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Northern States get reprieve from rain but grapple with the aftermath of floods



Parts of NCR continue to remain flooded as the River Yamuna overflows and enters the cities, following heavy rainfall, in Noida on Friday, September 5. -Photo Credit: ANI

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP):

Even as northern Indian States experienced some relief from relentless rainfall on Friday, September 5, 2025, they continued to grapple with the aftermath of monsoon rains that have wreaked havoc across the region.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), in the 24-hour period ending 8:30 a.m., rainfall was recorded at a few places in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan, while east Rajasthan saw isolated heavy rainfall. In Punjab and Haryana, rains were observed at many places, while in Himachal, it was across most places. The IMD has predicted light to moderate rainfall at most to many places over the country's

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Gov Hochul fends of RFK Jr. COVID vaccine limits for New Yorkers with executive order



Gov. Kathy Hochul signed an executive order on Friday, September 5, to expand access to COVID-19 vaccines in New York State.

-Credit : Dennis A. Clark/ New York Post

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Gov. Hochul Friday signed an executive order ensuring continued access to COVID-19 vaccines in New York after Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. took steps to limit availability of the shots.

The governor's measure declares a health emergency and authorizes pharmacists to continue providing the vaccines to anyone who wants them at their local drug stores in the Empire State.

"In the absence of federal leadership, we must do everything we can to ensure that New Yorkers have access to the vaccines and preventative healthcare they have come to rely on," Hochul said in a statement.

Hochul's order permits New York pharmacists and doctors to prescribe the new version of the COVID-19 vaccine for the upcoming season to anyone over three years old, even if they don't have any underlying conditions. Top Videos RFK Jr. gets grilled by U.S. senators over vaccine policies, CDC firings

CONTD ON PAGE 40

Cell phone ban at NYC public schools goes into effect on September 4, the first day of classes



Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, left, and Mayor Eric Adams, at podium, are pictured at HBCU Early College Prep in Jamaica, Queens, on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025.

Credit: Cayla Bamberger / New York Daily News

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The first day of classes for 900,000 New York City students on Thursday, September 4, meant a statewide ban on cell phones in schools is officially in effect.

Gov. Hochul signed the law last spring prohibiting the devices from the morning until the final bell, with limited exceptions. The new policy is part of a larger effort to promote better attention

in the classroom and more socializing in the cafeteria and hallways.

"We're doing this because we want to make sure that you can keep learning and in a distraction-free environment," Hochul told students at Middle School 582, The Magnet School for Multimedia, Technology and Urban Planning, in East Williamsburg, Brooklyn. "We're doing it all over the state, and you're among the very first."

CONTD ON PAGE 40

PM Modi to skip UNGA session in September; Jaishankar to address the world body



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued in the United Nations. - Photo Credit: ANI

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP):

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not address the General Debate at the annual high-level session of the United Nations General Assembly later this month, according to a revised provisional list of speakers issued in United Nations. The 80th session of the U.N. General Assembly will open on September 9.

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GUEST COMMENT

Cuts in time: On the new GST system

The GST rate cuts will boost consumption at a time when exports face challenges

The sweeping changes to the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, authorized by the GST Council on Wednesday (September 3, 2025), have come as a shot in the arm for the mood of the people, and, potentially, for the economy overall. Few things spur optimism and demand as effectively as tax cuts. The Centre did well to push the GST Council towards these reforms, which rose to the occasion and cleared them quickly. Criticism that these reforms have come too late is neither here nor there. The GST Council is a federal body, and any of the States could have suggested these rate cuts earlier but did not. The appropriateness of the Prime Minister's announcement of the reforms in his Independence Day speech, coming as it did before either the relevant Group of Ministers or the GST Council met, can be questioned. But here, too, the fact that the Council announced its decisions on the first day of what was supposed to be a two-day

meeting shows that the States were on board. The minutes of the 56th meeting will reveal each member's stated position. The rate changes span nearly every sector, and are, overwhelmingly, in the downward direction. Very few items, such as high-end motorcycles and higher priced apparel, are set to become more expensive. Tempting as it was to pack the 40% bracket with more items, the GST Council did well to keep it narrow. Overall, these rate cuts, coupled with the income-tax rate cuts announced in Budget 2025, should serve as a much-needed boost to consumption at a time when other engines of growth such as exports and private investment are sputtering.

The government has maintained that the revenue implication of these GST rate cuts would be around ₹48,000 crore a year, based on 2023-24 consumption data. Given the scope of the cuts, this seems like an underestimation. However, only time will tell what the actual number

will be. It is to be noted that the GST Council decided to do away with the compensation cess, despite Opposition-governed States calling for one to protect their revenues. Such a cess would have diluted the rate rationalization and simplification efforts and is best eschewed. Instead, the States are now going to have to look to their own revenue sources, as well as the 16th Finance Commission, to offset the losses they face. The new GST 2.0 still has some anomalies, and is still more complicated than it needs to be, but the removal of duty inversions and the easing of paperwork are a huge improvement. The government should now revive the National Anti-Profiteering Authority, at least temporarily, to ensure that the rate cuts are passed on once they kick in on September 22.

(The Hindu)

Selfless service in Punjab

Organizations such as Khalsa Aid, United Sikhs, Hemkunt Foundation and countless local gurdwaras mobilized swiftly this year, delivering food, water, medicine and fodder

When calamity strikes, it is often Punjabis who rush to the frontlines. The current floods in the state, which have left more than three lakh people affected and farmland submerged across 23 districts, once again revealed the instinctive solidarity of the people. Long before official convoys arrived, villagers launched boats into raging waters, rescuing neighbors, children and livestock. Langar kitchens were lit, makeshift shelters set up and rations shared without hesitation. This spirit is not new. Punjabis have earned a reputation as "first responders" not only in their own land but in disaster zones across the world - from earthquakes in Turkey to floods in Kerala. Organizations such as Khalsa Aid, United Sikhs, Hemkunt Foundation and countless local gurdwaras mobilized swiftly this year, delivering food, water, medicine and fodder. Volunteers in Gurdaspur and Kapurthala waded through waist-deep water to evacuate the vulnerable, while veterinary teams cared for stranded cattle in rural areas.

Financial help is also flowing in, with NGOs, philanthropists, and even artistes pledging to support families in rebuilding. A Punjabi celebrity has promised assistance for 200 homes, underlining how cultural figures are stepping in alongside community groups to restore dignity after devastation. To their credit, the state and Central agencies - the NDRF, the SDRF, Army, Air Force - have deployed boats, helicopters



and relief camps. Yet, the most striking images remain of villagers turning tractor trolleys into lifeboats and diaspora groups wiring funds overnight.

This culture of seva - selfless service - has been tested time and again. But recovery cannot rest on goodwill alone. Punjab now needs faster compensation,

transparent crop assessments and coordinated rebuilding of homes and fields. If government systems and civil society harness their energies together, Punjab's resilience can turn this flood into not only a story of survival but of renewal.

(Tribune, India)

Indo-British Sikh MP Jeevun Sandher marries fellow Labor politician Louise Jones in UK

AUGUST 28, 2025

LONDON (TIP): Jeevun Sandher, one of Britain's newest members of Parliament elected in the Labor Party's landslide general election victory last July, has tied the knot in a traditional Sikh and church wedding with fellow Labor MP Louise Jones.

Sandher, MP for Loughborough in the East Midlands region of England, took to social media on Wednesday to post pictures from the dual wedding ceremonies over the course of the summer vacation period this month.

Their engagement had been announced in Parliament by Leader of the House of Commons Lucy Powell in December 2024, nearly two years after they met on the campaign trail as relatively new Labor Party politicians.

"I am delighted to share with you all that, over the summer, I married my wonderful wife, Louise Sandher-Jones," Sandher said in his post.



Indo-British MP Jeevun Sandher tied the knot in a traditional Sikh and church wedding with fellow Labor MP Louise Jones

"I met Louise in Loughborough and consider myself very, very lucky. The wedding was the best day of my life. I'm very happy and we're very excited to start the next chapter of our shared future together," he said.

His wife, MP for North East Derbyshire in the East Midlands, also took to social media to update her constituents that she would be taking on her new husband's name.

"We had a beautiful wedding that brought together traditions from our two different heritages which made it all the more special as we start the next chapter of our shared future," reads her post.

"I will be changing my last name to Sandher-Jones to reflect our new family so you will see my social media handles start to change over but you can still contact me on louise.jones.mp@parliament.uk for the time-being with any casework or queries," she said.

Indian American professor, Dr. Shipra Arya, of surgery to develop automated method for prognosticating peripheral artery disease

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

STANFORD, CA (TIP) Dr. Shipra Arya has received a \$300,000 American Heart Association (AHA) Transformational Project Award to develop an automated method for prognosticating peripheral artery disease (PAD) using deep learning.

Arya, an Indian American Professor of Surgery (Vascular Surgery) at Stanford University School of Medicine, will lead the three-year project, Automated Peripheral Artery Calcium Score for Risk Stratification and Outcome Prediction in Peripheral Artery Disease, according to a university release.

The study aims to create an objective, fully automated Peripheral Artery Calcium Score (PACS) by applying deep learning to quantify calcium in lower extremity computed tomography (CT) scans.

The team will compare PACS to current gold standard diagnostic measures, including the ankle-brachial index and toe-brachial index, and assess its ability to predict outcomes such as mortality, amputation, and major adverse limb events.

"This project is the first step toward integrating automated PACS into diagnosis, risk stratification, and treatment for PAD-similar to

how coronary artery calcium scoring has transformed the care of coronary artery disease," Arya said.

Funding will support the development and validation of the automated PACS measure, eliminating the need for semi-automated manual measurements. It will also fund the creation of advanced deep learning models for calcium detection and quantification, comparisons against existing measures, and evaluation of PACS as a predictor of clinical outcomes.

The project team includes Akshay Chaudhari, PhD (Biomedical Data Science, expert in machine learning for medical imaging); Fatima Rodriguez, MD, MPH (Cardiology, expert in cardiovascular prevention and imaging analytics); Jillian Melbourne (research program manager and analyst); and Benjamin Liu (medical student and AI/ML analyst).

Arya is also the section chief of vascular surgery at the VA Palo Alto Healthcare System. She has a master's degree in epidemiology from the Harvard School of Public Health, focusing on research methodology and cardiovascular epidemiology.

She completed her general surgery residency at Creighton University Medical Center and a vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Michigan. She's board certified in both general and vascular surgery by the American Board of Surgery.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin Punjabi model Veena Praveenar Singh crowned Miss Universe Thailand 2025

AUGUST 26, 2025

BANGKOK (TIP): After three close calls in the past eight years, 28-year-old Praveenar 'Veena' Singh has finally won the Miss Universe Thailand 2025 crown. Representing Saraburi, Veena triumphed over 76 contestants, including Bangkok's Praewwanich 'Praew' Ruangthong (first runner-up) and Phuket's Narumon 'Dale' Pimpakdee (second runner-up), at the grand finale on August 23 at MGI Hall in Bangkok.

The crowning moment was made even more special as the title was passed on by Natalie Glebova, Miss Universe 2005.

Born in Chiang Mai on April 16, 1996, to Indian parents, Veena later became a naturalized Thai citizen. She is a graduate in Russian Studies from Thammasat University. Her pageant journey began in 2018 when she was placed as second runner-up. Veena came even closer in 2020 as first runner-up to Amanda Obdam, and again in 2023, taking the second runner-up spot.

The Miss Universe Thailand organization honored her journey with a message on Instagram, writing, "True effort never betrays the heart that believes".

Veena expressed the sentiment in her own words: "Today, all eight years of hard work have come to fruition... Let's walk on the Miss Universe path together."

As the newly crowned Miss Universe Thailand, Veena will represent the nation at the Miss Universe 2025 competition to be held on November 21 in Nonthaburi, Thailand. Among her fellow contenders will be the Philippines' Ahtisa Manalo, and Denmark's Victoria Kjaer Theilvig will crown the next Miss Universe.



Praveenar 'Veena' Singh has won the Miss Universe Thailand 2025 crown

Indian American professor and researcher R. Panneer Selvam and his wife gift \$1 million to Arkansas university for endowed professorship



Indian American professor and researcher R. Panneer Selvam and his wife, Chitra, have gifted \$1 million to the University of Arkansas to establish the Chitra and Panneer Selvam Endowed Professorship in Civil Engineering.

Photo credit: Arkansas News, University of Arkansas

AUGUST 30, 2025

FAYETTEVILLE, AR (TIP): Indian American professor and researcher R. Panneer Selvam and his wife, Chitra, have gifted \$1 million to the University of Arkansas to establish the Chitra and Panneer Selvam Endowed Professorship in Civil Engineering.

The gift will support faculty excellence and expand research opportunities in the high-impact area of computer modeling and computational mechanics. This endowed faculty position in the Department of Civil Engineering is a transformational gift for the program's future, according to a university press release.

"The Selvam Endowed Professorship is a powerful investment in faculty excellence and student success," said Chancellor Charles Robinson. "It will help elevate our civil engineering program and empower the next generation of scholars to conduct high-impact research. We are deeply grateful to Chitra and Panneer, not only for this incredible gift but also for their many years of dedication to the University of Arkansas and our students."

"Gifts like this from the Selvam family help us recruit and retain top faculty," said Micah Hale, department head for civil engineering. "It will also provide support for the research mission of the university, allowing the professorship holder to fund both undergraduate and graduate students, purchase needed equipment and present research at national and international conferences."

Panneer Selvam's journey is one of perseverance and belief in the power of education. Born in India, he was expected to forgo academics after high school to take over the family-owned grocery store. Panneer remained at home and sat quietly during store hours to demonstrate to his father that he was determined to pursue higher education. Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news



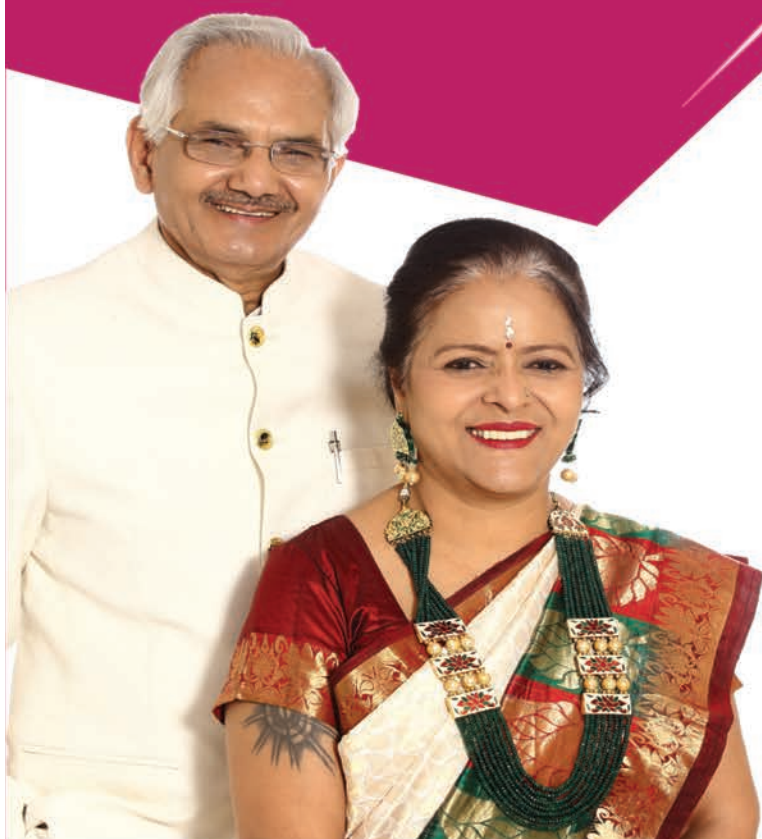
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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Healing Secrets of Reiki & Past Life (Free Entry)	5th Sept. (Fri)	6 to 6:30 PM	Ganesh Utsav- Bellerose, New York
Healing Secrets of Reiki & Past Life (Free Entry)	6th Sept. (Sat)	7 PM	Online
Reiki 1st Level (Online) (Free Entry)	7th Sept. (Sun)	4 PM to 8 PM	Online
Reiki-IInd Level (Offline)	14th Sept. (Sun)	11 AM to 5 PM	Lakshmi Hall, Flushing, New York
Reiki-IIIrd Level (Offline)	19th Sept. (Fri)	9 AM to 5 PM	146-29 Hawthorn Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11355
Reiki Mastership (Professional Teacher)	20-21 Sept. (Sat-Sun)	9 AM to 2 PM	146-29 Hawthorn Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11355
Past Life Therapist (Professional Course)	9-11 Sept.	9 AM to 2 PM	146-29 Hawthorn Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11355
Personal Consultation, Past Life Session & Reiki Healing Sessions	5-23 Sept.	By Appointment	146-29 Hawthorn Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11355

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Sixty-Three Thousand Indian-origin Students Help Drive Over \$1 Billion in Georgia Tuition Revenue Amid Federal Crackdowns



According to a new fact sheet released by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, more than 6,300 students from India are enrolled in the University System of Georgia (USG), making up 23 percent of all international students in the state.

Collectively, international students - most of whom come from India and China - pay nearly \$1 billion in tuition and fees to Georgia's colleges and universities each year.

AUGUST 27, 2025

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Indian students form the single largest group of international students in Georgia's public universities, but a wave of federal crackdowns on student visas has left many facing an uncertain future. According to a new fact sheet released by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, more than 6,300 students from India are enrolled in the University System of Georgia (USG), making up 23 percent of all international students in the state. Collectively, international students - most of whom come from India and China - pay nearly \$1 billion in tuition and fees to Georgia's colleges and universities each year.

In total, more than 27,000 international students' study across the 26 schools in the USG, representing 7 percent of all students. Another 9,100 international students are enrolled in private colleges, universities, and seminaries in Georgia.

The largest numbers come from India (6,323), China (5,914, or 22%), and the Republic of Korea (1,557, or 6%). Other top countries of origin include Nigeria (1,094), Canada (1,041), Vietnam (607), Mexico (551), Singapore (494), Bangladesh (475), and Brazil (410). Students represent more than 200 countries worldwide.

At public universities, tuition rates for international students are significantly higher than for local students. At the Georgia Institute of Technology, international students pay \$17,286 per semester, compared to \$5,256 for in-state students and \$16,798 for out-of-state students. Since international students are ineligible for state or federal financial aid, they pay full costs out of pocket.

Collectively, international students contribute about \$446 million in tuition and mandatory fees to the USG each semester, in addition to billions in living expenses that support surrounding communities. According to NAFSA: Association of International Educators, they also support over 9,000 jobs in Georgia and contribute \$1.1 billion annually to the state's economy.

Read full story on www.theindianpanorama.news

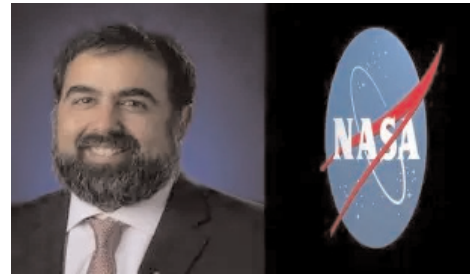
Indian American space veteran Amit Kshatriya Appointed NASA's Top Civil Servant

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Indian American space veteran Amit Kshatriya has been appointed as the associate administrator of NASA, the top civil-service role at the U.S. space agency. The announcement was made Wednesday, September 3, by Acting Administrator Sean P. Duffy, who praised Kshatriya's leadership in advancing America's next era of space exploration.

In his new role, Kshatriya will serve as chief operating officer of NASA, overseeing the agency's ten center directors and mission directorate associate administrators. He will also act as the principal advisor to Administrator Duffy, placing him at the helm of day-to-day operations and long-term strategy.

A 20-year NASA veteran, Kshatriya previously served as deputy head of the Moon to Mars Program within the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate. He played a central role in developing the Artemis program, which aims to land astronauts on the Moon and prepare for humanity's first



Amit Kshatriya has been appointed as the associate administrator of NASA, the top civil-service role at the U.S. space agency

mission to Mars.

Kshatriya joined NASA in 2003 and has since risen through the ranks with a series of key assignments. He was one of only about 100 people in history to serve as a mission control flight director. His career highlights include leading the International Space Station's 50th Expedition as flight director and serving as lead robotics officer during the Cargo Dragon demonstration mission. He has been recognized with NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal and the Silver Snoopy Award, presented by astronauts for contributions to crew

safety.

Educated at the California Institute of Technology (B.S. in Mathematics) and the University of Texas at Austin (mechanical engineering), Kshatriya is widely respected for combining technical expertise with strategic vision.

Duffy noted that Kshatriya's elevation reflects NASA's focus on making the Artemis program the centerpiece of its mission. "Amit's leadership and experience will be instrumental as we return astronauts to the Moon and prepare for the next giant leap-sending humans to Mars," he said.

The appointment also comes as the U.S. seeks to strengthen partnerships with the commercial space industry and maintain its competitive edge in the face of global challenges, particularly from China's ambitious space program.

With this milestone, Kshatriya joins a growing list of Indian Americans at the forefront of U.S. science and technology leadership, underscoring the community's expanding role in shaping the future of space exploration.

Two Indian-origin Sikh drivers attacked in England

AUGUST 27, 2025

LONDON (TIP): Satnam Singh, 64, and Jasbir Sangha, 72, two Sikh taxi drivers, were working when they were reportedly violently attacked by a group of men near Wolverhampton Railway Station earlier this month.

According to the victims, the attackers used racist language and made aggressive demands before physically assaulting them.

Police are treating the case as a racially aggravated assault.



Satnam Singh, 64, and Jasbir Sangha, 72, two Sikh taxi drivers, were working when they were reportedly violently attacked by a group of men near Wolverhampton Railway Station

devastated when his turban was forcibly removed during the attack.

Speaking emotionally about the moment, Singh told BBC: "When I looked and saw my turban was gone, I felt like I was dead inside."

In Sikhism, the turban is a sacred symbol representing spiritual identity and honor. Singh said the loss of his turban during the assault left him feeling deeply humiliated and shaken.

Sangha, who tried to defend his colleague, described being punched in the face and stomped on as he lay on the ground. "Anything could have happened. I could have been killed," he said.

"Even now, simple movements like sitting, standing, or sneezing cause immense pain." Both men expressed gratitude to two women who bravely intervened during the attack.

"One was young, the other older - both white women," said Singh. "They were very, very helpful."

Sangha added: "People around us were shouting at the attackers to stop. I really want to thank them for stepping in."

The assault was captured on video by bystanders and has been viewed over a million times on social media, sparking outrage and calls for greater protection for vulnerable communities.

Indian American Microsoft Engineer Found Dead at Silicon Valley Campus

AUGUST 30, 2025

MOUNTAINVIEW, CA (TIP): Tragedy struck Microsoft's Silicon Valley campus earlier this month when Pratik Pandey, a 35-year-old Indian American software engineer, was found dead in the early hours of August 20.

According to Mountain View police, Pandey badged into the office on the evening of August 19 and was discovered unresponsive around 2 a.m. the next morning. Authorities confirmed there were no signs of foul play, and the case is not being treated as criminal. The Santa Clara County Medical Examiner's office said the official cause of death is still under investigation, though initial assessments suggest a possible heart attack.

Pandey, who hailed from Indore, India, came to the United States about a decade ago. He earned master's degrees from San Jose State University and California State University and worked with companies like Apple, Illumina, and Walmart Labs before joining Microsoft in 2020. At Microsoft, he worked on Fabric and Synapse, two of the company's key data analytics platforms.

Family members and friends described Pandey as a hardworking professional who often worked late nights to meet the demands of multiple projects. His relatives have urged tech companies to pay closer attention to employee well-being and to discourage overwork. "If someone notices a worker logging late-night hours, an intervention could save a life," one family member said.

A viewing service was held on August 29 in Fremont, California, before his remains were sent back to India for final rites.



Pratik Pandey, a 35-year-old Indian American software engineer, was found dead in the early hours of August 20.

As the Federal government balks at Vaccine oversight, Senator John Liu Introduces Bill to expand access to Vaccinations in New York

SEPTEMBER 4, 2025
NEW YORK (TIP):

Several pharmacies across the State are forced to stop offering the COVID-19 vaccine due to federal inaction. State Senator John Liu introduced legislation, S8495, on Wednesday, September 3, to ensure New Yorkers can access lifesaving immunizations at their local pharmacies.

Currently, pharmacists in New York only administer vaccines approved by the federal CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). But after Secretary of Health Robert F. Kennedy Jr. purged all 17 members of the committee, major pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens stopped offering COVID-19 vaccines, leaving New Yorkers without access to this critical vaccine just as students head back to school.

The legislation empowers the New York State Commissioner of Health to fill this void by authorizing licensed pharmacists to administer FDA-approved vaccines recommended by the New York State Immunization Advisory Council (IAC) or the Department of Health.



Senator John Liu introduced legislation, S8495, on Wednesday, September 3, to ensure New Yorkers can access lifesaving immunizations at their local pharmacies.

State Senator John Liu stated, "The CDC is no longer doing its job, and New Yorkers should not have to wait on federal inaction to protect their own health. New York needs to pick up where the federal government is failing us by allowing pharmacists, who are the most accessible healthcare providers in our communities, to provide timely vaccines to anyone who needs them."

By granting the Commissioner of the Department of Health the ability to authorize pharmacists to administer vaccines, New Yorkers can sidestep federal inaction, empower the IAC, and gain access to FDA-approved vaccines. Created in 1994, the IAC comprises healthcare providers, vaccine developers, insurers, consumer advocates, and public health officials, and meets several times a year to review and make recommendations for improving immunization coverage and access.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

IOCUSA calls for a nationwide audit of voter rolls and VVPAT for every EVM

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
NEW YORK (TIP):

"The recent revelations by Rahul Gandhi, the opposition leader in India, have brought to light shocking election irregularities in Karnataka and Maharashtra. The solid evidence of massive fraud, aimed at subverting the voter's will, poses a grave threat to the democratic process," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman for the Indian Overseas Congress, USA.



"IOCUSA is calling upon the Election Commission to conduct a nationwide audit of its voter rolls and to add VVPAT to every Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)", said IOCUSA Vice Chairman George Abraham.

Mr. Gandhi alleged manipulation via duplicate registrations, fake addresses, misused Form 6 entries, and more. The scale of the fraud is staggering and shocking. About 100,000 votes were stolen in the Mahadevapura constituency in Bangalore. This was achieved through five manipulating tactics: 11,965 duplicate voter entries, 40,009 fake or invalid addresses, 10,452 bulk entries from a single or invalid address, 4132 entries with invalid photos, and 33,692 misuses of Form 6 (new voter additions).

The Election Commission has become a vassal in the hands of the BJP, infringing its independence and transforming it into a subsidiary of the

government machinery, contrary to what the framers of the Constitution intended. The removal of the Chief Justice from the EC decision making process, while appointing bureaucrats amenable to the whims of the ruling disposition, was the beginning of the end of this venerable institution that was known for its independence and integrity. These explosive revelations

throw into doubt not only the integrity of past elections but also their usability and value of this grand exercise, as they have become a mockery of deceit and thievery.

IOCUSA is calling upon the Election Commission to conduct a nationwide audit of its voter rolls and to add VVPAT to every Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). These measures are crucial for ensuring complete transparency and fairness in elections, thereby preventing election manipulation. These principles are not just ideals, but the very foundation of a democratic society. Additionally, IOCUSA urges the BJP government to halt Executive overreach.

FREE

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Meet Sarada Chiruvolu
the author of "Home At Last"

September 13, 2025
(Saturday)
10:00 pm EST
7:30 pm India time

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Sarada Chiruvolu will share her direct experience of self-realization and answer your questions during the Free Webinar. In her 2017 book, 'Home at Last' (with a Foreword by Amma Karunamayi), the Princeton, New Jersey-based Sarada wrote how she left a pharmaceutical career to pursue a spiritual calling. She has given numerous public talks since then, sharing tips on balancing spiritual discipline with everyday life.

To know more, visit:
www.saradachiruvolu.com

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GST 2.0 is a landmark in India's tax journey

The simplification of the multiple GST slabs is an example of people's reform



By Chandrajit Banerjee

"These announcements are more than technical adjustments. They are a people's reform. They touch citizens, farmers, workers, businesses and entrepreneurs alike. By simplifying the structure, lowering rates on essentials, correcting distortions, and strengthening institutions, GST 2.0 has created a stronger foundation for India's growth journey."

The 56th meeting of the GST Council on September 3, 2025 will be remembered as a defining milestone

citizen-friendly. It clearly signals the government's commitment to align Indian taxation with the best global practices.

RELIEF FOR A RANGE OF INCOME GROUPS

The reforms directly touch the daily lives in Indian households. Common items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, a bicycle, and kitchenware are now in the 5% bracket. Essentials such as Ultra-High Temperature milk, paneer, chapati and paratha are exempt. Packaged foods, noodles, chocolates and beverages have seen notable rate cuts, boosting consumption and offering relief to families across income groups.

Equally impactful is the exemption of GST on all life and health insurance products. This single decision will make insurance more affordable, particularly for senior citizens and low-income families, raising India's insurance penetration and strengthening social security.

Health care has been given a powerful

will stimulate demand and secure employment. By making traditional industries more competitive, the reforms safeguard livelihoods while opening new growth avenues.

CHANGES IN CRITICAL SECTORS

A particularly significant achievement is the correction of inverted duty structures in critical sectors. For instance, the GST reduction on man-made fiber and yarn to 5% eliminates a distortion that had long plagued the textile value chain. This move is expected to boost competitiveness, exports, job creation, and domestic value addition across textiles and apparel.

Cement, a cornerstone for housing and infrastructure, has shifted from 28% to 18% GST. This will drive multiplier effects across construction and infrastructure, while cuts for renewable energy devices and automotive components will accelerate India's green growth journey.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has consistently called for such

Together, these measures reinforce India's position as one of the world's easiest large economies for doing business.

Over the past eight months, the CII has strongly advocated simplification into a two-rate structure, a correction of anomalies, a reduction of rates on essentials, support for labor-intensive sectors, and faster operationalization of GSTAT. It is heartening that so many of these have now been adopted.

The Council's decisions reflect both responsiveness and a deep sense of partnership with industry. This is a proud moment for all stakeholders who have constructively engaged in shaping these reforms.

ALMOST IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

Equally noteworthy is the careful phasing of reforms from September 22, 2025. This sequencing ensures revenue stability while allowing industry and consumers to benefit immediately from lower rates. The approach safeguards fiscal



The reforms offer relief to families across income groups' -Credit: PTI

in India's tax history. These reforms go far beyond tax rates and structures. They represent a decisive shift towards a simpler, fairer, and growth-oriented system that is aligned with the aspirations of a Viksit Bharat 2047.

A long-standing demand of both industry and consumers has been simplification of the multiple GST slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%). The move to a transparent "Simple Tax", with just two rates, 18% as the Standard Rate and 5% as the Merit Rate, along with a 40% de-merit rate for a select few goods - is transformational.

This bold step reduces compliance burdens, enhances predictability for business, and makes the tax regime more

boost through exemptions and reductions on essential drugs, devices, and treatments for cancer, rare diseases and chronic conditions. These measures ensure wider access to modern medicine and diagnostics, easing financial burdens on households. Farmers stand to benefit from major reductions. Tractors, farm machinery, and other vital implements now attract only 5% GST, while fertilizers and inputs such as sulphuric acid and ammonia have moved from 18% to 5%. By correcting earlier inverted duty structures, these reforms lower cultivation costs and improve farm productivity.

Labor-intensive sectors such as handicrafts, marble, granite, and leather goods now enjoy reduced GST rates, which

corrections and is gratified to see so many recommendations accepted that range from a rationalization of auto parts to relief for hospitality and wellness services. These changes will harmonize markets and reduce unnecessary disputes.

The announcement that the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) will become operational by year-end marks a historic institutional advance. For taxpayers, this means faster dispute resolution, more consistent rulings, and enhanced trust in the system. Other process reforms, including provisional refunds for inverted duty structures, risk-based compliance checks, and harmonization of valuation rules, further reduce uncertainty and compliance costs.

health while stimulating demand and investment.

These announcements are more than technical adjustments. They are a people's reform. They touch citizens, farmers, workers, businesses and entrepreneurs alike. By simplifying the structure, lowering rates on essentials, correcting distortions, and strengthening institutions, GST 2.0 has created a stronger foundation for India's growth journey.

The CII stands ready to support effective implementation, build awareness, and ensure that the benefits of these reforms flow seamlessly to every citizen.

Chandrajit Banerjee is Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Is India a 'Tariff King'? Not Really



By Mohan Kumar

There is a widespread but fallacious perception that India's tariffs are inordinately high. There are subjective factors when it comes to a country like livability, public courtesy, or even how foreigners are welcomed. But tariffs are quantifiable and there should really be no place for subjectivity. So, let us consider the facts in the case.

Before we do that, however, it might be useful for the average reader to know as to what function tariffs perform in a low-income developing country like India, as opposed to say, a high-income developed country like the United States of America. Traditionally, low-income developing countries use tariffs for two reasons: one, to protect their domestic industry and two, to gain revenue from it. Protection of domestic industry is an accepted argument by economists all over the world, especially if the industry is an infant one and the country needs to develop an industrial base. Then, there is the revenue gaining function, which is illustrative of a country's duties on alcohol or luxury motorcycles, for instance.

India's tariffs, which were high in the 1980s, were brought down significantly since the 1991 reforms were initiated and during the negotiations related to the Uruguay Round, which led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since then, the secular trend in India has been one of gradual reduction of the applicable tariffs year after year.

From a technical point of view, there are two kinds of tariffs that countries have. One is applied tariffs, which as the name indicates is the actual tariff (normally ad valorem) imposed at the border when a foreign good enters a country.

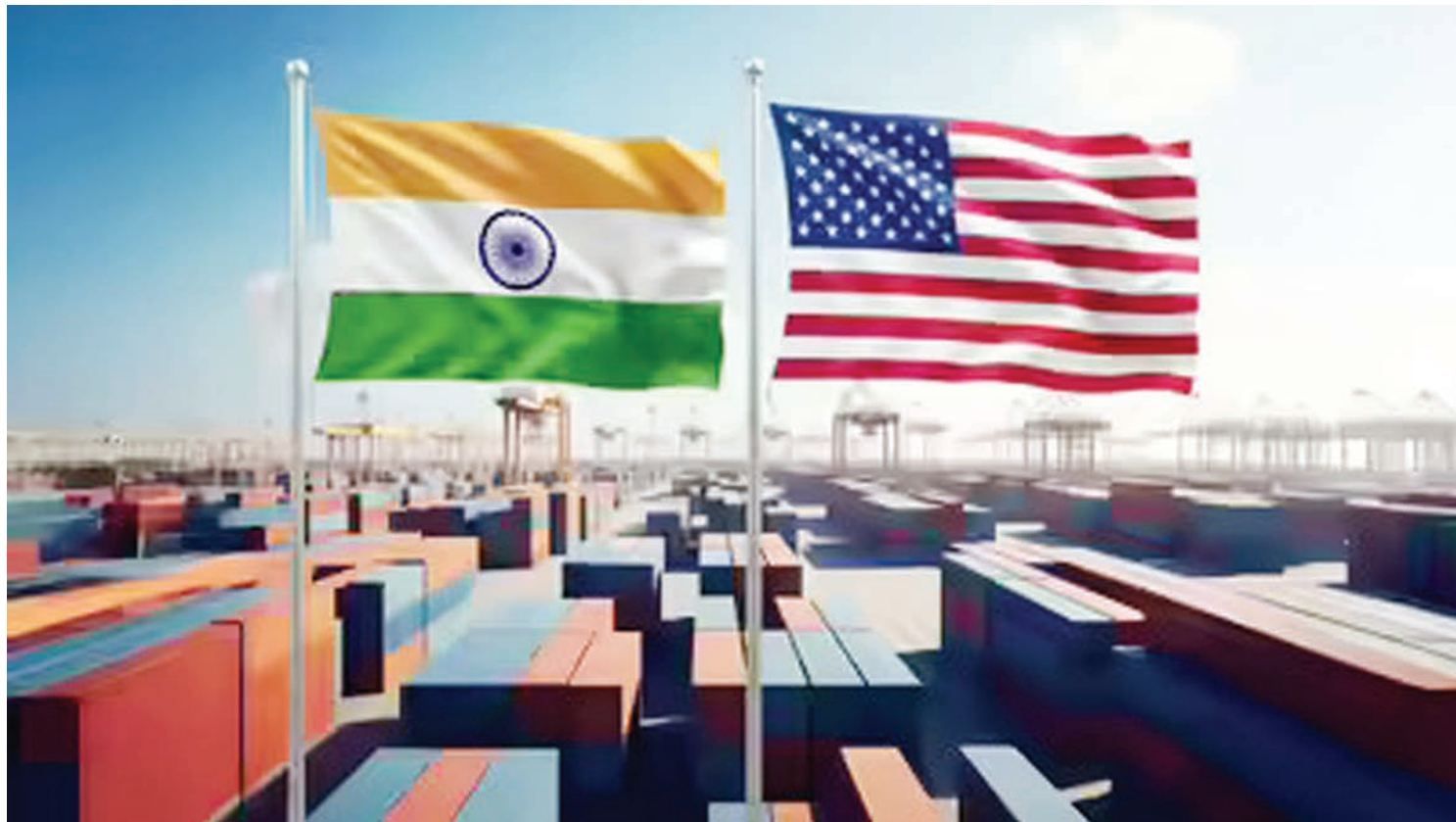
The other one is bound tariffs, which is the maximum tariff that a country can impose on a foreign good from a legal obligation arising from its most-favored-nation (MFN) commitments to the WTO.

It goes without saying that the tariff war initiated by the U.S. is in violation of its commitments under the WTO agreements. But then, the WTO itself has been moribund for a while. It is also worth noting that tariffs cannot be the same for all countries. It is a truism that low-income developing countries will have higher tariffs (for reasons mentioned above) compared to G7 countries.

So, where does India figure in all of this? When India is judged on tariffs, there are two parameters which are used. One is simple average tariffs, and the other is trade-weighted tariffs. If you use the former metric, India's tariff does seem high (15.98 percent). But this is in many ways academic because for most of the goods that come into the Indian market, it is the trade-weighted applied tariff that matters. And the trade-weighted tariff that India maintains is a very respectable 4.6 percent. This level of tariff gives the lie to claims that India is somehow a tariff king. Simple averages distort the picture since they treat all products alike regardless of the trade volumes. So, why is there such a big difference between India's simple average tariff and its trade-weighted tariff?

India does maintain relatively high tariffs in agriculture and automobiles. In both these cases, the main purpose of the tariffs is to protect domestic industry. Agriculture in India is sui generis and like no other major country in the world. Around 50 percent of India's mammoth population directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Besides, agriculture in India is not mechanized and land holdings are so small that farming is about survival and not about commerce.

Given all of this, India does maintain relatively high tariffs for agriculture products, average rates of around 33 percent on meat, dairy, fruits, and cereals. But this is not surprising if you consider the fact that the European Union's average rate is 37.5 percent on dairy products going up to 205 percent, and up to 261 percent on fruits and vegetables. Compare this with Japan whose rate is 61.3 percent on dairy products, going up to 298 percent, and up



India's tariffs, which were high in the 1980s, were brought down significantly since the 1991 reforms were initiated, and during the negotiations related to the Uruguay Round, which led to the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO). Since then, the secular trend in India has been one of gradual reduction of the applicable tariffs year after year.

"WHEN INDIA IS JUDGED ON TARIFFS, THERE ARE TWO PARAMETERS WHICH ARE USED. ONE IS SIMPLE AVERAGE TARIFFS, AND THE OTHER IS TRADE-WEIGHTED TARIFFS. IF YOU USE THE FORMER METRIC, INDIA'S TARIFF DOES SEEM HIGH (15.98 PERCENT). BUT THIS IS IN MANY WAYS ACADEMIC BECAUSE FOR MOST OF THE GOODS THAT COME INTO THE INDIAN MARKET, IT IS THE TRADE-WEIGHTED APPLIED TARIFF THAT MATTERS. AND THE TRADE-WEIGHTED TARIFF THAT INDIA MAINTAINS IS A VERY RESPECTABLE 4.6 PERCENT. THIS LEVEL OF TARIFF GIVES THE LIE TO CLAIMS THAT INDIA IS SOMEHOW A TARIFF KING."

Asking India to open its farm sector to imports is akin to asking it to commit suicide, which no elected government in India would agree to. This demand is especially egregious since Western farmers are beneficiaries of direct and indirect subsidies.

to 258 percent on cereals, and 160 percent on meat and vegetables. Or South Korea, whose average is 54 percent on agricultural goods with 800 percent on vegetables, and 300 percent on fruits. Who is the tariff king in agriculture, you might ask? As for automobiles, this

sector creates mass employment and is crucial for that reason.

Even India's simple average tariff levels at 15.98 percent is in line with global norms for developing economies. Bangladesh (14.1 percent), Argentina (13.4 percent), and Türkiye (16.2 percent), which are all countries with comparable or higher GDP per capita, maintain similar or higher tariffs.

On the U.S. saying their exports of non-agricultural products face tariff barriers in India, it is worth noting that U.S. exporters often face equal or lower tariffs in India compared to many Asian peers. In electronics and technology for instance, India has 0 percent tariff on most IT hardware, semiconductors, computers, and associated parts, with average tariffs of 10.9 percent on electronics and 8.3 percent on computing machinery.

In comparison, Vietnam has a tariff of 8.5 percent on electronic equipment, going up to 35 percent. China has a tariff rate of 5.4 percent going up to 20 percent on electronics, and up to 25 percent on computing machinery. And Indonesia has a tariff rate of 6.3 percent on electronic equipment, going up to 20 percent, and up to 30 percent on computing machinery.

It is true that India maintains justifiable tariff protection for its agricultural, dairy, and auto markets for valid reasons. But its trade-weighted applied tariff in other sectors does not justify it being called a "tariff king" at all.

(Dr. Mohan Kumar is a former Indian ambassador and is the director general of the newly established Jadeja Motwani Institute for American Studies at the OP Jindal Global University.)

Impact of U.S. Tariffs on India's IT Sector and STEM Employment



By H S Panaser

"The imposition of steep U.S. tariffs on Indian goods in 2025 marks a new chapter in bilateral trade tensions. While the tariffs primarily target labor-intensive goods such as textiles, gems, and leather, technology services-which underpin India's STEM workforce-remain exempt. The broader risks to Indian IT professionals arise from tightening U.S. visa policies, macroeconomic uncertainty, and automation trends. India's growing domestic technology ecosystem, along with market diversification and the expansion of Global Capability Centers (GCCs), provides resilience. Long-term challenges, however, include skills mismatches and an oversupply of graduates."

In August 2025, the United States imposed a 50% tariff on a wide range of Indian goods, citing India's continued purchases of Russian oil. Although pharmaceuticals and technology services were exempt, the move strained relations between the two democracies.

India-U.S. trade in 2024 stood at \$212.3 billion, with goods trade totaling \$128.9 billion and services trade at \$83.4 billion. The U.S. goods deficit with India rose to \$45.8 billion in 2024, while services trade remained roughly balanced. Against this backdrop, tariffs represent both an economic and geopolitical flashpoint.

KEY IMPACTS

TRADE & ECONOMY

- Tariffs on Indian goods increase costs for American companies in labor-intensive sectors, potentially reducing discretionary spending on IT services.
- Indian exports in textiles, leather, and gems face near-term declines, with ripple effects on employment in those industries.

STEM EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

- Direct impact on IT jobs is limited, as technology services are exempt from tariffs.
- Indirect effects include slower growth in IT projects due to weaker U.S. business sentiment.
- Global Capability Centers (GCCs) remain strong, with American firms continuing to hire aggressively in

India.

STEM EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S.

- The larger challenge comes from tightening H-1B visa policies, which could increase wage requirements and prioritize higher-paying roles.
- Indian IT professionals face rising competition in a saturated U.S. job market, along with layoffs in major tech firms.
- Automation and AI adoption threaten entry-level coding jobs, shifting demand toward advanced roles in AI integration, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.

VISA & POLICY ISSUES



India-U.S. trade in 2024 stood at \$212.3 billion, with goods trade totaling \$128.9 billion and services trade at \$83.4 billion

- H-1B restrictions add uncertainty for Indian students and graduates in the U.S.
- Some Indian professionals may increasingly turn to Canada, the U.K., or Australia, which offer more favorable immigration policies.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIA

- Domestic Technology Growth: India's IT sector is expanding rapidly, with government initiatives like Digital India and foreign investment in AI and semiconductor hubs.
- Market Diversification: New trade agreements with the U.K., UAE, Australia, and talks with the EU reduce reliance on the U.S. market.
- Global Capability Centers: GCCs remain the biggest source of new tech jobs, offering global exposure and competitive salaries.
- Upskilling Momentum: Industry-led reskilling programs are addressing gaps in AI, machine learning, and cybersecurity.

CHALLENGES & RISKS

- Skills Mismatch: Despite producing millions of STEM graduates annually, many lack high-demand skills in data science, AI, and advanced analytics.
- Oversupply of Graduates: The volume of STEM graduates far exceeds immediate demand, pushing many to seek opportunities abroad.
- Geopolitical Uncertainty: U.S.-India trade frictions could worsen, creating

long-term instability in cross-border tech collaboration.

- Automation Pressure: Rapid adoption of AI reduces demand for routine IT jobs, forcing constant adaptation.

IMPACT OF AI ON IT JOB PROFILES IN INDIA AND THE U.S

INDIA

- Massive job displacement underway-India's IT and BPO sector, which employs millions, faces major disruption. Up to 30% of roles in writing, coding, and imaging may be impacted by AI by 2030, including around 640,000 low skilled service jobs, while growth in higher-skilled

across age and skill levels. (TechRadar)

- Salesforce slashes support jobs-Salesforce cut 4,000 customer support roles (~45% of its team), as AI agents took over routine tasks, though human oversight remains essential. (The Times of India and San Francisco Chronicle)
- AI complementing, not replacing-U.S. labor leadership stresses AI is a tool-not a threat. Workforce training initiatives under initiatives like "America's AI Action Plan" emphasize reskilling and AI literacy to prepare workers. (New York Post)
- Skill demand shifting-Recent research highlights a surge in demand (and wage premiums) for AI complementary skills like digital literacy, teamwork, and resilience-while purely routinized roles face decline. (arXiv)
- Generative AI boosts productivity-but raises concern-A study shows 97% of IT staff use tools like ChatGPT, which significantly boosts productivity-but also correlates strongly with growing job security anxiety. (arXiv)

In both countries, AI is aggressively transforming job profiles-eliminating routine roles while creating a premium on AI integrated, human intensive skills. Upskilling is key to survival and success.

Conclusion & Recommendations

The U.S.-India tariff dispute is unlikely to directly reduce India's STEM employment, as technology services remain exempt. However, the real risks lie in tightening U.S. visa policies, weaker client spending, and automation.

INDIA CAN MITIGATE THESE CHALLENGES BY:

- Accelerating upskilling programs in AI, cloud, and cybersecurity.
- Expanding domestic digital projects to absorb STEM graduates.
- Strengthening alternative export markets to reduce reliance on U.S. demand.
- Encouraging companies to leverage GCCs as hubs of innovation, not just cost centers.

By focusing on resilience, diversification, and skills development, India can turn trade friction into an opportunity for long-term leadership in global technology.

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(As a columnist, H.S. Panaser brings a wealth of experience in global business, technology, and trade. He is the Chair of the Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council and President of the Global Indian Diaspora Alliance, with a deep understanding of the U.S.-India relationship. His expertise as a consultant in Global Business Development, Pharmaceuticals, and AI in Healthcare provides a unique and informed perspective on current events. Gitcc.USA@gmail.com)

UNITED STATES

- Entry-level job losses-A Stanford study found that young U.S. workers (ages 22-25) in software development and support roles saw nearly a 20% drop in employment by mid-2025, while older professionals saw gains-highlighting AI's uneven impact

FBIMA organizes a spectacular parade to celebrate India's 79th Independence Day



Grand Marshall Sejal Sharma, parade organizers, elected representatives, and community leaders on the lead float



Leaders from diverse communities enthusiastically celebrated the 79th Independence Day of India

TIP REPORTER
AUGUST 28, 2025

QUEENS, NY (TIP): India Day Parade in Queens, New York was organized on August 16, 2025 by FBIMA, with actress Sejal Sharma as the Grand Marshall.

President Denzil George, Parade Chairman Koshy Thomas and several elected officials attended the parade, which was witnessed by thousands who lined up the route of the parade. Many prominent Indian American



Grand Marshall Sejal Sharma congratulated the gathering on India's 79th Independence Day and said she was happy to be at the parade with the wonderful Indian community.



Chairman of the Parade Organizing Committee Koshy Thomas addresses the gathering. Present on the stage are the Grand Marshal Sejal Sharma, President of FBIMA Denzil George, elected representatives, and community leaders.



President of FBIMA Denzil George spoke on the occasion with the Grand Marshall Sejal Sharma, elected representatives, and community leaders by his side



community leaders joined the parade. Parade has Hari Shukla was honored for his support for the Parade. Seen in the picture, from L to R : Koshy Thomas, Sejal Sharma, Dr. Hari Shukla, Denzil George, and an Executive Committee Member



Dr. Hari Shukla and his wife Kirti Shukla hold the Tricolor while leading the car caravan in the parade

Among them were Dr. Hari Shukla and his wife Kirti, who have been patronizing the parade since its inception.

There was enough entertainment for all ages. For the children in particular, there were a couple of games and rides which attracted many kids.

Over the years, the Queens India Day

been growing in size, and the organizers this year, in particular, President Denzil George and Parade Chairman Koshy Thomas, expressed the hope that more and more people will join the parade next year, which is an occasion to celebrate the freedom of India.



DECEMBER 4, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas, the premier annual Army exercise between India and the United States, commenced on 01 September 2025 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and will continue through 14 September 2025.



The Indian Army contingent, comprising 450 personnel led by a battalion of the Madras Regiment, arrived in Fairbanks on 31 August. They are training

Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2025: Elevating India US Strategic and Defense Partnership

alongside US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment ("Bobcats"), part of the 1st Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Arctic Wolves), 11th Airborne Division.



The 2025 edition is one of the largest bilateral military exercises for the Indian Army in terms of troops mobilized. This edition emphasizes:

- Mountain and high-altitude operations under sub-arctic conditions
- Heliborne and air-mobility integration, backed by artillery and aviation assets
- Electronic warfare, surveillance, and counter-drone systems
- Medical evacuation and combat casualty care in field conditions
- Live-fire tactical drills to validate seamless interoperability

Since its inception in 2002 as a platoon-level exercise, Yudh Abhyas has expanded greatly both in scope and participation. Past editions have explored diverse terrains: high-altitude warfare in India's Auli and Chaubattia; desert maneuvers in Rajasthan; urban and cold environment training at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Alaska.



Today, Yudh Abhyas stands as a flagship, high-complexity Army-to-Army exercise. It has become one of the cornerstones of India US military cooperation. India conducts more military exercises with the US than with any other country. These exercises, including Yudh Abhyas, Malabar, COPE India, Vajra Prahar, Tiger Triumph and several others, are central to building interoperability and forging mutual trust. It demonstrates how our two democracies continue to work towards peace, security and prosperity, including in the Indo-Pacific region.

(Based on a press Release)

Maryland Comptroller Releases Analysis of Federal Tax Changes

Analysis projects \$189 million loss for Maryland's General Fund

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

(TIP): The Maryland Comptroller's Office today released the 60-Day Report, an analysis of P.L. 119-21 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act [OBBA]) and its expected impact on revenue administration and collection in Maryland. The Bureau of Revenue Estimates projects an estimated \$189.3 million reduction in general fund revenue between fiscal year 2026 (\$117.9 million) and fiscal year 2027 (\$71.4 million).

The federal OBBA extends significant federal tax reductions enacted by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), modifies existing benefits, and establishes several new tax benefits. In response to the changes in the federal tax code, the state will automatically decouple from several provisions in the law that are expected to have a \$5 million or greater impact on state revenues in fiscal year (FY) 2026. These provisions will not apply to Maryland taxes during tax year (TY) 2025.

These business income provisions include research and experimental expenses; the new qualified production property depreciation under Section 168(n); and modifications to the business interest deduction limitation. Decoupling



Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman said, "Recent tax code changes, as well as federal retrenchment and grant cancellations, have created complexity and uncertainty for taxpayers".

from any provisions in the law beyond TY 2025 will require legislative action from the Maryland General Assembly.

During the upcoming 2026 legislative session, the General Assembly will consider whether to permanently decouple Maryland tax law from those provisions in the OBBA going forward. This will require state legislation.

"Recent tax code changes, as well as federal retrenchment and grant cancellations, have created complexity and uncertainty for taxpayers," Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman said. "While we cannot eliminate this complexity, we remain committed to helping Maryland navigate these challenges. The data in this report will help policymakers and all residents understand how these changes will shape Maryland's fiscal future."

Maryland follows best practices and uses consensus revenue forecasting. Revenue estimates contain the most recent state revenue forecasts, analyses of the Maryland and national economies, and other valuable information. The analysis will be factored into subsequent forecasts by the Bureau of Revenue Estimates.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Board of Public Works Approves \$787 Million in Funding for Projects Across Maryland



The Maryland Board of Public Works including Treasurer Dereck Davis (D), Gov. Wes Moore (D), and Comptroller Brooke Lierman (D).
File photo

AUGUST 27, 2025

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

(TIP): Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman joined Governor Wes Moore and Chief Deputy Treasurer Jon Martin in approving more than \$787 million in state expenditures during Wednesday's Board of Public Works meeting. Contracts and spending approved included \$24,250,000 for 25 projects through the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative, National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund, and Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund for Fiscal Year 2026. Comptroller Lierman applauded the investment that will support increased housing and community development opportunities.

"These are the kinds of investments that build safer cities," Comptroller Lierman shared, pointing to decisions

by the Maryland General Assembly to create the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative after the unrest in Baltimore in 2015, and other funds soon after. "Statewide leaders recognized that for Baltimore to reach its full potential, it needed this kind of investment after years of disinvestment. Revitalizing properties, rehabbing the vacant homes, rebuilding wealth in the city, is a much better use of our precious tax dollars than deploying armed forces. This work creates a broadening tax base, housing for middle-income families and workers, and long-term prosperity."

Comptroller Lierman voted against one-year temporary extensions for three capital grants and loans, citing the ample time provided to encumber the original funding and present funding restraints. The extensions were approved with a vote of 2-1.

Comptroller Lierman also voted against a request from the Department of Information Technology to award eight firms a work-order-based contract to provide digital services and agile development support to modernize Maryland's digital infrastructure. Comptroller Lierman acknowledged the importance of the work covered by the contract but cited concerns about the contract vehicle and decreased opportunities for businesses headquartered in Maryland to compete for the same work. The contract was also approved with a vote of 2-1.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Trump signs executive order rebranding Pentagon as Department of War

Directive will make Department of War secondary title and is way to get around need for congressional approval

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday, September 5, to rebrand the Department of Defense as the Department of War, a callback to the department's original name used from 1789 to 1947.

The directive will make Department of War the secondary title, and is a way to get around the need for congressional approval to formally rename a federal agency, an administration official said.

"We won the first world war, we won the second world war, we won everything before that and in between," Trump said at the signing. "And then we decided to go woke and we changed the name to the Department of Defense."

The administration has already begun implementing the symbolic changes: visitors to the Pentagon's defense.gov website are now automatically redirected to war.gov.

The move comes days after a deadly US navy airstrike killed 11 people on a small boat in international waters, which the military said involved a drug vessel operated by the Venezuelan gang



Tren de Aragua. Some legal experts questioned whether the strike was lawful under international law.

The combination of aggressive military action and symbolic rebranding goes in contrast with Trump's repeated claims to be "the anti-

war president" who campaigned on promises to end conflicts and avoid new wars. Trump said during the signing of the order that his focus on strength and trade has improved America's position in the world..

Trump has argued the original name

better reflects military victories and honestly represents what the department does. The rebrand would reverse the 1947 name change made as part of postwar reforms that emphasized defense over warfare.

Seven US warships and one nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine were reported to be heading for the Caribbean following Monday's strike, another layer in the measures Trump has taken to combat what he claims is the threat from Tren de Aragua.

Congressional approval would ultimately be required for any permanent name change, though the House member Greg Steube from Florida and the senator Mike Lee from Utah, both Republicans, introduced legislation to make the switch official.

"We're going to go on offense, not just on defense. Maximum lethality, not tepid legality. Violent effect, not politically correct," the secretary of defense, Pete Hegseth, said in the Oval Office. "We're going to raise up warriors, not just defenders. So this war department, Mr President, just like America is back."

Zohran Mamdani likely to be New York's next mayor unless 2 of his opponents quit race: Trump

US President denies encouraging any candidates to drop out but says the race is winnable if it is one-on-one

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Donald Trump has said he thinks Democrat Zohran Mamdani is likely to become New York City's next mayor unless two of the three major candidates running against him drop out of the race.

But the Republican didn't say which two candidates he'd like to see quit.

Trump said "No" when he was asked by a reporter on Thursday, September 4 night if he'd urged or encouraged any of the candidates in the race to drop out, but went on to say he would like to see that happen.

"I don't think you can win unless you have one-on-one, and somehow he's gotten a little bit of a lead," Trump said of Mamdani.

"I have no idea how that happened."

The president, who spoke as he hosted a dinner at the White House with tech executives, went on, "I would like to see two people drop out and have it be one-on-one, and I think that's a race that could be won."

Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist, has been the presumptive favorite in the election since soundly beating former governor Andrew Cuomo in the Democratic primary in June.

But Cuomo is still on the ballot as an independent, as is incumbent Mayor Eric Adams. Joining those three Democrats in the field is Republican Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the



New York City mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani. -Reuters File Photo

Guardian Angels crime patrol group.

Recently, intermediaries for Trump reached out to people close to Adams to talk about whether he would consider abandoning his reelection campaign to take a federal job, according to people familiar with those conversations who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the talks.

On a recent trip to Miami, Adams met with Steve Witkoff, a former real estate developer in New York who is now one of Trump's main diplomatic envoys in Washington, according to one of the people briefed on the discussions.

Adams acknowledged meeting with "several political figures" on his Florida

trip, which he said was to "deal with some personal issues." But he has repeatedly insisted he won't quit.

Adams reiterated his intention of staying in the race Thursday, adding that he wasn't bothered by growing calls for him to end his campaign.

"No pressure, no diamonds," Adams told reporters at an event touting an endorsement from some Muslim leaders.

"Just because people yell at you and call your names, and just because a number of people ask you to step down or don't do what you believe, you're supposed to succumb to that? That's not what I do." Adams' campaign was

deeply wounded when he was indicted on corruption charges last year, then

developed a warm relationship with Trump that bothered many Democrats in one of the country's most liberal cities.

There was further backlash from Democrats after the Justice Department said it was dropping the case so that Adams could assist with Trump's immigration crackdown.

At a news conference on Thursday, September 4, Cuomo called on Adams to drop out.

"If Mamdani is the existential threat, if you believe that, then at a point you should defer to the strongest candidates," Cuomo said.

Sliwa, meanwhile, has cast himself as the best candidate to take on Mamdani.

"The assumption here is that Eric Adams' voters, if he does drop out, are all going to jump to Cuomo. That ain't happening," Sliwa said in an interview.

"There's a lot of anger toward Cuomo. They've been going back and forth like two scorpions in a brandy glass."

Sliwa added that he also isn't quitting, and said no one from the Trump administration had reached out yet to urge him to do so.

"I can assure you for 9,852nd time in this campaign I've had to answer this: I'm not dropping out. I'm in it until November 4," he said.

"I don't care if people drop out. I'd encourage them to stay in. Let people decide. That's what democracy is about, a vote."

Sukhmani Haven is a ray of hope for international girl students



--->By Prabhjot Singh

Tightening immigration controls, shrinking college and university seats, inflation, social unrest, ever-increasing unemployment, and you name a problem, international students are facing all of them. With odds heavily stacked against them, they have not given up hope of making Canada their new home. Their optimism comes mainly from institutions like Sukhmani Haven that have decided to apply the social and financial balm that these students desperately need by advocating for their social and financial support.

Sukhmani Haven has been providing international students in Ontario with accommodation, financial support, necessities of life, community counselling, a Help Line, besides advocating for fair employment policies, protection from exploitation, government funding for social infrastructure, reduction of tuition, and reform of roles of agents.

Spearheaded by over a dozen dedicated volunteers, who run Sukhmani Haven, a Mississauga-based organization that rents a duplex home in Brampton to house a group of international girl students for free. But for the Sukhmani Haven help, they would wander the streets, scan through newspapers and ethnic media columns before applying to rent different houses, mostly basements and receiving dozens of rejections before eventually signing a lease.

Sukhmani Haven started some years ago. And since its inception, it has been inviting applications from needy students, and after scrutinizing them, it tries to accommodate them all.

Besides the contributions and efforts of Directors, Sukhmani Haven initially hosted a fundraiser dinner in 2022, which allowed the charity to house 34 students on a short and long-term basis, in addition to providing some with financial aid, tuition bursaries, pro bono legal services and support via a crisis hotline.

Satwant Singh Gosal, an experienced commercial lawyer; Baljit Singh Sikand, a successful businessman; Bhagwan Grewal, an IT expert in financial management; Deepa Mattoo, a lawyer and Executive Director at the Barbra Schleifer Commemorative Clinic; Dr Gurcharan Singh Syan, who retired as an internal medicine specialist; Harlene Bajwa, a criminal law specialist; Pawanjeet Garewal, a community leader and progressive thinker; and Lovely Viridi, a dedicated social worker, form the nucleus of Sukhmani Haven that continues to spread its message of doing good for needy international students who find themselves to be "aliens" on a foreign land.

The number of beneficiary girls has been growing steadily.

Canada, says Baljit Singh Sikand, experienced a tremendous boom in international students over the last decade. Many of these students hail from Punjab. In 2016, there were 22,970 non-permanent residents in Peel - 1.7% of Peel's total population. Attracted by the prospect of a future in a rich country,



The dedicated volunteers, who run Sukhmani Haven, a Mississauga-based organization that rents a duplex home in Brampton to house a group of international girl students for free: Satwinder Singh Gosal, Baljit Singh Sikand, Bhagwan Grewal, Deepa Mattoo, Dr. Gurcharan Singh Syan, Harlene Bajwa, Pawanjit Garewal, Lovely Viridi.

students from Punjab receive initial funding from their parents, many of whom are of modest backgrounds and have sold some of their property or gone into considerable debt to fund the education of their children.

The majority of the students use agents who are paid commissions by institutions in Canada. The information as to the ability of the students to earn a decent living to cover their expenses, and the prospect of decent employment, is often false. What started as a journey of hope for the future often results in a path fraught with despair. The students find themselves unable to make ends meet, especially living in Ontario, which has some of the most unaffordable housing in the world. Some of the students - especially women - find themselves economically and physically vulnerable, facing harassment and abuse at work.

Post-secondary institutions have garnered substantial revenues and yet have failed to provide the necessary social infrastructure to support the students from whom they profit immensely. Sukhmani has decided to apply the social and financial balm that these students desperately need by advocating for their social and financial support.

Members of Sukhmani Haven say "we honor and acknowledge the land on which we are on which constitutes the present-day City of Mississauga. This land has been the site of human activity since time immemorial. It is the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nations.

"Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements and is home to many Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island, including the Inuit and the Metis. These treaties and other agreements, including the One Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, are agreements to peaceably share and care for the land and its resources. Other Indigenous Nations, Europeans, and newcomers were invited into this covenant in the spirit of respect, peace, and friendship. We are mindful of broken covenants, and we strive to make this right, with the land and with each other," they add.

But the organization says Baljit Singh Sikand, a former Indian hockey player and accomplished businessman, is concerned about its ability to keep up, which worries those for whom it is a lifeline. It is now planning its annual fundraiser on September 10 with a fond hope of continuing its good work with redoubled vigor.

Rapidly changing geopolitical scenarios, tightening immigration controls, and problems exacerbated by the tariff wars have been adding to the agony of hard-pressed international students.

International students pay four times more in tuition than domestic students. Going by media reports, colleges and governments are not providing wrap-around services like housing, food and job referrals. The problem is further exacerbated by provinces' underfunding of post-secondary education.

International students make up 68 per cent of tuition revenue at 24 Ontario colleges, and over 90 per cent at some Northern Ontario colleges, according to a 2021 provincial auditor general report.

International students from India alone contributed \$2 billion to Ontario's post-secondary institutions' operating income last year, compared to roughly \$1.8 billion the provincial government contributed, according to a September 2023 report by consulting firm Higher Education Strategy Associates.

The Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities had said in a Press statement in January last year that the province was looking into requiring all colleges and universities to have guaranteed housing options for incoming international students.

Until late last year, there was strong criticism of the federal government for bringing in record-high numbers of international students - 800,000 in 2022, then 900,000 in 2023 - without making sure there was adequate housing.

"There's not a lot of rental spaces available, or they're available at such a high price that basically you get priced out."

The IRCC says non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the Affordable Housing Fund to construct, maintain, and repair affordable housing and shelter spaces.

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

His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines, and journals. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

SPECIAL ON PUNJAB FLOODS

PUNJAB(S) WHERE DEVASTATION HAS
BECOME A WAY OF LIFE

--->By Prabhjot Singh



Nearly 2 million affected as Pakistan Punjab battles unprecedented floods. - Facebook photos

Life is a big struggle for them. They never get time to be at peace with themselves. Moving back and forth from their dilapidated homes to shelters has become a routine for them.

The last six months have been both trying and hard for them. At times, their nationality was called into question. Since nature wiped out all man-made boundaries, they cut across the natural, geographical and man-made barriers to share whatever was left of them to bail each other out of their worst natural calamity aggravated by the apathy of those in authority.

To such an extent that the historic Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib was inundated for a couple of days. Sikhs had fought for decades to gain access to one of their holiest shrines, just a few km away from the international border.

It is the story of two Punjabs tormented by war and water. Ever since the British, before leaving India, divided them into Indian and Pakistani nationalities, they have lost the meaning of peaceful coexistence. In the meantime, they have managed to learn to move quickly when danger - natural or man-made - comes alive.

For the last six months, life has become extremely difficult and painful for them. Though they have been uprooted several times since the two nations - Pakistan and India - got what they called "independence from the British", the past six months have wreaked havoc with their lives more than any time before since 1947.

It all started when India and Pakistan went into war, though briefly, and now again when the Monsoon let loose its fury.

Living on the border has never been easy. Denied basic civic amenities, every now and then, they face eviction or evacuation. With limited resources and means of sustenance, they always remain suspect in the eyes of the security forces of either side. Those sitting in the administration far off, making decisions - both political and administrative, without ever bothering about their plight and their survival.

Stop the natural flow of water in rivers, they think, has come to their domain, and they can decide which way rivers flow or how the poor farmers survive with their small land holdings across the fenced borders.

While farmers on the Indian Punjab side are lucky that they have insurance policies - maybe in papers only - both for their crops and their cattle, those in other Punjab have no such support to fight both natural and man-induced disasters.

When division took place, the British divided the territories but were clueless on how to divide the natural bounties, including the rivers. Punjab draws its name from the number of rivers that crisscross its territory. Of the five rivers, Ravi and Sutlej



As Kartarpur Sahib Endures Floods, Its Legacy Stands Against the Tide.-Credit: The Wire

have been sustaining hundreds of thousands of small and marginal farmers across the borders.

Hundreds of Indian - Punjab farmers haplessly watched their milch cattle being swept across the manmade borders by the devastating Ravi and Sutlej waters.

Thousands of acres of agricultural land have been deprived of their nutrients in the floods. From fertile fields, they have become barren pieces of land.

The rivers' shifting courses and riverine terrain have complicated border demarcations for decades.



The recent floods in Indian Punjab have once again exposed the poor river embankments

This year's rigorous southwest monsoon has not only left hundreds of people dead in two Punjabs but also caused the deaths of a large number of head of cattle. While in Indian Punjab, farmers rely on mechanized farming, they are also largely dependent upon milch cattle for supplementing the family income. In Pakistan's Punjab, agriculture is still done by traditional means, where cattle are still largely used in cultivating fields.



Punjab declared all 23 districts flood-hit. Half a million people are affected by the floods. In urban areas, the absence of a proper drainage and sewage system is mostly to blame for inundations

Allegations flew free as Pakistan officials accused their Indian counterparts of releasing surplus waters into the Ravi and Sutlej rivers. Though Indian officials denied the allegation, maintaining that Pakistani authorities were informed well in time before the release of overflowing waters into the Pakistani portion of the rivers. Whatever the position, the sufferers are none other than poor people, irrespective of their nationalities.

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

Minister explains why Trump tariffs aren't cause for panic

Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday, Sept 4, asserted that there was no need to panic as far as India's ongoing trade negotiations with the United States were concerned, adding that the country continues to have "very good relations" with Washington.

Goyal's remarks came a week after US President Donald Trump's additional 25% tariffs on Indian imports took effect, doubling up the duties to 50%. The increased tariffs were imposed as a penalty for India's oil trade with Russia.

"Well, I don't think there's any need to panic. We should allow the negotiations to happen. We continue to have very good relations with the United States, and I'm sure that we'll be able to resolve some of these issues and come to an equitable, fair and balanced agreement..." Goyal was quoted as saying by news agency ANI.

Goyal also asserted that there is "never a timeline" when it comes to trade talks, and that they have to be handled patiently.

"You have to look at the future and decide what you want. Time will tell whether it works out well in a short time frame or a longer time frame..." he further added.

Several rounds of trade negotiations have taken place between India and the US over the past few months. Both the countries were also reportedly engaged in trade talks before the additional 25% duties took effect on August 27.

US treasury secretary Scott Bessent, who has been critical of India over its oil trade with Russia, had said that New Delhi was being "a bit recalcitrant" in trade talks with the US.

Double dose of support: PM praises GST reforms, jabs Congress

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A day after the government rolled out a simplified two-slab structure under what is being dubbed as "GST 2.0," Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the GST reforms as a double dose of support and growth for India. He also rained fire on the UPA government (2004 to 2014) over its tax regime.

On Wednesday, September 3, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced sweeping changes cut taxes on a wide range of consumer essentials, medicines, and automobiles, while introducing a special high tax slab for luxury and sin goods.

The government, after the 56th meeting of the GST Council, approved the rationalisation of GST rates, abolishing the 12 per cent and 28 per cent slabs. The new slab structure will come into effect from September 22, the first day of Navaratri.

The Council cleared a two-tier tax structure with rates of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, along with a new 40 per cent slab for sin and luxury goods. However, tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to attract 28 per cent GST, plus compensation cess, till loans are repaid.

"While the media has dubbed these reforms as GST 2.0, I say it is a double dose of growth and support. It means savings for the ordinary household on one hand, and strength for the nation's economy on the other," PM Modi said while addressing the National Awardee teachers in Delhi.

PM Modi further said that the reforms would benefit almost every section of society. "The GST reforms will benefit the poor, the neo middle-class, middle-class, farmers, women, students, youngsters all alike. Cutting down on the



tax will benefit everyone to a great extent. From paneer (cottage cheese) to shampoos and soaps, everything will be very cheap now," the PM added.

As part of the restructuring, 175 broad items of mass consumption, including milk, paneer, snacks and bread, will become cheaper. Goods such as hair oil, toilet soaps, shampoos, toothbrushes, tableware, and kitchenware will now fall under the 5 per cent bracket.

Items like UHT milk, paneer, chenna and all kinds of Indian breads, will move from 5 per cent to nil. Spectacles will now be taxed at 5 per cent.

"Summarising the reforms done in GST, it will add Panchratnas to the Indian economy. First, the tax stream will be simpler. The quality of life of the citizens of India will increase, consumption and growth will increase, the ease of doing business will boost investment and employment, and cooperative federalism will become stronger for a developed India," the PM stressed.

The PM also launched an attack on the

Congress-led UPA government, saying discussions about enacting such a law intended for tax reforms were held even before 2014, but real work was never done. "The nation was in the grip of many types of taxes since independence, and there was a need to overhaul the tax regime. We did that in 2017".

Around 99 per cent of items currently taxed at 12 per cent will now fall under 5 per cent, including natural menthol, fertilisers, handicrafts, and several labour-intensive sectors such as marble and granite blocks. Additionally, 33 life-saving drugs and medicines will move from 12 per cent to nil.

Nearly 90 per cent of goods currently taxed at 28 per cent will shift to 18 per cent. This includes air-conditioning machines, televisions above 32 inches - with all TVs now under 18 per cent - dishwashing machines, cement, and small cars and motorcycles below 300 cc.

Automobiles such as small cars up to 350 cc, buses, trucks, ambulances and auto parts will also move to the 18 per cent slab. Dishwashing machines and bikes will remain in the 18 per cent category.

PM Modi said the GST Council, which includes both the Union and State governments, had collectively agreed to the proposals submitted by the Centre.

However, experts caution that the Centre and states will need to closely monitor revenue implications from these sweeping cuts, which could impact fiscal balances unless compensated through cess collections or higher compliance.

For now, GST 2.0 promises a leaner, consumer-friendly regime, making everyday essentials affordable while keeping luxury indulgences firmly in the high-tax bracket.

From shipping to semiconductors, India, Singapore ramp up ties

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The prime Ministers of India and Singapore Thursday, Sept 4, agreed to adopt a forward-looking and substantive roadmap aimed at setting the vision and direction for the next phase of bilateral relations — and deepen cooperation in eight key areas: economy, skills development, digitalisation, sustainability, connectivity, healthcare and medicine, people-to-people and cultural exchanges; and, defence and security.

"Our relations go far beyond diplomacy. This is a partnership with purpose, rooted in shared values, guided by mutual interests, and driven by a common vision for peace, progress and prosperity," PM Narendra Modi said after a meeting with his Singapore counterpart Lawrence Wong.

Pointing out that bilateral ties had been elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during his visit to Singapore last year, Modi said, "...today, we have prepared a detailed roadmap for the future of our partnership. Our cooperation will not be limited to traditional sectors. In line with changing times, areas such as advanced manufacturing, green shipping, skilling, civil nuclear and urban water management will also become focal points of our collaboration."

He said the Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership agreement signed last year has given a new direction to research and development. The increased participation of Singaporean companies in the 'Semicon India' conference is a significant development, Modi said.

According to a joint statement, the two leaders agreed to "support the growth of India's semiconductor industry and ecosystem, including through cooperation under the India-Singapore Semiconductor Policy Dialogue; facilitating partnerships with Singapore companies; advancing resilient semiconductor supply chains; exploring mutually beneficial research and development collaborations; promoting workforce development; and encouraging business-to-business cooperation..."

On defence and security, the statement said they will deepen technology cooperation in emerging areas such as Quantum Computing, AI, Automation and Unmanned Vessels.

It also said that "Singapore acknowledges with appreciation India's interest in the Malacca Straits Patrol". Both sides agreed to continue cooperation in maritime security and submarine rescue, and strengthen cooperation in Maritime Domain Awareness.

"Technology and innovation are the strong pillars of

our partnership. We have decided to enhance collaboration in AI, quantum computing, and other digital technologies," Modi said.

The joint statement said they agreed to explore collaboration opportunities in "critical and emerging technologies, to promote innovation, inclusive and sustainable economic growth" under the Joint Working Group on Digital Technologies.

They will also explore cooperation on "Artificial Intelligence through the sharing of best practices for developing AI-ready data sets and building data-driven AI use cases in sectors such as agriculture, health care, and education". Modi said, "The agreement recently signed in the space sector marks the beginning of a new chapter in space science cooperation."

The joint statement said they will "deepen ecosystem collaboration in India's growing aviation and aerospace MRO sectors through the partnerships between Indian and Singapore companies in these sectors, including the sharing of Singapore's expertise and the provision of upskilling opportunities". Singapore will assist in establishing a National Centre of Excellence for Skilling in Chennai in the field of advanced manufacturing, Modi said.

Monsoon fury leaves trail of destruction across Punjab, Himachal, J&K and Uttarakhand

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Northern India is reeling under one of the worst monsoon seasons in decades, with devastating floods and landslides claiming over 500 lives across Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttarakhand. Rescue teams, backed by the Army and NDRE, continue large-scale operations as rivers overflow, villages remain submerged, and key pilgrimage routes lie buried under debris.

Punjab: Worst Floods Since 1988

Punjab has recorded 43 deaths so far, with six new casualties reported on Thursday. According to state authorities, more than 1,902 villages in 23 districts are inundated, affecting over 438,000 acres of farmland. Gurdaspur remains the worst-hit district, where nearly 1 lakh acres are under water across 329 villages.

More than 3.8 lakh people have been displaced, with 197 relief camps housing evacuees. At least 20,972 residents have been rescued, while extensive damage to standing paddy and maize crops has raised concerns about food security in the agrarian state.

Himachal: Landslides and Torrential Rains

Himachal Pradesh continues to suffer repeated landslides and flash floods. Several incidents in the past week alone have claimed lives, pushing the state's tally further upward as part of the region-wide toll. Roads, bridges, and hydropower projects have suffered massive destruction.

Meteorologists confirmed that North India is witnessing its second-wettest monsoon in 50 years, with Himachal reporting rainfall 37% above average, triggering slope failures and land erosion in fragile mountain zones.

J&K: Pilgrimage route tragedy and floods

J&K has reported over 130 deaths this



season, with two major tragedies intensifying the crisis.

- Vaishno Devi Landslide: On August 26, a massive landslide struck the pilgrimage track near Ardhuwari, killing 34 pilgrims. Victims hailed from Punjab, Uttar

Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Haryana. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board suspended pilgrimages as debris clearance continues.

- Kishtwar Cloudburst: Earlier, on August 14, a cloudburst in

Kishtwar district triggered a flash flood that killed at least 67 people, injured over 300, and left around 200 missing. Rescue efforts remain hampered by rugged terrain.

Authorities have announced compensation of Rs 9 lakh for the families of those killed, while a three-member committee has been set up to probe the Vaishno Devi landslide.

Uttarakhand: Flash Flood Wipes Out Village

In Uttarkashi district's Dharali village, a sudden cloudburst triggered a destructive flash flood that left five dead and over 70 missing. Entire stretches of the village, including 50 hotels, 40 houses, an army camp, and a helipad, were swept away. Eleven soldiers are among those feared trapped.

The disaster has sparked concerns over unchecked construction in ecologically fragile zones.

Environmental alarm and SC warning

The Supreme Court has warned that illegal felling of trees and unplanned development have worsened the scale of devastation in Himachal, Punjab, and J&K. Experts have also linked the abnormal rainfall and recurring cloudbursts to the wider impact of climate change on the Himalayan ecosystem.

Humanitarian Crisis and Relief Efforts

Across the affected states, thousands remain stranded, relief camps are overcrowded, and key highways remain blocked. The Yamuna river in Delhi has also crossed the danger mark, leading to mass evacuations along low-lying banks.

Officials warn that the cumulative impact of the monsoon will continue to unfold in the coming weeks, with infrastructure damage, crop loss, and economic disruption likely to stretch into the long term.

Centre, Manipur, Kuki-Zo groups sign pact for peace

PATNA (TIP)

More than two years after ethnic strife singed Manipur, leaving over 200 dead and 60,000 displaced, the Centre on Thursday, Sept 4, signed a tripartite agreement for one year with the Manipur Government and Kuki-Zo groups to restore peace in the state. The significant development comes ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to Manipur on September 13, his first since the 2023 violence.

The pact entails maintaining the territorial integrity of the state and relocating militant camps.

The Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement, which had been lying in cold storage for the past 18 months (since February 29, 2024, when the Manipur Government had withdrawn from it), was signed between the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the



Manipur Government and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) as well as United People's Front (UPF) on re-negotiated ground rules, which will be

effective from the day of the signing of the agreement for a period of one year, official sources said.

The MHA said the KNO and the UPF also agreed to relocate seven designated camps away from areas vulnerable to conflict and also to reduce their numbers. They also agreed to a stringent physical verification of their cadres by the security forces to delist foreign nationals, if any.

The groups also agreed to surrender weapons with the nearest CRPF and BSF camps, the sources said.

The Joint Monitoring Group (of all stakeholders) will closely monitor the enforcement of the ground rules, and violations would be dealt with firmly in future, including review of the SoO agreement, they said. The parties agreed upon the need for a negotiated solution to bring lasting peace and stability to Manipur.

India in history this Week

SEPTEMBER 5 TO SEPTEMBER 11

05 SEPTEMBER



- 1888 Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born.
- 1997 Founder of Missionary of Charity and Nobel Prize winner Mother Teresa died in Kolkata.
- 2009 The National Stock Exchange banned ten companies from trading in the stock market.
- 2011 The technical system of clearing checks through ATMs prepared by the Indian Banks' Association and the National Payments Corporation of India was finalized.
- 1872 Chidambaram Pillai, a Tamil-language scholar and noted social reformer, was born.
- 1905 The famous novelist Vachaspati Pathak was born.
- 2008 A delegation of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) led by Ratan Tata called on Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

06 SEPTEMBER

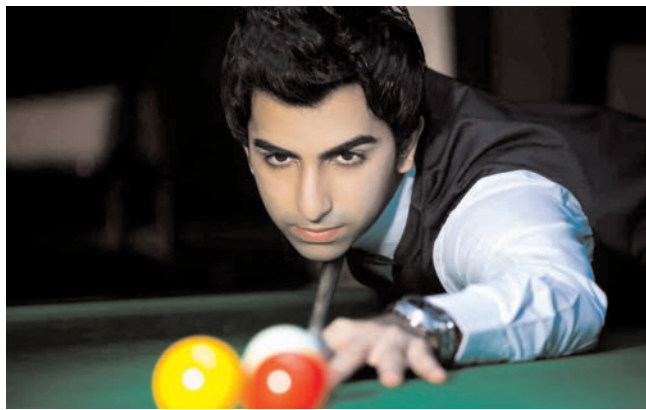
- 1929 Birth of filmmaker Yash Johar.
- 1965 The Indian Army crossed the border from three places and attacked West Pakistan.



- 1972 Ustad Alauddin Khan, a veteran of Hindustani classical music, was born.
 - 2018 The Supreme Court declared that homosexuality is no longer a crime.
 - 2008 D. Subbarao took over as the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
 - 1838 Dalip Singh, the youngest son of Maharaj Ranjit Singh of Punjab, was born.
 - 1889 Freedom fighter Sharat Chandra Bose was born.
- ### 07 SEPTEMBER
- 1882 Bankim Chandra Chatterjee composed the national anthem "Vande Mataram" in Kantal Pada village in Bengal. Vande Mataram became the national slogan in the Bang Bhang movement.
 - 1963 Ashok Chakra winner Indian Airhostess (Air Hostess) Neerja Bhanot was born.
 - 1906 Bank of India was established.

1965 China announced that it would strengthen its troops stationed on the Indian border.

2008 NSG under Indo-US nuclear agreement 45 members of the India gave exemption from the international fraternity to nuclear trade.



2009 Pankaj Advani of India won the World Professional Billiards Championship.

2011 A 4.2 magnitude earthquake lasting 6.2 seconds on the Richter scale occurred at 11:24 pm in Delhi, whose center was located in Sonipat, Haryana.

2011 11 people were killed and 74 were injured when a bomb exploded in a suitcase near Gate No-5 of Delhi High Court premises.

1887 Sanskrit scholar and great philosopher Gopinath Kaviraj was born on 7 September

1917 Indian medical scientist and family planning specialist Bano Jahangir Koyaji was born on 7 September.

2055 An investigation report of the Oil-for-Food Program was presented.

2008 Astronomers were able to see clearly inside the giant blackhole in the middle of our sky Ganges.

08 SEPTEMBER

- 1926 Bhupendra Hazarika was born.
- 1933 Asha Bhosle, who has sung more than 12 thousand songs in 20 languages, was born today.
- 1320 Ghazi Malik (Gaiasudin Tughlaq) became the Sultan of Delhi.
- 1962 China infiltrated India's eastern border.
- 1965 India opened 2 additional fronts against Pakistan.
- 1966 UNESCO celebrated World Literacy Day for the first time by the United Nations Department of Education and Cultural.
- 2006 Serial blasts took place in Malegaon, Maharashtra, in which around 37 people were killed and more than 100 people were injured.
- 1966 To make people aware of education, UNESCO started celebrating "Literacy Day".
- 1967 For the first time since independence, the party which was running the government at the Center faced defeat in the Lok Sabha elections.
- 2000 Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee slammed Pakistan during a speech in Hindi during the United Nations Peace Summit.
- 2008 The Supreme Court granted bail to the main accused and share broker Ketan Parikh and other accused in the Canfin Mutual Fund scam case.

09 SEPTEMBER

- 2012 The Indian Space Agency placed the heaviest foreign satellite in orbit.
- 1974 Captain Vikram Batra, who was martyred in Kargil war, was born on 9 September. He was posthumously awarded the Param Vir Chakra.
- 1949 Hindi was adopted as the national language in

India.

1915 The struggle between the famous Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Sanyal and the British at Kaptewara in Orissa.

1920 Aligarh's Oriental College was converted into Aligarh Muslim University.

1999 Mahesh Bhupathi of India and Arch Sugiyama of Japan won the mixed doubles title of US Open.

2009 Ministry of Railways announced to introduce biometric identification system for its employees on the lines of Ministry of Home Affairs

1907 Director Mahbub Khan, the leading producer of Indian cinema history, was born.

10 September

1966 Indian Parliament approved the creation of the state of Punjab and Haryana.

1887 Govind Vallabh Pant, the famous freedom fighter of India and the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, was born at a place called Khot in Almora district.

1915 Revolutionary Jatindra Nath Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin died in a hospital in Balasore.

1976 Indian Airlines Boeing 737 aircraft hijacked from Lahore.

1923 Popular Bengal novelist Sukumar Rai died.

1935 Establishment of Doon School.

1966 The Parliament approved the formation of Punjab and Haryana.

1996 Approved by 158 votes in the United Nations General Assembly Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty 3, three countries including India opposed the treaty.

2009 Jet Airways management and its pilots agreed to a comprehensive agreement.

1892 Nationalist, Hindi Savvy and Aryasamaji Bhavani Dayal Sanyasi was born on 10 September.

1915 Indian revolutionary Jatindranath Mukherjee died on 10 September

11 SEPTEMBER

1895 Birth of freedom fighter fighter, social activist and famous Gandhian leader Vinoba Bhave.

1906 Mahatma Gandhi named the first non-violence movement in South Africa as 'Satyagraha'.

1965 During the Indo-Pakistan War, the Indian Army captured the city of Burki near South East Lahore.



2006 Eminent Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen demanded Indian citizenship.

1911 Birth of cricketer Lala Amarnath, who scored India's first century in international cricket.

2009 Moninder Singh Pandher, an accused in the Nithari case, was acquitted by the High Court of Allahabad in one of the 19 cases in the Ripa Haldar case. The Supreme Court stayed the construction of the Kanshi Ram memorial site.

1906 Mahatma Gandhi started the coinage Satyagraha to mark the non-violence movement in South Africa.



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SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 - THE DAY THAT CHANGED AMERICA FOREVER

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the United States experienced the deadliest terrorist attack in its history, an event that not only claimed thousands of lives but also altered the nation's sense of security and reshaped global politics. What began as an ordinary Tuesday morning ended as a defining moment of the 21st century.

■ At 8:46 a.m. Eastern Time, American Airlines Flight 11 slammed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Seventeen minutes later, at 9:03 a.m., United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower. Millions watched live as both skyscrapers burned before collapsing in a matter of hours.

■ At 9:37 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, tearing a massive hole into the U.S. Department of Defense headquarters. A fourth plane, United Airlines Flight 93, believed to be headed toward either the White House or the U.S. Capitol, never reached its target. Passengers fought back against the hijackers, forcing the aircraft to crash into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 a.m.

September 11 attacks, series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks committed in 2001 by 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda against targets in the United States, the deadliest terrorist attacks on American soil in U.S. history. The attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C., caused extensive death and destruction and triggered an enormous U.S. effort to combat terrorism. Some 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed into the ground after the passengers attempted to retake the plane); all 19 terrorists died. Police and fire departments in New York were especially hard-hit: hundreds rushed to the scene of the attacks, and more than 400 police officers and firefighters were killed.

The plot

Flight paths on September 11, 2001: The routes of the four U.S. planes hijacked during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

The September 11 attacks were precipitated in large part because Osama bin Laden, the leader of the militant Islamic organization al-Qaeda, held naive beliefs about the United States in the run-up to the attacks.

Abu Walid al-Masri, an Egyptian who was a bin Laden associate in Afghanistan in the 1980s and '90s, explained that, in the years prior to the attacks, bin Laden became increasingly convinced that America was weak. "He believed that the United States was much weaker than some of those around him thought," Masri remembered, and "as evidence he



referred to what happened to the United States in Beirut when the bombing of the Marines base led them to flee from Lebanon," referring to the destruction of the marine barracks there in 1983, which killed 241 American servicemen. Bin Laden believed that the United States was a "paper tiger," a belief shaped not just by America's departure from Lebanon following the marine barracks bombing but also by the withdrawal of American forces from Somalia in 1993, following the deaths of 18 U.S. servicemen in Mogadishu, and the American pullout from Vietnam in the 1970s.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

The key operational planner of the September 11 attacks was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (often referred to simply as "KSM" in the later 9/11 Commission Report and in the media), who had spent his youth in Kuwait. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed became active in the Muslim Brotherhood, which he joined at age 16, and then went to the United States to attend college, receiving a degree from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1986.

Afterward he traveled to Pakistan and then Afghanistan to wage jihad against the Soviet Union, which had launched an invasion against Afghanistan in 1979.

According to Yosri Fouda, a journalist at the Arabic-language cable television channel Al Jazeera who interviewed him in 2002, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed planned to blow up some dozen American planes in Asia during the mid-1990s, a plot (known as "Bojinka") that failed, "but the dream of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed never faded. And I think by putting his hand in the hands of bin Laden, he realized that now he stood a chance of bringing about his long awaited dream."

In 1996 Khalid Sheikh Mohammed met bin Laden in Tora Bora, Afghanistan. The 9-11 Commission (formally the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States), set up in 2002 by U.S. Pres. George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress to investigate the attacks of 2001, explained that it was then that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed "presented a proposal for an operation that would involve training pilots who would crash planes into buildings in the United States." Khalid Sheikh Mohammed

dreamed up the tactical innovation of using hijacked planes to attack the United States, al-Qaeda provided the personnel, money, and logistical support to execute the operation, and bin Laden wove the attacks on New York and Washington into a larger strategic framework of attacking the "far enemy"—the United States—in order to bring about regime change across the Middle East.

The September 11 plot demonstrated that al-Qaeda was an organization of global reach. The plot played out across the globe with planning meetings in Malaysia, operatives taking flight lessons in the United States, coordination by plot leaders based in Hamburg, Germany, money transfers from Dubai, and recruitment of suicide operatives from countries around the Middle East—all activities that were ultimately overseen by al-Qaeda's leaders in Afghanistan.

Key parts of the September 11 plot took shape in Hamburg. Four of the key pilots and planners in the "Hamburg cell" who would take operational control of the September 11 attacks, including the lead hijacker Mohammed Atta, had a chance meeting on a train in Germany in 1999 with an Islamist militant who struck up a conversation with them about fighting jihad in the Russian republic of Chechnya. The militant put the Hamburg cell in touch with an al-Qaeda operative living in Germany who explained that it was difficult to get to Chechnya at that time, because many travelers were being detained in Georgia. He recommended they go to Afghanistan instead.

Although Afghanistan was critical to the rise of al-Qaeda, it was the experience that some of the plotters acquired in the West that made them simultaneously more zealous and better equipped to carry out the attacks. Three of the four plotters who would pilot the hijacked planes on September 11 and one of the key planners, Ramzi Binalshibh, became more radical while living in Hamburg. Some combination of perceived or real discrimination, alienation, and homesickness seems to have turned them all in a more militant direction. Increasingly cutting themselves off from the outside world, they gradually radicalized each other, and eventually the friends decided to wage battle in bin Laden's global jihad, setting off for Afghanistan in 1999 in search of al-Qaeda.

Atta and the other members of the Hamburg group arrived in Afghanistan in 1999 right at the moment that the September 11 plot was beginning to take shape. Bin Laden and his military commander Muhammad Atef realized that Atta and his fellow Western-educated

jihadists were far better suited to lead the attacks on Washington and New York than the men they had already recruited, leading bin Laden to appoint Atta to head the operation.

The hijackers, most of whom were from Saudi Arabia, established themselves in the United States, many well in advance of the attacks. They traveled in small groups, and some of them received commercial flight training.

Throughout his stay in the United States, Atta kept Binalshibh updated on the plot's progress via e-mail. To cloak his activities, Atta wrote the messages as if he were writing to his girlfriend "Jenny," using innocuous code to inform Binalshibh that they were almost complete in their training and readiness for the attacks. Atta wrote in one message, "The first semester commences in three weeks...Nineteen certificates for private education and four exams." The referenced 19 "certificates" were code that identified the 19 al-Qaeda hijackers, while the four "exams" identified the targets of the attacks.

In the early morning of August 29, 2001, Atta called Binalshibh and said he had a riddle that he was trying to solve: "Two sticks, a dash and a cake with a stick down—what is it?" After considering the question, Binalshibh realized that Atta was telling him that the attacks would occur in two weeks—the two sticks being the number 11 and the cake with a stick down a 9. Putting it together, it meant that the attacks would occur on 11-9, or 11 September (in most countries the day precedes the month in numeric dates, but in the United States the month precedes the day; hence, it was 9-11 in the United States). On September 5 Binalshibh left Germany for Pakistan. Once there he sent a messenger to Afghanistan to inform bin Laden about both the day of the attack and its scope.

The attacks

On September 11, 2001, groups of attackers boarded four domestic aircraft at three East Coast airports, and soon after takeoff they disabled the crews, some of whom may have been stabbed with box cutters the hijackers were secreting. The hijackers then took control of the aircraft, all large and bound for the West Coast with full loads of fuel. At 8:46 AM the first plane, American Airlines flight 11, which had originated from Boston, was piloted into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. Most observers construed this initially to be an accident involving a small commuter plane. The second plane, United Airlines flight 175, also from Boston, struck the south tower 17 minutes later. At this point there was no doubt that the United States was under attack. Each structure was badly damaged by the impact and erupted into flames. Office workers who were trapped above the points of impact in some cases leapt to their deaths rather than face the infernos now raging inside the towers. The third plane, American Airlines flight 77, taking off from Dulles Airport near Washington, D.C., struck the southwest side of the Pentagon (just outside the city) at 9:37 AM, touching off a fire in that section of the structure. Minutes later the Federal



Aviation Authority ordered a nationwide ground stop, and within the next hour (at 10:03 AM) the fourth aircraft, United Airlines flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey, crashed near Shanksville in the Pennsylvania countryside after its passengers—informed of events via cellular phone—attempted to overpower their assailants.

At 9:59 AM the World Trade Center's heavily damaged south tower collapsed, and the north tower fell 29 minutes later. Clouds of smoke and debris quickly filled the streets of Lower Manhattan. Office workers and residents ran in panic as they tried to outpace the billowing debris clouds. A number of other buildings adjacent to the twin towers suffered serious damage, and several subsequently fell. Fires at the World Trade Center site smoldered for more than three months.

Rescue operations began almost immediately as the country and the world sought to come to grips with the enormity of the losses. Nearly 3,000 people had perished: some 2,750 people in New York, 184 at the Pentagon, and 40 in Pennsylvania; all 19 terrorists also died. Included in the total in New York City were more than 400 police officers and firefighters, who lost their lives after rushing to the scene and into the towers.

On the morning of September 11, President Bush had been visiting a second-grade classroom in Sarasota, Florida, when he was informed that a plane had flown into the World Trade Center. A little later Andrew Card, his chief of staff, whispered in the president's right ear: "A second plane hit the second tower. America is under attack." To keep the president out of harm's way, Bush subsequently hopped across the country on Air Force One, landing in Washington, D.C., the evening of the attacks. At 8:30 PM Bush addressed the nation from the Oval Office in a speech that laid out a key doctrine of his administration's future



foreign policy: "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

On September 14 Bush visited "Ground Zero," the smoking pile of debris of what remained of the World Trade Center and the thousands who had perished there. Standing on top of a wrecked fire truck, Bush grabbed a bullhorn to address the rescue workers working feverishly to find any survivors. When one of the workers said that he could not hear what the president was saying, Bush made one of the most memorable remarks of his presidency:

Bush's robust response to the attacks drove his poll ratings from 55 percent favourable before September 11 to 90

percent in the days after, the highest ever recorded for a president.

Bush's robust response to the attacks drove his poll ratings from 55 percent favourable before September 11 to 90 percent in the days after, the highest ever recorded for a president.

The aftermath

The emotional distress caused by the attacks—particularly the collapse of the twin towers, New York City's most visible landmark—was overwhelming. Unlike the relatively isolated site of the Pearl Harbor attack of 1941, to which the September 11 events were soon compared, the World Trade Center lay at the heart of one of the world's largest cities. Hundreds of thousands of people witnessed the attacks

firsthand (many onlookers photographed events or recorded them with video cameras), and millions watched the tragedy unfold live on television. In the days that followed September 11, the footage of the attacks was replayed in the media countless times, as were the scenes of throngs of people, stricken with grief, gathering at "Ground Zero"—as the site where the towers once stood came to be commonly known—some with photos of missing loved ones, seeking some hint of their fate.

Moreover, world markets were badly shaken. The towers were at the heart of New York's financial district, and damage to Lower Manhattan's infrastructure, combined with fears of stock market panic, kept New York markets closed for four trading days. Markets afterward suffered record losses. The attacks also stranded tens of thousands of people throughout the United States, as U.S. airspace remained closed for commercial aviation until September 13, and normal service, with more rigid security measures, did not resume for several days.

The September 11 attacks were an enormous tactical success for al-Qaeda. The strikes were well coordinated and hit multiple targets in the heart of the enemy, and the attacks were magnified by being broadcast around the world to an audience of untold millions. The September 11 "propaganda of the deed" took place in the media capital of the world, which ensured the widest possible coverage of the event. Not since television viewers had watched the abduction and murder of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympics in 1972 had a massive global audience witnessed a terrorist attack unfold in real time. If al-Qaeda had been a largely unknown organization before September 11, in the days after it became a household name.

After the attacks of September 11, countries allied with the United States rallied to its support, perhaps best symbolized by the French newspaper *Le Monde's* headline, "We are all Americans now." Even in Iran thousands gathered in the capital, Tehran, for a candlelight vigil.

Evidence gathered by the United States soon convinced most governments that the Islamic militant group al-Qaeda was responsible for the attacks. The group had been implicated in previous terrorist strikes against Americans, and bin Laden had made numerous anti-American statements. Al-Qaeda was headquartered in Afghanistan and had forged a close relationship with that country's ruling Taliban militia, which subsequently refused U.S. demands to extradite bin Laden and to terminate al-Qaeda activity there.

For the first time in its history, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) invoked Article 5, allowing its members to respond collectively in self-defense, and on October 7 the U.S. and allied military forces launched an attack against Afghanistan (see Afghanistan War). Within months thousands of militants were killed or captured, and Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders were driven into hiding. In addition, the U.S. government exerted great effort to track down other al-Qaeda agents and



sympathizers throughout the world and made combating terrorism the focus of U.S. foreign policy. Meanwhile, security measures within the United States were tightened considerably at such places as airports, government buildings, and sports venues. To help facilitate the domestic response, Congress quickly passed the USA PATRIOT Act (the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001), which significantly but temporarily expanded the search and surveillance powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other law-enforcement agencies. Additionally, a cabinet-level Department of Homeland Security was established.

Despite their success in causing widespread destruction and death, the September 11 attacks were a strategic failure for al-Qaeda. Following September 11, al-Qaeda—whose name in Arabic means "the base"—lost the best base it ever had in Afghanistan. Later some in al-Qaeda's leadership—including those who, like Egyptian Saif al-Adel, had initially opposed the attacks—tried to spin the Western intervention in Afghanistan as a victory for al-Qaeda. Al-Adel, one of the group's military commanders, explained in an interview four years later that the strikes on New York and Washington were part of a far-reaching and visionary plan to provoke the United States into some ill-advised actions:

Such strikes will force the person to carry out random acts and provoke him to make serious and sometimes fatal mistakes....The first reaction was the invasion of Afghanistan.

But there is not a shred of evidence that in the weeks before September 11 al-Qaeda's leaders made any plans for an American invasion of Afghanistan. Instead, they prepared only for possible U.S. cruise missile attacks or air strikes by evacuating their training camps. Also, the overthrow of the Taliban hardly constituted an American "mistake"—the first and only regime in the modern Muslim world that ruled according to al-Qaeda's rigid precepts was toppled, and with it was lost an entire country that al-Qaeda had once enjoyed as a safe haven. And in the wake of the fall of the Taliban, al-Qaeda was unable to recover anything like the status it once had as a terrorist organization with considerable sway over Afghanistan.

Bin Laden disastrously misjudged the possible U.S. responses to the September 11 attacks, which he believed would take one of two forms: an eventual retreat from the Middle East along the lines of the U.S. pullout from Somalia in 1993 or another ineffectual round of cruise missile attacks similar to those that followed al-Qaeda's bombings of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. Neither of these two scenarios happened. The U.S. campaign against the Taliban was conducted with pinpoint strikes from American airpower; tens of thousands of Northern Alliance forces (a loose coalition of mujahideen militias that maintained control of a small section of northern Afghanistan), and more than 300 U.S. Special Forces soldiers on the ground working with 110 officers from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). In November, just two months after the September 11 attacks,

the Taliban fell to the Northern Alliance and the United States. Still, it was just the beginning of what would become the longest war in U.S. history, as the United States tried to prevent the return of the Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies.

In December 2001, faced with the problem of where to house prisoners as the Taliban fell, the administration decided to hold them at Guantánamo Bay, which the U.S. had been leasing from Cuba since 1903. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld put it on December 27, 2001, "I would characterize Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, as the least worst place we could have selected." Guantánamo was attractive to administration officials because they believed it placed the detainees outside the reach of American laws, such as the right to appeal their imprisonment, yet it was only 90 miles (145 km) off the coast of Florida, making it accessible to the various agencies that would need to travel there to extract information from what was believed to be a population of hundreds of dangerous terrorists. Eventually, some 800 prisoners would be held there, although the prison population was reduced to less than 175 by the time of the 10th anniversary of the September 11 attacks.

In his State of the Union speech on January 29, 2002, President Bush laid out a new doctrine of preemptive war, which went well beyond the long-established principle that the United States would go to war to prevent an adversary launching an attack that imminently threatened the country. Bush declared:

I will not wait on events while dangers gather. I will not stand by as peril draws closer and closer. The United States of America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons.

Bush identified those dangerous regimes as an "axis of evil" that included Iran, Iraq, and North Korea. At the graduation ceremony for West Point cadets on June 1, 2002, Bush elaborated on his preemptive war doctrine, saying to the assembled soon-to-be graduates and their families, "If we wait for threats to fully materialize, we will have waited too long." Bush believed that there would be a "demonstration effect" in destroying Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq that would deter groups like al-Qaeda or indeed anyone else who might be inclined to attack the United States. Undersecretary of Defense Douglas J. Feith later explained,

What we did after 9/11 was look broadly at the international terrorist network from which the next attack on the United States might come. And we did not focus narrowly only on the people who were specifically responsible for 9/11. Our main goal was preventing the next attack.

Thus, though there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein's government in Iraq had collaborated with al-Qaeda in the September 11 attacks, the United States prepared for conflict against Iraq in its global war against terror, broadly defined.

On March 19, 2003, on the eve of the invasion of Iraq, President Bush issued the order for war:

For the peace of the world and the benefit and freedom of the Iraqi people, I

hereby give the order to execute Operation Iraqi Freedom. May God bless the troops.

On March 20 the American-led invasion of Iraq began. Within three weeks U.S. forces controlled Baghdad, and the famous pictures of the massive statue of Saddam Hussein being toppled from its plinth were broadcast around the world.

The September 11 commission and its findings

In 2002 President Bush had appointed a commission to look into the September 11 attacks, and two years later it issued its final report. The commission found that the key pre-September 11 failure at the CIA was its not adding to the State Department's "watch list" two of the "muscle" hijackers (who were trained to restrain the passengers on the plane), the suspected al-Qaeda militants Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar. The CIA had been tracking Hazmi and Mihdhar since they attended a terrorist summit meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on January 5, 2000. The failure to watch-list the two al-Qaeda suspects with the Department of State meant that they entered the United States under their real names with ease. On January 15, 2000, 10 days after the Malaysian meeting, Hazmi and Mihdhar flew into Los Angeles. The CIA also did not alert the FBI about the identities of the suspected terrorists, which could have helped the bureau locate them once they were inside the United States. According to the commission, this was the failure of not just a few employees at the CIA but a large number of CIA officers and analysts. Some 50 to 60 CIA employees read cables about the two al-Qaeda suspects without taking any action. Some of those officers knew that one of the al-Qaeda suspects had a visa for the United States, and by May 2001 some knew that the other suspect had flown to Los Angeles.

The soon-to-be hijackers would not have been difficult to find in California if their names had been known to law enforcement. Under their real names they rented an apartment, obtained driver's licenses, opened bank accounts, purchased a car, and took flight lessons at a local school; Mihdhar even listed his name in the local phone directory.

It was only on August 24, 2001, as a result of questions raised by a CIA officer on assignment at the FBI, that the two al-Qaeda suspects were watch-listed and their names communicated to the FBI. Even then the FBI sent out only a "Routine" notice requesting an investigation of Mihdhar. A few weeks later Hazmi and Mihdhar were two of the hijackers on the American Airlines flight that plunged into the Pentagon.

The CIA inspector general concluded that "informing the FBI and good operational follow-through by CIA and FBI might have resulted in surveillance of both al-Mihdhar and al-Hazmi. Surveillance, in turn, would have had the potential to yield information on flight training, financing, and links to others who were complicit in the 9/11 attacks."

The key failure at the FBI was the handling of the Zacarias Moussaoui case. Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, was attending flight school in the



summer of 2001 in Minnesota, where he attracted attention from instructors because he had little knowledge of flying and did not behave like a typical aviation student. The flight school contacted the FBI, and on August 16 Moussaoui was arrested on a visa overstay charge. Although Moussaoui was not the "20th hijacker," as was widely reported later, he had received money from one of the September 11 coordinators, Ramzi Binalshibh, and by his own account was going to take part in a second wave of al-Qaeda attacks following the assaults on New York and Washington.

The FBI agent in Minneapolis who handled Moussaoui's case believed that he might have been planning to hijack a plane, and the agent was also concerned that Moussaoui had traveled to Pakistan, which was a red flag as militants often used the country as a transit point to travel to terrorist training camps in Afghanistan. On August 23 (or 24, according to some reports) CIA director George Tenet was told about the case in a briefing titled "Islamic Extremist Learns to Fly." But FBI headquarters determined that there was not sufficient "probable cause" of a crime for the Minneapolis office to conduct a search of Moussaoui's computer hard drive and belongings. Such a search would have turned up his connection to Binalshibh, according to Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, a leading member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which has oversight of the FBI. The 9-11 Commission also concluded that "a maximum U.S. effort to investigate Moussaoui conceivably could have unearthed his connection to Binalshibh."

The hunt for bin Laden

In September 2001 President Bush announced that he wanted Osama bin Laden captured—dead or alive—and a \$25 million bounty was eventually issued for information leading to the killing or capture of bin Laden. Bin Laden evaded capture, however, including in December 2001, when he was tracked by U.S. forces to the mountains of Tora Bora in eastern Afghanistan. Bin Laden's trail

A DEFINING TRAGEDY IN MODERN HISTORY

The Attackers and Their Motives

The 19 hijackers were mostly young men from Saudi Arabia, along with others from Egypt, the UAE, and Lebanon. They were handpicked and trained by al-Qaeda, which had declared a holy war against the United States.

Their motives were rooted in:

- Religious Extremism: Al-Qaeda's ideology framed America as the "Great Satan" that corrupted the Islamic world.
- Political Grievances: Anger at U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia (home to Islam's holiest sites), U.S. support for Israel, and American interventions in the Middle East.
- Symbolic Targeting: The Twin Towers represented economic power, the Pentagon military might, and the Capitol/White House political dominance.
- Osama bin Laden believed a spectacular attack on U.S. soil would draw global attention, provoke America into wars in the Muslim world, and inspire jihadists worldwide.

Casualties and Damage

The destruction was unprecedented in scale:

- Nearly 3,000 people killed (2,977 victims excluding hijackers).
- 2,753 in New York (World Trade Center).
- 184 at the Pentagon.
- 40 passengers and crew aboard Flight 93.
- Victims came from over 90 countries,

making it a global tragedy.

- Over 6,000 injured, with thousands more developing long-term illnesses (respiratory issues, cancers) from toxic dust exposure at Ground Zero.

Property and financial damage:

- The Twin Towers and surrounding World Trade Center complex were completely destroyed.
- Damage to the Pentagon's western façade was severe.
- Estimated economic cost: \ \$100 billion+ in property/infrastructure damage, and over \ \$2 trillion in subsequent wars, security measures, and economic fallout.
- Stock markets plunged; the airline industry nearly collapsed.

The American Psyche: Trauma and Transformation

The attacks profoundly altered the American mind and national identity.

- Shock and Vulnerability: For the first time since Pearl Harbor (1941), the U.S. homeland had been attacked on such a scale. Many Americans felt their sense of safety shattered.
- Grief and Patriotism: Vigils, memorials, and flags across neighborhoods reflected unity, grief, and determination.
- Fear and Anxiety: Air travel became synonymous with dread; skyscrapers and crowded places felt unsafe.



NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT CELEBRATES NYC'S THEATRE AND LIVE PERFORMANCE COMMUNITY

BY MABEL PAIS

The NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME) (nyc.gov/site/mome/index.page) will host the first-ever 'Made in NY' Awards (nyc.gov/site/mome/about/made-in-ny-awards.page) Ceremony that will be dedicated completely to celebrating New York City's vibrant theatre and live performance community. Mayor Eric Adams and MOME Commissioner Pat Swinney Kaufman will host the invite-only ceremony at Gracie Mansion on Monday, September 15, 2025, 5PM – 7PM.

The exclusive industry gathering will celebrate artists, administrators and community leaders from the worlds of theatre, dance, & live performance from Broadway, Off-Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, concert halls, community centers and all the NYC venues that serve to produce and incubate fresh new talent across the five boroughs. This celebration will shine a light on the entire industry, from recent Tony Award winning productions that attract global audiences to visit, work and live in NYC, to the smaller stages and companies that serve as necessary training grounds and platforms for diverse storytelling. Stay tuned for the announcement of Honorees.

"This 'Made in NY' Awards ceremony, which is dedicated exclusively to the city's Theatre and Live Performance Community, will gather together creatives across our vast ecosystem of talent - from the musicians in the orchestra pits of Broadway to the local dance theatres throughout the five boroughs - for a special night of celebration and thanks," said Pat Swinney Kaufman, Commissioner of the NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. "This event is a moment for our administration to acknowledge a community that has continued to cultivate diversity and inclusion, and inspire audiences from around the world, while driving business and tourism year upon year."

Created in 2006 by MOME, the 'Made in NY' awards



(left to right) NYC Mayor Eric Adams, Awardees Michelle Buteau and Tracy Morgan. Credit: Courtesy, nyc.gov

shine a light on excellence in New York City's creative community, recognizing the achievements of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the City's entertainment and digital media industries. The specific theatre focused event comes on the heels of the first 'Made in NY' Awards Ceremony in ten years, which celebrated the film & TV industry in June. The upcoming event, which will honor four individuals and/or groups, will bring the grand total of 'Made in NY' Awards presented throughout its existence to 82, including Joe Benincasa, Danielle Brooks, Alan Cumming, Neil Patrick Harris, John Leguizamo, Audra McDonald, Patina Miller, Lin-Manuel Miranda and The New Victory Theatre.

Mayor Adams, the Mayor's Office of Media and

Entertainment and other members of the administration have collaborated on many new initiatives to support the city's theatre and live performance industry and open doors for New Yorkers to jobs in this sector, including; convening of the first-ever (Live Performance Industry Council (nyc.gov/site/mome/news/09182023-live-performance-industry-council.page), which gathers leaders in live performance and government to address challenges and drive inclusive growth in the sector; partnership for the Seats on the Spectrum (seatsonthespectrum.org) accessibility initiative, meant to make mainstream theatre performances welcoming to audience members on the autism spectrum; and support for the Broadway Musicians Equity Partnership (broadwaymusiciansep.org/bmep-announces-inaugural), which aims to provide access and learning opportunities for musicians who have historically been underrepresented on Broadway and help them learn about playing in the musical theatre industry.

For more information on the Made in NY Awards, visit (nyc.gov/site/mome/about/made-in-ny-awards.page).

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT (MOME)

The Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment's mission is to support and strengthen New York City's creative economy and make it accessible to all. Including film/TV, music, theatre/live performance, digital games and publishing, the creative industries account for roughly 440,000 local jobs and have an economic impact of over \$150 billion annually. MOME comprises four divisions: The Film Office, which coordinates on location production throughout the five boroughs; NYC Media, the City's official broadcast network and production group; the Press Credentials Office, which issues press cards; and Creative Sector Programs to advance industry and workforce development across NYC's creative sectors.

ALLING NEWARK TEENS TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORDS AND IDEAS AT A DODGE POETRY WORKSHOP

BY MABEL PAIS

Everyone's voice is different. Dodge Poetry organizers want to hear yours.

This fall, come together with other teens (ages 13 to 18) from across Newark at a Dodge Poetry workshop designed to showcase your words and ideas. Poets from the community, like Newark's first-ever poet laureate, Mia X, (newarknj.gov/news/city-of-newark-appoints-margie-mia-x-johnson-as-inaugural-poet-laureate) and students from the Rutgers-Newark MFA program in Poetry (sas.n.rutgers.edu/mfa), will be on hand to offer prompts, suggestions and ideas.

FOCUS

But the focus is on YOU: What frustrates you? Where do you find joy? What does this city and this country look like from your unique, powerful perspective?

Poetry can be found not only in books, but also in hip hop, at protests and parties, in the clip of a song playing from the window of a passing car. Poetry is an oral tradition, especially in Newark. (Even Newark's mayor is a spoken word artist; this is what Dodge Poetry does!)

So be a part of the conversation. Join Dodge Poetry to write your own verses, and then (if you choose) speak them out loud at the open mic that ends every session.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE :

Workshops are FREE and will be held in person on



Dodge Poets.

Credit: Courtesy, njpac.org.

the first Wednesday of the month (at locations in every ward in Newark; see below for details) and virtually on the third Wednesday of the month, beginning September 17, 2025.

RSVP

RSVP to the workshop that suits you:

IN-PERSON:

10/01/25 @ 5:30PM | Meet at MENTOR Newark (60 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102 - mpb60.com - 973 623 3300)

11/05/25 @ 5:30PM | Meet at Branch Brook Park Welcome Center (Branch Brook Park Drive, Newark, NJ - exxescountynj.org - 973 268 3500.

12/03/25 @ 6:00PM | Meet at Express Newark (54 Halsey Street, Newark, 07102)

VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS ON ZOOM:

09/17/25 @ 5:30PM | RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc1lNYqfccz-m2ymCvUmcjo3yftunNpXbMG4LA

10/15/25 @ 5:30PM | RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc1lNYqfccz-m2ymUoMGmudPhbLCbPw_tg6bIA

11/19/25 @ 5:30PM | RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc1lNYqfccz-m2ymhHUnHqxXuklca3VJ_57vGQ

12/17/25 @ 5:30PM | RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc1lNYqfccz-m2ymWQvylgF7KBrNXND1E0vwNQ

Snacks will be provided at in-person workshops. (Art-making is hard work!) If you participate, either virtually or in person, you'll have the chance to publish your work in Dodge Poetry's annual anthology and may be considered for the role of 'Dodge Teen Poetry Ambassador' (a paid position) next season.

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

SETON HALL UNIV ONCE AGAIN RECOGNIZED AMONG TOP COLLEGES IN AMERICA BY PRINCETON REVIEW

BY MABEL PAIS

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY, once again is recognized as one of the Top Colleges in America, as featured in the 2026 edition of the Princeton Review in the education services company's annual college guide - 'The Best 391 Colleges' (shu.edu/news/recognized-as-top-college-by-princeton-review.html).

Monsignor Reilly, S.T.L. (Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatu - Licentiate in Sacred Theology), president of Seton Hall said, "It is gratifying that Seton Hall has been recognized as a place where students are supported and support each other. We work continually to ensure all students are seen, respected and encouraged to grow into the people God created them to be. As a result, they have the confidence to engage with the world and each other in meaningful ways every day."

The University received national recognition across multiple areas. The accolades include

- No. 1 Best Student Support and Counseling Services
- No. 1 Best College Radio Station
- No. 14 Most Active Student Government
- No. 14 Students Love Their School Teams
- No. 15 Lots of Race/Class Interaction

YES! Ranked number 1 in the entire nation for best student support and counseling services and best college radio station!

Earning a spot in The Princeton Review's 'Best Colleges' guide (princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-colleges) places Seton Hall in an elite group of colleges and universities; fewer than 15 percent of all four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. are selected for this list. The Princeton Review rankings are based on surveys of 170,000 students who are asked about their school's academics, administration, student body, extracurriculars and themselves.

According to surveys done by The Princeton Review (princetonreview.com/college-seton-hall-university-1062363?ceid=best-colleges#!students), students are "generally eager to collaborate and succeed both academically and personally." In this "very welcoming community" it's "very easy to build relationships and make connections with people outside your particular field of study," and there are "many opportunities for team building and making friends" for first-year students. As one student says, "There's never a time I'm on campus where I don't see a friendly face."

In addition to being named again to The Princeton Review's list of Top Colleges, Seton Hall University was ranked No. 1 for Best Student Support and Counseling Services (princetonreview.com/college-rankings/?rankings=best-student-support-counseling-services).

Student Support initiatives on campus include Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS),

Disability Support Services (shu.edu/disability-support-services) (DSS),

Great Minds Dare to Care (shu.edu/student-services/great-minds-dare-to-care),

Hazing Prevention (shu.edu/hazing-prevention). The University also offers peer-to-peer offerings relating to mental health, including Active Minds Chapter, Dare to Care Peer Educators and Know More Peer Educators, while Residence Life's professional and student staff routinely offer programming to students related to mental health and wellness.

"Through student support and counseling services, our goal is to help our students be successful. Providing resources beyond the classroom is critically important to student success both academically and personally," said Karen Van Norman, associate vice president and dean of students. "This reflects the dedication of so many individuals, and it assures our students that their expectations in this area are met."

"The University is a 'home for the mind, the heart and the spirit.' We ensure that every student, whether facing



Seton Hall University students on campus

Credit: shu.edu



President's Hall and Green.

Credit: shu.edu.

academic challenges, personal crossroads, or seeking meaningful engagement, receives compassionate and comprehensive support," added Monica Burnette, vice president of student services. "Being nationally ranked No. 1 for student support means that our students feel supported, heard, and empowered to thrive. It reinforces that at Seton Hall, we focus on student belonging and holistic student success by fostering a welcoming, inclusive and supportive campus community."

WSOU: BEST COLLEGE RADIO STATION IN THE NATION

The University's student-run radio station, WSOU 89.5 FM (wsou.net), also secured the No. 1 position in the "Best College Radio Station" (princetonreview.com/college-rankings?rankings=best-college-radio-station) category according to The Princeton Review. There are over 600 college radio stations in the United States, with WSOU ranked at the top.

The station, an integral part of Seton Hall since 1948, attracts over 120,000 listeners weekly from the NYC area, underscoring the university's broad impact. Among its many other accolades, WSOU has been inducted into the Rock Radio Hall of Fame and has won a Peabody Award as well as radio's most prestigious accolade, the Marconi Award — twice. The station has also been named one of the Top 5 Rock Radio Stations in the Country by Rolling Stone magazine and has won Best Sports Play-by-Play from the National Student Production Awards and Garden State Journalists Association. The station also won the prestigious New York Press Award for its 2021 election night coverage.

ADDITIONAL PRINCETON REVIEW ACCOLADES

Seton Hall's School of Law (law.shu.edu/news) was ranked as the No. 1 law school in the nation for students securing state or local clerkships after graduation. Rankings were based on school-reported data, including the percentage of J.D. graduates from the 2024

class who were employed in state and local clerkships. Many employers have expressed a strong preference for hiring first-year associates who have first completed a judicial clerkship because of the unique and valuable training experience it provides. To prioritize Seton Hall students receiving a post-graduate clerkship, the Office of Career Services actively participates in a task force led by the New Jersey Judiciary focused on streamlining the application process for students, while increasing the number of applications that the judges receive.

In addition, the Stillman School of Business (shu.edu/business) was recognized by The Princeton Review as a "Best Business School" and "Best Business School (Northeast)" as well as in the "Best Online M.B.A. Programs" category. These are based on data derived from The Princeton Review's surveys of administrators at 390 B-schools in 2025 and of 34,700 students enrolled in the schools' M.B.A. programs. With a unique emphasis on ethics and leading with purpose, Stillman offers online M.B.A.s in Accounting, Business Analytics, Finance and Marketing.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED SETON HALL FOR

Most Active Student Government (princetonreview.com/college-rankings/?rankings=most-active-student-government) (No. 14 of 391)

Students Love Their School Teams (princetonreview.com/college-rankings/?rankings=students-love-their-school-teams) (No. 14) and

Lots of Race/Class Interaction (princetonreview.com/college-rankings/?rankings=lots-race-class-interaction) (No. 15).

"At Seton Hall, an active Student Government Association (SGA) reflects a vibrant campus where student voices, leadership and civic engagement are encouraged and essential to our community," said Burnette. "A thriving SGA ensures students are central in shaping programs and campus culture. We aim to empower students to advocate, serve and lead in ways that deeply enrich our University."

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

One of the country's leading Catholic universities, Seton Hall has been inspiring great minds to greater purpose since 1856. Home to nearly 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than 90 rigorous majors, Seton Hall's academic excellence has been singled out for distinction by The Princeton Review, US News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek.

Seton Hall, which embraces students of all religions, prepares its graduates to be exemplary servant leaders and caring global citizens. Its attractive main campus is located in suburban South Orange, New Jersey, only 14 miles to New York City, offering a wealth of employment, internship, cultural and entertainment opportunities.

A new independent economic analysis of the University found that Seton Hall provides a significant impact on New Jersey's economy, totaling over \$1.6 billion annually and creating and sustaining nearly 10,000 jobs. The University's nationally recognized School of Law is prominently located in downtown Newark. The University's Interprofessional Health Sciences (IHS) campus in Clifton and Nutley, New Jersey, houses Seton Hall's College of Nursing, its School of Health and Medical Sciences as well as the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. Its outstanding faculty and values-centered curricula prepare students to grow into well-rounded professionals who lead with purpose by engaging the mind, heart and spirit. For more information, visit www.shu.edu.

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



Do You Wanna Partner trailer: Tamannaah, Diana run beer start-up in quirky dramedy

Actors Tamannaah Bhatia and Diana Penty have teamed up for their upcoming dramedy series 'Do You Wanna Partner'. The duo play friends who begin their own start-up by going against all odds.

The trailer of 'Do You Wanna Partner' kicks off with a foot-tapping beat, giving us a peek into the lives of best friends Shikha (Tamannaah Bhatia) and Anahita (Diana Penty), who take the plunge into the start-up world with one bold idea — launching their own craft beer brand. What follows is a funny, high-energy ride through beer barons, mobsters, and the kind of jugaad (a flexible approach to problem-solving that uses limited resources in an innovative way) they never dreamt of. The trailer shows the duo battling stereotypes while untangling themselves from a messy web amid their pursuit for a dream start-up.

While speaking about the show, Tamannaah said, "'Do You Wanna Partner' is one of the most layered, emotionally complex yet fun shows I've ever been a part of. What makes it truly special is how it celebrates female friendships and the spirit of sisterhood without turning it into a women-versus-men narrative."

"It's a story that celebrates friendship, hustle, and the courage to turn the craziest ideas into reality. For me, playing the role of Shikha and working with the incredible cast and crew has been a transformative experience. I'm thrilled to be back with Prime Video, and I can't wait for audiences across the world to join us on this wild, exciting and courageous ride," she added. The actor was last seen in the Telugu supernatural-thriller 'Odela 2'. Diana reflected on her on-screen chemistry with Tamannaah and said, "When I first came across the story of 'Do You Wanna Partner', what immediately drew me in was the authentic chemistry between the two female leads — something we so rarely get to see portrayed with such depth on screen. The show doesn't just explore the entrepreneurial journey, it also beautifully captures the magic of collaboration and female friendship, making it deeply relatable."

"Playing Anahita — a woman who pursues her dreams with resilience while standing by her best friend and navigating the many challenges of being an entrepreneur — has been both exciting and empowering," she added.

'Nothing objectionable': HC dismisses plea to stop release of Jolly LLB 3

In a big relief to Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi's upcoming movie Jolly LLB 3, the Allahabad High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking action against the song 'Bhai Vakeel Hai' from the movie and demanding a stay on its release for allegedly defaming the judiciary and legal profession.

A Division Bench of Justice Sangeeta Chandra and Justice Brij Raj Singh observed that they found 'nothing objectionable' in the song's lyrics or even in the film's trailer or teaser. "We did not find any objectionable matter to warrant interference by this Court. We have also gone through the lyrics of the song 'Bhai Vakeel Hai' and we do not find anything which may interfere in the practice of the legal profession by genuine Advocates," the court said.

Therefore, the court dismissed the plea without imposing any costs.

Jolly LLB 3 Faces Another Case In Pune

On August 20, a Pune court issued notices to Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi regarding their movie, Jolly LLB. These notices followed a complaint filed by lawyer Wajid Khan Bidkar, who claimed that the movie mocks the legal system and court proceedings.

objected to a scene in the film where judges are referred to as "mamu" (a colloquial slang word).

The court has asked Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi to appear before it on



September 28.

In May 2024, the film encountered legal issues again when Chandrabhan, the President of the Ajmer District Bar Association, lodged a complaint against the filmmakers. He claimed that the franchise disrespects the Indian judiciary system.

In his complaint, Chandrabhan asserted that the film portrays lawyers and judges in an "inappropriate" manner, which he described as "humorous and indecent." He also requested the court to halt the shooting of Jolly LLB 3. "This decision has been

taken considering the first and second parts of Jolly LLB. It seems that the filmmakers, directors and actors do not respect the dignity and prestige of the judiciary of the country's Constitution at all. The shooting of Jolly LLB 3 is going on in the surrounding villages and areas including the DRM office of Ajmer, which will continue for several days. Even during the shooting of this film, the actors of the film do not seem to be at all serious about the image, prestige and dignity of the judiciary including the judges," Chandrabhan had said as quoted by NBT.

Manish Malhotra's Bun Tikki, Saali Mohabbat selected for Chicago film festival

Manish Malhotra's upcoming productions 'Bun Tikki' and 'Saali Mohabbat' have been officially selected for the 16th Chicago South Asian Film Festival (CSAFF) 2025. Malhotra shared the news on social media as he unveiled the film posters. "It's a proud moment for us at @stage5production in collaboration with @officialjiostudios that our next two films are both showing at the @csaffestival," Malhotra wrote on Instagram. Directed by actor Tisca Chopra in her directorial debut, 'Saali Mohabbat' has been chosen as the Opening Night film at CSAFF 2025. A hard-hitting drama set against the backdrop of domestic violence and emotional betrayal, the film explores a woman's struggle to reclaim her voice on the blurred borders of rural and urban India.

Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Dinesh Malhotra, and Manish Malhotra, the film's cast includes Radhika Apte, Divyenndu, Sharat Saxena, Anshumaan Pushkar, Sauraseni Maitra, and Anurag Kashyap. Malhotra's second offering, 'Bun Tikki', is a soulful coming-of-age story that delves into themes of family, love, and personal identity. Directed by Faraz Arif Ansari, the film stars veteran actors Shabana Azmi and Zeenat Aman, alongside Abhay Deol, Nushrratt Bharuccha, and newcomer Rohaan Singh.



Wuthering Heights teaser: Margot Robbie, Jacob Elordi heat up Bronte adaptation

The first teaser for Emerald Fennell's adaptation of Emily Bronte's classic novel, 'Wuthering Heights', has been released, promising a provocative take on the beloved story. The film stars Australian actors Margot Robbie and Jacob Elordi as the iconic characters Catherine and Heathcliff. Fennell's project, which started a bidding war in 2024, has been described as an erotic interpretation that challenges traditional depictions of the story.

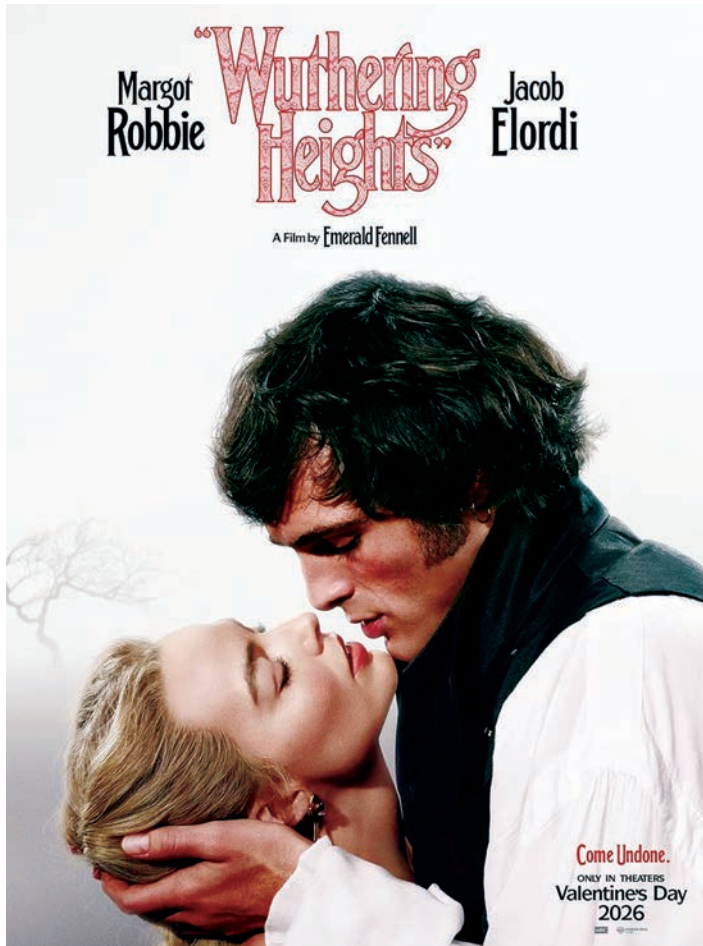
Fennell, known for her Oscar-winning screenplay for 'Promising Young Woman', brings a fresh and bold vision to the screen, with the first glimpse teasing audiences with its tagline, "drive me mad". The film includes a controversial scene during sexual intercourse, which stirred discussion among early viewers who described the film as "aggressively provocative and tonally abrasive."

Jacob Elordi, who gained recognition from the TV series 'Euphoria', expressed his admiration for the film's artistry in an interview earlier this year. "The performances from everyone - it's breathtaking," he stated, adding, "It's an incredible romance. It's a true epic. It's visually beautiful. The script is beautiful. The costumes are incredible."

The casting of Elordi as Heathcliff has been met with some backlash, given that the character is traditionally portrayed with dark skin. However, casting director Karmel Cochrane defended the decision, saying, "There was one Instagram comment that said the casting director should be shot," but she encouraged viewers to "just wait till you see it, and then you can decide whether you want to shoot me or not. But you really don't need to be accurate. It's just a book. That is not based on real life. It's all art."

The film, which will be released on Valentine's Day 2026, includes a supporting cast featuring Hong Chau, Martin Clunes, and Owen Cooper. The adaptation promises a visually stunning and emotional narrative, aiming to captivate modern audiences while staying true to the novel's themes.

This latest version adds to the numerous adaptations of 'Wuthering Heights', with previous versions including William Wyler's 1939 film and Andrea Arnold's 2011 adaptation. Fennell's take hopes to offer something new by



combining the classic romantic tragedy with contemporary cinematic flair.

Fennell's success with her previous films ensured this project gained significant attention, with Warner Bros securing the deal after a competitive bidding process. Despite its divisive nature, 'Wuthering Heights' is poised to attract both fans of the novel and new audiences seeking an innovative retelling.



Emma Stone goes bald in Yorgos' sci-fi dark comedy

Director Yorgos Lanthimos and actor Emma Stone have reunited for their latest project, a sci-fi black comedy titled 'Bugonia'. The official trailer, recently released by Focus Features, features Emma in a striking bald look. This marks her fourth collaboration with Lanthimos after 'The Favourite', 'Poor Things', and 'Kinds of Kindness'.

The trailer begins with Michelle Fuller, played by Stone, entering a building, intercut with snapshots of magazine covers she has posed for. Over this, her voice is heard saying, "I believe every company should strive to form a diverse table. To empower people of different skills" as Chappell Roan's hit track 'Good Luck, Babe!' plays in the background.

The two-minute clip then reveals the darker turn in Michelle's story - she is kidnapped by two men who suspect she is an alien plotting to destroy Earth. Locked away in an underground bunker, her head is forcibly shaved as she fights to outwit her captors.

Sharing the trailer on YouTube, Focus Features wrote, "BUGONIA. Watch the official trailer now. A Yorgos Lanthimos film, starring Emma Stone and Jesse Plemons. Only in theaters October 24 (sic)."

Alongside Stone, the film stars Jesse Plemons and Aidan Delbis as the kidnappers, with Alicia Silverstone and Stavros Halkias playing key roles. Both Stone and Lanthimos serve as co-producers, joined by Ed Guiney, Andrew Lowe, Ari Aster, Lars Knudsen, Miky Lee, and Jerry Kyoungboom Ko.

'Bugonia' premiered at the Venice Film Festival on August 28. It is set for a limited theatrical release on October 24, followed by a wide release on October 31.

Anne Hathaway scolds bickering paps on Devil Wears Prada 2 set



A new viral clip has captured Anne Hathaway winning hearts yet again, this time for her calm but firm exchange with paparazzi on the sets of her upcoming film 'Devil Wears Prada 2'.

In the video, shared by People, Hathaway is seen addressing the photographers who were bickering near the set. With her trademark poise, she reminded them of the young actors present, urging them to keep the atmosphere respectful.

"You guys have got to relax. There are children on set today. Does everyone know that there are children on set? Everyone's going to relax. We are going to have a very nice evening because we have children here. Thank you," Hathaway can be heard saying in the clip. Fans flooded social media with praise for her grace under

pressure, calling her "classy" and even reviving her royal moniker, "Princess of Genovia" - a nod to her breakout role in 'The Princess Diaries'.

This isn't the first time Hathaway has gone viral in recent weeks. A video of her tripping on a staircase in New York had made the rounds earlier, though the actor brushed it off with humour. Posting a witty response, she wrote: "Twenty years later, still falling for you" - a cheeky reference to her decades-long connection with fans.

'Devil Wears Prada 2', one of the most anticipated sequels in recent memory, will reunite the iconic original cast. Meryl Streep returns as the formidable Miranda Priestly, while Hathaway and Emily Blunt reprise their roles, taking forward the story of the beloved 2006 hit.



Putin chides Trump for pressuring India, China

Russian President Vladimir Putin has reprimanded his US counterpart Donald Trump for attempting to exert colonial-era pressure tactics on leaders of “powerful economies” like India and China, saying that is not the way to deal with the “partners”.

“Powerful economies” like India and China, with heavy populations, have their domestic political mechanism and laws, Putin, who attended China’s victory parade, told the media in Beijing on Wednesday. “When somebody tells you, they are going to punish you, you have to think about the leadership of those countries, those big courtiers, which have difficult periods of their history too, will react,” the Russian president said.

These countries had to deal with colonialists, with attacks on their sovereignty for long periods of time, he added. “You have to understand that if one of them shows weakness, his political career will be over, so that influences his behaviour,” he said.

Trump singled out India and clamped 50% tariffs for buying Russian oil. He initially imposed 145% tariffs on China and later climbed down and struck an interim deal with Beijing, reducing tariffs on Chinese goods from 145% to 30%, and Chinese tariffs on US goods fell from 125% to 10%.

‘26 nations vow to give Ukraine postwar security guarantees’

PARIS (TIP)

Twenty-six nations have pledged to provide postwar security guarantees to Ukraine, which will include an international force on land and sea and in the air, French President Emmanuel Macron said after a summit meeting of Kyiv’s allies on Thursday, Sept 4.

Macron said he, fellow European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held a call with US President Donald Trump after their summit and US contributions to the guarantees would be finalised in the coming days.

The meeting of 35 leaders from the “coalition of the willing” — of mainly European countries — was intended to finalise security guarantees and ask Trump for the backing that Europeans say is vital to make such guarantees viable.

Security guarantees are intended to reassure Ukraine and deter Russia, which launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, from attacking its neighbour again. “The day the conflict stops, the security guarantees will be deployed,” Macron told a press conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, standing alongside Zelensky.

European officials say peace looks a distant prospect for now but they want to be ready whenever the war ends. They also see the planning of security guarantees as a way to reassure Kyiv of their support and hope Trump will join their efforts.

Macron initially said the 26 nations — which he did not name — would deploy to Ukraine. But he later said some countries would provide guarantees while remaining outside Ukraine, for example by helping to train and equip



French President Emmanuel Macron and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrive to chair the Coalition of the Willing Summit at Elysée presidential palace in Paris, on Thursday.

LUDOVIC MARIN/REUTERS

Kyiv’s forces.

He did not say how many troops would be involved in the guarantees.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni made clear she would not send troops to Ukraine but said Italy was open to monitoring a ceasefire and training Ukrainian troops outside the country. France and Britain, which co-chair the coalition of the willing, have indicated they are open to deploying troops to Ukraine after the war ends.

“We are working out which countries will take part in which security component,” Zelensky said. “Twenty-six countries agreed to provide security guarantees. Today, for the first time in a long time, this is the first such serious, very specific substance.”

Europe must stop buying Russian oil,

says Trump

On his call with the coalition leaders, Trump said Europe must stop purchasing Russian oil that he said is helping Moscow fund its war against Ukraine, a White House official said. “The president also emphasised that European leaders must place economic pressure on China for funding Russia’s war efforts,” the official said.

Macron said the coalition and the United States had agreed to work more closely on future sanctions, notably on Russia’s oil and gas sector, and on China.

European governments have said European forces in Ukraine would need their own US security guarantees as a “backstop”. Trump has made no explicit commitment to go that far.

Fashion Stalwart Giorgio Armani Dies At 91

Giorgio Armani, a stalwart of Milan ready-to-wear who revolutionised fashion with unstructured looks, has died at 91.

Armani died at home, the fashion house said. The fashion designer failed to appear at his runway shows in June as he was recovering from an undisclosed illness.

The fashion house announced in a post on Instagram that the Italian fashion icon had died. “With infinite condolences, the Armani group announces the passing of its inventor, founder and tireless engine: Giorgio Armani.

“Mr Armani, as he was always called with respect and admiration by employees and collaborators, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loved ones. Tireless, he has worked until the last days, dedicating himself to the company, to the collections, to the



different and always new projects in being and to becoming.

“Over the years, Giorgio Armani has created a vision that has expanded from fashion to every aspect of life, anticipating the times with extraordinary clarity and precision. He was driven by an inexorable curiosity, attention for the present and people. In this journey he created an open dialogue

with the public, becoming a beloved and respected figure for his ability to communicate with everyone. Always attentive to the needs of the community, he has committed himself on many fronts, above all to his beloved Milan.

“Giorgio Armani is a company with fifty years of history, grown with emotion and patience. Giorgio Armani has always made independence, thought and action, his hallmark. The company is a reflection, today and always, of this feeling. The family and employees will carry the Group forward in respect and continuity of these values.

“The funeral chamber will be ready from Saturday, September 6, and will be available until Sunday, September 7, from 9 am to 6 pm, in Milan, in Via Bergognone 59, near the Armani/Teatro. Due to the expressed will of Mr Armani, the funerals will take place privately,” read the post.

Giorgio Armani was planning a major event to celebrate 50 years of his signature Giorgio Armani fashion house during Milan Fashion Week this month.

Over the years, Armani built a \$10-billion fashion empire. Giorgio Armani had no children, but was very close to his niece Roberta. Roberta is the daughter of his late brother Sergio.

Roberta had a budding film career that she abandoned to become her uncle’s director of public relations. She often represented Giorgio Armani, who largely stayed away from parties, at social events. In the later years, Roberta was a key person between the brand and the celebrity world.

In 2006, Roberta orchestrated the much-talked-about wedding of Hollywood stars Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes in a medieval castle outside Rome. Giorgio Armani designed the attire for both Cruise and Holmes.

Bulgaria PM denies Russian GPS jamming during von der Leyen's flight

Bulgarian Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov has dismissed speculation that Russia interfered with the GPS signal of a plane carrying European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, saying there was "no evidence" of "prolonged interference or jamming" near Plovdiv airport during her landing.

According to a Euro News report, Zhelyazkov told parliament on Thursday that von der Leyen's aircraft had not encountered sustained jamming. He later clarified that while "ground instruments" had not detected any disruptions, the possibility of "onboard devices" registering interference could not be ruled out.

The debate comes after the European Commission suggested earlier this week that Bulgarian authorities believed the disruption to von der Leyen's flight from Warsaw to Plovdiv on Sunday was "due to blatant interference from Russia."

However, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Grozdan Karadjov contradicted this version, telling local broadcaster bTV that Sofia had never submitted such an assessment to Brussels.

He said aviation officials only passed on a transcript of a pilot-control tower exchange mentioning "minor issues" with GPS, but "it did not mention Russian interference."

Euro News cited analysts who noted that GPS spoofing -- the use of false satellite signals -- could have explained the disruption even if no ground-based jamming was detected.

Chinese President Xi, Kim hold talks to consolidate relations

BEIJING (TIP)

President Xi Jinping reassured Kim Jong-un of North Korea's enduring importance to China on Thursday, saying Beijing's position "will not change" as the two leaders met for talks.

Kim has been on a rare foreign visit to China, his most important ally, joining Russia's Vladimir Putin alongside Xi at a massive military parade commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Kim and Xi held talks on Thursday evening at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, where the Chinese president said his country attached "great importance to the traditional friendship" with North Korea.

Beijing is "willing to maintain, consolidate and develop" bilateral ties, Xi said according to state news agency Xinhua.

"No matter how the international situation changes, this position will not change," Xi was quoted as saying.

China's relationship with North Korea was forged in the bloodshed of the Korean War in the 1950s, and Beijing is a vital source of diplomatic, economic and political support for the isolated nuclear state.

But Pyongyang has been moving closer to Russia recently — the two countries signed a mutual defence agreement last year, and North Korean soldiers are fighting in the Ukraine war.

President Xi told Kim on Thursday that China was willing to "enhance high-level exchanges and strategic communication with the DPRK... deepen mutual understanding and friendship, strengthen interactions at all levels, and carry out practical cooperation in various fields", Xinhua said, using the



acronym for North Korea.

N Korea wipes traces of Kim after Putin meeting

After Kim Jong-un met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Beijing, North Korean staffers carefully wiped off items touched by the country's supreme leader, in what analysts say is part of a suite of security measures to counter foreign spies.

Even with the appearance of budding friendship between Kim and Putin, footage on Wednesday showed the reclusive state's extraordinary measures to conceal any clues about Kim's health.

In a post on Telegram, Kremlin reporter Alexander Yunashev shared video of Kim's two staff members meticulously cleaning the room in the Chinese capital where Kim and Putin met for more than two hours.

The chair's backrest and armrests were scrubbed and a coffee table next to Kim's chair was also cleaned. Kim's drinking glass was also removed. "After the negotiations were over, the staff accompanying the head of the DPRK carefully destroyed all traces of Kim's presence," the reporter said, referring to North Korea.

After talks in the room, Kim and Putin left for a tea meeting and bid a warm farewell to each other. As during previous foreign trips, Kim packed his own toilet on a signature green train that took him to Beijing to hide health clues, Japan's Nikkei newspaper reported, citing South Korean and Japanese intelligence agencies.

Such measures are standard protocol since the era of Kim's predecessor, his father Kim Jong-il, said Michael Madden, a North Korea leadership expert with the US-based Stimson Center.

Portugal investigates cause of streetcar crash that killed 16

LISBON/LONDON (TIP)

Investigators sifted through the wreckage of a streetcar in downtown Lisbon on Thursday, trying to determine why the popular tourist attraction derailed during the busy summer season, killing 16 people and injuring 21, five of them seriously.

The Elevador da Gloria came off its rails during the evening rush hour on Wednesday when it was packed with locals and international tourists. Officials cordoned off the crash site, and were taking photographs and pulling up a metal cable from beneath the rails that climb one of the Portuguese capital's steep hills. "This tragedy ... goes beyond our borders," Prime Minister Luis Montenegro said at his official residence, calling it "one of the biggest tragedies of our recent past." Portugal observed a national day of mourning Thursday.

The electric streetcar, also known as a



funicular, provides a short and picturesque trip a few hundred metres up and down a city street. It is harnessed by steel cables, with the descending car helping with its weight to pull up the other one, and can carry more than 40 people.

Officials declined to comment on

whether a faulty brake or a snapped cable may have prompted the descending streetcar to careen into a building where the steep road bends.

The Prosecutor General's office said coroners had so far identified the bodies of five Portuguese, two South Koreans

and one Swiss national, without disclosing further details of those killed. Portugal's judicial police chief, Luis Neves, said there was a "high degree of certainty" that there were also two Canadians, one American, one Ukrainian and one German among the dead, although the identities could not yet be officially confirmed.

15 hospitalised after bus crashes in British capital

Fifteen people were hospitalised on Thursday after a double-decker bus mounted the sidewalk and crashed outside one of London's busiest railway stations.

Police said another two people were treated by medics at the scene of the crash near Victoria Station. None of the injuries is believed to be life-threatening.

The driver of the Route 24 bus was among the injured in the morning rush-hour collision.

Death toll from Afghan quake jumps to over 2,200 as aid agencies seek funds

JALALABAD (TIP)

Hundreds more bodies have been recovered from houses in mountain villages destroyed by a major earthquake in Afghanistan early this week, pushing the death toll to over 2,200, a Taliban government spokesman said Thursday, Sept 4.

The shallow, 6.0-magnitude quake struck the mountainous and remote eastern part of the country late Sunday, leveling villages and trapping people under rubble. Most of the casualties have been in Kunar province, where people typically live in wood and mud-brick houses along steep river valleys separated by high mountains.

Some 98 per cent of the buildings in the province were damaged or destroyed, according to an assessment issued Thursday by the Islamic Relief charity. Aid agencies said they were sorely in need of staff and supplies to tend to the region's survivors.

Muhammad Israel said the quake unleashed a landslide that buried his home, livestock, and belongings in Kunar. All the rocks came down from the mountain," he said. I barely got my children out of there. ... The earthquake jolts are still happening. It is impossible to live there."

Late Thursday, a 5.6-magnitude quake rattled Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, which is south of the hardest-hit Kunar province, though there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Israel was staying at a UN medical



camp in Nurgal, one of the worst-affected districts of Kunar. The situation is also bad for us here, we don't have shelter and are living under open skies," he said.

Previous estimates said some 1,400 people were killed. Taliban spokesman Hamdullah Fitrat said Thursday that the updated death toll was 2,205 and that search and rescue efforts were continuing.

Tents have been set up for people, and the delivery of first aid and emergency supplies is ongoing," Fitrat said.

The rough terrain is hindering relief efforts. Taliban authorities have deployed helicopters and airdropped army commandos to help survivors. Aid workers have reported walking for hours to reach villages cut off by landslides and rockfall.

Funding cuts are also having an impact on the response. The Norwegian Refugee Council said it had fewer than 450 staff in Afghanistan whereas it had 1,100 in 2023, the date of the last major quake in the country. The council only

had one warehouse remaining and no emergency stock.

We will need to purchase items once we get the funding but this will take potentially weeks and people are in need now, said Maisam Shafiey, the communications and advocacy advisor for the council in Afghanistan.

We have only \$100,000 available to support emergency response efforts. This leaves an immediate funding gap of \$1.9 million," Shafiey said.

Dr Shamshair Khan, who was attending the injured at the UN camp in Nurgal, said his own condition had deteriorated after seeing the suffering of others.

Neither these medicines are enough nor these services, he said. These people need more medicine and tents. They need food and clean drinking water. These people are in great pain.

Qatar's minister of state for international cooperation, Maryam bint Ali bin Nasser Al Misnad, arrived in Kabul on Wednesday to oversee the delivery of aid to earthquake victims.

She is the first female minister to visit Afghanistan on a humanitarian mission since the Taliban seized power in 2021, and the first high-ranking foreign official to travel there since the quake.

Aid organisations describe the latest disaster as a crisis within a crisis. Afghanistan was already struggling with drought, a weak economy and the recent return of some 2 million Afghans from neighbouring countries.

Bangladesh bars those facing serious charges from polls

Bangladesh's interim authorities on Sept 4 approved a legal amendment that will bar anyone formally charged with crimes against humanity from seeking elected office or holding government jobs.

The change, made to the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act of 1973, introduces a fresh clause disqualifying such individuals from becoming parliamentarians, local body representatives or civil servants.

Press secretary to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, Shafiqul Alam, said the provision applies the moment a chargesheet is filed under Section 9(1) of the law. "Those charged will no longer be eligible to contest polls or remain in the service of the republic," he explained. This move follows a recommendation from the Election Commission a day earlier, which called for fugitives from justice to be barred from elections and sought to scrap the online system for filing nominations.

No new Chinese money, yet Pakistan's Shehbaz Sharif pushes ahead with CPEC phase 2

BEIJING (TIP)

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif failed to secure funding and investments for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Phase-2 during his recent visit to Beijing, and he had to return to Islamabad with no new investments or mega projects and only with MoUs.

A high-powered delegation led by Sharif to China did not secure any new Chinese investments as Beijing told them to seek new investments through the Business-to-Business Investment Conference, a top diplomatic source told CNN-News18.

Sharif was on a six-day visit to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in Tianjin. He also attended the WWII Victory Day parade in Beijing.

The top source said that during the B2B Investment Conference, the Chinese investors raised security concerns with



the Pakistani Prime Minister, to which Sharif admitted to the security risks in Pakistan and attempted to assure safety for Chinese investors in his country.

He also went on to announce the formal launch of CPEC 2.0 unilaterally without Chinese officials. China has not issued any statement in this regard yet.

During Sharif's visit to China with top cabinet members, the Chinese and

Pakistani companies signed \$7 billion Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and \$1.54 billion joint ventures (totaling \$8.5 billion) in sectors including agriculture, electric vehicles, solar energy, health, chemical and petrochemicals, irons and steel besides others, at the Second Pakistan-China Business-to-Business B2B Investment Conference.

According to the source, Chinese investors informed Sharif about Pakistani bureaucratic hiccups and delays in the smoother operations of the investments in the country.

Addressing the security concerns of Chinese nationals in Pakistan, Sharif said that the safety of Chinese citizens is paramount for Pakistan.

Addressing concerns about Pakistan's bureaucratic delays, the Pakistani PM assured the Chinese investors that his administration will remove all red tape hiccups in investments, the source said.



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Full, well-defined lips have long been seen as a sign of youth and beauty. While cosmetic fillers and plumping procedures are popular, not everyone wants to go under the needle or spend a fortune on temporary results. The good news? You can create the illusion of fuller lips naturally with a few smart tricks, lifestyle tweaks, and beauty techniques. Here are some pointers

Exfoliate

- Because flaky lips reflect less light, a dry pucker could be making your lips look smaller. To get rid of flakes, brush them lightly with a toothbrush. This also boosts circulation, giving you a rosy tint sans makeup.
- If you want to get professional with your exfoliating game, get yourself a sugar lip scrub that really smooths.
- Use concealer to fake a larger canvas
- Pat concealer onto your lips, spreading it a little over your lip line. This will make your lipstick go on closer to the color in the tube, and make your lips look larger.

Highlight with gloss

Using clear lip gloss or a shade close to your lipstick color, apply a dab of gloss onto the middle of both of your lips. The shimmery product picks up light, making your pout look fuller.

Overdraw your lip line

Before Kylie Jenner surgically enhanced her lips, she used to use this trick to make them appear bigger. To try it yourself, apply concealer to your lips, then trace slightly outside your natural lip line using a lip liner. Fill your lips in with the matching lipstick or just use the liner for your whole pout.

Double up on nude lip colors

Make your lips look bigger naturally - no needles, no filters



Apply one shade all over your mouth, and the lighter color (or even a white lip crayon) in the middle of your lips. If you have a full top lip but a smaller bottom lip (or vice versa), only apply the lighter shade to the opposite lip. It will even your lips out, and make them both look fuller.

Line with concealer after lipstick

Use a skinny brush and some cover-up to line the outside of your lips. You won't believe how much your lipstick will pop.

FILL 'EM UP!

While makeup is a good way to enhance the pout, not all women like to spend hours before the mirror every morning. In such cases, lip fillers are a

good idea. "The most commonly used product in lip fillers is hyaluronic acid (HA), a substance that is naturally found in the skin. When injected into the desired area with precision, it gives the lips a fuller appearance.

The entire process takes about half an hour and its effects last between nine months to a year, after which your lips return to their original shape. The good thing is, these fillers are non-permanent and can also be removed within a few minutes if you're not happy with your new look," says Dr Ashutosh Misra, plastic surgeon. While dermal fillers are temporary, fat grafting is a more permanent surgical method that involves extracting fat from one area of the body and injecting or surgically placing it into the lips. The damage for both procedures could range between Rs 20,000 to Rs 50,000 depending on the measure of lip augmentation. Lasers, lip lifts and lip plants are other ways to flaunt a luscious pout.

COLOUR CODE

The lighter the colour of your lips, the bigger they'll look. It's as simple as that. "Always go light. A light natural shade like a nude rose or a warm peach will reflect light and create the illusion of a highlighted lip," insists Sachdev. Before applying lip colour, create a base by filling the pout with a nude lip liner or a foundation. While baby pink goes well for a fair skin tone, corals do wonders for a wheatish complexion. Women with a dusky skin tone can take a pick from maroon, aubergine or even bright orange.

This is why people gain weight as they get older

Researchers have found that lipid turnover in the fat tissue decreases during ageing and makes it easier to gain weight, even if we don't eat more or exercise less than before.

"The results indicate for the first time that processes in our fat tissue regulate changes in body weight during ageing in a way that is independent of other factors," said study author Peter Arner, Professor at Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

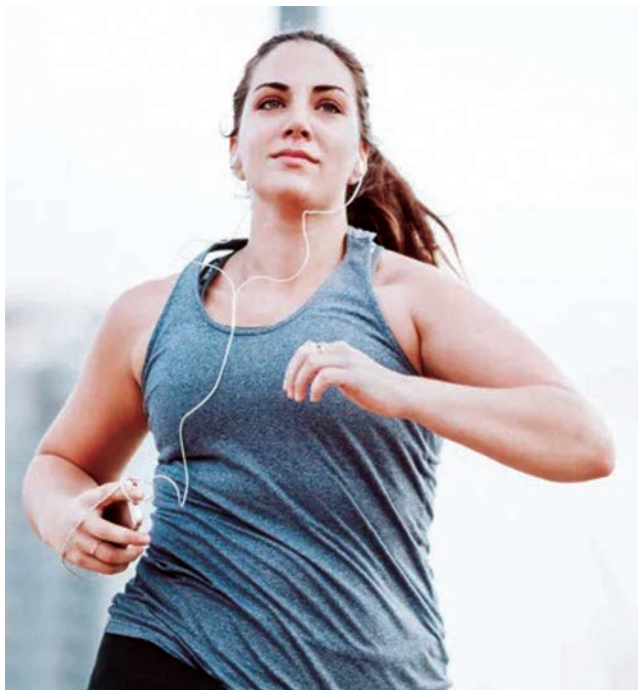
For the study published in the journal Nature Medicine, the research team examined the fat cells in 54 men and women over an average period of 13 years.

In that time, all subjects, regardless of whether they gained or lost weight, showed decrease in lipid turnover in the fat tissue, that is the rate at which lipid in the fat cells is removed and stored.

Those who didn't compensate for the decrease by eating less calories gained weight by an average of 20 per cent, according to the study.

The researchers also examined lipid turnover in 41 women who underwent bariatric surgery and how the lipid turnover rate affected their ability to keep the weight off four to seven years after surgery.

The result showed that only those who had a low rate before the surgery managed to increase their lipid turnover and maintain their weight loss.



The researchers believe these people may have had more room to increase their lipid turnover than those who already had a high-level pre-surgery.

FOOD CORNER

Seviyan Kheer

Ingredients

70 gms vermicelli, 25 gms pure ghee, 400 ml milk, 50 gms grain sugar, 5 gms green cardamom, 2 gms cloves, 20 gms whole almonds, 10 gms sultanas / kishmish, for garnishing fresh rose petals

Method

Roughly crush the vermicelli. Cut the almonds into thick slices. Soak the sultana/kismis in hot water and set aside.

Heat the ghee and fry the almonds. Drain and keep aside. Lightly fry the cloves and the cardamom and add the vermicelli. Allow to brown lightly.

Add the milk and bring to a boil. Simmer on a slow fire till the milk thickens. Add sugar and sultanas. Remove from the fire. Allow to cool completely. Adjust the consistency to a kheer. Transfer a portion to a serving bowl and garnish with the fried almonds.



Not all processed foods are bad for you, here's what you can tell from reading the label

If you follow wellness content on social media or in the news, you've probably heard that processed food is not just unhealthy, but can cause serious harm.

Eating a diet dominated by highly processed foods means you're likely to consume more kilojoules than you need, and greater amounts of salt, sugar – as well as food additives.

But not all processed foods are equal, nor bad for you. Here's what to look out for on food labels if you want to buy processed, but convenient, foods.

What do the processing categories mean?

Researchers use the Nova processed food classification system to group foods into four processing levels.

- Group 1: Unprocessed or minimally processed foods are either in their natural state or have minimal processing. They're basic foods you could eat straight away, such as vegetables and fruit, or foods that only need minimal processing to make them safe and palatable, such as eggs, meat, poultry, fish, oats, other grains, plain pasta, legumes, milk, plain yoghurt, ground herbs and spices, or nuts with shells.
- Group 2: Processed culinary ingredients are derived from group 1. These are used in cooking to enhance flavour and texture, and include oils, sugar and honey.
- Group 3: Processed foods are treated using traditional processing methods such as canning, bottling, fermenting, or salting to extend shelf life. These include canned fruits, tomato paste, cheese, salted fish, and breads with minimal ingredients. You could make these foods in a home kitchen.
- Group 4: Ultra-processed foods are industrially produced with ingredients and additives not normally found in home kitchens, and have little, if any, group 1 items left intact. These foods are engineered to be hyper-palatable, meaning you can't stop eating them, and have long shelf lives. Products include factory-made biscuits, snack



foods, instant meals, frozen desserts, preserved meats, instant noodles, margarine, some breakfast cereals and sugar-sweetened drinks.

However, group 4 products vary greatly in their nutritional quality and the number and type of food additives used to manufacture them.

What's the concern about eating ultra-processed foods?

About 42 per cent of Australians' total energy intake comes from ultra-processed foods. These are relatively cheap and are energy-dense, but nutrient-poor. This means they can contain a lot of kilojoules, salt and added sugars but are poor sources of nutrients the body needs such as vitamins, minerals and dietary fibre.

Studies have linked higher intakes of ultra-processed foods with poorer diet quality and worse health outcomes. A review of 122 observational studies found people with the highest intakes (compared with the lowest) were about 25 per cent more likely to have had a decline in kidney function.

They were 20 per cent more likely to be overweight, or have obesity or diabetes, and were 40 per cent more likely to have common mental health conditions such as depression.

However, a recent review highlighted that the health impact of these foods and drinks varies depending on their category. Products such as sugar-sweetened drinks can negatively affect health, while others – such as cereals with added vitamins and minerals and some dairy products – can be neutral or even protective.



Common diabetes drug metformin may alter metal amounts in blood: Study

Metformin, a commonly prescribed anti-diabetic drug, could impact metal levels in blood by significantly lowering copper and iron and spiking zinc amounts, possibly related to preventing complications, according to a study.

The drug helps one manage diabetes by lowering blood sugar levels.

The findings, published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Open Diabetes Research and Care, are an important step in understanding how the common anti-diabetes drug works, researchers said.

"It is significant that we could show this in humans. Furthermore, since decreases in copper and iron concentrations and an increase in zinc concentration are all considered to be associated with improved glucose tolerance and prevention of complications, these changes may indeed be related to metformin's action," author Wataru Ogawa, an endocrinologist and professor at Japan's Kobe University, said.

Among nearly 200 diabetes patients at the at Kobe University Hospital—half of whom took metformin for at least six months and half did not—samples of blood serum were analysed for copper, iron and zinc, along with substances that might indicate metal deficiency. "Metformin users showed significantly lower serum copper and iron levels, and higher zinc levels, compared to the non-users," the authors wrote.

Further, the lowered copper and iron measures were found to be in line with deficiencies of the metals.

The changes in metal amounts in blood could be related to the effects produced in the body due to metformin, which also include benefits such as action against tumours and inflammation, the authors added.

"It is known that diabetes patients experience changes in the blood levels of metals such as copper, iron and zinc. In addition, chemical studies found that metformin has the ability to bind certain metals, such as copper, and recent studies showed that it is this binding ability that might be responsible for some of the drug's beneficial effects," Ogawa said.

Mental health crisis affects over 1 billion people worldwide: WHO

The world is facing a mental health crisis. More than 1 billion people are living with conditions such as anxiety and depression, according to new data from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

These conditions are affecting lives everywhere – across age groups, genders, and income levels – while placing enormous pressure on families, communities, and economies.

Mental health disorders are now the second leading cause of long-term disability worldwide. They rob people of healthy years of life, drain household savings through out-of-



pocket expenses, and fuel global economic losses.

The numbers are hard to ignore: anxiety and depression alone cost the world economy an estimated US\$ 1 trillion every year in lost productivity.

In India, one study, quoted in the WHO report, revealed that women with depression were three times more likely than others to spend more than half their household income on health care. These costs deepen inequalities and add further strain to already vulnerable families.

The findings are detailed in two new reports – World Mental Health Today and the Mental Health Atlas 2024. Together, they paint a mixed picture: while countries have made progress by updating policies and introducing school-based and community-level programmes, the pace of reform remains slow.

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Researchers develop device to generate electricity from air, water

Researchers at the IIT Indore have developed a device that will generate electricity from just water and the natural process of evaporation without the need of sunlight, battery or any complex machine, officials said.

The device will be able to continuously provide power to small electronic devices, they said.

At the heart of the invention is a specially engineered membrane made of graphene oxide (a layered form of carbon) combined with zinc-imidazole, a stabilising compound, the officials from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore said.

"When the membrane is partially immersed in water, it begins generating electricity as water travels upward through microscopic channels and evaporates. This evaporation-driven movement separates positive and negative ions at opposite ends of the membrane, creating a steady voltage," an official said.

A single membrane of 3 x 2 cm² can generate up to 0.75 volts, while multiple membranes can be combined to scale up power output, according to the official.

"Remarkably, the device works not only with clean water but also with saline or muddy water, retaining stability for months. Its versatility makes it ideal for regions with unreliable electricity or limited access to power," the official said.

The potential applications range from powering environmental sensors in forests and farms to providing emergency lighting during blackouts or supporting low-power medical wearables in remote clinics, according to officials.

From GPT-5 routing to parental controls: All the steps OpenAI is taking to make ChatGPT safer

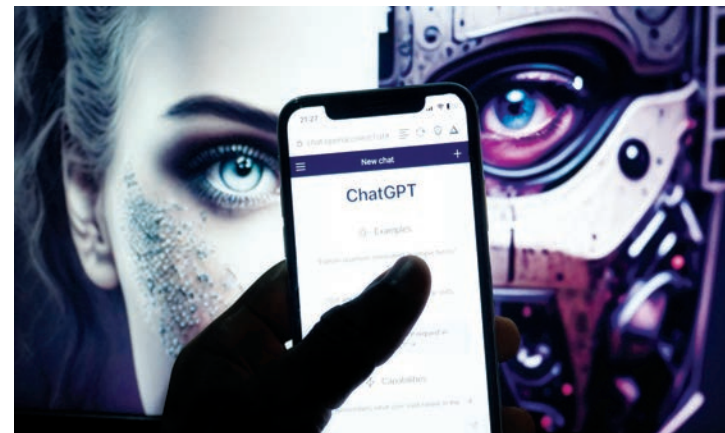
OpenAI has announced a series of updates aimed at making ChatGPT safer for teenagers and for people who may be going through mental health struggles. The company said new parental controls, improved crisis detection, and stronger safeguards during long conversations will be introduced in the coming weeks.

The timing of these changes is notable. OpenAI is currently facing its first wrongful death lawsuit, filed by parents in California who allege that ChatGPT played a role in their 16-year-old son Adam Raine's suicide. The family's lawsuit claims that when Adam expressed suicidal thoughts, the AI not only failed to guide him toward human support but even gave troubling suggestions. Although OpenAI did not directly mention the case in its latest blog post, the measures appear to be part of the company's response to growing concerns.

According to OpenAI, parents will soon be able to connect their accounts with their children's, starting from age 13. Once linked, they can set rules for what kind of answers ChatGPT provides, control features such as memory and chat history, and receive alerts if the AI detects signs that a teenager might be in "acute distress." This is the first time ChatGPT will be able to send real-time notifications to parents about their child's interactions with the bot.

The company also admitted that current safeguards don't always work well during long or repeated chats. For instance, while the AI may initially point someone to a suicide hotline, over time the responses can drift and end up going against safety rules. To tackle this, OpenAI plans to make use of its reasoning models, including GPT-5, for conversations that involve sensitive issues. These models, the company says, are better at handling context and sticking to safety guidelines.

Safety has been a recurring issue for ChatGPT. In earlier updates, OpenAI acknowledged that GPT-4o struggled to pick up on signs of delusion or emotional dependency. The company has since promised to build stronger guardrails. It is also working with an "Expert Council on Well-Being,"



which includes specialists from mental health, youth development, and human-computer interaction, to create future safeguards. Additionally, a "Global Physician Network" of more than 250 doctors continues to advise the company on how its AI systems should respond in crisis situations.

Even as OpenAI outlines these changes, questions remain. Jay Edelson, the lawyer representing Raine's family, criticised the company's approach, saying CEO Sam Altman should either confirm ChatGPT is safe or take it off the market. "Don't believe it: this is nothing more than OpenAI's crisis management team trying to change the subject," Edelson said.

At the same time, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has admitted that people are forming unusually strong bonds with AI tools. In a post last month, he wrote, "I can imagine a future where a lot of people really trust ChatGPT's advice for their most important decisions. Although that could be great, it makes me uneasy."

The new controls will begin rolling out within a month, while the routing of sensitive chats to reasoning models is expected over the next 120 days.

Apple may team with Google on AI Siri search: Is this iPhone 17's secret feature?

Apple is quietly gearing up for one of the biggest upgrades to Siri since the voice assistant first arrived more than a decade ago. According to Bloomberg's Mark Gurman, the company is working on a new AI-powered search system for Siri, but may need a little help from a familiar frenemy, Google.

The plan, as reported, involves Apple tapping into Google's Gemini AI, potentially through a tailor-made model that would live on Apple's own servers. The move might raise eyebrows, given Apple's reputation for doing things in-house and its long-running rivalry with Google. Yet with AI reshaping the tech landscape at breakneck speed, Apple seems willing to lean on outside expertise to supercharge Siri.

Not so long ago, the idea of Apple outsourcing any part of Siri's brainpower was seen as a concession. During the height of the AI hiring frenzy, rivals were luring away some of Apple's top machine learning talent to bolster their own efforts. Moreover, the delay in a smarter Siri and lawsuits against the company made it look like Apple was losing ground. But the mood has shifted in recent weeks. Apple's strategy may no longer look like defeat, but rather a pragmatic way to catch up while avoiding unnecessary risks.

Neither Google nor Apple has confirmed the tie-up,



but sources familiar with the matter have shared a positive response, as per the reports. If it goes ahead, the deal would build on the existing arrangement that makes Google Search the default on Apple devices. It would also mirror Apple's limited integration of ChatGPT earlier this year.

Behind the scenes, Apple engineers are calling the new feature, called World Knowledge Answers. The idea is that Siri would be able to provide AI-generated summaries of information pulled directly from the web. No more clunky lists of links. Instead, users could expect rich, interactive responses combining text, images, videos, and even location-based snippets.

Think of it as Siri graduating from answering "What's the weather like?" to something far closer to

a conversational research assistant, designed to rival services from OpenAI or Perplexity.

The reimagined Siri won't just be about spitting out facts. Apple is developing a three-part system to significantly enhance the assistant's capabilities, as per the reports. At the front end is a planner, designed to interpret whatever you say or type. Next comes the search layer, which can pull data not just from the web but also from your personal device. Finally, a summariser steps in, condensing all that raw information into something concise, coherent, and hopefully useful.

Crucially, the upgraded Siri will also gain a sense of context. That means being able to recognise what's on your screen and act on it. Imagine asking Siri to "save this address," "book tickets for this film," or "summarise this email", all triggered by what you're actively looking at. It's the kind of functionality that could finally make Siri feel less like a party trick and more like an intelligent assistant.

Yes, timing-wise, Apple appears ready to roll out these enhancements alongside the upcoming iPhone 17 family, with iOS 26.4 tipped to land as soon as March. The redesign is set to be one of Apple's flagship announcements, reinforcing its commitment to keeping pace in the AI race while doubling down on the privacy and integration that its ecosystem is known for.

Europe stockpiles Indian diesel: Trump says is 'still funding Russia's war machine'

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's diesel exports to Europe jumped an astonishing 137% year-on-year in August—soaring to 242,000 barrels per day, as European buyers scramble to stock up ahead of an EU ban on fuels refined from Russian crude set to take effect in January 2026.

This sharp uptick, reported by The Economic Times, underscores mounting contradictions in global energy and foreign policy responses.

European nations appear to be reacting to the looming ban, targeting fuels refined from Russian oil—a move that could severely hinder Indian refiners like Reliance Industries. The surge in demand reflects both a hedge against disruption and a tacit acceptance of fuel origins India is soon expected to reject.

Data from Kpler shows a 73% month-on-month rise and a 124% jump above the preceding 12-month average. Vortexa, another tracker, reports similarly staggering growth—228,316 bpd in August, up 166% year-on-year and 36% over July levels.

Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst at Kpler who was quoted in the report, linked the spike to a surprise maintenance turnaround at Shell's Pernis refinery in the Netherlands, saying: "Exports rose sharply as Shell's Pernis refinery advanced its planned turnaround from 2026. This has surprised the market." Many European buyers appear to be front-loading purchases to offset short-term supply glitches.

Adding to the irony, U.S. President Donald Trump has urged European leaders to stop buying Russian oil—warning that continued purchases are helping fund Russia's war in Ukraine. Yet, these very markets are now absorbing Indian diesel, much of it refined from Russian crude, exposing a glaring hypocrisy in sanctions enforcement.

India's total diesel exports hit 603,000 bpd in August, up 17% from both July and the same month last year.

The late August push, particularly to Rotterdam, appears to be covering volume lost due to unexpected refinery maintenance, said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining and modelling at Kpler. "Exports rose sharply as Shell's Pernis (Netherlands) refinery advanced its planned turnaround from 2026. This has surprised the market," he said.

An industry executive said that advancing maintenance could also be preparation for the post-January market, when Indian fuels refined from Russian oil may no longer enter



Europe. India has meanwhile come under heavy criticism from senior US officials, who accused its refiners of profiteering by buying discounted Russian crude and reselling it after processing to the West, thereby funding Moscow's war machine. India has rejected this charge, arguing that the West can simply stop buying Indian fuels if it objects.

Indian exporters are expected to see continued strong demand from Europe this year. "European buyers may accelerate liftings from India given that Middle Eastern refineries will be having a high maintenance in October-November, echoing the stockpiling seen ahead of the February 2023 EU ban on Russian products," Ritolia said.

Europe counts Middle Eastern refiners as key suppliers.

Driven by the surge in European shipments, India's total diesel exports increased to 603,000 bpd in August, up about 17% from both July and the year-ago period, according to Kpler.

When announcing sanctions in July, the EU said importers would have to provide evidence of the country of origin of the crude used in refining products from third countries. However, uncertainties remain around how the import curb will be implemented.

Markets jump as GST 2.0 lifts consumer-driven stocks

Benchmark equities surged on Thursday, Sept 4, after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a sweeping overhaul of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The S&P BSE Sensex rose nearly 600 points in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 crossed 25,900, as investors cheered the reforms that collapsed the tax structure into four slabs—0%, 5%, 18% and a new 40% for luxury and sin goods.

By scrapping the earlier 12% and 28% rates, GST 2.0 promises to simplify compliance and make essentials cheaper. Market participants believe this could set the stage for a consumption revival, with direct benefits for autos, fast-moving consumer goods, cement, housing and financials.

Auto and FMCG shares led the rally. Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Hindustan Unilever and ITC gained sharply on expectations that lower GST on small cars, two-wheelers, packaged food and personal care products would spur demand. Real estate and financials followed suit, buoyed by hopes of stronger consumption feeding into credit growth and housing activity.

Market experts see the reform as more than a rate cut. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The revolutionary GST reform has come better than expected, benefitting a wide spectrum of sectors. The ultimate beneficiary is the Indian consumer who will benefit from lower prices. The potential big boost to consumption in an economy that is already in growth momentum will be big and may surprise on the upside." He added that the changes could spark a "virtuous cycle," with cheaper goods driving demand, higher demand lifting corporate earnings, and stronger earnings attracting more investment.

STEM powers India's hiring surge: 23% YoY growth led by IT and manufacturing

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME), India's leading talent platform, published the foundit Insights Tracker (fit) for August 2025, revealing that India's job market is increasingly shaped by STEM-driven industries. The tracker recorded a 23% year-on-year increase in hiring growth, alongside a 3% rise month-on-month.

"The data reveals a fascinating split within STEM: IT and electronics are racing ahead while traditional engineering and healthcare show signs of slowing down. Yet even in this divergence, the resilience of STEM is clear — these industries are not only creating jobs but also deepening leadership demand. When mid-senior and senior roles surge in parallel with IT and manufacturing growth, it signals that India's workforce is maturing beyond headcount to capability. This shift is setting the pace for the broader employment landscape," said Tarun Sharma, Chief Product and Technology Officer, foundit.

India's STEM employment base grew by 7.4% in the past year, rising from 6.8 million to 7.3 million jobs. While growth is steady, it is STEM's share of the overall workforce that reinforces its backbone role in the economy.

- IT – Software & Services leads with 35% of all STEM jobs
- BFSI and Manufacturing together account for nearly one-fifth of STEM employment, each posting strong annual gains
- Healthcare & Pharma and Construction & Engineering held steady at around 6% share each
- Automotive and Energy sectors expanded to about 5% share each, reflecting demand in EVs, renewables, and oil & gas
- Other industries such as Retail analytics, Telecom, Consumer Electronics, Logistics, Agriculture, Education, FMCG R&D, and Media/Entertainment together contributed around 15% of the STEM job base

STEM Jobs by Function

From a functional perspective, IT roles such as software development, AI, and data remain dominant, accounting for one-third of STEM demand.

- Engineering & Production roles grew from 18% to 20% YoY demand
- Customer Service within tech and BPO held steady at 11% share
- Sales & Business Development roles rose to 9% share, while Finance & Accounting and Medical roles remained stable at 7% each
- Marketing & Communications within STEM grew to 7% share, recording one of the strongest upticks in demand

Together, these shifts indicate that while IT and core engineering continue to lead, functions like sales, finance, and marketing are becoming increasingly integrated into the STEM hiring landscape.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEP 8 TO SEP 14, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week, Aries may face both opportunities and challenges. Your hard work may be recognized at work, so keep up your energy and enthusiasm. Your efforts will yield positive results. In personal life, you may try to rekindle some old relationships. This is the time to spend time with your friends and family. There may also be some new meetings in your social life, which will make you happy. From a health point of view, it is important to remain mentally and physically active. Yoga and meditation can keep you away from stress. If you have recently started a new hobby or activity, continuing it will give you energy. Financially, this week you will think of making some new investments. However, it is important to be careful while investing. It will be beneficial to take guidance from an experienced person for any major financial decision. This week, your positivity and enthusiasm will create a happy atmosphere around you. Keep moving towards your goals and face challenges happily.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week indicates positive changes. Your hard work and dedication are likely to be rewarded during this period. It will be important to maintain a balance between personal and professional life. At work, you may be given the responsibility of some new projects, which will help you hone your skills. Working together with colleagues and promoting team spirit will be beneficial. Maintaining patience in difficult situations can give you great results. In personal life, you will get a chance to spend time with your loved ones. This week is suitable for strengthening family relationships. There is a possibility of attending a special event, which will be enjoyable for you. On the health front, it will be important to focus on your lifestyle. Regular exercise and a proper diet will help maintain energy levels. Participating in social activities will be beneficial for you; meeting new people and networking can provide you with new opportunities. Overall, this week is a time for your growth and strengthening relationships. Use positive energy and keep moving towards your goals.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week will be full of new possibilities and communication

opportunities for you. Your social activities will increase, and you will meet new people, who will give a new direction to your thoughts and perspectives. Your ideas will develop rapidly during this period, so use the right opportunities to enhance your creativity. Some new ideas will emerge in your professional life, which you will have to pay attention to. It will be beneficial for you to keep the communication with colleagues open and positive. Keep in mind that your versatility can be helpful for you, but sometimes it can also confuse you. So, try to focus on one direction. Some changes can also come in your personal life. If you are in a relationship, then mutual conversation will provide an opportunity to increase mutual understanding. If you are single, then communication with a special person can increase, which can touch your heart. From a health point of view, give priority to mental health. Yoga and meditation can prove to be beneficial for you, which will keep you mentally more balanced. This week, the advice for you is to express your thoughts and feelings clearly. This week, your communication skills will be important. Speak openly and share your thoughts; this will keep the environment around you positive.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week can be positive and progressive. You will appear more confident during this period. Relationships with colleagues and family members will strengthen, which will make you feel mentally not only calm but also empowered. On the work front, you will unleash your creativity and problem-solving abilities. This is the time to execute the plans that you had considered earlier. Focus on your goals and easily overcome every obstacle that comes your way. Personal relationships can also make satisfactory progress. If you are in a special relationship, you will feel a deep connection with each other. This is a good time for conversation; express your feelings and thoughts clearly. From a health point of view, pay attention to small things, like adequate rest and good nutrition. Yoga or meditation can also be beneficial for your mental health. This week requires restraint and positive behavior. Your hard work and patience will pay off. Trust your intuition and look forward to moving forward.

LEO



Ganesha says the week will start with positive energy for Leos. This week, you will get a special opportunity to spend time with your friends and family. People around you will appreciate your warmth and leadership skills, which will help you build social relationships. On the work front, this week you may get a chance to work on some new projects. Your ideas and creativity will be recognized, so trust yourself and do not

hesitate to present your ideas. If you are looking for a new career opportunity, then this is the right time. From a health point of view, a little more activity and exercise will help reduce your mental stress. This week is the best time for you to make some changes in your routine. In love relationships, talk openly to your beloved. This is the time to strengthen your relationship. This week, focus on spending time with each other and enjoying small joys. Overall, this week will be full of new possibilities and positivity for you. Channel your energy in the right direction, and your hard work will pay off.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week, many opportunities and challenges may come your way. Your mind will be full of ideas, which will help you clarify your goals. Your dedication and hard work at work will yield positive results. This week, you may get the responsibility of a new project or work, which will test all your skills. However, make sure to prioritize your choices and preferences to avoid mental stress. In personal relationships, there is a good opportunity to spend time with family and friends. If you want to resolve an old dispute, this is the right time. It is important to maintain balance in your professional and personal life. Be health-conscious; it will be important to prioritize your mental health this week. Yoga and meditation can reduce your stress. Do not forget to take some time for yourself, so that you can feel refreshed. Remember, there is an opportunity hidden in every challenge. Use your analytical thinking and keep moving towards your goals.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week symbolizes balance and harmony for you. You will be inspired to bring newness to your social life. Your sensitivity and charming personality will attract people around you at this time. Your relationships will be strengthened, and you will be ready to spend special time with your loved ones. Keep in mind that it will be very important to maintain politeness and understanding in conversation. Some new projects may come to you in the workplace this week. Your teamwork and dedication can give positive results. Financial condition is also likely to strengthen, so you can consider long-pending investments. In terms of health, pay attention to exercise and diet. Meditation will bring mental peace. Your creativity will also be at its peak this week. Focusing on personal projects can be beneficial. Overall, this week will be positive and progressive for you.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, you may see many important changes in your life. You will try to

understand your feelings and go deep within yourself. This is a time of self-realization for you. Do not hesitate to share your deepest thoughts, as this will strengthen your human relationships. This week, you may face some challenging situations at work, but with your wisdom and strategic thinking, you can successfully deal with all of them. Keep conversations with colleagues open and honest. This week is favorable for promoting a spirit of cooperation at work. Love relationships will intensify in personal life. If you are hesitant to express your feelings towards someone, then this is the right time to bring out the truth. Your emotions and sensitivity will make your relationships stronger. In terms of health, take care of your mental and physical health. Yoga and meditation can prove beneficial for you. Take some time for yourself and reduce mental stress. Try to focus on yourself at the end of the week. Pay attention to your desires and needs, so that you can move forward with more positivity in the coming time.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week is full of enthusiasm and new possibilities for Sagittarius. During this time, you can see positive changes in your personal and professional life. Confidence will increase, and there will be a zeal to achieve your goals. Your social life will also improve. Friends and family will be around you, and time spent with them will make you happy. There is a possibility of deepening a special relationship, so do not hesitate to express your feelings. This week is for you to stay active in terms of health. Doing yoga or exercise will not only improve your physical health, but also your mental health. Do not forget to include moments of meditation and peace in your day. The situation will remain stable in financial matters, but it is important to avoid unnecessary expenses. Focus on your plans this week, so that you can be in a better position in the coming time. Overall, this week will be full of energy and new opportunities for you. Move forward with positive thinking and be fully dedicated to your goals.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says your responsibilities may increase this week, but this is a good opportunity for you to prove your abilities. You will be known for your determination and hard work in your work. Focus on your goals and be ready to take steps in the right direction. In personal life, spend time with family and friends. Their support and love will boost your morale. Have open conversations to bring positivity to your relationships. Health-wise, focus on regular exercise and a proper diet. This week will help you maintain your energy. Your financial

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 8 TO 14 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

SEPTEMBER 8

Ganesha says you are an extremely intelligent individual who is knowledgeable in every field. You will see yourself rise like a brilliant star. Because of your exceptional mental acuity, you can solve puzzles quickly. However, high-paying endeavors could be inconsistent for you despite your organized risk-taking skills. Because you have unmatched communication skills, which are crucial today, you are familiar with the pace of the competition.

SEPTEMBER 9

Ganesha says, although you may not have as many friends due to your shyness, you will be able to manage the direction of your life methodically because of your unstoppable thoughts and strong ability to conclude. Doing consistently excellent work would also improve your standards. Your close ones should be warned when you exhibit your introverted side, since it needs to be changed to prevent misunderstandings. In terms of love, don't hold back from expressing your sentiments.

SEPTEMBER 10

Ganesha says you will have many opportunities to demonstrate your abilities at work, and everyone will be impressed. You'll have to spend time with your family due to circumstances, and you'll steal the show with your electrifying gestures. Your life's stability may improve if you strike it rich. You are a sensible individual. The early games you played with obstacles shaped your tough nature and made it difficult to dominate. The public will like you for who you naturally are. They frequently adhere to you.

SEPTEMBER 11

Ganesha says your creative spirit will produce win-win circumstances for you everywhere. Today is expected to be good for your devout soul, yet a small slip-up can chafe you. Your job will always be your first passion, and since you spend most of your time there, it will provide you with incredible glory, honor, and surprises. You detest bigots and constantly work to cast a ray of optimism into the gloomy corners. As a result, you are a seasoned warrior.

SEPTEMBER 12

Ganesha says, despite their best efforts, your coworkers and associates are unable to adopt your working style. However, you must adhere to all policies and procedures at work so that no one can ever call your attention to any flaws. Thanks to your unshakable focus and ferocious resolve, you will surely become the center of attention on the professional front. It would also be simpler for you to advance and earn more money.

SEPTEMBER 13

Ganesha says you are a fountain of intelligence, talent, and potential. No one will ever be able to defeat you at work since you are above all others and unbeatable. You only need a reliable source of money if you have sharp, refined acumen skills. All of your obstacles will be simply overcome by you. Your communication style will propel you to the top position in your field. Your genre includes serving humanity highly.



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

SEPTEMBER 14

Ganesha says you come up with your inventory. Having undiscovered artistic or musical talent might serve as a physical representation of your distinction in life. In this well-known sector, you're likely to start your own business. Not just the home market, but also the global one, will be populated with your ideas. Your life will be easy and peaceful as a result, both in terms of your financial situation and your physical well-being.

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condition is likely to improve, but keep an eye on expenses. This is the right time to invest, but always make informed decisions. Overall, this week will bring new possibilities and opportunities for you. Stay confident and believe in your strength.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week indicates change and self-reliance. Your insight and sensitivity have increased, which will help you understand the emotional aspects of people around you. It is important to stay away from any kind of

negativity this week; move forward with positive energy. New possibilities may arise in your career, so do not hesitate to share your thoughts. This is the time to move in the direction of your dreams. Your relationships will also intensify; respect your partner's feelings and maintain communication. In terms of health, meditation and yoga can help

maintain your mental balance. Your kindness and empathy will be important for you at this time, so make time for others and connect with them. This week, use your inner confidence and be clear about your intentions. You have the potential to do a lot, just move forward towards making your dreams a reality.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week will open doors to new possibilities. You will get the opportunity to express your creativity freely, which will enhance your ideas. This week is also a time to focus on yourself. Your social activities will increase, and it is a good time to make new friends. Your energy will also remain positive, which can help you move towards your goals. However, do not shy away from helping people in need. Sweetness will remain in love and relationships, but do not forget to maintain communication from time to time. In terms of health, light exercise and a balanced diet will be very beneficial for you. Take some time for yourself this week and stay mentally refreshed. Your thoughts and perspectives will become a source of inspiration for those around you.

AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

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Pitru Paksha - Honoring the ancestors in Hindu tradition

Pitru Paksha, literally meaning "Fortnight of the Ancestors", is a sacred period in the Hindu calendar dedicated to expressing gratitude to one's forefathers and performing rites for their spiritual peace. Observed during the waning phase of the lunar month of Bhadrapada (September-October), this fortnight carries profound religious, philosophical, and cultural significance.

Shraddha in Pitru Paksha is the time to remember, thank and honor our ancestors. It is believed that during the time of Shraddh, ancestors come to earth to bless their kin. The relevance of Shradh can be best known from one of the greatest epic of all time Mahabharata.

Post the war between the Kauravas and Pandavas, when everything ended, Karan (Danveer Karna, brave warrior, one of the greatest legends in the war of Mahabharata) died and reached heaven, he was offered food in the form of gold, silver and jewels. On this, he questioned Indra (the lord of heaven) the reason for offering him such a food. On this, Indra told Karna that throughout his life donated gold, diamond and silver, but, never donated any food in the name of his ancestors. Karna reverted that as he was not aware about his ancestors; hence, he never did it. So, Indra asked Karna to come back to earth, where he donated food, made Tarpan during the sixteen days.

Sarvapitri Amavasya

The last day of Pitru Paksha is known as Sarvapitri Amavasya or Mahalaya amavasya. Mahalaya amavasya is the most significant day of Pitru Paksha. Person who do not know the exact date of our ancestors death anniversary, they pay homage and offer food on this day.

Year on year, pitru paksha occurs during the Krishna Paksha (waning phase or dark fortnight of lunar month) of Bhadrapada month just before the start of Navratri (Dusehra).

This year, the Mahalaya Pitru Paksha stretches from 7 Sept, 2025 to 21 Sept, 2025.

Srimad Bhagavad Gita says the body is perishable, but the soul is deathless. In fact, the soul is never born or dead. It is eternal and immortal. Neither the five elements nor any force on the earth can destroy it. However, it wears the shell of physical body and therefore needs to experience the cycle of births and deaths. After giving up its earthly vesture, the soul temporarily takes refuge in the Pitru Loka until it gets another body to continue with the cycle.

While it is customary to perform shraddh for them year on year on the month and tithi in which they left their bodies, annually, Pitru Paksha is the right time specially designated for the



ancestors to visit the families they left behind to accept the offerings they give.

Mythology Relating to King Karna

Traditionally pitru paksha or shraddh is a custom that is followed by the Hindus on a regular basis. It is said that if you fail to offer water and food to the ancestors in the pitru paksha then in the afterlife you will also remain without food and water.

We all know of the king Karna from Mahabharata. He was the son of sun god. During his life he was considered to be very deeply involved in charity. He could not say no to anyone. When he died and went to heaven the gods would give him food made of gold. Karna asked the gods that he was such a famous king and would do so much charity then why was he given food made of gold. The king of the gods Indra told him that this was so as Karna in his life was only donating gold and gems.

He never offered food and water to the poor and neither to his ancestors. King Karna realised his mistake and he wanted to correct the same. The gods decided that Karna will be allowed to get back to earth for sixteen days and feed the poor and the needy. This would help him to get rid of the problem.

Avoid New Activity During This Period

If you are planning to start any new activity then please avoid this period as it is not a good time. The manner and way in which pitru paksha rituals are performed differs from region to region.

On the shraddh day many people keep fast for the ancestors to rest in peace. Many people do not cut their hair during the pitru paksha as it is considered a bad omen. Many people have different names

Important information

Shraddha - Pitru Paksha 2025

Shraddha Start Date: Sunday, 07 September 2025

Shraddha End Date: Sunday, 21 September 2025.

Time Period : Pitru paksha is a time period of fifteen days.

for the pitru paksha. We are mentioning them so that you do not get confused to hear the other terms. These are: tarpanam, sola shraddha, shraddham.

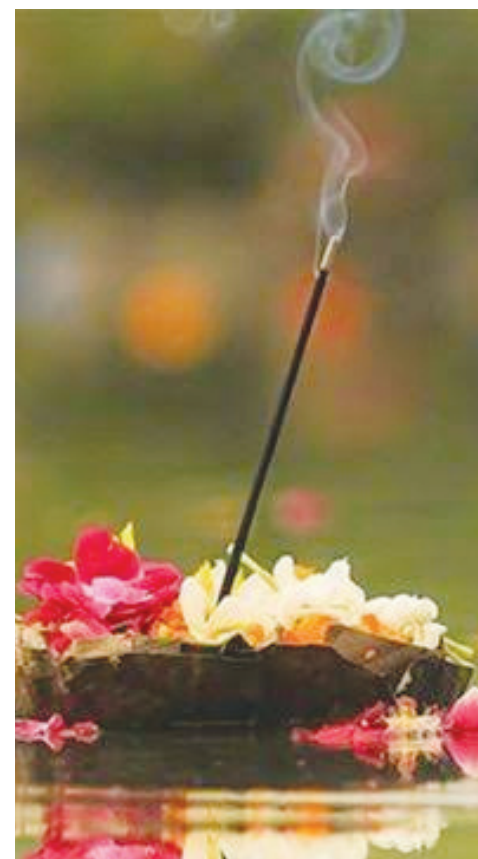
Why Please Ancestors?

You may ask why you should please the ancestors or whether there is life after death? If they are dead then why should we bother about them? Well when your ancestors are not resting in peace you too will not be able to be in peace. You will often face some problem or the other. There will be disputes in the family. Women will not be able to bear children. The family members will be meeting with unforeseen accidents and the list will just go on.

When the ancestors are resting in peace you can see that your home and family will be prospering. Just because the ancestors are dead we should not forget them. They should be prayed to and offered food and water. If the deceased do not have a son then the immediate family members can also do the shraddha puja. This puja also cleans the sinful deeds of the deceased soul and ensures that they rest in peace.

The person who is performing the shraddha puja during the pitru paksha must do it with complete dedication and with whole heart. You could also do it under guidance of a learned priest.

You must keep handy the list of your ancestors who have left for their



heavenly abode. Try to keep the names of at least the previous seven generations. The puja must be offered to both the men as well as the women. After the puja food must be offered to the ancestors. We will deal in more details with the shraddha puja done in pitru paksha in our next article.

Sikh History This Week

SEPTEMBER 5 TO SEPTEMBER 11

5th September

1922 Sardar Pritpal Singh Ji was injured in lathi charge from the police in Guru-Ka-Bagh morcha but refused to depart with his Sikh faith.

6th September



1901 Giani Ditt Singh passed away. He was the chief organiser and a prominent intellect of the Singh Sabha Movement. Giani Ditt Singh was a resident of village Nandpur Kalodh, Patiala. Born in 1850, he was initially a Gulabdassi and was later influenced by the sangat of Jawahar Singh

Kapur and Professor Bhani Gurmukh Singh. As a result he became a Sikh and joined the Singh Sabha movement. He was such an intellect that he won debates with the Arya Samaji Chief Dayanand.

1921 Gurudwara Teja Kalan, Gurdaspur, came under SGPC. As the movement of non-cooperation gained momentum among Sikhs, the Akali leaders began their tour of the provinces urging the Sikhs to join the Akali Dal and rise as one man to liberate their Gurudwaras. On this day a large number of Akalis suddenly appeared at Gurudwara Teja Kalan and captured it.

1966 Punjab Reorganization Bill presented in the Indian Lower House. Sirdar Kapur Singh rejected it on behalf of the Sikh nation in his famous address, the betrayal of the Sikh faith, to the Indian Parliament.

7th September

1936 Gandhi asserts that Sikhism is part of Hindutva and stated that if becoming a Sikh is conversion then this kind of conversion on the part of Harijans is dangerous.



1981 Sikh protest procession taken out in Delhi to seek Sikh demands. 4 GurSikhs killed by Haryana Police on their way to join the procession.

8th September

1922 The count of GurSikhs injured as a result of Police atrocities during the Guru Ka Bagh morcha reached 836. GURU KA BAGH gurudwara was under the control of Mahant Sundar Dass. He had agreed to serve under a committee of eleven members appointed by the SGPC on August 23, 1921, but the land remained under his possession. The Sikhs used to hew wood from the land for common kitchen and Mahant, under instigation from others, lodged a complaint against the

Akalis. The government was on the outlook for opportunities to retrieve its prestige, lost in the Key's affair. On Aug. 9, 1922, five Akali Sewadars were arrested for cutting wood for Guru Ka Langar from Guru Ka Bagh. Subsequently a morcha was launched to seek the release of the five GurSikhs.

9th September



1965 Indian Air Force, under the command of Chief Marshal Arjan Singh, successfully bombed the Pakistani strongholds.

1965 Fateh Singh postponed his fast under the pretext of Indo-Pak war.

1981 Lala Jagat Narayan murdered near Ludhiana and Sikhs Attacked. Narayan, a journalist, was killed by some unidentified persons near the city of Ludhiana. The police named Swarn Singh, Dalbir Singh and Nachhattar Singh as suspects. The Senior Superintendent of Police, D.R. Bhatti, also named Jarnail Singh Bhindranwala as one of the "conspirators." The next day the Hindus took out a procession in Jalandhar City and attacked a large number of Sikh shops and houses. Innocent Sikhs, including some anti-Akalis, were also beaten by the Hindu mob. Some of the Sikhs sustained severe injuries.

10th September



1539 Gur Gadhi, Second Patshah, Guru Angad Dev Ji. GURU ANGAD DEV (1504-1552): The mantle of the First Master fell on Angad, the second Sikh Guru, in 1539, and he graced the exalted position till 1552.

Born at "Mattae de Saran", a Punjab village, on Sunday, Vaisakh Vadi 1 sunmat 1561 (March 31, 1504) to father Pheru Mal and mother Dya Kaur, Guru Angad was originally known as "Lehna". In sunmat 1576, Guru Sahib married Khivi, daughter of Devi Chand. This marriage resulted in two daughters Bibi Amro and Anokhi and two sons Dassu and Dattu Ji. Lehna's parents were orthodox Hindus and worshippers of the goddess Durga. The most momentous and exulting moment in Lehna's life came around 1531 when he met Guru Nanak at Kartarpur. So powerful and profound was the Guru's divine spell on him that he wound up

domestic affairs and devoted himself entirely to the service of the Guru and of fellow-men in whom the Lord constantly dwells. Because of his patient and unpretentious service, he endeared himself to the Guru who lovingly called him "Angad" (i.e., of my own limb) and elevated him to the Guruship on Hadh 17th sunmat 1596. However, Guru Angad actually assumed Guruship on Asu 23rd sunmat 1596 and started his work.

Imbibing the spirit of the First Master, Guru Angad began to disseminate the gospel of Guru Nanak to redeem the caste-worn and custom-ridden contemporary society. He denounced formalism and ritualism, and highlighted the edifying experience of the adoration of the Guru (Guru Bhakti), service of the Guru (Guru Seva), and divine meditation (Nam Bhakti). These tie regarded as the noblest means of God-realization. Guru Angad held service in high esteem. Indeed, he placed love of God and service of humanity on the same pedestal.

To consolidate and propagate the mission of Guru Nanak, the Second Master collected the celestial songs and teachings of his predecessor which, together with his own compositions, he transmitted to mankind. There are sixty-two hymns by Guru Angad in the Adi Granth.

1930 Sardar Karam Singh, a renowned Sikh historian, passed away at Tarn Taran Sahib. He was born in 1884. He was the first Sikh historian who used scientific techniques in documenting the Sikh history. He spent almost all his life in collecting the source material related to the Sikh history. He left his education when he was a student of B.A. final year and walked on foot from one village to another in search of historical material and documented the tales told by the older people of Punjab. It was a period (1905) of great plague in Punjab. Many old and young people were dying of plague left and right. He could not afford to wait and finish his degree. Had he waited, many more sources of valuable information would have vanished forever.

11th September



1487 Guru Nanak Dev's marriage anniversary. Guru Nanak Dev Patshah married Bibi Sulakhani, daughter of Mul Chand of Batala city. This relationship was mediated by Bhai Jai Ram Jim, the husband of Guru Nanak's sister, Bibi Nanaki. The engagement took place on Vaisakh Wadhi 1, Sunmat 1542 when Guru Nanak Patshah was at the age of 16. At the time of marriage, Guru Nanak Patshah was 18 years of age. The marriage took place in Batala, which is on the railway from Amritsar to Pathankot. The location where Guru Nanak's marriage party stayed overnight is still marked by an earthen wall. Babae Da Viya, Guru Nanak Dev's marriage anniversary, is celebrated every year on Badro Sudi 7.

1807 Maharaja Ranjit Singh met Charles Matcalfe, the British agent to draw out the terms of the treaty.

1982 34 Sikhs of the Dharam Yudh Morcha were crushed under train near Tarn Taaran. The bus was carrying Akali Satyagrahis under police escort from Amritsar to Ferozpur when it accidentally ran into the train.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Northern States get reprieve from rain...

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Gov Hochul fends of RFK Jr. COVID...

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Other high-level meetings to be held during the week include Summit for a Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Global Economy; Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health and Well-being; 30th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth; Launch of the Global Dialogue on AI Governance; International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons; and Situation of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

(Source: PTI)

Cell phone ban at NYC public schools...

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About 820 schools have purchased pouches, 600 are using drop-boxes or storage bins, and 550 are collecting phones in the classroom, according to the New York City Department of Education, which recently surveyed principals. The rules also apply to other electronic devices, such as smartwatches and AirPods.

When it came time to put the phones away, the reception was mixed - with some parents and students finding creative ways to get around the ban.

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"I'm totally against it. Because, like, God forbid anything happens, especially with all the shootings going around, I feel like it's just dangerous," the mom continued. Unable to contact her daughter, Brooklyn Technical High School mom Rena Singh waited two hours to pick her up from school and show her the interborough route home to Queens. While a frustrating experience, Singh said she understood that the ban would help her child focus in the classroom and make friends at her new school.

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At a back-to-school press conference at HBCU Early College Prep in Jamaica, Queens, Mayor Adams said there are emergency procedures in place, locks on school front doors and student drills on what to do in a crisis.

"We're going to do our job to keep our children safe, but let's not confuse this - Mommy did not text me during an emergency. She called the school," Adams said. "And so, we will survive without cell phones in our schools. It is hurting our children."

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About 61% of New York voters support a cell phone ban in schools, according to an April poll from Siena College Research Institute. The restrictions were passed with bipartisan support in the state Legislature and the backing of both the state and city teachers unions. For the first day of the ban, Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos held an early afternoon meeting with principals citywide and deployed borough safety directors and local district staff to schools. She also planned to hold more meetings with administrators by grade level, as well as form a teacher advisory council and focus groups, including students.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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The high-level General Debate will run from September 23-29, with Brazil as the traditional first speaker of the session, followed by the U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump will address world leaders from the iconic UNGA podium on September 23, his first address to the UN session in his second term in the White House.

According to a revised provisional list of speakers for the high-level General Debate of the 80th session of the General Assembly released on Friday, September 5, 2025, India will be represented by a 'Minister'. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will address the session on September 27.

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Spiti - journey to India's high-altitude desert valley

Hidden deep within the trans-Himalayan ranges of Himachal Pradesh, Spiti Valley-often called "Little Tibet"-is one of India's most breathtaking and remote destinations. Perched at an altitude of 12,500 feet, this cold desert valley offers stark landscapes, ancient monasteries, high passes, and a cultural heritage untouched by modernity. For adventurous travelers, Spiti is less a vacation spot and more an expedition into nature's raw beauty and timeless spirituality.

The first thing that strikes you about Spiti is silence-not the absence of sound, but the kind of silence that feels alive. At 12,500 feet above sea level, with jagged peaks scratching the sky and a sapphire river carving its way through the valley floor, Spiti feels less like a destination and more like a different planet.

I began my journey from Shimla, following the old Hindustan-Tibet road that snakes its way through Kinnaur. The roads were narrow, clinging to cliffs, with the Sutlej roaring far below. Every bend revealed a new face of the Himalayas-lush pine valleys giving way to barren, wind-sculpted mountains as I climbed higher into the rain shadow of the range. By the time I crossed into Spiti, the greenery had vanished, replaced by ochre, grey, and rust-colored slopes etched by centuries of wind.

Monasteries in the Sky

My first stop was Key Monastery, a thousand-year-old fortress of whitewashed walls perched like a crown above the valley. Prayer flags fluttered madly in the thin air, carrying whispered mantras into the wind. Inside, butter lamps flickered and the scent of juniper hung heavy. Monks in crimson robes moved silently, their chants deep and resonant. I sat in a corner, trying to breathe slowly-not just to fight the altitude, but to take in the weight of this ancient peace.

Next came Tabo Monastery, known as the "Ajanta of the Himalayas." The clay walls, covered with murals dating back to the 10th century, glowed in soft lamplight. My guide told me that Tabo has been continuously inhabited for over a thousand years. I felt humbled, knowing that pilgrims had been sitting on these very floors long before I was born, long before my country even existed in its present form.

Villages at the Top of the World

Spiti's villages feel like scenes from a forgotten tale. In Langza, I stayed with a local family in a traditional mud-brick house. Their kitchen was warm with the smell of butter tea and tsampa (barley flour). Outside stood a colossal Buddha statue, gazing calmly across snow-dusted peaks. Fossils-remnants of the ocean that once covered these mountains-lay



scattered in the fields.

In Hikkim, I mailed postcards from the world's highest post office, a tiny hut that still hand-stamps every letter. At Komic, the highest motorable village in Asia, children chased me down dusty lanes, their laughter louder than the wind. These moments, small and human, were as memorable as the mountains themselves.

The Road to Chandratul

Leaving Kaza, the valley's main town, I headed toward Chandratul Lake. The road was no more than a suggestion in the rock-unpaved, bumpy, and thrillingly close to the edge. But when I arrived, I understood why every traveler swears by it. Chandratul shimmered like liquid silver under the afternoon sun, its crescent shape mirrored perfectly in still water. That night, camping under a canopy of stars brighter than I'd ever imagined, I realized Spiti's greatest gift: perspective. In a world that feels endlessly noisy and urgent, this valley teaches patience and awe.

Traveling Through Thin Air

Travel in Spiti is not easy. The air is thin, the sun fierce, and the roads demanding. But that is precisely what keeps it pristine. I learned to carry water at all times, to let my body adjust to the altitude slowly, and to live without internet or phone signal for days at a time. And surprisingly, I didn't miss it.

Why Spiti Stays With You

When I finally crossed Kunzum Pass and began the descent toward Manali, I felt a tug of sadness. Spiti is not the kind of place you "do" and then tick off your list. It lingers. It's the smile of the old woman who pressed butter tea into my hands before I could even take my shoes off. It's the sound of monks chanting as the first light of dawn hits snow peaks. It's the endless night sky where you remember just how small you are-and



how vast the world can be.

Best season

June to September (roads open, weather pleasant)

Getting there

From Shimla via Kinnaur (long but open year-round) or from Manali via Rohtang & Kunzum Pass (open only in summer)

Stay options

Homestays in Langza, Hikkim, and Kaza; basic camps near Chandratul

Must-do

Visit monasteries, mail a card from Hikkim, try yak butter tea, stargaze at night, and take it slow. Spiti isn't just a place. It's an experience of stillness, a reminder that beauty often hides where the road ends.

(By Shriya Sharma, who is an avid traveler)

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History This Week SEP 05 - SEP 11

SEPTEMBER 5

September 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

September 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.

September 5, 1975 - The first of two September assassination attempts on President Gerald Ford occurred as a woman pointed a gun at the President in Sacramento, California. Two weeks later, a second attempt occurred as another woman fired a shot at Ford in San Francisco. Ford was not harmed in either incident.



September 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.

Birthday - Wild West legend Jesse James (1847-1882) was born in Centerville, Missouri. Following the American Civil War, Jesse and his brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse in the back of the head and claimed the reward.

Birthday - Film producer Darryl F. Zanuck (1902-1979) was born in Wahoo, Nebraska. He co-founded 20th Century Studios, which later merged with Fox. His films included the first sound picture The Jazz Singer, and also The Snake Pit and The Grapes of Wrath.

SEPTEMBER 6

September 6, 1991 - Leningrad was renamed Saint Petersburg by Russian legislators following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's second largest city had been known as Leningrad for 67 years in honor of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union.

Birthday - Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was born in Chavaniac, France (as Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier). He came to America in 1777 to

volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.



Birthday - Pioneering American social worker Jane Addams (1860-1935) was born in Cedarville, Illinois. In 1883, she toured the great European cities to study famous historic sites but was deeply moved by the hunger and misery she found among the common people. She then founded Hull House in Chicago to serve the sick and poor and managed the settlement for the next 46 years.

SEPTEMBER 7

September 7, 1822 - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal after 322 years as a colony.

September 7, 1940 - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.

September 7, 1986 - Bishop Desmond Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, the first black head of South Africa's Anglicans.

September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a century.

September 7, 1999 - For the first time since World War II, Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, returned to Berlin, former capital of Imperial Germany as well as Hitler's Reich. The Bundestag held its first session in the fully restored Reichstag building, attended by parliamentarians from around the world. The session also marked the 50th anniversary of the Bundestag's first post-war session, held in Bonn, the former capital of West Germany.



Birthday - Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was born in Greenwich Palace. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne in 1558 at age 25. During her reign, Britain became a world power by defeating the Spanish Armada. The Anglican Church was also fully established.

SEPTEMBER 8

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.



September 8, 1935 - Louisiana Senator Huey P. Long was shot and mortally wounded while attending a session of the state House of Representatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He died two days later.

September 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

September 8, 1974 - A month after resigning the presidency in disgrace as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was granted a full pardon by President Gerald R. Ford for all offenses committed while in office.

September 8, 2022 - Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign, the longest in British history. Upon her death, her son Charles, age 73, became the new monarch as King Charles III. Born on April 21, 1926, Princess Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, and became Queen in 1952, at age 25, after her father King George VI died in his sleep. During her reign, the Queen met 13 U.S. presidents and visited over 100 countries.

SEPTEMBER 9

September 9, 1943 - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.

September 9, 1948 - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.

September 9, 1976 - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.

September 9, 1993 - Israel and the PLO

(Palestine Liberation Organization) agreed to recognize each other, paving the way for a possible peaceful end to the hundred year old conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Mideast.

SEPTEMBER 10



September 10, 1898 - Elizabeth, Empress of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

September 10, 1919 - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.

September 10, 1943 - Hitler's troops occupied Rome and took over the protection of Vatican City.

SEPTEMBER 11



September 11, 2001 - The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Four separate teams of Mideast terrorists, operating from inside the U.S., boarded the morning flights posing as passengers, then forcibly commandeered the aircraft. Two fully-fueled jumbo jets, American Airlines Flight 11 carrying 92 people and United Airlines Flight 175 carrying 65 people, had departed Boston for Los Angeles. Both jets were diverted by the hijackers to New York City where they were piloted into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. The impact and subsequent fire caused both 110-story towers to collapse, killing 2,752 persons including hundreds of rescue workers and people employed in the towers. In addition, United Airlines Flight 93, which had departed Newark for San Francisco, and American Airlines Flight 77, which had departed Dulles (Virginia) for Los Angeles, were hijacked. Flight 77 with 64 people on board was diverted to Washington, D.C., then piloted into the Pentagon building, killing everyone on board and 125 military personnel inside the building.

Maryland deploys more law enforcement to Baltimore amid Trump's threats to send troops

SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

BALTIMORE (TIP): With President Donald Trump's threat to send National Guard troops into Baltimore in the air, Maryland leaders said Friday, September 5, that they will pour more of their own resources to further bring down crime in the state's largest city.



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore said Friday that the focus on enhancing public safety doesn't have anything to do with Trump: "Nothing we're doing is inspired by the president. The president does not inspire us."

The open-ended increase in public safety efforts, announced by Gov. Wes Moore (D) and Mayor Brandon Scott (D), builds on an existing partnership that has already funneled cash to violence-interrupter groups and state prosecutors, an effort that the two men credit with helping drive Baltimore's homicide count to its lowest in 50 years.

"We can do this ourselves," Scott said Friday evening at a joint news conference with the governor outside St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. "We do not need an occupation. We do not need troops on our streets."

He called the city's population "a resource to be invested in, not a problem to be solved."

Trump has characterized Baltimore as a "hellhole" and pointed to the city, along with Chicago and New Orleans, as a place he may want to replicate his intervention in D.C., where he declared a "crime emergency" Aug. 11 and sent nearly 2,200 National Guard troops alongside a surge of federal law enforcement agents.

Even as Trump this week softened his language about activating the Guard over the objections of local officials elsewhere, the president continued to stress the need for crime reduction in Baltimore.

"The people in Baltimore, the people in all the places we talk about, they want to see us there. And I think we're pretty much waiting until we get asked," Trump said.

At the news conference Friday, Moore said the focus on enhancing public safety doesn't have anything to do with Trump: "Nothing we're doing is inspired by the president. The president does not inspire us."

Scott led the crowd in a chant.

"We're all we got!" the mayor yelled. The crowd hollered back, "We're all we need!"

Maryland State Police troopers and officers from the Maryland Transportation Authority will do "proactive enforcement in high-risk areas" that will create "a highly visible law enforcement presence," the governor's office said in a news release. The extra officers will also assist in investigations of firearm and narcotics offenses.

Scott and Moore have refused to endorse using the Guard and conferred with state Attorney General Anthony G. Brown (D) on a legal game plan to stop it should Trump do it anyway. Meanwhile, they have publicly welcomed more agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as well as enhanced federal funding for local police, suggesting that the president support a federal ban of ghost guns and devices that give some guns rapid-fire capability.

"I have a whole list of federal resources that I would love for the president of the United States to be able to authorize," Moore said this week during a public appearance at the National Press Club in D.C.

But calling up the Maryland National Guard is not one of them.

"One hundred percent I would not accept it, and there's no need for it," Moore said, pointing out that the Guard has not been deployed in D.C. to help local policing. "These are people with other jobs. These are people who still have their families relying on them, who now are being asked to come to Washington, D.C., to rake mulch and clean up trash and help people with their luggage when they arrive at Union Station," he said. "And do you know why? Because they're not trained to do municipal policing. Do you know who is trained? Local law enforcement. FBI and ATF agents."

Under the targeted surge plan, Maryland State Police troopers will be sent to state-owned routes within Baltimore city limits, where they already have jurisdiction, allowing Baltimore Police Department officers to patrol elsewhere. The plan, which reactivates initiatives scaled back under then-Gov. Larry Hogan (R), also enhances a joint task force whose job is to track down people with warrants for their arrest.

"This is about getting the right resources to the right locations, and it's just good policing," said Adam Flasch, Moore's deputy chief of staff and a retired brigadier general who is helping lead the governor's response to a potential National Guard deployment. "We're not going to be done in a month and declare victory and walk away," he said in an interview Friday, adding that the surge ensures constitutional policing that leads to prosecutable arrests, which in turn puts people into Maryland's criminal justice system and its rehabilitation programs.

"That's the difference in this approach. It's not just smashmouth law enforcement of yesteryear," Flasch said.

Scott referenced the stop-and-frisk policies that were pervasive in Baltimore during the 1990s, noting that those huge numbers of arrests still came alongside high homicide rates. (The Washington Post)

IMMIGRATION

What H-1B Visa Holders Must Do If They Get A Notice To Appear (NTA)

- What can a H-1B holder do if they lose their job and are ordered to appear in Immigration court?
- Laid-off H-1B workers in the U.S. are usually granted a 60-day grace period to find a new employer or change their visa status. However, since mid-2025, there has been a surge in reports of Notices to Appear (NTAs) being issued well before the grace period has expired.
- This has caused significant stress and uncertainty for many H-1B visa holders and their families in the U.S.
- According to PEW, 400,000 H-1B visas were approved in 2024. 73% of those visas went to workers from India. A vast majority of the H-1B visas each year are renewals.

WHAT OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO H-1B VISA HOLDERS IN SUCH SITUATIONS?

To better understand the legal landscape and possible courses of action, Anjana Nagarajan-Butaney spoke with Sameer Khedekar, Founder and Managing Attorney at Vanguard Visa Law in California.

This interview has been lightly edited for clarity.



Anjana Nagarajan-Butaney

Anjana: To give us a little bit of context on why we're even having this conversation at this point in time, can you outline the changes that have occurred

in the H-1B visa process in the last few months?

Sameer: I would say it's apparent that the changes appear to be broader than just the H-1B community. It's the entire kind of legal visa holder community of which H-1B's are like the highest percentage (for Indian Americans). So it kind of makes sense that we focus on them because they have the most people here.

Let me back up a little bit - In February of this year, USCIS issued a memo policy update saying that they will issue notices to appear (NTA) in immigration court to anybody who is not of lawful status in the US.

So we thought it makes sense, right? I mean if you are not in lawful status, you might end up in immigration court. That made sense to us, and we didn't really think too much about it. They provided a bunch of examples that had nothing to do with the H-1B community.

Then in early July, we started hearing of people who had been working in H-1B jobs who were laid off or left a company for whatever reason. Whenever you leave an H-1B job, whether it's through a layoff or even voluntarily, the company is required to notify USCIS, and the reason they're required to notify USCIS is, if they don't, the employee can come back and claim back wages for the period of time, even after they left. So the company kind of has to do this.



According to PEW, 400,000 H-1B visas were approved in 2024

(image source: IC on Canva)

And the question is, when do they have to do it? The regulations say immediately, but immediately, like instantaneously, or most companies do it anywhere from a few days to a few months after the employment ends.

So now the other part to remember is that when an H-1B holder or any visa holder leaves their company, they get a 60-day grace period, which in the regulations is discretionary. But never since 2016 or 2017 when the grace period was implemented, has the government chosen to exercise their discretion not to give it to people.

So it's been pretty much uniformly awarded to anybody who's left their company. And people have used that time, the 60 days, to either find new employment and get a new H-1B transfer or change their status to H-4 or B-1/B-2 while they wait for a job and then go back to H-1B.

The B-1/B-2 to H-1B was a strategy actually almost encouraged by the Biden administration. Post covid, there were a lot of layoffs when companies started realizing they had over hired. In 2023/2024, you remember all the layoffs that happened, and many of these were H-1B holders.

So what the Biden administration said is, if you're laid off, you have options. If you have an H-1B you have a 60-day grace period. You can also apply to change to a B-1/B-2 change in the US. And then if you find a job and you get sponsored for an H-1B, we may just kind of put you back in H-1B if you have a pending B-1/B-2. So basically, there's a pending application that's keeping you in a period of authorized stay. And they even had a website that kind of explained it.

So, remember I told you about the February memo by USCIS. Then in March/April, the Trump administration archived that web page. We're like - what do they mean by that?

In June, they started issuing the NTAs to people. So you can kind of see the timeline, right? They are going after people who are laid off and trying to get them kicked out of the country, Number one. And they're trying to do so in a way where they're not even recognizing the grace period.

Anjana: Can you walk us through the process that happens?

Sameer: So what's happening is somebody leaves their employer - the company withdraws H-1B. That withdrawal has USCIS almost autotrigger a notice to appear in immigration court regardless of what that person has done in the interim to maintain their status - apply for a B-1/B-2, apply for an H-4 or all the things I told you.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

England in grave danger of missing automatic qualification for 2027 World Cup

LONDON (TIP)

England's torrid run in the 50-over format, with Harry Brook at the helm, further extended after South Africa orchestrated its first ODI series win in England's home den since 1998 by taking an unassailable 2-0 lead after the end of the second fixture of the three-match series at the 'Home of Cricket', Lord's.

South Africa ousted England with a narrow five-run victory in a high-octane run-scoring fest. There weren't any notable celebrations from the Proteas players as they calmly got on with things while England were forced to reflect on their misery.

As England's abysmal run in the ODIs persisted, their chances to automatically qualify for the 2027 World Cup are now in jeopardy. The 2019 world champions boast just seven wins out of 21 ODIs since the 2023 World Cup in India. Their shambolic show includes a horror group-stage exit in the Champions Trophy earlier this year, along with a series defeat in India.

Despite clean-sweeping the West Indies in a three-match series, which was Brook's first captaincy assignment in the format, England are ranked eighth in the ICC ODI rankings. If their disastrous run in the format continues, they are at risk of missing out on the automatic qualification. As of now, they stand four



points behind Afghanistan and trail the number one side, India, by 37 points.

The 2027 edition of the World Cup will feature 14 teams. The tournament will be hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, with the first two gaining automatic qualification. Namibia, which doesn't have the status of a full member nation, will traverse through the qualifying rounds.

The top eight teams, apart from the two hosts, will gain automatic qualification. England still has 18 months to change its fortune and maintain a healthy gap between their position and the cut-off mark. Before the Ashes, they will square off against the

number two side, New Zealand, in an away series. The Three Lions will then head to Sri Lanka to play three more before the T20 World Cup.

Next year, some formidable opponents patiently wait to test their strength against England. They will lock horns with India in three matches, participate in a tri-series in Pakistan and meet their arch-rival Australia in the winter. To England's angst, teams below them face opponents who don't appear tough on paper. If two teams managed to topple England, Brook's side will have to go through the standard qualification procedure to gain entry in the marquee event.



Aryna Sabalenka Beats Jessica Pegula To Reach US Open Final

Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka powered into the final of the US Open on Thursday, rallying from a set down to defeat American fourth seed Jessica Pegula and keep her title defence firmly on track. Sabalenka, the world number one and top seed from Belarus, produced a battling performance to clinch a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory in two hours five minutes on the Arthur Ashe Stadium court. The 27-year-old will face the winner of Thursday's other semi-final, either Japan's Naomi Osaka or another American, Amanda Anisimova, in Saturday's final. Sabalenka has now reached three straight US Open finals and has a chance to become the first woman to successfully defend the title since Serena Williams sealed a hat-trick of victories in 2014. "It was a really tough match -- she played incredible tennis as always and I had to work really hard to get this win," a relieved Sabalenka said afterwards. "Just super happy to be back in the final and hopefully I can go all the way again," added Sabalenka, who held her nerve to fight off a series of break points in the decisive third set before wrapping up victory.

India beat Malaysia 4-1, inch closer to Asia Cup final

RAJGIR (TIP)

A determined India produced a masterclass performance, coming from a goal down to beat Malaysia 4-1 in their second Super 4s match of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Thursday, Sept 4.

The Indians were slow to get off the blocks as Shafiq Hassan gave Malaysia the lead in the second minute before the hosts mounted a great fightback.

Manpreet Singh (17th), Sukhjeet Singh (19th), Shilanand Lakra (24th) and Vivek Sagar Prasad (38th) scored for India.

India had drawn 2-2 against Korea in their first Super 4 match on Wednesday.

With the win, India have moved to the top of the Super 4 standings with four points from two games, just ahead of China and Malaysia, both of whom have three points each while defending champions Korea occupy the last spot with just a point.

After a rest day on Friday, India will take on China in their final Super 4 match on Saturday, while Malaysia play Korea.

India just need a draw against China to seal their place in Sunday's final.

Malaysia were two players short on Thursday after playmaker Fitri Saari was suspended for the match for indiscipline following his onfield brawl with Chinese players in their last match. Abu Kamal Azrai also did



not play against India. Contrary to the final result, India were stunned in the second minute as Malaysia took the lead through Hassan.

The Malaysians caught the Indian defence napping as Hassan dodged past Sanjay and Jugraj Singh to slot home the ball with his reverse stick.

The Indian defence looked a bit shaky in the first quarter but did well not to concede any more goals.

Barring that early strike, India dominated the proceedings in the first quarter in terms of ball possession and chances.

India continued their attacking game and secured back-to-back five penalty corners in the opening minute of the second quarter, the last of which they converted by Manpreet, who scored from a rebound after skipper Harmanpreet Singh's flick was saved by Hafizuddin

Othman.

The equaliser seemed to have lifted the Indians as they attacked with more intensity and two minutes later their efforts bore fruit.

Sukhjeet neatly pushed home from close range after receiving a clever pass from Shilanand.

The lead gave wings to the Indians as they looked a completely different entity, mounting attacks after attacks on the Malaysian citadel.

India soon made the scoreline 3-1 through Shilanand. The move was started by Hardik Singh who found Dilpreet Singh, whose defence splitting pass was deflected in by Shilanand past the onrushing Malaysian goalkeeper.

That was all both the teams could manage in the first half as India went into the breather leading 3-1.

Two minutes into the second half, Malaysia secured their first penalty corner but India custodian Krishan Bahadur made a brilliant save with his stick to deny Syed Cholan.

In the 38th minute, India earned their sixth penalty corner and Jugraj's ballistic flick hit the post. The ball was then collected by Sumit, who passed it on to Manpreet, whose pass from the right was pushed in by Vivek.

In the final quarter, India made quite a few circle penetrations and created chances but failed to convert them into goals.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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