

October 1, 1946 - Twelve Nazi leaders were sentenced to death at the International War Crimes Tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany.

October 1, 1949 - The People's Republic of China was founded with Mao Zedong as Chairman.

October 1, 1979 - After 70 years of American control, the Panama Canal Zone was formally handed over to Panama.

Birthday - Virtuoso pianist Vladimir Horowitz (1904-1989) was born in Berdichev, Russia. He made his American debut in 1928 with the New York Philharmonic and became a U.S. citizen in 1944. In 1986, after a self-imposed absence of 60 years, he performed a concert in his native Russia.

OCTOBER 2

October 2, 1935 - Mussolini's Italian troops invaded Abyssinia, beginning an occupation lasting until 1941.

October 2, 1967 - Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was sworn in as the first African American associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. He served until 1991 and was known for opposing discrimination and the death penalty, and for championing free speech and civil liberties.

October 2, 1968 - California's Redwood National Park was established. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet (120 meters) during a lifetime that can span 2,000 years.

October 2, 1975 - Japanese Emperor Hirohito made his first-ever visit to the White House.



Birthday - Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi (1869-1948) was born in Porbandar, India. He achieved worldwide fame for his devout lifestyle and nonviolent resistance which ended British rule over India. He was assassinated by a religious fanatic in the garden of his home in New Delhi on January 30, 1948.

Birthday - American statesman Cordell Hull (1871-1955) was born in Pickett County, Tennessee. He served in both houses of Congress, as Secretary of State, and was instrumental in the establishment of the United Nations.



Aryan, Suhana Khan congratulate father Shah Rukh on National Award win

Shah Rukh Khan's children, Aryan and Suhana, have joined his fans and admirers in celebrating the Bollywood superstar's maiden National Film Award.

Aryan and Suhana shared a heartfelt tribute to their father in a joint post on Instagram on September 23 evening.

"You always said you never win silver, only lose the gold but This Silver is Gold. Our hearts are so happy seeing you receive the prestigious National Award, congratulations papa we love you," they said. Their post featured two pictures of Shah Rukh from the 71st National Film Award ceremony where he was presented the honor for best actor by President Droupadi Murmu for his performance in the 2023 film "Jawan".

He shared the Best Actor honour with Vikrant Massey, who was recognised for his role in Vidhu Vinod Chopra's "12th Fail". Earlier, Shah Rukh's wife Gauri Khan congratulated him on receiving the National Award.

"What a journey it's been @iamsrk. Congratulations on winning the National Award!!! So deserving... it's a result of your years of hardwork and dedication. Now I'm designing a special mantle for this award," she said on Instagram.

"Jawan", which minted over Rs 1,100 crore at the worldwide box office, was a high-octane thriller that featured SRK in the dual role of Army officer Vikram Rathore and his jailor son Azad. It also starred Nayanthara and Vijay Sethupathi.

Aryan recently made his directorial debut with the Netflix series "The Ba***ds of Bollywood", while Suhana started her acting journey with 2023 movie "The Archies", which was also released on Netflix.

Best chapter of our lives: Katrina, Vicky announce pregnancy

Bollywood star couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif are gearing up to embrace parenthood.

In a joint post, the couple announced the pregnancy news on Instagram, bringing much joy and excitement among their fans and friends. "On our way to start the best chapter of our lives with hearts full of joy and gratitude," they wrote in the caption.

They also shared a picture of their hands holding onto a black-and-white snap from what appears to be Katrina's maternity photoshoot. Vicky could be seen caressing Katrina's baby bump as the two shared an adorable candid moment.

As soon as the announcement was made, fans flooded the comment section with congratulatory messages.

Celebrities like Zoya Akhtar, Angad Bedi, Sonam Kapoor, Bhumi Pednekar, Janhvi Kapoor, Ayushmann Khurrana, Varun Dhawan, and Huma Qureshi also reacted to the post, sending blessings and greetings to the couple.

Over the past few days, a lot of anticipation has been making buzz surrounding Katrina Kaif's pregnancy. The actor's absence from public appearances added fuel to the speculations.

Vicky and Katrina tied the knot on December 9, 2021, at Six Senses Fort Barwara, Rajasthan.

On 'Koffee With Karan', Katrina



revealed that she met Vicky at Zoya Akhtar's party, and that's when romance started brewing between them.

Sharing the details of her relationship with Vicky, Katrina shared how Vicky

was never on her 'radar'. She said, "I did not even know much about him. He was just a name I had heard of but had never associated with. But then, when I met him, I was won over!" Source: ANI

Fatima Sana Shaikh not in 'The Wives', Madhur Bhandarkar clears the air

Madhur Bhandarkar has wrapped up filming his next, 'The Wives', but the buzz around its casting has been just as lively as the shoot itself. Speculation had long suggested that Fatima Sana Shaikh was one of the leads, but the filmmaker has now set the record straight – she was never part of the project.

"The reports around her casting were all untrue. She never signed the film or was roped in to play one of the wives," Bhandarkar clarified in an interview with Hindustan Times, putting weeks of chatter to rest.

'The Wives' features Regina Cassandra, Sonali Kulkarni and Mouni Roy in pivotal roles, with Arjan Bajwa also on board. The film, true to Bhandarkar's style, dives once again into the glitzy and complex world of show business, a space he has previously explored in 'Page 3', 'Heroine' and 'Calendar Girls'.

Speaking about the wrap,



Bhandarkar said, "The shoot of the film has been wrapped up, and I can't wait to see the audience reaction. The film has come out well and will start post-production soon."

As for Fatima, she continues to build a diverse filmography with recent

appearances in 'Metro... In Dino' opposite Ali Fazal and 'Aap Jaisa Ko' alongside R Madhavan.

With 'The Wives' now heading into post-production, an official release announcement is expected in the coming months.

'I no longer recognise my country', says Angelina Jolie over free speech concern



American actress Angelina Jolie said she no longer recognises her country, voicing concern over threats to free expression while presenting her latest film at Spain's San Sebastian film festival.

Her comments come as worries grow over free speech in the United States,

after President Donald Trump's crackdown on critical media and the recent suspension of late-night host Jimmy Kimmel's show over comments on the killing of conservative influencer Charlie Kirk.

"I love my country, but I don't at this time recognise my country," Jolie said

when asked if she feared for freedom of speech in the United States.

"Anything, anywhere, that divides or, of course, limits personal expressions and freedoms and, from anyone, I think is very dangerous," she added.

"These are very, very heavy times we're all living in together."

Jolie, 50, was in San Sebastian to promote "Couture", directed by French filmmaker Alice Winocour, which is competing for the festival's top prize, the Golden Shell.

She plays Maxine Walker, an American film director facing divorce and a serious illness while navigating Paris Fashion Week and embarking on a romance with a colleague, played by French actor Louis Garrel.

The Oscar-winning actress -- honoured in 1999 for her role in "Girl, Interrupted" -- said she related personally to the struggles of her latest character.

Jolie underwent a double mastectomy in 2013 and later had her ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to reduce her high genetic risk of cancer, which claimed the lives of her mother and grandmother.

Visibly moved, she said she thought often of her mother while making the film.

"I wish she was able to speak more as openly as I have been, and have people respond as graciously as you have, and not feel as alone," Jolie said.

"There's something very particular to women's cancers, because obviously it affects us, you know, how we feel as women," she added.



Madelyn Cline Sparks Romance Rumors With Prince of Greece

The Outer Banks star recently stepped out with Prince Constantine-Alexios, a member of Greece and Denmark's royal families, at the Lions Bar in New York, looking extremely cozy.

In blurry photos obtained by social media gossip account Deux Moi Sept. 23, the actress, 27, and prince, 26, appeared to be in the own world during the outing, embracing and stealing kisses with each other.

Naturally, fans were quick to show their love for the possible romance.

"Good for her," several fans wrote beneath the photos, with another quipping, "Queen behavior."

Hours before the bar outing was captured, Madelyn and Constantine-Alexios walked the streets of New York hand-in-hand, dressed casually and paying no mind to onlookers as they sped down a busy sidewalk. One fan cheekily wrote beneath the video of the occasion, also obtained by Deux Moi, "This is such iconic behavior of her."

Neither Madelyn, nor Constantine-Alexios, has addressed the romantic speculation. E! News has reached out to reps for both parties but has not yet heard back.

Claudia Cardinale, star of '8½' and 'The Leopard,' dies at 87

Acclaimed Italian actor Claudia Cardinale, who starred in some of the most celebrated European films of the 1960s and 1970s, has died, AFP reported Tuesday. She was 87.

She starred in more than 100 films and made-for-television productions, but she was best known for embodying youthful purity in Federico Fellini's "8½," in which she co-starred with Marcello Mastroianni in 1963.

Cardinale also won praise for her role as Angelica Sedara in Luchino Visconti's award-winning screen adaption of the historical novel "The Leopard" that same year and a reformed prostitute in Sergio Leone's spaghetti western "Once Upon a Time in the West" in 1968.

She died in Nemours, France, surrounded by her children, her agent Laurent Savry told AFP. Savry and his agency did not immediately return emailed requests for comment from The Associated Press.

Cardinale began her movie-career at the age of 17 after winning a beauty contest in Tunisia, where she



was born of Sicilian parents who had emigrated to North Africa. The contest brought her to the Venice Film Festival, where she came to the attention of the Italian movie industry.

Before entering the beauty contest she had expected to become a school teacher.

"The fact I'm making movies is just an accident,"

Cardinale recalled while accepting a lifetime achievement award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2002. "When they asked me 'do you want to be in the movies?' I said no and they insisted for six months." Her success came in the wake of Sophia Loren's international stardom and she was touted as Italy's answer to Brigitte Bardot. While never achieving the level of success of the French actor, she nonetheless was considered a star and worked with the leading directors in Europe and Hollywood.

"They gave me everything," Cardinale said. "It's marvelous to live so many lives. I've been living more than 150 lives, totally different women." One of her earliest roles was as a black-clad Sicilian girl in the 1958 comedy classic "Big Deal on Madonna Street." It was produced by Franco Cristaldi, who managed her early career and to whom she was married from 1966 to 1975.

The sensuous brunette with enormous eyes was often cast as a hot-blooded woman. As she had a deep voice and spoke Italian with a heavy French accent, her voice was dubbed in her early movies.

Pakistan beat Bangladesh, set up first ever Asia Cup final date against India

DUBAI (TIP)

Pakistan's bowling unit came to the party when it mattered the most as they defended a modest 135 with all its might against Bangladesh here on Thursday, winning the Super 4s match by 11 runs to set up a maiden Asia Cup title clash with arch-rivals India.

Taking into account the simmering off-field tension between India and Pakistan, no one would be more happier than the Asian Cricket Council and the tournament's official broadcasters, who would be laughing their way to the bank after Bangladesh made a hash of their chase.

They came close in the end though, managing 124 for nine in 20 overs.

The target could have been chased with a bit of common sense and some proper cricketing shots, but the Bangladeshi batters found every possible way to get dismissed after Shaheen Shah Afridi (3/17 in 4 overs) bowled a brilliant opening spell, taking two wickets in the powerplay.

Once Haris Rauf (3/23 in 3 overs) got rid of the opposition danger-man Saif Hassan (18), who had warmed up with two sixes, none of the other batters showed the stomach for a fight. Rauf later polished off the tail with couple of express deliveries and kept his cool to bowl the final two deliveries on spot.

The saddest part was that none of the Bangladeshi batters had a clue as to how to play the spin troika of off-break bowler Saim Ayub (2/16 in 4 overs), slow left-arm orthodox Mohammed Nawaz (1/14 in 3 overs) and wrist spinner Abrar Ahmed



(0/23 in 3 overs), who put the brakes on them during the middle overs.

Shamim Hossain (30 off 26 balls) played a horrible flat-batted reverse shot off a Afridi back-of-the-hand slower ball in his final over, and Bangladesh had no chance of scoring 39 in three overs.

Earlier, Bangladesh bowlers gave a fine account of themselves in humid conditions for the second day in a row as they restricted a fancied Pakistan batting line-up to 135 for eight in the winner-takes-it-all clash.

Senior Bangladesh bowlers Mustafizur Rahman (1/33 in 4 overs), Taskin Ahmed (3/28 in 4 overs) and leg-spinner Rishad Hossain (2/18 in 4 overs) made full use of a tacky turner as none of the top-order Pakistan batters could make significant

contributions. Mohammed Haris (31 off 23 balls), their best batter in the tournament, once again kept them in the fight, with a plucky knock while Shaheen Shah Afridi (19) with a couple of sixes and a lucky Mohammed Nawaz (25 off 15 balls) also did their bit after a total of even 100 looked improbable.

It started with controversial opener Sahibzada Farhan (4) slashing a rising delivery from Taskin Ahmed and Rishad Hossain at backward point snapping it. Sahibzada was Taskin's 100th wicket in T20 Internationals.

Saim Ayub (0), the over-rated Pakistani youngster, got his fourth duck as he couldn't clear the mid-on against off-spinner Mahedi Hasan (2/28 in 4 overs)'s bowling.

Bumrah returns as India announce Test squad for West Indies; Karun Nair dropped

Star India pacer Jasprit Bumrah was on Thursday, Sept 25, named in India's Test squad for the home series against the West Indies, while Devdutt Padikkal replaced an off-colour Karun Nair in the side.

Bumrah, who had played only three out of five Tests in England due to workload management, had made himself available for the two-match West Indies series starting in Ahmedabad on October 2.

Ravindra Jadeja was named vice-captain of the squad to be led by Shubman Gill.

Regular vice-captain Rishabh Pant, who fractured his foot during the England series, is yet to regain full fitness and therefore was not available for selection.

"Hopefully he will be available for the home Tests against South Africa (in November)," Chairman of Selectors Ajit Agarkar said here.

Dhruv Jurel and N Jagadeesan are the two wicketkeepers in the squad to make up for his absence.

Squad: Shubman Gill (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravindra Jadeja (VC), Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, N Jagadeesan (WK), Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Kuldeep Yadav.

Para Athletics Worlds open with grand ceremony

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The 12th edition of the World Para Athletics Championships kicked off on September 25 at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here, marking the first time India is hosting this prestigious global event. Scheduled from September 27 to October 5, the championship has attracted 2,200 athletes from 104 countries, competing in 184 events — 100 men's, 83 women's, and one mixed event.

The inauguration ceremony began with a spectacular parade of nations, followed by cultural performances that showcased the vibrancy and diversity of India. The championship's official mascot "Viraaaj" — a spirited young elephant with a blade prosthesis symbolising strength, optimism, and resilience — and the specially designed logo were unveiled, embodying India's rich heritage and the spirit of para athletics.

Paul Fitzgerald, head of World Para Athletics, hailed the moment as historic. "It's a historic moment, the largest para Olympics sport ever held in India. This is an important step for the development of sports. This event is about excellence but it is also about something more. Beyond its immediate physical benefits, sports can be a vehicle for physical wellbeing, tolerance and the means for raising awareness," Fitzgerald said.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya expressed India's pride in hosting the championships.



"It is a matter of great pride for India to host the World Para Athletics Championships for the very first time. This event reflects our commitment to empowering para athletes and providing them with the best possible platform to shine," he said.

As the world's eyes turn to New Delhi, the

championship promises not only fierce competition but also a celebration of resilience, inclusivity, and the unifying power of sport. With athletes ready to showcase their talent and determination, the event is set to inspire millions and create lasting memories for India as a host nation.



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

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