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Trump shares right-wing anchor's rant against Indians, MEA terms it 'inappropriate'

The MEA response came after Opposition members and former diplomats criticized the government for not offering a stronger response to the U.S.



U.S. President Donald Trump -File Photo / Credit: AP

APRIL 23, 2026 NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

India, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, called posts by U.S. President Donald Trump that quoted derogatory remarks about India and Indian immigrants as "uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste".

The posts, which included a video by American right-wing anchor Michael Savage and the four-page text of his comments, called countries such as India and China "hellholes" while criticizing U.S. immigration laws.

The response from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came after Opposition members and former diplomats criticized the government for not offering a stronger response to the

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West Bengal Elections 2026 highlights: First phase of polling complete; estimated voter turnout crosses 92%



Voters stand in a queue to cast their vote during Phase 1 voting at Nandigram in West Bengal on April 23, 2026.

Photo Credit: Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

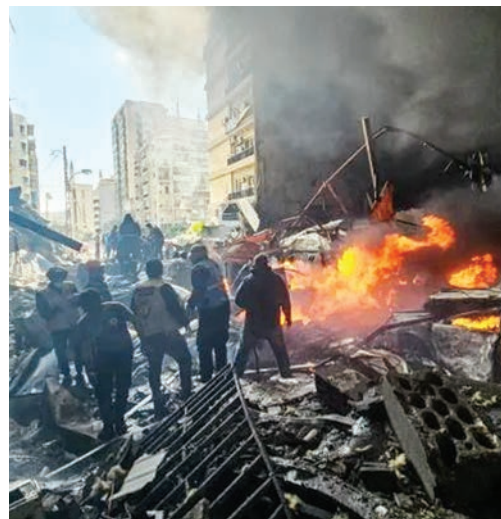
APRIL 23, 2026 KOLKATA / NEW YORK (TIP)

West Bengal registered a record voter turnout of 92.03% in the first phase of Assembly elections on Thursday, April

23, 2026, amidst isolated incidents of violence. The election, which saw the highest-ever polling in the State since 1951, was followed by a four-month long

CONTD ON PAGE 38

Trump Announces Israel-Lebanon Ceasefire will be Extended for 3 Weeks



APRIL 23, 2026 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

President Donald Trump announced on Thursday, April 23, that the ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended for three weeks, after an Oval Office meeting with envoys of both governments, as well as his senior national security team.

The extension extends a 10-day truce brokered by the Trump administration April 16, which was set to expire at the end of the week. "The Ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will be extended by THREE WEEKS," Trump wrote on Truth Social, adding that the meeting "went very well." He called the session "Historic" and said he would also host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun at the White House "in the near future." The president also said Washington will assist Beirut to defend itself against Hezbollah.

Israeli strikes inside Lebanon killed hundreds

RBI Governor reaffirms central bank's continued commitment to maintaining financial stability and orderly market conditions



Mr. Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, speaking at a roundtable of representatives from the financial sector, at the Indian Consulate, New York, April 20, 2026.

APRIL 21, 2026 NEW YORK CITY(TIP)

The Consulate General of India, New York hosted an exclusive round-table interactive session with Mr. Sanjay Malhotra, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, on April 20, 2026, at the Consulate.

The roundtable was attended by over 100 representatives from financial institutions, investment firms, and policy circles, including participants from banks, asset management firms, family offices, capital management firms, institutional investors, wealth managers, and other industry

CONTD ON PAGE 3

Advertisement for OMNI MORTGAGE featuring residential and commercial loan services, contact information, and a photo of Herman Singh.

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COMMENT**Sikh Heritage Month - A Living Legacy of Faith, Equality, and Service**

April, designated as Sikh Heritage Month across Canada and increasingly observed in the United States and other parts of the world, is far more than a ceremonial recognition. It is a profound acknowledgment of a faith tradition that has, for over five centuries, stood as a beacon of equality, courage, and selfless service. It is also a timely reminder that heritage is not merely inherited, it must be understood, celebrated, and lived.

THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

The formal recognition of Sikh Heritage Month is a relatively recent development, yet it rests upon a deep historical foundation. In 2013, the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, through the efforts of Jagmeet Singh, proclaimed April as Sikh Heritage Month—the first such recognition anywhere in the world. This initiative culminated in a landmark moment when the Canadian Parliament passed the Sikh Heritage Month Act, granting nationwide recognition in 2019.

Canada thus became the first country to officially dedicate a month to Sikh heritage, recognizing not only the historical presence of Sikhs dating back over a century—but also their contributions to the nation's social, political, economic, and cultural life. Today, April stands alongside other commemorative observances as a period of reflection, education, and celebration.

While the United States has not yet formally institutionalized Sikh Heritage Month at the federal level, the observance has gained significant traction through community initiatives, academic programs, and local proclamations, reflecting the growing visibility and contributions of Sikh Americans.

APRIL AND THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

April holds intrinsic importance within the Sikh tradition. It marks the festival of Vaisakhi—celebrated on April 14—which commemorates the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. This historic moment redefined Sikh identity, emphasizing the principles of equality, justice, and fearless commitment to righteousness. The Khalsa was envisioned as a community of saint-soldiers—individuals who embody spiritual devotion and moral courage. As the eminent Sikh scholar W. H. McLeod observed, Sikhism is "a tradition in which the spiritual and the temporal are fused into a single discipline of life." This fusion lies at the heart of Sikh heritage and is vividly reflected in the observances of this month.

THE SIKH ETHOS: UNIVERSAL VALUES FOR HUMANITY

To understand Sikh heritage is to understand its universal message. Sikhism, founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century, is rooted in the belief in one God, the equality of all human beings, and the importance of honest living, sharing, and remembrance of the Divine.

The Guru Granth Sahib, the eternal Guru of the Sikhs, proclaims: "Recognize the entire human race as one." This timeless



message resonates across borders and generations, offering a powerful antidote to the divisions that plague modern societies. The principle of seva—selfless service—is central to Sikh identity. Whether through the institution of langar (community kitchens that serve free meals to all, irrespective of caste, creed, or status) or through humanitarian efforts worldwide, Sikhs have consistently translated faith into action. As noted during contemporary celebrations, Sikh values of "equality, compassion, and service" continue to inspire communities globally.

MODES OF CELEBRATION: LIVING THE LEGACY

Sikh Heritage Month is celebrated with remarkable vibrancy and inclusivity. Across Canada, the United States, and beyond, the month is marked by a rich tapestry of events:

Nagar Kirtans (Processions): These grand religious parades, often drawing hundreds of thousands, showcase Sikh traditions, music, and community spirit.

Educational Exhibitions: Museums, libraries, and universities host exhibitions highlighting Sikh history, art, and contributions.

Community Service Initiatives: Food drives and charitable programs exemplify the spirit of seva, addressing issues such as hunger and homelessness.

Cultural Programs: Music, poetry, and art exhibitions celebrate the richness of Punjabi and Sikh cultural expression.

Participation is not limited to Sikhs alone. Governments, educational institutions, and civic organizations actively engage in these celebrations, reinforcing the ideals of multiculturalism and mutual respect. A recent example saw national leaders participating in community service at Gurdwaras, underscoring the universal appeal of Sikh values and their relevance in contemporary society.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH OBSERVANCES

In an age marked by polarization, prejudice, and historical amnesia, heritage months serve as vital instruments of education and empathy. Sikh Heritage Month, in particular, plays a crucial role in:

Preserving History: It ensures that the struggles and sacrifices of the Sikh

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



community—from the martyrdoms of the Gurus to contributions in global conflicts—are remembered and honored.

Promoting Understanding: By fostering awareness of Sikh beliefs and practices, it combats stereotypes and misconceptions.

Celebrating Contributions: Sikhs have made significant contributions in fields ranging from agriculture and business to public service and philanthropy.

Strengthening Social Cohesion: By inviting participation from diverse communities, it reinforces the values of inclusion and unity. As the distinguished historian Khushwant Singh once remarked, "The Sikhs have perhaps shown the greatest example of courage and sacrifice in modern history." Such reflections underscore the importance of recognizing and celebrating this heritage.

A LIVING, GLOBAL LEGACY

Today, the Sikh diaspora spans the globe, with vibrant communities in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, and beyond. In Canada alone, Sikhs constitute one of the largest religious minorities, with over half a million adherents. Their presence has enriched the multicultural fabric of these nations, contributing not only economically but also morally and culturally. Yet, Sikh Heritage Month is not merely about numbers or achievements. It is about values—values that transcend geography and time. It is about the courage to stand against injustice, the humility to serve others, and the wisdom to see unity in diversity.

BEYOND CELEBRATION, TOWARDS EMULATION

As we observe Sikh Heritage Month, we must resist the temptation to reduce it to a series of events or symbolic gestures. The true tribute to Sikh heritage lies in embracing its principles in our daily lives.

In a world grappling with inequality, conflict, and division, the Sikh message offers a compelling vision of hope: a world where all are equal, where service is a way of life, and where faith inspires action.

April, therefore, is not just a month of remembrance—it is a call to reflection, a call to learning, and above all, a call to live the values that Sikhism has so eloquently articulated for over five centuries.

In celebrating Sikh Heritage Month, we do not merely honor a community; we reaffirm our shared humanity.

A MESSAGE OF GREETINGS

On the joyous occasion of Vaisakhi—the sacred day marking the birth of the Khalsa in 1699—we extend our heartfelt greetings to the Sikh community across the world. May this auspicious day renew in all of us the timeless values of courage, faith, equality, and selfless service as envisioned by Guru Gobind Singh. As we also observe Sikh Heritage Month this April, we salute the enduring legacy, rich traditions, and invaluable contributions of the Sikh community to humanity. May this month inspire greater understanding, unity, and a shared commitment to the noble ideals that Sikhism so powerfully represents.

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh!

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RBI Governor reaffirms central bank's continued commitment to maintaining financial stability and orderly market conditions

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

professionals, reflecting strong interest from the financial community. The discussion provided a comprehensive overview of India's macroeconomic landscape and financial markets, highlighting key indicators such as low inflation within the target range, a manageable current account deficit of around 1.1% of GDP, robust foreign exchange reserves of USD 700 billion covering approximately 11 months of imports and India's fiscal prudence. Participants were also briefed on the significant growth and depth of India's financial markets-including equity, government and corporate bond segments-as well as advancements in market infrastructure such as electronic trading platforms, centralized clearing mechanisms, and transparent regulatory systems.

Governor Malhotra highlighted the central bank's continued commitment to maintaining financial stability and orderly market conditions. He emphasized ongoing reforms to simplify regulatory frameworks, enhance ease of doing business, expand market access for foreign investors, and further integrate onshore and offshore markets. The discussion also noted that short-term fluctuations, including net FDI outflows and exchange rate movements, are cyclical in nature and are being closely monitored within a broader long-term growth perspective.

During the session, Ms. Dimple Bhandia, CGM, RBI delivered a presentation on "India's Economic Outlook," highlighting the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, resilient financial sector, and consistent policy framework. The presentation emphasized India's position as the fastest-growing major economies and its trajectory to become the third-largest economy globally in the coming years.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A, during which participants had the opportunity to interact with



Consul General of India, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, giving his remarks



RBI Governor Mr. Sanjay Malhotra and Ms. Dimple Bhandia, CGM, RBI at the Q&A session



A view of the distinguished gathering

the Governor on key topics such as foreign investment trends, currency management, the balance of payments, current geopolitical developments, and market liquidity. The Governor provided insightful responses, addressing concerns and clarifying policy directions. The discussion reinforced confidence in India's long-term economic prospects, with participants

acknowledging the country's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, ongoing reform momentum, and increasingly significant role in the global economy.

(Based on a Press Release issued by the Consulate General of India, New York)

ArtsWestchester Receives Funding from Guru Krupa Foundation for Two-Day Celebration of South Indian Arts & Culture

Kala Samaagam program in White Plains: May 1 & 2, 2026

APRIL 21, 2026
WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (TIP)

ArtsWestchester has received an \$8,000 grant from the Guru Krupa Foundation to support a May Celebration of South Indian Arts & Culture at its White Plains arts venue. Guru Krupa Foundation is a private foundation that funds charitable causes



Shashank Subramanyam (flute), Parupalli Phalgun (mrdangam), Krishna Sriram (ghatam), and Abhishek Raghuram (voice)

based on the principles and philosophy derived from the value system of Hinduism. The grant to ArtsWestchester was awarded in the Spirituality, Arts & Culture funding category, which support projects that 'promote cultural integration' and 'raise awareness of India's traditional art forms, and culture.' Grant funds from the

foundation will go towards supporting artists fees and production costs for the two-day Kala Samaagam program.

The two-day event will include a Friday evening concert of Carnatic Flute and voice and a family-friendly Saturday program of interactive arts and craft workshops, music, storytelling and traditional foods.

ArtsWestchester CEO Kathleen Reckling explains, "This initiative is an important part of ArtsWestchester's efforts to ensure our programming reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. By highlighting South Indian arts and culture, the program creates new and meaningful opportunities for connection between local heritage bearers, families, and audiences across the region."

THE FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS IS AS FOLLOWS:

May 1 & 2, 2026

KALA SAMAAGAM: A Celebration of South Indian Arts & Culture

LOCATION: ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains

Immerse yourself in a confluence of music, dance and artistic tradition from South India.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

NYC Population Dips: City Lost More than 100,000 People Last Year: New Study

NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

Last year more people moved out of New York City than moved in, according to a new study from the Citizens' Budget Commission.

Across all income levels, the city lost around 114,000 more people to other cities than it gained.

While the figures are an increase from 2024, they are still lower than pandemic-era totals, according to the study.

In addition, the study found that the population decline has been caused by a 70 percent drop in international migration and New Yorkers moving to other U.S. cities.

In 2024, the city lost more low- and middle-income residents than it did high-income residents. More people with incomes in the bottom 40 percent left the city compared to those with incomes in the top 40 percent.

According to the study, people who leave the city either stay in the region or leave the state entirely.

Most people often move to Long Island, Westchester, and nearby states like New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. Those leaving the region most commonly move to Florida, California, Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Millennials are leaving the city more than any other generation, according to the study.

"The loss of working- and middle-class residents likely reflects the high cost of



living and perhaps the quality of services including schools; it is a barometer of the challenges of raising a family in New York City. High taxes may also be a factor, especially for high-income households," researchers wrote.

2 sisters from Punjab's Rara village elected in Germany, bring pride to Tanda region

Elder sister Harpreet Kaur Sandhu re-elected to Ausländerbeirat and Stadtparlament; pledges five-year commitment to public service

APRIL 22, 2026
HOSHIARPUR, PUNJAB (TIP)

Two sisters from Rara village near Tanda, Harpreet Kaur Sandhu and Kamalpreet Kaur, have been elected to local bodies in Germany, bringing pride to their native region.

The elder sister, Harpreet Kaur Sandhu, has been elected for the second consecutive term as a member of the Ausländerbeirat (Foreigners' Advisory Council) and Stadtparlament (City Parliament).

Sharing her joy on social media, she thanked supporters for their trust and overwhelming response. In her Facebook post, she wrote, "We are grateful for your trust and support. This victory is not just ours, but belongs to every one of you who believed in us."

She further expressed commitment to work diligently over the next five years to fulfill public expectations.

Highlighting the importance of democratic participation, she appreciated first-time voters and emphasised collective responsibility in building a



A photo of the two sisters - Harpreet Kaur Sandhu and Kamalpreet Kaur - shared by Harpreet Kaur Sandhu on social media, in which she thanked voters for their support.

strong and progressive society.

Back in their native village, celebrations and pride

were evident among relatives.

Farmer leader Amarjit Singh Sandhu, the state president of Bhartiya Kisan Union (Azad), expressed immense happiness over the sisters' achievement. He stated that such accomplishments by family members abroad bring great honor and elevate the pride of the entire community.

He shared that the sisters' father, Narinder Singh Sandhu, had migrated to Germany nearly three decades ago, while the daughters and their mother joined him around 12-15 years ago when they were quite young. Despite living abroad, the family has maintained close ties with their village and had visited before the pandemic period.

Calling it a historic and proud moment, Amarjit Singh said that the success of both sisters has not only brought recognition to their family but also to the entire region, inspiring many others to strive for excellence on the global stage.

(Authored by Sanjiv Kumar Bakshi, TNS)

No transit visa needed for Indians flying via France

The exemption applies to passengers who remain within the international transit zone during layovers en route to a third country

APRIL 23, 2026
PARIS / NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a significant boost to travel convenience, France has lifted airport transit visa requirements for Indian nationals, with the decision coming into effect earlier this month as part of deepening bilateral ties.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on Thursday, April 23, said the visa-free transit regime for Indians passing through French airports in the European territory has now been operationalized by the French government.

The move follows an announcement made during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India in February this year, when he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on measures to ease travel between the two countries.

Under the revised rules, Indian nationals holding ordinary passports and transiting exclusively by air through French airports will no longer require an airport transit visa, with effect from April 10, 2026.

The exemption applies to passengers who remain within the international transit zone during layovers en route to a third country.

The French Embassy in New Delhi said the change was enabled through a decree amending earlier visa regulations, which was published in France's Official Gazette (Journal Officiel) on April 9.

Describing the step as a reflection of the "enduring partnership" between the two countries, the MEA said the decision underscores a shared commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties by facilitating smoother movement.

The easing of transit norms is expected to benefit a large number of Indian travelers using French hubs such as Paris for onward international connections, reducing both procedural hurdles and travel time.

Officials said the updated provisions have already been incorporated into France's visa processing systems, signaling swift implementation of a key mobility initiative agreed at the highest political level.

(Source: TNS)

Sikh elder harassed by masked man in Ontario; community demands action against hate crime

APRIL 24, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

A disturbing video showing an elderly Sikh man being racially harassed in Woodstock has triggered widespread condemnation and renewed concern over rising hate incidents in Canada. This comes at a time when a reports on more than 1,600 Sikh Canadians finds that 80% believe anti-Sikh hate has increased in recent years, while 65% report experiencing verbal harassment.



An elderly Sikh man is being racially harassed in Woodstock.

Watch the video here.
<https://twitter.com/i/status/2047427914031849806>

The footage, circulating online, shows the elderly man being targeted in a public setting, prompting calls for stronger action against racism and discrimination.

The incident has been described as deeply unacceptable by community members, who stressed that such behavior has no place in Canadian society.

Local authorities, including the Woodstock Police Service, responded to the incident and are reviewing the case.

"This is not just a Sikh issue, this is a human issue," responses on social platforms have emphasized, reflecting broader concerns about rising hate-motivated behavior.

The incident comes at a time when the World Sikh Organisation of Canada is intensifying efforts to address anti-Sikh discrimination across the country. The organization is set to host a panel discussion in Surrey alongside the release of its report, Understanding and Addressing Anti-Sikh Hate in Canada, funded by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Based on a survey of more than 1,600 Sikh Canadians, the report finds that 80% believe anti-Sikh hate has increased in recent years, while 65% report experiencing verbal harassment. It identifies racism, xenophobia, and misinformation as key contributing factors.

The WSO says the findings highlight the urgent need for awareness, education, and stronger protections against hate-driven incidents nationwide.

Canada-based designated terrorist Arsh Dalla declared proclaimed offender

APRIL 24, 2026
PATIALA / TORONTO (TIP)

A local court in Patiala has declared Canada-based gangster-turned designated terrorist Arshdeep Singh Gill, alias Arsh Dalla, a native of Moga district, a proclaimed offender. The order came after he failed to appear in court in a criminal case.

An FIR was reportedly registered at the Sanaur police station on October 4, 2024, under multiple provisions of the BNS and the Arms Act. The case named several



Arsh Dalla
Photo: NIA

accused, including Gursevak Singh, Sukhwinder Singh, Harbans Singh and Sukhvinder Singh, all residents of Mansa district, along with Sandeep Singh of Muktsar district.

Police investigations revealed that the accused were part of an organized gang involved in extortion, robbery and intimidation of traders and businessmen using illegal weapons.

During the probe, the name of Arsh Dalla also surfaced as an alleged key figure linked to the gang. Subsequently, he was nominated in the case.

Despite proclamation orders issued against him under Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, Dalla failed to appear in the court. Taking note of his continued absence, the court declared him a proclaimed offender.

(Source: TNS)

Indian Origin Neha Lohia's 'Hello Dad' Recognized at Times Square Earth Day Event for Sustainable Filmmaking

APRIL 22, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

Before it was recognized at the Earth Day 2026 gathering in Times Square, Hello Dad began as a deeply personal question for filmmaker Neha Lohia:

WHAT WOULD HER FATHER HAVE DONE?

The short film, which explores grief, memory, and the father-daughter bond, was created as a tribute to Lohia's late father, whose life was rooted in simplicity, resourcefulness, and sustainable living. That influence shaped not only the story, but the way the film was made.

Shot in New York with a minimal production footprint, Hello Dad was powered using solar energy, with a consciously designed set-up that reduced reliance on conventional power sources. The production incorporated natural light, minimal equipment, shared resources, and plant-based catering, reflecting an approach where sustainability was embedded into the process rather than treated as an afterthought.

At this year's Earth Day Times Square event, produced by Rev. Paul Sladkus, founder of the nonprofit Good News Corporation, alongside partners including EarthDay.org, Ommm Presents, and the Office of the New York City Comptroller, the film was recognized for this approach to sustainable filmmaking. The free clean energy event brought together over 50 performers and speakers, along with virtual appearances from UN Peace Messengers including Stevie Wonder, Oprah Winfrey, Leonardo DiCaprio, and UNICEF's Shakira. This 2026 edition was presented as a tribute to the Jane Goodall Foundation.

Lohia appeared on stage alongside lead cast members Emmy-nominated actor Tirllok Malik and Swiss-based actress Ankita Makwana as the project was acknowledged on a global platform for environmental awareness.



Filmmaker Neha Lohia whose film 'Hello Dad' was recognized at the Times Square Earth Day Event for Sustainable Filmmaking

For Lohia, the method is inseparable from the meaning and craft behind the film.

"I come from India, where we call Mother Earth Dharti Maa. Dharti means she who holds, and it is our conscious responsibility to be as weightless as possible. As a filmmaker, I try to bring the same care to how a film is made as I do to the story itself."

The film's origins trace back to a personal journey of loss and remembrance. Over the years, Lohia wrote poems, rituals, and reflections as a way of processing grief; Hello Dad emerges from that space, carrying both emotional and philosophical weight.

She continued:

"This film holds a lot of personal memory and grief. I invite everyone to take a moment today to reach out to someone they love. Call your parents, your children, someone close to you, and tell them you love them. Thank them for sharing this time on Earth with you. This moment matters, because you never know when it may be the last hello, and what remains are the memories we carry forward that can get heavy if left unexpressed."

Beyond its recognition at Times



Lead cast members- Emmy-nominated actor Tirllok Malik and Swiss-based actress Ankita Makwana, with Neha Lohia, and the producer of the Earth Day event, Rev. Paul Sladkus, founder of the nonprofit Good News Corporation



A section of the gathering

Square, Hello Dad has also received the Environmental Media Association's Green Seal, an acknowledgement of environmentally responsible production practices.

While large-scale productions continue to explore high-tech sustainability solutions, Hello Dad represents a simpler model - one that asks whether intentional choices, even on a small production, can meaningfully reduce environmental impact.

About Neha Lohia

Neha Lohia is an award-winning

filmmaker based in New York, with experience across global studios and independent productions. Her work explores personal memory, human connection, and inner life, often intersecting with conscious approaches to storytelling and sustainability. Currently finishing her study of emerging technologies in cinema production at CUNY, she continues to develop projects across film and immersive media.

For more information:

www.nehalohia.com/films/hello-dad

Inaugural Ivy League Sikh Students Conference Held in New York City



Organizers addressing the gathering of Ivy-League Sikh students in New York City on April 11, 2026

APRIL 21, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

110 Sikh students and professionals from every Ivy League campus gathered at the World Trade Center in New York City for the inaugural Sikh Ivy League Conference-

the first ever event of its kind- on April 11, 2026.

Two panels featured Sikh professionals from Blackstone, PJT Partners, J.P. Morgan, Weill Cornell Medicine, a Forbes 30 Under 30 founder, and a Rhodes Scholar



The first ever gathering of Ivy-League Sikh students in New York City on April 11, 2026

serving in the U.S. Air Force. The conference was co-sponsored by the United Sikh Movement and Sikhs of NY and organized entirely by students and Sikh student associations across seven campuses.

For a community that is often in the

news in the context of hate crimes and discrimination, this was a different kind of story. 110 young Sikhs at the World Trade Center, building a professional network from scratch because one did not exist for them. A LinkedIn recap of the event has reached over 11,000 accounts.

Bihar Diwas 2026 Celebrated at the Consulate General of India, New York

APRIL 19, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

The Bihar Diwas 2026 celebration was held with great enthusiasm at the Consulate General of India New York, bringing together dignitaries, community leaders, and members of the Indian diaspora to celebrate Bihar's rich heritage, progress, and future vision.

Emcee Komal Sharan warmly welcomed everyone and thanked the attendees for joining the celebration over the weekend.

The event commenced with a powerful message from Pratyaya Amrit, Chief Secretary of Bihar, who addressed people of Bihar and those of Bihari origin living across the globe. He emphasized that "Bihar is ready for transformation," calling upon the global community to actively contribute during this pivotal time. He further assured that government departments are committed to accountability, stating that any issues identified in development efforts will be acknowledged and addressed transparently.

Following this, Kundan Kumar, Industry Secretary of Bihar and CEO of Bihar Foundation, reinforced the vision with the message "Bihar Hai Taiyar" (Bihar is ready to take a leap forward). He highlighted progressive initiatives such as new GCC policies, industrial growth, and the state's readiness for transformation, urging the global Bihari community to contribute toward making Bihar a leader across sectors.

Alok Kumar, Chairman of Bihar Foundation USA - ETZ, spoke about the Bihar Government's focused and proactive efforts in advancing artificial intelligence through the establishment of a Center of Excellence. He highlighted the government's strong commitment and forward-looking approach toward AI-driven development. He also extended a warm welcome to Mahesh Kumar, Founder of Tiger Analytics, and Badrish Prakash, acknowledging their leadership in executing this initiative in collaboration with the Government of Bihar and the Government of India. He noted that this partnership has already begun to make a meaningful impact, marking a significant step in Bihar's technological transformation.

Alok Kumar further emphasized the



Awardees with the Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan (4th from the left) and Alok Kumar (extreme left).

strong support and leadership of Chief Secretary of the Government of Bihar, Shri Pratyaya Amrit; Industry Secretary, Shri Kundan Kumar; and IT Secretary, Shri Abhay Kumar Singh, along with the valuable guidance of Shri Chanchal Kumar, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Government of India, in creating meaningful opportunities for the youth of Bihar.

He also expressed deep appreciation for the honorees of the Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman 2026-Saroj Kumar Jha, Hasmukh Ranjan, Rajesh Sinha, and Sanjay Choubey-noting that all four awardees have made unparalleled contributions in their respective fields. He highlighted that their achievements serve as a powerful inspiration for millions and strengthen the community's commitment toward contributing to their motherland.

Chairman Kumar also thanked Hon. Deputy Consul General of India, New York Shri Vishal Harsh and Mr. Ilayas Quraishi for their gracious presence at the event and extended special gratitude to the organizing team, including Anish Kumar, Dheeraj Singh, Dhananjay Singh, Anand Gupta, Sanjeev Singh, Anurag Kumar, Alok Kashyap, and Santa Mishra, for their dedicated efforts behind the scenes. He further acknowledged the executive

members of BJANA and the Bihar Foundation for their continued commitment and outstanding work.

The event also featured a meaningful literary moment with the book inauguration of "Gaon Ki Mitti Mitne Nahi Deti" by Santa Mishra, which beautifully reflects the deep bond between individuals, their roots, and the community.

The cultural segment of the evening beautifully showcased Bihar's heritage. A talented girls' team performed to the iconic folk song "Kaune Disame Le Ke Chalah Hai Batohiya", followed by performances inspired by traditional celebrations such as Sama Chakeva and songs popularized by Sharda Sinha, vividly portraying the lifestyle and cultural richness of Bihar.

Hon. Consul General of India in New York, Binaya S. Pradhan, addressed the gathering with an inspiring message. He remarked that "almost everyone has a friend from Bihar," reflecting the widespread influence and global presence of people from the state. He spoke about Bihar's glorious past, its evolving present, and its promising future, while congratulating organizations such as the Bihar Foundation and BJANA for their impactful work in strengthening community ties. He also highlighted the



Hasmukh Ranjan, an awardee of the Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman 2026 who could not be present to receive the award.



A Bihari song and dance performance

historical significance of Nalanda University, noting that it had a system of coeducation long before such practices were adopted in many other parts of the world.

Community leader Avinash Gupta encouraged attendees to move beyond assumptions about Bihar, highlighting significant improvements in infrastructure and development, while acknowledging that there is always room for further growth.

Priti Kashyap, President of BJANA, emphasized the importance of unity within the community and the need to engage and empower the next generation.

A highlight of the evening was a captivating skit performed by participants of all age groups, depicting Bihar's journey-from the era of Emperor Ashoka and the legacy of Nalanda University, to Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran movement, and culminating in modern advancements such as AI development in Bihar. The performance received a standing ovation and was widely appreciated as one of the finest presentations of the evening.

The event then transitioned to the prestigious Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman awards ceremony, skillfully hosted by emcee Vandana Jha.

Saroj Kumar Jha was honored for his outstanding contributions. In his acceptance speech, he highlighted the importance of family values and giving back to society, emphasizing selfless service.

Rajesh Sinha shared that his father was his greatest inspiration, guiding him toward entrepreneurship and building a global digital and AI-driven enterprise.

Sanjay Choubey expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized that while AI is a powerful tool, the foundation of success remains rooted in family support and values.

Hasmukh Ranjan, who could not attend in person, shared a heartfelt video message, stating that giving back to one's roots is a responsibility and appreciating the government's efforts in creating a conducive environment for growth.

The event concluded with a group photo session coordinated by Anish Kumar and his team, followed by networking and celebration among attendees.



A group photograph of organizers and attendees

MTA launches in-person community outreach on upcoming Jamaica LIRR Station redesign project

APRIL 23, 2026
JAMAICA, QUEENS, NY (TIP)

The MTA and Port Authority launched an in-person community outreach program for essential feedback from the public on the upcoming Jamaica Station redesign project.

Gov. Kathy Hochul committed \$50 million in the executive budget to fund planning for the project that will better integrate the LIRR with subway lines and AirTrain service.

"Jamaica Station is a key access point to JFK Airport for customers coming from New York City and from Long Island, as well as Westchester and Connecticut thanks to the new connection at Grand Central Madison," LIRR President Rob Free said. "A newly redesigned Jamaica will improve the customer experience and meet the increasing service demands of the millions of customers who connect there. Customer feedback means we'll know exactly what those millions of riders want to see in their new station."

State Sen. Leroy Comrie said Jamaica Station is more than a transit hub and the new upgrades will create a safer, more accessible and more seamless connection between York College and downtown Jamaica.

More than 1,000 subway and LIRR trains pass through Jamaica Station every weekday with more than 200,000 passengers, making it the fourth busiest commuter rail station in North America - surpassed only by Grand Central, Penn Station, and Toronto's Union Station. Yet, Jamaica Station has been left far behind in terms of customer experience and investment; it was last upgraded 23 years ago, when the AirTrain JFK began operation.

"Jamaica Station is more than a transit hub, it's a daily touchpoint for families throughout Queens," Comrie said. "As we look ahead to redesigning this space, it's important that the voices of the people who use it every day are central to the conversation. This outreach aims to meet riders where they are, listen to their experiences and ensure the future of Jamaica Station reflects the needs of



State Sen. Leroy Comrie joined officials from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for the launch of an in-person community outreach program Thursday, April 2, at the Jamaica Long Island Railroad station.

Photo by Ray Raimundi/MTA

the community."

This in-person tabling coincides with the previously announced customer survey, which will remain live until Friday, May 8. In recent years, Jamaica Station has seen a significant increase in LIRR service following the opening of Grand Central Madison and completion of the Main Line's new third track. Each weekday, 790 trains stop at Jamaica, an increase of 54% over the 481 that stopped there before Grand Central Madison opened.

"Jamaica Station is a critical transportation hub for the entire region, connecting millions of riders to their destinations every year," MTA Construction & Development President Jamie Torres-Springer said. "As we plan the future of the station, rider feedback will ensure the improvements we deliver reflect the needs and priorities of the people who use this station every day."

Jamaica Station has seen a 54% increase in daily trains passing through since the opening of Grand Central Madison.

The reimagined Jamaica Station will

create a better traffic flow, reduce crowding, and build out a world-class station complex providing seamless connection between the LIRR Main Line, NYC Transit and AirTrain JFK for the millions of commuters and airline passengers who depend on it.

"A project that will bring long overdue upgrades to Jamaica Station is about improving the experiences of the riders

who use it, and we can't do that effectively without feedback from LIRR commuters, straphangers and the thousands of airline passengers and employees who use the station to connect to AirTrain JFK every day," Port Authority Executive Director Kathryn Garcia said. "With Governor Hochul's support, we are transforming JFK into a world-class global gateway that will be served by an equally world-class AirTrain and Jamaica Station."

The MTA and Port Authority launched an in-person community outreach program for essential feedback from the public on the upcoming Jamaica Station redesign project.

Sen. Comrie thanked the Port Authority, the MTA and Governor Hochul for the \$50 million investment for the planning of the reimagined station and her commitment to renaming the Parsons-Archer station after York College.

"As you can see, Jamaica is bustling," Comrie said. "This presents a real opportunity to create a safer, more accessible, and more seamless connection between York College and downtown Jamaica with the LIRR, subway, AirTrain and bus services so we can deliver upgraded stations that are safe, clean, and secure."

(Based on a press release issued by MTA, and with inputs from QNS)



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Democracy's Unexpected Homecoming

THE OPPOSITION'S MOVE TO DEFEAT THE 131ST CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL WAS NOT AT ALL ABOUT WOMEN'S RESERVATION. IT WAS ABOUT STOPPING THE GOVERNMENT FROM REDRAWING INDIA'S ELECTORAL MAP UNDER COVER OF EMPOWERMENT.

BY
APOORVANAND



"The public today is more receptive to the opposition's counterargument: if the government is so concerned about the representation of women in legislatures, why has it not yet implemented the Women's Reservation Act that was passed unanimously by Parliament in September 2023? Why did it not notify the Act until April 16, 2026, the very eve of the vote on the Constitution Amendment Bill? Can women's reservation not be applied within the existing strength of 543 members? Why is an expansion of the House necessary to grant 33 per cent reservation to women?"

April 17, 2026, will be recorded as one of the most consequential dates in the history of Indian democracy. On this day, the opposition parties demonstrated a collective awareness of the threat to the democratic structure that had been absent in 2019-when the Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed or when Article 370 was abrogated. This time, they stood together and defeated the government's attempt to alter the structure and composition of Parliament.

This defeat was essential for the survival of Indian democracy. This is not only a defeat for the government, but it should also be seen as a victory for the opposition. It has restored confidence in the opposition. Among the public, too, there is a growing curiosity about the opposition's perspective. Citizens observed and listened to the parliamentary debates this time with heightened attention. They are looking beyond the "mainstream" media to understand where and how the government deploys deception. The public, it appears, is unlikely to accept the government's claim that it was merely bringing in a law for women's representation and had been blocked by a "misogynistic" opposition.

The public today is more receptive to the opposition's counterargument: if the government is so concerned about the representation of women in legislatures, why has it not yet implemented the Women's Reservation Act that was passed unanimously by Parliament in September 2023? Why did it not notify the Act until April 16, 2026, the very eve of the vote on the Constitution Amendment Bill? Can women's reservation not be applied within the existing strength of 543 members? Why is an expansion of the House necessary to grant 33 per cent reservation to women?

Commentators like Siddharth Varadarajan have rightly observed that the government's true intent was not to increase women's representation but to preserve male dominance in the legislatures. Opposition parties have also correctly alleged that the real motive, concealed behind the rhetoric of women's empowerment, is a redistribution of parliamentary seats that would most severely disadvantage the non-Hindi-speaking States, cementing the hegemony of the Hindi heartland.

media went to town claiming that the opposition had "toppled" the Women's Reservation Bill. This is a lie. The truth is that the opposition defeated a government attempt to alter the structure and fabric of Parliament and State Legislatures under the pretext of women's reservation. If that is not the case, why was the delimitation of constituencies linked to women's reservation? The objective was not to expand space for women but to use them as a pretext to redraw India's electoral map. The conspiracy to marginalize and render

Having lost in Parliament, the government has now taken to the streets-as if it were itself the opposition-to campaign for women's reservation. A Bill that was already passed in 2023! To conceal the sting of a decisive defeat, it has resorted to old tactics, but they are only spreading the realization that Narendra Modi-who projects himself as invincible-can indeed be defeated.

The Prime Minister used the sanctity of an address to the nation on Doordarshan to attack the opposition for the Bill's failure.



DMK workers burn copies of the proposed delimitation Bill during a protest at the party office, in Chennai, on April 16, 2026.

Photo Credit: R. Senthilkumar/ PTI

THE GOVERNMENT'S HOLLOW DEFENSE

The government's defense is pathetically flimsy. It claims that had the opposition agreed, it would have added a clause to increase seat numbers by 50 per cent across the board. If this was indeed so, why was it not part of the text of the Bill itself, as opposition parties pointed out?

The government, rather amusingly, is aggrieved that the opposition is so "uncivilized" that it refuses to trust even the Prime Minister's assurance. It is not as if the government has shown it can be trusted; and governments and courts function on the written word, not on faith or verbal assurances.

Priyanka Gandhi is right to assert that this Prime Minister and his government cannot be taken at their word. A government that systematically erodes every constitutional process cannot demand trust. Narendra Modi and his Ministers are incapable of speaking the truth. Even supporters of the government concede that it has shown itself to be a master of falsehood and deceit-they take pride in the fact that its lies have consistently been accepted as truth. They call it being "shrewd."

Why does the public accept these lies? Largely because the media broadcasts them as established facts. Even now, the

ineffective the representation of States in the south and the northeast is not difficult to discern. We have already seen how the delimitation process in Assam and Jammu & Kashmir was used to politically disempower Muslims. Why is delimitation necessary simply to give women their due?

This is the simplest question the media should be asking, but it remains silent. Instead, it stirs up a storm of government propaganda to blind people to what is actually being done. A tribe of analysts is now busily interpreting the entire episode as another "masterstroke" by Narendra Modi. This lot claims the government knew the Bill would fail but introduced it anyway to paint the opposition as anti-woman. Now, they say, the opposition must disprove this.

This logic is hollow. The government is not so prescient as to have known beforehand that it would fail to fracture the opposition this time. It tried. But the collective injustice of the large-scale deletion of voters' names during the SIR process in Bihar, Bengal, and elsewhere had already sharpened the opposition's vigilance. They have recognized that this government uses every available device to ensure its permanence. It is this democratic alertness that kept the opposition steadfast in its refusal to take the government's bait.

Modi specifically targeted the Congress, the Trinamool, and the DMK-all three parties with a stake in the upcoming Tamil Nadu and Bengal elections. This government is known for its petty and unethical politics, but such an address on the eve of elections is unacceptable. The Election Commission should have issued a notice and barred Modi from campaigning. But we know that the Election Commission now functions as a wing of the BJP, whose purpose is to convert the BJP's electoral defeats into victories.

It will be interesting to see how many newspapers and television channels criticize this unethical act by the Prime Minister. It will reveal who in this country actually cares for the survival of democracy.

Whether the media or anyone else cares for democracy or not, we the people must. Just as the workers of Noida and Panipat or the Adivasis of Odisha are fighting to protect their rights, we must all unite with the opposition to safeguard our democratic freedoms. This could be the moment of democracy's homecoming, or we could lose it forever through our own negligence. The choice is ours.

(Apoorvanand teaches Hindi at Delhi University and writes literary and cultural criticism)

What Happens if the U.S.-Iran Cease-Fire Collapses?

BY JOHN
HALTIWANGER



THE TRUCE IS HANGING BY A THREAD DESPITE TRUMP'S EXTENSION.

U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly announced an extension of the U.S.-Iran cease-fire on Tuesday, April 21, just hours after he threatened to resume bombing the country if a deal wasn't reached before the truce was set to expire the following day. Citing Iran's "seriously fractured" government, Trump said he would hold off attacking the country until its leaders could come up with a "unified proposal" for a peace deal. He didn't provide a deadline.

IRAN WAR

This wasn't the first time during the war that Trump rapidly shifted from warning Iran of impending violence and destruction to leaving the door open for diplomacy. The fact that he has repeatedly backed off such threats suggests that Trump is eager to end the conflict, which is unpopular in the United States and has caused a global energy crisis.

But the cease-fire is still on thin ice, and it's unclear if another round of peace talks will occur. The U.S. naval blockade on Iranian ports is still in place (though some ships are reportedly getting through), and Tehran still has a chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz. Iran on Wednesday fired on several vessels in the strait and seized two.

Trump's contradictory rhetoric and actions throughout the war—and his record of taking military action against Iran amid ongoing negotiations—are also among the many reasons that a deal appears a distant possibility. Tehran, which has called the U.S. blockade a violation of the cease-fire, has made it clear that it doesn't trust Trump. Mahdi Mohammadi, an advisor to Iranian parliamentary speaker and top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, said the cease-fire extension means "nothing" and is just a "ploy to buy time for a surprise strike." Ghalibaf on Wednesday also said a complete cease-fire only makes sense if the U.S. blockade ends.

Trump's justification for extending the cease-fire—the fractured nature of Iran's leadership as a result of the war—is also a major obstacle to a diplomatic resolution. There have already been many signs that Iran's lead negotiators, including Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, are not on the same page as the hard-liners in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, who appear to be tightening their grip on the country's decision-making.

With the cease-fire hanging by a thread, here are five of the most pressing questions if the truce ultimately collapses.

WILL ISRAEL'S WAR AGAINST HEZBOLLAH RESUME?

The cease-fire in Lebanon between Israel and Hezbollah, an Iran-aligned militant group, is also extremely fragile. Both sides have accused the other of violations since it went into effect last week, even amid ongoing diplomacy

between Israel and the Lebanese government.

The truce is intrinsically linked to the U.S.-Iran cease-fire, though Israel and the United States initially refused to include Lebanon as part of that agreement despite Tehran's insistence that it was included. Before Trump announced a 10-day truce in Lebanon on April 16, this disagreement almost derailed the U.S.-Iran cease-fire agreement altogether.

Lebanon is seeking an extension of its cease-fire, with further talks between Israeli and Lebanese diplomats set to occur in Washington on Thursday. But if the U.S.-Iran truce collapses, it could lead Israel to fully resume operations in Lebanon.

from a downed U.S. fighter jet in early April marks the only publicly acknowledged instance of U.S. ground forces entering Iran during the war so far. But if the cease-fire collapses, Trump could decide putting boots on the ground is necessary to ramp up pressure on Tehran and complete stated war objectives (despite his dubious claims that U.S. goals have already been achieved).

U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, a Republican, during an interview with Newsmax on Wednesday agreed with the notion that the United States would have to go into Iran to "finish the job" if a peace agreement wasn't reached in the coming weeks.

U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency, last week told congressional lawmakers that Iran "retains thousands of missiles and one-way attack UAVs [drones] that can threaten U.S. and partner forces throughout the region, despite degradations to its capabilities from both attrition and expenditure."

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ?

Given that control of the Strait of Hormuz is still being contested amid the cease-fire, this should be expected to continue if the truce collapses. Iran's chokehold over the strait has proved to be its most significant leverage in the war; and Tehran seems poised to use

Supporters of the Iran-backed Houthis brandish weapons as they rally in solidarity with Iran and Lebanon in Sanaa, Yemen, on April 8, following the announcement of a cease-fire in the Middle East.



WILL THE UNITED STATES LAUNCH A GROUND OPERATION IN IRAN?

Prior to the announcement of the U.S.-Iran cease-fire, there was rampant speculation about the potential for Trump to put U.S. boots on the ground in Iran as part of a range of possible operations—including seizing Kharg Island, tiny but strategically vital, and securing Iran's highly enriched uranium. Military experts have warned that such operations would be incredibly risky and put U.S. troops in grave danger. But it's clear that the options remain on the table.

The United States has more than 50,000 troops deployed in the Middle East, including thousands of Marines and paratroopers and hundreds of special operations forces. Thousands of additional forces are also en route along with other military assets.

An operation to rescue crew members

WHAT ARE IRAN'S REMAINING MILITARY CAPABILITIES?

Trump and top officials in his administration have repeatedly made sweeping claims about the impact of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran's military. "We've taken out their navy. We've taken out their air force. We've taken out their leaders," Trump said on Tuesday.

While there's no doubt that the war has led to the deaths of numerous top Iranian leaders, including Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and has significantly diminished Iran's military, there are growing signs that the Trump administration has overstated the extent of the damage.

Between recently downing U.S. fighter jets and ongoing attacks on commercial vessels, it's clear that Iran maintains an array of capabilities that will continue to pose a threat if the cease-fire falls apart.

Lt. Gen. James Adams, the head of the

control of the strategic waterway as a deterrent even after a potential peace agreement. The future of the Strait of Hormuz is perhaps the biggest unresolved issue of the conflict as things stand.

WILL THE HOUSHIS CLOSE THE BAB EL-MANDEB?

The Houthis, Iran's ally in Yemen, could move to cut off the Bab el-Mandeb, another key shipping route that connects the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, if fighting resumes between the United States and Iran. Both the Houthis and Iran have pointed to the closure of the Bab el-Mandeb as a possible retaliatory measure, which would add to the already significant stress on the global economy brought on by the Hormuz situation.

(John Haltiwanger is a staff writer at Foreign Policy)

SPECIAL ARTICLE IN COMMEMORATION OF SIKH HERITAGE MONTH IN CANADA AND THE US

Sikhs, Partition and Political Fate

The British rejected the demand for a separate Sikh state in the event of a partition along religious lines in 1946

BY ISHTIAQ
AHMED



In undivided Punjab, Sikhs comprised an influential, though numerically smaller, community. Within the directly administered regions of Punjab, Sikhs made up 13.2% of the population, Hindus accounted for nearly 29% and Muslims formed the majority at 57.1%. If the princely states were included, then the Sikh representation increased to 14.9% and that of the Hindus to 29.1% and the number of Muslims decreased to 53.2%. Despite being a minority, Sikhs enjoyed a level of prominence as they were overrepresented in the army, police and land ownership across several districts.

Singh Majithia, a prominent Sikh leader, declared that Sikhs would never accept living in a Muslim-majority Pakistan. This stance was later supported by mainstream Sikh leaders.

THE PARTITION DEBATE

From 1942, Sikh leaders began discussing the potential consequences of the partition of the country on their community. Two main approaches emerged: one, advocating for a separate Sikh state and two, collaborating with Hindus and demanding the division of Punjab, with the Hindu-Sikh majority areas joining a secular India.

united Punjab, Sir Khizr Hayat Khan Tiwana, proposed the creation of a united Punjab as a third dominion, but this suggestion was dismissed by British authorities.

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

From March 1947, Punjab was engulfed in communal violence, pitting Hindus and Sikhs against Muslims. Lahore, Amritsar, Multan and Rawalpindi witnessed severe clashes. Sikhs suffered significant losses in villages near Rawalpindi. In May 1947, Viceroy Mountbatten attempted to mediate between Sikh leaders and the Muslim

time being, Hindus and Sikhs joined forces, and regarded Muslims as a common adversary, leading to collaborative efforts and, at times, virtually conspiratorial activities.

MIGRATION AND VIOLENCE

By December 1947, except for the small princely state of Malerkotla, where around 80,000 Muslims remained unharmed, six million Muslims fled to Pakistani West Punjab. Meanwhile, 5.5 million Hindus and Sikhs migrated from West Punjab to East Punjab. At least 8,00,000 Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs died during these forced migrations.

Leadership: President Maulana Abul Kalam Azad with Akali leader Master Tara Singh.
Tribune file photo



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Before the British annexed Punjab in March 1849, the Sikhs held power, thanks to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's formation of the kingdom of Lahore in 1801. The British administration subsequently introduced representative institutions, though access was limited by requirements related to property and education. Separate electorates were established for Muslims in 1909 and for Sikhs in 1919.

THE TWO-NATION THEORY

On March 23, 1940, the All-India Muslim League advanced the two-nation theory, categorizing Hindus and Muslims as distinct and antagonistic populations. The League passed a resolution demanding independent Muslim states in the northwestern and northeastern regions of India, where Muslims were in the majority.

This proposal alarmed the Hindus and Sikhs alike. Congress leaders pledged to maintain India's unity. Sardar Sunder

THE 1946 POLITICAL POLARIZATION

The 1946 elections resulted in political polarization nationally and within Punjab. The Muslim League won 73 out of 84 reserved seats for Muslims, the Congress claimed 50 general seats, and Sikh Panthic parties secured 21 out of the 23 reserved Sikh seats.

The Congress campaigned for a united India. The Muslim League insisted on partition, with both Punjab and Bengal not to be divided.

Sikhs opposed their inclusion in Pakistan, and their ability to advocate for Punjab's partition depended on alliances with Punjabi Hindus.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CABINET MISSION

Sikh leaders met the Cabinet Mission Delegation in 1946 to express their opposition to the country's partition. In the event of a partition along religious lines, they demanded a separate Sikh state. The British rejected these demands. The last elected premier of

League to keep Punjab undivided, but these negotiations were unsuccessful.

AFTERMATH OF PARTITION

Meanwhile, Sikh leadership, which included rulers of some princely states, had been discussing plans to safeguard their interests in case Punjab was partitioned, as sought by the Muslim League. Their handicap was their small numbers and lack of a majority in any part of Punjab. This weakness was to be overcome by expelling Muslims from what would become Indian East Punjab and resettling Sikhs displaced from Pakistani West Punjab, aiming to establish a compact Sikh majority in parts of East Punjab.

The CID's 1948 'Notes on The Sikh Plan' observes that Sikhs aspired to establish Sikh rule in Punjab, with preparations directed specifically against Muslims. While Hindus were the larger minority, their willingness to support Sikh ambitions at their own expense remained uncertain. However, for the

PUNJABI SUBA MOVEMENT

In Indian East Punjab, despite the formation of a compact Sikh majority in central districts and adjoining princely states, Hindus remained the overall majority. Sikh leaders subsequently launched a movement to create a Punjabi-speaking East Punjab. This alienated the Hindi-speaking majority of Ambala division. Opposition also came from Punjabi Hindus, many of whom identified with Hindi as their mother tongue.

PUNJABI SUBA GRANTED

Years of agitation by Sikhs followed. Ultimately, in 1966, the Punjabi Suba was granted, though certain areas were separated and incorporated into the newly formed states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

(Ishtiaq Ahmed is professor emeritus of political science at Stockholm University. His books have won several awards in Pakistan and India. His X handle is @IshtiaqLahori)



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Gurleen Kaur

HUMAN COST OF TERRORISM EXHIBITION AT CAPITOL HILL

APRIL 23, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The Embassy of India hosted a Special Exhibition on the Human Cost of Terrorism at the Cannon Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building, on April 22, 2026. The exhibition marked the solemn first anniversary of the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians in a tragedy whose

impact continues to be felt.

Through compelling interactive displays, videos, and personal testimonials, the exhibition highlighted the profound and far-reaching impact of terrorism on individuals, families, and communities worldwide. It served as a tribute to the victims and their loved ones, and as a call to action for the global community to renew our collective resolve to eliminate terrorism in all its



forms and manifestations.

This exhibition was among the largest events hosted by the Embassy on Capitol Hill. It saw participation from 19 Members of the U.S. Congress from across the political spectrum and more than 60 Congressional offices. Attendees represented key committees including the House Foreign Affairs, Intelligence, Armed Services, Judiciary, and Homeland Security. Senior officials from the U.S. Administration, members of the Indian diaspora, students, media representatives, and think tanks were

also in attendance, united in condemning terrorism unequivocally.

In his remarks, Ambassador Vinay Kwatra reaffirmed India's steadfast commitment to combating terrorism and reiterated the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi: "India will never bow to any form of terror." Members of Congress expressed strong solidarity and emphasized their commitment to strengthening the India-U.S. partnership in counterterrorism efforts.

USCIS Director warns of Green Card revocations in fraud crackdown

The remarks signal a broader enforcement push, including tip lines and re-vetting of previously approved immigration benefits.

APRIL 23, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is signaling stricter enforcement against immigration fraud, with its director warning that previously approved Green Card cases could be reopened and reviewed.

In a recent television interview, USCIS Director Joseph Edlow said the agency is expanding its enforcement efforts and reviewing older approvals, including cases cleared in previous years.

"We're going back and re-vetting cases for people who were granted Green Cards and other benefits... If you have already done it and you think you have gotten away with it, we are going back," Edlow said.

He added that the agency is bringing in additional special agents and launching tip lines to allow the public to report suspected immigration fraud. "No tip is too small. We will look into it along with our partners at ICE and with CBP. People who are perpetrating fraud, STOP! Because we are going to find you," he said.

The crackdown involves coordination with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S.



USCIS Director Joseph Edlow -Photo / Wikipedia

Customs and Border Protection (CBP), with a focus on identifying fraudulent cases and potential criminal violations.

Edlow linked the move to broader enforcement priorities, stating, "Our primary mission is to keep

Americans safe... Keeping America safe is our charge and we will do it unapologetically."

He also emphasized stricter eligibility expectations, particularly financial independence. "We want people to come to this country who can take care of themselves and are not going to be drains on the public coffers. If you cannot pay for yourself and take care of yourself, you are not going to get a Green Card in this country," he said.

A Green Card, formally known as a Permanent Resident Card, allows foreign nationals to live and work indefinitely in the United States as lawful permanent residents.

The move comes amid a broader shift in USCIS operations toward enforcement, with the agency expanding its investigative capacity, including personnel authorized to carry firearms and make arrests for immigration-related violations.

USCIS has also reiterated that compliance with immigration law is non-negotiable for applicants seeking permanent residency or citizenship, with officials stating that older approvals can be reopened if fraud or misrepresentation is suspected.

GAIL (India) Limited marks a significant milestone in India's global energy journey

APRIL 20, 2026
HOUSTON (TIP)

Consul General of India in Houston, Shri D. C. Manjunath, on April 20, 2026, flagged off the LNG vessel Energy Fidelity from the Sabine Pass LNG Terminal, USA, demonstrating a commitment to securing reliable and sustainable fuel sources.



Consul General of India in Houston, Shri D. C. Manjunath, on April 20, 2026, flagging off the LNG vessel Energy Fidelity

Within GAIL's long-term LNG shipping portfolio, the advanced 174,000 cbm LNG carrier Energy Fidelity stands as a testament to India's growing strength in building a robust, future-ready energy ecosystem. It strengthens India's energy logistics, ensuring a resilient supply chain and a reliable flow of cleaner fuel to support the country's growth.

This milestone reflects the deepening energy partnership between India and the United States, anchored in mutual trust, shared goals of energy security, and expanding economic collaboration. As India continues to transition towards a cleaner energy future, such strategic initiatives play a vital role in energizing progress and driving sustainable growth.

THE CHAOTIC TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

APRIL 23, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

President Donald Trump's first administration had a lot of internal chaos, epitomized by aides and officials getting fired at a rapid rate, sometimes after days on the job.

His second administration has the potential to be in even more upheaval.



In recent weeks, Trump has fired his attorney general, his homeland security secretary and, as of this week, the labor secretary and head of the Navy - amid a war with Iran very much taking place by sea. That's three Cabinet officials in two months, compared with two Cabinet officials leaving the entire first year of his first term. Since March, at least five high-ranking officials have been forced out of their roles or resigned under pressure.

And there are plenty of whispers that Tulsi Gabbard, director of National Intelligence, or Chris Wright, the energy secretary, could be next after they made comments about Iran's nuclear capabilities or gas prices that Trump felt the need to counter. FBI Director Kash Patel is suing following a report that he engaged in "excessive drinking" and "unexplained absences" while leading the bureau. "Trump's Cabinet secretaries are dropping like flies," the Wall Street Journal wrote this week.

Trump has nearly three more years to go.

A major difference between Trump's first and second term is his emphasis now on hiring people who are unquestionably loyal to him.

BY AMBER
PHILLIPS



Outsiders can bring fresh perspective to governing but an administration full of them can create more turnover than one filled with experts, said Julian Zelizer, a Princeton University history professor and editor of a book about Trump's first term.

Especially when they're trying to serve a president who has little patience for roadblocks. White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles told Vanity Fair recently that Trump operates with "a view that there's nothing he can't do. Nothing, zero, nothing."

"You have people who aren't as experienced in politics and don't know how to survive the turbulence he brings to the Oval Office," Zelizer said. "Combine that with Trump, who feels vindicated after getting reelected and believes he is stronger than the system, and you get a willingness to get rid of Cabinet officials when he doesn't want them anymore."

It's notable that several officials trying to carry out Trump's most controversial policies are gone.

Former homeland security secretary Kristi L. Noem was the unapologetic face of Trump's mass deportation campaign before she was pushed out in March. Former attorney general Pam Bondi led the Justice Department to prosecute Trump's political enemies - one of the most antidemocratic moves of the Trump administration so far, say many legal experts - before she was pushed out earlier this month. Ousted Navy secretary John Phelan is a billionaire and major donor to Trump.

Their replacements aren't expected to change much, analysts say, other than trying to be more politically savvy about pushing the president's agenda, much of which is currently unpopular.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian Americans weigh exit from US as concerns over policies grow under Trump

APRIL 21, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

A survey reveals many Indian Americans are contemplating leaving the US. This stems from political dissatisfaction and a shift in party affiliations. Concerns about cost of living and safety also contribute. Discrimination is reported, leading some to alter daily behaviours. Views on religion and marriage vary. Political representation is seen as both an opportunity and a risk for the community.



About 40% Indian Americans weighing exit from US. -Photo for Representation only

Under Donald Trump's second term, about 40% of Indian Americans have considered leaving the United States, according to a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace survey, pointing to rising political unease and shifting party alignment within the community.

HIGH DISSATISFACTION WITH TRUMP

According to the survey, 71% of Indian Americans say Trump is not doing a good job, with opposition strong on issues such as deportations, birthright citizenship, and H-1B Visa Policies.

At the same time, support for Democrats has weakened, while identification with Republicans has seen a rise, indicating a shift towards the political centre.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian Ambassador's Participation in Cultural and Academic Engagements Strengthens India-Romania People-to-People Ties

APRIL 18, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

Dr. Manoj Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, recently participated in two significant events in the cities of Pitesti and Craiova, underscoring the deepening cultural, educational, and economic bonds between India and Romania. These engagements, at the vibrant Simfonia Lalelelor Festival in Pitesti and with Indian students at the University of Craiova, exemplify how grassroots initiatives are weaving stronger people-to-people ties, while reflecting the interconnected economic and academic dynamism of Romania's southern regions.

In Pitesti, the Ambassador was warmly received by His Excellency Mr. Cristian Gentea, Mayor of Pitesti, at the renowned Simfonia Lalelelor (Symphony of Tulips) Festival. This annual spectacle transforms the city into a kaleidoscope of colors, with over 100,000 tulips meticulously arranged into intricate floral displays that draw thousands of visitors. The festival celebrates Pitesti's rich cultural heritage and its tradition of community-centered events that unite citizens and guests in joyous harmony. The Ambassador highlighted the shared cultural spirit between Romania and India, drawing vivid parallels with India's Holi festival, a nationwide explosion of colors symbolizing renewal, forgiveness, and social unity. "Just as Holi brings communities together through vibrant celebrations of life and diversity, Simfonia Lalelelor reminds us of the universal language of joy and creativity that transcends borders," he remarked.

This cultural bridge is no coincidence. Pitesti, in Arges County, stands as a cornerstone of Romania's industrial heartland, home to global automotive giants like Dacia and Ford, which produce vehicles exported worldwide, including to India. The city's economic vibrancy, fueled by manufacturing, innovation, and a skilled workforce, mirrors India's own industrial powerhouses like Pune and Chennai. Such synergies open doors for enhanced trade and investment; Indian firms, from pharmaceuticals to automotive components, are increasingly eyeing partnerships here. The Ambassador's presence at the festival signaled India's commitment to these ties, fostering not just cultural exchange but also economic collaboration that benefits both nations' growth stories.

Complementing this cultural outreach, the Ambassador's visit to Craiova further amplified the educational pillar of India-Romania relations. At the University of Craiova, a leading institution renowned for its faculties in engineering, medicine, and humanities, he interacted with a group of dedicated



Indian Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra is warmly welcomed at Festivalul Lalelelor by Mayor of Pitesti, Cristian Gentea

students from KIIT & KISS Universities, Bhubaneswar, India, who are pursuing academic exchange programs. The Ambassador commended their academic rigor and adaptability in this international setting, urging them to embrace Romania's rich history and multicultural ethos. "You are not just students; you are cultural ambassadors building the future of our bilateral partnership," he encouraged them.

Craiova, in Dolj County, is a beacon of academic excellence and economic prowess, hosting the University of Craiova alongside the massive Dacia-Renault plant, Europe's largest car factory by volume. This duality positions Craiova as a hub where education fuels industry: graduates often feed directly into high-tech manufacturing roles, driving Romania's export-led economy. Economically, Craiova's automotive sector aligns seamlessly with Pitesti's, forming a southern Romania corridor of innovation that accounts for a significant share of national GDP. Indian companies, including those in IT, renewables, and auto ancillaries, stand to gain from joint ventures here, much like Sun Pharma's past expansions in Eastern Europe.

The Pitesti-Craiova axis exemplifies regional interconnectedness. Just 150 kilometers apart, these cities share transport links via the A1 highway and rail networks, facilitating trade flows and student mobility. Educationally, initiatives like the KIIT & KISS-University of Craiova exchange program, one of several under India's growing footprint in Romanian



Ambassador Mohapatra at Festivalul Lalelelor in Pitesti



Ambassador Mohapatra is talking with the KIIT exchange students

academia, promote knowledge sharing in fields like AI, sustainable engineering, and public health. Economically, they represent untapped potential: Romania's automotive output complements India's component manufacturing expertise, with bilateral trade already surpassing 1.5 billion annually, poised for growth through the EU-India FTA conclusion.

These events connect to the larger tapestry of India-Romania relations. Amid global shifts, people-to-people ties serve as the bedrock of strategic partnerships. Cultural festivals like Simfonia Lalelelor humanize diplomacy, while student exchanges cultivate future leaders who will drive collaboration. The Ambassador emphasized that such grassroots engagements amplify institutional frameworks, including the India-Romania Joint Commission and recent MoUs on education and trade. By nurturing youth mobility, with over 120 Indian students now in Romania, and cultural dialogues, both nations are investing in a shared future of mutual prosperity.

India's diplomatic outreach in Romania extends beyond capitals, embracing dynamic regions like Wallachia's southern hubs. Pitesti and Craiova, with their blend of tradition and modernity, embody this spirit: tulip fields beside assembly lines, classrooms fostering engineers for tomorrow's industries. These visits reinforce India's vision of a multipolar world anchored in friendship, where economic complementarity, from EVs to pharma, meets cultural empathy.

The Embassy of India reaffirms its commitment to expanding such initiatives, inviting more exchanges, business delegations, and cultural festivals. As the Ambassador noted, "In the symphony of tulips and the rhythm of student aspirations, we hear the melody of enduring India-Romania friendship."

(Based on a press release issue by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



Ambassador Mohapatra met the KIIT exchange students at University of Craiova

Indian Embassy Hosts India-Romania Hybrid B2B Event on Tourism and Hospitality

APRIL 20, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

Embassy of India successfully organized a Hybrid B2B Interaction on Tourism and Hospitality on 17 April 2026 aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and promoting greater engagement between Indian and Romanian stakeholders in the tourism and hospitality sectors. The event brought together a wide spectrum of participants, including representatives of leading tourism companies, hospitality service providers, and business organizations from both India and Romania. Indian companies joined the event virtually, while Romanian participants attended in person, reflecting a dynamic hybrid format that enabled meaningful business interactions across borders.

The programme commenced with the arrival and welcome of guests, followed by special remarks by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India. In his address, the Ambassador highlighted the immense potential for expanding tourism exchanges between India and Romania, emphasizing India's diverse tourism offerings, ranging from heritage and cultural tourism to wellness, eco-tourism, and adventure travel. He also underscored the importance of strengthening institutional linkages and business partnerships to unlock new opportunities in the sector.

The Indian side was represented by the Indian Chamber of International Business (ICIB), with opening remarks delivered by Mrs. Tinku Rajeev Gupta, Secretary General, ICIB. She emphasized the growing global interest in India as a tourism destination and reiterated the role of business-to-business platforms in facilitating partnerships and enhancing market access for tourism operators.

A key highlight of the event was the series of presentations made by participating Indian companies, each showcasing their specialized services and regional strengths. The participating entities represented a broad geographical spectrum of India, including Kolkata, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, West Bengal, Kalimpong, Pune, Kerala, Hyderabad, Delhi, and the Andaman &



Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania highlighted the tourism potential of India.



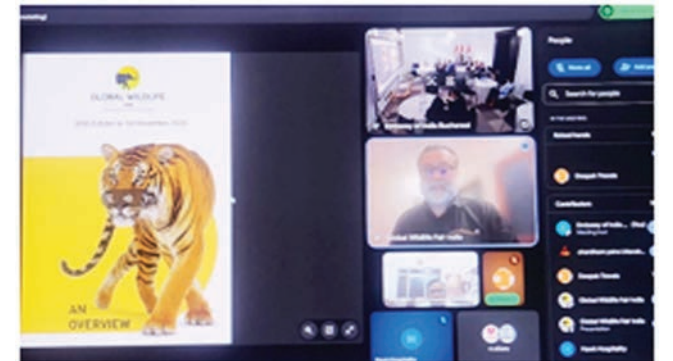
Mrs. Tinku Rajeev Gupta, Secretary General, ICIB(India), provided an overview of India's tourism sector and its capabilities.



Romanian companies actively participated and explored opportunities with Indian firms



Indian companies joined virtually and represented a broad geographical spectrum of India



Group photo: Hybrid B2B Meeting on Tourism and Hospitality

Nicobar Islands. Their presentations covered a wide range of offerings such as corporate travel services, curated cultural experiences, heritage tourism, wildlife tourism, luxury travel, destination management services, and hospitality solutions.

The event also featured the introduction of Romanian companies active in the tourism and hospitality sector, providing them an opportunity to present their profiles and explore collaboration with Indian counterparts.

An interactive Q&A session followed, facilitating direct dialogue between Indian and Romanian participants. The discussions were constructive and forward-looking, focusing on developing joint tourism products, increasing tourist flows, leveraging digital platforms, and fostering long-term partnerships. Particular interest was noted in areas such as spiritual and wellness tourism, niche experiential travel, and customized tour packages. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to all participants for their active engagement and reaffirming the shared commitment to enhancing India-Romania cooperation in tourism and hospitality.

The Embassy of India in Bucharest remains committed to promoting bilateral economic engagement and people-to-people ties through such initiatives, and will continue to serve as a platform for fostering meaningful partnerships between the two countries.

(Based on a press release issued by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA, NEW YORK
&
GUJARATI ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

GUJARAT MAHARASHTRA DAY



Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan
Consul General of India, NY



Shri Suresh Prabhu
Former Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railway



Falu Shah
Grammy Award Winner



Hemant Marathe
Mayor of West Windsor



Pulkit Desai
Mayor of Parsippany-Troy Hills



Archana Joglekar
Indian Actress



Pooja Jhaveri
Indian Actress



Hardik Chauhan
Gujarati Folk Singer and Performer

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France scraps transit visa for Indian nationals

APRIL 24, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a significant boost to travel convenience, France has lifted airport transit visa requirements for Indians, with the decision coming into effect earlier this month as part of deepening bilateral ties.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said the visa-free transit regime for Indians passing through French airports in European territory has now been operationalised by the French government. The move follows an announcement made during the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India in February, when he and Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed on measures to ease travel between the two countries.

Under the revised rules, Indian nationals holding ordinary passports and transiting exclusively by air through French airports will no longer require an airport transit visa, with effect from April 10. The exemption applies to passengers who remain within the international transit zone during layovers en route to a third country.

The French Embassy in New Delhi said the change was enabled through a decree amending earlier visa regulations, which was published in France's Official Gazette (Journal Officiel) on April 9.

Describing the step as a reflection of the "enduring partnership" between the two countries, the MEA said the decision underscores a shared commitment to strengthening people-to-people ties by facilitating smoother movement.

APRIL 24, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday, April 23, invited German industry to co-develop and co-produce niche technologies with India to strengthen national security as well as global stability and resilience.

Addressing Indian and German defence industry leaders at the Defence Investor Summit in Munich on the third and final day of his maiden visit to Germany, Singh said Indian companies were keen to engage with German counterparts in areas such as advanced radar and sensor technologies, multi-sensor systems, AI-enabled unmanned aerial systems, sonobuoys and high-power low-frequency underwater transmitters.

Interacting with industry leaders, the minister said, "India offers an expanding market, a skilled workforce and an evolving industrial ecosystem marked by stability, predictability and commitment to the rule of law. It is not a short-term

'21 Indian crew on Panama-flagged ship attacked in Hormuz strait safe': Govt

APRIL 24, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): A Panama-flagged container ship that was fired upon by Iranian boats amid an escalation of tensions in the Strait of Hormuz had 21 Indian crew members, who are unharmed and safe, India's shipping ministry said on Thursday, April 23, even as another container vessel headed to India after transiting the waterway.

The Euphoria is one of three ships that were attacked by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) on Wednesday as Tehran pushed back against a US blockade of its shipping, seeking to reassert its control of the strait that is normally the route for a fifth of global oil supplies. The other ships attacked were the Panama-flagged MSC Francesca and the Liberian-registered Epaminondas — which was headed to the Mundra port in India.

"A vessel, Euphoria, was having 21 Indian seafarers on board, and all of them are safe," said additional secretary in the shipping ministry, Mukesh Mangal, at an inter-ministerial press conference on Thursday. The Euphoria also has a Burmese crew member.

The Epaminondas had one Indian crew member, who is also safe, Mangal said. "None of the Indian seafarers has been injured in the firing on the foreign-flagged vessels," he added, according to a report by the news agency ANI.

The Francesca, which Iranian media said has been detained along with the Epaminondas at Bandar Abbas port, did not have any Indian crew.

Iranian media had reported the Euphoria was stranded on the Iranian



coast after the attack. Ship tracking websites show the ship is near the Oman coast, and give its current destination as Khor Fakkan port.

However, a top shipping ministry official, on condition of anonymity said late on Thursday that the vessel is sailing towards its original destination of Jeddah.

To be sure, real-time tracking of maritime traffic in the strait, has been affected by widespread jamming as well as spoofing of transponder data.

Meanwhile, the Gibraltar-flagged bulk carrier Frosso K, carrying 55,000 metric tonnes of sulphur, transited the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday and is bound for Paradip port in India, the shipping ministry said in an update. The Frosso K

was on a priority list of 15 vessels identified by the department of fertilizers for evacuation from the Persian Gulf.

The Desh Garima, a crude oil tanker that transited the Hormuz on April 18, reached Mumbai on Wednesday.

The same day, two Indian-flagged vessels, the Sanmar Herald and the Jag Arnav, were fired at by Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps boats while transiting through the Strait of Hormuz and the vessels have turned back.

The shipping ministry's update said that there are 518 Indian seafarers onboard Indian-flagged vessels in the Persian Gulf region (340 in West of Strait of Hormuz and 178 in Gulf of Oman).

Rajnath pitches India as long-term defence partner to German firms

opportunity, but a long-term strategic proposition."

"India's pursuit of self-reliance is not inward-looking; we see it as the ability to design, develop and produce with trusted partners," he added.

A day earlier, Singh visited the submarine manufacturing facility of German firm ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems. The company has already signed a memorandum of understanding with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited to build six submarines at an estimated cost of \$8 billion. Discussions are in the final stages ahead of the signing of a formal contract.

India and Germany on Wednesday also inked a 'defence industrial roadmap' aimed at facilitating technology sharing and exploring opportunities in emerging domains



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Defence Investor Summit in Munich, Germany. PTI

SC stays conviction, life term of ex-CM Ajit Jogi's son in NCP leader murder case

APRIL 24, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, April 24, stayed the Chhattisgarh High Court verdict, which had handed down life imprisonment to Amit Jogi, son of former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, in the 2003 murder case of NCP leader Ramavatar Jaggi.



The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the Chhattisgarh High Court verdict, which had handed down life imprisonment to Amit Jogi, son of former Chief Minister Ajit Jogi, in the 2003 murder case of NCP leader Ramavatar Jaggi.

The Chhattisgarh HC earlier this month convicted Amit Jogi — the president of the Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (J) founded by his late father Ajit Jogi in 2016 — of the charges levelled against him in the case and directed him to surrender before the jail authorities. On May 31, 2007, a trial court held that the prosecution had successfully proved the charges against 28 accused. However, it had acquitted Amit. The HC had reopened proceedings in the 2003 murder case last month following the SC directions.

BJP winning 110 of 152 seats in Phase 1: Shah in Bengal

APRIL 24, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Home Minister on Friday said the BJP is winning West Bengal decisively and will bag 110 of the 152 seats that went to polls in the first phase on Thursday, April 23.

Noting a "tsunami of support for the party", Amit Shah credited the Election Commission for creating an environment that he said has enabled free and fair polls. "People have voted freely. There has not been even one political killing. Voter rolls have been purified. Voters have come out without fear. We are winning Bengal. That is a certainty," Shah said.

He said the BJP delegation will meet the Election Commission today to recommend ways of ensuring an even better law and order situation for the second phase of polling on April 29.

"The BJP will get more than 110 of the 152 seats that went to polls in the first phase of Bengal elections. People of Bengal broke all records in the first phase of assembly polls, voted with enthusiasm for change," Amit Shah said in Kolkata.

He thanked the EC and security forces for ensuring no deaths during the first phase of Bengal polls. Shah said anti-incumbency in the state is at its peak and the question marks on women's safety have polarised women in favour of the BJP.

"A BJP government in Bengal is a certainty; I can witness a tsunami. We will add seats and vote share," Shah said. He added that Bengal has a history of toppling regimes for good. "This time it will vote for BJP and we will stay for 30 years," he said, adding that the high voter turnout shows Bengal has vented its anger against Mamata Banerjee. "The results are going to be in our favour," he claimed.

Asked what the BJP's top priority would be should the party win, Shah said, "Fencing of the borders, detection of



illegal immigrants, their deportation, and punishment to government officers who gave fake ID cards to these illegals."

"Noted Down Names Of Everyone Acting As BJP's Broker": Mamata Banerjee Challenges Centre

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), claiming she will "conquer" Delhi after securing victory in the state Assembly elections. Addressing an election rally in Chowringhee on Thursday, Mamata Banerjee said she would "dismantle" the BJP at the Centre by bringing all Opposition parties together.

Centre advises ZEE5 not to release 'Lawrence of Punjab', cites law and order concerns

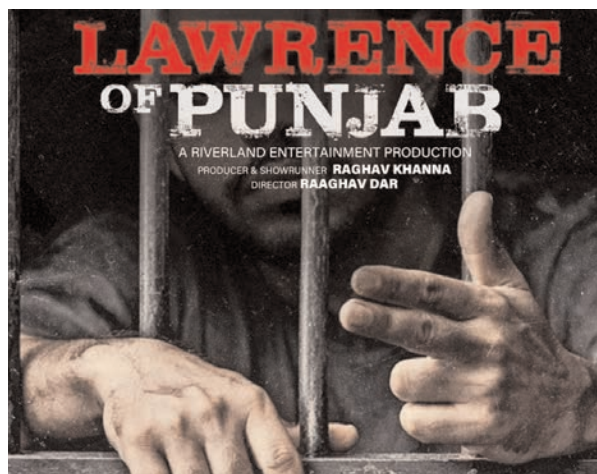
APRIL 24, 2026

CHANDIGARH (TIP): Acting on concerns flagged by Punjab Police and in the backdrop of ongoing proceedings before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has advised OTT platform ZEE5 not to release a documentary or web series based on alleged gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, warning that the content could "incite violence" and disturb public order.

In a communication dated April 24, issued in connection with a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring against the Union of India and other respondents, the Centre cited earlier judicial directions aimed at preventing the glorification of criminals and crime-related content.

According to the advisory, the ministry noted a "reasonable apprehension" that the release of the proposed series—understood to be Lawrence of Punjab—could be prejudicial to public order and had the potential to incite the commission of cognisable offences.

The ministry's communication referred to an earlier advisory issued on October 27, 2025, as well as its letter dated April 23, 2026, and advised ZEE5 to refrain from releasing the content and take appropriate action in the matter. The order was issued with the approval of the competent authority.



The move comes amid mounting pressure from both political leaders and law enforcement agencies over the proposed release of the series, which is scheduled to premiere on April 27. Punjab Police had earlier urged the Centre to block the series, alleging that it could glorify organised crime and adversely influence young viewers.

The matter is currently under consideration before the Punjab and Haryana High Court, where the petitioner has sought an urgent stay on the release of the series, arguing that it romanticises the life and criminal activities of Lawrence Bishnoi and may negatively impact public sentiment in Punjab.

Source: TNS

Radical preacher Amritpal In Punjab Police's 2-day custody in Assam

APRIL 24, 2026

SILCHAR (TIP): Amritpal Singh, the chief of Waris Punjab De and Khadoor Sahib MP, was taken into police custody on Thursday, April 23, following the end of his detention under the National Security Act (NSA). A team from the Punjab Police made the arrest at Dibrugarh Central Jail in connection with the 2023 Ajnala police station attack case. Singh's three-year NSA term ended at midnight on Wednesday.

On Thursday, he was moved from the jail to the Dibrugarh police station for a two-day remand. The transfer was conducted under heavy security, involving an 11-vehicle police convoy including Punjab and Assam police commandos. It was led by a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) from Punjab with Dibrugarh Additional SP (Crime) Atul Kumar present to oversee the transition.

The two-day remand allows Punjab Police investigators to interrogate Singh regarding his role in the February 2024 incident at Ajnala. During that event, a mob allegedly stormed a police station to secure the release of an associate, leading to several injuries among police personnel.

Amritpal Singh's lawyer Jasbir Kaur confirmed the custody arrangement.

"Amritpal Singh has been taken into two days of police custody by Punjab Police. He will be interrogated by the Punjab Police team at Dibrugarh Police Station in connection with the Ajnala police station attack case. After that, he will be again brought to Dibrugarh Central Jail and kept there," Kaur said.

She said the trial proceedings will be conducted through video-conferencing from Punjab.

India in history this Week

APRIL 24 TO APRIL 30

April 24



National Panchayati Raj Day: This day commemorates the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992, which came into force in 1993. It institutionalized the three-tier system of local self-governance (Gram Panchayat, Block Panchayat, and District Panchayat), a cornerstone of rural democracy.



Birth of Sachin Tendulkar (1973): One of India's most celebrated figures, the "Master Blaster" was born on this day in Mumbai, eventually becoming the first player to score 100 international centuries.

Birth of Dr. Rajkumar (1929): The legendary Kannada actor and cultural icon was born on this day. His influence extended beyond cinema into the linguistic and social movements of Karnataka.



Passing of Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' (1974): The renowned Hindi poet and three-time Rajya Sabha member, known as the Rashtrakavi (National Poet), passed away on this date.

Malik Kafur's Return (1311): Historically, on this day, the general of Alauddin Khalji returned to Delhi after a successful military campaign in Southern India.

April 25

Formation of the Women's Political Empowerment Day: Following the Panchayati Raj reforms, this day is often observed to celebrate the entry of women into formal local politics through reserved seats.

World Malaria Day (India Focus): While a global observance, India uses this day to mark progress in its ambitious goal to be malaria-free by 2030, a major public health milestone.

April 26



Birth of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan (Historical Era): While born in August, April 26 is often cited in agricultural history as a period during which critical shifts toward the Green Revolution were discussed in high-level policy meetings in the late 1960s.

Sikkim Referendum Results (1975): In the days leading up to the official merger, the results of the referendum were consolidated, showing an overwhelming majority in favor of joining the Indian Union.

April 27



Death of Feroz Khan (2009): The flamboyant actor, producer, and director, often called the "Clint Eastwood of the East," passed away on this day.



Air India Record (1990): Around this week in late April, Air India's massive evacuation of over 111,000 Indians from Amman to Mumbai (following the invasion of Kuwait) was in full swing, eventually entering the Guinness World Records.

April 28

Birth of Madhusudan Das (1848): Known as Utkal Gourab (Pride of Utkal), he was a visionary leader and the first graduate and advocate of Odisha. He played a key role in the formation of Odisha as a separate province.



The Second Battle of Panipat (Prelude): While the battle occurred in November, historical records of the Mughal era often note that April 28 was frequently a date for strategic mobilizations and administrative appointments under Akbar's reign.

April 29

Raja Ravi Varma (1848): The birth of the legendary painter who revolutionized Indian art by depicting Indian mythological themes using European academic styles. His work made art accessible to the common man through affordable lithographs.



Establishment of the International Dance Day (India Impact): Observed today, it highlights the rich heritage of Indian classical dances like Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi on the world stage.

April 30

Ayushman Bharat Diwas: This day celebrates the launch of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the world's largest government-funded healthcare program, aimed at providing insurance cover to over 10 crore families.

End of the Portuguese Siege of Diu (1539): Historically, this marked a significant consolidation of Portuguese maritime power on the western coast of India.

Dadasaheb Phalke's 'Raja Harishchandra' (1913): Although previews were held earlier in the month, the week ending April 30 is traditionally cited as the period when India's first indigenous feature film was finalized for its grand public release on May 3.

SAROD MAESTRO AMJAD ALI KHAN ALONGSIDE SONS PERFORM “STRINGS FOR PEACE” WITH SHARON ISBIN AND AMIT KAVTHEKAR

BY MABEL PAIS

Internationally renowned sarod maestro Amjad Ali Khan alongside his sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, will be welcomed back to NYC in April 2026 after an enthralling and successful performance in 2025.

The family sarod trio will be joined in a special collaboration with GRAMMY Award-winning American guitarist, Sharon Isbin who has been acclaimed “one of the best guitarists in the world” by the Boston Globe.

“Strings for Peace” adeptly unites Western classical guitar with Indian classical music (ragas) featuring unique arrangements of Khan’s compositions. Join the team will be tabla virtuoso and prot?g? of both Ustad Allarakha and Zakir Khan, Amit Kavthekar. The project highlights the meditative and spiritual connection between these two traditions, spreading a message of peace and celebrating cross-cultural harmony.

Watch the team play - https://youtu.be/0ae35GYcJPA?si=5Rn_0FDpwZqpQ0V5

Amjad Ali Khan

Learn more at <https://sarod.com>

Amaan Ali Khan

Learn more at <https://amaanalibangash.com>



Front Row Seated - Amjad Ali Khan with Sharon Isbin
Standing - (left) Ayaan Ali Bangash and Amaan Ali Bangash

Credit: worldmusicinstitute.org

Ayaan Ali Khan

Learn more at <https://ayaanalibangash.com>

Sharon Isbin

Learn more at <https://sharonisbin.com>

Amit Kavthekar

Learn more at <https://amitkavthekar.com>

WMI'S COLLABORATIONS SERIES

The Collaborations series presents cross-cultural musical explorations and collaborations. The series often explores how the music of artists from one culture has influenced the music of another culture, or how the music of seemingly widely varying cultures can be strikingly similar or complementary.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

Learn more at worldmusicinstitute.org

PROGRAM DETAILS

What: Strings for Peace

When: Thursday, April 30, 2026 @ 8 pm; Doors open at 7:30 pm

Where: Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway, Manhattan

TICKETS

Tickets are available on a tiered basis. VIP tickets, including artist meet and greet and preferred seating, are available.

Member benefits apply.

Learn more at

<https://symphonyspace.org/events/vp-strings-for-peace-with-sharon-isbin-amjad-ali-khan>

SA DANCE COMPANY'S “RISE” COMES TO NYC FOR TOUR'S FINAL STOP

BY MABEL PAIS

The SA DANCE COMPANY, on its national tour of “RISE,” comes to New York for the final stop. Performances will take place on May 7 to 9, 2026.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

When: May 7 & 8 at 7:30PM, and
May 9 at 2PM and 7:30PM

Where: New York Live Arts Inc., 219 W. 19th Street, New York, NY 10011
Cost: Tickets are \$49 and can be purchased here.

“RISE” is a visually stunning full-length dance work that fuses Indian classical and folk traditions with contemporary storytelling to create an immersive theatrical experience. Audiences have described the show as “mesmerizing,” “deeply moving,” and “an experience that stays with you long after the curtain falls.”

Through breathtaking choreography and deeply personal narratives, “RISE” explores resilience, identity, and the strength it takes to rise. Both intimate and epic in scale, “RISE” transcends genre and generation. It is not simply watched — it is experienced, remembered, and carried forward.

CREDITS

Founding Artistic Director & Choreographer:

Payal Kadakia Pujji

THE COMPANY:

Roshni Badlani, Rashi Birla, Radhika Mehta Kirpalani, Nitya Srikishen Lakhi, Bhavika Kapadia Patel, Dhruvi Patel, Juhi Patel, Kesar Patel, Neha Pathmanaban, Payal Kadakia Pujji, Sharanya Mukhopadhyay Sekhri, Manisha Nair Sokka

Lighting Design: Christopher Chambers

Music Composition: Niraj Chag

Dramaturg: France Nguyen Vincent

Stage Manager: Stacey-Jo Marine

Creative Production: Raakhi Kapur

Animator: Elyse Filigheri

Projection Design: Tia Chinai

Audio Engineer: Simon Larson Greenberg



SA Company Dancers

Credit: Christopher Duggan / NJStateTheater

PAYAL KADAKIA PUJJI

PayalKadakia Pujji is the Artistic Director and founder of The Sa Dance Company. Her artistic roots lie in traditional Indian folk dance, and she began training at the age of three with her lifelong Guru, Smt. Usha Patel. She is also trained in Kathak and Bollywood and, growing up in the United States, studied jazz, contemporary, and ballet. These dual cultural influences shaped her distinctive choreographic style, blending Indian movement traditions with Western technique to create a contemporary expression of South Asian dance.

Known for her powerful and expressive choreography, Kadakia’s work has been featured at numerous festivals, cultural events, and film and television productions. Highlights include performances at Lincoln Center SummerStage, The Ailey Citigroup Theater, and the inaugural White House Diwali Celebration, as well as appearances for Disney, Art Basel, and New York Fashion Week. Her work has also been published in the Bollywood anthology Global Bollywood, alongside legendary choreographer Farah Khan.

Through The Sa Dance Company, Kadakia seeks to elevate Indian dance on the global stage while fostering a deeper understanding of Indian American identity

through movement and storytelling.

Kadakia is also the founder of ClassPass, the global fitness and wellness platform.

THE SA DANCE COMPANY: AN INDIAN AMERICAN DANCE EXPERIENCE

The Sa Dance Company [Sa] is a pioneer in contemporary Indian dance. Comprised of an all-female ensemble, Sa blends the essence of Indian and American stories and movement to create a transformative audience experience. Sa’s productions celebrate the rich tapestry of the Indian-American identity, centering themes of womanhood, community, and the journey of the female spirit. They honor the past, reflect on present society, and pave the way for future generations.

By crafting a contemporary folk form, Sa’s performances transcend boundaries, merging both classical and contemporary influences to create a unique and distinctly Indian-American dance idiom. Sa’s work resonates on a deeply emotional and spiritual level, uniting and immersing audiences through the universal language of dance. With sold-out shows across the country, Sa brings a diverse audience into the realm of performing arts.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Payal Kadakia, Sa Dance Company stands as a cultural beacon within the South Asian community. Sa’s name, derived from Indian classical music, signifies the foundational note of the octave, symbolizing its commitment to blending ancient traditions with modern narratives. Sa’s work is a celebration of identity, community, and the boundless possibilities of human expression. Learn more at <https://sadancecompany.com>.

TICKETS

To purchase tickets to any of the performances, visit <https://newyorklivearts.mysalesforce.com/ticket/#/events/a0SVt00000F1nF1MAJ>

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

THE ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR RETURNS TO NYC FOR 66TH YEAR

BY MABEL PAIS

The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America's (ABAA) New York International Antiquarian Book Fair (NYIABF) - <https://nyantiquarianbookfair.com> returns for its 66th annual event, April 30-May 3, 2026 at the Park Avenue Armory, 643 Park Avenue (between 66th & 67th Streets), New York, NY.

Widely regarded as the world's premier antiquarian book fair, the event brings together more than 170 leading exhibitors from around the globe, transforming the Armory into a temporary cabinet of curiosities spanning centuries of art, literature, science, design, fashion, gastronomy, philosophy, children's books and beyond. Visitors encounter everything from accessible finds starting around \$50 to museum-quality first editions, manuscripts, maps, and multimillion-

dollar rarities.

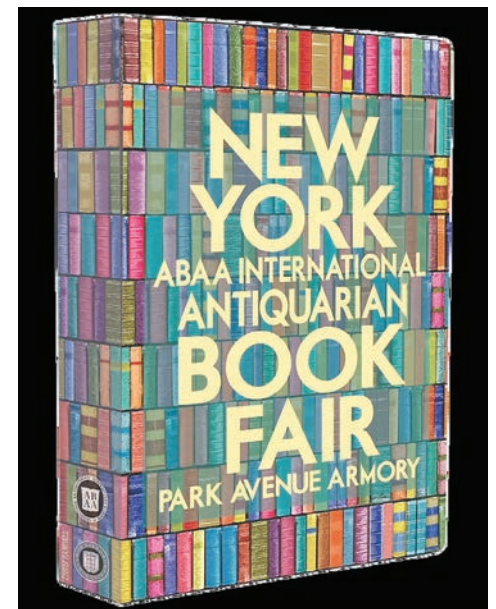
Once a year, exhibitors from across the world convene at New York City's historic Park Avenue Armory, presenting a trove of materials including rare books, maps, illuminated manuscripts, fine bindings, illustrations, historical documents, photographs, prints, memorabilia, and ephemera. The fair's specialties encompass art, design, popular culture, science, medicine, literature, history, gastronomy, fashion, music, philosophy, and much more.

This book fair is officially sanctioned by the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America and the International League of Antiquarian Booksellers. This means that the consumer can rely upon the experience and professionalism of participating dealers and the authenticity of the items available for purchase. Simply stated, all books, manuscripts and related material

have been carefully examined for completeness and bibliographic accuracy.

This year's edition continues to expand its reach with a dynamic mix of returning specialists and new dealers, alongside a growing Ambassador Program that connects rare books to contemporary collectors and creatives across disciplines. Ambassadors include Founding Ambassador Jesse Paris Smith, Alexandre Assouline, Sasha Bonet, Isabella Boylston, Adam Eli, Meredith Graves, Levi Higgs, Connor Holloway, Sarah Hoover, Sarah McNally, Camille Okhio, Karah Preiss and Emma Roberts.

The event, produced and managed by Sanford L. Smith + Associates (<https://sanfordsmith.com>), has become the world's leading antiquarian book fair in its 60+ years of existence.



NYIABF Book Cover
Credit: <https://nyantiquarianbookfair.com>

TICKETS & VISITOR INFORMATION

Learn more at <https://nyantiquarianbookfair.com/visitor-info>

EMPOWER AND ELEVATE: THEME OF NEWARK SMALL BUSINESS NETWORKING NIGHT



Panelists - left to right: Tahitia Anthony, Dawn Fitch, Amy Newton, Brittany Payton -Credit: www.njpac.org

BY MABEL PAIS

To celebrate **SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**, small business owners from across Greater Newark will share their inspiring stories as Black women business owners at The Pillars, 33 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102 on Monday, May 4, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

All small businesses in the Greater Newark area are welcome to participate in an evening of networking, inspiration and opportunity. Connect with local entrepreneurs and discover resources from NJPAC and the City of Newark. Attendees can mix, mingle and leave inspired.

Plus, lucky attendees can win NJPAC swag and free tickets to upcoming events. Attendees enjoy complimentary food and drinks.

REGISTRATION

Registration is required to attend @ <https://njpac.org/event/empower-elevate-newark-small-business-networking-night/#register>

PANELISTS

TAHITIA ANTHONY

OWNER OF THE ALL GRIT

EXPERIENCE (<https://theallgritexperience.org>)

Tahitia Anthony is a dedicated nonprofit founder and literacy advocate committed to transforming lives through reading access and empowerment. As the founder of The All Grit Experience, she champions community-driven initiatives that cultivate confidence, critical thinking and opportunity. Her work focuses on bridging gaps in literacy and inspiring youth and families to embrace reading as a pathway to self-determination and lifelong growth. Anthony collaborates with schools, libraries and organizations to expand resources and create meaningful impact. Her unwavering commitment to service, resilience and empowerment continues to uplift communities and ignite purpose through the power of literacy.

DAWN FITCH

OWNER OF POOKA PURE AND SIMPLE
(<https://pookapureandsimple.com>)

Dawn Fitch is an author, speaker and founder and CEO of Pooka Pure and Simple, a handmade bath and body brand rooted in wellness and natural

living. After overcoming illness, she began creating her own products to support a healthier lifestyle, which quickly grew into a thriving business now sold in Whole Foods, online and through distributors. Fitch has been featured on major media outlets including the Today show and Essence, and has received numerous awards for entrepreneurship. A passionate health advocate, she also leads The Best Life Tribe, a growing community supporting women on their healing journeys.

AMY NEWTON

OWNER OF BRVSH CUL7UR3
(<https://brvshcul7ur3.com>)

Amy Newton is the co-founder and owner of Brvsh Cul7ur3, a jazz lounge and cultural destination in Teaneck redefining live music experiences in Northern New Jersey. Her and her husband blend world-class musicianship with elevated hospitality, and together they have created a space where artists and audiences connect in an intimate, high-energy environment rooted in culture and community. With over 20 years of global experience across London, Sydney and New York, Newton

has held senior leadership roles in media and advertising. She brings that same strategic lens to Brvsh Cul7ur3 — treating live music not just as entertainment, but as a premium, repeatable experience.

BRITTANY PAYTON

OWNER OF AULO SPA
(<https://aulospa.com>)

Brittany Payton is a licensed esthetician, educator and founder of Aulo, a beauty and wellness social club in downtown Newark. With nearly a decade of experience, she is building an elevated, experience-driven space rooted in community, inclusivity and intentional self-care. Through Aulo, Payton is redefining the traditional spa model by blending beauty, wellness and social connection into one environment. Her work focuses on delivering consistent, high-quality service while creating industry opportunities and contributing to Newark's evolving business and cultural landscape.

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

JERSEY CITY YOUTH STEP UP TO PERFORM MOZART'S REIMAGINED "THE MAGIC FLUTE"

BY MABEL PAIS

Undead Arts with the New Jersey Symphony will present a reimagined production of Mozart's *"The Magic Flute"* on May 2 and 3, 2026 at 3 pm at The Harborside Atrium (210 Hudson St, Jersey City, NJ 07302).

From the creators of Jersey City's beloved Zombie Opera, this family-friendly, 90-minute production transports Mozart's timeless masterpiece to the mysterious New Jersey Pine Barrens. Told through the eyes of Jersey City youth, audiences will step into the iconic Harborside Atrium – with its lush greenery and stunning skylight – and enter a magical world of spirits, witches, and the infamous Jersey Devil.

The production features world-class musicians from the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players led by New Jersey Symphony's Colton Conducting Fellow Gregory D. McDaniel, a cast of international opera singers, and a youth ensemble drawn from Jersey City public schools and the surrounding area.

Undead Arts believes every child deserves a front-row seat to imagination. All children under 18 attend free of charge, ensuring that cost or circumstance never stands in the way of creativity and joy.

The performance is produced by Undead Arts founders Molly Dunn, Katy Gardiner, and Catriona Rubenis-Stevens, directed by Rubenis-Stevens, art direction by Gardiner and a reimagined story and script by Undead Arts, and a modern English translation penned by opera lyricist Bea Goodwin.

CONCERTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

New Jersey Symphony and Undead Arts collaborated on a Concerts for Young People version of *"The Magic Flute"* at multiple locations throughout the state,



Gregory McDaniel, conductor
Courtesy, www.njsymphony.org

including

Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway on Wed, March 18, at 10 am

Bergen Performing Arts Center in Englewood on Thu, March 19, at 10 am

New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark on Tue, March 24, at 10 am

New Jersey Symphony Concerts for Young People is a program that supports and enhances classroom learning. The concerts are aligned with New Jersey State Standards and created specifically for students in grades 3-5. Each program features an engaging host and an interactive performance experience. Teachers receive a comprehensive learning package that includes classroom resources, audio clips, presentation slides, and other materials to supplement instruction before and after the concert. For more information, visit njsymphony.org/cyp

UNDEAD ARTS

Learn more at <https://undeadarts.org>

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

Learn more about the GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra at <https://njsymphony.org>

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

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

Follow Undead Arts on Instagram

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Dates: May 2 and 3, 2026

Gregory D. McDaniel : Conductor

Undead Arts

Members of the New Jersey Symphony

Time: 3 pm (approximately 1 hour 20 minutes)

Location: The Harborside Atrium, 210 Hudson St, Jersey City, NJ 07302

TICKETS

General Admission (18+): Visit <https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/mozarts-the-magic-flute>

VIP Packages: Each package includes bottle of champagne, treats, meet & greets and more

Seniors/Students: Enjoy a discount to general admission pricing

Children (under 18): FREE

Day-of Rush Standing Room (if sold out): Available For more information and tickets available at <https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/mozarts-the-magic-flute>

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA PRESENTS SPRING CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform two concerts (details below) in one day on May 3, 2026 at the Montclair State University.

The New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, coached by New Jersey Symphony musicians, gives qualified middle and high school students — especially Black and Latino youth in the Greater Newark area — unparalleled opportunities to achieve personal and musical excellence. These concerts celebrate a season of accomplishment with the young musicians of the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, with a special tribute to the graduating Class of 2026!

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Sunday, May 3, 2 pm & 7 pm at Montclair State University in Montclair

YOUTH ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT (PERFORMANCE #1)

Sunday, May 3 at 2 pm
Memorial Auditorium at Montclair State University

1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043

Diego Garcia artistic director, The

Anna P. Drago Chair

Terrence Thornhill associate conductor & curriculum specialist

New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, The Resident Youth Orchestra of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University



Diego Garcia conducts NJ Symphony Youth Orchestras Academy Orchestra

-Credit for both photos: Courtesy, www.njsymphony.org

2 pm performance features
Repertory Orchestra | Sue On, conductor
Training Ensemble (Allegro & Maestro strings) | Terrence Thornhill, conductor

Training Ensemble (Preparatory Strings) | Gavin Davies, leader
Anne Lieberon Ensemble | Martin Andersen, coach

RSVP @ <https://fs10.formsite.com/NJSO/wewi-aur95>

YOUTH ORCHESTRA SPRING CONCERT (PERFORMANCE #2)

Sunday, May 3 at 7 pm
Montclair State University

1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, NJ 07043
Diego Garcia artistic director, The Anna P. Drago Chair

Terrence Thornhill associate conductor & curriculum specialist
New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra, The Resident Youth Orchestra of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University

7 pm performance features

Academy Orchestra | Diego Garcia, conductor

Bridge Ensemble | Jonathan Villegas, conductor

String Ensemble | Naomi Youngstein, leader

Training Ensemble (Winds) | Wesley Krygsman, conductor

RSVP @ <https://fs10.formsite.com/NJSO/cfxax4qrxy>

Learn more at <https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/youth-orchestra-spring-concert-2026>

Contact education@njsymphony.org for any event-related questions.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Learn more at <https://njsymphony.org/education/youth-orchestras>

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

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Deepika's pregnancy won't affect her role in Raaka: Makers

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are all set to embrace parenthood for the second time. The news took over the internet after the couple chose the cutest way to announce their second pregnancy. While friends and fans celebrated the joyful update, a section of social media began speculating about its impact on Deepika's career, with some suggesting she might have shorter roles in upcoming films like Raaka. However, the makers have now addressed these rumors.

In a conversation with The Times of India, the team behind Raaka dismissed such claims as baseless. They confirmed that everything is progressing as planned. "Deepika Padukone plays a crucial role in Raaka, and the shoot is unfolding seamlessly with great energy on set," they said.

Deepika, who made headlines for stepping away from big projects like Spirit and Kalki 2898 AD, is currently busy with King and Raaka, and reportedly has no plans to slow down despite her pregnancy. The actor recently shot for a brand campaign and is expected to film high-octane action sequences for Allu Arjun's Raaka, with all necessary precautions in place.

Sooraj Barjatya announces 'Yeh Prem Mol Liya'; Ayushmann Khurrana is the new Prem

Filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya announced his upcoming musical family entertainer, Yeh Prem Mol Liya, featuring actors Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari. The film, releasing on November 27, marks the comeback of Barjatya's cherished character, Prem on the big screen after 12 years.

Ayushmann, in his first collaboration with Rajshri Productions, will be portraying the iconic Prem, embodying the character's gentle simplicity and innocent mischief. Sharvari would also be paired opposite him for the first time while adapting the beauty, grit and other nuances of Rajshri's female actors.

Rajshri Productions and Mahaveer Jain Films, in their joint Instagram post, wrote, "#SoorajBarjatya brings his next BIG Screen Family Entertainer! #YehPremMolLiya starring @ayushmannk and @sharvari, a @realhimesh musical! In Theatres - 27th November 2026. Save The Date (sic)!"

The note added by the production companies on Instagram, read, "We Have An Announcement!! This November, Rajshri Productions (P) Ltd. in association with Mahaveer Jain Films, brings to the BIG screen a family entertainer directed by Sooraj R. Barjatya titled - Yeh Prem Mol Liya starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari, a Himesh Reshammiya musical. In theatres 27th November 2026 - Save the date (sic)!"

Barjatya has also reunited with music composer Himesh Reshammiya after 12 years. Their last partnership was in the 2014 film, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, featuring actors Salman Khan, Sonam Kapoor, Neil Nitin Mukesh, Swara Bhasker, Anupam Kher and others in key roles.

Rajshri Productions has collaborated with Mahaveer Jain Films for the post-Diwali release. Barjatya's last theatrical release was the family-drama, Uunchai (2022), which won him the National Award for Best Director. The film featured actors Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Parineeti Chopra, Neena Gupta, Sarika, Danny Denzongpa and others in key roles.

The story and characters of Yeh Prem Mol Liya have not yet been unveiled.



Shah Rukh Khan eyes 'Jawan 2' as next project after 'King'



Shah Rukh Khan is lining up his next big franchise move. The actor, currently focussed on wrapping up King, is expected to return to one of his biggest blockbusters with early plans for a sequel now firmly in place.

Sources told India Today that Jawan 2 has moved beyond the ideation stage, with the script recently locked after months of development.

"A script and idea for Jawan 2 had been in the works for a while. A few weeks ago, the script was finalised. SRK will begin work on the film after completing King," a source revealed.

Additionally, the makers are also exploring casting for a powerful antagonist. "The team is looking to lock an A-list from the South as the villain," the source added.

The sequel is likely to go on floors next year, marking another collaboration between Khan and filmmaker Atlee, whose first Hindi outing with Jawan turned into a

record-breaking success across markets. The actor is said to be keen on expanding the film's universe, which struck a chord with audiences for its scale and mass appeal.

An official confirmation on the same is awaited.

Released in 2023, Jawan emerged as a box office juggernaut, earning over Rs 1,100 crore worldwide and cementing its place among the highest-grossing Indian films. The action entertainer featured a star-studded cast including Nayanthara, Vijay Sethupathi, Deepika Padukone (in a special appearance), along with Sanya Malhotra, Priyamani and others.

Meanwhile, Atlee has been busy consolidating his position as a pan-India filmmaker. After the success of Jawan, he has been actively developing multiple projects under his banner, with a strong focus on large-scale entertainers. He is currently shooting for Raaka, starring Allu Arjun and Deepika Padukone.



Ben Affleck and Matt Damon to receive Robin Williams Legacy of Laughter Award

Hollywood stars Ben Affleck and Matt Damon are set to be honoured with the Robin Williams Legacy of Laughter Award. The recognition brings their journey full circle with the late Robin Williams, who played a defining role in their early careers, as reported by The Hollywood Reporter.

The award will be presented at the Revels & Revelations Celebration on April 27 in San Francisco, making the moment emotional, especially given their long-standing connection with Williams. Adding a deeply personal touch, the award will be presented by Williams' children - Zak, Zelda, and Cody Williams.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the honour celebrates individuals whose work reflects the power of storytelling and human connection to inspire change.

The event is organised by Bring Change to Mind, a non-profit founded by actor Glenn Close, and will take place at the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture.

Reflecting on the honour, Ben Affleck and Matt Damon shared a joint statement with The Hollywood Reporter, stating that Robin Williams was not just someone they admired, but someone who made their dreams come true. They said they owed everything to him, as he agreed to be part of their film, which ultimately got made.

They added that receiving the Legacy of Laughter Award, created in his honour, was incredibly meaningful to them, noting that his legacy was not only about his immense talent and ability to make the world laugh, but also about how deeply he cared. They further said that the honour carries his spirit and means everything to them.

The trio's connection dates back to the iconic film, *Good Will Hunting*, directed by Gus Van Sant. The film not only earned Affleck and Damon an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay but also won Williams an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor, cementing its place as a landmark moment in their careers.

The upcoming honour serves as both a celebration of their achievements and a heartfelt tribute to the legacy of Robin Williams, whose influence continues to resonate in Hollywood and beyond.

Joe Jonas confirms new romance with actor Tatiana Gabriela 2 years after divorce

Joe Jonas is back in the romance game! Nearly two years after his split from the *Game of Thrones* actor Sophie Turner, Joe has made it Instagram official with model and actor Tatiana Gabriela.

E! News spills that the lovebirds have been painting Puerto Rico red, and the 'Gram is buzzing with their mushy pics!

The Jonas Brother, known for his catchy tunes and heartthrob status, shared a series of snaps with Gabriela during their tropical getaway.

One adorable photo booth moment has our hearts melting, with the duo looking oh-so-cosy. Also, who can resist those beachside vibes and scrumptious local treats? Joe cheekily captioned his post, "If you're seeing this, it means my Puerto Rico YouTube video is up now." Marketing genius, much?

And wait, there's more! Joe's YouTube vlog gave us a sneak peek into their island adventures. Picture this: Tatiana is our boy's Spanish tutor, taking him on a tour of local hotspots and a stunning waterfall.

"She's helping with my Spanish," Joe gushed in the video, before they dived into the waterfall for some splashy fun. Relationship goals, na?

The duo had been dropping hints and sparking rumours since November last year, keeping us all on our toes. Meanwhile, let's not forget Joe's four-year marriage to Sophie, which ended amicably in September 2023.



The ex-couple, who share two adorable daughters, Willa and Delphine, requested privacy during their transition. Two years later, a love story is just getting started!

Sydney Sweeney's cameo cut from *The Devil Wears Prada 2*



Actor Sydney Sweeney will not appear in the final cut of *The Devil Wears Prada 2*, despite having filmed a scene for the much-anticipated sequel. According to Entertainment Weekly, the actor's cameo was removed as part of a "creative decision".

Sweeney was clicked on the film's set in mid-2025, sparking curiosity about her role in the project, which sees the return of Anne Hathaway, Meryl Streep, Stanley Tucci and Emily Blunt. However, sources indicate that her scene – originally placed early in the film – was eventually cut during the editing process.

The sequel revisits journalist Andy Sachs (Hathaway) as she reconnects with Miranda Priestly (Streep) and Nigel Kipling (Tucci) amid a crisis at *Runway* magazine. They turn to Emily Charlton (Blunt), now heading Dior's US operations, for support. Sweeney's scene was reportedly tied to Emily's introduction, showing her styling a celebrity client. While the sequence did not make the final edit, the makers are said to have appreciated Sweeney's involvement in the project. Representatives for Disney and the actor have not commented on the development.

Sweeney has remained in the spotlight with her work on *Euphoria* Season 3, alongside recent attention around an American Eagle 'Jeans' campaign controversy that drew mixed reactions online. The actor later addressed the controversy, distancing herself from interpretations linked to the advertisement.

Climate scrubbed from G7 meeting to appease US, host France says

APRIL 24, 2026

PARIS (TIP): A meeting of G7 nations on the environment begins in Paris on Thursday, April 23, but climate change has been left off the agenda to avoid a row with the United States.

The office of France's ecology minister Monique Barbut said the two-day meeting would focus on "less contentious issues" in an effort to appease the largest and most powerful G7 member.

"We chose not to address the climate issue head-on... because the United States' positions on this subject are well known," the ministry said.

"We wanted to prioritise G7 unity, particularly to protect this forum."

President Donald Trump's administration has withdrawn the United States from global agreements on climate change and weakened environmental protections since he returned to office in 2025.

France, Italy, Canada, Japan, Germany and the United Kingdom are sending their environment ministers to the meeting of the Group of Seven industrialised economies.

Washington will be represented by Usha-Maria Turner, assistant administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Barbut's office said attendees would discuss themes including ocean conservation, biodiversity funding, and the transformation of dry areas into desert.

Activists were critical of the decision to leave climate off the agenda.

Gaia Febvre from activist group Climate Action Network said "a G7 moving at the pace of the United States cannot claim to respond to the crises of the century."

Ship attacks, seizures: US-Iran war of attrition plays out in Strait of Hormuz

APRIL 24, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): The conventional military conflict in West Asia has increasingly given way to a grinding maritime contest, with both the United States and Iran targeting, seizing, and intimidating vessels as Washington and Tehran assert control over the strategic Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 20 per cent of the world's oil supply flows.

Following the US announcement of a naval blockade on Hormuz, Iran, which had already restricted passage since the early days of the war, has intensified its actions. The latest escalation came on Wednesday, when Iranian forces reportedly opened fire on three vessels transiting the strait, and seized two of them.

On April 22, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) seized two container ships, MSC Francesca and Epaminondas, after firing on them in the strait. A third vessel, Euphoria, was hit by gunfire and forced off course. One of the seized ships was reportedly bound for India.

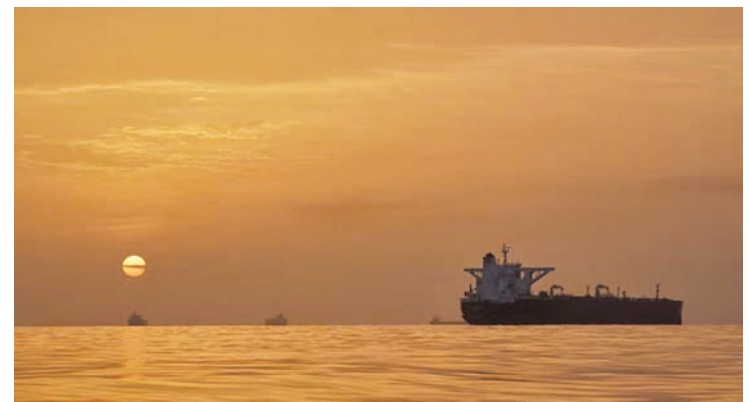
Iranian authorities justified the seizures by accusing the vessels of switching off their tracking systems and attempting covert transit, an allegation that has become a recurring pretext in recent interceptions.

The same day, the US stepped up its own maritime campaign. American forces intercepted at least three Iranian oil tankers in Asian waters and redirected them, part of a broader effort to choke Tehran's oil exports. The US Navy diverted vessels operating near India, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka, signalling an expanded operational footprint across key shipping lanes.

In recent days, US forces have also seized an Iranian cargo ship and an oil tanker, while diverting at least three more Iranian-flagged tankers, according to Reuters, citing US and Indian shipping sources. Among them was an Iranian-flagged Deep Sea supertanker, partially loaded with crude and last tracked off Malaysia's coast a week ago. Another vessel, the supertanker Dorena, carrying around 2 million barrels of crude, was intercepted off south India.

Shipping sources also indicated that the Iranian-flagged Derya tanker may have been intercepted after it failed to discharge its cargo in India before a US waiver on Iranian crude imports expired.

According to the latest update from US Central Command, American forces have directed at least 29 vessels to turn back or return to port since enforcing the blockade on ships entering or



exiting Iranian ports.

From the Iranian side, in earlier incidents on April 18 and 19, Iranian gunboats fired on multiple tankers, including vessels linked to India, forcing several to abort their transit mid-route. These ships had attempted to cross after Iranian leaders, following an initial round of talks with the US, signalled that the strait would remain open. However, the passage was effectively shut within hours by Iranian forces.

Overall, more than 30 maritime attacks have been reported in the region since the US and Israel launched the conflict on February 28 with a surprise strike on Iran.

The strategic calculus on both sides is clear: Washington aims to economically strangle Tehran by cutting off its oil exports and exerting sustained pressure on its economy, while Iran has adopted a counter-strategy in which, if it cannot export its oil, it will make it prohibitively risky for others to do so.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei's face burned, may need plastic surgery

APRIL 24, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran's supreme leader is alive, conscious and engaged — but largely unseen, unheard and increasingly sidelined.

A detailed report by The New York Times reveals that Mojtaba Khamenei, who took over after the killing of his father, has been gravely injured and is now operating from hiding, with limited ability to communicate.

"Though Mr. Khamenei was gravely wounded, he is mentally sharp and engaged," four senior Iranian officials familiar with his condition told the newspaper.

The physical damage, however, is extensive. One of his legs has been "operated on three times" and he is awaiting a prosthetic. He has also



undergone surgery on one hand and is slowly regaining function. More visibly, "his face and lips have been burned severely, making it difficult for him to speak," the report said, adding that he will eventually need plastic surgery.

The injuries have directly shaped how

power is exercised at the top.

Khamenei has not made any public appearance or broadcast message since assuming leadership. According to the report, this is a conscious decision — he "does not want to appear vulnerable or sound weak" at a critical moment.

Instead, communication has taken on an almost covert form. "Messages to him are handwritten, sealed in envelopes and relayed via a human chain in cars and on motorcycles until they reach his hide-out," the report noted. His responses travel back the same way.

Even senior officials are keeping their distance. "Senior government officials do not visit him, fearing that Israel may trace them to him and kill him," the report said.

With access restricted and

communication slowed, decision-making has shifted decisively to the military.

A network of commanders from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps has emerged as the dominant force on matters of war, diplomacy and national security, according to the report.

"Mojtaba is managing the country as though he is the director of the board," said Abdolreza Davari, a former adviser to ex-president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. "The generals are the board members they collectively make all the decisions."

Analysts say this marks a clear shift from the highly centralised system under his father, where ultimate authority rested with a single figure. Now, while the supreme leader still signs off on key decisions, the initiative lies with military commanders.

Ex-Philippines President Duterte to face trial in crimes against humanity charges

APRIL 24, 2026

THE HAGUE (TIP): Judges at the International Criminal Court on April 23 confirmed charges of crimes against humanity against former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte for deadly anti-drug crackdowns he allegedly oversaw while in office.

A three-judge panel found unanimously there were “substantial grounds” to believe the ex-leader was responsible for dozens of murders, first as mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later when he was president.

Duterte, who served as president from 2016 to 2022, was arrested in the Philippines last year and flown to The Hague, where the global court is located. He denies the charges against him.

In their 50-page decision, judges found that the evidence shows that Duterte, 81, “developed, disseminated and implemented” a policy “to ‘neutralise’ alleged criminals.”

According to prosecutors, police and hit squad members carried out dozens of murders at Duterte’s behest starting in 2011, motivated by the promise of money or to avoid becoming targets themselves.

“For some, killing reached the level of a perverse form of competition,” deputy prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang told the court in pretrial hearings in February.

Estimates of the death toll during Duterte’s presidential term vary, from the more than 6,000 that the national police have reported to up to 30,000 claimed by human rights groups.

Prosecutors said in a statement that the decision “represents a significant milestone” in their effort to bring accountability.

Duterte’s lead defence lawyer, Nick Kaufman, told The Associated Press he was disappointed in the decision, saying it “is based on the uncorroborated statements of vicious self-confessed murderers acting as cooperating witnesses.” A date for the start of the trial has not yet been set.

Duterte has not been present in the courtroom for any hearings, having waived his right to appear. Last month judges found he was fit to stand trial, after postponing an earlier hearing over concerns about his health.

In the Philippines, families of slain victims in the brutal anti-drugs crackdown rejoiced over the decision, saying it will bring them closer to justice and toward a closure of a tragic chapter in their lives. “This is for all the victims, who were not even given the chance to be recognised as victims because their stories were twisted in police reports, investigations and findings,” said Randy Delos Santos, whose nephew, Kian Delos Santos, was gunned down in an alley in August 2017 by three police officers.

The Priceless treasures fueling Sudan’s bitter civil war

APRIL 24, 2026

KHARTOUM (TIP): Rebel fighters in Sudan’s civil war have landed on a lucrative way to funding their brutal campaign: looting the country’s museums.

Historians and curators say the Rapid Support Forces that have been fighting government forces for the past three years are now targeting Sudan’s rich cultural history and selling it to the highest bidder in the illicit international art market. Across the country, their fighters have joined private looters in stripping museums of valuable artifacts chronicling the country’s history from the Stone Age to the rise of Islam.

What began in 2023 as a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo has now evolved into a complex war economy. Armed groups are competing not only for territorial control but also for access to resources that can sustain prolonged fighting. At the center of this war economy is Sudan’s gold sector. The country is among Africa’s leading gold producers, with significant deposits concentrated in Darfur and Kordofan.

Security experts say the RSF has



consolidated control over several key mining areas, allowing it to generate independent revenue streams outside the state system. The gold is often smuggled through informal cross-border networks and eventually enters international markets, where its origins are difficult to trace.

“These revenues are critical,” a regional analyst said. “They allow armed groups to operate autonomously, procure weapons, and maintain loyalty within their ranks.”

In a troubling development, Sudan’s cultural heritage is also being targeted. Historians and curators report widespread looting of museums and archaeological sites, with valuable artifacts disappearing into illicit trafficking networks.

The National Museum of Sudan—home to thousands of artifacts spanning ancient Nubian civilizations to early Islamic history—has reportedly been

among the institutions affected.

Experts allege that fighters linked to the RSF, along with organized looting networks, are stripping cultural sites and selling antiquities on the black market. The proceeds, they say, are being used to finance military operations.

The UNESCO has previously warned that trafficking of cultural property from conflict zones not only erases history but can also contribute to funding violence.

Land and Food Supplies Under Pressure

Control over agricultural land has also become a strategic objective. Sudan’s fertile areas along the Nile are critical for food production, and their capture allows armed groups to exert economic and social control over local populations.

Fighting has disrupted farming cycles, destroyed infrastructure, and displaced millions, worsening an already severe humanitarian crisis.

Sudan’s geographic location has further elevated the stakes. The Red Sea port of Port Sudan has become a key logistics center for humanitarian aid, trade, and military supply chains.

Control over such routes offers both economic leverage and strategic advantage, making them prime targets in the ongoing conflict.

IRGC is shaping Iran strategy: Report

APRIL 24, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): NEW DELHI: Battle-hardened commanders in the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) have become the key decision-makers on matters of security, war, and diplomacy since the US-Israeli air-strikes killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini on February 28, according to a New York Times (NYT) report.

President Masoud Pezeshkian and his cabinet have been sidelined and told to focus only on domestic affairs while foreign minister Abbas Araghchi has been marginalised in negotiations with the United States.

The role of Mojtaba Khomeini, the son of late Ali Khomeini, in running the affairs of Iran is limited as he has not been seen in public since he was appointed Supreme Leader in March.

Access to Mojtaba is limited as he is surrounded mostly by doctors and medical staff who are treating the injuries he sustained in the air-strikes on February 28. “Mojtaba is managing the country as though he is the director of the board,” said Abdolreza Davari, a politician who was a senior adviser to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he was president and knows Mojtaba. “He

[Mojtaba] relies heavily on the advice and guidance of the board members, and they collectively make all the decisions,” Davari said in a phone interview to NYT from Tehran. “The generals are the board members.”

According to officials, Mojtaba, who is badly injured, has not recorded a video or audio message because “he does not want to appear vulnerable or sound weak in his first public address”. He has issued written statements that have been posted online and read on state television.

The combination of concern for his safety, his injuries and the sheer challenge of reaching him has resulted in Mojtaba deferring to the generals. “Mojtaba is not yet in full command or control,” said Sanam Vakil, the director of the Middle East and North Africa for Chatham House. “There is, perhaps, deference to him. He signs off or he is part of the decision-making structure in a formal way. But he is presented with fait accompli presentations right now.”

According to the NYT report, the speaker of Iranian parliament Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, a former Guards general is now the lead negotiator with the US.

The board has key members

comprising IRGC chief Brig. Gen. Ahmad Vahidi, Gen. Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr, the newly appointed head of the Supreme National Security Council (NSC) and a former commander of the Guards, and Gen. Yahya Rahim Safavi, a commander, who has served as the top military adviser to both father and son supreme leaders.

“Mojtaba is not supreme; he might be a leader in name, but he is not supreme the way his father was,” said Ali Vaez, the Iran director of the International Crisis Group. “Mojtaba is subservient to the Revolutionary Guards because he owes his position and he owes the survival of the system to them.”

Officials have said that the generals view the war with the US and Israel as a threat to the regime’s survival.

The report said that it was the Guards who came up with the strategy to attack Israel and the Gulf states, along with the closing of Hormuz strait to maritime traffic. They were the ones who agreed to a temporary cease-fire with the US and approved backchannel diplomacy and direct negotiations with the Trump administration. They tapped Ghalibaf from among their own ranks to lead the talks with Vice President JD Vance in Islamabad.

Fresh strikes by Pakistan damage several houses in Afghanistan

APRIL 24, 2026

KABUL (TIP): Fresh strikes by Pakistan have damaged several homes in the Sarkano district in Afghanistan's Kunar province, local media reported.

Cross-border hostilities continue to escalate in eastern Afghanistan, with attacks starting around midnight and continuing into Wednesday morning. Residents reported that explosions were heard across multiple regions of the district reported Afghanistan's Khaama Press.

Areas in Asadabad were also targeted by Pakistani forces, and video footage showed at least one residential house heavily damaged, the report added.

In the past two months, tensions between the Taliban and Pakistan have intensified. Repeated exchanges of fire have been reported along the disputed border areas.

Taliban authorities blame Pakistani forces for violating Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Over recent weeks, multiple reports of artillery shelling and airstrikes targeting border districts have made Kunar a key flashpoint in the conflict, resulting in families being forced to flee their homes out of safety concerns.

Daily life has been disrupted and infrastructure damaged due to the repeated attacks, residents of the affected region say. They expressed heightened fear that if clashes continue, a broader humanitarian crisis may emerge.

On April 13, Pakistan forces conducted rocket strikes in the Shali Dara area of Khas Kunar district of Afghanistan, Khaama reported.

According to an ICRS Press release, severe food shortages are being faced by 136,000 people representing 17,000 households in Nooristan province, due to border clashes for weeks between Taliban forces and Pakistan.

Earlier on April 2, Afghanistan's Minister of Economy Qari Mohammad Hanif said that more than 27,000 Afghan families across nine provinces have been displaced due to attacks carried out by Pakistan's military.

He said that the use of heavy weaponry in residential areas has caused civilian casualties and the displacement of hundreds of families. He termed these actions a serious humanitarian violation and against Islamic principles.



Pakistan should clamp down on terror groups like LeT, JeM: US lawmaker

APRIL 24, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): US Congressman Brad Sherman has called on Pakistan to clamp down on terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), which has been linked to the 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

Speaking at an exhibition organised by the Indian Embassy here on the 'Human Cost of Terrorism', Sherman remembered the victims of the Pahalgam attack on the first anniversary of the incident.

"The attackers, identified as The Resistance Front, targeted innocent people, reportedly separating victims by religion. The group is widely seen as linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, which has found sanctuary in Pakistan," Sherman said at the exhibition on Wednesday evening.

"We must use this moment to demand that the Pakistani government clamp down on Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and other terrorist groups," the Democrat leader said.

The exhibition, organised at Capitol Hill, comes at a time when Pakistan is projecting itself as a peacemaker by mediating efforts to end the seven-week



US-Iran war.

The event was attended by lawmakers from both Democratic and Republican parties.

The digital exhibition also displays major terror attacks perpetrated across the world, including the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts, the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and the Pahalgam attack. It also identifies the terror outfits responsible for the attacks, including several Pakistan-based individuals and entities such as Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group.

"The special exhibition essentially serves to remind us of a few things. One, the scourge of terror upon humanity remains determined to destroy our societies. Countries around the world need to come together and remain resolute in defeating terrorism," India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra told reporters.

Kwatra said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been clear about India's unwavering resolve to deal with and defeat the scourge of terrorism.

Nepal President Paudel suspends Parliament session of both houses without convening

APRIL 24, 2026

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal President Ramchandra Paudel on Thursday suspended the session of both houses of Parliament that was scheduled for April 30, a development described by the opposition as "unprecedented and surprising." The president cited "special reasons" for suspending the session of the House of Representatives and the National Assembly on the recommendation of the Nepal government and the Council of Ministers, Ritesh Kumar Shakya, spokesperson of the Office of the President, said here.

However, no further details were disclosed regarding the reasons behind the suspension.

Earlier, Paudel had summoned the parliamentary session for April 30 on the recommendation of the cabinet on April 21.

Senior most Parliament Member and opposition Nepali Congress leader Arjun Narsingh K C said that the government's decision to suspend the Parliament session even without convening was "unprecedented and surprising." The development comes a day after Nepal Home Minister Sudan Gurung tendered his resignation after allegations relating to his financial conduct while holding the office.

On April 9, Prime Minister Balendra Shah sacked Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Dip Kumar Sah from his post at the recommendation of the ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP).

This was to be the second parliamentary session after the joint session from April 2 to 10.

In March, Shah – popular only as Balen – and his RSP rode to power decimating the traditional parties in the first general elections since last year's violent Gen Z protests that sought generational change and a corruption-free regime.

Nepal's home minister resigns, second cabinet exit in one month

Nepal's minister of home affairs has resigned, saying there have been questions about his investments and other matters.



He is the second minister to withdraw from the country's month-old government.

Sudan Gurung announced his departure on Wednesday, stressing that questions should be investigated, without giving further details.

"I have resigned from the position of Home Minister with effect from today," the 38-year-old posted on his social media accounts.

"For me, morality is greater than a position, and there is no greater power than public trust ... Public life should be clean, leadership should be accountable," added Gurung, who took office on March 27.

Dipa Dahal, press adviser to Prime Minister Balendra Shah, confirmed the reception of Gurung's resignation. Shah will take charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs until a new appointment is made, Dahal added.

Gurung came into the spotlight after he ordered the arrest of former Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and his home minister, Ramesh Lekhak, in connection with an investigation into their roles during a crackdown on youth-led protests last September.

Sikh History This Week

APRIL 24 TO APRIL 30

April 24

1955: Akali Dal decided to launch a peaceful agitation for the Punjabi Suba.



1980: Gurbachan Singh, Chief of the fake Nirankaris, was murdered.

April 25



1635: The Battle of Kartarpur was fought between the Mughals and Sikhs led by Guru Hargobind Ji.

1809: The Amritsar Agreement was reached between Sikhs and the British Government.

1982: Sri Darbar Sahib was attacked.

April 26

1969: Lachhman Singh Gill died.



1982: Sacreligious acts on Sri Darbar Sahib.

1984: 15 GurSikhs were killed by Border Security Forces of India at Gurdwara Bibi Kahan Kaur, Moga.

April 27

1834: Khalsa Forces crossed the Attock River.

1915: A conspiracy case was registered against Ghadar Party members. They were charged with

waging war against the crown and trying to overthrow British rule in India.

1925: Jaito Morcha ended in victory.

April 28



1635: Painda Khan was killed by Guru Hargobind in a personal duel.

1671: Janam Din Bhai Rupa, a devoted Sikh of Guru Har Gobind Sahib.



1835: Maharja Ranjit Singh reached Peshawar.

1999: Bhai Ranjit Singh is officially removed as Jathedar of them Akal Takht by the SGPC.



April 29



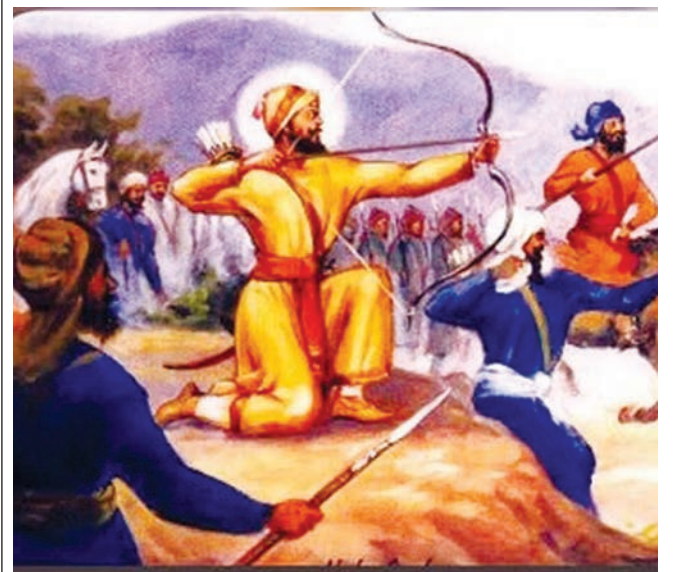
1635: The Battle of Phagwara was fought between Mughals and Sikhs led by Guru Har Gobind Ji.



1849: Maharani Jind Kaur escaped from the maximum security of Chunar Fort and reached Kanthmandu in Nepal



1999: Justice Kuldip Singh (retd), a former Judge of the Supreme Court, resigned as President of the World Sikh Council in protest against the removal of Bhai Ranjit Singh as Jathedar of Akal Takht by the executive of the SGPC.



April 30

1689: The Bhangani Battle was fought between Guru Gobind Singh Ji and the Hill Rajas. This was Guru Sahib's first battle. Pir Budhu Shah's sons and 700 of his followers fought along side Guru's forces

1699: Khalsa was created by Guru Gobind Singh Ji at Anandpur Sahib. This is the actual date of Guru Khalsa's creation.

1837: The Battle of Jamroth was fought and this is where Hari Singh Nalwa accepted Shahadat.

1877: A mysterious aroma circumambulated the Guru Granth Sahib in the Golden Temple.

1921: SGPC registered with British Government as a Sikh body in Lahore.

Kitchen to vanity: DIY natural beauty essentials

Forget complex chemical labels and expensive store-bought serums. Some of the most effective beauty secrets are likely sitting in your pantry right now. From grandmother-approved face packs to instant hair fixes, these five home-made substitutes offer a clean, organic way to elevate your daily routine.

Natural Dry Shampoo for Oily Hair

Do you feel the need to wash your hair every other day? Or do you have an oily scalp? Here's what you can do instead of using shampoo too often. Ingredients: 2 and a 1/2 tablespoons of cornstarch (preferably organic), 3-4 drops of essential oil (lavender or rose)

Procedure: Mix both ingredients and lightly dust it on your scalp. Wait for 5 minutes and remove the excess powder with a brush. Cornstarch will soak in almost all the oil and dirt leaving your hair feeling clean and fresh.

Natural Blackhead Remover

Baking powder is great to exfoliate and loosen up dead skin and remove blackheads, and dirt lurking underneath the surface. Ingredients: 1 tablespoon baking soda, water (preferably mineral).

Procedure: Mix the two ingredients to obtain a slightly wet paste-like consistency. Apply it on your nose and let it dry completely. Leave it on for 10-15 minutes and then rinse.

Natural Face Pack for Glowing Skin

This is one of my grandmother's secrets for bright and glowing skin. Gram flour is great for improving uneven skin tone and milk has a



very soothing effect on the skin. Ingredients: 2 tablespoons gram flour (besan), 1 tablespoon milk (raw).

Procedure: Mix all ingredients to make a paste and apply the mixture evenly on your face. Let it sit for 10 minutes and then rinse your face with lukewarm water. (Also read: 7 Natural Face Packs Our Grandmothers Used)

Natural Teeth Whitener

Baking soda is a humble kitchen ingredient that can be used to solve many beauty problems. It is great to remove any kind of stains from your teeth. Ingredients: 1 tablespoon baking soda

1/2 tablespoon lime juice Procedure: Mix the ingredients to form a paste and apply the mixture on your teeth. Let it rest for 1-2 minutes and rinse it off. You should do this daily to get cleaner, whiter teeth.

Natural Skin Toner

A toner is required to clean the skin. A good toner is one that hydrates, clears and energizes your skin and there's nothing like fresh aloe vera gel to do all these three things. Cut open the leaf and scoop all the gel out. Massage the gel on your face and neck and let it dry for 15 minutes. Rinse your face with lukewarm water and pat it dry.

FOOD CORNER

Mewari paneer

INGREDIENTS

- 1 litre full cream milk
- 2 gm chopped raisins
- 2 gm chopped pistachios
- 1 pinch saffron, 3 gm red peppers, 125 gm chopped onion, 5 gm sliced onion pearl, 10 gm garlic paste
- 25 ml refined oil, 10 gm cumin powder, 8 gm fresh cream, 5 gm white butter
- 10 gm chopped coriander leaves, 2 gm chopped almonds, 2 gm chopped walnuts, 2 gm chopped cashews, 4 ml lemon juice, 3 gm capsicum (green pepper)
- 150 gm tomato, 10 gm ginger paste
- 25 ml tomato puree, 10 gm coriander powder, 6 gm garam masala powder, 2 pinches salt
- 10 gm powdered deggi chilli
- 3 gm black cumin seeds.

Method

- To prepare the homemade paneer, boil milk in a handi and curdle with lemon juice.
- When the milk is curdled, add chopped dry fruits and saffron in it. Strain the mixture in muslin cloth and let it stand at least for an hour.
- When the paneer is prepared, dice the paneer pieces.
- Now, heat oil in a saucepan over medium flame and put all the ground spices in it. When the seeds starts to crackle, put black cumin add chopped onion in it.
- When it's brown, add ginger and garlic paste, chopped tomatoes, sliced white onion (white pickled onion).
- Then add all the dry spices and stir it when leaves the oil on the top, add diced paneer and bell pepper in it.
- Garnish with fresh cream and chopped green coriander.



Collagen is a large protein that is used to make the connective tissue, which in turn keeps all the other tissues together. Collagen is present in bones, joints, blood, muscles, and cartilages. It is the most important protein for a healthy-looking skin as it gives it elasticity and strength. Collagen makes up

a third of the total body protein. As we grow older, our processes start to slow down and this affects the production of collagen too.

AMINO ACIDS

There are 20 amino acids that make up all the proteins in our body. Of these 9 are termed essential as they are not produced in our body and need to be consumed through our food. Amino acids are important to produce collagen and are abundantly found in protein-rich foods like meats, poultry, legumes like peanuts and Tofu, cottage cheese, soy proteins, organ meats, Fish, and dairy.

VITAMIN C

The vitamin regulates the synthesis of

Collagen. In addition, Vitamin C is a strong antioxidant and its role in maintaining and promoting skin health is well documented. Consuming foods rich in Vitamin C on a daily basis helps maintain not just a healthy skin but also a strong immune system. Vitamin C is abundant in citrus fruits, papaya, green leafy vegetables, tomato, berries, red and yellow peppers.

ZINC

The mineral needed in small amounts is a critical nutrient for collagen production. It boosts production, repairs cell and protects against damage. It also activates the proteins for collagen formation. Oysters, dairy, pumpkin seeds, cashew nuts are some of the best sources of zinc.

MANGANESE

It helps in collagen production by activating enzymes that boost the production of amino acid - Proline present in collagen. Needed in small amounts, Manganese is found in foods like, whole grains, nuts, legumes, brown rice, leafy vegetables and spices.

COPPER

It works by activating enzymes that are needed for collagen production; these enzymes also help connect collagen fibers with other fibers, creating a wire frame that supports tissues. Whole grains, beans, nuts, shellfish, organ meats, green leafy vegetables and dried prunes are all good sources of copper.

Foods to boost collagen production

Pancreatic cancer vaccine shows long-term survival promise

A small but striking set of new clinical data is offering cautious hope in one of cancer care's toughest frontiers: pancreatic cancer. Researchers reported this week that nearly 90 percent of patients who mounted an immune response to an experimental vaccine were still alive four to six years after treatment – an outcome that stands in sharp contrast to the disease's typically grim prognosis.

The experimental vaccine is autogene cevumeran, a therapeutic mRNA cancer vaccine being developed and researched by BioNTech and Genentech, a member of the Switzerland-based pharma giant Roche Group, along with scientists from New York-based Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre.

The surgeon-scientist, Dr Vinod Balachandran, who led the study, presented the follow-up findings at the 2026 annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

Pancreatic cancer is notoriously difficult to detect early and treat effectively. With a five-year survival rate of about 13 percent, it remains one of the deadliest cancers worldwide.

According to global estimates, more than 5 lakh new cases are diagnosed each year, with over 4 lakh deaths annually. In India alone, the disease accounts for over 13,000 new cases and nearly as many deaths each year. Against this backdrop, even incremental advances are closely watched; and now a signal of durable survival, though preliminary, is drawing attention.

A NEW APPROACH

The therapy at the center of this optimism is an experimental mRNA-based vaccine being studied by scientists at the premier US-based cancer research institute. Unlike traditional vaccines that prevent disease, this one is designed to treat existing cancer by training the immune system to recognise and attack tumour cells.

The approach builds on the same underlying technology used in some COVID-19 vaccines, but with a highly personalised twist. After a patient's tumour is surgically removed, researchers analyse its genetic mutations and design a bespoke vaccine tailored to those specific cancer markers.

The goal is to prompt the body's T cells, responsible



for immunity, to identify and destroy any remaining cancer cells that might otherwise trigger a relapse.

In the early-stage trial, not all patients responded to the vaccine. But among those who did – in 8 out of 16 – meaning their immune systems generated a robust T-cell response – the outcomes were notably better. Nearly 88 percent of these responders – 7 out of 8 – were alive years later, a result that researchers describe as encouraging, though still preliminary.

Experts caution that the findings come from a small cohort and require validation in larger, randomised trials. Still, the durability of the response is what stands out. Pancreatic cancer is particularly aggressive, and recurrence after surgery is common. A therapy that meaningfully delays or prevents relapse could significantly change survival patterns.

The biology of pancreatic cancer has long made it resistant to many forms of treatment, including immunotherapy approaches that have transformed care in other cancers.

Tumours often create a dense, protective microenvironment that shields them from immune attack. This has been one of the biggest obstacles to harnessing the immune system against the disease.

The vaccine strategy attempts to overcome this by priming the immune system in a highly targeted way. By focusing on neoantigens – mutations unique to an individual's tumor – the therapy aims to bypass some of the tumours defences and generate a more precise immune assault. *Source: India Today*



Feeling low on energy? Your shoulder pain could be the reason

Frozen shoulder, medically known as Adhesive Capsulitis, is usually associated with pain and stiffness in the joint. But doctors say its impact goes far beyond restricted movement.

Many patients dealing with this condition often report feeling constantly tired, low on energy, and mentally drained. This isn't just a side effect; it is a direct result of how the condition affects the body over time. From chronic pain to sleep disruption and reduced mobility, frozen shoulder can significantly impact overall energy levels and daily functioning.

One of the biggest reasons behind low energy is persistent pain. Frozen shoulder causes ongoing discomfort that can last for months.

"Many patients with frozen shoulders feel exhausted, both physically and mentally," says Dr Ramkinkar Jha, Director, Department of Orthopaedics, CK Birla Hospital, Gurugram.

He explains that chronic pain, combined with reduced activity, gradually lowers stamina and endurance. Even when the body is at rest, it continues to deal with pain signals, which can quietly drain energy levels over time.

Sleep disturbance is another major factor. Night pain is one of the most common symptoms of frozen shoulder, often making it difficult to sleep comfortably.

"Persistent shoulder pain, especially at night, disrupts sleep patterns and leads to poor-quality rest," says Dr Prakash P. Kotwal, Chairman and Senior Consultant, Orthopaedics, PSRI Hospital, Delhi.

Over time, this lack of proper sleep can result in daytime fatigue, irritability, and reduced concentration, creating a cycle that further impacts energy levels. In some cases, frozen shoulder may coexist with conditions like Spondylitis, especially in people with underlying musculoskeletal issues.

Spondylitis affects the spine and can cause stiffness and chronic pain. When combined with shoulder immobility, it can further limit movement and increase physical strain, making daily activities even more exhausting.

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Greater gut bacteria diversity linked to stronger hormonal stress response: Study

A higher diversity of the gut bacteria could be associated with a greater hormonal and stress reactivity, a study has found. Comprising microorganisms living in the gut, the gut microbiome contributes towards metabolism and function of the immune system, with research suggesting that it can modulate the body's stress response.

A greater microbial diversity is often associated with a more stable and resilient microbial ecosystem and with a higher functional flexibility, which may contribute to an appropriate regulation of stress responses. However, "A stronger acute stress response is not necessarily detrimental. (An) appropriate activation of the stress system enables (a) flexible adaptation to challenges and threats. A greater diversity of gut bacteria, as well as certain metabolic products, could play a supportive role in this process," lead researcher Thomas Karner, psychologist at the University of Vienna in Austria, said.

Researchers said it has remained unclear until now whether differences in the human gut microbiome

are actually associated with acute stress reactivity.

They showed for the first time that in healthy adults, the diversity of gut bacteria and their capacity to produce metabolites, including short chain fatty acids, are associated with an acute stress response -- particularly stress reactivity, the team said. A higher microbial diversity was associated with a stronger hormonal and subjectively perceived stress reactivity, with the results, published in the journal *Neurobiology of Stress*, suggesting that the gut microbiome may play a role in regulating the acute stress response.

The study provides new evidence that the gut microbiome, and thus potentially also diet and lifestyle, is associated with how our bodies respond to stress, the researchers said.

Seventy four healthy adults either underwent a standardised stress test or performed a comparable, stress-free task (controls).

Stress hormones, such as cortisol, in saliva and subjective stress levels were measured and the gut microbiome analysed using stool samples.

OpenAI launches workspace agents that can do your work across third-party apps

OpenAI has launched workspace agents in ChatGPT. This puts the company in the agentic AI space that has become quite popular lately with the rise of OpenClaw, and Claude Code's agentic abilities. That is, OpenAI wants you to delegate your work to agents in ChatGPT who can then do the tasks even when you are away.

However, ChatGPT's workspace agents are not just another agentic AI platform that you can use. Instead, OpenAI seems to be eyeing the enterprise market. The company says that once you create a workspace agent, your entire team can then have access to it. OpenAI stated in a blog post, "Create an agent once and share it across your workspace, so teams follow the same workflows and best practices."

Do note that OpenAI has previously brought Peter Steinberger, the creator of OpenClaw, a popular agentic AI platform, to the company to bolster agentic AI development. Though OpenClaw remains open-source separately.

What are ChatGPT workspace agents?

AI agents are designed to do the work for you. That is, you give the agent a task, such as creating a file or writing code, and it does this work without requiring further help from you. ChatGPT's workspace agents work the same way, but with broad functionality.

On X, OpenAI stated that these agents will be able to do the work that previously required "time, context, and follow-through." The AI can now coordinate across tools, track progress, and move things forward without



needing your supervision.

The company says that these agents can work across different apps, usually used by businesses and enterprises. This includes Slack, Google workspace, Salesforce, and more.

Do note that OpenAI says that these agents are an evolution of custom GPTs that were used for specific tasks in the past. However, a key difference is that workspace agents are powered by Codex. And they can seemingly do a lot more when it comes to tasks across apps and platforms.

OpenAI has been shifting its focus to the enterprise market recently as it doubles down on Codex in an attempt to increase revenue.

An important part of this is that ChatGPT workspace agents run on the

cloud, similar to how agentic AI works with Anthropic's Claude Code. This ensures that the AI can continue to work even if you shut down your own PC. For context, an agent on OpenClaw, which runs locally, cannot continue if your PC is turned off.

Workspace agents are available for ChatGPT Business, Enterprise, Edu, and Teachers plans, currently in a research preview stage until May 6, 2026. After this date, OpenAI will charge pricing based on credits for using these agents. That is, the more you use them, the higher the bill.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman has previously stated that he wants to sell intelligence as a commodity by the meter in the future, similar to how people pay for electricity. *Source: India Today*

Apple fixes iPhone bug that allowed others to see your deleted messages

The FBI could read messages on your iPhone, even after you deleted them, claimed a report, after US authorities allegedly managed to read deleted Signal messages on an iPhone. This sparked concerns online with even Signal CEO Meredith Whittaker chiming in. Now, Apple has released a security update for iPhones and iPads, which likely fixes this bug.

In a release, Apple stated that the iOS 26.4.2 and iPadOS 26.4.2 updates were meant to address a bug where "notifications marked for deletion could be unexpectedly retained on the device." Do note that Apple does not address this report directly in its release.

As per a report by 404 Media, the FBI was able to extract deleted Signal messages from an iPhone "using forensic tools" in a case, because copies of the content were saved in the device's "push notification database." As per reports, this data was stored on the device for up to a month, even if the original messages were deleted.

Signal's CEO Meredith Whittaker wrote on Bluesky, "Notifications for deleted messages shouldn't remain in any OS notification database." Signal is a privacy-focused messaging platform, which pitches itself as an alternative to apps like WhatsApp.

Apple has released a security patch for iPhones and iPads. The company, however, does not explicitly address the reported FBI incident. The release for the update states, "For our customers' protection, Apple doesn't disclose, discuss, or confirm security issues until an investigation has occurred and patches or releases are available."

The bug, identified as CVE-2026-28950, was corrected through improved data redaction. However, Apple has not disclosed whether this vulnerability was exploited in attacks or provided details on how long notification data was retained or could be recovered.

Following the update, Signal posted on X, "We're grateful to Apple for the quick action here, and for understanding and acting on the stakes of this kind of issue. It takes an ecosystem to preserve the fundamental human right to private communication." The company stated that Signal users did not need to do anything extra after installing the update.

Apple has urged users to install the new security patch. According to the company's website, the iOS 26.4.2 update is available for iPhone 11 and later models. While iPadOS 26.4.2 is available for "iPad Pro 12.9-inch 3rd generation and later, iPad Pro 11-inch 1st generation and later, iPad Air 3rd generation and later, iPad 8th generation and later, and iPad mini 5th generation and later."

'Building blocks of life' on Mars: NASA's Curiosity rover finds organic molecules

The Curiosity rover, part of NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission, has found a mix of organic molecules on Mars. This includes chemicals that are considered to be the "building blocks of life".

Of the 21 carbon-containing molecules in the sample, seven have been detected for the first time on Mars, NASA said.

The detection has renewed the confirmation that the red planet once used to have the right chemistry to support life.

However, the scientists have no way of making sure whether these molecules were produced through biological or geological process.

Among the newly found molecules is a ring of carbon atoms which include nitrogen. A molecule with such a structure is considered a predecessor to DNA and RNA — which are key to genetic information.

"That detection is pretty profound



because these structures can be chemical precursors to more complex nitrogen-bearing molecules," Prof Amy Williams who led the experiment was quoted as saying by The Guardian. "Nitrogen heterocycles have never been found before on the Martian surface or confirmed in Martian meteorites."

Prof Williams, an astrogeologist at the

University of Florida and a Curiosity mission scientist, also added: "We think we're looking at organic matter that's been preserved on Mars for 3.5 billion years... Is it life? We can't tell, based on this information."

To put that timeline in context — scientists believe life on Earth originated over 3.7 billion years ago. Did the building blocks of life rain down with meteorites in both planets? That's a question that will keep coming up.

The researchers point out that there are several steps more from this molecule to DNA. "It is definitely a building block to how DNA is made now. But it is truly just the bricks, not the house," Williams said in The Guardian report.

The molecules have now been added to a list of other compounds known to be preserved in rocks on Mars for billions of years even after being exposed to a radiation them down over time.

Asian Markets reel under oil shock as US-Iran tensions escalate

APRIL 24, 2026

SINGAPORE (TIP): Asian financial markets entered a phase of heightened uncertainty on Friday, April 24, as surging crude oil prices and intensifying geopolitical tensions between the United States and Iran triggered a wave of caution among global investors. The twin pressures of energy volatility and geopolitical risk have unsettled equities, currencies, and commodities across the region, raising concerns about inflation, growth, and financial stability.

A Nervous Start Across Asia

Trading floors across Asia reflected a defensive mood. Major indices in Hong Kong, mainland China, and South Korea slipped into negative territory, while Japan's market showed only limited resilience. Early optimism quickly faded as traders reassessed risk exposure in light of rapidly evolving developments in the Middle East. Market participants described the mood as "fragile," with investors increasingly unwilling to take aggressive positions. Instead, many opted to reduce equity exposure, lock in recent gains, and shift toward safer assets.

Oil Prices Surge, Triggering Inflation Fears

The sharp rise in crude oil prices has emerged as the central driver of market anxiety. Global benchmarks have climbed toward multi-year highs, with prices hovering near the \$100-\$110 per barrel range after a sustained rally. The spike has been fueled by mounting fears of supply disruptions, particularly around the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz—a narrow maritime corridor through which a significant portion of the world's oil supply flows. Any disruption in this passage has immediate and far-reaching consequences for global energy markets.

Analysts warn that sustained high oil prices could act as a "tax" on economies, pushing up transportation and manufacturing costs while squeezing consumer spending. For Asia's import-dependent economies, the impact is especially severe.

Flashpoint in the Middle East

The latest volatility stems from a renewed escalation in



tensions between the United States and Iran. Reports of increased naval deployments, tanker disruptions, and stalled diplomatic efforts have heightened fears of a prolonged standoff.

While there have been intermittent signals of dialogue, markets remain unconvinced about the prospects of a swift resolution. Instead, traders are bracing for a drawn-out period of instability that could continue to disrupt energy supply chains.

The geopolitical risk premium—often dormant during stable periods—has now returned forcefully to global markets, amplifying price swings and investor caution.

Asia Feels the Economic Strain

The repercussions are already being felt across Asia. Countries such as India, Japan, and South Korea—all heavily reliant on imported crude—face rising input costs and mounting inflationary pressure.

Refineries in parts of Asia have reportedly begun adjusting output in response to tighter crude supplies and higher input costs. This, in turn, threatens to reduce the availability of key fuels such as diesel and aviation turbine fuel, potentially impacting transportation and logistics sectors.

Crude oil above \$100 again: Will petrol, diesel get costlier soon?

APRIL 23, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Global crude oil prices rose above \$100 per barrel on Thursday, April 23, crossing a key mark that could bring fresh pressure on India's long-unchanged petrol and diesel prices.

For now, there is no change at petrol pumps. But if crude remains elevated, experts say the room to shield consumers may narrow quickly.

That raises the question many households, commuters and businesses are now asking. How soon could petrol prices rise in India?

The concern arises as India imports most of its crude oil needs, so when global oil prices rise sharply and stay high, the extra cost eventually has to be absorbed by oil companies, the government, or consumers.

Not necessarily. A one-day spike in crude prices does not automatically mean petrol prices go up the next morning. Oil companies often use existing inventory, refining gains and internal buffers to absorb short-term shocks. But if crude stays near or above \$100 for weeks, the pressure can build quickly.

Manoranjan Sharma, Chief Economist at Infometrics Ratings, told me that "if crude approaches \$100 per barrel, the sustainability window may shrink to less than a quarter."

He added that sustained losses beyond Rs 3 to Rs 4 per litre become difficult to absorb without either fuel price hikes or government support.

At the moment, much of that burden appears to be falling on oil marketing companies.

Arun Kailasan, Research Analyst, Geojit Investments Limited, said that at crude levels of around \$95 per barrel, Indian oil marketing companies were already "absorbing losses of roughly Rs 1,600 crore per day (Rs 48,000 crore monthly)."

He told me that "existing profit buffers are largely depleted, making the current pricing stance difficult to sustain beyond the near term without either price hikes or fiscal intervention."

If crude remains above \$100, those losses could rise further.

That depends on how long crude stays high. Puneet Singhania, Director – Master Capital Services Limited, explained that the real pressure begins when crude remains above \$100.

"The real problem starts if crude moves higher and sustains above \$100 per barrel. That's when margins come under real stress and cash flows start tightening," he said.

He had earlier said companies could likely hold prices steady for a quarter or two if crude stayed in the \$85 to \$95 range, though profitability would remain tight.

Amazon to invest up to \$25 billion in Anthropic to deepen their AI ties

APRIL 24, 2026

SEATTLE (TIP): Amazon.com Inc. is investing an additional \$5 billion in Anthropic PBC, and may inject \$20 billion more over time, a deal that deepens the companies' ties in an increasingly competitive AI industry.

Anthropic, which makes the Claude chatbot and coding tool, plans to spend more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years on Amazon's cloud technologies and chips, the companies said in a statement on Monday.

Amazon was already one of Anthropic's biggest backers, with prior investments totalling \$8 billion. For Amazon, the partnership has given its cloud business a leading AI model and a major customer for its home-built Trainium line of AI chips. Anthropic, meanwhile, has had access to Amazon's roster of corporate clients. More than 100,000 customers run Claude models on Amazon Web Services, the companies said. Anthropic, founded in 2021 by several former employees of



OpenAI, is widely expected to conduct an initial public offering as soon as this year. The AI company has been racing to persuade more businesses to pay for its software to help offset the immense cost of developing the technology. Anthropic clinched a \$30 billion funding round in February that valued the San Francisco-based startup at \$380 billion, and has since drawn investor offers at a valuation of over \$800 billion. The agreement is the latest sign of Anthropic's hunger for the immense processing power necessary to build new versions of Claude. Like

OpenAI, Anthropic has inked a series of deals to secure the necessary chips and rented computing power. Anthropic last week said it would enlist Broadcom Inc. to supply chips based on Google's tensor processing units, a rival to Amazon's Trainium line. The collaboration among the three companies will let Anthropic access about 3.5 GW worth of computing power. Anthropic in October confirmed it would grab as many as 1 million of the specialised AI chips from the Alphabet Inc. unit, a tie-up worth tens of billions of dollars.

Amazon said it would provide Anthropic with chips—both for general computing and AI accelerators—to reach about 5 GW of power. Though Anthropic has been on a winning streak this year with popular products including its Claude Code AI tool, it's also locked in a dispute with the US government over AI safeguards—a fight that has led to legal action from Anthropic and that the company has said threatens its business.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says that this week is for auspiciousness and success for Aries. From the beginning of the week, your planned tasks will be seen to be completed on time. There will be full cooperation from close friends. Plans will be made to buy new items at the beginning of the week. This week is going to be very auspicious for employed people. By the end of the week, some big achievements can come into their account. During this, your financial condition is going to be very good. Investments made in the past will be beneficial. You will get success in matters related to the court. Your opponents themselves will come to you for reconciliation. This week is going to be favorable for you in terms of a love relationship. You will get opportunities to spend pleasant moments with your love partner. Married life will remain happy. You can go to a long or a short-distance tourist destination with your spouse. Health will be normal.

TAURUS



Ganesha says that the first week of August is going to be favorable for the people of Taurus. This week, you will be able to easily solve all those problems that have troubled you or the past few days. With the help of a senior person, misunderstandings with family members or best friends will be cleared. The merchant class will get favorability in business matters. Will take steps towards the expansion of the business. You may also get some big responsibilities, which can increase your busyness in fulfilling them. However, you will get full support from both seniors and juniors. However, a lot of money will also be spent on things related to amenities. You can get the pleasure of land-building and a vehicle. Obstacles related to ancestral property will be removed. In the second half of the week, any concerns related to your health and your child's side may bother you. Better bonding will be seen with the love partner in a love relationship. Trust and love will increase with a love partner. Married life will remain happy. Special attention has to be paid to routine and diet.

GEMINI



Ganesha says that the natives of Gemini will heave a sigh of relief at the beginning of the week when some major problem will go away. Removal of the enemy, fear, or obstacle will give peace to the mind. Misunderstandings arising

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - APRIL 27 APRIL TO MAY 3, 2026

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

with seniors or juniors in the workplace will be removed. Will get an opportunity to join profit schemes with the help of a female friend. The money stuck in the market of businesspeople will come out unexpectedly. If you have been thinking of doing business with something new for a long time, then this week you can take steps in this direction with the help of your best friends. People associated with politics were on the way to getting a position or an important responsibility, and their wait may increase a little more. In the second half of the week, be careful with your opponents in the workplace as they may try to spoil your work. During this, there can be a big mistake or loss in haste. In this case, do each work carefully. Take a step forward in love relationships with care and avoid ignoring the feelings of your love partner. Married life will remain happy amid bitter-and-sweet disputes.

CANCER



Ganesha says that the first week of August is going to be very important for Cancerians. At the beginning of the week, you can make a big decision related to your career, business, or life. You can get a big relief related to the matter related to court, which was causing trouble for some time. It is possible that with the help of an influential person, the matter can be settled outside the court. Working women may find it difficult to balance between home and work at the beginning of the week. However, you will get the full support of your spouse amid this problem. In the second half of the week, you may have to travel long or short distances in connection with business or any work. Business expansion plans will become fruitful. People engaged in the preparation for examination competitions can get some good news. This week is going to be mixed in terms of love relationships. This week, the process of coaxing and persuading the love partner will continue. Married life will remain happy. Your life partner will become your support while facing any difficulty related to life.

LEO



Ganesha says that this week is going to be mixed for Leo people. At the beginning of the week, due to an argument with a dear person, the mind will be a little sad and upset. To avoid any such situation this week, you have to control your speech and nature. At the beginning of the week, some problems may suddenly appear in front of you in the workplace, which you will need to solve with great patience and discretion; otherwise, you may have to face losses. During this time, the journeys made in connection with work will prove to be very tiring and less fruitful than expected. You will need to take special care of your health and belongings during the journey. May meet an influential person in the middle of the week. With the help of which opportunities will be created to join

profit schemes in the future? During this, avoid the habit of leaving today's work for tomorrow; otherwise, the opportunity at hand may slip away. This week, the mind will remain restless due to difficulties in meeting a love partner. Married life will be happy.

VIRGO



Ganesha says that this week is going to be like the fulfillment of dreams for the people of Virgo. Due to this, there will be an atmosphere of happiness in the house, and respect will increase in society. At the beginning of the week, you can go on a pilgrimage or to a tourist area with your family. During this, most of your time is going to be spent laughing and singing with your near and dear ones. If you have been thinking of buying something related to luxury for a long time, then your dream can come true this week. You will get the special support and cooperation of your father while making any major decision related to the family. This week will prove to be auspicious for target-oriented job seekers, and they will be able to achieve their goals very easily. Employed people will become a new source of income. There will be profit and desired expansion in the business. Those who are thinking of making a business or career related to abroad can get some good news. This week is going to be very auspicious for you in terms of a love relationship. This week, you can get a surprise gift from your love partner. Married life will be happy. Newly married couples can achieve child happiness. Health will be normal.

LIBRA



Ganesha says that people of the Libra zodiac should do their work themselves instead of leaving it to others this week. If you do business in partnership, then keep a close eye on money-related matters and business; otherwise, you may have to face a big financial loss. Employed people also need to be very cautious this week. Although in the second half of the week, the circumstances will be seen to be favorable for you and your planned work will start getting completed, before that, you will need to do all your work very carefully and thoughtfully. The minds of the students engaged in the preparation for examination competitions can deviate from their studies. They will need extra hard work to achieve the desired success. If you are thinking of starting a new work, then you must take advice from a well-wisher or expert before taking any step in that direction. Love relations will be normal. Your love partner will be seen standing by your side like a shadow while facing any challenges related to life. Married life will remain happy. This week, you will need to pay special attention to your health and routine; otherwise, you may become a victim of seasonal illness.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says that the people of Scorpio will need to be cautious of known-unknown enemies and opponents this week. In such a situation, be very careful while doing any work. Before the completion of your plans in the workplace, do not disclose them in any form; otherwise, your opponent may create obstacles to them. However, due to less support for good luck, you may have to face all kinds of problems at work this week. In business, you may have to face tough competition from your competitors. However, during this time you will have to avoid making any wrong decision under someone's provocation or provocation. In the second half of the week, there may be physical discomfort due to the emergence of seasonal or any chronic disease. During this, due to sudden obstacles in your work, your mind will remain upset. If you do not get the desired success in any work, then it will be better to wait for the right time. From the point of view of a love affair, you need to move a little carefully this week. Don't make any such mistake under someone's provocation, which will harm your reputation and your family members. Married life will remain happy.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says that this week can sometimes be happy and sometimes sad for the people of Sagittarius. At the beginning of the week, when your mind will be happy with the great success of a family member and his progress will increase your respect, on the other hand, in your field of work, your opponents will try to disturb you by putting obstacles in your work. During this time, you will need to have a lot of control over your anger and speech. In the middle of the week, you will be able to pay less attention to your career and business due to getting involved in problems related to your personal life. Due to this, the work at both these places will be affected. During this, due to not getting timely help from close friends, there will be a feeling of frustration in the mind. However, by the second half of the week, things will be seen to be back on track, and during this time, new sources of income will be created with the help of a friend. Even in the workplace, seniors will extend a helping hand to you. Your love partner will prove to be very helpful in the ups and downs of life, due to which your attachment to him/her will increase further. Married life will remain happy. Traveling and worshipping at a religious place is possible with your spouse. There will be a need to take great care of health and routine.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says that the problems that have been troubling you for the past few weeks are going to persist this week as well. In such a

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**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 27 TO MAY 3
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

APRIL 27

Ganesha says you love someone with all your heart, but you have to learn to control your sometimes erratic and rebellious behavior. You are constantly on the lookout for a committed romantic relationship, and the thought of being alone can make you sad. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits. You must amass knowledge, information, and lasting connections. Entrepreneurs can diversify their businesses into new and lucrative areas.

APRIL 28

Ganesha says you enjoy reading to expand your knowledge and learn about new and unseen things, and you constantly welcome new ideas, but you must learn to control the urge to act at times when you are shy, cocky or moody. You may get respect and appreciation in the coming year. Economic benefits can come from various sources. Your living conditions can improve by getting new sources of income. You can get big benefits in matters of real estate.

APRIL 29

Ganesha says you enjoy being alone and independent, which enables you to take small steps toward your goals, but you need to manage your tendency to be reckless, overbearing, and at times restless. You can have enough energy available with you, and if you use it properly, it can give impressive results. Friends and family may not be of much help, so don't count on them. In terms of money, this would be an excellent moment to buy stocks and real estate, but all purchases should be made with the long term in mind.

APRIL 30

Ganesha says this year, you can get profits from the contacts you have made recently. You can enter lucrative industries thanks to your extensive business expertise, which can also help you become more visible in the market. Money gain is certain, but the unexpected loss can also happen. More attention should be paid to health, especially for people with chronic diseases. Yoga and meditation should be practiced for both spiritual and physical benefits.

MAY 1

Ganesha says the time is now to make important business decisions. During this time, investment can give good returns. Home repairs and other construction-related work may also be high on your priority list. Property matters can be beneficial. Distant travel, even to another country, is enjoyable, and there can be a possible reunion with old friends. Patients with chronic diseases need to pay more attention to their health.

MAY 2

Ganesha says if you pay attention to the words of your family members this year, you can achieve a lot. By getting new sources of income, your financial condition can improve, and your confidence can be at its peak. Your wife and other female family members may make every possible effort to keep you satisfied. If there is any career change, then it can be beneficial. Your outspoken personality can be beneficial for you. Avoid becoming a permanent surety or guarantee for others, as this can lead to awkward situations and legal problems.

MAY 3

Ganesha says you can make new relationships and sign new collaborations this year, which can help your career a lot. Financial gains can result from past investments. Family members and friends can offer encouragement and support. You will experience some minor stress and tension, especially about the health of your parents and an increase in household expenses. Trips for fun or socializing with friends can be interesting and intellectually stimulating.

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situation, you will need to find a solution to them with great patience and discretion. During this time, while investing money in any scheme or business, do not forget to take the advice of an expert and avoid making distant losses in nearby gains. During this, be very careful while driving a vehicle; otherwise, there is a possibility of injury. If you do business in partnership, then keep in mind that excessive trust in others can prove to be harmful to you. In the middle of the week, long or short-distance travel is possible in connection with work. During the journey, you will need to take great care of both your health and your belongings. In the second half of the week, employed people may get transferred to an unwanted place, due to which they may have to face problems. During this, the mind will remain upset due to unnecessary expenses. In terms of love relationships, you will need to take your steps very carefully this week. To clear any misunderstanding with your love partner, take the initiative yourself by going ahead. Your married life will be normal with sour-sweet disputes.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says that the people of Aquarius will continue to need extra effort and hard work this week to complete their work on time in the workplace. At the beginning of the week, your planned work will be completed on time and you will get full support from your best friends, but in the middle of the work, any sudden big obstacle will become a big reason for your suffering. During this time, you should avoid leaving your work in someone else's hands; otherwise, you may have to face a big financial loss. Employed people will also need to be

careful of their secret enemies. During this time, you may have differences with your colleagues; in such a situation, it will be better not to give importance to small things. Businesspeople may have to face tough competition from their competitors. In such a situation, invest money in a plan or business wisely; otherwise, you may have to face financial loss later. From the point of view of the love affair, this week cannot be called favorable for you. Your love affair may be affected due to the entry of a third person or a misunderstanding. Do not make any decision related to a love affair by getting angry or getting carried away by emotions.



PISCES

Ganesha says that the people of Pisces will get full support of good luck this week. At the beginning of the week, journeys made in connection with career business will prove to be pleasant and profitable. A meeting with an influential person this week will become a big reason for future profits. At the beginning of the week, any worship recitation or auspicious program can be held at home. During this, most of your time will be spent on religious-social work. Employed people will get respect in the workplace. Unexpectedly, a big position or

responsibility may fall into your lap. In the second half of the week, you will be able to clear the confusion related to your life. The decision can come in your favor in the case going on in the court. At the end of the week, you will get to hear some good news related to the child's side, due to which your respect will also increase. This week is going to be very favorable for you in terms of love affairs. If you want to express love in front of someone, then doing so will make your point. On the other hand, people who have had a love affair in the past will have better coordination with their love partner, and they will spend time happily. Married life will remain happy. This week is going to be normal in terms of health.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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The radiance of resilience: The spiritual essence of Sita Navami

While many festivals celebrate the triumph of strength over darkness, Sita Navami—the appearance day of Goddess Sita—invites us to contemplate a different kind of power: the quiet, unwavering strength of the earth itself. Falling on the ninth day of the waxing moon in the month of Vaishakha, this day honors the moment King Janaka discovered a child in a furrow while plowing a sacrificial field, earning her the name Sita (meaning "furrow").

Spiritually, Sita Navami is not just a historical commemoration; it is an exploration of the soul's capacity for endurance, purity, and grace.

The Daughter of the Earth (Bhumija)

Sita's origin is unique—she was not born, but revealed. As Bhumija (Daughter of the Earth), she represents the ultimate grounding of the divine. Spiritually, this teaches us that divinity is not always found in the heavens; it is often hidden just beneath the surface of our daily efforts. Like a seed that must endure the pressure of the soil to bloom, Sita's life reminds us that our greatest growth often happens in the "trenches" of our challenges.

The Power of Titiksha (Forbearance)

If Lord Rama represents Dharma (duty/righteousness), Sita represents Titiksha—the spiritual quality of forbearance. Throughout the Ramayana, Sita faces exile, abduction, and public trial. Yet, her spiritual core remains untarnished.

Sita Navami is an important day of Hindu religion. This day is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Goddess Sita. Married women observe a fast on the day of Sita Navami and pray for the long life of their husbands. Sita Navami is also known as Sita Jayanti and Janaki Navami. Sita Jayanti is celebrated on the ninth day of Shukla Paksha of Vaishakh month.

It is believed that Mother Sita was born on Tuesday in Pushya Nakshatra. Goddess Sita was married to Lord Rama. Lord Rama was also born on Navami Tithi during Shukla Paksha of Chaitra month. In the Hindu calendar, Sita Jayanti comes one month after Ram Navami.

Goddess Sita was the adopted daughter of King Janak of Mithila. Hence this day is also known as Janaki Navami. According to Hindu mythology, when King Janaka was plowing the land to perform a yajna, he found a baby girl in a gold coffin. A plowed land was called 'Sita' so King Janak named the girl Sita.

On the day of Sita Navami, special worship and rituals are performed in Lord Rama and Janaki temples across the country. Temples are decorated with flowers and lights. Bhajan programs are also organized at various places after the recitation of Ramayana. Some take out Ram Rath Yatra through the temple and chant 'Jai Siya Ram' and sing devotional songs all the way.

Life of Goddess Sita

The king of Mithila—'Janaka'—was once plowing the land to conduct a Yajna and he found a baby girl in the Golden casket.



Important information

Sita Navami on Saturday, April 25, 2026

Sita Navami Madhyahna Muhurat - 11:01 AM to 01:38 PM

Duration - 02 Hours 37 Mins

This girl was none other than Goddess Sita who is also known as Janaki. She soon became famous as a very beautiful and lovely princess. Many strong warriors came to attempt to bend Shiva's bow – the condition of Sita's Swayambar. No one succeeded of course! Rama easily took the bow and did not only bend it but snapped it into many pieces! Rama wed Sita and she became the wife of the great Lord Shri Ram.

They faced many challenges after marriage. Due to in-home politics and the selfishness of other family members; Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana had to leave for many years of exile. They lived a life of nomads and also created history. Many obstacles came their way among which the abduction of Goddess Sita by Ravana was the worst. Lord Ram, Laxman, Hanuman, and their troop fought with the Asura King Ravana and brought back the Goddess.

After returning the people of Ayodhya raised questions about the purity of the Goddess as she had spent many nights in the kingdom of Lanka. This made Rama also answer the queries of his kingdom. Goddess Sita first stayed away from her husband and raised her kids Luv and Kush in an ashram and then sacrificed herself to mother earth by sinking into the deeps of the earth.

Mata Sita is said to be the incarnation of Goddess Laxmi and Lord Vishnu. Sita is known for her self-sacrifice, dedication, purity, and courage. She is also known as

a mortal or mother of gods and all living beings. The worshippers are blessed with growth, intelligence, and prosperity. Goddess Sita symbolizes purity and fertility. The married women keep fast on this day for the long life of their husband.

Puja Vidhi & Rituals

- Arrangements are made for a puja mandap with four pillars.
- Idols of King Janak, Mata Sunayana God Ram and Mata Sita are placed.
- Ingredients like Til, rice, and barley are used.
- Vrat Katha and the life story of Goddess Sita are read during the puja.
- Women keep fast are to ensure the long, happy, and prosperous life of their husbands.
- People do pooja of Lord Rama and Mata Sita together to get a married life like them. Those who perform this vrat are said to get qualities like modesty, sacrifice, dedication, and motherhood.
- At places like Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, Bhadrachalam in Andhra Pradesh, Sita Samahit Sthal in Bihar, and Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu, this festival is given lots of importance.
- In temples, Darshan, Arati, and Maha-Abhishek are performed. Yatra is done by making idols of Maa Sita, Lord Rama Hanuman, and Lakshmana.

- Ramayana is read by sitting in groups in the nearby temple. Bhajan Kirtan and aartis are done on this occasion as well.

Facts about Goddess Sita

The Puranas say that Devi Sita was, in reality, the daughter of Ravana and Mandodari. According to predictions, the firstborn of Mandodari was said to be the cause of the destruction of his entire existence. Hence, Ravana had abandoned her and ordered the child to be buried away in a distant land, which was then discovered by King Janak and his wife to be raised as the princess of Mithila.

Another story goes that she was probably an incarnation of Vedvati, whom Ravan had tried to molest while she was under penance. Vedvati was a beautiful lady and wanted to become the consort of Lord Vishnu. She then cursed Ravana to become the cause of his destruction in her next birth.

Another very interesting fact mentioned in some versions of Ramayana is of Maya Sita (Devi Sita's illusionary version). According to these, it was Maya Sita who was actually abducted by Ravana, whereas the real Sita took refuge with the fire god Agni. She was living in the abode of Goddess Parvati and then returned to Lord Ram after the war got over. Maya Sita is then said to have been reborn as Draupadi in her next life. Sita had certain miraculous powers. While playing with her sisters she had unknowingly moved the table over which the "Shiva Dhanush" had been placed; which was something no one in the palace could do. This incident made King Janaka decide that the 'Shiva Dhanush' would be the challenge for her Swayambar.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump shares right-wing anchor's rant...

U.S. The Congress, in particular, mounted a sharp attack accusing the Prime Minister of "being afraid of" the U.S. in the face of repeated insults.

"The remarks are obviously uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste. They certainly do not reflect the reality of the India-U. S relationship, which has long been based on mutual respect and shared interests," the MEA spokesperson said late on Thursday night. Earlier in the day, at a briefing, the government had decided to take a safer approach however, with the MEA spokesperson saying only that they had "seen some reports".

Addressing viewers of the "Savage Report" on Newsmax channel, Mr. Savage had said that the U.S. had gone "from the melting pot to the chamber pot", as a result of the relaxed immigration laws, comments that were then reposted by Mr. Trump on his "Truth Social" page.

"A baby here becomes an instant citizen, and then they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet," he said, comparing Indians and Chinese immigrants unfavorably to "European Americans of today and their ancestors" including Irish, Italian, Polish, Lithuanians, Romanians and Russians, and questioning their loyalty to America.

Asked about whether the view amplified by Mr. Trump was endorsed by the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, the Embassy spokesperson quoted Mr. Trump as saying that "India is a great country with a very good friend of mine (Prime Minister Narendra Modi) at the top". The U.S. embassy did not explain or backpedal the comments, which is understood to have upset the government, and in its second statement, the MEA said it had "seen the comments, as also the subsequent statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in response".

In a likely reference to Chinese and Indian IT professionals in the U.S., Mr. Savage also said that "Gangsters with laptops" had "robbed Americans and treated them like "second class citizens". While Mr. Savage's rhetoric is not uncommon, given anti-immigrant views and online hate campaigns targeting immigrant schemes including H-1B visas, it is surprising that the comments were shared by the U.S. President.

The MEA's initial response had led to

sharp criticism of the government on social media.

"Indians have played a vital role in America's success. What is stopping us to raise this at the highest levels of the American government?" asked Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge in a post, demanding that Mr. Modi "react to this intimidation and indignation of 140 crore Indians."

Jawaharlal Nehru University Chancellor and former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal said that it was necessary for India to convey its concerns, given that Indians were already being targeted in the U.S. by Mr. Trump's MAGA supporters. "We could say that it is for the U.S. leadership to decide whether giving attention to such extreme views contributes to better understanding between the people of our two countries," he added.

The controversy also drew a comment from the Iranian Consulate in Hyderabad, that called Mr. Trump's post "racist". "China and India are the cradles of Civilization. In fact, the 'Hellhole' is where its war-criminal president threatened to decimate the civilization in Iran", the Consulate's X account said.

West Bengal Elections 2026 highlights...

special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that saw a drop in the electorate by about 12%.

Among the districts which recorded high polling were Dakshin Dinajpur where 94.98% voters exercised their franchise, followed by Cooch Behar at 94.75% and Birbhum registering a polling of 93.88%. According to the State's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal, the polling percentage is expected to rise further when final figures arrive. The opening phase will decide the electoral fate of 1,478 candidates in 152 constituencies of the 294-strong State Assembly.

In two separate incidents of violence, BJP candidates were targeted on the polling day. The BJP candidate from Kumarganj assembly seat in Dakshin Dinajpur, Subhendu Sarkar, was chased and beaten up by a group of people when he was visiting a polling booth in a remote area.

A clash broke out in Murshidabad as Trinamool Congress (TMC) workers raised slogans and entered into an altercation with police upon the arrival of Aam Janata Unnayan Party (AUJP) founder Humayun Kabir in the area. The Election Commission of India (ECI) also

sought a report from officials over allegations that several people were prevented from casting their votes in Murshidabad district's Domkal, officials said.

The second phase will be held on April 29, when 142 seats in and around Kolkata go to polls. The votes will be counted on May 4. (Source: The Hindu)

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

ArtsWestchester Receives Funding from..

Friday, May 1, 2026

Kala Samaagam: An Evening of Carnatic Flute and Voice

Feat. Shashank Subramanyam (flute), Abhishek Raghuram (voice), Parupalli Phalgun (mrdangam), and Krishna Sriram (ghatam)

Doors Open: 7pm | Concert: 7:30pm
\$25 General Admission: (Eventbrite service fees added at checkout)

Tickets:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kala-samaagam-an-evening-of-carnatic-flute-and-voice-tickets-1985393733101?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

Experience the magic of this electrifying collaboration as flute maestro Shashank Subramanyam and powerhouse vocalist Abhishek Raghuram unite for an incredibly special performance of South Indian classical music. Presented in the intimate setting of ArtsWestchester's gallery, the concert offers a rare opportunity to experience two of the world's most celebrated Indian classical musicians up close. In this performance, Shashank and Abhishek will be joined by percussion virtuosos Parupalli Phalgun and Krishna Sriram. The event welcomes those who are discovering South Indian classical music for the first time as well as devoted rasikas offering an unforgettable evening to all.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS: Renowned for his breathtaking virtuosity and lyrical tone, Shashank Subramanyam has redefined the expressive possibilities of the bamboo flute on the global stage. The GRAMMY-nominated musician is the leading exponent of classical Indian flute today. A child prodigy, whose musical career began at the age of six, Subramanyam is the youngest recipient of India's most prestigious performing arts award, the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (2017).

Hailed for his electrifying voice, intricate improvisations and deeply emotive renditions, Abhishek Raghuram brings a rare blend of tradition and daring creativity to every performance. Born into a legendary musical lineage, he

rose from child prodigy to an A-grade artiste of All India Radio. With acclaimed performances from Chennai's December Season to international stages such as New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, he is widely recognized as one of the most compelling and innovative voices in contemporary Carnatic music.

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Kala Samaagam: Community Celebration

Time: 11AM - 3:30pm

Registration: \$10 General Admission / \$5 Members / FREE for Children 14 & Under

Tickets & Registration:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kala-samaagam-community-celebration-tickets-1985448320373?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

Join us for an immersive celebration that honors the rich cultural and artistic traditions of South India. This family-friendly event invites audiences of all backgrounds to experience and learn together.

11am-1pm | Interactive Workshops for Families, ages 5-14

Designed for children ages 5-14 and their parents/guardians-but open to all-these sessions offer an accessible introduction to South Indian arts:

Arts & Crafts - Create traditional geometric mandala designs, flower garlands and kathakali masks. (11am-2pm)

Rhythm & Solkattu - Learn to recite rhythmic drum syllables while keeping tala (meter) with your hands and body. (11:30am & 12:15pm)

Bharatanatyam Basics - Explore expressive storytelling (abhinaya) and rhythmic movement (nrta). (11:30am & 12:15pm)

1-3:30PM | Cultural Program, all ages

Experience the vibrant richness of South Indian music and dance in this dynamic showcase. The program brings together folk, classical, and devotional traditions, featuring nearly a dozen dance styles, as well as performances by vocalists, instrumentalists, and powerful drumming ensembles.

1-2PM | South Indian Feast, all ages

Try delicious regional dishes from across South India. *Food sold separately - as supplies last.

All programs take place at ArtsWestchester's downtown White Plains building.

31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY 10601 - artsw.org - 914.428.4220

Contact: Ernie Garcia, Thompson & Bender, 914-762-1900 or ernie@thompson-bender.com

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The Indian Panorama
FOR FREE AT

www.theindianpanorama.news

Set against the dramatic backdrop of the Western Ghats, Coimbatore is not just an industrial hub—it is a launchpad into a world of cool climates, misty peaks, colonial heritage, tribal culture, and biodiverse forests. Within a few hours, travelers can ascend into landscapes where clouds drift through tea gardens, waterfalls echo through valleys, and time seems to slow down. Here is a richer, more immersive exploration of the finest hill stations near Coimbatore.

Coimbatore can get quite hot during the summer months. It is best to get on a weekend getaway and escape the heat at one of the numerous hill stations near Coimbatore. With places located all over South India, you can pick and check off places from your bucket list this summer!

Here are some amazing hill stations near Coimbatore:

Coonoor

One of the three beautiful Nilgiri hill stations, Coonoor is the second largest hill station of the Western Ghats. It is situated at an altitude of 1930 meters and just 19 km from Ooty. With slopes of tea plantations, dotted with many attractions and blessed with chilly weather throughout the year, this place is a perfect summer retreat.

Coonoor is a delightful location to have a panoramic view of the Nilgiri Hills and Catherine Falls. It is a dreamy destination for its rich greenery, the manicured hills, the Colonial culture and amazing sceneries. Coonoor also has some heritage homes and guesthouses that are perfect for a vacation or a staycation.

Ooty

Nestled amidst Nilgiri hills, Ooty, also known as Udagamandalam, is a hill station in Tamil Nadu which serves as a top-rated tourist destination. Once regarded as the summer headquarters of the East India Company, the Queen of the hills is a picturesque getaway.

Dotted with tea gardens, serene waterfalls, winding country lanes, and charming colonial architecture, Ooty is the perfect respite everyone. Popular among couples and honeymooners, Ooty allures its visitors with the panoramic views of the Nilgiri mountains.

The Nilgiri mountain railway is the steepest track in all of Asia. Remember the hit song 'Chaiyya Chaiyya' where Shahrukh Khan and Malaika Arora matching steps on top of a train? Remember the breathtaking locales as the train chugged its way across lush greenery? Yes, that was the Nilgiri Mountain Railways, and the Nilgiri Mountains all along.

Yercaud

Nestled in the Shivaroy Hills of Tamil Nadu, Yercaud is a hill station in the Eastern Ghats steeped in abundant greenery. Commonly called 'Ooty of the Poor', this region has a history dating back to the time of the British. Located at an altitude of 4970 feet, Yercaud is known for its vast expanses of coffee plantations and great weather.

Yercaud lake is the main point of

Misty Escapes: Most enchanting hill stations near Coimbatore



attraction of the region. One of the many highlights is the summer festival that takes place in May. It is dedicated to Lord Servarayan, the supreme god of the ranges and gives visitors a glimpse into the rich heritage of this region.

Kotagiri

Snuggled in the Nilgiris District, Kotagiri is a gorgeous hill station frequented by tourists from different parts of the country. It is one of the oldest hill stations in the Nilgiris and rests at an altitude of 5882 feet. Once served as a site of coffee plantation, today the town is a tea plantation covering a huge area of 30,000 acres. Steeped in vast expanses of greenery and rolling hills, Kotagiri offers plenty of trekking and hiking opportunities for adventure lovers.

Home to the famed Kota tribe, Kotagiri is commonly known as the 'mountains of the Kotas'. It is packed with European style houses and has a history dating back to the British rule in India. The 8 kilometres long trek to the Catherine Falls is one of the many highlights of this hill station. With a jagged terrain backed by a peaceful setting, this region is also ideal for rock climbing. Kotagiri is wild and pristine and there is no better way to experience the destination without staying in a homestay.

Bellikkal

Bellikkal is one of those places where you can completely relax, without having to worry about a 'to-do' list for your vacations and yet experience mountains that will steal your breath away. Instead of having a hundred places to offer, it will take you by its beauty, calmness and serenity.

Bellikkal is a small village in the south of Sigur Plateau in Tamil Nadu. This small and elusive hill station is as beautiful as those in the Himalayas, and has yet managed to retain its old world charm. Anyone who has gone to Bellikkal will pine to go back.



Kodaikanal

Located in the state of Tamil Nadu, Kodaikanal is one of the most famous honeymoon destinations in India. A Lakeside resort town of Tamil Nadu, Kodaikanal has a beautiful climate, mist-covered manicured cliffs and waterfall that come together to create the ideal setting for a perfect getaway. Kodaikanal means 'the gift of the forests'.

Nestled amidst the rolling slopes of the

Palani Hills, Kodaikanal stands at an altitude of 7200 feet above sea level, and once you visit this hill station, you will find that every bit of what you have imagined it to be is real. Kodaikanal is a place you can go to take a break from the rigours of daily city life, and this hill station lets you sit back and connect with nature as you head out on biking or trekking trails or take a stroll through the vast forests surrounding the town.

History This Week APR 24 - 30

APRIL 24



April 24, 1800 - The Library of Congress was established in Washington, D.C. It is America's oldest federal cultural institution and the world's largest library. Among the 145 million items in its collections are more than 33 million books, 3 million recordings, 12.5 million photographs, 5.3 million maps, 6 million pieces of sheet music and 63 million manuscripts. About 10,000 new items are added each day.

April 24, 1915 - In Asia Minor during World War I, the first modern-era genocide began with the deportation of Armenian leaders from Constantinople and subsequent massacre by Young Turks. In May, deportations of all Armenians and mass murder by Turks began, resulting in the complete elimination of the Armenians from the Ottoman Empire and all of the historic Armenian homelands. Estimates vary from 800,000 to over 2,000,000 Armenians murdered.

APRIL 25

April 25, 1967 - The first law legalizing abortion was signed by Colorado Governor John Love, allowing abortions in cases in which a panel of three doctors unanimously agreed.



Birthday - Radio inventor Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1937) was born in Bologna, Italy. He pioneered the use of wireless telegraphy in the 1890's. By 1921, Marconi's invention had been developed into wireless telephony (voice radio).

APRIL 26

April 26, 1937 - During the Spanish Civil War, the ancient town of Guernica was attacked by German warplanes. After destroying the town in a three hour bombing raid, the planes machine-gunned fleeing civilians.

April 26, 1944 - Federal troops seized the Chicago offices of Montgomery Ward and removed its chairman after his refusal to obey President Roosevelt's

order to recognize a CIO union. The seizure ended when unions won an election to represent the company's workers.

April 26, 1986 - At the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, an explosion caused a meltdown of the nuclear fuel and spread a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere, eventually covering most of Europe. A 300-square-mile area around the plant was evacuated. Thirty one persons were reported to have died while an additional thousand cases of cancer from radiation were expected. The plant was then encased in a solid concrete tomb to prevent the release of further radiation.

April 26, 1994 - Multiracial elections were held for the first time in the history of South Africa. With approximately 18 million blacks voting, Nelson Mandela was elected president and F.W. de Klerk vice president.

Birthday - American artist and naturalist John J. Audubon (1785-1851) was born in Haiti. He drew life-like illustrations of the birds of North America.

Birthday - Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was born in Hartford, Connecticut. He helped design some of the most famous parks in America including Central Park in New York, the Emerald Necklace series of connecting parks in Boston, and Yosemite National Park.



Birthday - Nazi Rudolf Hess (1894-1987) was born in Alexandria, Egypt. He was Deputy Führer of Nazi Germany and a member of Hitler's inner circle. On May 10, 1941, he made a surprise solo flight and parachuted into Scotland intending to negotiate peace with the British. However, the British promptly arrested him and confined him for the duration. Following the war, he was taken to Nuremberg and put on trial with other top Nazis. He died in captivity in 1987, the last of the major Nuremberg war criminals.

APRIL 27

April 27, 1865 - On the Mississippi River, the worst steamship disaster in U.S. history occurred as an explosion aboard the Sultana killed nearly 2,000 passengers, mostly Union soldiers who had been prisoners of war and were returning home.

Birthday - Telegraph inventor Samuel F.B. Morse (1791-1872) was born in Charlestown, Massachusetts. He

developed the idea of an electromagnetic telegraph in the 1830's and tapped out his first message "What hath God wrought?" in 1844 on the first telegraph line, running from Washington, D.C., to Baltimore. The construction of the first telegraph line was funded by Congress (\$30,000) after Morse failed to get any other financial backing. After Western Union was founded in 1856, telegraph lines were quickly strung from coast to coast in America.



Birthday - Civil War General and 18th U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio. During the war, he earned the nickname "Unconditional Surrender" Grant and was given command of the Union armies. He served as President from 1869 to 1877 in an administration plagued by scandal. He then went on to write his memoirs and died in 1885, just days after its completion.

APRIL 28

April 28, 1789 - On board the British ship *Bounty*, Fletcher Christian led a mutiny against Captain William Bligh, setting him and 18 loyal crew members adrift in a 23-foot open boat. Bligh survived a 47-day voyage sailing over 3,600 miles before landing on a small island. Christian sailed the *Bounty* back to Tahiti, eventually settling on Pitcairn Island and burning the ship.

April 28, 1945 - Twenty-three years of Fascist rule in Italy ended abruptly as Italian partisans shot former Dictator Benito Mussolini. Other leaders of the Fascist Party and friends of Mussolini were also killed along with his mistress, Clara Petacci. Their bodies were then hung upside down and pelted with stones by jeering crowds in Milan.



Birthday - James Monroe (1758-1831) the 5th U.S. President was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He served two terms from 1817 to 1825 and is best known for the Monroe Doctrine which declared the U.S. would not permit any European nation to extend its holdings or use armed force in North or South America.

APRIL 29

April 29, 1992 - Riots erupted in Los Angeles following the announcement that a jury in Simi Valley, California, had failed to convict four Los Angeles police officers accused in the videotaped beating of an African American man.

Birthday - American publisher William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) was born in San Francisco. The son of a gold miner, in 1887 he dropped out of Harvard to take control of the failing San Francisco Examiner which his father had purchased. He saved the Examiner, then went to New York and bought the New York Morning Journal to compete with Joseph Pulitzer. Hearst's sensational style of "yellow" journalism sold unprecedented numbers of newspapers and included promoting a war with Cuba in 1897-98. He expanded into other cities and into magazine publishing, books and films. He also served in Congress and nearly became mayor of New York City.



Birthday - Japan's Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) was born in Tokyo. In 1926, he became the 124th in a long line of monarchs and then presided over wartime Japan which was led by militarist Prime Minister Hideki Tojo. Following the dropping of two atomic bombs by the U.S., he made a radio address urging his people to stop fighting. After the war, he remained the symbolic head of state in Japan's new parliamentary government. In 1946, he renounced his divinity and then pursued his interest in marine biology, becoming a recognized authority in the subject.

APRIL 30

April 30, 1948 - Palestinian Jews declared their independence from British rule and established the new state of Israel. The country soon became a destination for tens of thousands of Nazi Holocaust survivors and a strong U.S. ally.



April 30, 1967 - Boxer Muhammad Ali was stripped of his world heavyweight boxing championship after refusing to be inducted into the American military. He had claimed religious exemption.

Delhi Capitals face uphill task against unbeaten Punjab Kings

NEW DELHI (TIP), APRIL 24, 2026

Delhi Capitals will have to play out of their skins to get their stuttering campaign back on track when they face high-flying Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League here on Saturday, April 25.

It will be a daunting task for the struggling Delhi outfit—smarting from a comprehensive 47-run defeat to Sunrisers Hyderabad—to stand up to a Punjab side that has been firing on all cylinders this season.

With three wins and as many losses from six matches, the Capitals find themselves pushed down the bottom half of the table in sixth place.

In contrast, Punjab Kings remain the only unbeaten team in the competition so far, sitting pretty at the top of the standings with 11 points from six outings. The sole point they lost was due to their game being washed out against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens.

Delhi's biggest concern has been their inconsistent batting. While the likes of KL Rahul, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs and Sameer Rizvi have all contributed in patches, the unit has failed to click collectively.

Opener Pathum Nissanka, despite getting starts, has been unable to convert them into substantial scores, leaving the middle order with too much to do. Captain Axar Patel, too, would want to shoulder greater responsibility with the bat. The all-rounder is also under scrutiny for some questionable tactical calls in the previous game.

Against a rampaging Abhishek Sharma, Axar persisted with part-time off-spinner Nitish Rana, who proved ineffective, while frontline options such as himself and Kuldeep Yadav were not utilised enough. The absence of a clear Plan B highlighted Delhi's lack of adaptability under pressure. Fielding lapses have further compounded their struggles. Missed stumpings, botched run-out opportunities, and a few dropped catches have cost them dear in crucial moments.

IPL 2026

Samson, spin twins decimate MI as CSK win IPL El Clasico without Thala

MUMBAI (TIP), APRIL 24, 2026

There was a time, not too long ago, when anything around 200 at the Wankhede felt like a starting point, not a winning score. The ground has seen too many chases, too many counterattacks, too many nights when the team batting second refused to blink. There are evenings here when 200 doesn't feel safe. And then there are nights when it looks a long way away.

This was one of those nights. Chennai Super Kings didn't just defend 207, they controlled the game for most of the evening, dismantling Mumbai Indians with calm decisions, clear roles and players stepping up at the right moments.

It ended as Mumbai's biggest defeat by runs in IPL history, with Sanju Samson and Akeal Hosein driving a memorable El Clasico win. It also came without MS Dhoni, but there was little sign of anything missing in the way CSK went about their work.

SAMSON LIGHTS UP WANKHEDE

It began with Sanju Samson, who played an innings that held everything together when it could have easily fallen apart. CSK did get off to a bright start. Ruturaj Gaikwad looked more like himself, finding the middle early and taking on Hardik Pandya. There was a flick of the wrists, a pull that sailed over, and suddenly 19 runs had come off an over. Samson, at the other end, was already settling in, opening up the off-side with ease.

But just when it looked like CSK might run away with the powerplay, the innings slowed. Gaikwad, after getting to 22, tried to go inside-out and didn't quite get it right. Tilak Varma judged it well in the deep, and that wicket opened the door for Mumbai. From there, it became one of those passages where batters got in but didn't stay. Sarfaraz Khan showed intent but was undone by the dip from Mitchell Santner. Shivam Dube, given the licence to attack, was beaten by a drift from AM Ghazanfar. Dewald Brevis came and went in a burst.

Through all of this, Samson didn't change. He didn't try to force the pace when wickets were falling, and he didn't get stuck either. He just kept playing the ball on merit. A boundary when it was there, a single when it wasn't. The innings grew quietly. By the time the final overs arrived, he had already done the hard work. And then he finished it in style, lifting one over cover for six and pulling the last ball to bring up his hundred. An unbeaten 101 off 54 balls, with 10 fours and six sixes, but more importantly, an innings that gave CSK something solid to defend. At 207 for six, they had a total. Not massive, but enough if they bowled well.

What followed showed just how well they understood the



situation.

AKEAL'S MATCH-WINNING IMPACT

The chase began badly for Mumbai and never really recovered. Akeal Hosein struck in the very first over, removing Danish Malewar for a golden duck. It set the tone. Quinton de Kock tried to break free early, even got off the mark with a six, but Mukesh Choudhary pulled things back quickly, cleaning him up for 7. There were no easy overs. Mukesh and Kamboj kept things tight, and by the end of the powerplay, Mumbai had posted their lowest score of the season in that phase.

There was a brief period when it looked like they might find a way back. Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma came together and began to rebuild. The boundaries came in patches. Tilak, in particular, looked confident. He took on Noor Ahmad, reached out to the balls well outside off, and still managed to find the fence. There was even a moment of celebration, a small fist pump, as he began to feel the innings.

The partnership crossed fifty, and for a while, CSK were tested. This is where Gaikwad's captaincy stood out. He has often been seen as someone who prefers pace options in the middle overs, someone who doesn't always turn to spin as an attacking weapon.

But on this night, he read the situation differently. He kept going back to his spinners, even when the match-up wasn't the obvious one. There has been a lot of talk this season about left-arm spinners bowling to left-hand batters.

Earlier, Aaron Finch had questioned why Axar Patel stayed away from that match-up when Abhishek Sharma was going strong. Here, CSK did the opposite. They trusted the skill, not the pattern.

Source: India Today

Yamal out for season as Barcelona move closer to title

MADRID (TIP), APRIL 24

Barcelona have taken a big step towards the La Liga title, but the momentum of their win over Celta Vigo has been overshadowed by a major injury blow to Lamine Yamal.

The 18-year-old was the difference on the night, winning and scoring a first-half penalty after a sharp run into the box forced a foul. It was a moment of individual quality in an otherwise tight game. But the story changed immediately after. Moments after converting the spot kick, Yamal signalled to the bench and went down holding his left hamstring before being taken off.

Barcelona have now confirmed the extent of the



problem. Tests revealed a hamstring injury in his left leg, which will rule him out for the rest of the domestic

season. The club has opted for a conservative recovery plan, with the focus now on ensuring he returns in time for the World Cup with Spain national football team.

For Barcelona, this comes at a crucial point. The win moved them nine points clear of Real Madrid with six games remaining, putting them firmly in control of the title race. However, Yamal has been one of their most important attacking players this season, and his absence will be felt, especially with a Clasico still to come.

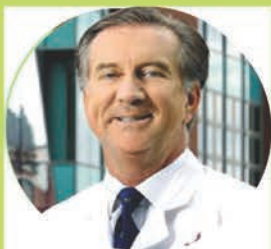
The performance itself reflected some of that reliance. Barcelona controlled phases of the match but lacked sharpness in attack beyond Yamal's moment. A second goal never came, and they had to manage the game carefully in the closing stages.



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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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