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The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

Will bring out a special edition to commemorate the 350th Martyrdom Day of the Ninth Master of the Sikhs, Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji, which falls on November 24

Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com your articles and advertisements for the special edition by November 17, 2025. For any questions, please email or call 646-247-9458.

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NDA Heading for a Landslide Win; Mahagathbandhan Trails Far Behind



PM Modi accepts greetings of party workers by waving 'gamchha' as BJP chief J P Nadda welcomes him at party headquarters on Friday, November 14, 2025. -Photo Credit: PTI

BY I.S. SALUJA
UPDATED: NOVEMBER 14, 2025 AT 7.30 A.M. ET
PATNA (TIP): With counting under way across Bihar, early trends on Friday, November 14, placed the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) far ahead of its rivals, positioning the BJP-JD(U)-led coalition for a resounding victory in the 2025 Assembly elections. Celebrations broke out outside the BJP headquarters in Patna as party workers danced to drumbeats, sensing an emphatic mandate returning the alliance to power.

As of this report, the NDA is leading in 204 out of 243 seats, leaving the Mahagathbandhan-an alliance of the RJD and Congress-far behind at 33 seats. The Jan Suraj Party, despite visible campaign visibility, has yet to secure a lead in any constituency.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

G7 conclave and Canada's presidency end as the foreign ministers' conclave comes to a close



The G 7 Foreign Ministers at Niagara conclave

BY PRABHJOT SINGH
NOVEMBER 13, 2025

NIAGARA, CANADA (TIP): Maritime security and prosperity, critical minerals, economic resilience, and energy security were the major issues discussed during the 2-day G7

Foreign Ministers conclave that concluded at White Oaks resort in Niagara on Wednesday, November 12.

India's foreign minister, S. Jaishankar, was among the participants representing the outreach countries.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

President Trump signs government funding bill, ending shutdown after a record 43-day disruption



President Donald Trump signs the funding bill to reopen the government, in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington on November 12, 2025 -Photo Credit: AP

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): President Donald Trump signed a government funding bill on Wednesday (November 12, 2025) night, ending a record 43-day

shutdown that caused financial stress for federal workers who went without paychecks, stranded scores of travelers at airports and generated long lines at some food banks.



US President Donald Trump. -File photo

Need to bring in talented people, don't have many in US: Trump on H-1B visa

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Donald Trump appears to have softened his stance on his administration's aggressive push on H-1B visa reforms, acknowledging the need for specialized foreign talent to fill critical roles in the American workforce.



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COMMENT

America's Longest Shutdown Ends. But at What Cost?

By Indrajit Saluja



Americans suffered enormously because of the government shutdown—an ordeal that millions across the nation widely believe was both unnecessary and entirely avoidable. For 43 days, the "land of the free and the home of the brave" watched its own people scourged by political brinkmanship: federal workers lining up at food banks, families forced to choose between rent and groceries, airports pushed to the brink, and businesses frozen in uncertainty. But thank God, after weeks of hardship and chaos, the shutdown has finally ended. The relief is palpable—among employers, employees, lawmakers, and every American who felt the tremors of a government brought to a halt.

Yet as the nation exhales, another set of questions rises urgently to the surface: Why did this shutdown happen at all? What did it accomplish? Who gained, who lost—and what does it mean for the American people going forward? The Readers of The Indian Panorama deserve a clear and analytical examination grounded in facts, figures, and the lessons this painful episode has left behind.

HOW IT BEGAN: A POLITICAL SHOWDOWN WITH NATIONAL CONSEQUENCES

At the heart of the shutdown was a bitter standoff over federal spending, tied to a contentious border-security funding demand. Though disagreements over the national budget are not new, the scale and duration of this shutdown were unprecedented. It became the longest in American history—43 days—surpassing the previous record of 35 days in 2018-2019.

The immediate victims were the 800,000 federal employees who were either furloughed or forced to work without pay. Millions more—federal contractors, small-business owners, service workers, and families dependent on federal operations—felt the shockwaves. Approximately 4 million federal contract workers lost income, much of which was never reimbursed. Scientific research projects halted, court proceedings slowed, IRS operations were compromised at a critical tax-season moment, and food-safety inspections were scaled back.

This raised a critical question: Was it necessary to shut down the world's most powerful government to resolve a political disagreement? To millions of Americans, the answer was clearly no.

THE ECONOMIC COST: BILLIONS LOST, RECOVERY PARTIAL

Shutdowns have always been costly, but the severity of this one left a measurable dent in the national economy. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) produced a clear, data-driven assessment:

\$11 billion in total economic losses.

\$3 billion permanently lost—never to be recovered.

Thousands of delayed loans to small businesses by the Small Business Administration,

Hundreds of millions lost by airlines and airport-service vendors.

National parks, operating without staff, suffered millions of dollars in damage from vandalism, littering, and infrastructure wear. In Washington, D.C., restaurants that depend heavily on federal workers reported revenue drops of 30-50%. Across the country, families canceled vacations, postponed purchases, and withdrew from local commerce.

No political objective—whatever its merit—justifies economic losses of this magnitude.

Political Gains and Losses: Costly Gamble for

All

Shutdowns are often viewed through the prism of political victory and defeat. Yet this episode revealed something unusual: there were no winners.

FOR THE ADMINISTRATION

The administration framed the shutdown as a strategic necessity to secure funding for a central policy commitment. But public opinion told a different story.

SURVEYS SHOWED:

53% of Americans blamed the administration for the shutdown.

34% blamed the opposition party.

Presidential approval ratings dropped nearly 4 percentage points during the crisis.

More importantly, the shutdown ended without achieving the policy goal that triggered it. This raised doubts about whether the strategy had ever been viable—or merely symbolic.



FOR CONGRESS

Congressional leaders projected firmness, arguing that yielding would set a dangerous precedent allowing any President to shut down government to extract concessions. In that sense, Congress succeeded in protecting the constitutional balance of powers.

Yet within this broader struggle, it is important to acknowledge the courage of Democratic lawmakers who chose principle over partisanship to help end the impasse. Among them was Congressman Tom Suozzi, who represents this writer in Congress and who broke from party lines in the interest of the American people. At a time when political polarization seemed immovable, leaders like Suozzi—willing to step across the aisle and support measures to reopen the government—played a meaningful role in easing the suffering of millions. Their commitment to country over political calculation deserves recognition and appreciation.

Still, in terms of public perception, the legislature as a whole appeared dysfunctional. Nearly 70% of Americans expressed frustration with both parties' inability to compromise and avert the crisis.

For the American People

The greatest burden fell on federal workers and ordinary citizens. The shutdown produced images that shook the nation:

TSA agents working without pay.

Coast Guard families visiting food pantries

Air-traffic controllers filing stress and hardship reports.

Federal prison guards unable to pay utility bills.

Scientists forced to stop critical experiments mid-stream.

These are not abstract policy consequences; they are snapshots of real American lives thrown into turmoil.

WHY AMERICANS BELIEVE THE SHUTDOWN WAS UNNECESSARY

Public frustration stemmed from a simple perception: there were multiple alternative paths to negotiation that would not have required halting government services. Past administrations—Republican and Democratic alike—have navigated bitter disagreements without shutting the nation down.

THREE CORE ARGUMENTS SHAPED PUBLIC SENTIMENT:

Shutdowns do not work.

Historically, they have rarely produced policy concessions.

Shutdowns inflict severe and disproportionate harm.

The economic losses far outweigh any political leverage gained.

Shutdowns undermine global confidence in American governance.

Allies and markets watch closely. Political chaos weakens the credibility of a nation that prides itself on stability.

The shutdown was widely seen as a political gambit whose costs far exceeded any conceivable benefits.

LESSONS LEARNED: A WARNING FOR THE FUTURE

The episode leaves the nation with sobering lessons.

First, America must acknowledge that governing through brinkmanship is unsustainable. Essential governmental functions cannot be weaponized in political disputes.

Second, lawmakers must consider structural reforms.

Automatic continuing resolutions to prevent shutdowns.

Protection of essential workers from unpaid labor.

Faster dispute-resolution processes.

Stronger bipartisan budget negotiations.

Third, the shutdown highlighted the fragility of public trust in national institutions. When the world's richest democracy cannot pay its own employees for more than a month, the credibility of its governance comes into question.

A MOMENT OF RELIEF—BUT NOT WITHOUT REFLECTION

With the shutdown finally over, the nation feels relief—but also anxiety. Relief that paychecks will resume. Relief that airports and national parks will function properly again. But anxiety that another shutdown may loom in the future, should political divisions once again reach a boiling point.

For the sake of federal workers, the economy, and the very reputation of American democracy, this episode must serve as a clear warning: shutdowns do not strengthen the nation—they fracture it.

The longest shutdown in American history should remain exactly that: the longest ever, never to be repeated. The suffering of "the free and the brave" should not become a recurring cost of political ambition. America deserves better—more responsible leadership, more principled negotiation, and a government that never again turns its own people into collateral damage.

Readers are requested to post their Comment, or email it to editor@theindianpanorama.news

American Punjabi Society Hosts Curtain Raiser, Media Briefing, and Global Punjabi Ratan Award Announcement for Annual Gala 2025



Varinder P Sikka, General Secretary, APS



Paul Bindra, VP, APS



Pradeep Tandon, Director, Media & Public Relations, APS



Gary Sikka, President, APS addresses the gathering



Ajay Sondhi, VP, APS

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The American Punjabi Society (APS) hosted a successful Curtain Raiser and Media Briefing at the Pearl, Hicksville, officially announcing preparations for the APS Annual Gala 2025 to be held on December 10th at Pearl Banquet Hall.

SPEAKERS & PRESENTATIONS

Varinder P. S. Sikka, General Secretary, welcomed community leaders and media, sharing how APS began as an initiative between himself and Mr. Gary S. Sikka, later established under the leadership of seven Founder Directors: President Gary S. Sikka, Senior Vice President Mohinder Singh Taneja, General Secretary Varinder P.S. Sikka, Vice Presidents Ajayvir S. Sondhi, Paul S. Bindra, R.P.S. Narang, and Jaspal S. Arora.

Mr. Sunil Hali, Publisher of The Indian Eye, spoke about Sikhism and the values of unity, compassion, and service that define community life.

Pradeep Tandon, Director of Media & Public Relations, started the presentation "APS - Celebrating Culture, Service & Community." He shared: "APS

was founded with a simple but powerful purpose - to unite the Punjabi community under the spirit of service and pride. Over the years, APS has become a bridge between generations, blending culture with compassion. We take pride in celebrating our heritage while contributing to the welfare of our local and global communities. This evening is about celebrating community, culture, and compassion - the values that define APS".

Vice President Ajayvir S. Sondhi explained the structure of APS Councils, while Navneet Sikka Sondhi, Chair - Women's Council, highlighted the organization's community engagement and women-led initiatives.

Senior Vice President Mohinder Singh Taneja emphasized APS's ongoing collaboration with Police Commissioner Pat Ryder to promote law-enforcement awareness, safety education, and community outreach.

APS ACHIEVEMENTS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE GLOBAL PUNJABI RATAN AWARD

President Gary S. Sikka outlined APS achievements across 2023-2025, including

Vaisakhi celebrations, cancer awareness programs, blood donation camps, medical lectures, APS Picnics, and the Bermuda Cruise.

In recognition of APS's impactful Health Awareness Programs, NYC Mayor Eric Adams honored President Gary S. Sikka with the prestigious 'Health Achiever of New York' Award on June 9, 2025, at Gracie Mansion.

President Gary Sikka announced two global prestigious annual honors: "Punjabi Ratan", known as "The Jewel of Punjab," which recognizes exceptional leadership, philanthropy, and service; and "Punjabi Virasat", the "Heritage Award," honoring those who preserve Punjabi culture, values, and global identity.

The Punjabi Ratan Award - meaning 'The Jewel of the Punjabi Community' - stands as APS's highest honor. It will be

presence of two extraordinary personalities who embody Punjabi pride on the world stage.

Neeru Bajwa, the international icon of Punjabi cinema, has carried Punjabi culture to global audiences through her exceptional talent, grace, and artistic achievements. Her journey in film continues to inspire millions across the diaspora, making her presence a moment of pride for the wider community.

Joining her is Miss Pooja, one of the most beloved voices of Punjabi folk music. Her music carries the rhythm, soul, and heartbeat of Punjab-transcending borders, generations, and cultures. She remains a cultural ambassador whose songs unite Punjabis across the world.

Together, these two cultural powerhouses bring prestige, warmth, and artistic depth to the

PRESS & MEDIA PRESENT

The Curtain Raiser was covered by leading Indian-American media representatives, including: Sunil Hali (The Indian Eye), Radio Zindagi, Nick Grasso (Newsday), Rajeev Bhambri (The New India Abroad), Sunil Tristar (IndiaLife TV), TV Asia, ITV Gold, Prof. Indrajit Saluja (The Indian Panorama), Jay Jasbir Singh (Hum Hindustani), Deepak Dhiman (Jus TV), Pardeep Gill



Founder Directors of APS. L to R: Ajay Sondhi, Varinder P Sikka, Paul Bindra, Gary S Sikka, Mohinder Singh Taneja, and RPS Narang A

presented annually to an individual who embodies leadership, generosity, and an unwavering commitment to service. This award represents the true essence of being Punjabi - courage, compassion, humility, and community spirit. It is not merely a medal, but a symbol of gratitude from APS to those whose words, actions, and contributions inspire us all.

President Gary S. Sikka stated: "APS is not just an organization - it is a family bound by culture and service. Punjabi Ratan and Punjabi Virasat are honors that recognize the best of who we are. Our future lies in unity, and by bringing Indian-American associations together under one umbrella, we create strength, voice, and impact for all."

SPECIAL GUESTS AT THE APS ANNUAL GALA

(Global Punjab), Munish Byala (5aab TV), Neela Pandya (The Indian Eye), Preet (Preetnama), Varinder Bhalla (Bollywood Insider), Kripa Ranjan Prasad (ITV Gold), and Sridhar Chillara (Mana TV, TV24).

Vice President Paul S. Bindra thanked the press for their coverage and continued support of APS initiatives.

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(Based on a Press Release)



APS Members

The Gala will be elevated by the

CANADA DEPORTS 3 IN CONNECTION WITH EXTORTION RING TARGETING PUNJABI-ORIGIN BUSINESS OWNERS

Several small businesses in Surrey, the Lower Mainland, and the Fraser Valley—including the repeatedly targeted Kap's Café in Surrey—have been among the victims



Police vehicle stationed outside Kap's Café in Canada's Surrey. -File photo / PTI

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

SURREY (TIP): The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has deported three foreign nationals following an investigation linking them to an ongoing extortion network targeting Punjabi-origin business owners in British Columbia.

The deportations, announced on November 7, are the first carried out under the BC Extortion Task Force, a joint operation involving the CBSA, RCMP and local police agencies.

The 40-member task force was established earlier this year to coordinate intelligence and enforcement efforts against transnational organized crime groups operating in the province.

According to CBSA officials, 78 additional foreign nationals are currently under immigration investigation for suspected inadmissibility to Canada, including potential links to criminal activity connected to the extortion cases.

The extortion crisis across B.C. escalated sharply in early 2025. Perpetrators have been using social media platforms to demand cryptocurrency payments from business owners and have allegedly turned to violence and arson when their demands were refused. Several small businesses in Surrey, the Lower Mainland, and the Fraser Valley—including the repeatedly targeted Kap's Café in Surrey—have been among the victims.

While authorities have not publicly disclosed the identities, nationalities, or destinations of the deported individuals, law enforcement sources indicate that both many of the victims and perpetrators involved in the extortion network have been of Punjabi origin. The CBSA cited operational security concerns and privacy provisions under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act as reasons for withholding further information.

Officials say the removals represent a significant step in ongoing efforts to dismantle organized networks behind the recent surge of violence and intimidation targeting members of B.C.'s Punjabi business community.

Nijjar killing: UK spies handed over intel to Canada on 'India link', says report

India has strongly rejected Canadian allegations as 'absurd and motivated' and a 'deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains'

NOVEMBER 8, 2025

LONDON (TIP): It was with the help of British spy call intercepts that the Canadian authorities drew alleged links between India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023, a new documentary released this week has claimed.

'Inside the Deaths that Rocked India's Relations with the West' by 'Bloomberg Originals' reports that a British intelligence agency - believed to be the UK's Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), often referred to as the country's listening post - intercepted calls that appeared to be discussing three targets.

Nijjar, a Canadian Sikh designated a terrorist by India in 2020 for Khalistani extremism, was allegedly among the names on the intelligence passed on to the Canadian authorities under the 'Five Eyes' intelligence sharing agreement between the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In late July 2023, there was a "breakthrough" in the Nijjar murder investigation case when the UK obtained "relevant information", the video documentary claims.

The British intelligence would only be shared under strict conditions: hand-delivered to Ottawa and kept off electronic systems and only a handful of Canadian officials, pre-approved by London, could see it, it is claimed.

"The file was a summary of conversations intercepted by a British intelligence agency between individuals who analysts believe were working on behalf of the Indian government," the



Hardeep Singh Nijjar

documentary claims.

"They had discussed three potential targets: Nijjar; (Avtar Singh) Khanda and (Gurpatwant Singh) Pannun. Later, there was an exchange about how Nijjar had been successfully eliminated," it alleges.

Khanda, a British Sikh pro-Khalistani activist, died in June 2023 at a hospital in the city of Birmingham in the West Midlands region of England. He was terminally ill with blood cancer and despite allegations from some groups in the UK, the British authorities ruled there were "no suspicious circumstances" surrounding the death.

In the wake of the documentary, Sikh Federation UK said it has written to security minister Dan Jarvis to demand why the British government has intelligence from July 2023 that it has not shared or referred to "when specifically asked by MPs representing the Sikh community."

"We are particularly concerned about British intelligence held that is relevant to the mysterious death of Avtar Singh Khanda," the letter reads.

Meanwhile, US-based Pannun, designated a terrorist by India for his Khalistani extremism, is interviewed in the Bloomberg documentary surrounded by armed bodyguards and claims to be in fear for his life.

India has strongly rejected Canadian allegations as "absurd and motivated" and a "deliberate strategy of smearing India for political gains".

The issue triggered a massive diplomatic row when the then prime minister Justin Trudeau made a statement in the Canadian Parliament in 2023 that its security forces were "actively pursuing credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to the murder of Nijjar in British Columbia.

In October 2024, India recalled its high commissioner and five other diplomats after Ottawa attempted to link them to the Nijjar case.

India also expelled an equal number of Canadian diplomats.

However, Liberal Party leader Carney's victory in the parliamentary election in April this year helped begin the process of resetting relations.

In June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the G7 summit at Kananaskis in Canada.

In August, India and Canada appointed envoys to each other's capitals, signaling their efforts to repair ties.

23-year-old Indian-origin student dies in US after suffering from severe cough, chest pain

NOVEMBER 10, 2025



Rajyalakshmi Yarlagadda, alias Raji, from Andhra Pradesh has died after reportedly being sick with a severe cough and chest pain.

NEW YORK (TIP): A 23-year-old Indian student, who graduated recently and was looking for a job, has died after reportedly being sick with a severe cough and chest pain.

Rajyalakshmi Yarlagadda, alias Raji, from Andhra Pradesh graduated recently from Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, according to a GoFundMe campaign launched by her cousin Chaitanya YVK in Denton city, Texas.

She came to the US with hopes of building a bright future for her family who are marginal farmers in Karmachedu village of Bapatla district, according to the fundraiser.

Raji, who was looking for a job to begin her professional career, fell sick with a severe cough and chest pain for two to three days, her cousin said.

On November 7 morning, she did not wake up while her alarm rang, it said.

"She was a bright, hopeful soul who dreamed of helping her parents continue their farming journey," Chaitanya said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian Origin Tamil Nadu doctor detained in Russia; wife alleges torture

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Dr K Jagadeeswaran, who obtained his medical degree from an Armenian university in 2022 and has been working there since, was reportedly taken into custody by immigration officials at Sochi airport on September 16. His wife, Yamini, said he was "tortured and humiliated" during detention and his health has deteriorated.

Jagadeeswaran had travelled to Russia with his friend Shekhar Manikandan, who runs an educational consultancy, under a tourist visa. While Manikandan was released and deported to India after a week, Jagadeeswaran continued to be held for allegedly not cooperating with authorities.

"Instead of giving a proper explanation on why he was detained, my husband was harassed and denied proper food. His sugar levels dropped dangerously," said Yamini. She further stated her husband has since been released but lacks the documents needed to travel to Moscow and return to India.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Dr K Jagadeeswaran was reportedly taken into custody by immigration officials at Sochi airport on September 16.

Photo for representation only.

Indian American serial entrepreneur Karl Mehta appointed by ZetaGig as board chair

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FL (TIP) : ZetaGig Inc., a pioneering pre-IPO American semiconductor company developing breakthrough technology for blockchain and AI computing, has appointed industry veteran Karl Mehta as Chairman of the Board.

Mehta, an Indian American serial entrepreneur, brings over 30 years of experience building and scaling technology companies, with a proven track record of leading multiple successful exits in the fintech and enterprise software space, according to company release.

Mehta's appointment comes at a pivotal moment as Florida-based ZetaGig raises an equity financing round to accelerate its go-to-market strategy, aiming for rapid deployment and profitability within 16 months.

"We are thrilled to welcome Karl Mehta as Chairman of the Board," said Sandeep Gupta, Founder and CEO of ZetaGig. "Karl's leadership and deep experience in technology innovation and business execution will strengthen ZetaGig's position as the U.S. leader in a sector critical to blockchain and next-gen computing. His vision aligns perfectly with our mission to



ZetaGig Inc. has appointed Karl Mehta as Chairman of the Board

revolutionize efficiency and profitability across the crypto mining and high-performance computing industries."

Mehta is a successful founder with three other successful exits, and a former White House Presidential Innovation Fellow. His previous companies include PlaySpan, acquired by VISA, and EdCast, acquired by Cornerstone.

Mehta will help guide ZetaGig's strategic initiatives as it scales its world-

class engineering team and targets a \$10 billion+ valuation by 2028, according to the release.

Founded in 2022, ZetaGig quickly emerged as a market disruptor by engineering ASIC chips for Bitcoin mining that are positioned to surpass existing industry leaders in both efficiency and performance with a clear roadmap to 2nm process technology.

ZetaGig's Z1 chip, implemented in a prior generation process node, is field-proven and has delivered public results that exceed competitors when normalized to the same process, achieving exceptional efficiency at breakthrough cost-backed by independent validation and high-profile industry partnerships.

ZetaGig is on track to capture a large share of the global Bitcoin blockchain hardware market by leveraging its unique patent pending architecture, chip design, rapid innovation cycle, and robust partner ecosystem.

With a rapidly growing team, several granted patents, and a suite of patent pending applications, set to anchor future system builds, ZetaGig is positioned to drive the next era of blockchain and AI hardware innovation, according to the release.

INDIAN AMERICAN ENGINEER DEEPTI CHATTI BRINGS NEW LENS TO DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT



Deepti Chatti casts a new lens on development and empowerment with her long-term ethnographic research in India.

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

SAN DIEGO, CA (TIP): Deepti Chatti, an Indian American engineer turned ethnographer whose work bridges environmental science and social inquiry, casts a new lens on development and empowerment with her long-term ethnographic research in India.

Chatti, an assistant professor at the University of California San Diego, trained first in environmental engineering and science, according to a university release.

She began her career working as an engineer and applying her technical skills to environmental problems—until she began encountering questions that equations and models couldn't fully answer.

"I found that every environmental question I was interested in was always a social question too," Chatti said. "But my technical training had not taught me how to frame social research questions, or collect and analyze social data in any in-depth way."

So, Chatti pivoted. She earned a doctorate in environmental studies and a certificate in women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Today, she combines insights from both engineering and social science to question conventions in sustainable development policy and practice, and challenge assumptions across disciplines.

In her talk at the Global Development Discussion Series on Nov. 13, Chatti will share research from her in-progress book manuscript based on long term ethnographic research in India.

Her talk will focus on how empowerment is subjectively experienced by the intended beneficiaries of sustainable development projects to expand clean cooking energy access.

Chatti analyzed the impact of a government program to expand cooking gas access to low-income homes in India. Policy makers and researchers hope that using gas stoves instead of traditional mud stoves would improve their health, and help empower women by freeing them from the time-consuming and laborious effort traditional stoves require.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Five Indian-origin Kidnapped in Mali Amid Al Qaeda-Linked Unrest, Embassy Reacts



Five Indians working in Mali were kidnapped

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Government of India is working closely with the Malian authorities to secure the safe release of five Indian nationals who were kidnapped by armed men in Mali last week, the Indian Embassy in Bamako said. The five Indians were employed by a company that is working on electrification projects. They were abducted last week by gunmen near

Kobri, in western Mali, as the West African country reels from mounting unrest and jihadist violence.

"The Embassy is aware of the unfortunate incident of the kidnapping of five of our nationals in Mali on 6 November 2025. The Embassy has been working closely with the Malian authorities and the company concerned to secure their safe release as quickly as possible," the embassy said in a post on X.

The kidnapping happened on Thursday, but so far, no group has claimed responsibility.

Mali, currently ruled by a military junta, has been struggling to contain surging unrest blamed on criminal groups and jihadists linked to Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group. Kidnappings targeting foreigners are common in the country, which has been plagued by coups and conflicts since 2012.

However, now the security situation has exacerbated an economic crisis in the impoverished country, where the Al-Qaeda-linked Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) has imposed a suffocating fuel blockade.

The group has intensified attacks on highways, fuel convoys, and security forces, threatening to isolate the city from the rest of the country.

The al-Qaeda-affiliated group, formed in 2017, has expanded its influence across Mali and the wider Sahel region, often targeting foreign workers, aid staff, and industrial sites. JNIM jihadists kidnapped two Emirati nationals and an Iranian near Bamako in September. The victims were released last week for a ransom of at least \$50 million, according to sources close to the negotiations.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Swaranjit Singh is the First Sikh Norwich Mayor

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

NORWICH, CT (TIP): A native of Jalandhar, Swaranjit Singh Khalsa (40), has become the first Sikh to get elected as the Mayor of Norwich in the State of Connecticut.



Swaranjit Singh Khalsa becomes the first Sikh Mayor of Norwich in the State of Connecticut.

A Democrat, Khalsa had been elected in the city council in 2021. This time, he was among the three candidates in the fray for the mayoral polls, including Republican Tracy Gould and unaffiliated Marcia Wilbur. A baptized Sikh, Khalsa now represents the city which has just 10 other Sikh families.

Norwich Mayor is the son of Parminderpal Singh Khalsa, who represents the Sikh International Society. The proud father shared the feat of his son on his social media pages today. Sharing about his son's journey to the US, Parminderpal said, "Swaranjit was a student of engineering from DAV Institute of Engineering and Technology in Jalandhar. He had moved to the US on study visa. He did his master's in computer science from the US. He got married to a Sikh woman, originally hailing from Ludhiana and, since then, is settled in Norwich."

Khalsa runs a construction business there and remains engaged in social and political activities there. He has been a member of the Board of Education and for equity and cultural awareness.

Norwich falls in Connecticut, which is the southernmost state in the New England region of the US. It has the highest per capita income in the US.

Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) New York Celebrates Its 26th Annual Deepawali Gala on Long Island

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) New York celebrated its 26th Annual Deepawali Gala with great enthusiasm and grandeur in Long Island. The event was attended by over 400 distinguished guests, including prominent members of the Indian diaspora and local dignitaries from various walks of life.

Deepmahotsav Chairman Dr. Raj Bansal warmly welcomed the guests.

AMONG THE ESTEEMED DIGNITARIES WERE:

- Ambassador Binay Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York
- Vishal Harsh, Deputy Consul General
- Surendra Adhana, Indian Foreign Service Officer serving at the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations
- Mrs. Shalini Singh, Head of Air India USA & Canada
- Mr. Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Mayor's Office

For the first time ever, the Rajasthan Ratan Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Narendra Kukar, who has been residing in the United States for nearly six decades.



Chief Guest Ambassador Binaya Pradhan addresses the gathering

The Excellence in Medicine Award was conferred upon Dr. Bharat Gupta, and the Young Achiever Award went to Ms. Nidhi Laddha.

RANA New York announced 2025 as the International Rajasthan Tourism Year and invited essays on Rajasthan Tourism from all age groups. Five winners were awarded \$25,000 each along with Certificates of Appreciation.

In his inspiring address, RANA President Prem Bhandari stated:

"Rajasthan is geographically larger than 133 countries among the 193 UN member nations. Our state holds immense potential for solar energy and investment opportunities."



Prem Bhandari, President, RANA addresses the gathering



Deepmahotsav Chairman Dr. Raj Bansal warmly welcomed the guests.



RANA founders K.K. and Chandra Mehta presented a Rs 1 crore cheque to Prem Bhandari for charitable and humanitarian projects.

Bhandari commended the Consulate General of India, New York, for being open 365 days a year, and praised Ambassador Binay Pradhan and his 70-member team for their exemplary service to 2.4 million (24 lakh) of the 5.4 million (54 lakh) Indians living in the United States.

RANA founders K.K. and Chandra Mehta presented a \$1 crore cheque to Prem Bhandari for charitable and humanitarian projects.

RANA's annual souvenir featured the Jaipur Police Commissionerate on its cover page, recognizing Jaipur as India's second safest city and appreciating the tenure of recently transferred Commissioner Biju Joseph. Commissioner Joseph was also presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Nassau County for transforming Jaipur into one of India's safest cities.

RANA Secretary Ravi Jargarh shared that Prem Bhandari humbly declined to accept the Nassau County recognition, stating:

"Until I ensure that the mortal remains of Ajit Choudhry from Alwar reach his village from Russia, I cannot accept this honor."

During the gala, the audience gave a standing ovation to both Dr. Narendra Kukar, recipient of the first-ever Rajasthan Ratan Award, and Prem Bhandari for his exemplary

humanitarian service.

Prominent Doctor and Philanthropist Dr. Deepak Nandi Pledges Jaipur Foot Camp in Andaman & Nicobar Islands

At the RANA Deepmahotsav celebration, prominent doctor and philanthropist Dr. Deepak Nandi pledged to sponsor a free artificial limb fitment (Jaipur Foot) camp in his birthplace, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, dedicated to the memory of Veer Savarkar.

Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, welcomed the noble initiative and said:

"We will be happy to organize the camp in Andaman & Nicobar Islands through Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), Jaipur, India - which is already partnered with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with the best wishes of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."

Under the 'India for Humanity' initiative launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), nearly 36 Jaipur Foot camps have been organized by BMVSS across Africa, Latin America, and Asia, fully sponsored by the MEA.

BMVSS is the world's largest NGO serving the differently-abled, providing artificial limbs and mobility aids free of cost, spreading India's message of compassion and service to humanity.

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Bruhud New York Seniors Celebrate Diwali 2025 with Grand Cultural Event in Queens, NY



Ambassador Binay Pradhan spoke highly of BRUHUD and shared information on the Consular services, and future projects



Ajay S. Patel, President of Bruhud, shared updates on the organization's humanitarian initiatives



Presentation time. L to R: Ajay S. Patel, Prem Bhandari, Hon'ble Ladies, Consul General Binaya Pradhan, and Deputy Consul General Vishal J. Harsh.



Prem Bhandari, President of RANA spoke on the occasion

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Bruhud New York Seniors, a non-profit socio-cultural organization serving the greater New York City area since 2009, celebrated its annual Diwali event at the Hindu Community Center in Queens. The grand celebration was attended by over 700 guests from across the tri-state area.

The evening began with a sumptuous dinner, bringing together members and guests in a spirit of festivity and

community.

The event was graced by Chief Guest Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan, presided over by Mr. Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA. And Deputy Consul General Vishal J. Harsh.

In his remarks, Mr. Ajay S. Patel, President of Bruhud, shared updates on the organization's humanitarian initiatives. Following last year's Diwali announcement, Bruhud successfully organized a free artificial limb fitment mega camp in Mahudi, Gujarat, in January 2025, benefiting over 500 individuals. With the support of Jaipur Foot, additional devices such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, tricycles, and calipers were also distributed to those in need.

Consul General Pradhan spoke about the opening of new Indian community centers in Edison, NJ, Columbus, OH, and Boston, MA, to better serve the Indian diaspora. He also emphasized that the Consulate, in partnership with Team Aid, now provides free assistance for the repatriation of remains for Indian passport holders.

Mr. Bhandari highlighted India's recent celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, noting his pivotal role in uniting



A view of the gathering

the nation. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, citing India's remarkable progress from the world's tenth-largest economy in 2014 to the fourth-largest today.

DURING THE PROGRAM, THREE DISTINGUISHED INDIVIDUALS WERE HONORED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY:

- Mr. Ashok Sancheti, President, Pioneer Gems LLC
- Captain Pratima B. Maldonado, the first South Asian female Captain in

the NYPD

- Mr. Atit J. Thakore, Patel Brothers Group

The evening featured vibrant entertainment by Swar Sarita and Indian Idol singer Khuda Baksh, delighting the audience well past 11:00 p.m. The program concluded with a parting gift presented to all attendees as a token of appreciation and festive goodwill.

'NYC will turn into Mumbai': US real estate billionaire warns of exodus under Zohran Mamdani

Barry Sternlicht threatens to relocate Starwood Capital due to Mamdani's policies

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Real estate billionaire Barry Sternlicht has issued a stark warning about New York city's future under mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, suggesting that his company may relocate operations due to what he described as a looming crisis in development costs and public safety.

Sternlicht, the CEO of Starwood Capital Group, criticized New York's powerful trade unions for driving up the costs of construction and management, arguing that the problem would worsen under Mamdani's progressive agenda.

"Every project in New York has to go union, and it's super expensive," he told CNBC. "It leads to extremely expensive housing."

Following his election victory, Mamdani, a Democratic Socialist and the city's first Muslim and Indian-origin mayor-elect, pledged to implement sweeping social programs.

His platform includes a rent freeze on rent-stabilized apartments, free bus service, universal free childcare for children aged six months to five years and five city-



Zohran Mamdani

owned grocery stores, one in each borough.

Sternlicht warned that such policies could discourage investment and worsen housing shortages.

"Developers can't add supply economically unless the government provides massive subsidies or the unions become more flexible," he said. "Otherwise, you just

can't make the numbers work."

He also voiced concern over public safety, recalling Mamdani's earlier calls to "defund the police." "If people don't feel their kids are safe, they'll leave," Sternlicht said.

"If he defunds the police or doesn't give them the prestige they deserve, the city's in for a really tough time."

Sternlicht compared the potential outcome to Mumbai, citing rising construction costs, powerful trade unions and high regulatory hurdles.

Sternlicht added that Starwood Capital Group is already considering moving its Midtown Manhattan office.

"Maybe he'll learn from history," he said. "Maybe the million people who voted for him won't realize that socialism has never worked anywhere on the planet Earth."

Despite the criticism, Mamdani- who ran on a message of equity and affordability - drew broad support from New York's diverse electorate, winning four out of five boroughs in last week's election.

The Guru gave his all for freedom of faith

Guru Tegh Bahadur's supreme sacrifice carries a timeless message for posterity



By KC Singh

"The commemoration of Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th death anniversary demands not just recrimination of past bigotry but renewed commitment to freedom of faith and conscience, which the Indian Constitution safeguards. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, affirms this resolve. All must accept that true faith, as the Gurus demonstrated by self-sacrifice, lies in the acceptance of one Supreme God, ethical conduct and public service, besides being tolerant of multiple paths that lead to Him."

The 350th anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom falls on November 24. Union and state governments, besides several organizations, including the RSS, are commemorating the occasion. While doing so, the focus must remain on the historical context and the correct message that the Guru's supreme sacrifice holds for posterity.

A narrow interpretation may merely recount the bigotry of some Mughal emperors, especially Aurangzeb. The Sikh religion evolved over two centuries, from the foundation of Kartarpur town by Guru Nanak Dev in 1504 to the creation of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. During this period, the Mughals first captured power, then lost it and later regained it under Humayun; their empire peaked under Akbar and eventually declined after Aurangzeb's death.

Guru Arjan Dev (1606) and Guru Tegh Bahadur (1675) chose self-sacrifice over abandoning their religion or performing miracles.

As the two sagas run parallel, their crucial linkages need to be analyzed to understand Sikhism's defense of freedom of faith. Guru Nanak Dev is said to have first encountered Emperor Babur in Hyderabad as his forces advanced into India. Babur's successor Humayun lost the throne of Delhi to Sher Shah Suri; heading for exile in Iran, he made a halt to seek the blessings of Guru Angad Dev, the second Sikh Guru, in 1540. Two vital inflection points occurred during the Mughal rule which impacted Sikhism's evolution.

It is important to recall that Emperor Akbar's long reign (1556-1605) coincided with that of three Sikh Gurus - Guru Amar Das (1552-74), Guru Ram Das (1574-

81) and Guru Arjan Dev (1581-1606). Akbar's religious tolerance, the espousal of Din-I Ilahi (Religion of God) in 1582 and repeal of jizya or tax on non-Muslims created an ethos in which Sikhism could flourish. Akbar visited Guru Amar Das in 1567 and also partook of langar.

Akbar favored his grandson, Prince Khusrau, to succeed him as he considered his eldest son unfit to rule. But that son, Jahangir, succeeded him in 1605. When Khusrau rebelled against his father in 1606, he met Guru Arjan Dev on the way to Lahore. The Mughal army defeated and captured him. Although Jahangir was not totally bigoted, he could be unpredictably vindictive. He targeted Guru Arjan Dev mainly because the latter had received his rebellious son. Had Khusrau succeeded Akbar, perhaps tolerance and religious freedom would have persisted in India.

study them. Shah Jahan's illness in 1657 started a power tussle. Dara fell seriously ill due to suspected poisoning by his main rival, Aurangzeb. Guru Har Rai, specializing in ayurveda, sent medicine that cured him. Dara sent gifts to the Guru in gratitude. However, he was defeated on the battlefield by Aurangzeb in 1658. He sought refuge in Punjab. The Guru extended him material help and obstructed Aurangzeb's forces to assist his escape. Betrayed by former associates, Dara was captured and eventually killed.

Destiny again betrayed India and the Sikh Gurus. The Sufi lost to a bigoted fundamentalist. When summoned by Aurangzeb in 1660, Guru Har Rai sent his son Ram Rai, who was held hostage. When questioned about Adi Granth hymns ostensibly berating Muslims, Ram Rai amended them in a bid to please Aurangzeb. The Guru excommunicated

majoritarian, religion-influenced rule globally and in India, with secular constitutions or governance being put to the test. The US, once a model of secular governance with a wall between the Church and the State, is witnessing rising White Christian supremacism. The White House ordered flags at half-mast when a bigoted Charlie Kirk was shot. US Vice-President JD Vance publicly pushed his wife to convert from Hinduism to Christianity, wooing MAGA supporters. President Donald Trump's strong supporter, Vivek Ramaswamy, a candidate for Ohio's governorship, was trolled by MAGA followers on religious and racial grounds after he posted a photo with his sons on Halloween.

In India, minorities, especially Muslims, feel targeted, especially when their nationalism is questioned. Proponents of Khalistan, such as Lok Sabha MP Amritpal Singh and his aides,



Sacred: Gurdwara Rakab Ganj Sahib in New Delhi is a prominent shrine dedicated to Guru Tegh Bahadur.

File photo

After Guru Arjan Dev passed away in Mughal captivity, the Sikh religion mutated under his son and successor Guru Hargobind, adopting martial training alongside religious discourse. He began carrying two swords, representing Miri and Piri, symbolizing the temporal and the spiritual. Guru Hargobind's period (1606-44) bridged the reign of Jahangir (1605-27) and Shah Jahan (1627-58). His limited Sikh force successfully fought six battles with the Mughal forces, sent by Shah Jahan, until a grown-up Dara Shikoh, the heir apparent, restrained targeting of Sikhs.

The second inflection point came when Shah Jahan's sons became rivals over succession. The eldest, Dara Shikoh, favored Sufi thinking and religious tolerance, besides peaceful coexistence between Hindus and Muslims. He translated the Upanishads from Sanskrit to Persian to enable Muslim scholars to

him, passing the succession to his younger son Har Krishan, who succeeded him a year later. Aurangzeb lured Guru Har Krishan to Delhi, where he contracted smallpox and passed away in 1664. Since he had declared that a Baba from Bakala would be his successor, many claimants came forward. Eventually, Guru Tegh Bahadur emerged as the chosen one.

Thus, the eventual confrontation between Aurangzeb and the ninth Guru was not just over Pandit Kirpa Ram leading a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits to seek the Guru's protection against forced conversion to Islam. It was an old tussle, reignited afresh, between the forces of bigotry and freedom of faith. It led to the birth of the Khalsa and greater resistance to Muslim invaders like Ahmad Shah Abdali and the remnants of the Mughal empire in Delhi.

Today, there is a regression towards

are detained, but slogans and processions in support of Hindu Rashtra are tolerated. The rise of far-right parties in Europe has increased the risk of secular walls crumbling there too.

Hence, the commemoration of Guru Tegh Bahadur's 350th death anniversary demands not just recrimination of past bigotry but renewed commitment to freedom of faith and conscience, which the Indian Constitution safeguards. Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948, affirms this resolve. All must accept that true faith, as the Gurus demonstrated by self-sacrifice, lies in the acceptance of one Supreme God, ethical conduct and public service, besides being tolerant of multiple paths that lead to Him.

(KC Singh is India's former Ambassador to Iran and UAE)

Nehru's Enduring Idea of India: A Legacy under Siege



By George Abraham

The BJP, under the leadership of Narendra Modi, is making an incessant effort to erase the Nehruvian legacy but build one of its own by denying, distorting, defaming, and destroying the real History of this great statesman and his noble contributions to the development of modern India. They strongly feel that they could accomplish that task and put their stamp on History only if they shatter the Nehruvian monopoly over ideas and probably demolish the man himself.

The BJP and its allies have emphasized the roles of figures like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B.R. Ambedkar, and Subhas Chandra Bose to diminish Nehru's contribution and create a new narrative. The Congress Party built much of its political identity on Nehru and the "Nehruvian Era," and what the BJP is engaged in here is challenging or reframing that legacy to create its own foundational story of India. By criticizing the Nehruvian policies, whether domestic or foreign, the BJP wants to present itself as an agent of change.

They fully realize that History is power; how policies are created, critiqued, or institutions are named. Therefore, the BJP is deeply engaged in influencing that memory. For the Congress Party, Nehru remains an iconic figure whose legacy inspires and strengthens the party. The BJP and its ideological parent, the RSS, promote a civilizational model through a different lens than the Nehruvian liberal-scientific heritage. The BJP's efforts to rename institutions, revise school textbooks, and promote a different narrative of India's history are all part of this strategy.

Reacting to the renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library to the Prime Ministers' Memorial and Museum, the All India Congress Committee stated: "Mr. Modi can never take away Nehru's gigantic contributions to the freedom movement and his towering achievements in building the democratic, secular, scientific, and liberal foundations of the Indian nation-state, all of which are now under assault by Mr. Modi and his drumbeaters."

It is quite remarkable that, even six decades after his passing, the architect of modern India is still a target of the current Prime Minister, who seems determined to erase a great legacy. Will this effort succeed, or will the people of India always remember the visionary who led the country from oppression to freedom, modernity, and self-reliance? Behind this relentless campaign and unsettling mindset lies a profound discomfort with Nehru's vision - the very concept of India as a diverse society where people of different religions, languages, ethnicities, and castes coexist in relative harmony. This vision, despite the current challenges, continues to inspire and guide us towards a more inclusive and forward-looking India.

In 2022, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) indicated that it would remove or modify school textbooks that referenced Nehru. Some chapters on the Mughal Empire, sections on Mahatma Gandhi, Hindu-Muslim unity, and the ban on RSS were reportedly removed as part of "syllabus rationalization."

India's school textbooks have become a new battleground for Hindu nationalism. There were significant pushbacks from opposition parties, states, and academics. The State government of Kerala, for instance, has resisted or reversed moves it saw as altering historical narratives.

Sadly, Modi has succeeded somewhat in defining nationalism around a Hindu civilizational identity, replacing secular civic nationalism. The ideological terrain has undoubtedly shifted, as very few political parties in India today campaign on basic Nehruvian ideals. Nevertheless, as we celebrate the 136th birth anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru on November 14th, 2025, we remain in awe as we recall his contributions to India's independence and to laying a strong foundation for a pluralistic and forward-looking nation.

One of Nehru's most significant accomplishments was the crafting of the Indian Constitution with the help of B. R. Ambedkar, recognizing his intellect and pioneering legal and social thought. Nehru's Objectives Resolution

first IIT at Kharagpur in 1951. He foresaw the importance of science and technology for national progress, enabling the country to compete with global institutions. The IIT model, later expanded to include Bombay, Madras, Kanpur, and Delhi, became elite institutions that produced successful engineers and scientists, and continue to drive the global technology revolution. He also played a leading role in creating the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and other similar organizations, and he supported the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore as a premier research center.

Under Nehru's guidance, Azad also established three national academies to nurture and enhance India's cultural identity: the Sahitya Akademi (1954) for literature, Lalit Kala Akademi (1954) for fine arts, and Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953) for music, dance, and drama. These institutions were created to preserve and promote India's diverse linguistic and artistic heritage.

Nehru established institutions such as the Planning Commission, IITs, IIMs, UGC, CSIR, AIIMS, and cultural academies. Today, the BJP has abolished or restructured some of these educational and cultural bodies and filled them with ideologically aligned members. Yet, core institutions like the IITs, AIIMS, and CSIR remain strong and continue to embody Nehru's scientific and academic spirit. This resilience of Nehru's educational and scientific legacy, despite the political challenges, should reassure us that his vision for India's progress is deeply rooted and will continue to guide us.

Undoubtedly, Nehru helped to build institutions that stood the test of time. The emerging nations of his era - such as Yugoslavia, Egypt, and Ghana - failed in this regard, and the results are evident for all to see. Nehru's vision and leadership were critical in shaping India as we know it today. According to *Journey of a Nation*, edited by Anand Sharma, Nehru laid the

foundation of a self-reliant, productive, and confident India, creating many of its institutions and leaving an indelible stamp on every aspect of the country.

It has been said, "History is not merely a record of the past; it is the moral compass of a nation. Those who attempt to erase it often underestimate the resilience of ideas rooted in truth and justice. Nehru's idea of India, democratic, secular, inclusive, and forward-looking, has withstood wars, political upheavals, and ideological assaults because it rests on universal human values. His legacy is not confined to statues or institutions bearing his name; it lives in the Constitution, in the scientific temper of the Indian mind, and in the freedom that allows dissent and diversity to flourish."

As India stands at another crossroads, the choice is not between Nehru and any individual leader, but between two competing visions of the Republic, one narrow and exclusionary, the other broad and humane. To remember Nehru is not an act of reminiscence; it is an affirmation of the moral and intellectual foundations on which modern India was built. His light, though dimmed by political hostility, continues to guide the nation, hopefully, toward reason, unity, and progress.

(George Abraham is a former Chief Technological Officer with the United Nations. He is Vice Chair of IOC USA. He can be reached at gta777@gmail.com)



Nehru with children. His birthday, November 14, was named Children's Day and was enthusiastically celebrated across the nation until the mad desire of the BJP to destroy the legacy of Nehru came into play. Photo credit: Times Now

served as the moral preamble to Ambedkar's draft. The Indian Constitution, one of the longest in the world, with 395 Articles and 9 Schedules, spells out the basic philosophy and the solemn resolve of the people of India to secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all its citizens. What Nehru accomplished through this document, with significant help and support from Ambedkar, was part of his vision to empower marginalized sections of society. Nehru is said to have defended Ambedkar in the Assembly when some conservatives opposed his ideas on women's rights and the Hindu Code Bill.

Nehru was committed to ensuring social justice and the welfare of the masses as far back as 1938, by setting up the National Planning Committee under the Congress Party's banner to improve the quality of life of ordinary citizens. These efforts culminated in the creation of a permanent Planning Commission to establish a just social order and ensure the equitable distribution of income and wealth. Nehru's actions in these matters paint him as a socialist. However, he firmly believed that planning was essential for a developing country with scarce resources that needed to be managed optimally.

Working with Maulana Azad, the first Minister of Education, he was instrumental in establishing India's

Donald Trump shakes up the global nuclear order



By Rakesh Sood

Today, the global nuclear order offers a curious contradiction - since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, nuclear weapons have not been used during the last 80 years. The global nuclear arsenals have come down from a high of 65,000 bombs in late 1970s to less than 12,500 today. And, despite concerns in the 1960s that by 1980, there may be at least two dozen states with nuclear weapons, the total today remains nine - five (the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China) are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council who had tested before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) came into being while four more developed their nuclear arsenals later (Israel, Pakistan, India and North Korea).

Looking back, these would seem to be impressive achievements but nobody is celebrating. In fact, the prevailing sentiment is that the global nuclear order is under strain and the recent announcements by U.S. President Donald Trump may weaken all three elements of the global nuclear order.

Yet, they have refrained from explosive testing. Russia's last explosive test was in 1990 while the U.S. declared a moratorium on tests in 1992. In 1993, the U.S. created a Stockpile Stewardship and Management Programme under the National Nuclear Security Administration to work on warhead modernization, life extension and development of new safety protocols in warhead design. U.S. President Bill Clinton also took the lead in pushing negotiations in Geneva for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). China and France concluded their tests in 1996, six months before the negotiations ended.

WHY THE CTBT LACKS A DEFINITION

Twenty-nine years later, the CTBT has not entered into force despite 187 countries signing it. Among the necessary ratifications, the U.S., China, Israel, Egypt, and Iran have not done so, Russia did and withdrew its ratification in 2023, and India, Pakistan and North Korea have neither signed nor ratified it. India and Pakistan tested in 1998 and have since observed a

However, Mr. Trump's intention remains unclear.

The new low-yield warheads being designed make them more usable and the new systems (hypersonics, cruise and unmanned systems) are dual capable systems, leading to renewed research for missile defenses such as the U.S. 'golden dome'. Meanwhile, doctrinal changes are being considered to cope with new technological developments in cyber and space domains. This raises doubts about the nuclear taboo in the coming decades.

The U.S. has been the most significant player in shaping the global nuclear order. It would be ironic if Mr. Trump's actions now become the catalyst for its demise. The reality is that the present global nuclear order was shaped by the geopolitics of the 20th century. The challenge today is to craft a new nuclear order that reflects the fractured geopolitics of the 21st century while ensuring that the taboo against their use remains intact.



The global nuclear order is under strain'

-Photo credit / Reuters

RESUMPTION OF 'NUCLEAR TESTS'

On October 30, 2025, on his way to a meeting with China's President Xi Jinping in Busan, Mr. Trump announced on Truth Social, "Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately." He added, "Russia is second, China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

While it was clear that the message was directed at Russia and China, it was unclear whether Mr. Trump was referring to 'nuclear explosive testing' or the testing of nuclear weapon systems. Second, the nuclear labs (Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, and Sandia) and the Nevada testing facilities fall under the Department of Energy and not the Department of War.

It is no secret that China, Russia, and the U.S. are designing and developing new nuclear weapons. In late October, Russia tested a nuclear-powered cruise missile (Burevestnik) that travelled 14,000 kilometers, following a week later, with a test of an underwater nuclear-powered torpedo (Poseidon). China has been testing hypersonic missiles and, in 2021, tested a nuclear capable hypersonic glide vehicle carried on a rocket, capable of orbiting the earth before approaching its target from an unexpected direction that was passed off as a satellite launcher.

The U.S. is producing new warheads - a variable yield B61-13 gravity bomb, a low yield W76-2 warhead for the Trident II D-5 missile, while working on a new nuclear armed submarine launched cruise missile.

voluntary moratorium, and North Korea conducted six tests between 2006 and 2017. Given today's geopolitics, the prospects for the CTBT entering into force appear bleak.

Second, the CTBT obliges states "not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion". The U.S. was opposed to defining the terms, and instead, worked out private understandings with Russia and China on 'zero-yield-tests'; this permitted hydro-nuclear tests that do not produce a self-sustaining supercritical chain reaction.

The U.S. had conducted over a thousand nuclear tests and Russia 727 tests, giving them an adequate data base. China, with only 47 tests, also went along with this understanding. Thus, the CTBT delegitimized only nuclear-explosive testing, not nuclear weapons, the reason why India never joined it.

In 2019-20, the U.S. State Department assessed that Russia and China "may have conducted low yield nuclear tests in a manner inconsistent with the U.S. zero-yield standard" though this was negated by the CTBT organization that declared that their monitoring network with over 300 monitoring stations spread over 89 countries had not detected any inconsistent activity.

In a TV interview on November 2, Mr. Trump doubled down on resuming nuclear testing, this time including Pakistan and North Korea among the countries testing. A clarification came the same day from U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright on Fox News, calling the U.S. tests 'systems-tests'. "These are not nuclear explosions. These are what we call noncritical explosions," he said.

The sole surviving U.S.-Russia arms control agreement, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) that limits the U.S. and Russian strategic forces to 700 launchers and 1,550 warheads is due to expire on February 4, 2026 with no prospects of any talks on the horizon. China is not a party to any arms control and its nuclear arsenal that had remained below 300, is undergoing a rapid expansion, estimated at 600 today, and likely to exceed 1,000 by 2030. An incipient nuclear arms race was already underway; a resumption of explosive testing will just take the lid off.

Russia and China have denied Mr. Trump's allegations regarding clandestine tests, but will follow if the U.S. resumes explosive testing. China will be the biggest beneficiary because with only 47 tests (compared to over 1,000 by the U.S.), resumed tests will help it to validate new designs and accumulate data.

India has been observing a voluntary moratorium. But if explosive testing resumes, India will certainly resume testing to validate its boosted fission and thermonuclear designs, tested only once in 1998. Undoubtedly, Pakistan will follow but given its growing strategic linkages with China witnessed during Operation Sindoor, this need hardly adds to India's concerns.

Though the CTBT is not in force, it did create a norm. But a resumption of explosive testing will lead to its demise. It will also tempt the nuclear wannabes to follow and mark the unravelling of the NPT led non-proliferation regime.

THE TABOO AGAINST USE MUST REMAIN INTACT

The U.S. has been the most significant player in shaping the global nuclear order. It would be ironic if Mr. Trump's actions now become the catalyst for its demise. The reality is that the present global nuclear order was shaped by the geopolitics of the 20th century. The challenge today is to craft a new nuclear order that reflects the fractured geopolitics of the 21st century while ensuring that the taboo against their use remains intact.

The United Nations Secretary General has cautioned that "current nuclear risks are already alarmingly high" and urged nations "to avoid all actions that could lead to miscalculation or escalation with catastrophic consequences." But is anyone listening?

(Rakesh Sood is a former diplomat and is currently Distinguished Fellow at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research (CSDR))

Indian Filmmaker Neha Lohia Introduces a New Era of Immersive Cinema as 'HOME' Wows a Sold-Out Queens World Film Festival Audience

At the Dawn of Immersive Cinema, Indian Filmmaker Neha Lohia Steps Forward with her short films made inside Virtual Reality Environments and World: "I Am Here. I Am Ready. I Am a Bridge Between Experienced Old-School Cinematic Foundation and Emerging New-Age Meta-World Based Storytelling. Let's Immerse and Ignite Change."



Festival's Executive Director Katha Cato, Neha Lohia, and Don Cato, Artistic Director of QWFF and one of Lohia's former professors

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

NEW YORK, NY (TIP): In a sold-out screening at the historic and legendary Kaufman Astoria Studios' Zukor Theater, filmmaker Neha Lohia premiered her VR-based short film HOME as part of the Queens World Film Festival 2025 to a rapturous sold-out crowd, marking a significant moment not only for her career but for the larger conversation about the evolution of cinema, consciousness, and immersive storytelling.

When three out of five Q&A questions from the audience centered around HOME, its process, and its emotional impact, Lohia stood on stage holding her VR headset and said:

"We shot this entire film inside 360-degree virtual worlds. The game arena has changed, but the rules remain the same you use the same solid film foundations, but now in the meta-world. The craft is the same with some added nuances of the new medium, and the canvas is now truly infinite."

For an emerging VR filmmaker, standing in a venue touched by early giants Martin Scorsese, Francis Ford Coppola, Woody Allen felt like destiny folding into place.

"Showing my film at Kaufman Astoria was surreal," Lohia said.

"This is where legends once stood and created their earliest works. To screen my first VR film here felt magical like the torch of storytelling was being passed across generations and technologies. I felt timelines blurring."

Lohia, who has spent over two decades working in film and media across India and the United States, carries an unusually broad toolkit: traditional filmmaking, commercial storytelling, spiritual narratives, and now the cutting-edge languages of VR, XR, AI-assisted creation, spatial computing, and metaverse world-building. Her career includes roles at 20th Century Fox, Sony Pictures, Reliance Entertainment, and Alliance Media, contributing to major titles such as Avatar, The Ice Age series, My Name is Khan, and projects involving



filmmakers like Karan Johar, Vishal Bhardwaj, and the Bachchan family.

Her recent academic pursuits at CUNY New York, where she is completing her film degree, are not merely a return to school they are a deliberate expansion into the next era of storytelling. Lohia is immersing herself in the new creative frontiers shaping global cinema: VR, XR, immersive direction, AI-driven narrative tools, virtual production, and emergent avatar and world-building technologies. These tools, she believes, are becoming central to how stories will be imagined, built, and experienced in the coming decade.

Her film HOME, originally developed in a VR storytelling course with Professor Jason Moore, represents this intersection of classical craft and future-forward technique. HOME has already charted an impressive path: winner of the Creative Achievement Award at the CUNY CSI Film Festival, an official selection at the prestigious Jagran Film Festival in India, and now a celebrated screening at Queens World Film Festival. For Lohia, presenting the film in the same building where some of American cinema's most revered artists once worked felt "magical... like stepping into a continuum of storytelling."

You still rely on emotion, composition, performance, rhythm, only now the canvas of creation is limitless."

Katha Cato, the festival's Executive Director, noted the originality of Lohia's approach: "Neha doesn't use new technology as spectacle. She uses it as a vessel for emotional truth. Her work reminds us that courage and curiosity are the engines of great filmmaking." Don Cato, Artistic Director of QWFF and one of Lohia's former professors, added: "She brings classical cinema discipline into frontier landscapes most artists hesitate to enter. That balance of experience and exploration is rare, and it's what pushes the

medium forward."

about VR not only as a cinematic tool but as a transformative medium with applications far beyond entertainment. Drawing on her background in consciousness-based storytelling, she shared her belief that VR and XR can play powerful roles in healing, therapy, phobia reversal, meditation, medical training, grief work, and emotional resilience. "VR lets you experience something before you do it," she said. "That makes it a tool for healing, for building confidence, for emotional rehearsal just the same way athletes visualize success before a race. Immersive media can reshape how we process pain, rebuild memories, and reimagine ourselves."

Her insights echoed a sentiment once expressed by Carl Sagan: "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." Lohia sees immersive media as one of those waiting discoveries.

She also explained how the film's world was built. Instead of boarding flights for location scouting, she and her creative partners "world-hopped" inside VRChat, exploring dozens of virtual environments in minutes. "You can scout in 360 degrees, preview light, mood, and atmosphere, collaborate with creators across continents, and build custom worlds. This is location scouting without borders," she said in an insight that drew enthusiastic nods from the audience.

Looking ahead, Lohia imagines a future where multiplexes host VR-enabled screens, much as 3D technology became mainstream during the release of Avatar; a transformation she witnessed firsthand while working with 20th Century Fox. She also envisions VR-native streaming platforms, tokenized creative economies, AI-enhanced world-building pipelines, and performance ecosystems tailored for XR actors and immersive storytellers.

Her second immersive film, *Compassion Key*, completed recently, translates the emotional-healing method taught by Edward Mannix into a visual, immersive journey. "If meditation had a visual language, VR would be its alphabet," she said. "This film allows viewers to feel what inner compassion work looks like internally."

With her roots deep in traditional film and her vision stretching into the next century of cinematic evolution, Neha Lohia stands at a rare intersection linking the heritage of classical filmmaking with the possibilities of the emerging tech era. "I hope to collaborate with big tech, AI labs, creator communities, studios, and innovators," she said. "We're building not just films, but the future platforms where stories, healing, and technology that addresses the core human need of 'connection' will coexist."

As she continues her studies and prepares new immersive works, one thing is clear: Lohia is not only adapting to the next age of storytelling. She is helping define it.

To learn more about Neha or for more information visit: www.nehalohia.com



Dr. Ramdas Athawale
@RamdasAthawale

X.com

Congratulations to filmmaker Neha Lohia and her team on the selection of their VR short film Home at the Jagran Film Festival 2025. It is inspiring to see an emerging Indian filmmaker, so active in New York, exploring new horizons in immersive storytelling and bringing recognition to our creative community. Wishing her and the team continued success in their journey ahead.



10:09 AM · 8/31/25 · 390 Views

Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene to introduce bill to completely eliminate H-1B visa programme

Indian professionals are among the largest cohort of H-1B visa holders

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): An American lawmaker will be introducing a bill to "completely eliminate" the H-1B visa programme and take away the pathway to citizenship that it offers, "forcing" individuals to "return home" when their visa expires.

"My dear fellow Americans, I'm introducing a bill to completely eliminate the H-1B visa programme, which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades," Congresswoman from Georgia, Marjorie Taylor Greene said in a video posted on X on Thursday.

She said that there would only be one exemption in her bill, which would allow for a 10,000 per year cap on visas issued to medical professionals like doctors and nurses who provide life-saving care to Americans.

Greene however noted that even this 10,000 per year cap would be "phased out" over 10 years to "allow us time to build our own pipeline of American doctors and physicians."

Greene added that her bill would also "take away the pathway to citizenship, forcing visa holders to return home when their visa expires."

She further said that the intention of

Congresswoman from Georgia, Marjorie Taylor Greene has announced that she will be introducing a bill to "completely eliminate" the H-1B visa programme which has been riddled with fraud and abuse and has been displacing American workers for decades



her bill was to restore the "original intent" of the H-1B visa, which was "for it to be temporary".

"These visas were intended to fulfill a specialty occupational need at a given time. People should not be allowed to come and live here forever. We thank them for their expertise, but we also wish them well so they may return to their home country," she said.

"Now this will completely end the H-1B visa programme and all other sectors in the job force and in the workforce. This is America first. It's time to put American citizens first instead of foreigners first, and this has been an abuse for far too long. Americans deserve a future. They deserve a chance. And I believe Americans are the most talented people in the world, the most creative, and I want them to have their American dream," she said.

doctors," she said.

There is a congressionally mandated cap of 65,000 regular H-1B visas and another 20,000 for US advanced degree holders that are issued per year. US businesses use the H-1B programme to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.

The Trump administration has launched a massive crackdown to check abuse in the H-1B visa program, which is used by companies, particularly technology companies, to employ foreign workers in the US.

Indian professionals, including technology workers and physicians, are among the largest cohort of H-1B visa holders. Companies can apply for permanent residency for their H-1B employees, who can apply for US citizenship five years after receiving their Green Cards.

In September this year, President Donald Trump issued a Proclamation titled 'Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers' as an important initial step to reform the H-1B nonimmigrant visa programme.

Under the Proclamation, certain H-1B petitions filed after September 21, 2025 must be accompanied by an additional USD 100,000 payment as a condition of eligibility.

Delhi car blast: US hails 'measured' probe, offers help

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio says that Indian authorities are 'doing a very good job' in handling the probe with 'professionalism and restraint'

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US has offered to assist India in its investigation into the November 10 Delhi car blast, but acknowledged that Indian authorities are "doing a very good job" in handling the probe with "professionalism and restraint".



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Photo credit / ANI

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, responding to a question on the Delhi explosion and its potential to heighten tensions between India and Pakistan, praised New Delhi's response and investigative efforts.

"We're aware of the potential that this situation holds. But I think the Indians need to be commended -- they have been very measured, cautious and very professional in how they're carrying out this investigation," Rubio said during a media interaction in Washington.

Calling the explosion "clearly a terrorist attack", Rubio said it involved a car loaded with highly explosive material that caused significant loss of life. "The investigation continues, and I think they're doing a very good job. When they have facts, they'll release them," he said.

Rubio also confirmed that the US had offered to assist Indian agencies in the probe, but emphasized that India's capabilities in such investigations were "well established". "We've offered to help, but I think they're very capable in these investigations. They

don't need our help. They're doing a good job and have been very measured and professional in their approach, as they usually are," he added.

India continues to receive support from global leaders at the time of this tragedy with the latest condolences coming from Singapore and South Korea. "Singapore strongly condemns the terror incident involving a car explosion near New Delhi's Red Fort. Heartfelt condolences to the families of victims. Singapore stands in solidarity with India in this difficult time," Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan posted on X.

The Indian Cabinet had a day back recorded its appreciation for the statements of solidarity and support from many governments around the world.

U.S. to Cut Tariffs on Bananas, Coffee and Other Goods From Four Countries

Move would ease some signature Trump duties on items from Ecuador, Argentina, El Salvador and Guatemala

NOVEMBER 14, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. plans to eliminate tariffs on bananas, coffee, beef and certain apparel and textile products under framework agreements with four Latin American nations, a senior administration official told reporters Thursday, November 13.

The expected move-which would apply to some goods from Ecuador, Argentina, El Salvador and Guatemala-is part of a shift from the Trump administration to water down some of its so-called reciprocal tariffs in the midst of rising prices for consumers, as well as legal uncertainty after a Supreme Court hearing this month.

The administration in September foreshadowed the move by issuing an executive order saying it would consider a reduction in tariffs on some items not produced in the U.S. when foreign nations agree to trade deals with Washington.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said this week that the administration was working to reduce prices on those agricultural goods and other items.

"You're going to see some substantial announcements over the next couple of days in terms of things we don't grow here in the United States, coffee being one of them, bananas, other fruits, things like that," Bessent told Fox News on Wednesday. "That will bring the prices down very quickly."



Guatemala Bananas

On Thursday, the administration released joint statements with the four Latin American countries, saying that the U.S. would reduce tariffs on a variety of goods not produced domestically. A senior administration official told reporters those products would include bananas and coffee from Ecuador, along with beef from Argentina.

Trump has said in recent weeks that he would consider boosting beef imports from Argentina in an effort to relieve rising prices for American consumers, sparking backlash from ranchers and farm-state lawmakers in Congress. The senior official said that Trump's team isn't planning for government-sponsored shipments of beef from the nation to the U.S., but that officials expect to reduce tariffs on the product in the weeks to come.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Anita, Jaishankar discuss further Canada-India road map

November 12, 2025

NIAGARA, CANADA (TIP): Recognizing India as the world's fourth largest economy and with a relationship built on more than 75 years of diplomatic relations, says Anita Anand, Foreign Affairs Minister of Canada, maintaining that India remains an important partner for us.

After holding a meeting with her Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers conclave at Niagara, Anita Anand, appreciated India's participation in G7 discussions this year.

This meeting was their third this year—a reflection of momentum in the bilateral relationship.

As continuation of the Ministerial visits and meetings between the two foreign ministers, decks have been cleared for the Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, to visit India early next year.

Other than Anita Anand, Canadian Minister, Maninder Sidhu, is currently visiting India to further trade relations between the two nations.

A group of pro-Khalistan supporters continued their protest outside White Oaks resort, the venue of the conclave, by shouting anti-India slogans. They carried Khalistani flags and banners.

Tight security arrangements have been made in and around the venue. Some members of the security agencies even checked the belongings of the pro-Khalistan protesters making sure that nothing dangerous or explosive was carried by them.

Meanwhile, the meet has continued with its agenda as scheduled. Anita Anand, being the host, has been holding one-to-one meetings with all visiting Foreign Ministers.

Anita Anand expressed her deepest condolences to Jaishankar for those who were killed in the explosion in New Delhi, India, yesterday and reiterated that Canada stands with the people of India during this tragic time.

The ministers exchanged views on the ongoing law-enforcement dialogue between Canadian and Indian authorities. They also discussed the progress being made on the Canada-India joint road map, which sets out a plan to enhance cooperation in key areas, including energy, trade and people-to-people ties.

Minister Anand reiterated Canada's appreciation of India's participation in G7 discussions this year, recognizing that as the world's fourth largest economy and with a relationship built on more than 75 years of diplomatic relations, India is an important partner for Canada.

The two Ministers agreed to remain in touch as the two countries continue to implement the Canada-India road map.

Meanwhile Anita Anand also announced that Canada



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar with Canada Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand at G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, in Canada.

Credit: X/@DrSJaishankar

is imposing additional sanctions under the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations.

Canada's new measures further increase the economic costs on Russia for its unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by targeting its energy revenues and financial enablers, while also degrading its conventional and hybrid military capabilities.

The sanctions list 13 individuals and 11 entities, including several involved in the development and deployment of Russia's drone program. Canada remains a leader in targeting the military technologies Russia is relying on in its efforts to gain a battlefield advantage against Ukraine.

For the first time, Canada has also sanctioned entities that supply the cyber infrastructure used in Russian hybrid strategies against Ukraine. Several Russian liquified natural gas entities were also sanctioned as Russia continues to rely on energy revenues to fund its war of aggression against Ukraine. These sanctions also list 100 vessels from Russia's shadow fleet.

The measures are a direct response to Ukraine's priorities and support ongoing efforts by the G7 to ramp-up economic pressure on Russia to end its war and are in broad alignment with sanctions recently announced by the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Anita Anand said: "Canada remains unwavering in its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and its people, who are forcefully defending their rights in the face of Putin's corrosive and aggressive actions. Canada will continue to intensify pressure through sanctions in coordination with allies and partners until Russia puts an end to its unjustified invasion of Ukraine."

Since 2014, Canada has imposed sanctions on more than 3,300 individuals and entities that are complicit in the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and in gross and systematic human rights violations.

Canada has taken action against Russia's shadow fleet by sanctioning over 400 vessels based on their involvement in transporting property and goods for the benefit of Russia or persons in Russia. Many of these sanctions have been implemented in coordination with Canada's allies and partners, including G7 members.

The measures announced today complement similar measures taken by Canada's closest allies, including those announced by the European Union, the United Kingdom and the United States in October. Canada will continue to work with its like-minded partners to coordinate additional measures that increase the economic costs of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on the Russian regime.

As a host of the last G7 event of Canada's Presidency, Anita Anand, met Motegi Toshimitsu, Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs. This was the ministers' first in-person meeting since Minister Motegi took office and served to deepen Canada's bilateral relations with this trusted Indo-Pacific partner.

Anita Anand emphasized the importance of strengthening the Canada-Japan security, defense and economic partnership, highlighting Canada as a stable and reliable partner in bolstering Japan's economic and energy security. The ministers also discussed ways to advance shared security and prosperity interests under the Canada-Japan Action Plan.

Anita Anand reaffirmed Canada's commitment to the Indo-Pacific and to working with Japan as a strategic partner in the region, in line with the three pillars of Canada's foreign policy: defense and security, economic resilience and core values.

As Canada and Japan approach 100 years of diplomatic relations in 2028, Minister Anand and Minister Motegi agreed to continue building on the long-standing partnership and people-to-people ties between Canada and Japan.

Anita Anand also met Yvette Cooper, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, in Oakville, Ontario, ahead of the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held on November 11 and 12, 2025.

She welcomed recent progress made under Canada and the United Kingdom's bilateral economic and trade working group and discussed the need to increase trade and investment. To recognize Remembrance Day, the Minister and the Secretary of State reaffirmed the enduring partnership between Canada and the United Kingdom, forged through shared sacrifice and strengthened by our common values and deep historic ties.

Throughout the discussion, Minister Anand underscored the importance of strengthening transatlantic security and outlined Canada's priorities with respect to NATO defense spending.



--->By Prabhjot Singh



Canada's Minister of International Trade Maninder Sidhu and India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal discussed ways to further boost bilateral trade and promote investments, in Delhi on November 13.

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

OTTAWA / NEW DELHI (TIP): After the exchange of visits of foreign ministers, the Indian and Canadian trade ministers reaffirmed the strength and continuity of the India-Canada economic partnership

India, Canada to continue long-term supply chain partnerships

and reiterated their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation through sustained dialogue, mutual respect, and forward-looking initiatives.

A joint statement was issued at the conclusion of the joint bilateral between Canadian Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu and his Indian counterpart, Piyush Goel. The statement acknowledged robust growth in bilateral trade in goods and services that has reached US\$23.66 billion in 2024, with merchandise trade valued at nearly US\$8.98 billion, a substantial 10% increase over the previous year.

Maninder Sidhu has become the first Canadian Trade Minister under the Mark Carney government, who, at the invitation of India's Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, undertook an official visit to India from November 11 to 14.

Incidentally, he is the second Canadian minister of

Indian descent, after Anita Anand, to visit India in recent months.

The ministers reaffirmed the strength and resilience of the India-Canada economic partnership and emphasized the importance of continued engagement with the private sector to unlock new opportunities for trade and investment. They welcomed the steady expansion of two-way investment flows, including notable Canadian institutional investment in India and the growing presence of Indian firms in Canada, which together support tens of thousands of jobs in both economies. The ministers committed to maintaining an open, transparent, and predictable investment environment and to exploring avenues for deeper collaboration across priority and emerging sectors.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

CANADA'S FINAL G7 EVENT SKIPS TRADE AND TARIFF ISSUES

NOVEMBER 13, 2025

NIAGARA, CANADA (TIP): The last showcase of the Canadian presidency of the G20-the foreign ministers' conclave-may have gone well beyond the expectations of the hosts with a glitch-free event, yet it left certain questions, especially those related to tariffs and trade, unanswered.

Anita Anand, Minister of Foreign Affairs, played a warm, welcoming host to more than a dozen members of her clan drawn not only from member G7 nations but also from eight other outreach countries, including India.

She also held one-to-one meetings with all attending foreign ministers. However, her meeting with Marco Rubio, the United States Secretary of State, on the second and last day of the G7 Foreign Ministers' conclave in the Niagara Region, landed her in a little hot soup over skipping the subject of tariffs and trade with her US counterpart.

Though Minister Anand and Secretary of State Rubio discussed the strong Canada-United States partnership and cooperation on key global challenges, including stability in the Indo-Pacific region, Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, peace and security in the Middle East, and the ongoing crisis in Haiti, they did not talk about the "big rupture" in the bilateral trade relations that occurred last month when the US President, Donald Trump, abruptly cancelled talks with Ottawa.

The two neighbors had been trying to reach a settlement to scale back Donald Trump's protectionist tariffs on Canadian goods.

When confronted with a question at the end of the event press conference about leaving trade off the agenda during her 40-minute meeting with Marco Rubio, Anita Anand defended the lack of trade, saying negotiations on the subject were well left to her colleague, Dominic LeBlanc.

She was rubbed further when asked if Indian Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar could discuss trade with Marco Rubio during their meeting on the sidelines of the summit. Why not her?

"I am respectful of my colleagues' portfolios, one of whom is Dominic LeBlanc-whose role is to cover Canada-US trade," she said in her answer to the question.

She held that her job was to build relationships with the United States on other engaging issues from Ukraine to the Middle East to the Arctic.

The minister and the secretary of state also spoke about national and joint efforts to ensure the security of



A G 7 meeting n progress at Niagara, Canada

the North American Arctic. The two ministers agreed to continue close cooperation in advancing shared security and foreign policy priorities.

"From the Gulf of America to the Pacific, safe and open waterways are the backbone of the American economy, carrying U.S. products to markets around the world. We engaged in important discussions with G7 partners today on more coordination in support of U.S. efforts to increase maritime security.

Marco Rubio took to his X handle to say "Met with Canadian Foreign Minister to further U.S.-Canada coordination on improving the security situation in Haiti, sustaining the ceasefire in the Middle East, and maintaining a free Indo-Pacific.

Meanwhile, the Indian Foreign Minister talked about his meeting with Marco Rubio, saying, "Good to meet @SecRubio. Appreciate his condolences on the loss of lives in the blast in Delhi. Discussed our bilateral ties, focusing on trade and supply chains. Exchanged views on the Ukraine conflict, the Middle East/West Asia situation and the Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar also talked about his participation in an Outreach Session on Energy Security and Critical Minerals and put forth his perspective. Spoke about the need on both issues to mitigate dependence, strengthen predictability, and build resilience. Greater international cooperation is the only way forward. Noted the unpredictability and market constraints in global supply. More policy consultations and coordination are helpful. The key issue, however, is to translate that on the ground. India is open to working constructively with international partners in this regard.

Jaishankar also met foreign ministers of Germany, the UK, Brazil, France, South Africa, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Ukraine, and representatives of the European Union.



--->Prabhjot Singh at G 7
at NIAGARA

Anita Anand met with Andrii Sybiha, Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the last day of the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting. They discussed Ukraine's economic and governance reforms, as well as the joint efforts being made to advance the work of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children.

Anita Anand reaffirmed Canada's strong support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. She highlighted Canada's plans to increase pressure on Russia through sanctions and other economic measures and to use its G7 presidency to strengthen these efforts.

The ministers also discussed increasing bilateral cooperation on energy security, recognizing its strategic importance for Ukraine's resilience, war efforts, and long-term recovery.

During her round of meetings, Anita Anand met Antonio Tajani, Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Minister Anand highlighted Canada's participation in Security Action for Europe (SAFE) as a commitment to defense cooperation and discussed ways of enhancing bilateral relations and addressing ongoing geopolitical challenges.

Both ministers agreed that trade diversification strengthens economic resilience and creates new opportunities for businesses in both countries. They also committed to continuing to further strengthen bilateral and trade relations between Canada and Italy.

Minister Anand expressed that she looks forward to visiting Italy in the new year to continue building on the strong partnership between the two countries.

Anita Anand also met Jean-Noël Barrot, France's Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The ministers discussed the importance of the defense and trade relationship between Canada and France to meet the challenges of today's world, including through the promotion of industrial collaboration. In particular, they underscored joint efforts to strengthen transatlantic security, deepen defense cooperation, and expand trade ties in partnership with the European Union.

Minister Anand and Minister Barrot reaffirmed their unwavering support for Ukraine and their commitment to advancing peace in the Middle East.

Both ministers agreed that Canada and France share a strong potential for further collaboration in areas such as critical minerals. They discussed ongoing priorities for the G7 as France prepares to assume the G7 presidency next year.

Italians pay rich tributes to Sikh soldiers for their role in the freedom struggle



NOVEMBER 13, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): Teodosio is an Italian village that observed its 81st Independence Day this week. And the guests of honor at a simple and impressive flag hoisting ceremony were members of the World Sikh (Martyr) Soldiers Memorial Committee.

The local commune, in recognition of the role played by Sikh soldiers during the



Second World War against the invading German soldiers, eulogized the sacrifices of Indian soldiers in general and the Sikh soldiers in particular.

President of the World Sikh (Martyrs) Soldiers Memorial Committee, Prithpal Singh, was joined by other members of the committee - Sewa Singh (ex-serviceman), Satnam Singh, Darshan Singh and Dalip



Singh Dipo.

They have strong associations with those regiments of the British Army that sent soldiers to Italy and other countries during the Second World War. Now, they have organized themselves into an organization and have been working to upkeep Sikh memorials in Italy.

As per Sikh traditions, after Prithpal



Singh performed the "Ardas", Mayor of Teodosio, Jioni Revali, highlighted the sacrifices made by the Sikh soldiers in preventing any progress of the German soldiers to free the area from the possession of the strong German army.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

(Prabhjot Singh is A Toronto-based Senior Journalist. He is a regular contributor to The Indian Panorama)

INDIA AI Impact Summit 2026: Pre-Event Briefing Session for US Congressmen and Tech CEOs hosted in Seattle



US Rep. Michael Baumgartner with Tech CEOs at the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 at Seattle on November 7, 2025

NOVEMBER 7, 2025

SEATTLE, WA (TIP): In the run up to India-AI Impact Summit 2026 to be held in New Delhi next year, Consulate General of India in Seattle hosted on November 7, a Pre-Event Curtain Raiser focusing on the three pillars of India's AI Impact Summit: People, Planet and Progress.



Expert panelists briefing US Rep. Adam Smith and US Rep. Michael Baumgartner at the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026



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US Rep. Adam Smith and US Rep. Michael Baumgartner interacting with participants of the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026



Expert panelists briefing US Rep. Adam Smith and US Rep. Michael Baumgartner at the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026

The Roundtable featured expert presentations by leading Tech CEOs from Greater Seattle area and covered themes like the usage of AI in Agri-Tech and the potential of Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure in India.

Participants also briefed US Congressman Adam Smith, Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee, and Congressman Michael Baumgartner, Member of the House Judiciary and Foreign Affairs Committees about India's progress in AI and highlighted the Seven Chakras, or Themes for Global Cooperation centered around (i) Safe and Trusted AI (ii) Human Capital (iii) Science (iv) Resilience, Innovation and Efficiency (v) Inclusion and Social Empowerment (vi) Democratizing AI Resources and (vii) Economic Growth and Social Good.

Today's briefing at the new Chancery premises of the Indian Consulate in Seattle, was the first such curtain raiser, in a series of such sessions that are being planned in the run up to the AI India Impact Summit. Subsequent, workshops and briefing sessions are being planned in leading US Universities in the US Pacific Northwest, as well with leading Tech and AI industry stakeholders in January 2026.

The India-AI Impact Summit 2026 will be held from 19-20 February 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as



Participants meeting on the sidelines of the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 (7 November 2025, Seattle)



US Rep. Adam Smith and US Rep. Michael Baumgartner interacting with participants of the Pre Event Round Table on the India-AI Impact Summit 2026

the first global-scale AI summit hosted in the Global South. It will bring together governments, industry, academia, and startups from global capitals with an aim to translate AI's potential into tangible outcomes for People, Planet, and Progress and reaffirm India's vision of "AI for All."

For more details, please contact: Soumith Raju K. Consul (Press, Information & Culture), +1 (206) 412-0448, pic.seattle@mea.gov.in.

2 J&K doctors among 5 held

Investigators detained at least five more people, including two doctors and two staffers of Al-Falah University in Faridabad, and launched a hunt for another doctor who visited Turkey with two other suspects, as part of their nationwide investigation into an alleged terror module behind Nov 10 deadly blast near Red Fort in Delhi.

The latest detentions include two doctors in Uttar Pradesh – cardiologist Dr Mohammad Arif Mir, 32, from Kanpur, and Dr Farukh, a gynecologist from GS Medical College, Hapur – both originally from Jammu and Kashmir. The state's Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) confirmed that both were picked up on suspicion of links to Dr Shaheen Shahid, the Lucknow-origin doctor arrested from Faridabad earlier this month. According to ATS officials, Dr Mir was detained late Wednesday night from the Cardiology Institute of GSVM Medical College, Kanpur, while Dr Farukh was picked up on Thursday afternoon from his hostel in Hapur. They were later handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and shifted to Delhi for interrogation.

“We only came to know that the ATS had taken Dr Arif for questioning. Beyond that, we have no information,” said Dr Umeshwar Pandey, head of the cardiology department in Kanpur. GS Medical College director Dr Manoj Shishodia confirmed that a police team had arrived to question Dr Farukh before taking him along.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Dr Mir, who hails from Anantnag, was likely connected to Dr Umar Un Nabi, the man who drove the car that exploded near the Red Fort, through a medical college in Kashmir. Officials said Dr Mir and Dr Shahid had been in frequent contact for several months, though investigators are still trying to determine the nature of their contact.

Dr Farukh, meanwhile, studied with Dr Muzammil Shakeel Ganaie, who was arrested from Faridabad as part of a raid that found explosive material stored in a room he had rented. A police team later searched Dr Mir's rented flat in Kanpur and seized his laptop and mobile phone for forensic analysis. His landlord, Kanhaiya Lal, told investigators that Mir had moved in barely a month ago and “kept entirely to himself.” Investigators said the connection threads back to a common network of Kashmir-origin medical professionals allegedly drawn into the fold of a covert “white-collar” terror module using academic and institutional covers.

Among the five detained, the third – Mohammad Jamil alias Zameel, a staffer at Al-Falah University – was picked up by NIA for allegedly facilitating the recruitment of Kashmiri doctors into the university. Investigators said Jamil handled parts of the institution's hiring process and was responsible for forwarding verification and approval files for new faculty appointments.

Delhi terror suspects were readying multiple vehicles for coordinated attack

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Investigators probing the Red Fort blast have uncovered fresh evidence suggesting that the suspects were preparing additional vehicles for use in coordinated terror attacks, sources said on Thursday, Nov 13.

The death toll in the November 10 terror strike rose to 13 after another injured victim, identified as Bilal, succumbed to injuries at the LNJP Hospital.

“After the i20 and EcoSport cases came to light, it emerged that the conspirators were planning to ready two more similar old vehicles that would have contained explosives and could have expanded the target list,” a senior intelligence official said on anonymity.

Intelligence agencies are now probing whether those vehicles were being readied or had already been fitted with explosive material. The sources said sleuths were examining leads indicating that the two additional cars were being sourced and modified on the lines of the Hyundai i20 and Ford EcoSport linked to earlier phases of the conspiracy.

Investigators are combing through vehicle registration records, scrap dealers and second-hand car sellers, movement of auto parts, and CCTV and toll plaza footage to establish timelines and identify handlers who may have assisted in procuring or preparing the vehicles.

Forensic experts have been tasked with analysing recovered fragments and components from the blast site to determine whether the equipment used was an improvised explosive device (IED) or a different triggering mechanism. The



Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) officials at the site after a red Ford EcoSport car suspected to be linked to the Delhi Red Fort blast case was traced and seized in Faridabad districts Khandawali. PTI

intelligence agencies are also coordinating with state police units and traffic departments to track vehicle movements in the days leading up to the blasts. Throughout Thursday, multiple security agencies were on the lookout for the third car—a Maruti Brezza—believed to be linked to the Red Fort blast case. “The missing Brezza is suspected to have been used by the accused for reconnaissance or escape,” another official said.

The Brezza was later traced to the premises of Al Falah University in Faridabad and was owned by accused suicide bomber Umer un-Nabi. A bomb disposal squad was deployed to inspect the car, which was subsequently secured

by forensic teams.

Officials said the discovery of multiple vehicles being prepared underlined the possibility that the terror module had planned serial attacks across the National Capital Region. “The use of more cars indicates intent and capacity to strike multiple locations, a serious escalation,” a security official said.

The interrogation of the arrested suspects has further revealed a phase-wise plan to carry out serial blasts in Delhi-NCR, particularly on December 6, which marked the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, sources said. The authorities have maintained tight secrecy over operational details to avoid compromising ongoing leads. *Source: TNS*

Not all Kashmiris terrorists, says J&K CM Omar Abdullah amid Delhi blast probe

SRINAGAR (TIP)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday, Nov 13, called for the strictest punishment against those involved in the Delhi blast, but added that the actions of a “handful of people” must not define the majority of peace-loving residents of the Union Territory, PTI reported.

“Every resident of Jammu and Kashmir is not a terrorist,” the news agency quoted the National Conference leader as having told reporters. “Not every Kashmiri is on the side of terrorists. It is only a handful of people who have tried to disturb the peace and harmony here.”

On Monday evening, a car exploded near the Red Fort metro station in Delhi, leaving 13 persons dead. While no details have been officially provided yet about what caused the blast, the police have filed a case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act and the Explosives Act.

Reports have alleged that Umar Nabi, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, was in the car that exploded. Reports have also claimed that Nabi was a key figure in a terror network spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Hours before the blast, the police said that it had cracked an “inter-state and transnational terror module” in Haryana's Faridabad and Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. Two doctors from Kashmir – Adeel Ahmad Rather and Muzamil Shakeel – are among those arrested in the alleged case. Shakeel, a doctor, taught at Al-Falah University at Dhauj in the Faridabad district. Two more persons from the university – Umar Mohammed and Shaheen Shahid – have been taken into custody in the case.

On Wednesday, the Union government described the blast as a “terrorist incident, perpetrated by anti-national

forces”. Speaking to reporters on Thursday, Abdullah underscored the need to distinguish between perpetrators and the general populace, PTI reported.

“When we begin to look at every Kashmiri Muslim through the same lens and try to give the impression that every Kashmiri Muslim is a terrorist, it becomes very difficult to keep things on the right track,” the news agency quoted the chief minister as saying.

Abdullah said that those responsible for the attack in the national capital should be brought to justice and given the harshest punishment but innocent persons must not be harassed in the process.

In the backdrop of the blast and the terror module case, the Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday conducted raids at more than 300 locations in the Kashmir valley allegedly linked to persons affiliated with the banned Jamaat-e-Islami.

Cong accuses RSS of hiring US lobbying firm with Pak links

The Congress on Thursday, Nov 13, accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of “betraying national interest” by engaging a US-based law firm linked to Pakistan to promote its interests abroad.

In a post on X, Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh alleged that the RSS had spent a significant amount of money to hire Squire Patton Boggs (SPB), a prominent American law and lobbying firm which he described as “one of Pakistan’s official lobbying arms”.

The Congress leader also referred to a recent statement by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, who purportedly admitted that the organisation was not registered and did not pay taxes.

“A few days ago, the RSS chief acknowledged that the Sangh is not a registered organisation and does not pay taxes. Now, we have learnt that the RSS has spent a significant amount of money to engage one of Pakistan’s official lobbying arms,” Ramesh wrote.

Calling the development “yet another act of betrayal”, Ramesh accused the RSS of having a historical record of opposing the national freedom movement and India’s constitutional values.

Karnataka HC refuses to quash POCSO case against Yediyurappa

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday, Nov 13, refused to quash the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act case filed against former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa.

Justice MI Arun upheld the trial court’s February 28 order taking cognisance of the alleged offence and issuing summons to the senior BJP leader. However, the court directed that Yediyurappa’s personal appearance should not be insisted upon unless necessary during the course of the trial, adding that any exemption plea filed on his behalf should be entertained unless his presence is deemed essential. The single-judge bench also clarified that Yediyurappa is free to seek discharge from the trial court. Earlier, on February 7, the High Court had set aside the trial court’s first order of cognisance, observing that there was no proper application of mind, but had upheld the validity of the investigation and the final report. Following this, the Special Court passed a fresh cognisance order on February 28, which was later stayed by the High Court.

Supreme Court sounds warning as Delhi AQI hits ‘severe’ for 3rd straight day

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Supreme Court judge Justice PS Narasimha on Thursday, Nov 13, sounded a grim warning over the worsening air quality in the national capital region (NCR), calling the situation “very serious” and urging lawyers to avoid physical appearances in court.

Justice Narasimha, leading a bench that also comprised Justice Atul S Chandurkar, made the observation during the morning mentioning round, advising members of the Bar to use the virtual hearing facility instead of appearing in person given the alarming levels of pollution in Delhi.

“Situation is very, very serious! Why are you all appearing here? We have the virtual hearing facility. Please avail it. This pollution will cause permanent damage,” Justice Narasimha remarked from the bench.

The observations came as Delhi breathed “severe” for the third straight day, shrouded in a thick cloak of pollution. The city’s air quality index (AQI) first crossed 400 this season on Tuesday, when it read 428. It remained above the threshold on Wednesday (418).



When senior advocate Kapil Sibal pointed out that many lawyers were already wearing masks, Justice Narasimha cautioned that such protection was inadequate.

“Even masks are not enough. They will not suffice. We will discuss this with the Honourable Chief Justice as well,” the judge said.

Lawyers present in the courtroom described the exchange as a reflection of the visible concern within the judiciary about the hazardous air quality that has blanketed Delhi-NCR for days.

According to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Delhi’s Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 425 at 9 am on Thursday, placing it in the “severe” category. In the wake of the

AQI, the CAQM has invoked Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across the Delhi-NCR, triggering a nine-point emergency response that includes a ban on construction activities, restrictions on diesel vehicles and other curbs aimed at reducing emissions.

The comments by Justice Narasimha’s bench come even as another Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice of India Bhushan R Gavai continues to monitor the larger issue of air pollution in the region. On Wednesday, the CJI-led bench questioned the Punjab and Haryana governments for their failure to control stubble burning, a key contributor to the seasonal spike in pollution across the Indo-Gangetic plains.

The apex court had asked both state governments to submit details of the steps taken to curb farm fires, even as satellite data showed thousands of such incidents over the past week. The Centre, too, was directed to coordinate with states to ensure that farmers are not forced to resort to burning crop residue.

Source: HT

Delhi Cabinet gives nod to jobs for kin of 1984 anti-Sikh riot victims

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a major step towards delivering long-pending justice and economic rehabilitation to families affected by the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, the Delhi Cabinet on Nov 13, approved a policy to provide compassionate employment to dependants of the riot victims.

The decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who said the new policy marked an important step towards resolving cases of employment assistance that have remained pending for nearly two decades.

“The new policy is a concrete step to expedite long-pending cases of employment assistance that could not be completed due to administrative delays since the 2007 Cabinet decision,” Gupta said. “Our government is determined to ensure that no eligible family faces further delay.”

According to the Chief Minister’s Office, the policy aims to address the grievances of families who have been waiting for justice and economic rehabilitation for over 40 years. It provides a structured and time-bound mechanism to ensure eligible families receive government employment under

compassionate grounds.

One of the key provisions allows dependants of riot victims who are now above 50 years of age and unable to take up employment to nominate a member of the next generation, such as a son, daughter, daughter-in-law or son-in-law, for the job. The clause, officials said, was introduced to ensure that the benefit genuinely reaches families that have grown elderly over time.

“This provision ensures that the purpose of assistance is effectively fulfilled,” Gupta said. “By extending employment opportunities to the next generation, we aim to not only provide financial support, but also restore the self-respect of these families.”

The government has also included relaxations in age and educational qualifications to ensure broader eligibility and fairness. A transparent system for verification, grievance redressal and departmental allocation has been laid out to make the recruitment process accountable and efficient.

The Chief Minister also added that all provisions will comply with the directions of the Delhi High Court and existing legal frameworks.

Anil Ambani offers to ‘virtually appear’ before ED in FEMA case

Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani has offered to appear before the Enforcement Directorate through “virtual means” following summons issued to him under the FEMA for Friday, Nov 14.

A statement issued by a spokesperson for the 66-year-old businessman said he had written to the federal probe agency assuring “fully cooperation” in the probe being conducted under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The agency, according to sources, had asked Ambani to appear in person on Friday and record his statement under the FEMA.

The investigation pertains to the Jaipur-Reengus Highway Project where the ED suspects that funds worth about Rs 100 crore were sent abroad via the hawala route.

The ED has recorded the statements of various persons, including some alleged hawala dealers, following which they decided to summon Ambani, the sources said. Hawala denotes the illegal movement of funds, largely in cash.

The businessman has been questioned once by the ED in a money laundering case linked to an alleged Rs 17,000 crore bank fraud against his group’s companies. “The matter (FEMA case) is 15 years old, dates to 2010, and concerns issues associated with a road contractor,” the statement said.

India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 14 TO NOVEMBER 20

14 NOVEMBER

1681 East India Company announced to become a separate princely state of Bengal.



1889 India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was born. Children's Day is celebrated on the occasion of his birthday.

2006 The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan agreed to create an anti-terrorism mechanism in New Delhi.

1955 Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was inaugurated.

1958 Children's Day was officially announced on the occasion of the birthday of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

2009 15 coaches of the Mandore Superfast Express derailed near the Banskho gate in Jaipur, killing 6 passengers.

15 NOVEMBER

1949 Mahatma Gandhi's assassins Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte were hanged on this day.

1982 Acharya Vinayak Narhari Bhavé alias Vinoba Bhavé died on this day.



1986 The country's female tennis player Sania Mirza was born.

1777 Confederation article adopted by Continental Congress.

1830 Social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy left for England.

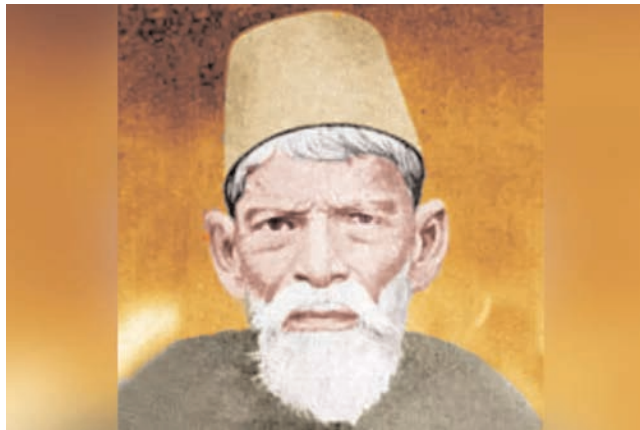
1989 Former veteran Indian player Sachin Tendulkar made his Test debut against Pakistan. He played the last Test on 14 November 2013 against the West Indies.



2000 Jharkhand became the 28th state of India.

1875 India-born freedom fighter Birsa Munda, a tribal leader, was born.

16 NOVEMBER



1846 Akbar Ilahbadi, the famous poet of Urdu, was born.

1973 Badminton player Pullela Gopichand was born.

1996 Mother Teresa received honorary US citizenship.

1995 Vasudev Pandey Trinidad and Tobago of Indian origin became the Prime Minister.

1931 Indian cricket umpire R. Ramchandra Rao was born.

2007 The severe cyclonic storm 'Cedar' from the Bay of Bengal caused severe devastation in the country of Bangladesh.

1930 Mihir Sen, the famous long distance swimmer of India, was born.

17 NOVEMBER



1931 Freedom fighter and Punjabi writer Lala Lajpat Rai was martyred.

2012 The founder of Shiv Sena, Bal Thackeray, who made his strong identity in the field of politics, died.

1525 For the purpose of conquering India, Babur entered here for the fifth time through Sindh.

1966 Rita Faria of India won the title of Miss World. She was the first Asian woman to become Miss World.

2009 T. S. Thakur was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court.

2006 The US Senate approved the Indo-US nuclear treaty.

18 NOVEMBER

1727 Maharaja Jai Singh II founded the city of Jaipur. The architect of the city was Vidyadhar Chakraborty of Bengal.

1772 Peshwa Madhavrao I died and his younger brother Narayan Rao succeeded him.

1901 The famous Indian film director V. Shantaram

was born.

1948 500 people drowned after the steamer 'Narayani' crashed near Patna, the capital of Bihar.

1972 The tiger was chosen as the national animal.

1993 The first meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit took place in Seattle.

2017 Manushi Chhillar of India won the title of Miss



World.

1910 One of the famous revolutionaries of India, Batukeshwar Dutt was born.

19 NOVEMBER

1828 Rani Laxmibai, an example of bravery, was born.

1917 The first woman Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi, was born on this day.

1975 The country's first Miss Universe Sushmita Sen was born.

1932 The third Round Table Conference on Indian Independence was opened in London.

1994 Indian film actress Aishwarya Rai won the title of Miss World.

1995 Indian weightlifter Karnam Malleswari made a world record in weightlifting. She is the first woman player of India who won the medal in the Olympics.

1997 Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian woman to go to space.

1986 Environmental Protection Act came into force.

2006 India sought Australia's support for nuclear power and uranium supplies.

20 NOVEMBER

1750 Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore, was born.

1917 Bose Research Institute was established in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

1981 The Bhaskar satellite was dropped.



2016 PV Sindhu won the first Super Series title after defeating Sun Yu of China in a three-game match in the final of the China Open Super Series.

1989 An Indian female freestyle wrestler Babita Phogat was born.

2009 Versatile genius, scholar, thinker and poet of many disciplines Shyam Bahadur Verma died.



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

Children's Day: Celebrating the spirit of childhood and the legacy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

The birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, is celebrated as Children's Day on November 14. A champion of children's education and rights, Nehru was honored posthumously in 1964, when the government passed a resolution designating this day as Children's Day. This act aimed to commemorate his significant contribution to the welfare of children in society.

Every year, November 14 in India bursts into color, laughter, and innocence. Schools resound with giggles instead of lessons, teachers turn performers, and playgrounds become stages of joy. This day - Children's Day, or Bal Diwas - celebrates the purest form of humanity: childhood.

But beyond the balloons, sweets, and fun, lies a deeper tribute - to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, whose birthday marks this special occasion and whose affection for children shaped the very idea of post-independence India's future.

The Man Behind the Day

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, into a family deeply rooted in India's freedom struggle. A visionary leader, thinker, and statesman, Nehru played a central role in the country's journey to independence and its early years as a modern democratic republic.

Yet, amid his intellectual brilliance and political leadership, there was another side to him - one filled with tenderness and idealism. He loved spending time with children, often calling them the true wealth of the nation. Children, in turn, fondly called him "Chacha Nehru", an affectionate name that reflected both his warmth and humility.

For Nehru, children symbolized hope, potential, and purity - the untainted spirit that could build a better, progressive India. He often said,

"The children of today will make the India of tomorrow. The way we bring them up will determine the future of our country."

Following his death in 1964, his birthday began to be celebrated as Children's Day, a day dedicated to honoring his love for the young and his dream of nurturing them as the builders of a new India.

From Leader to Chacha Nehru

Nehru's fondness for children was not merely sentimental; it was deeply philosophical. He believed that childhood must be protected - not just with affection, but through education, equality, and opportunity.

His government's focus on establishing educational institutions like IITs, AIIMS, and agricultural universities reflected this commitment to shaping young minds.

He saw in every child a potential scientist, artist, thinker, and dreamer - waiting to bloom. For him, nurturing children wasn't charity; it was nation-building. That belief remains the soul of Children's Day in India today.



How India Celebrates Children's Day

Across the country, Children's Day is celebrated with immense enthusiasm and creativity. Schools, NGOs, and communities organize special programs to honor the joy of childhood:

- Schools turn festive, with teachers organizing cultural shows, skits, magic performances, and games for their students.
- Competitions in art, poetry, storytelling, and sports encourage creativity and self-expression.
- Educational campaigns and exhibitions highlight the importance of child rights, health, and education.
- Children from underprivileged backgrounds are often invited to share the celebrations, reinforcing the spirit of equality and inclusion.

In many places, gifts, sweets, and books are distributed, not as indulgence but as gestures of care - echoing Chacha Nehru's belief that love and knowledge are the two greatest gifts we can give to children.

The Universal Message of Childhood

While Children's Day in India coincides with Nehru's birthday, the message it carries transcends boundaries. It reminds us that every child - regardless of background or circumstance - deserves love, dignity, and opportunity.

In a world increasingly driven by competition and technology, the day serves as a reminder to preserve the innocence of childhood, to allow children to explore, question, and grow

without fear. It calls upon parents, educators, and society to ensure that no child is deprived of education, safety, or a nurturing environment.

As Nehru once wrote in his book *Letters from a Father to His Daughter*,

"Life is like a book, and those who do not travel or learn read only a page."

His words continue to inspire the idea that education - both formal and experiential - is the greatest gift we can offer our children.

Children's Day in the Modern Context

In today's fast-paced world, where screens have replaced playgrounds and pressure often shadows playtime, the essence of Children's Day holds renewed importance.

It is not merely a celebration but a reminder to safeguard childhood - to let children be curious, joyful, and imaginative.

Organizations across India use this day to raise awareness about child rights, mental health, and the importance of emotional development. From campaigns promoting child literacy to drives against child labor, the day has evolved from a festive occasion into a social mission.

Legacy of Love and Learning

Pandit Nehru's deep empathy for children stemmed from his belief that the future of any nation depends on how it treats its young. His dream was of a society that respected freedom of thought, scientific curiosity, and compassion - values that must be instilled early in life.

He envisioned schools not as rigid institutions but as gardens where young minds could grow freely, guided by teachers who understood that every child's curiosity is sacred.

In remembering him each year, we are reminded not just of his affection for children, but of his vision - a world where every child is educated, empowered, and loved.

A Day to Cherish Innocence

Children's Day is more than a date on the calendar - it is a celebration of laughter, learning, and limitless dreams. It's a call to every adult to see the world once again through a child's eyes - with wonder, empathy, and hope.

As schools across India echo with the songs of young voices, and as flowers are placed at Nehru's samadhi at Shantivan, the message remains timeless:

To honor children is to honor the future itself.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of independent India (1947-64), was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad, India. He established parliamentary government and became noted for his neutralist (nonaligned) policies in foreign affairs. He was also one of the principal leaders of the Indian Independence Movement during the 1930s and '40s.

Early years

Nehru was born to a family of Kashmiri Brahmins, noted for their administrative aptitude and scholarship, who had migrated to Delhi early in the 18th century.

From Page 20

He was a son of Motilal Nehru, a renowned lawyer and leader of the Indian independence movement, who became one of Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi's prominent associates. Jawaharlal was the eldest of four children, two of whom were girls. A sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, later became the first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly.

Until the age of 16, Nehru was educated at home by a series of English governesses and tutors. Only one of those—a part-Irish, part-Belgian theosophist, Ferdinand Brooks—appears to have made any impression on him. Jawaharlal also had a venerable Indian tutor who taught him Hindi and Sanskrit. In 1905 he went to Harrow, a leading English school, where he stayed for two years. Nehru's academic career was in no way outstanding. From Harrow he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he spent three years earning an honours degree in natural science. On leaving Cambridge he qualified as a barrister after two years at the Inner Temple, London, where in his own words he passed his examinations "with neither glory nor ignominy."

The seven years Nehru spent in England left him in a hazy half-world, at home neither in England nor in India. Some years later he wrote, "I have become a queer mixture of East and West, out of place everywhere, at home nowhere." He went back to India to discover India. The contending pulls and pressures that his experience abroad were to exert on his personality were never completely resolved.

Four years after his return to India, in March 1916, Nehru married Kamala Kaul, who also came from a Kashmiri family that had settled in Delhi. Their only child, Indira Priyadarshini, was born in 1917; she would later (under her married name of Indira Gandhi) also serve (1966–77 and 1980–84) as prime minister of India. In addition, Indira's son Rajiv Gandhi succeeded his mother as prime minister (1984–89).

Political apprenticeship

On his return to India, Nehru at first had tried to settle down as a lawyer. Unlike his father, however, he had only a desultory interest in his profession and did not relish either the practice of law or the company of lawyers. For that time he might be described, like many of his generation, as an instinctive nationalist who yearned for his country's freedom, but, like most of his contemporaries, he had not formulated any precise ideas on how it could be achieved.

Nehru's close association with the Congress Party dates from 1919 in the immediate aftermath of World War I. That period saw an early wave of nationalist activity and governmental repression, which culminated in the Massacre of Amritsar in April 1919; according to an official report, 379 persons were killed (though other estimates were considerably higher), and at least 1,200 were wounded when the local British military commander ordered his troops to fire on a crowd of unarmed Indians assembled in an almost completely enclosed space in the city.



When, late in 1921, the prominent leaders and workers of the Congress Party were outlawed in some provinces, Nehru went to prison for the first time. Over the next 24 years he was to serve another eight periods of detention, the last and longest ending in June 1945, after an imprisonment of almost three years. In all, Nehru spent more than nine years in jail. Characteristically, he described his terms of incarceration as normal interludes in a life of abnormal political activity.

His political apprenticeship with the Congress Party lasted from 1919 to 1929. In 1923 he became general secretary of the party for two years, and he did so again in 1927 for another two years. His interests and duties took him on journeys over wide areas of India, particularly in his native United Provinces (now Uttar Pradesh state), where his first exposure to the overwhelming poverty and degradation of the peasantry had a profound influence on his basic ideas for solving those vital problems. Though vaguely inclined toward socialism, Nehru's radicalism had set in no definite mold. The watershed in his political and economic thinking was his tour of Europe and the Soviet Union during 1926–27. Nehru's real interest in Marxism and his socialist pattern of thought stemmed from that tour, even though it did not appreciably increase his knowledge of communist theory and practice. His subsequent sojourns in prison enabled him to study Marxism in more depth. Interested in its ideas but repelled by some of its methods—such as the regimentation and the heresy hunts of the communists—he could never bring himself to accept Karl Marx's writings as revealed scripture. Yet from then on, the yardstick of his economic thinking remained Marxist, adjusted, where necessary, to Indian conditions.

Struggle for Indian independence

After the Lahore session of 1929, Nehru emerged as the leader of the country's intellectuals and youth.

Gandhi had shrewdly elevated him to the presidency of the Congress Party over the heads of some of his seniors, hoping that Nehru would draw India's youth—who at that time were gravitating toward extreme leftist causes—into the mainstream of the Congress movement. Gandhi also correctly calculated that, with added responsibility, Nehru himself would be inclined to keep to the middle way.

After his father's death in 1931, Nehru moved into the inner councils of the Congress Party and became closer to Gandhi. Although Gandhi did not officially designate Nehru his political heir until 1942, the Indian populace as early as the mid-1930s saw in Nehru the natural successor to Gandhi. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact of March 1931, signed between Gandhi and the British viceroy, Lord Irwin (later Lord Halifax), signaled a truce between the two principal protagonists in India. It climaxed one of Gandhi's more-effective civil disobedience movements, launched the year before as the Salt March, in the course of which Nehru had been arrested. When the elections following the introduction of provincial autonomy brought the Congress Party to power in a majority of the provinces, Nehru was faced with a dilemma. The Muslim League under Mohammed Ali Jinnah (who was to become the creator of Pakistan) had fared badly at the polls. Congress, therefore, unwisely rejected Jinnah's plea for the formation of coalition Congress-Muslim League governments in some of the provinces, a decision that Nehru had supported. The subsequent clash between the Congress and the Muslim League hardened into a conflict between Hindus and Muslims that was ultimately to lead to the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan.

The Architect of Modern India

Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of independent India. One of the most prominent leaders of India's Independent Movement, Pandit Nehru is

known as the architect of modern India.

Pandit Nehru or Chacha Nehru as he was affectionately called was a nationalist leader, social democrat, author, and humanist.

Nehru was known for his vision, administrative aptitude, and scholastic prowess.

It was Jawaharlal Nehru who set out to realise the dream of a strong and resurgent India. He steered the nation to the path of recovery and modernisation. Nehru had neither the resources or the experience to administer the country. Yet, it was with his patriotism, dedication and commitment that he translated the values of the Congress into the Constitution of India.

It was Nehru who proposed the idea of fundamental rights and socio-economic equality irrespective of caste, creed, religion and gender. He invariably advocated the abolition of untouchability, right against exploitation, religious tolerance and secularism. He championed the idea of freedom of expression, right to form association, and was of the firm belief that statehood would ensure social and economic justice for labour and peasantry and give voting rights to all adult citizens. These propositions phrased by Jawaharlal Nehru made him the darling of India.

Here are some big decisions that nicknamed him an architect of modern India:

Establishing institutions of excellence

It was Nehru who provided the scientific base for India's space supremacy and engineering excellence. With the establishment of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and universities, it was Nehru who put India on the path of development. Also, the foundation of the dual tack nuclear programme helped India achieve its nuclear enabled status. He also potentially set the pitch for industries, factories and the manufacturing sector paving the way for a journey of sovereign India.

THIS GRAMMY AWARD WINNER'S PASSION IS TO ELEVATE HUMAN HAPPINESS THROUGH MUSIC

BY MABEL PAIS

"I want my music to be a beautiful gift to the world." — Chandrika Tandon

2025 Grammy Award-winner, **CHANDRIKA TANDON**, for her album 'Triveni' and two-time Grammy Award-nominee, will give us her 'Divine Ecstasy' concert. With an ensemble of instrumental and vocal musicians, she will also perform tracks from her newest album, 'Soul Ecstasy,' alongside songs from her other albums. This will be a memorable evening of storytelling, audience participation, and global music.

Chandrika Tandon and a band of 13 exceptional musicians will be performing at Symphony Space on November 21 starting at 8 pm, joined by the award-winning Young People's Chorus of NYC.

For two decades, Chandrika has made ancient Sanskrit mantras and shlokas accessible to wider audiences through her work with community and school choirs, including her current role as Artist-in-Residence for the award-winning Young People's Chorus of New York City. She has performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Pittsburgh's Carnegie Music Hall, and Washington, DC's National Mall.

Watch the video - youtu.be/HMaYdTrxm_w

This video presentation features an engaging panel discussion led by Chandrika Tandon with scientists, artists, and cultural experts as we explore the intersection of science, sound, and song. Together, we will seek to uncover insights about where and how musical spiritual practices support the science of healing.

Participants include Lisa Sokolov, Dr. Concetta Tomaino, and Alexandre Tannous (read more about the panelists on the YouTube page).

PROGRAM

WHAT: DIVINE ECSTASY by Chandrika Tandon with song-and-music ensemble

WHEN: November 21, 2025 @ 8 PM; Doors open at 7 PM

**WHERE: Peter Norton Symphony Space
2537 Broadway at 95th Street, New York City**

MUSIC

The New York Times wrote, Chandrika traveled an "unlikely path to become an internationally recognized Indian singer." Her stated mission is to elevate human happiness through music and education – working on the dual prongs of emotional and economic well-being.

For two decades, Chandrika has made ancient Sanskrit mantras and shlokas accessible to a wide audience through her work with community and school choirs, including her current role as Artist-in-Residence for the award-winning Young People's Chorus of New York City.

Her passion for fostering emotional well-being is focused on emanating love, joy, and transcendence through her music and artistry. Since 2005, under her non-profit music label, Soul Chants Music, Chandrika has released six albums – 'Ammu's Treasures,' 'Shivoham – The



Chandrika Tandon sings with the Young People's Chorus.

Credit: www.worldmusicinstitute.org.

Quest,' 'Soul March,' 'Soul Mantra,' GRAMMY®-nominated 'Soul Call' in the Contemporary World Music category, and GRAMMY®-winning 'Triveni' in Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant. Her music draws on ancient Vedic chants that have sound healing impact and melds it with Indian classical music, and has attracted a wide cult following.

She has conducted numerous benefit concerts on world stages to sold-out audiences, including the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Nassau Coliseum, Times Square, premier European venues, and Washington DC's National Mall for hundreds of thousands of attendees of the World Culture Festival. She has been named the Young People's Chorus of New York City's 2024-2025 Artist in Residence.

BUSINESS AND EDUCATION

Chandrika Tandon is a globally recognized business leader, twice nominated GRAMMY®-winning artist, and humanitarian. At the height of her business career, she re-evaluated her life and definitions of success, reformulating her business life to intentionally include music, service, and meditation.

Chandrika's economic well-being efforts are focused on higher education – in particular STEM – where she brings to bear her considerable business experience as one of the earliest and youngest partners of McKinsey & Company, and founder and Chair of her advisory firm, Tandon Capital Associates. She chairs the Board of the NYU Tandon School of Engineering, named after her family's generous gift. This school has been a transformation success story, with a steady rankings climb, and proudly offers enhanced access to first-generation and women students. NYU Tandon is involved in world-class groundbreaking research in areas like cybersecurity and wireless. Chandrika is a Trustee of New York University, Chair of NYU's Global Council, and a Trustee of NYU Langone Health. She is a Harold Acton Fellow at NYU and a Sterling Fellow at Yale, where she serves on the President's Council on International Activities.

She is the founder and patron of Madras Christian College's Boyd-Tandon School of Business, and her Foundation has established faculty Chairs at Yale and Harvard Universities. Chandrika is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences Investment Committee and serves as a Governor of the New York Academy of Sciences.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Chandrika has received numerous awards, including the Gallatin Medal, NYU's highest honor; the Walter Nichols Medal for leadership and integrity, and the Polytechnic Medal recognizing her contribution to science and engineering. She was inducted into the Horatio Alger Society of Distinguished Americans and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AMACAD), and has received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and The Town Hall's Friend of the Arts Award.

She was recently honored with the Ban-Ki Moon Award for Women's Empowerment, Diwali at Times Square's Woman of the Year Award, Maharishi International University's Maharishi Award for the Area of Celebrations and Fulfillment, the Voice Foundation's Voice Education Research Awareness Award, the ASCAP Foundation's Champion Award, and the South Asian Council for Social Services' Music for Healing Award.

Chandrika was named the inaugural Distinguished Alumnus of both the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and Madras Christian College (MCC), her two alma maters. She has also supported senior and community centers in several Hindu temples in New York.

PUBLICITY

She has been profiled in print, on radio, and television including in CNBC's 'The Brave Ones' series, the book 'Indian Genius' by Meenakshi Ahamed, and the book 'From the Minds of Jazz Musicians,' Volume II by David Schroeder.

TICKETS**

Tickets at several *tier levels are available.



Chandrika Tandon receives the Grammy Award in 2025.

Credit: www.chandrikatandon.com.

*Tier 1 tickets include a VIP meet-and-greet with the artist.

Member prices apply.

Students and Seniors get a 15% discount by using the codes STUDENT2526 and SENIOR2526.

Please note: Tickets need to be collected at the Symphony Space Box Office, and you must present a valid student ID or an ID that verifies eligibility (seniors aged 65 and older).

Additionally, groups of 10 or more can enjoy a 10% discount per ticket, which must be purchased directly through the Symphony Space Box Office.

Ticket prices do not include venue service fees.

SACRED SOUNDS OF HEALING

The Sacred Sounds of Healing series highlights artists, cross-cultural collaborations, and interactive ancillary events that celebrate and promote the transformative power of music and sounds from diverse spiritual and ethnic traditions. This initiative aims to heal and foster peace, joy, and unity through the universal language of music.

This event is co-presented with The Town Hall. The Sacred Sounds of Healing series is made possible with the generous support of Chandrika Tandon.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

Founded in 1985, World Music Institute (WMI) has served as one of the leading presenters of world music and dance within the United States. WMI is committed to presenting the best in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world to enrich lives through the arts, promote awareness and appreciation of the world's rich cultural traditions, and encourage cross-cultural dialog and exchange. WMI presents virtually and at venues throughout the city of New York and depends on public and private funding to accomplish its mission.

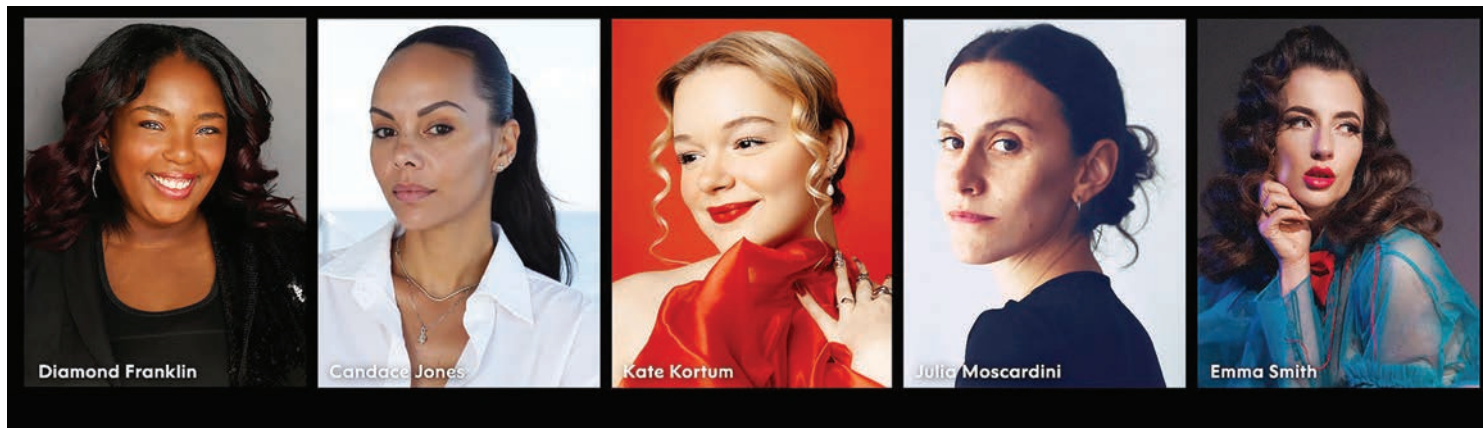
Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Spirituality, Social Issues, Education, Business, Health and Wellness, and Cuisine.

JAZZ FEST REACHES FINALE WITH FIVE FINALISTS AT SASSY AWARDS



Sarah Vaughan

-Credit : www.njpac.org.



2025 Finalists for Sassy Awards. -Credit : www.njpac.org.

BY MABEL PAIS

The TD JAMES MOODY JAZZ FESTIVAL will have its finale with the top five finalists competing at the 14th annual SARAH VAUGHAN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VOCAL COMPETITION, also called the 'SASSY AWARDS.' Picked from almost 200 entrants from 27 countries, these gifted young singers represent the next generation of great jazz vocalists. On October 9, 2025 the top five finalists are Diamond Franklin (Philadelphia, PA), Candace Jones (Hollywood, FL), Katie Kortum (New York City), Julia Moscardini (Buenos Aires, Argentina), and Emma Smith (London, England).

On November 23, 2025 starting at 3 PM, the top five finalists will compete on the iconic New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Victoria Theater stage in front of a live audience and before a distinguished panel of judges including TONY-nominated singer/lyricist Ann Hampton Callaway, GRAMMY®-nominated trumpeter Jon Faddis, GRAMMY®-nominated jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon, GRAMMY® Award-winning bassist and Artistic Advisor for Jazz Programming at NJPAC Christian McBride, and founding member of The Manhattan Transfer and co-host of WBGO Radio's 'Singers Unlimited,' vocalist Janis Siegel.

SASSY AWARDS COMPETITION

Open to singers over the age of 18, of all genders and nationalities, from anywhere in the world, and not signed by a major label, The SASSY Awards offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business — and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz stars of tomorrow. Gifted young contestants from around the world are evaluated on vocal quality, musicality, technique, performance, individuality, artistic interpretation, and ability to swing.

Past winners include Cyrille Aimée, Jazzmeia Horn, Ashleigh Smith, Arianna Neikrug, Deelee Dubé, Quiana Lynell, Laurin Talese, Samara Joy (GRAMMY® Award winner for Best New Artist 2023), Gabrielle Cavassa and Tawanda Suessbrich-Joaquim, G. Thomas Allen, Lucía Gutiérrez Rebollosa, Tyreek McDole, and April May Webb.

The divine Sarah Vaughan — Newark's greatest musical gift to the world — got her start as the winner of a

talent contest. NJPAC honors her legacy every year with the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, the only global jazz vocal contest of its kind, open to all genders and nationalities. This event offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business — and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz stars of tomorrow.

For more information about The SASSY Awards, visit SarahVaughanCompetition.com.

PROGRAM

HOST

WBGO Radio's Gary Walker

PERFORMANCE

This special event will also include performances by the 2023 winner of the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition Tyreek McDole.

JUDGES

Gary Walker – host
Ann Hampton Callaway – judge
Jon Faddis – judge
Nnenna Freelon – judge
Christian McBride – judge
Janis Siegel – judge
Tyreek McDole - vocalist

PRIZES

The first-prize winner of The SASSY Awards will receive a \$5,000 cash award, second-place \$1,500, and third-place \$500.

The Sarah Vaughan International Vocal Competition, also known as 'The SASSY Awards,' has become one of the top annual vocal competitions in jazz. The competition recalls the humble beginnings of legendary jazz singer/NEA Jazz Master Sarah Vaughan (1924-1990) who, back in 1942, was a Newark teenager and winner of an amateur singing contest at the Apollo Theater. That memorable night helped launch the lifework of one of the most successful, influential jazz vocalists in the history of American music.

FINALISTS BIOS

Diamond Franklin is a classically-trained mezzo-soprano vocalist, actor, songwriter and recording artist specializing in jazz, opera, musical theater, R&B and gospel music. A Philadelphia native, Franklin has trained under world-renowned musicians Monette Sudler, Ruth Naomi

Floyd and Angel Joy Blue, and has performed onstage with legendary artists Andrea Bocelli and Jon Bon Jovi. Franklin most recently starred as Alice 2 in Opera on Tap Philadelphia's production of Alice Tierney in the 2025 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Learn more at diamondfranklin.com.

Candace Jones was born into a family of accomplished jazz musicians. Her early musical influences — ranging from John Coltrane and Sarah Vaughan to Stevie Wonder — shaped her into a vocalist with soul, sass and undeniable presence. By 18, she had already earned numerous honors from organizations such as the NAACP and the San Francisco GRAMMY® Choir. At 22, she became a weekly headliner at the legendary Cotton Club in Harlem. Her stage career blossomed with lead roles in productions like 'Dreamgirls,' 'Ain't Misbehavin'' and 'Hair.' You can follow her at [instagram.com/candace_jones](https://www.instagram.com/candace_jones).

Kate Kortum is a Houston-born jazz vocalist with a warm, distinctive sound that seamlessly blends the blues, bebop and Broadway. Kortum issued her debut album 'Good Woman' (2023) to critical and streaming acclaim, surpassing 3.5 million streams for its imaginative reworkings of jazz standards from a female perspective. Her sophomore release 'Wild Woman' (2025) follows, continuing her fresh, story-driven approach to bebop, blues and 'The Great American Songbook.' A graduate of the University of Miami's Frost School of Music and the Juilliard School, Kortum has appeared at Mezzrow, SXSW, Birdland, Blue Note and Dizzy's, collaborating with Peter Bernstein, Emmet Cohen, Bryan Carter, Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Learn more at katekortum.com.

Julia Moscardini, from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is a singer who focuses on jazz and Latin American (especially Argentinian) music. In Buenos Aires, she studied with renowned local jazz musicians Mariano Loíacono and Ernesto Jodos, and since 2015 travels to New York annually to study with her mentor master Sheila Jordan and others. For the last 10 years, she has led her own group and has recorded two albums, 'Stablemates' (2019) and 'Mood Indigo' (2022). She will soon release a live record with pianist Ernesto Jodos. She performs at jazz venues and festivals across the country and abroad (Chile,

Uruguay and Brazil) and has been on stage with Antonio Hart, Carl Allen, Cyrus Chestnut, and more. Anthony Wonsey, Lonnie Plaxico, Rudy Roystone, Russell Malone and Steve Davis. She teaches at the Escuela de Música Contemporánea (part of Berklee College of Music's International Network) in Buenos Aires. Follow her at [juliamoscardini.bandcamp.com/community](https://www.juliamoscardini.bandcamp.com/community).

Emma Smith is one of the most talked-about voices in jazz. She has collaborated with major artists including Michael Bublé, The Quincy Jones Orchestra, Jeff Goldblum and the Jeremy Pelt / Wayne Escoffery Quintet. Smith's accolades include widespread success with vocal harmony groups. The Puppini Sisters, a four-year stint as a BBC Radio 3 broadcaster and resident vocalist with the 'Ronnie Scott's All Stars.' Following a triumphant tour with Postmodern Jukebox, she was named Jazz Act of the Year at the 2024 Jools Holland Boisdale Music Awards, and was one of only two singers to receive the prestigious Worshipful Company of Musicians Medal. Her solo debut 'Meshuga Baby' was a breakout success and her new album, 'Bitter Orange,' is a bold, personal portrait of a self-making artist, determined to leave her mark on the world with elegance, honesty and heart. Learn more at emmasmithmusic.co.uk.

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The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, N.J., is America's most diverse performing arts center, and the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey — where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. Learn more at NJPAC.org.

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

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MATA KI CHOWKI

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Rashmika thanks fans for showering love on 'The Girlfriend'

Rashmika Mandanna is currently enjoying the success of her recent film, *The Girlfriend*. She took to social media to thank fans for their overwhelming response to the film. The actress shared a heartfelt note expressing gratitude for the appreciation and excitement. The film, produced by Dheeraj Mogilneni and Vidya Koppineni, also features Anu Emmanuel and Rao Ramesh in pivotal roles. Taking to her Instagram stories, Rashmika Mandanna shared poster of *The Girlfriend* and wrote, "Big thankyou to everyone who's watched the film...loved it...supported it...it means soo much to us." Recently, when she was spotted, the diva's candid interaction with someone in the crowd drew much attention. In a video posted on Instagram, Rashmika Mandanna was spotted exiting a place while being surrounded by her fans. Although her bodyguards helped the actress to walk towards the car parked right outside the venue, she was mobbed by the crowd on all sides.

Kajol suggests marriages should come with expiry date, renewal option

Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle is set to host Vicky Kaushal and Kriti Sanon recently appeared in the latest episode. During the show, a lively discussion unfolded when Kajol, who is married to Ajay Devgn, shared her belief that marriages should come with an expiry date and an option for renewal.

During the This or That segment, Twinkle posed the question, "Should marriage have an expiry date and a renewal option?" Kriti, Vicky, and Twinkle all disagreed, standing in the red zone, while Kajol supported the idea and moved to the green zone.

"No, it's marriage, not a washing machine," Twinkle quipped. Kajol countered, "I definitely think so. What guarantees that you'll marry the right person at the right time? A renewal option would make sense and if there's an expiry date, no one has to suffer for too long." She even tried to persuade Twinkle to join her in the green zone.

The next statement was, "Money can buy happiness." This time, Twinkle and Vicky agreed and stepped into the green zone, while Kajol disagreed. "No matter how much money you have, it can actually become an impediment. It numbs you to the true idea of happiness," Kajol explained. After some reflection, Kriti admitted that money could buy happiness at least to a certain extent.

Later in the game, Twinkle declared, "Best friends shouldn't date each other's exes," and playfully wrapped an arm around Kajol. "We have an ex in common, but we can't say," she teased as they both stood in the green zone. Kajol immediately laughed and told her to "shut up" before any secrets were revealed.

Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle was one of the most anticipated celebrity talk shows to premiere this year. Hosted by Kajol and Twinkle Khanna, the show has featured a star-studded lineup of guests from the Bollywood industry. Big names like Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar, and Saif Ali Khan have brought their trademark charm and wit to the couch. Younger stars such as Varun Dhawan, Alia Bhatt, Ananya Panday added youthful energy, while Farah Khan, Manish Malhotra, Govinda, Chunky Panday and Sonakshi Sinha shared hilarious stories and heartfelt moments.



Tamannaah claps back at trolls over weight loss



Tamannaah Bhatia opened up about the major body transformation she underwent in recent times. The actor sat down for a conversation with Harper's Bazaar, where she revealed the struggles she faced in managing her weight while also slamming the trolls who accused the actress of having Ozempic. The *Bahubali* star also reflected on whether she will let go of her curves to fit into the global beauty standards set.

Amid reflecting on her body transformation, the actress broke the internet with her special number in Aaryan Khan's directorial, *The Ba***ds* of Bollywood. Bhatia went on to show off her figure, donning a bralette and track pants.

While speaking to the media portal, Bhatia shared that she has been in front of the camera since a young age, and with people seeing her grow, she has nothing to hide. The actress revealed, "Till my late 20s, I was a slender body type. That was always my body. This body in which I am right now is technically not new to me. I have grown up like this, and I have stayed like this."

However, the movie star shared that she faced body weight issues during the COVID pandemic. She revealed that she loves food,

and it was difficult to manage her diet. Tamannaah said, "While doing all those healthy things, I still had to face the camera, and I began to feel that I don't want to be conscious of feeling a certain size, and I'm constantly trying to correct it. I'm feeling like, 'Oh, is my tummy outside?' Because at some point, my tummy was coming out, and I was thinking, 'What is happening to my body?'"

She added, "I went through the same in my early 30s and my curves are not going anywhere. My curves are not going anywhere because I am Sindhi. That hip and waist is not going anywhere because that is bone structure. I don't think you will ever see me following global beauty standards because it's aspirational to be Indian, people love our curves, and I think it's time that we should embrace that."

Apart from body weight management, Bhatia also opened up about dealing with inflammation. She claimed that every woman going through a cycle has to accept the changes in their body. The actress added that she belongs to a Sindhi household and her curves won't disappear. "That hip and waist is not going anywhere because that is bone structure."

Gal Gadot honoured with Israel's Genesis Prize for her wartime activism

Actor Gal Gadot has been awarded Israel's Genesis Prize in recognition of her wartime support for her home country. The prestigious 2026 honour is in recognition of her "steadfast defence of Israel at great personal and professional risk".

Describing herself as a "proud Jew and a proud Israeli," the 'Wonder Woman 1984' (2020) actor pledged to donate her \$1 million prize to organisations committed to helping Israel recover from the trauma of its two-year war against Hamas, as reported by the Associated Press. This act of advocacy has, at times, led to her facing personal backlash.

In a statement released by the prize organisers on Tuesday, Gal Gadot said that "Israel has endured unimaginable pain." She emphasised the need for recovery, saying: "Now we must begin to heal — to rebuild hearts, families and communities."

The Genesis Prize, dubbed 'the Jewish Nobel' by Time magazine, is presented annually to an individual recognised for their professional achievements, significant contributions to humanity, and dedication to Jewish values. Historically, recipients have dedicated the award funds to support causes vital to them, which have ranged from combating antisemitism and advancing women's rights to fighting for economic justice.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas militants launched an attack that killed around 1,200 people in southern Israel and took over 250 hostages, immediately escalating into the war in Gaza, according to the Associated Press. After the war escalated with Hamas, which led to civilian casualties in both Israel and Palestine, Gal Gadot came forward to support her country.

Before making modelling and her acting debut, the 40-year-old served in the Israeli military. She campaigned for the release of hostages held by Hamas and also met with hostage families and released hostages. The actor helped promote the screening in Los Angeles of a graphic film documenting the Hamas attack.



Kim Kardashian rages at psychics who said she'd pass Bar Exam this time

Kim Kardashian went off on psychics who had promised her she would clear the California Bar Exam this year, reports Entertainment Weekly. This comes days after the reality TV star revealed on Instagram that she failed the mandatory exam that assesses a candidate's competency to practice law in California.

Kim Kardashian, who appeared for the California Bar Exam in July 2025, was upset she failed by a narrow margin. The 45-year-old blasted psychics who had predicted she would pass the test with flying colors, in a TikTok recap of mother Kris Jenner's 70th birthday party.

"All of the f***ing psychics that we have met with, and that we're obsessed with, are all f***ing full of s***," Kim told someone while getting ready for the soirée, per Entertainment Weekly.

"They all collectively, maybe four of them, have told me I was gonna pass the bar, so they're all full pathological liars," the Skims co-founder revealed. "Don't believe anything they say," she added.

Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway reunite after 20 years

The makers of *The Devil Wears Prada 2* have finally unveiled the teaser of the upcoming film. Taking to its YouTube channel, 20th Century Studios shared the less than one-minute teaser.

The video began with Meryl Streep's character, Miranda Priestly, walking to her office lift as people were busy working. As the lift was about to close, Anne Hathaway's character, Andrea 'Andy' Sachs, entered it smiling and saying, "Miranda." Very unlike her character, Miranda moved sideways briefly to make room for Andy. She then replied, "Took you long enough." The video ended with Andy smiling and wearing her sunglasses as the lift closed.

Anne also took to her Instagram page and shared the teaser. She wrote, "It's everyone's birthday. #43 #DWP2." The teaser was unveiled on her 43rd birthday. Reacting to the teaser, a fan said, "So gorgeous! I am looking forward to watching this. It will be a great success!" "Oh my

God! I'm so excited for the next year. Can't wait to see Miranda and Andy together again," read a comment.

"The fact that Miranda actually moves to the side to give Andy more room is some major character development," a person wrote. A social media user said, "Now THIS is how you make a teaser trailer. The heels, the music, Miranda, and finally Andy. Chef's kiss." "Meryl really is a shapeshifter! To see her in *Only Murders in the Building*, then back in this role! What a class actor!" said another fan.

Featuring Meryl, Anne, Emily Blunt and Stanley Tucci, the Disney sequel to the 2006 hit film is set to hit the screens on May 1, 2026. The shooting of the film started in June. *The Devil Wears Prada* was adapted from Lauren Weisberger's novel of the same name. Directed by David Frankel, it starred Hathaway, Streep, Blunt and Tucci in the lead roles. David is returning to direct the sequel.



Kremlin says Ukraine will have to negotiate with Russia 'sooner or later'

The Kremlin said that Ukraine will have to negotiate with Russia "sooner or later" and that Kiev's negotiating position is getting worse with each passing day, Reuters reported, BTA reported.

Moscow, whose forces are trying to take control of the city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine, accused Ukrainian officials of refusing to participate in peace talks. Kiev says Moscow's conditions for stopping the war are unacceptable and tantamount to forcing Ukraine to surrender.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that Russia remained open to the idea of a political and diplomatic resolution of the conflict and wanted peace.

In the absence of such an opportunity, however, he said Russia would continue to fight to protect its security in order to have an advantage in possible negotiations.

"The Ukrainian side must know that sooner or later it will have to negotiate, but from a much worse position. The position of the Kiev regime will worsen with each passing day," Peskov said. Russia is increasing the production of military equipment, which shows not only its unwillingness to end the war against Ukraine, but also its plans to launch a large-scale aggression in Europe in the period between 2029 and 2030, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said, quoted by Ukrinform, BTA reports. "We must recognize that they want a big war and we must prepare in 2029 or 2030 - in this period of time - to start such a big war. On the European continent. We see this as a really big challenge," Zelensky wrote on Telegram.

Ukraine's army chief visits besieged city as Zelenskyy confronts graft scandal

KYIV (TIP)

Ukraine's top military commander said on Thursday he visited troops holding the front line in a key eastern city besieged by Russian forces, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy grappled with the fallout from a corruption scandal that has engulfed his administration.

After Zelenskyy's justice and energy ministers quit on Wednesday amid the investigation into alleged energy sector graft, the government fired the vice president of Energoatom, the state-owned nuclear power company believed by investigators to be at the centre of the kickback scheme.

The heads of Energoatom's finance, legal and procurement departments and a consultant to Energoatom's president were also dismissed in the clear-out, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said late on Wednesday.

A Kyiv court has begun hearing evidence from anti-corruption watchdogs whose 15-month investigation, including 1,000 hours of wiretaps, has brought the detention of five people and implicated another seven in the scheme that allegedly earned about USD 100 million.

Tymur Mindich, a co-owner of Zelenskyy's Kvartal 95 media production company, is the conspiracy's suspected mastermind. His whereabouts are unknown.

The investigation has prompted questions about what the country's highest officials knew of the scheme. It has also awakened memories of Zelenskyy's attempt last summer to curtail Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdogs. He backtracked after widespread street protests in Ukraine and pressure from the European Union, which has pushed the country to address



entrenched corruption.

While Ukrainians expressed anger and disbelief at the unfolding scandal, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the EU would disburse on Thursday a 6 billion euros (USD 7 billion) loan to Ukraine and promised more money for Kyiv.

"We will cover the financial needs of Ukraine for the next two years," she said in a speech to the European Parliament.

The EU and other foreign partners have poured money into Ukraine's energy sector. Russia has relentlessly bombarded the power grid, which requires repeated repairs.

The EU is looking into how it can come up with more money for Ukraine, either by seizing frozen Russian assets, raising funds on capital markets, or having some of the 27 EU nations raise the money themselves.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "thinks he can outlast us" in the battle over Ukraine's future, nearly four years after Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbour, von der Leyen said.

"And this is a clear miscalculation," she said. "Now is therefore the moment to come, with a new impetus, to unlock Putin's cynical attempt to buy time and bring him to the negotiation table."

Meanwhile, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, Ukraine's top military commander, visited units fighting to hold Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region and coordinate operations in person, he said on the messaging app Telegram.

Ukrainian troops are locked in street battles with Russian forces in the city and fighting to prevent becoming surrounded by a bigger Russian force as Russia's war of attrition slowly grinds across the countryside.

Google hit with EU antitrust investigation into its spam policy

CALIFORNIA (TIP)

Alphabet's Google was hit with an EU antitrust investigation into its spam policy on Thursday following complaints from publishers who say it has hurt their revenues, putting the U.S. tech giant at risk of yet another hefty fine.

Google began cracking down against companies gaming its search algorithm to push up rankings for other sites in March last year.

Its site reputation abuse policy targets the practice of publishing third-party pages on a site in an attempt to abuse search rankings by taking advantage of the host site's ranking signals, commonly referred to as parasite SEO.

The European Commission said its monitoring indicated that Google is demoting news media and other publishers' websites and content in Google search results when those websites include content from commercial partners.

It said Google's policy appears to directly impact a common and legitimate way for publishers to monetise their websites and content.

"We are concerned that Google's policies do not allow



news publishers to be treated in a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory manner in its search results," EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera said in a statement.

"We will investigate to ensure that news publishers are not losing out on important revenues at a difficult time for the industry, and to ensure Google complies with the Digital Markets Act (DMA)," she said.

Google pushed back against the EU competition enforcer, saying the EU move risks degrading the quality of search results.

"The investigation announced today into our anti-spam efforts is misguided and risks harming millions of European users," Pandu Nayak, chief scientist at Google Search, wrote in a blog post.

"And the investigation is without merit: a German court has already dismissed a similar claim, ruling that our anti-spam policy was valid, reasonable, and applied consistently," he said.

He said Google's anti-spam policy helps level the playing field to thwart websites from using deceptive tactics to outrank websites competing on the merits with their own content.

German media company ActMeraki in April complained to the Commission, saying that Google's spam policy penalises websites.

The European Publishers Council, the European Newspaper Publishers Association and the European Magazine Media Association also have voiced similar grievances.

The EU investigation is under the DMA which seeks to rein in the power of Big Tech where violations can cost companies as much as 10% of their global annual sales.

Passenger bus plunges into a ravine in southern Peru killing 37



A passenger bus fell into a deep ravine early on Nov 12 after crashing with another vehicle in southern Peru, killing at least 37 people and injuring 13 more, authorities said.

The health manager of the Arequipa region, Walther Oporto, said to local radio RPP that the bus hit a pickup truck and it went off a road on a curve, falling more than 200 meters (more than 650 feet) to the banks of the Ocoña river.

The bus had departed from the city of Chala, a mining area also in southern Peru, and was heading to the city of Arequipa.

Fatal bus accidents are not uncommon in Peru. The cause of Wednesday's accident was not clear, but authorities have said in the past that reckless driving and excessive speed are behind many of these events.

In August, a bus overturned on a highway and 10 people died. In July, another bus traveling from Lima to Peru's Amazon region also overturned, leaving at least 18 people dead and 48 injured.

In January at least six people died and 32 were injured when a bus fell into a river.

There's no genocide in Nigeria, says AU chief after Trump military threats

UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

There is no genocide in northern Nigeria, the African Union Commission chairperson said on Wednesday, rejecting accusations by U.S. President Donald Trump that "very large numbers" of Christians were being killed in Africa's most populous country.

"What's going on in northern part of Nigeria has nothing to do with the kind of atrocities we see in Sudan or in some part of eastern DRC," Mahmoud Ali Youssouf told reporters at the United Nations in New York, referring to Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Think twice before... making such statements," he said. "The first victims of Boko Haram are Muslims, not Christians."

The extremist Islamist armed group Boko Haram has also terrorized northeast Nigeria, an insurgency that has killed tens of thousands of people over the past 15 years. Human rights experts have said most Boko Haram victims have been Muslims. Trump earlier this month said he has asked the Defense Department to prepare for possible "fast" military action if Nigeria fails to crack down on the killing of Christians. He did not provide any specific evidence for his accusation.

He also threatened to "stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, and may very well go into that now disgraced country, 'guns-a-blazing,' to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities."

Nigeria's Foreign Ministry has said the country would keep fighting violent extremism and that it hoped Washington would remain a close ally, saying it "will continue to defend all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, or religion."

Nigeria, which has 200 ethnic groups practicing Christianity, Islam and



traditional religions, has a long history of peaceful coexistence. But it has also seen flare-ups of violence among groups, often exacerbated by ethnic divisions or conflict over scarce resources.

Why Donald Trump targeted Nigeria

When Donald Trump claimed recently that the Nigerian government was failing to protect Christians from "massacres" by Islamist extremists, warning that Washington would "cut off all aid" to the country and even "hit hard and fast", he raised quite a few eyebrows.

Nigeria rejected this narrative, stating the violence is not a campaign of religious persecution but a complex web of terrorism, banditry, land disputes, and ethnic rivalries that impact both Muslims and Christians. The episode highlights crucial questions over sovereignty, diplomacy, and the place of religion in global politics. Were the dispute to widen, it could create problems for Nigeria.

Trump's criticism draws on reports, often amplified by US evangelical groups, of attacks on Christian communities in central and northern Nigeria, particularly in Plateau, Benue, and

Kaduna states. These regions have seen recurrent massacres blamed on Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), and armed Fulani militias. To Trump's core voter base, these attacks fit a narrative of Christians under siege in Muslim-majority regions.

Nigerian officials and international observers offer a nuanced view: extremist groups target both Christians and Muslims. Many attacks stem from disputes over land, grazing routes, and local authority rather than religion alone.

Indeed, the Middle Belt, where much of the violence occurs, is a mosaic of ethnic and religious communities competing for dwindling land amid desertification and rapid population growth.

Nigeria's response to Trump's claims was measured but firm. Foreign Minister Yusuf Tuggar said, "It's impossible for there to be religious persecution supported in any way by the Government," reaffirming that the constitution guarantees religious freedom and equality. A presidential adviser said Nigeria welcomed US counterterrorism assistance "as long as it recognises our territorial integrity."

France honors victims of Paris attacks' night of terror 10 years on

PARIS (TIP)

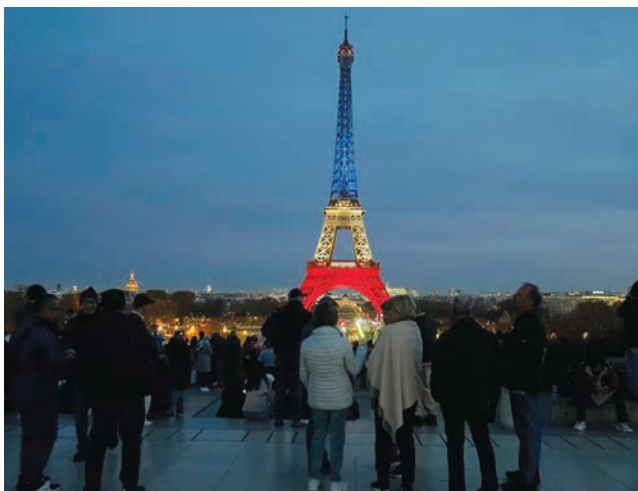
Coordinated terrorist attacks turned Paris into a theatre of blood and calamity 10 years ago on Thursday, with gunfire on cafe terraces, explosions by a stadium and a nighttime massacre at the Bataclan concert hall, leaving 132 people dead and hundreds injured.

Many families measure time as "before" and "after" the attacks. The night reshaped France's sense of safety and purpose, hardening security while deepening a civic reflex for solidarity that endures a decade on.

Paris is marking the Thursday anniversary with tributes led by President Emmanuel Macron and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo at each attack site.

The events start at Gate D of the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, where the first victim, Manuel Dias, was killed, then move to the cafe terraces in the 10th and 11th arrondissements and finally the Bataclan.

Parents, partners and friends of victims will stand closest to the plaques for each minute of silence, with a small group of relatives beside Macron for the wreath-laying under the ceremony's "families first" protocol.



At Place de la Republique, Parisians are leaving candles, flowers and notes at the foot of the statue of national symbol Marianne, as in 2015, and are following the ceremonies on a giant screen. Children are coming with parents to light candles and lay flowers as small, familiar gestures that turn the square into a shared memory. City officials have asked the

public to keep gatherings calm and give families space at the memorials.

On the eve of the anniversary, Wednesday, the statue and surrounding buildings were lit in blue, white and red and dozens gathered for a nighttime vigil, candles at their feet.

"Ten years later, the emotion is still intact", and hope must be shared "despite the pain and the absence," Hidalgo said at the event.

The commemorations will culminate with the Jardin du 13-Novembre, a new memorial garden opposite City Hall. Conceived with victims' associations, it bears the 132 names of those killed on granite stelae, with plantings that echo the attack sites and benches for reflection. Designers added small signs of life — bird baths, nesting boxes, shade — for children at the request of families. The ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. and will be attended by Macron and Hidalgo.

The Eiffel Tower is to be lit again in the colours of the French flag after nightfall, as it was on Wednesday night, a silent tribute in the Paris skyline. The French soccer federation will observe a minute of silence and other tributes at France's World Cup qualifier against Ukraine at the Parc des Princes.

Verdict in Sheikh Hasina's trial on Nov 17, prosecutors want death penalty over action on protesters

DHAKA (TIP)

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal will deliver its verdict on Monday (November 17) in the case involving ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who faces five counts of charges related to crimes against humanity during last year's deadly protests and violence in Dhaka. Prosecutors have sought the death penalty for the deposed PM, who is in India, over the crackdown on student-led protests that led to her ouster and escape to India.

Notably, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, who was part of the ousted Awami League government, and then inspector general of police (IGP) Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun were also tried in the tribunal. Both Hasina and Kamal faced their trials in absentia as the court declared them "fugitives".

In a February report, the United Nations said that about 1,400 people might have been killed in the violence that rocked Dhaka last year. Meanwhile, the country's health adviser said that over 800 people were killed and about 14,000 were injured.



'Deserved 1,400 death sentences'

ICT-BD chief prosecutor Mohammad Tajul Islam has demanded the death penalty for Hasina. He said that the ousted PM deserves 1,400 death sentences. "Since that is not humanly possible, we demand at least one," he added.

In court last month, he claimed that Hasina's goal was only to cling to power permanently "for herself and her

family". He called her a "hardened criminal" who shows "no remorse for the brutality she has committed".

On October 23, the tribunal completed the hearing of the case, which spanned more than 28 working days and saw 54 witnesses testify before the court.

5 counts of charges against Hasina

In total, Sheikh Hasina and the two

others have been accused of committing crimes under five counts. The first alleges murder, attempted murder, torture and other inhumane acts.

The second count accuses Hasina of ordering the "extermination" of protesters, while the third alleges that the former PM made inflammatory remarks and ordered the use of deadly weapons against protesting students.

The remaining charges concern the shooting and killing of six unarmed protesters, including students, in Dhaka and its suburbs.

Bangladesh on edge ahead of verdict

The country has been rocked by a series of crude bombings and arson attacks ahead of the verdict, as the former ruling party, the Awami League, called for a nationwide lockdown to protest Hasina's trial.

Schools across Dhaka and other major cities have shifted to online classes, while public transport is facing major disruptions. Security has been tightened across the national capital, and authorities have deployed army troops around the International Crimes Tribunal complex.

Nine in 10 Afghan families skip meals, take on debt: UNDP

Nine in 10 families in Afghanistan are going hungry or falling into debt as millions of new returnees stretch resources in poverty-stricken areas in the east and north, according to the United Nations. Taliban-controlled Afghanistan – battered by aid cuts, sanctions and repeated natural disasters, including a deadly quake in August – is struggling to absorb 4.5 million people who have returned since 2023. About 1.5 million were forced back this year from Pakistan and Iran, which have intensified efforts to expel Afghan refugees. A UN Development Programme (UNDP) report released on Wednesday said returning Afghans are reeling from severe economic insecurity. More than half of returnee households are skipping medical care to afford food while more than 90 percent have taken on debt, the report said. Their debts range from \$373 to \$900 when the average monthly income is \$100, according to the report, whose findings were based on a survey of more than 48,000 households.

Returnees are also struggling to find decent housing as rent prices have tripled. More than half report lacking sufficient space or bedding while 18 percent report having been displaced for a second time in the past year. In western Afghanistan's Injil and Guzara districts, "most returnees live in tents or degraded structures," the report says.

Pakistan says Islamabad, South Waziristan bombers were Afghan nationals

ISLAMABAD (TIP)

Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said both suicide bombers involved in the two attacks in the country this week were Afghan nationals, as authorities announced having made several arrests.

Naqvi made the remarks in parliament on Thursday, ov 13, during a session carried live on television.

On Wednesday, Nov 12, at least 12 people were killed and more than 30 were injured, several of them critically, when a suicide bomber blew himself up at the entrance of the Islamabad District Judicial Complex.

The Counter-Terrorism Department in Punjab province's Rawalpindi said seven suspects were detained in connection with the Islamabad blast. The alleged perpetrators were apprehended from Rawalpindi's Fauji Colony and Dhoke Kashmirian, the Dawn daily reported, while a raid was also conducted in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.

The other suicide attack took place on Monday at a college in South Waziristan, KP.

Cadet College, which is near the Afghan border, came under attack when an explosive-laden vehicle rammed its main gate. Two attackers were killed at the main gate, while three others managed to enter, according to police.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been severely strained in recent years, with Islamabad accusing fighters sheltering across the border of staging attacks inside Pakistan. Kabul denies giving haven to armed groups to attack Pakistan.

Dozens of soldiers were killed in border clashes between the two countries last month, as well as several civilians.

On Tuesday, Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said Pakistan may launch strikes inside Afghanistan following the attacks this week, saying the country was "in a state of war".

"Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this



war in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and the remote areas of Balochistan should take today's suicide attack at the Islamabad district courts as a wake-up call," he said.

Pakistan passes bill giving army chief immunity for life

In a separate development on Thursday, Nov 13, Pakistan's parliament approved a sweeping constitutional amendment, granting lifetime immunity to the current army chief, boosting the military's power, which was previously reserved only for the head of state, despite widespread criticism from opposition parties and critics.

The 27th amendment, passed by a two-thirds majority, also consolidates military power under a new chief of defence forces role and establishes a Federal Constitutional Court.

The changes grant army chief Asim Munir, recently promoted to field marshal after Pakistan's clash with India in May, command over the army, air force and the navy.

Munir, like other top military brass, would enjoy lifelong protection. Any officer promoted to field marshal, marshal of the air force, or admiral of the fleet will now retain rank and privileges for life, remain in uniform, and enjoy immunity from criminal proceedings.

Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 14 TO NOVEMBER 20

14th November

- 1908 Dr. Charan Singh passed away in Amritsar.
- 1915 Sardar Kartar Singh of Sarabha was hanged to death.

15th November



1900 Dr. Ganda Singh was born in Hoshiarpur. GANDA SINGH was born on November 15, 1900, at Haryana, an ancient town in Hoshiarpur district of the Punjab. He started his schooling in the village mosque and then joined the local Government Middle School. After some time he transferred himself to the D.A.V. Middle School, eventually taking his matriculation from Government High School, Hoshiarpur. The inter-religious polemic which raged in the Punjab in the early part of this century, stirred young Ganda Singh's curiosity. He turned to reading Sikh literature. The stories of Sikh heroes of the eighteenth century and their brave deeds and sacrifices made a deep impression on his imagination. This was the origin of his interest in Sikh lore. The liberating impulse generated by the Singh Sabha, the Sikh renaissance movement, gave a critical bias to his study of Sikh history. A deeply embedded streak of adventure, tough physique and strong, indomitable character were the other constituents of the equipment of the future historian of the Punjab.

1920 The gathering at Akal Takhat constituted a committee of 175 members, to manage the Golden Temple and all Gurudwaras in Punjab and other parts of India. The representation was according to districts in Punjab and according to provinces outside. Members were also elected to represent Sikh states and Sikh bodies in Burma, Malaya, China, and America. This committee was proclaimed as the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee (SGPC). The leadership consisted of S. Sunder Singh Majithia, S. Harbans Singh Atari and S. Sunder Singh Ramgarhia.

1921 Master Mota Singh appears and delivers a fiery speech at Nankana Sahib, on the occasion of the Prakash Utsav of Guru Nanak Dev Patshah.

1921 Baba Gurdit Singh of Koma Gata Maru fame offers himself for arrest at Nanakana Sahib.



16th November



1675 Guru Tegh Bahadur's beheaded head was brought to kiratpur. The Sikhs in Delhi showed a daring courage in seizing both parts of Guru Sahib's beheaded body. Taking advantage of the duststorm which engulfed the city, Bhai Nnnu Rai, Agya and his son Jaita, and Udha Rathaur too the Guru's head to Jaitas house. Jaita along with Bhai Nannu and Udha too it to Kirtrapur. It was cremated at Makhowal the following day. Meanwhile the severed body of the Guru was taken over by Bhai Lakhi Das also called Lakhi Shah Vanjara and his three sons Nigahia, Hema, and Harhi of Jadobansia Barhtia Kanaut, and Naik Dhooma. son of Bhai Nannu. It was taken to the house of Lakhi Das in Raisina and cremated the following night when he performed the ceremony in the process putting his house on fire, to prevent detection by the authorities.



1880 Khalsa Diwan Lahore told Maharaja Dalip Singh not to enter Punjab.

1957 11th Akali Conference was organized by Shiromani Akali Dal, under the leadership of Sardar Sewa Singh Thikriwala and held in Bathinda.

17th November

1922 The agitation for the restitution of Guru Ka Bagh was won. 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.

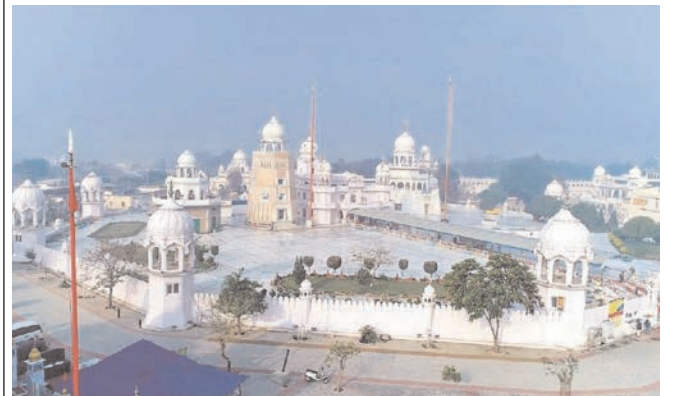
18th November



1920 Gurudwara Punja Sahib came under control of Tat Khalsa on the death of the existing Mahant.

1949 Government of India took over administration of PEPSU.

1966 SGPC established Gurudwara Damdama Sahib, Talwandi Sabho (Bathinda), as Guru Khalsa's fifth Takhat.



1983 Four Hindu passengers were murdered near Naushara Puniya.

19th November

1924 Babar Amar Singh Pindori Nijara accepted shahadat in jail.

20th November

1693 Aurangzeb issued orders that read: "News from Sirhind, Gobind declares himself to be Guru Nanak. Faujdars ordered to prevent him from assembling his forces." When these orders did not produce much effect, "a general order was issued for their massacre."

1840 Co-regency of Chand Kaur and Sher Singh formed.

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces conquered Peshwar.



Oily to dry: Skincare mistakes to avoid

Signs of ageing can be easily developed if you do not do your skincare routine the right way. Here are five reasons that prove you're doing it all wrong:

Skiping out moisturiser

If you think that oily skin produces enough oils to moisturise the skin, you're wrong. The sebaceous glands produce natural oils to compensate for the dryness. It is imperative to apply sunscreen and moisturizer even if you have oily skin. Your skin will naturally adapt to the topical ingredients provided and produce less oils. Make sure to use a water-based moisturiser instead of a cream-based. This will ensure that your skin will not feel sticky throughout the day.

Taking long showers

Your skincare routine starts with cleansing and if you're doing the first step wrong, the next few don't really matter. Taking long showers especially hot ones end up stripping your skin off its natural oils. This dry skin then becomes prone to fine lines and wrinkles.

Skiping out on sunscreen

No matter what your skin type is what season you're in, never miss out on sunscreen. It is one of the most important steps in any skincare routine. It not only protects your skin from the harmful UV rays of the sun but also works



as a protective layer against all other environmental factors like pollution.

Not taking your makeup off

Makeup has a reputation of clogging the pores only if you do not take it off properly.

Every night, make sure to wash off your makeup and ensure you double cleanse so no residue is left off.

Adding to it, make sure that you only use brushes and sponges that

aren't used on other people.

Overdoing it

We often forget that the skin needs to breathe. So overdoing it with serums, creams, products and masks will only confuse your skin. Make sure you use minimal ingredients and products that give maximum benefits. Don't over-exfoliate and give your products some time to work before you switch them. Make sure to apply your products from the lightest of consistency to heaviest.

Women experience more neck pain than men



Shedding new light on how differently men and women experience pain, researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have found that women are 1.38 times more likely than men to report neck pain due to cervical degenerative disc disease.

Cervical degenerative disc disease is a common cause of neck pain. Symptoms include stiff or inflexible neck, burning, tingling and numbness. Pain is most prevalent when the patient is upright or moving the head.

The findings were presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pain Medicine in Palm Springs, California, US.

The study adds to the growing body of research on the differences in which men and women experience pain. Previous studies have found that females are more likely to be treated at pain clinics for chronic pain and that certain painful conditions, such as migraine headaches and fibromyalgia, are more common in women.

Various explanations have been proposed, including hormonal differences and the belief that men may be less willing to report pain.

Raghavendra and Holtman also conducted a similar study of patients who were treated at Loyola's Pain Management Centre for lumbosacral degenerative disc disease or lower back pain.

The prevalence in females was slightly higher than the prevalence in males, but this difference was not statistically significant, the researchers said.

FOOD CORNER

Chilli Garlic Mushroom

Ingredients

For the Mushrooms (Frying):

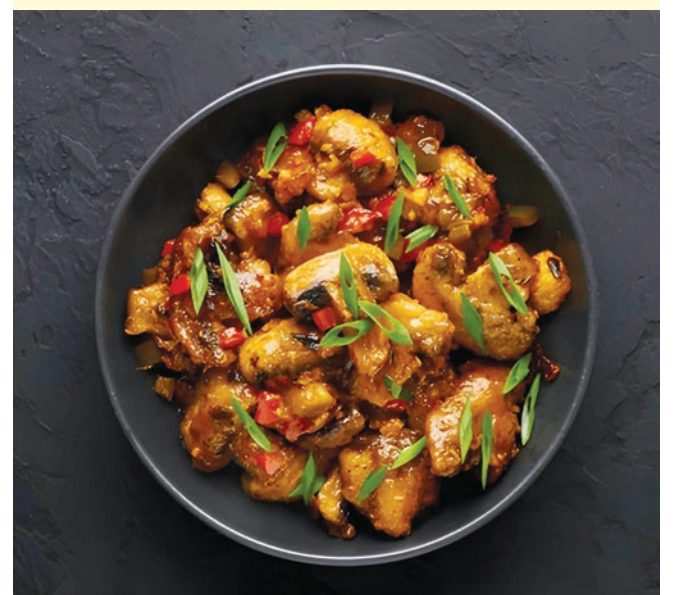
Button mushrooms - 200 g (cut in half if large), Cornflour - 3 tbsp, Maida (all-purpose flour) - 2 tbsp, Black pepper powder - ½ tsp, Salt - to taste, Water - as required (to make a thick batter), Oil - for deep or shallow frying

For the Sauce:

Oil - 2 tbsp, Garlic - 10-12 cloves (finely chopped), Green chillies - 2 (slit or chopped), Onion - 1 (diced into petals), Capsicum - ½ (diced into cubes), Spring onions - 2 tbsp (chopped, for garnish), Soy sauce - 1½ tsp, Red chilli sauce - 1½ tbsp, Tomato ketchup - 1 tbsp, Vinegar - 1 tsp, Crushed black pepper - ½ tsp, Salt - to taste, Sugar - ½ tsp (optional, balances spice)

Preparation Steps

- Coat and Fry the Mushrooms
- Clean and pat dry the mushrooms.
- In a bowl, mix cornflour, maida, salt, and pepper.
- Add a little water to make a thick batter.
- Coat the mushrooms evenly and deep-fry (or shallow-fry) until golden brown and crisp.
- Drain on kitchen paper and set aside.
- Prepare the Chilli Garlic Sauce
- Heat oil in a wok or large pan.
- Add chopped garlic and sauté till golden and fragrant.
- Add green chillies, onion, and capsicum; stir-fry on high heat for 1-2 minutes (keep them crunchy).
- Add soy sauce, red chilli sauce, ketchup, vinegar, sugar, salt, and pepper.
- Mix well and let the sauces blend for 30 seconds.
- Combine Mushrooms
- Add the fried mushrooms into the sauce and toss quickly on high flame.
- Mix till all pieces are well coated.
- Garnish with chopped spring onions.
- Serve hot as an appetizer with schetzwan sauce or green chutney.
- Or enjoy it as a side dish with fried rice, hakka noodles, or steamed jasmine rice.
- For a gravy version, add ½ cup water + 1 tsp cornflour slurry and simmer till thickened.
- Add more garlic and a bit of chilli oil for extra spice.
- You can use baby corn, paneer, or tofu instead of mushrooms for variation.
- For a healthier twist, air-fry or sauté the mushrooms instead of deep frying.



When memory loss is not dementia but severely low vitamin B12

We often associate memory loss, confusion, and disorientation with dementia or early signs of Alzheimer's disease. But what if the root cause isn't a degenerative brain disorder - rather, a simple vitamin deficiency?

Surprisingly, in many cases, low levels of Vitamin B12 can mimic the cognitive symptoms of dementia, leading to misdiagnosis and unnecessary distress. The good news is that, unlike dementia, this form of memory loss is reversible with timely treatment.

The Brain-Vitamin Connection

Vitamin B12, or cobalamin, is an essential nutrient responsible for maintaining nerve health, red blood cell production, and DNA synthesis. It plays a vital role in producing myelin, the protective sheath that surrounds nerve fibers, ensuring smooth transmission of nerve impulses. When B12 levels fall drastically, nerve cells - especially in the brain and spinal cord - begin to degenerate. The result? Cognitive decline, mood changes, and neurological symptoms that closely resemble dementia, depression, or even psychosis.

When Deficiency Masquerades as Dementia

A Vitamin B12 deficiency can creep in silently. Because the body stores B12 in the liver for several years, symptoms appear gradually and are often mistaken for natural aging or stress.

Common neurological and cognitive symptoms include:

- Forgetfulness or confusion
- Difficulty concentrating
- Disorientation or poor balance
- Tingling or numbness in hands and feet
- Fatigue and weakness
- Mood swings, depression, or irritability
- Unsteady gait or walking difficulty



In severe cases, patients may appear to have early dementia or Alzheimer's, particularly in older adults. However, blood tests often reveal that the real cause lies in low B12 levels, not permanent brain damage.

Who Is at Risk?

Several groups are more prone to developing a Vitamin B12 deficiency:

- Vegetarians and vegans: Since B12 is found naturally only in animal products such as meat, fish, eggs, and dairy, those who avoid these foods are at higher risk.
- Elderly adults: Aging reduces stomach acid, which is necessary for absorbing B12 from food.
- People with digestive disorders: Conditions like gastritis, celiac disease, Crohn's disease, or pernicious anemia interfere with absorption.
- Those on long-term medications: Certain drugs, such as metformin (for diabetes) and proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) (for acidity), reduce the body's ability to absorb B12 over time.
- Individuals who have had gastric bypass surgery or intestinal surgery may also experience malabsorption.



Natural painkillers in your kitchen

With a substandard and a sedentary lifestyle, popping medicines has become a part of our everyday humdrum. We don't even think twice before gulping down a Saridon or a Crocin but what we don't realize is how toxic such dependence can become. 'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food', said Hippocrates. So, here we list down foods that act as natural pain killers and the good news is - they do not have side effects.

Tart Cherry

We may not know this but tart cherries are very good at relieving pain. They contain antioxidant compounds called anthocyanins which help in suppressing inflammatory compounds and pain.

Turmeric

The ingredient that gives turmeric its yellow colour is spice curcumin. It has anti-inflammatory properties that are comparable to over-the-counter antibiotics medicines available. It is effective in alleviating joint and muscular pain and swelling.

Ginger

Anti-inflammatory properties of ginger can help alleviate pain from arthritis, stomach ache, chest pain, menstrual pain and even muscle soreness.

Red Grapes

This, too, is a not-so-popular remedy for pain. It contains an antioxidant compound called resveratrol that gives it its red colour. Resveratrol helps in maintaining cartilage health, preventing joint and back pain.

Peppermint

Peppermint is known for its therapeutic properties as it helps in relieving muscular pain, toothache, headache and pain in nerves. It helps ease digestion and stomach problems. Besides, it also has a soothing impact on your mind and memory.

Scientists find brain chemical tied to trauma and depression: Study

Researchers identified SGK1 as a key chemical connecting childhood trauma to depression and suicidal behavior. High SGK1 levels were found in the brains of suicide victims and in people with genetic variants linked to early adversity. Drugs that block SGK1 could offer a new kind of antidepressant, especially for patients resistant to SSRIs.

Neuroscientists from Columbia University and McGill University have identified a brain chemical that appears to drive depression and suicidal thinking in individuals who faced trauma or hardship during childhood.

The researchers found that high levels of a stress-related protein called SGK1 are closely associated with depression among people who endured early-life adversity.

This discovery opens the door to a new type of antidepressant that blocks SGK1 activity and may be more effective for people who were neglected or abused as children.

Studies show that about 60% of adults in the United States diagnosed with major depression and roughly two-thirds of those who attempt suicide experienced some form of trauma or adversity during childhood.

"Current antidepressants are often less effective for people with a history of childhood adversity, who represent a large proportion of adults with depression," says the study's lead author, Christoph Anacker,

assistant professor of clinical neurobiology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. "What's exciting about our study is that it raises the prospect of quickly developing new treatments, as SGK1 inhibitors are in development for other conditions, and gives us a screening tool to identify people at greatest risk."

Childhood adversity (such as physical abuse or growing up in a dysfunctional family) is one of the strongest predictors of depression in adulthood.

While common antidepressants like SSRIs are helpful for many people, they are less effective for those who experienced early trauma. "This suggested to us that the biological processes that lead to depression and suicidality in general may differ from those with less stressful childhoods," Anacker explains.

Around ten years ago, Anacker's team discovered unusually high levels of SGK1 -- a stress-responsive protein -- in the blood of unmedicated patients with depression. In the latest research, the scientists examined the brains of adults who had died by suicide and found elevated SGK1 levels. Those who had suffered childhood trauma showed the highest concentrations, up to twice as much as others who had also died by suicide. The researchers also studied children exposed to early adversity and discovered that those carrying genetic variants that increase SGK1 production were more likely to experience depression as teenagers.

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Nasa cancels Escapade Mars mission launch due to powerful solar storm

NASA has announced the postponement of its planned Mars mission launch due to an intense solar storm, citing safety concerns for the spacecraft and mission success.

The launch, originally set to lift off aboard Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket, has been delayed until space weather conditions stabilise.

NASA and Blue Origin issued a joint update confirming that the agencies are temporarily holding off the liftoff of the twin ESCAPADE (Escape and Plasma Acceleration and Dynamics Explorers) spacecraft.

These small satellites, part of NASA's Heliophysics Division, are designed to study the magnetic environment of Mars and how it interacts with the solar wind.

"New Glenn is ready to launch. However, due to highly elevated solar activity and its potential effects on the ESCAPADE spacecraft, NASA is postponing launch until space weather conditions improve," Blue Origin stated in its update.

The teams are now reassessing upcoming launch opportunities in coordination with range authorities and space weather forecasters.

The decision comes amid one of the most active solar periods of the current solar cycle, with a surge of solar flares and coronal mass ejections detected over the past week.

Such solar activity can generate intense radiation and charged particles, posing a risk to spacecraft electronics and altering launch trajectories.

ESCAPADE's mission aims to unravel how the solar wind affects Mars' thin atmosphere, a question tied closely to the planet's long-term habitability.

The small twin probes will orbit Mars to collect data about plasma processes and the dynamics of its magnetotail.

Postponing the mission points to NASA's caution in protecting advanced instruments from unpredictable solar conditions.

While specific rescheduling details were not announced, officials indicated that the next launch window will be contingent on improved space weather forecasts and range availability.

For now, New Glenn remains on standby, with both NASA and Blue Origin emphasising that mission safety will take priority over schedule.

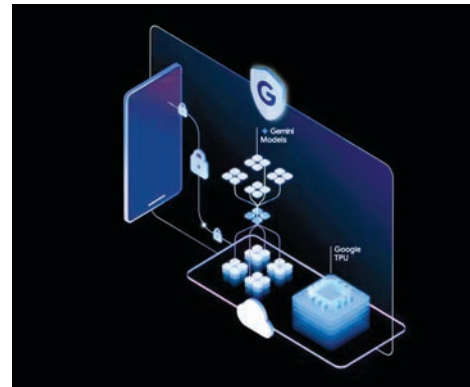


Google unveils Private AI Compute, new cloud tech promises smarter AI without spying on you

Google has introduced Private AI Compute, a new cloud platform designed to make its AI models smarter without compromising user privacy. The company says the technology bridges the gap between on-device security and cloud-level intelligence. This means that users will gain access to advanced AI processing without sacrificing control over their data. This launch is a big move by Google in the growing race to make AI more private and transparent, especially as companies like Apple push similar initiatives with their own cloud systems.

The new platform essentially allows devices to tap into Google's most powerful Gemini AI models for tasks that require heavy computation like summarising recordings, generating contextual suggestions, or managing smart features while ensuring that sensitive data stays private. Google says the system is designed so that no one, not even the company itself, can access what users share or process through it.

How does it work?



Explaining how it works, Jay Yagnik, Google's Vice President of AI Innovation and Research, said that Private AI Compute runs inside a secure cloud environment built on Google's custom Tensor Processing Units (TPUs). Using encryption and remote attestation, user devices connect to this isolated environment to process data safely. The technology is further protected by what Google calls Titanium Intelligence Enclaves (TIE), ensuring that no external entity, including Google's own engineers or advertisers, can peek into user data.

For years, many of Google's AI-driven features, such as translation, audio summaries, and voice assistants, have been processed directly on devices like Pixel phones and Chromebooks. This approach prioritised privacy but came with a trade-off: limited computational power. As AI models become more advanced, Google says it's no longer practical to run everything on-device. Private AI Compute solves this by offloading heavier tasks to a secure cloud, effectively combining the best of both worlds.

This move opens new possibilities for Google's ecosystem of devices and apps. For instance, future Pixel phones like the Pixel 10 will use Private AI Compute to improve Magic Cue, a tool that pulls relevant information from apps like Gmail and Calendar to make context-aware suggestions. The Recorder app is also set to support more languages for real-time transcription and summarisation. "This is just the beginning," Google said, hinting that more AI-powered experiences are on the way.

Apple Plans AI Comeback With Tabletop Robots, Life-Like Version Of Siri

Apple Inc is plotting its artificial intelligence comeback with an ambitious slate of new devices, including robots, a lifelike version of Siri, a smart speaker with a display, and home-security cameras.

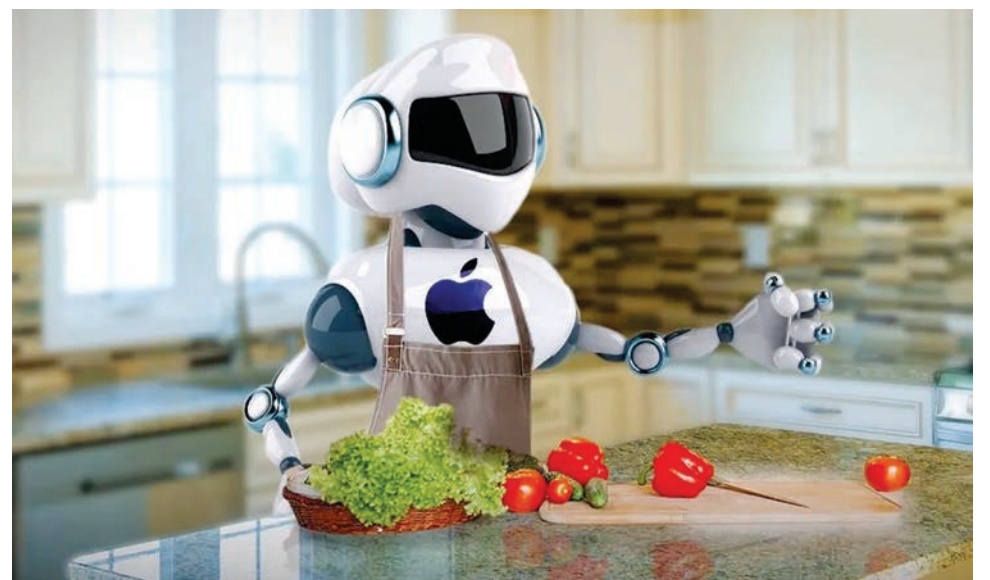
A tabletop robot that serves as a virtual companion, targeted for 2027, is the centerpiece of the AI strategy, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The smart speaker with a display, meanwhile, is slated to arrive next year, part of a push into entry-level smart-home products.

Home security is seen as another big growth opportunity. New cameras will anchor an Apple security system that can automate household functions. The approach should help make Apple's product ecosystem stickier with consumers, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the initiatives haven't been announced.

Apple shares climbed to a session high on Wednesday after Bloomberg News reported on the plans. The stock was up nearly 2% to \$233.70 as of 2:17 pm in New York.

Tim Cook is banking on an ambitious product road map to help get the company's AI effort on track.

It's all part of an effort to restore Apple's mojo. Its most recent moon-



shot project, the Vision Pro headset, remains a sales flop, and the design of its bestselling devices has remained largely unchanged for years.

At the same time, Apple has come under fire for missing the generative AI revolution. And OpenAI may even threaten the company's home turf by developing new AI-driven devices with the help of former Apple design chief Jony Ive.

Though Apple is still in the early stages of turning around its AI software, executives see the pipeline of

hardware as a key piece of its resurgence - helping it challenge Samsung Electronics Co, Meta Platforms Inc, and others in new categories.

A spokesperson for Cupertino, California-based Apple, declined to comment. Because the products haven't been announced, the company's plans could still change or be scrapped. Many of the initiatives and their timelines rely on Apple's continued progress in AI-powered software.

World oil market 'lopsided' as supply outpaces demand: IEA

PARIS (TIP)

The world's oil market is experiencing a period of imbalance as growing supply outstrips demand despite stronger deliveries to China, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Thursday, November 13.

In its monthly oil market report, the organisation revised upwards its global oil supply estimate, saying it will exceed demand by more than four million barrels per day (bpd) in 2026.

"Global oil market balances are looking increasingly lopsided, as world oil supply is forging ahead while oil demand growth remains modest by historical standards," the IEA said.

The body conceded, however, that there was much uncertainty potentially affecting such forecasts, including the economic repercussions of recent tariff turmoil, the US government shutdown and the impacts of the latest western sanctions on Russia, a major oil producer.

Based on the IEA's upward revision, global oil supply is now expected to grow by 3.1 million bpd in 2025 and by another 2.5 million in 2026.

Oil consumption is also rising but at a much slower pace than supply.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, demand growth will even ease back compared to the previous three months, "adding to market balances that look increasingly askew", the IEA said.

Brent crude was trading slightly higher on the day at 63.05 dollars per barrel on Thursday, having dropped around 17 percent over the past 12 months.



Gold surges Rs 3,000 to Rs 1.30 lakh/10g amid firm global cues, weak dollar

Gold prices surged Rs 3,000 to Rs 1,30,900 per 10 grams in Delhi on November 13, tracking firm global cues and weak dollar, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Traders said the end of US government's shutdown also supported the appeal of the safe-haven asset.

The precious metal of 99.5 per cent purity extended its gains for the third straight day, jumping Rs 3,000 to Rs 1,30,300 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) from Wednesday's closing of Rs 1,27,300 per 10 grams.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 1,27,900 per 10 grams in the previous market session.

Silver prices skyrocketed Rs 7,700 to Rs 1,69,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Thursday. The white metal had settled at Rs 1,61,300 per kg, up Rs 5,540 on

Wednesday. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.20 per cent lower at 99.30, after the Trump administration passed the bill to end a 43-day record government shutdown, lending support to the bullion prices. In the international markets, spot gold rose \$41.19, or 0.98 per cent, to \$4,236.84 an ounce.

"Bullion extended its gains on Thursday, supported by a soft US dollar and growing expectations for more rate cuts following weaker macroeconomic data from the world's largest economy."

"Additionally, the Federal Reserve is likely to inject more money into the system to address a partial liquidity drain caused by the shutdown, which also impacted positively precious metals," Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst — Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

It's curtains for the penny after more than two centuries in circulation

The U.S. Mint struck the final 1-cent coin that will be used as legal tender on Wednesday, six months after the Trump administration announced that it would stop producing pennies because the cost of making them is almost four times more than they're worth.

From now on, the only new pennies the Mint releases will be collector versions that aren't currency and will be produced "in limited quantities," the agency said in a statement.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Treasurer Brandon Beach were at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia when the coin press punched out the historic final penny, the agency confirmed.

"We're saying goodbye to the penny today, but let me just be crystal clear, like I said, it's still legal tender," Beach said. "So you can still use it at your stores and retail outlets."

As for the last penny, Beach said they plan to auction that one off as well as the one that was struck before it.

There are still an estimated 250 billion pennies in circulation, the American Bankers Association said in October.

But back in February, President Donald Trump said it made no fiscal sense to keep producing cents.

"For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents," Trump wrote in an online post. "This is so wasteful! I have instructed my Secretary of the U.S. Treasury to stop producing new pennies."

Officially known as the cent, the first penny was struck in 1787 and had a sundial design that was dreamt up by Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers.

The U.S. Mint took over penny production in 1793, a year after Congress passed the Coinage Act.

Wholesale price inflation falls to (-) 1.21 pc in Oct on GST cut, favourable base

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Wholesale price inflation (WPI) fell to (-) 1.21 per cent in October, driven by a decline in prices of food articles like pulses and vegetables, as well as lower fuel and manufactured items' prices, government data showed on Friday, Nov 14.

WPI-based inflation was 0.13 per cent in September and 2.75 per cent in October last year.

"The negative rate of inflation in October 2025, is primarily due to decrease in prices of food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, electricity, mineral oils and manufacture of basic metals etc," the industry ministry said in a statement.

According to WPI data, deflation in food articles was 8.31 per cent in October, compared to 5.22 per cent in September, with onion, potato, vegetables and pulses seeing a decline in prices.

In vegetables, deflation was 34.97 per cent in October, against 24.41 per cent in September. In



pulses, deflation was at 16.50 per cent in October, while in potato and onion it was 39.88 per cent and 65.43 per cent, respectively.

In the case of manufactured products, inflation eased to 1.54 per cent, from 2.33 per cent in September.

Fuel and power witnessed a negative inflation or deflation of 2.55 per cent, against 2.58 per cent in September. The fall in WPI is on expected lines after the rates of Goods and Services Tax (GST) were slashed effective September 22.

GST rates on daily use mass consumption items were cut as part of the tax rate rationalisation under which the four-tier tax structure was brought down to just 2 slabs of 5 and 18 per cent.

The tax cuts which lowered prices of goods, plus a favourable inflation base of last year, has pulled down both wholesale and retail inflation.

Data released last week showed, retail inflation was at an all-time low of 0.25 per cent in October, driven down by GST rate cuts and a high base of last year. In September retail or consumer price index inflation was 1.44 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which takes into account retail inflation, had kept benchmark policy rates unchanged at 5.5 per cent last month.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week will be excellent overall for Aries. This time will allow you to recognize your inner energy and channel it positively. Your personal relationships will become sweeter and deeper, strengthening them. This is an excellent time to spend time with friends and family. Your communication skills will improve, allowing you to better express your thoughts and feelings. This weekend will provide you with the opportunity to share pleasant experiences with loved ones. Participate in social events and meet new people. Your creativity will also flourish this week, allowing you to rekindle your hobbies and interests. Try to embrace new ideas by staying in touch with your contacts. This week will bring you excellent opportunities; you just need to maintain a positive attitude. This is a time to strengthen your relationships.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week may be filled with some challenges for Taurus. You will feel the need to establish balance in your life. Although circumstances may not be favorable, remain patient and maintain positivity. There may be some ups and downs in your relationships, which may make you feel a little anxious. Maintain communication with your loved ones, as this will improve the situation. It's important to spend time with your partner this week, even if circumstances seem stressful. It's crucial to develop empathy and understanding. Don't get caught up in small things; instead, try to understand the situation from a broader perspective. This time may be challenging for your personal growth, but it will strengthen you. If you show patience and courage, these difficulties can give you a new direction. Maintain your emotional balance and a positive outlook this week. Despite the struggles and challenges, hope for better times should always remain.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is a time for reflection and improvement for Geminis. During this period, you may face some dilemmas in making decisions, which will impact your mental health. Be careful in your communication and interactions, as disagreements may arise. Be open with your loved ones; this is a time when you need to share your thoughts. Although you may face some challenges, maintaining a positive outlook can improve the situation.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be especially good for Cancers. The environment around you will foster positivity and creativity. This is a time when you can benefit from understanding and expressing your inner feelings. You will have the opportunity to strengthen your relationships; spending time with loved ones will be enjoyable. Your insight and intuition will help you reach new heights this week. This is a time when your intuition will guide you in the right direction. Focus on your dreams and intentions, and you will find that those around you are influenced by your energy. This week will bring excellence not only to your relationships but also to your personal growth. You will easily overcome every challenge and encounter favorable opportunities. By delving deep into your soul, your desires and goals will become clear. Make the most of this week and maintain a sense of warmth and compassion towards those around you.



LEO

Ganesha says the experience will be wonderful for Leos. This is a time to recognize and hone your personal strengths in life. Your self-confidence will increase, and you will be able to establish better relationships with those around you. This period will bring excitement to social interactions, allowing you to express your thoughts and feelings openly. You have a unique charm that will attract people. This is why your interactions with loved ones will be more empathetic and gentle during this time. Any old conflicts may be resolved, bringing new energy to relationships. Overall, this week is a great time for you to express your heart. Take advantage of this opportunity and try to make positive changes in your life. You may be surrounded by a loving and supportive environment that will help you move forward. Therefore, increase intimacy and friendships, and enjoy this week.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week, you may feel that your emotions and mindset are a little unstable. An insight is developing within you that can give you a new perspective on life, but it can also

bring internal conflict. This is a time to understand the depth of your relationships, but complications may dampen your enthusiasm. People around you may sense your emotional state, and their reactions may further stress you. Minor disputes or disagreements may arise that will need to be resolved. Although this time is challenging, it also provides you with an opportunity to better understand and deal with your emotions. Don't forget to seek help from your support system. This week, give yourself time and accept your feelings, as this will help you move forward.



LIBRA

Ganesha says everything will be especially positive for Libra this week. Planetary positions will bring you excellent experiences in love and relationships. A sense of harmony and unity will increase in your relationships. Your ease in communicating with your partner will strengthen you from within. This is a time especially for forging new friendships and strengthening old ones. Your sensitivity and understanding will help you build happy and lasting relationships with those close to you. Spending time with family and friends will bring you peace of mind. Your creative thinking will spark new and exciting ideas, refreshing your relationships. Don't hesitate to express your feelings and communicate openly. This week, try to understand your loved ones; this will deepen your relationships. Overall, this period will bring precious moments of love and relationships. So, listen to your heart and enjoy this happy time to the fullest.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says the situation seems to be a bit challenging for Scorpions this week. This time may cause you to experience stress on a sensory and psychological level. You need to control your emotions, as this time may make you more sensitive. The circumstances around you may be somewhat unusual, making it difficult to express your thoughts and feelings correctly. During this time, relationships with others may experience ups and downs. Your emotions may flare up over small things, affecting your intimacy. This is a time for dialogue and understanding differences. Listening patiently and expressing your thoughts clearly will help you handle situations sensitively. This week, try to recognize your inner strength through introspection and meditation. This can help you maintain mental balance. Remember, even difficult times will eventually pass; move forward with patience and courage.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be extremely encouraging for Sagittarius. Not only

will prosperity prevail in various aspects of your life, but it will also open doors to new possibilities. You will be successful in building cordial relationships with those around you. Through conversation and communication, you will be able to express your thoughts and feelings clearly, which will enhance your understanding. This week will also enhance your decision-making abilities, which may lead to many important opportunities. Positivity in your relationships will bring joy and enthusiasm. Your creativity will be at its peak, inspiring you to implement new ideas and plans. Overall, this week is a time to strengthen your relationships and enjoy new opportunities. Maintain your confidence and move forward with positivity. Use this time wisely and welcome the wave of change in your life.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week may be challenging for you due to unfavorable planetary positions. This situation can affect all aspects of your life. There may be some turmoil in your relationships. Differences may arise in your family and personal life, so maintain restraint. Keep communication open and express your feelings clearly. It's important to maintain harmony with your partner during this time. Avoid overreacting to small things. Be aware that your reactions can further complicate your relationship. You must approach this period with positivity. Don't hesitate to express your feelings, but act wisely. Mutual understanding and cooperation will help normalize the situation. By proceeding thoughtfully, you can be in a better position by the end of the week. Take this time as an opportunity to strengthen your relationships.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week can be a bit challenging for Aquarius. You will need to maintain mental and emotional stability while dealing with everything. Some tensions and differences may arise in your relationships during this time. This is a time to understand and communicate with those around you. Opinions may differ, so it's important to approach the situation with patience and empathy. Communication can be the solution to any problem. Spending time with loved ones and expressing your feelings clearly will be beneficial. Try to avoid any negativity and maintain positivity. This week is about understanding yourself and strengthening your relationships. Try to find the positive even in stressful moments; this will help revitalize your relationships. Overall, let patience and communication be your guide.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOV 17 TO NOV 23 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

17TH NOVEMBER

Ganesha says you should embrace any change that occurs in your life to demonstrate your adaptability. Simply follow your doctor's advice, and you'll soon be able to recover from all of your ongoing illnesses. If you have obesity, which is the absolute last thing anyone wants in their life, you must take extra care of yourself. Love will lead you where it needs to go. Conflicts involving ego, love, and deception could all be present in your family, so take caution.

18TH NOVEMBER

Ganesha says everyone is riveted by your impromptu talks, and they leave the audience wanting more. You will always be in the news because of your connections to powerful players in your industry. Your statesmanship and diligence earn you respect in addition to power. More than ever, those close to you show interest in you. You provide them with the support they need to solve their challenges. In your family, you are a skilled mediator.

19TH NOVEMBER

Ganesha says you have an artistic intellect, and one of its beauties is to

appreciate and laud the lovely things. You put your all into your work, allowing you to savor every moment. For any of your investments, focused governance will yield significant returns. Your life will be luxurious, and you will soon achieve great success. You resemble a spider that enjoys making difficult efforts to achieve its goals. Your love may seem to be far away, but if it is yours, it will find you on its own.

20TH NOVEMBER

Ganesha says your enthusiasm and outlook on life are admirable. A concerted effort is required to pursue a passion for learning and exploration. All of your coworkers fall under your wing due to your unpopular and logical demeanor. You've learned from a young age that patience is the key to success. Keeping a constant eye on your kids' education will help them succeed in life. Your films in a variety of genres will now be enjoyed by the audience. With your family and friends, you are extremely close.

21ST NOVEMBER

Ganesha says your unique characteristics will make you well-

known in your field. Because of your always-expanding ideas, people will like your business. Never forget that those who dare to dream and think unconventionally are the ones who succeed. Therefore, if you are self-assured, believe in your abilities, and pursue your goals in life, success will undoubtedly be yours. Business travel will be goal-oriented, although it may cause some health issues.

22ND NOVEMBER

Ganesha says no matter how the odds are stacked against you, you always attempt to fight back in life. You have an abundance of stimulating and difficult feelings inside of you, which drive you to take actions that most people wouldn't even consider. Your continued relationship can end up turning into a lifetime kinship. You try to get in touch with folks in your contacts, but you can come up empty-handed. You can avoid further hassle from your bad habits, such as drinking alcohol and other vices, by combining meditation with medical treatments.

23RD NOVEMBER

Ganesha says you have a very positive



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

outlook on your academic career. You must control your impulsive tendency to seek retribution over insignificant issues. To taste success, you must be on the same wavelength as it. You always follow the rules and regulations of the system you choose to realize your deepest desires. To get your creative work started, you must attend intensive workshops. To quell your enemies' bad spirits, you must open your hawk eye. Avoid interacting with other group members who might represent your anxiety to you.

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PISCES



Ganesha says Pisces, the energy surrounding you this week is extremely positive, allowing you to connect deeply with your emotions and relationships. You will enjoy spending time with loved ones this week. Your relationships will experience a new freshness and excitement, filling your mind with joy. Your creativity will be at its peak during this time, allowing you to plan new activities to share with those close to you. Mutual understanding and communication will be key elements in strengthening relationships this week. You will also take important steps towards spiritual and personal growth this week. This is a time for introspection and meditation, which will reveal the depths of your inner self. Overall, this week will prove to be a great

one for you, allowing you to spend quality time with the important people

in your life. Experience improved relationships and commitment with

your loved ones, and make full use of this positive energy.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1**NDA Heading for a Landslide Win...**

Tejashwi Yadav leads ; Raghupur Sees Tight Contest

One of the high-profile battles, Raghupur, saw RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav leading by 10,276 votes, but the broader electoral picture remains grim for the Mahagathbandhan. Constituency-level trends indicate widespread consolidation in favor of NDA candidates.

'Victory of Good Governance Has Been Achieved': PM Modi

Reacting to the early numbers, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the mandate a "victory of development, victory of social justice," crediting the alliance's governance model, welfare outreach, and administrative stability. Nitish Kumar, who campaigned heavily on his welfare schemes for women, elderly, and marginalized communities, appears set to retain the Chief Minister's position-once again emerging as "the man of the hour."

Women Voters, Welfare Schemes, and Alliance Management Drive Success

Analysts attribute the NDA's performance to several converging factors:

Women voters turned out in large numbers, reportedly driven by JD(U)'s welfare measures, including direct benefit transfers, schemes supporting girls' education, and health-focused initiatives.

The coalition projected a unified front, capitalizing on its governance record and minimizing internal friction.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is believed to have played a key role in micro-managing the campaign narrative, ensuring the alliance stayed disciplined on core issues.

BJP is likely to surpass its 2010 tally of 91 seats, strengthening its footprint in the State and pushing the Opposition further to the margins.

Opposition Raises Vote-Chori Allegations

With the Mahagathbandhan facing a near-complete rout, Congress and RJD leaders revived accusations of "vote chori" (theft) and questioned the integrity of the State's intensive electoral roll revision process. However, according to the Election Commission of India (ECI), this is the first election in recent history in which no discrepancies were found at any polling station, and no repolls were recommended.

Smooth Counting Process Across Bihar

Counting is being conducted by 243 Returning Officers, assisted by an equal number of Counting Observers. The ECI has stated that final seat-wise outcomes are likely to be confirmed by evening, depending on the pace of counting.

Exit Polls Prove Wrong

In a dramatic reversal, almost all exit polls-which had predicted a tight finish or a mild NDA edge-stand discredited. The scale of today's mandate suggests a significant shift in voter sentiment and a reaffirmation of the NDA's political dominance over Bihar's electoral landscape.

With numbers stabilizing and the NDA far ahead of the majority mark, it is now only a matter of hours before the final tally confirms the coalition's return to power.

President Trump signs government funding...

The shutdown magnified partisan divisions in Washington as Mr. Trump took unprecedented unilateral actions - including canceling projects and trying to fire federal workers - to pressure Democrats into relenting on their demands.

The Republican President blamed the situation on Democrats and suggested voters shouldn't reward the party during next year's midterm elections.

White House blames Democrats for record 43-day shutdown

"So I just want to tell the American people, you should not forget this," Mr. Trump said. "When we come up to midterms and other things, don't forget what they've done to our country."

The signing ceremony came just hours after the House passed the measure on a mostly party-line vote of 222-209. The Senate had already passed the measure Monday.

Democrats wanted to extend an enhanced tax credit expiring at the end of the year that lowers the cost of health coverage obtained through Affordable Care Act marketplaces. They refused to go along with a short-term spending bill that did not include that priority. But Republicans said that was a separate policy fight to be held at another time.

"We told you 43 days ago from bitter experience that government shutdowns don't work," said Rep. Tom Cole, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. "They never achieve the objective that you announce. And guess what? You haven't achieved that objective yet, and you're not going to."

The frustration and pressures generated by the shutdown was reflected when lawmakers debated the spending measure on the House floor.

Republicans said Democrats sought to use the pain generated by the shutdown to prevail in a policy dispute.

"They knew it would cause pain and they did it anyway," House Speaker Mike Johnson said.

Need to bring in talented people, don't have...

During a TV interview on Tuesday, November 11, Trump defended the value of skilled immigrant workers, arguing that the US could not simply repurpose long-term unemployed Americans for complex roles in manufacturing and defense without extensive training.

When the interviewer said the US had "plenty of talented people," Trump countered, "No, you don't. There are certain skills you don't have, and people have to learn them. You can't take people off the unemployment line and say, 'I'm going to put you into a factory where we're going to make missiles.'"

Trump cited an example from the state of Georgia, where, according to him, the removal of skilled foreign workers created difficulties in manufacturing complex products. His remarks mark a notable shift from his earlier stance on foreign worker visas, particularly the H-1B programme, which has been a central topic in US debates over immigration and employment.

G7 conclave and Canada's presidency...

It was for the second consecutive time that India was represented at a G7 event held under Canada's presidency.

With the end of its presidency, Canada will pass on the baton to the next country in the queue, South Africa.

At the end of the conclave, the following joint communique was issued:

"We, the G7 Foreign Ministers of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the High Representative of the European Union, met under Canada's G7 Presidency in Niagara on November 11-12, 2025. We welcomed the participation of the Foreign Ministers of Brazil, India, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, and Ukraine, who joined us for discussions on maritime security and prosperity, critical minerals, economic resilience, and energy security.

Ukraine's long-term prosperity, security and defense

We reaffirmed our unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its territorial integrity and right to exist, and its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

We reiterated that an immediate ceasefire is urgently needed. We agreed that the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations. We remain committed to the principle that international borders must not be changed by force.

We are increasing the economic costs to Russia and exploring measures against countries and entities that are helping finance Russia's war efforts.

We condemned the provision of military assistance by DPRK and Iran and the provision of weapons and dual-use components by China, a decisive enabler of Russia's war.

We acknowledged the ongoing discussions on a wide range of financing options, including further leveraging immobilized Russian Sovereign Assets in our jurisdictions in a coordinated way to support Ukraine.

We strongly condemned Russia's recent direct attacks on energy infrastructure and reaffirmed our support for Ukraine's energy security.

Peace and stability in the Middle East

We reiterated our strong support for President Trump's Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict. We welcomed the ceasefire and the release of hostages. We stressed the urgency of returning the remains of deceased hostages. We also welcomed the increased flows of aid, but expressed concern about restrictions that remain in place. We called on all parties to allow for humanitarian assistance without interference at scale, through the United Nations and its agencies, and the Red Crescent, in addition to other international institutions and INGOs, as stipulated in President Trump's plan.

All parties must continue to engage constructively on the next steps outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, in pursuit of a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous co-existence for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples that advances comprehensive Middle East peace and stability. We will also continue to maintain attention on the situation in the West Bank.

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Among the 24 Ekadashis that grace the Hindu lunar calendar, Utpanna Ekadashi holds a particularly sacred place. Celebrated in the Krishna Paksha (waning phase) of the Margashirsha month (November-December), it is revered as the first Ekadashi, the day when the divine principle of Ekadashi itself was born.

It marks the origin of the Ekadashi fast, which is believed to grant liberation from sins, control over desires, and the ultimate gift of spiritual awakening - moksha.

The Sacred Birth of Ekadashi Devi

According to the Padma Purana and Bhavishya Purana, the story of Utpanna Ekadashi begins in the ancient cosmic age when evil forces troubled both mortals and gods. Among them was the formidable demon Mura, a powerful asura who wreaked havoc upon heaven and earth.

Unable to bear his tyranny, the Devas (celestial beings) sought refuge in Lord Vishnu, the protector of the universe. Vishnu waged a fierce battle against Mura for thousands of years, finally resting for a brief moment in a cave at Badarikashrama (Badrinath).

Seizing this opportunity, Mura tried to attack the resting Lord. Suddenly, from Vishnu's body emerged a dazzling female energy - a radiant goddess armed with divine weapons. She fought the demon and destroyed him effortlessly.

When Vishnu awoke, He saw the demon slain and the beautiful goddess standing humbly before Him. Moved by her courage, Vishnu asked her to name her wish. She replied, "I wish to serve you forever and to deliver all beings from sin through devotion and fasting."

Pleased, Vishnu declared,

"You shall be known as Ekadashi, born on the eleventh day of the lunar fortnight. Those who observe fasts and meditate on Me on this day shall be freed from all sin and attain my eternal abode."

Thus, Utpanna Ekadashi marks the birth of Ekadashi Devi, the personification of purity, self-control, and divine grace.

Spiritual Significance of Utpanna Ekadashi

The word Ekadashi comes from Sanskrit - eka (one) and dashi (ten), meaning the eleventh day. Symbolically, it represents the union of body and soul, the moment when human consciousness transcends the ten senses (five of perception and five of action) to rest in divine awareness.

Utpanna Ekadashi thus signifies the awakening of spiritual consciousness - the moment when the seeker first turns inward toward the Divine. It is not merely a ritual fast but a discipline of mind, body, and spirit.

Fasting on this day symbolizes detachment from material indulgence and a redirection of energy toward devotion (bhakti), meditation (dhyana), and divine remembrance (smarana).

Rituals and Observances

The observance of Utpanna Ekadashi begins a day before, on Dashami Tithi, when devotees eat a simple satvik meal

Utpanna Ekadashi: The sacred dawn of devotion and liberation



Important information

Utpanna Ekadashi 2025

Saturday, 15 November 2025

Ekadashi date starts : 15 November 2025 at 00:49 am

Ekadashi date ends : 16 December 2025 at 02:37 am

before sunset and mentally prepare for fasting.

On Ekadashi day, devotees perform the following:

- Morning Rituals - Wake up early, bathe before sunrise, and take a vow (sankalpa) to observe the fast with devotion to Lord Vishnu.
- Puja and Prayer - Offer flowers, incense, tulsi leaves, and naivedya to Vishnu's idols or images, often in the form of Sri Hari, Vishnu-Narayan, or Krishna.
- Fasting - Most devotees observe a full fast (without grains or pulses), consuming only fruits, milk, and water. Some may take a partial fast with one meal (ekabhukti).
- Vigil and Meditation - The night is spent in prayer, bhajans, and reciting the Vishnu Sahasranama, Bhagavad Gita, or Ekadashi

Mahatmya.

- Parana (Breaking the Fast) - The fast is broken the next morning, on Dwadashi Tithi, after offering prayers to Vishnu.

By controlling the senses, speech, and diet, devotees believe they purify both karma (action) and chitta (mind), allowing divine awareness to blossom.

Symbolism and Inner Meaning

The story of Utpanna Ekadashi is not just mythological - it is deeply symbolic.

- The demon Mura represents the ego, desires, and restless mind that attack the soul during spiritual rest.
- The sleeping Vishnu symbolizes the divine consciousness within, serene and ever-present.
- Ekadashi Devi, born from Vishnu, represents the awakened energy of self-control and devotion that slays ignorance and restores balance.

Thus, Utpanna Ekadashi is the day when the inner light of discipline (tapas) awakens to conquer the inner darkness of distraction and delusion.

The Path to Liberation (Moksha)

Scriptures declare that fasting on Utpanna Ekadashi with devotion to Lord Vishnu absolves one from the

burden of sins and paves the way to Vaikuntha, the abode of the Lord. The Padma Purana states:

"He who observes this Ekadashi is freed from sins committed over a thousand births."

Spiritually, it signifies the first step toward liberation - the birth of divine awareness in the seeker's heart. When the senses are restrained, the mind becomes pure; when the mind is pure, knowledge awakens; and when knowledge dawns, the soul attains freedom.

Regional Observances

Across India, devotees mark this day with varied traditions:

- In North India, temples of Vishnu and Krishna hold bhajans and kirtans throughout the night.
- In South India, Vaishnava communities perform special Ekadashi Upavasas and recite the Vishnu Sahasranama.
- In Maharashtra and Gujarat, devotees often light lamps, chant Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya, and donate food to the needy the next day.
- In all these customs, the essence remains the same - devotion, purity, and surrender.

In the heart of Rajasthan, where the golden sands of the Thar shimmer under the relentless desert sun, rises a city draped in shades of indigo and soaked in royal heritage -Jodhpur, the Blue City. A place where time lingers in the lanes of the old town, where every corner whispers tales of valor, artistry, and desert mystique.

Jodhpur serves as the gateway to the Thar Desert, connecting travelers to destinations like Jaisalmer, Osian, and Barmer. For the adventurous, desert safaris, jeep rides, and camping under the starlit sky bring the rugged romance of Rajasthan to life.

Jodhpur marks its origin back to the year of 1459 AD. The history of this prosperous city revolves around the Rathore clan. Rao Jodha, the chief of Rathore Clan is credited with the origin of Jodhpur in India. The city is known to be built in place of the ancient capital, Mandore of the state of Manwar. Hence, the people of Jodhpur and surrounding areas are commonly known as Marwaris. Also, it is believed that the relics of Mandore can still be witnessed in the Mandore Gardens.

MEHRANGARH FORT

Rising perpendicular and impregnable from a hill which is 125 metres above Jodhpur's skyline is the Mehrangarh Fort. This historic fort is one of the most famous in India and is packed with history and legends. Mehrangarh Fort still bears the imprints of cannonball attacks courtesy the armies of Jaipur on its second gate. Chiselled and sturdy, the fort is known for its exquisite latticed windows, carved panels, intricately decorated windows and walls of Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal and Sheesh Mahal.

KHEJARLA FORT

Located 85 kilometres from the main city, the 400-year old Khejarla Fort is situated in a rural setting. The stunning red sandstone monument, now a hotel, is an example of Rajput architecture. Visitors will be mesmerised by the fort's picturesque settings, latticework friezes and intricate Jharokas.

UMAID BHAWAN PALACE

Umaid Bhawan Palace was built by Maharaja Umaid Singh in 1929 to counter a famine which had hit the state at the time. It was also known as the Chittar Palace while being constructed thanks to the use of stones drawn from the Chittar hill. The palace was designed by HV Lanchester, a renowned British architect, and was completed in 16 years. Built with sandstone and marble, the architecture of the palace is described as a blend of Indo-Saracenic, Classical Revival and Western Art Deco styles. It is recognised as one of the largest private homes in the world and also one of the more spectacular buildings. It is the only palace built in the 20th century.

MOTI MAHAL

Moti Mahal, as the name suggests, is the Pearl Hall where the royal families held their audience. The hall is known to have glass windows and five nooks that enabled the queens to listen to the proceedings taking place in the Sringar

Jodhpur: Gateway to the Thar



Chowki, The Royal Throne of Jodhpur.

SHEESH MAHAL

Situated within the compound of Mehrangarh Fort is the glass palace of Jodhpur, popularly known as Sheesh Mahal. This magnificent piece of architecture is adorned with walls of mirror work that stretch across ceilings and to the floors. It is superimposed by the mirror work of brightly painted religious figures cast in plaster.

PHOOL MAHAL

Going by the name, the Phool Mahal or Flower Hall is the most exorbitant of all the halls in the palace. This beautiful chamber is said to be the pleasure dome for the Maharajas. The gold used for constructing the Mahal came from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

CHAMUNDA MATAJI TEMPLE

Chamunda Mataji was Rao Jodha's favourite goddess and so her idol was bought to the Mehrangarh Fort. Thus, the fort became a place of worship and was turned into a temple. Since then, locals have followed the culture of worshipping Chamunda Mata. In fact, till date, the goddess remains the Isht Devi (the adopted goddess) of Maharajas and the royal family.

RANISAR PADAMSAR

Located near the Fateh Pole in Mehrangarh, the Ranisar and Padmasar are adjacent lakes that were constructed in the year 1459. Ranisar Lake was built on orders of Queen Jasmade Hadi, Rao Jodha's wife while Padmasar Lake was ordered by Queen Padmini of Rao Ganga, daughter of Rana Sanga of Mewar.

JASWANT THADA

This milky white memorial built towards the end of the 19th century as a tribute to



the leader Jaswant Singh is a huge tourist attraction. Jaswant Singh, who ruled Jodhpur, invested well in his state. He made attempts to bring down the level of crime, subdue dacoits, built railways and broadly worked on raising the economy of Marwar. Jaswant Thada is managed and looked after by the Mehrangarh Museum Trust (MMT) and is open to public.

The Trust is operating a Museum in

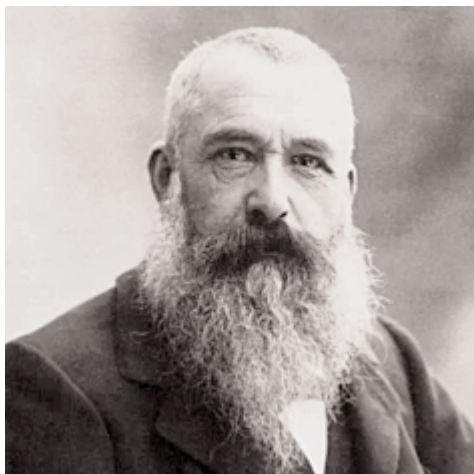
Jaswant Thada displaying portraits of Marwar rulers along with informative didactics – the information serves as orientation space to understand the history of Marwar through the Portraits. Its grounds serve as a serene venue for morning concerts during music festivals such as the Rajasthan International Folk Festival and the World Sacred Spirit Festival.

History This Week

NOV 14 - NOV 20

NOVEMBER 14

November 14, 1994 - The first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.



Birthday - French painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) was born in Paris. He pioneered the impressionist style in his landscapes including the Haystacks, Poplars, and Rouen Cathedral series.

Birthday - Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) was born in Allahabad, India. He spent over 20 years working with Mahatma Gandhi to free India from British rule. Following independence in 1947, Nehru became India's first prime minister, serving until his death in 1964.

Birthday - American composer Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was born in Brooklyn, New York. He created a quintessential American music style in his ballets, film scores, and orchestral works including Fanfare for the Common Man, Rodeo, and Appalachian Spring for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. His film score for The Heiress won an Oscar.

NOVEMBER 15

November 15, 1943 - During the Holocaust, Heinrich Himmler ordered Gypsies and part-Gypsies to be sent to concentration camps. The number of Gypsies killed by Nazis is estimated up to 500,000.

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.



November 15, 1980 - Pope John Paul II visited West Germany, the first papal visit to Germany in 200 years.

Birthday - American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She painted desert landscapes and flower studies and was the subject of more than 500 photographs

taken by her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz.

Birthday - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) was born at Heidenheim, in Wurttemberg, Germany. During World War II, he led the 7th Panzer Division to victory in the Battle of France. His early victories in North Africa earned him the nickname, "Desert Fox." However, in 1943, he was defeated at El Alamein by the British under General Montgomery. Rommel was implicated in the July 1944 failed assassination of Hitler. He was then forced to commit suicide and died at age 52 on October 14, 1944, near Ulm, Germany.

NOVEMBER 16

November 16, 1918 - Hungary was proclaimed an independent republic following the break up of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



November 16, 1933 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the U.S. and Soviet Russia had resumed diplomatic relations, suspended since 1919.

November 16, 1989 - South African President F.W. de Klerk announced the abandonment of the Separate Amenities Act, thus opening the country's beaches to all races.

November 16, 1995 - The United Nations charged Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his military commander, Ratko Mladic, with genocide.

NOVEMBER 17



November 17, 1954 - General Gamal Abdel Nasser became Egyptian head of state after forcing out General Mohammed Naguib.

November 17, 1989 - Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Prague demanding an end to Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. Riot police and army paratroopers then moved in to crush the revolt.

November 17, 1993 - The United

Nations opened its first war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II. Judges from 11 nations were sworn in to examine recent mass murders in Yugoslavia characterized as ethnic cleansing.

November 17, 1993 - NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 234 to 200.

Birthday - German mathematician August Mobius (1790-1868) was born in Schulpforte, Germany. He worked in the area of analytic geometry and was a pioneer in topology, the study of geometric figures that remain constant even when twisted or distorted.

Birthday - British General Bernard L. Montgomery (1887-1976) was born in St. Mark's Vicarage, Kennington Oval, London. He led the British Eighth Army to a major victory over the Germans at El Alamein in North Africa in 1943. He then led the Eighth Army in the Sicilian and Italian campaigns and commanded all ground forces during D-Day.

NOVEMBER 18



November 18, 1916 - During World War I, Allied General Douglas Haig called off the First Battle of the Somme after five months. The Allies had advanced 125 square miles at a cost of 420,000 British and 195,000 French soldiers. German losses were over 650,000 men.

November 18, 1993 - South Africa adopted a new constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule. The constitution provided basic civil rights to blacks and was approved by representatives of the ruling party, as well as members of 20 other political parties.

Birthday - German composer Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) was born in Eutin, Germany. He founded the German romantic style of music. Best known for his operas including Der Freischutz.

Birthday - Photography inventor Louis Daguerre (1789-1851) was born in Corneilles, near Paris. In 1839, at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, he announced his daguerreotype process, the first practical photographic process that produced lasting pictures.

Birthday - Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka in southwestern Russia. He achieved world fame for his interpretations of Schubert and Chopin. After World War I, he served briefly as the first premier of the Republic of Poland.

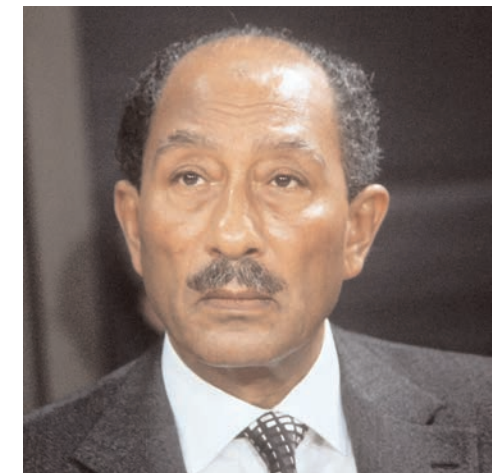
NOVEMBER 19

November 19, 1939 - Construction of the first presidential library began as

President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone next to his home in Hyde Park, New York. Roosevelt donated the land, but public donations funded the library building which was dedicated on June 30, 1941.

November 19, 1942 - The Russian Army began a massive counter-offensive against the Germans at Stalingrad during World War II.

November 19, 1969 - The first news reports emerged that American troops in Vietnam had massacred civilians in My Lai Village back in March of 1968.



November 19, 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

November 19-20, 1990 - The Cold War came to an end during a summit in Paris as leaders of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed a Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, vastly reducing their military arsenals.

November 19, 1996 - Pope John Paul II and Cuban leader Fidel Castro held their historic first meeting in the Vatican.

November 19, 1998 - The U.S. House of Representatives began an impeachment inquiry of President Bill Clinton, only the third presidential impeachment inquiry in U.S. History - the other two being of President Andrew Johnson in 1868 and President Richard Nixon in 1974.

NOVEMBER 20



November 20, 1910 - Francisco Madero launched the social revolution in Mexico, exposing Mexico's political dictatorship and called for honest elections. Dubbed the "Apostle of Democracy," he was elected president in 1911, but was hampered by a lack of practical political experience. He was ousted by a military revolt in 1913, and was then assassinated while in police custody.

November 20, 1917 - The first use of tanks in battle occurred at Cambrai, France, during World War I. Over 300 tanks commanded by British General Sir Douglas Haig went into battle against the Germans.

It's never easy to come back after injury, but glad I have done it: Rishabh Pant

KOLKATA (TIP)

Rishabh Pant is delighted to have made a difficult comeback from the latest injury setback against South Africa. Pant, who sustained a foot fracture during the fourth Test against England at Manchester in July, made his return to competitive cricket during India A's two unofficial Tests against South Africa A in Bengaluru.

"After an injury, it is never easy to come back. But God has been kind always and he has blessed me always, and this time also, and very happy to be back," said Pant in a video posted by the BCCI.

"See, every time I take the field, one thing I try to be is to be grateful. That's why I always look up and thank God, my parents, my family, everyone has supported me (during the recovery phase)," added Pant, who recovered from life-threatening injuries from a car accident to return last year.

Pant said his focus was on keeping his mind in a good space during the rehabilitation period, rather than worrying about external speculation about his future.

"One thing I do is to focus on controllables, luck is one thing that you cannot control. So, I try not to think about that, as there are so many factors that we don't factor in."

"But if you can keep your mind in a place where a lot of things are not affecting you, and you focus only on things that matter to you. You will find happiness if you keep on doing things that make you feel good, especially when you are injured," he said. The 28-year-old said tough times can immensely educate. "Just be in a zone where you feel comfortable, work hard, be disciplined, and be in a zone where you are ready to learn but still enjoying that time doing everything," he said. "Whatever you are doing you need to enjoy that moment, and give your 100 percent and find joy and happiness in that," he added.

Shreyas Iyer on road to recovery after surgery

There is an update on Shreyas Iyer's health, though nothing alarming. Cricbuzz can confirm that the 30-year-old recently underwent surgery and has totally recovered since. As is being reported by Cricbuzz over the past few days, he remains stable and out of the ICU.

Sources close to Iyer have informed this website that he



required surgery for a spleen injury sustained while taking a catch during the third and final ODI against Australia at the SCG last week. While diving forward to complete the catch on the run, he suffered an awkward fall, which resulted in a ruptured spleen and necessitated immediate surgical intervention.

The surgery was apparently a minor procedure, but it has required Iyer to rest for at least five more days, possibly even up to a week. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and the Indian team management in Australia, which had assigned him a doctor, have been closely monitoring his condition through Dr. Rizwan Khan, the Indian team physician. The BCCI, it is learnt, is also arranging travel for a member of the Iyer family to Sydney. Iyer has been taking phone calls, eating home-cooked meals arranged by local friends, and even managing his routine chores on his own. An update on his condition was also shared by Suryakumar Yadav.

"We spoke to him at least on the first day when we got to know that he had an injury. I called him first. Then I found out that he did not have a phone. So I called the physio, Kamlesh. He told me that he is stable. On the first day, I don't know how, but he was looking good. We have been talking for two days now. He has been replying. If he is replying on the phone, it means he is stable."

Alcaraz clinches ATP Year-End number one honours for second time

The Spanish sensation clinched the ATP Year-End world number one honors by defeating Lorenzo Musetti in his ATP Finals group stage match and continued his undefeated run in the season-ending competition.

Not only did Alcaraz move to the semifinals, but he also upstaged Jannik Sinner to secure the year-end top rank honours for the second time in his career.

"It means the world to me, to be honest. The year-end No. 1 is always a goal," Alcaraz said as quoted by ATP's official website.

"At the beginning of the year, I saw the number one really, really far away [with] Jannik winning almost every tournament he plays. But from the middle of the season 'til now, I gave myself the goal for the No. 1 because I thought it was there. I had the chance to play great tennis in a lot of tournaments in a row, which put me in a position to be close to Jannik for the number one spot."

"Then in the last three, four tournaments of the year, I was fighting toe to toe with Jannik for this spot, and then finally I got it. For me, it means everything," he concluded.

It has been an incredible 2025 for Alcaraz, who, back in 2022, became the youngest since 1973 to end the year as world number one. He is just the second active player with multiple year-end top finishes, joining Serbian icon and rival Novak Djokovic (8).

Ronaldo could miss World Cup opener after first Portugal red card in 22 yrs

DUBLIN (TIP)

Cristiano Ronaldo's historic dismissal in Portugal's 2-0 defeat to the Republic of Ireland has thrown his World Cup availability into uncertainty.

The red card, his first in 22 years of international football, arrived on a night when Portugal were looking to seal direct qualification but were undone by two first-half strikes from Troy Parrott. The suspension rules him out of the final Group F qualifier against Armenia and could extend into the 2026 FIFA World Cup depending on FIFA's disciplinary ruling and Portugal's qualification route.

Ronaldo was involved in an off-the-ball clash at the Aviva Stadium, initially booked for swinging an elbow at defender Dara O'Shea. VAR upgraded the caution to a straight red, leaving referee Glenn Nyberg with little choice. The decision not only complicated Portugal's task on the night but also their immediate future, as they still need a win against Armenia to guarantee automatic qualification.

Because the incident is classified as violent conduct, FIFA's Disciplinary Code allows for a stricter sanction. Chapter 2, Article 14(i) states that a player dismissed for "assault, including elbowing, punching, kicking, biting, spitting or hitting an opponent" should serve a three-match ban. Further guidance suggests a minimum of three matches for violent conduct or "at least three



matches or an appropriate period of time" for assault.

If the Disciplinary Committee opts for the harsher penalty and Portugal top Group F, Ronaldo would miss the Armenia match and potentially the first two group-

stage games of the World Cup. If Portugal slip into the playoffs, the suspension could instead be served in those fixtures, freeing him for the tournament opener. The committee's ruling will determine the final length of his ban.

Portugal's defeat leaves them two points clear of Hungary, with victory over Armenia still enough to secure top spot. They beat Armenia 5-0 in the reverse fixture, Ronaldo scoring twice, but the setback in Dublin has tightened the group and increased scrutiny on the disciplinary hearing.

Reaction from the Ireland camp acknowledged the contentious nature of the incident. One member noted: "I think the action looks worse than what it actually is it looks like an elbow. But we accept it." He added that the only frustration stemmed from pre-match comments about referee influence.

Ireland manager Heimir Hallgrímsson detailed his brief exchange with Ronaldo: "He complimented me for putting pressure on the referee. It was his action on the pitch that cost him the red card just a moment of silliness from him, I would say."

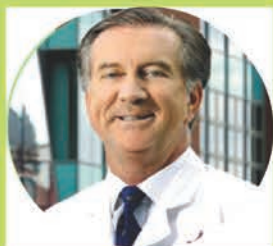
Portugal coach Roberto Martinez defended his captain. "A captain who has never been sent off in 226 games deserves credit," he said. "Today it felt harsh. He had spent almost an hour being grabbed and pushed in the box, and when he tried to get away from the defender"



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating 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



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



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