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The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will publish a special edition of The Indian Panorama on April 10, 2026, to mark Vaisakhi- the day of creation of the Khalsa by the Tenth Master of the Sikhs, Guru Gobind Singh, in the year 1699. Sikhism is the fifth largest and the youngest religion of the world. Vaisakhi is also the most popular socio-cultural event of Punjab.

Articles, messages, and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by April 6, 2026.

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"Bridges, Electric Power Plants": Trump threatens Iran's civilian and dual-use infrastructure



US forces, on April 3, targeted and destroyed the B1 Bridge in Karaj (Alborz Province), reportedly the tallest bridge in Iran

Image credit: X@W0lverineupdate

APRIL 3, 2026 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Doubling down on his threats to decimate Iran in his address to the American people on April 2, US President Donald Trump warned Iran of potential strikes on its infrastructure, including bridges and electric power plants, saying the US military "hasn't even started destroying what's left in Iran."

Trump, in a post on Truth Social on Thursday (local time), signaled a major escalation in the ongoing Operation Epic Fury, which began on February 28.

In a post on Truth Social, he said, "Our Military, the greatest and most powerful (by far!) anywhere in the World, hasn't even started destroying what's left in Iran. Bridges next, then Electric Power Plants! New Regime leadership knows what has to be done, and has to be done, FAST! President DONALD J. TRUMP."

This comes amid escalating tensions between the US and Iran, with Trump threatening to bomb Iran "back to the Stone Ages" if necessary.

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Millions in Thousands of Cities Throng the Anti-Trump 'No Kings' rallies

TRUMP IMMIGRATION POLICIES, IRAN CONFLICT FUEL PROTESTS



Demonstrators rally in front of the Lincoln Memorial during the No Kings protest in Washington, March 28, 2026. Such rallies were held across the nation.

Photo credit / PTI

MARCH 29, 2026 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Demonstrators decrying US President Donald Trump's aggressive deportation efforts, war in Iran and other policies took to city streets across the country on Saturday, March 28, in the third round of the "No Kings" rallies.

More than 3,200 events had been planned in all 50 states, after the two previous nationwide events attracted millions of participants. Large rallies took place in New York, Dallas, Philadelphia and Washington, but two-thirds of No Kings events were

CONTD ON PAGE 38

The Historic Mission: Artemis II crew clears Earth's orbit as it heads to moon

APRIL 3, 2026 FLORIDA (TIP)

The crew of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Artemis II mission on Friday, April 3, successfully cleared Earth's orbit and is now on course toward the Moon, marking a historic step in humanity's return to deep space exploration.

According to NASA, the Orion spacecraft executed a critical translunar injection burn, igniting its main engine for approximately six minutes to propel the crew beyond Earth's gravitational influence and set them on a trajectory for a lunar flyby.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



The perfect launch

Trump Shows the Door to US Attorney General Pam Bondi

APRIL 3, 2026 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

US President Donald Trump has removed Attorney General Pam Bondi - a longtime ally and fierce defender of his administration - from her post as America's top law enforcement officer. Trump praised her in a post on Truth Social and said she would be "transitioning"



Bondi's bond with Trump is broken

to a role in the private sector.

Bondi's time leading the justice department was often overshadowed by its handling of the release of files relating to Jeffrey Epstein and its investigation into the convicted sex offender. She is the second Trump administration official in recent weeks to be cut from her post, after Kristi Noem was ousted as homeland security chief in March.

CONTD ON PAGE 38



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COMMENT

Let Peace Prevail: A Plea in America's 250th Year of Independence

As the United States stands on the threshold of a historic milestone—the 250th anniversary of its Independence—the nation ought to be preparing for a celebration worthy of its founding ideals: liberty, peace, human dignity, and the promise of a better future for all. Yet, instead of unity and anticipation, a deep unease hangs in the air. The ongoing tensions and hostilities between the United States and Iran cast a long and troubling shadow over what should be a moment of collective pride and reflection.

Wars, or even the specter of war, have a way of intruding into the everyday lives of ordinary people. They disrupt economies, unsettle households, and sow fear and uncertainty. Today, across America, families are not merely thinking about fireworks and festivities; they are worrying about rising prices, global instability, and the unpredictable consequences of a conflict that appears to have no clear direction or end.

At the center of this unfolding crisis lies a troubling inconsistency in leadership messaging. President Donald Trump has, in recent weeks, sent mixed signals that have left Americans—and indeed the world—confused and apprehensive. On one hand, he has spoken of negotiations, of deadlines for a deal, of extending opportunities for diplomacy. These gestures were welcomed globally as signs that the United States might yet choose the path of peace.

But on the other hand, these overtures have been accompanied by harsh rhetoric and alarming threats. The President's warning that Iran could be pushed "back into the Stone Age," and his language suggesting annihilation, stand in stark contrast to the spirit of negotiation he claims to pursue. Such contradictions do not strengthen America's position; they weaken the credibility of its intentions and deepen global anxieties.

Diplomacy cannot thrive in the shadow of ultimatums. Peace cannot be built on the language of destruction.

The American people deserve clarity. They deserve a steady hand, not a fluctuating one. In times of international tension, leadership must be anchored in wisdom, restraint, and a deep understanding of the consequences of war. History offers us painful lessons—lessons written in the blood of soldiers and the tears of civilians—that conflicts, once ignited, rarely remain contained.

They expand, escalate, and consume far more than originally imagined.

The Strait of Hormuz, long considered a critical artery of global energy supply, has been at the center of this dispute. Earlier insistence on its unconditional opening as a precondition for talks seemed to harden positions. Now, as reports suggest a softening of that stance, there emerges a window—fragile but real—for dialogue. It is a moment that must not be squandered.

For what is at stake is not merely geopolitical influence or strategic dominance. What is at stake is human life—on both sides. What is at stake is the fragile fabric of global peace. And what is at stake, perhaps most poignantly, is the spirit of a nation that once declared to the world that all men are created equal and endowed with inalienable rights.

The irony is painful. As America prepares to celebrate its independence—a revolution born out of resistance to oppression and a yearning for self-determination—it finds itself entangled in a conflict that threatens to undermine those very ideals. The Founding Fathers, in their wisdom, cautioned against entangling alliances and unnecessary wars. They envisioned a republic that would lead by example, not by force.

Today, that vision calls out to us again.

This is not a moment for brinkmanship. This is not a moment for displays of power that risk spiraling into catastrophe. This is a moment for statesmanship of the highest order. It is a moment for courage—not the courage to wage war, but the courage to step back from it.

President Trump has before him an opportunity—a rare and defining opportunity—to change the course of events. By choosing diplomacy over destruction, dialogue over threats, and peace over provocation, he can offer the American people a gift far greater than any military victory: the gift of stability, of hope, and of a future unburdened by the costs of war.

Imagine, for a moment, the power of such a decision. Imagine an America that, in its 250th year, reaffirms its commitment to peace. Imagine a Fourth of July where the skies are lit not only by fireworks but by the knowledge that the nation has chosen the higher path. Imagine a world that sees in America not a force to be

feared, but a partner to be trusted.

This is not naïve idealism. It is pragmatic wisdom.

Wars are easy to start. Ending them requires vision, patience, and humanity. The American people—hardworking, peace-loving, and resilient—do not yearn for conflict. They yearn for security, for prosperity, and for a chance to celebrate their nation's journey without the looming threat of war.

Let us not forget that every missile fired, every escalation pursued, comes at a cost that cannot be measured solely in dollars or strategy. It is measured in lives disrupted, in futures denied, in the quiet suffering of countless families who bear the burden of decisions made far from their homes.

AS THE DRUMS OF WAR BEAT LOUDER, LET THE VOICES OF REASON RISE HIGHER.

Let statesmanship rise above petty interests and momentary calculations. Let generosity prevail over vengeance. Let fraternity triumph over hostility. Let love of humanity guide the actions of those entrusted with power.

History will judge this moment. It will ask whether we chose the path of wisdom or the road to ruin. It will ask whether, in our moment of strength, we exercised restraint—or succumbed to the temptations of force.

The answer lies not in speeches, but in actions.

Let there be a ceasefire of words before there is a ceasefire of arms. Let the language of annihilation be replaced by the language of negotiation. Let the world see that America, even in its might, has the humility to choose peace.

As the 250th Independence Day approaches, let it not be overshadowed by conflict. Let it be illuminated by a renewed commitment to the ideals that gave birth to the nation.

Mr. President, the American people do not ask for much. They ask for peace. They ask for clarity. They ask for leadership that reflects the greatness of their nation.

Give them that gift.

End this conflict.

Let America celebrate—not in anxiety, but in joy.

Let humanity breathe—not in fear, but in hope.

Let peace prevail.

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



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77th Rajasthan Diwas & Holi Sneh Milan Celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York

CONSUL GENERAL'S SUGGESTION FOR AN INDIA CENTER RECEIVES MASSIVE SUPPORT. PHILANTHROPISTS KK MEHTA & CHANDRA MEHTA PLEDGE \$5 MILLION FOR THE PROJECT



Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan congratulated RANA on the occasion of the 77th Rajasthan Divas celebrations.



RANA President Prem Bhandari addresses the gathering

**MARCH 31, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)**

The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) celebrated the 77th Rajasthan Diwas and Holi Sneh Milan at the Consulate General of India in New York, bringing together members of the Rajasthani diaspora, community leaders, and distinguished guests.

RANA President Prem Bhandari announced, on

behalf of RANA Founder K.K. Mehta, and Chandra Mehta, an initial contribution of USD 5 million plus from the Mehta Family Trust toward the development of the Indo-US Friendship Center, an initiative conceptualized by Consul General of India in New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan. Mehta, a philanthropist of note, is also known for donating 100 rooms at his Times Square hotel for students in need during the COVID

The Indo-US Friendship Center is expected to include a Rajasthan Bhawan, a Yoga and Ayurveda Center, a Convention Center, and a Social Center for Seniors, a press release from RANA said. Discussions for this project began during the previous RANA Deep Mahotsav. CG Pradhan spoke of his vision for the Center. Mehta spoke about entrusting the implementation to Bhandari, the press release said. Bhandari called for the inclusion of Rajasthani Bhasha in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution and appealed to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan to grant Rajasthani the status of a second language within the state.

The event also featured the prestigious Rajasthan Ratna Awards, conferred upon distinguished individuals for their remarkable contributions to society and philanthropy. The honorees included Dr. Samin Sharma, Dr. Narinder Kukar, Dr. Raj Bansal, Ashok Sancheti, and Jugal Kishore Ladda. All five were also appointed as Patrons of RANA in recognition of their outstanding philanthropic contributions in both the United States and India. Additionally, Nand Todi was honored with the Rajasthan Ratna Award for his continued humanitarian efforts, including a recent donation of USD 1 million toward a shelter home for the homeless in Montgomery County, Suburb of Philadelphia, along with his longstanding support of



Dr Rekha Bhandari received rajasthan Ratna award on behalf of Rajendra Bansal of Florida Binay k Pradhan , prem bhandari raj Garg joint secretary Rana with spouse



Dr Narinder Kukar received Rajasthan Ratna, Binay k Pradhan dr Sharad Kothari vice president RANA with spouse



Mohan Nannapani received award for humanitarian services, Binay k Pradhan prem & Rekha Bhandari



Dr Samin Sharma world famous interventional Cardiologist received Rajasthan Ratna award in photo Rana president prem bhandari Ambassador Binay K Pradhan CG NY dr Sahil Kherra dr Sachin (both from mt Sinai) Ravi Jargarh Rana secretary with spouse



Kk & Chandra Mehta founder of Rana hotelier who pledged 5 million plus USD for indo us friendship center which includes Rajasthan Bhawan New York



A view of the gathering



Nand Todi & his spouse received Rajasthan Ratna award award , Binay k Pradhan , dr Ravi Murarka, Media chairman RANA , amit Shraff joint secretary with spouse



Haridas Kotewala received rajasthan Ratna award on behalf of Ashoka Sancheti , Binay k Pradhan , Amit Shorewala joint secretary RANA & his spouse

pandemic, and for hosting the Vande Bharat Mission-2 Air India crew at the request of Prem Bhandari. Friends call him a compulsive philanthropist.

Jaipur Foot and Apna Ghar Ashram.

In recognition of humanitarian service, Team Aid Founder Mohan Nannapaneni and his team were honored with a plaque for their extraordinary work in facilitating over 5,000 repatriations of mortal remains to 27 countries, primarily to India, since 2017.

All honors and awards were presented by Chief Guest Consul General Pradhan.

Bhandari praised Ambassador Pradhan for keeping the New York Consulate operational 365 days a year and serving more than 2 million Indians within its jurisdiction. Dr. Ravi Murarka, Media Chairman, also spoke at the event, about the Boston India Consulate's decision to follow New York's example.

Attendees were informed about a Jaipur Foot camp to be held again in Gujarat, sponsored by BRUHUD NY Seniors under the leadership of its President Ajay Patel, in memory of his father, Late Shashikant Bhai.

The celebration included cultural performances including flower Holi festivities, dances by women and children, and a poetry recital by Abhinav Shukla. RANA Treasurer Neelam Modi welcomed the attendees, and RANA Secretary Ravi Jangarh delivered a vote of thanks.

Harmandeep, 21-year-old Sikh youth, reported missing in Canada's Brampton

**MARCH 26, 2026
BRAMPTON (TIP)**

A 21-year-old Sikh man of Punjab origin, identified as Harmandeep, has been reported missing in Canada's Brampton.



Harmandeep was last seen near Steeles Avenue West and Mavis Road. -Photo/X

He was last seen on foot near Steeles Avenue West and Mavis Road.

According to the description, Harmandeep is around 5 feet 5 inches tall with a slim build and short facial hair. He was wearing an orange turban, a black hoodie, and light-coloured pants, and was carrying a black backpack at the time. Authorities believe he may be using public transit. Police have urged anyone with information about his whereabouts to come forward. (Source: Tribune)

Poet Sifar Satbir appointed national president of Indian chapter of World Punjabi Sabha (Canada)

Satbir has been actively contributing through literary and financial support to strengthen the presence of Punjabi on the international stage

**APRIL 2, 2026
AMRITSAR / TORONTO (TIP)**

Noted Punjabi poet and entrepreneur Sifar Satbir has been appointed as the National President of Indian chapter of the World Punjabi Sabha (Canada).

His appointment has been widely welcomed by literary bodies, artists and cultural organizations across Punjab.

The announcement was made by the organization's International Chairman, Dr Dalbir Singh Kathuria, in recognition of Satbir's dedicated efforts toward the promotion and global recognition of the Punjabi language.

Satbir, known for his commitment to Punjabi literature and culture, has been actively contributing through literary and financial support to strengthen the presence of Punjabi on the international stage.

Prior to this elevation, Satbir served as president of the Majha Zone unit of the Sabha in Punjab. Notably, he established



Punjabi poet and entrepreneur Sifar Satbir

the first Vishav Punjabi Bhawan in India at his own expense in Amritsar, spread over 3,500 square yards. The facility provides free accommodation to visiting writers from abroad and offers space for

literary gatherings and cultural events. Similar centers have already been set up by the Sabha in Brampton (Canada) and Lahore (Pakistan).

Satbir has also played a key role in organizing international-level Punjabi literary festivals, further enhancing the Sabha's global outreach. Known for his humble and soft-spoken nature, he is a published poet who has contributed original works to Punjabi literature and served on editorial boards of various reputed literary journals.

Prominent personalities from the literary and cultural spheres, including noted poet Gurbhajan Gill, academician Prof Gurpreet Kaur, poet S Prshotam, comedian and actor Surinder Farishta (Ghulle Shah), and several others congratulated Sifar Satbir and expressed hope that Satbir's leadership will further strengthen efforts to promote Punjabi language and culture worldwide.

(Source: Tribune News Service)

Indian citizen injured in drone attack in UAE

Earlier last week, five Indians were injured in the UAE after debris fell in the vicinity of the Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi

**APRIL 1, 2026
DUBAI (TIP)**

An Indian national was injured when he was hit by shrapnel from a drone intercepted by the air defense system in the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, local government said.



Photo for Representation only

The incident occurred near the Umm Al Thuob Industrial Area in Umm Al Qaiwain, one of the seven emirates, state-run WAM news agency reported.

The Umm Al Qaiwain Government Media Office confirmed that the relevant authorities in the emirate responded to an incident that occurred near a facility in the Umm Al Thuob Industrial Area, resulting from falling shrapnel following the successful interception of a drone by air defense systems.

"The incident led to the injury of one Indian national," the agency quoted the office as saying.

Earlier last week, five Indians were injured in the UAE after debris fell in the vicinity of the Khalifa Economic Zones Abu Dhabi (KEZAD) as a ballistic missile was intercepted by the country's air defense system, local media reported on Saturday.

Before that, on Thursday, an Indian national was among the two killed in the UAE when debris of missiles intercepted by the country's air defense system fell on a street, Abu Dhabi Media Office reported.

Starting February 28, the US and Israel have launched a massive joint attack on Iran and with the Islamic nation's retaliation, it has extended to the entire Gulf region.

(Source: PTI)

Indian Origin Baltej Singh named in meth case in Nea Zealand

Baltej Singh is the nephew of Satwant Singh, one of the two bodyguards who assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984, New Zealand Police disclosed.

**MARCH 29, 2026
AUCKLAND (TIP)**

New Zealand's largest news organization, Stuff, has named Baltej Singh, nephew of Satwant Singh, one of the two bodyguards who assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in October 1984, as the mastermind behind the largest methamphetamine seizure in the country's history.



Image for representational purpose only/ iStock

The report, published on March 28, marks the first time a New Zealand media outlet has identified Baltej by name, since he had earlier obtained permanent name suppression from a New Zealand court.

According to Stuff, Singh has since abandoned his bid to retain name suppression, though no specific details were provided regarding when or in which court the withdrawal took place.

The development is significant within New Zealand's legal context, where courts can bind local media from publishing the identities of accused or convicted persons. However, such suppression orders do not apply to international media. Indian media had named Baltej as early as April 2023, within days of his arrest. Canadian broadcaster CTV News and the Investigative Journalism Foundation also named him extensively in a multi-part investigation published in October 2025. By the time he withdrew his suppression application, his name had already been in the international public domain for nearly two years.

The most likely explanation for the withdrawal, analysts say, is that the suppression had been rendered meaningless by international coverage. Continuing an expensive legal fight to maintain it served no practical purpose. Baltej is the son of Sarwan Singh Agwan, whose brother Satwant Singh was one of the two Sikh bodyguards who assassinated Indira Gandhi. The assassination was carried out in retaliation for Operation Blue Star, the military offensive aimed at removing militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian-origin man shot dead in Canada's Surrey

According to witnesses, Sekhon was first chased by a dark SUV after which two men stepped out of it and started shooting at him, the report said

**MARCH 31, 2026
OTTAWA (TIP)**

A man, known to be of Indian origin, has been killed in Canada's Surrey in an incident of shooting allegedly related to organized crime, local media reported.

The shooting incident was reported from a townhouse complex in Surrey's Sullivan Heights on Saturday night, in which a man was shot dead, Global News reported.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) said in an update on Monday that the victim has been identified as 27-year-old Jasman Sekhon, CTV News reported.

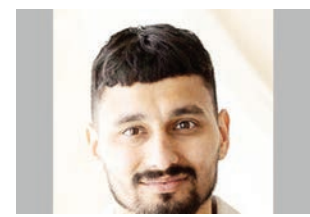
"Sekhon had previous interactions with the police and was believed to be involved in the drug trade. Early indications suggest this was a targeted incident related to organized crime," the report said, quoting the IHIT's statement.

According to witnesses, Sekhon was first chased by a dark SUV after which two men stepped out of it and started shooting at him, the report said.

Officials found Sekhon with gunshot wounds when they arrived and failed to revive him, it added. A burning vehicle was found nearby after the shooting incident, which police say is the hallmark of gang killings.

Officials are trying to confirm if the burning vehicle is related to the shooting incident. "Investigators are working diligently to determine the circumstances surrounding the homicide and identify all parties involved," the report quoted Sgt Freda Fong as saying. There have been four shootings in Surrey in the past 48 hours.

(Source: PTI)



Victim: 27-year-old Jasman Sekhon

Indian Origin Amit Kshatriya, NASA's highest-ranking civil servant, does Indians Proud

APRIL 1, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

With Indian roots, Amit Kshatriya's journey carries a quiet global pride.

But it all began with a moment of tragedy.

In January 1986, while still in elementary school, he watched as the Challenger space shuttle exploded just 73 seconds after liftoff, killing all seven astronauts.

Instead of fear, it sparked something deeper.

It inspired him.

And that's what stayed with him: the idea that even in failure, science demands we "get better."

Years later, he turned that inspiration into action.

He began his career in 2003, working on the space shuttle

"53 years ago, humanity left the moon & did not return. Now we go back."



Who Is Amit Kshatriya, NASA's Highest-Ranking Civil Servant & Key Architect Of Artemis Mission

The man who, as a child in 1986, watched the tragedy of seven astronauts killed in the Challenger space shuttle take off, is today leading humanity's return to the Moon.

program and the International Space Station, eventually becoming a NASA flight director, one of only about 100 people ever to lead Mission Control.

Today, as Associate Administrator & Chief Operating Officer, he oversees NASA's major programs and leadership across the agency.

But his most defining role lies here.

He previously led planning and execution under NASA's Moon to Mars program, responsible for ensuring missions like Artemis stay aligned and on track.

From a child watching tragedy unfold to leading humanity's return to the Moon, this is what inspiration can build.

(Source: Facebook post by Mr. Karlaker)

Indian-American lawyer challenges Trump's order to end birthright citizenship

The executive order seeks to end the birthright citizenship granted by the 14th Amendment

APRIL 2, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Smita Ghosh, an Indian-American lawyer's brief to the Supreme Court as an amicus curiae, is shaping up the arguments in the case challenging US President Donald Trump's executive order ending birthright citizenship for certain people.

Ghosh, a senior appellate counsel at the

Constitutional Accountability Centre, is part of a group of attorneys contesting before

the US Supreme Court Trump's executive order,

signed on the first day in office after re-election as

President in January.

The executive order seeks to end the birthright citizenship granted by the 14th Amendment. Before joining Constitutional Accountability Centre (CAC), Ghosh was a Research Fellow at Georgetown University Law Centre, where she taught classes on immigration law and separation of powers.

She has also served as a Supreme Court Fellow at the US Sentencing Commission and a law clerk for Judge Victor Bolden in the US District Court for the District of Connecticut.

According to her LinkedIn profile, Ghosh completed her undergraduate education in history at Swarthmore College, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, graduating with high honors.

She then pursued a Juris Doctor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where she graduated cum laude.

In addition to her legal training, Ghosh earned a PhD in legal history from the University of Pennsylvania. During her academic career, she was recognized as an Annenberg History Fellow and later as a Benjamin Franklin Fellow, highlighting her scholarly achievements.

Her professional background also includes roles in private practice and civil rights advocacy. She worked as a legal advisor at Berke-Weiss Law and contributed to pro bono and constitutional cases during her time at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP.

Additionally, she served as a research associate at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, where she worked on issues related to civil rights and equality.

In the brief for the Supreme Court, co-authored by Ghosh, the lawyers argue that Trump's executive order undermines long-standing constitutional protections.



Smita Ghosh

Photo Credit
X/@eeksmitta

Indian Origin Jaspreet Singh honored by The Burj Global Power 100 in Washington

MARCH 31, 2026
AMRITSAR / NEW YORK (TIP)

Bringing laurels to Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU), its alumnus Jaspreet Singh, an attorney at law in the US, has been conferred with the prestigious Burj Global Power 100 Award at an international ceremony held recently in Washington, DC.

The Burj Global Power 100 platform recognizes outstanding individuals from across the world for their exemplary contributions in diverse fields including business, leadership, innovation, and social service.

Singh was honored for his remarkable achievements in the legal profession, and for demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities.



Jaspreet Singh being honored in Washington, D.C.

The award ceremony witnessed the presence of eminent business leaders, professionals, and change-makers from

across the globe, making it a significant international gathering.

GNDU Vice-Chancellor Karamjeet Singh congratulated Singh on the achievement, saying such accomplishments by alumni brought pride and global recognition to the university.

He added that GNDU continued to nurture talent that excelled at international platforms, and contributed meaningfully to society.

Pertinently, Singh had helped set up the Guru Nanak Chair at GNDU with an initial donation of Rs 3 crore.

The VC said Singh's achievement stood as an inspiration for students and young professionals, reflecting a strong academic foundation and value-based education.

(Source: TNS)

Indian Origin Pallavi Mehta Wahi and Ash Wahi Establish Scholarship to Expand Access to Global Legal Education

APRIL 1, 2026
SEATTLE (TIP)

Through a generous and forward-looking gift, Pallavi Mehta Wahi and Ash Wahi have established the Mehta Wahi LLM Scholarship at Seattle University School of Law, supporting an incoming LLM student with a demonstrated interest in South Asia-related legal and policy issues. Their philanthropy reflects a deep commitment to expanding access to legal education and preparing leaders who can work across borders, legal systems, and cultures.

ADMINISTERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROUNDGLASS INDIA CENTER, THE SCHOLARSHIP CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR

INTERNATIONALLY TRAINED LAWYERS, BRINGS DIVERSE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES INTO THE CLASSROOM, AND STRENGTHENS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND SOUTH ASIAN LEGAL COMMUNITIES. MORE THAN A SINGLE AWARD, THE MEHTA WAHI SCHOLARSHIP REPRESENTS AN INVESTMENT IN LONG-TERM IMPACT-HELPING SHAPE A GLOBALLY ENGAGED LEGAL PROFESSION.

An inaugural recipient will be selected this spring and matriculate into the university's LLM program starting Fall 2026.



Pallavi Mehta Wahi and Ash Wahi have established the Mehta Wahi LLM Scholarship at Seattle University School of Law, supporting an incoming LLM student.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Middlesex College Students Shine at Northeast Regional Honors Council Conference

APRIL 2, 2026
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP)

The Northeast Regional Honors Council hosted their annual conference where six Middlesex College students presented their honors research. Two of the presenting students, Mariela Flores and Victor Gil, were awarded the Scholarship for Equity and Access (SEA) Award. The award is given to presenting honors students belonging to a traditionally underrepresented group.

Gil, who is graduating in May with a degree in business administration, was shaped by his research in the Princeton Transfer Scholars program to shift his academic focus from business to sociology. He used data to identify the correlation between the number of social media platforms and perceived knowledgeability of monkeys.

"This research project opened my mind up to sociology," said Gil. "Marketing and sociology deal with the study of human interaction, so I can see myself succeeding in either field."

He hopes to transfer to an ivy league school to become a sociology researcher and future non-profit leader.

Flores, graduating in December, plans to pursue psychology, human resources, or neuroscience. She hopes to use her education to create pathways for



Honors Students Mariela Flores of Edison (left) and Victor Gil of South River were awarded the Scholarship for Equity and Access Award at the 2026 conference.

underrepresented students - particularly first-generation, low-income, or Hispanic students - access opportunities for personal and professional development.

"To traditionally underrepresented students, I would say this: do not let the limitations placed on you define your future," said Flores. "This experience reminded me

that success is not reserved for a select few; it is attainable for anyone willing to pursue it with determination and support."

This year's conference theme, "Haven of Honors", showcased individuals cultivating innovative, upstanding, and impactful leaders. This was the first year that Middlesex College students were selected to participate through the competitive application process.

"I am continually inspired by our students' drive to think with such creativity and lead with purpose," said Honors Program Coordinator and Professor of Natural Sciences Claire Condie. "Our Honors students are not only representing our institution with distinction but also paving the way for future students to follow."

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE STUDENT PRESENTERS:

- Aarzoo Brahmabhatt, "Philosophy as Therapy"
 - Mariela Flores, "The Epicurean Surgery: Fostering Well-Being Within the Campus Community"
 - Victor Gil, The Socially Aware Homo Sapien: Social Media and Conservation
 - Shreya Karmokar, Psychology: "Sleep versus Concentration: A Correlation Study"
 - Rimo Matthew, Microplastics: A Growing Threat to Human Health
 - Gurleen Saran, "Love Me, But Not the Lasagna"
- "The accomplishments of our Honors students at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference reflect the very best of Middlesex College: intellectual curiosity, creativity, professionalism, and a deep commitment to excellence," said Dean of Liberal Arts Timothy Hack. "We are extremely proud of their achievements and grateful for the outstanding leadership that helped showcase their talents on a regional stage."

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, NJ

Middlesex College, established in 1964, is a public, two-year institution of higher education located in the heart of New Jersey. With a main campus in Edison and centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, Middlesex College offers over 90 degree and certificate programs encouraging its more than 10,000 students to explore, grow, and thrive. Middlesex College, through dedicated faculty, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and holistic student supports, is committed to providing a high-quality, affordable college education that provides every student an opportunity for growth and achievement. Middlesex College is Middlesex County's premier destination for lifelong learning and workforce training. Learn more at middlesexcollege.edu



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AIA-NY Strengthens Ties with Queensborough Community College with Scholarships and Cultural Exchange



Drs Yashpal and Urmilesh Arya gifted \$10,000 for student scholarships



AIA members and Queensborough Community College officials at the check presentation

MARCH 30, 2026 QUEENS, NY (TIP)

March 25 witnessed another chapter of the Association of Indians in America - New York Chapter (AIA-NY) strengthening educational ties with the Queensborough Community College (QCC) through scholarships and cultural exchanges.

community leaders including Dr. Nirmal K. Mattoo, Chairman of the Indo American Arts Council.

This collaboration with QCC started last year with the establishment of the Student Success Scholarship Fund, initiated with the support of AIA-NY leadership, the Arya Family Foundation and Dr Jagdish Gupta. Since then, 31

On March 25 this year, 75 students of Indian origin exuberantly celebrated Holi with gulaal. They were joined by 50 prominent members of the Indian community invited by AIA-NY, including AIA National President Nilima Madan, Past President Gobind Munjal, Dr. Raj Modi, Harsh Vyas, Anita Thakkar, newspaper editors Sunil Hali and Jasbir Jay Singh.

while preserving and celebrating Indian heritage through meaningful community engagement.

Founded in 1967, the AIA-NY chapter is one of the oldest Indian-American community organizations in the United States. It promotes cultural heritage, education, and community service through programs, scholarships, and events. The annual Deepavali festival in the first week of October is its flagship event.

This collaboration with QCC marks a significant milestone in AIA-NY's mission to strengthen educational access



Holi revelers at Queensborough Community College

AIA National Past President Dr Urmilesh Arya and Dr Yashpal Arya gifted \$10,000 for ten scholarships of \$1,000 each to students from low-income families enrolled in certificate and associate degree programs at QCC, which is one of the top-ranked community colleges in the CUNY system and has its campus in Bayside, NY.

The Arya couple presented the scholarship check to QCC President Dr Christine Mangino thanking her and her team for the growing partnership with AIA-NY. They were joined at the ceremony by AIA-NY President Beena Kothari, Past President Dr. Jagdish Gupta, and

QCC students have been supported with scholarships during Holi and Deepavali celebrations at the campus. It reflects AIA-NY's ongoing dedication to educational empowerment and community upliftment.

Over the past year, AIA-NY and QCC have celebrated several important cultural milestones together, including Holi - Festival of Colors and Deepavali - the Festival of Lights. These events brought together students, faculty, families, and community leaders in joyful celebrations featuring music, dance, arts, traditional hospitality, and vibrant cultural exchange.

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What Trump's speech says about his war on Iran- Analysis

BY STANLY
JOHNY



The speech was largely a reassertion of the claims he has been making over the past few weeks and also underscores his limited options in the ongoing war with Iran

With Mr. Trump lacking an exit path and Iran prepared to absorb the costs and play a longer game, the war is likely to drag on, with serious implications for the Persian Gulf and the broader global economy.

Before U.S. President Donald Trump delivered his national address on the evening of April 1 in the White House, Iran and Hezbollah launched heavy missile attacks at Israel. While Mr. Trump was speaking about America's achievements in the war, including degrading Iran's missile capability, missile alerts were issued in the UAE. After Mr. Trump concluded his speech, Iran launched another salvo of missiles at Israel.

WHAT TRUMP SAID

There was much speculation on what Mr. Trump was going to say in his first primetime national address since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on February 28. Some said he would escalate with a ground attack, while others said he would chicken out or issue a timeline to wind up operations. But the U.S. leader did not say anything new. The speech was largely a reassertion of the claims he has been making over the past few weeks. He said the U.S. was "on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly." He also said the U.S. was going to hit Iran "extremely hard" over the next two to three weeks. "We are going to bring them back to the Stone Ages."

U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S ADDRESS ON IRAN-ISRAEL WAR: KEY QUOTES

Mr. Trump said discussions were under way and asked the Iranians to make a deal. "If there is no deal, we are going to hit each and every one of their electric-generating plants very hard and properly simultaneously." He said the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman that has been taken control of by Iran after the war, is not America's problem. He had earlier asked America's allies to send ships to reopen the Strait - which nobody is willing to do.

U.S.-ISRAEL-IRAN WAR: LIST OF COUNTRIES ALLOWED TO CROSS THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ

He also indicated that he was not considering a ground operation to seize Iran's enriched uranium because it's buried deep underground. "It would take months to get near the nuclear dust," he said, adding that U.S. satellites are monitoring Iran's nuclear sites.

WHAT WERE TRUMP'S GOALS

While the main objective of the speech appeared to make the case for the war to the American public, it also underscores the limited options Mr. Trump has in winding down the conflict. In the speech Mr. Trump



U.S. President Donald Trump arrives to speak about the Iran war from the Cross Hall of the White House in Washington, D.C. on April 1, 2026. | Photo Credit: AP

praised the Venezuela attack earlier this year.

But in Venezuela, U.S. troops went in and got out with President Nicolas Maduro, handing the country to his Vice-President who is willing to work with Washington.

But in Iran, the assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei seemed to have strengthened Iran's resolve to stand up to the U.S.

On February 28, when he launched the war, Mr. Trump outlined five broad objectives: to "raze" Iran's missile industry "to the ground"; to "annihilate" Iran's Navy; to ensure that Iran's "proxies" could no longer "destabilize" the region; to prevent Iran from ever obtaining a nuclear weapon; and to bring about regime change. "When we are finished, take over your government. It will be yours to take. This will be probably your only chance for generations," he said at the time. In his April 1 address, Mr. Trump claimed the U.S. was now completing all of these objectives.

GROUND REALITY

The ground reality, however, tells a different story. Despite a month-long campaign by the U.S. and Israel, Iran continues to strike Israel, which is more than 2,000 km away, with ballistic missiles, and target American bases in the Persian Gulf region. Mr. Trump has claimed that he has annihilated

Iran's navy, but he is not willing to send American troops to reopen the Strait of Hormuz-no country, even Britain, America's closest ally in Europe, wants to join this war. In fact, the U.S. Navy has stayed away from the Persian Gulf, where Iran still takes shots.

WHAT DOES TRUMP WANT FROM IRAN?

Israel is bombing Iran while carrying out a ground invasion in Lebanon against Hezbollah, an Iranian ally. But Iran and Hezbollah continue to launch coordinated attacks. Last week, Yemen's Ansar Allah (better known as Houthis), another Iranian ally, launched a ballistic missile at Israel, formally joining the war. The Houthis, who rule almost half of Yemen, have the capability to shut the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a chokepoint between the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea. If the Strait is closed, traffic through the Suez Canal will be disrupted. And if the Strait of Hormuz and the Strait of Bab el Mandeb are closed at the same time, it would be catastrophic for the global economy. And Mr. Trump's last objective, regime change in Iran, remains distant. He now claims that regime change has already occurred, which is not a serious argument. The assassination of Ali Khamenei did not alter the state structure of Iran. If anything, it has strengthened elite

cohesion within the Islamic Republic and further elevated the IRGC's standing in the system.

WHO ARE IRAN'S REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS?

What Mr. Trump can do is continue bombing Iran, which is what he threatened to do in his speech. He is using the threat of extensive strikes, including at civilian infrastructure, as an added layer of pressure to force Iran to shift its position and make a deal. But if Mr. Trump follows through on his threats, Iran is likely to retaliate by attacking energy infrastructure across the Persian Gulf, driving up fuel prices further. Iran maintains, at least publicly, that it was in talks when the U.S. bombed the country. In the words of Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, Tehran is not ready for a ceasefire.

With Mr. Trump lacking an exit path and Iran prepared to absorb the costs and play a longer game, the war is likely to drag on, with serious implications for the Persian Gulf and the broader global economy.

(Stanly Johnny is the International Affairs Editor with The Hindu. He has a Ph.D. in International Studies from the Centre for West Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi, and anchors the paper's international coverage, besides writing editorials, Op-Eds and other reportage. He has been writing on geopolitics and Indian foreign policy for over a decade and has reported from different parts of the world.)

Mocking Pakistan doesn't help India

In its own interests, and in this year of India's BRICS leadership, Delhi would have been so much better served by declaring that it backs all efforts to restore peace, irrespective of which country is involved, instead of mocking Pakistan's efforts. After all, India stands to benefit, along with the rest of the world, if these efforts succeed.

India has focused much attention in recent days on Pakistan's role in efforts to end the US-Israel war on Iran. Pakistan, working with Egypt and Turkiye, appears to have carried messages between the Iranian leadership and the US. The process is clouded by uncertainties.

On the one hand, the US is asserting that the two sides are close to a deal even as Trump also continues to say preparations are on for a ground invasion. On the other hand, Iran, which has presented a 15-point list of demands, says there is no deal yet. The war may or may not end soon.

In India, Pakistan's role has evoked two kinds of reactions - outrage that Pakistan could assume any role of importance in the world, and following from this, the second reaction - the dismissal or mockery of the role Pakistan is playing. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar went so far as to describe the role as that of a "dalaal".

For the record, India has not called any of the others - Oman, Turkiye or Egypt - who tried or are trying to mediate as dalaals or dismissed their efforts as dalaali. Nor has any Indian official used that word for anyone else trying to defuse any other crisis in the world. For instance, Norway's role in West Asia in the 1990s.

Will the government add "dalaali" to the list of alleged wrongs that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru committed when he waded into the Korean War in 1950?

Why do countries offer themselves as mediators? For Norway, which hosted the Nobel Peace Prize and played a major role in seeking a settlement to the Israel-Palestine conflict and later in Sri Lanka, mediation is a prestige project, through which it seeks more leverage in the world. Credibility is important for such efforts, and in its interventions, Norway projected itself as an honest broker. It is another matter that those efforts failed.

Nehru believed his peace efforts in the Korean War would prove that non-alignment had the power to bring the two superpower blocs closer. Pakistan, which has been associated with hosting Osama bin Laden and other notorious terrorist groups, senses an opportunity for image repair.

In a conflict like the one raging in West Asia, whose impact is being felt across the whole world, every country wants the war to end. Some believe they have what it takes to knock sense into the warring sides. Pakistan is uniquely positioned for such a role among the countries that are facing several second-order consequences of this conflict. Apart from the impact on its already fragile economy, Pakistan shares a nearly 1,000-km border with Iran on its south-western flank. Some 20% of Pakistanis are Shia, religiously affiliated to the Iranian state. Shias

are the country's largest majority. What happens if Iran reaches into Pakistan. The assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini by US-Israel set off deadly violence in Pakistan's predominantly Shia areas, and protests across all its cities.

The Balochistan province of

which it keeps mostly cordial but careful ties, and US President Donald Trump, with whom Pakistan's de facto leader Field Marshal Asim Munir has a special relationship.

Unlike the Gulf countries, it does not host US bases. Moreover, as a nuclear-armed state, it carries heft in the Islamic world. China has also



Effort: As a mediator, Pakistan senses an opportunity for image repair. -Photo credit / Reuters

Pakistan borders Baloch regions in Iran. Any US-Israeli attempt to involve this Sunni minority in regime change or a ground invasion of Iran would have repercussions on the Pakistani side of the border. Pakistan is also beholden to the Sunni monarchies who rule the Gulf states and whose petrodollars bail out its economy from time to time.

If the war continues, Pakistan's "strategic mutual defense agreement" with Saudi Arabia, signed last year, could compel it to put boots on the ground against Iran. It can do this only at its own peril. The reported Saudi prodding of the US that it cannot walk away until Iran is conclusively defeated increases that risk. Pakistan, thus, needs the war to end in its own interests.

Any country can pitch itself as a mediator in a conflict, provided it is fully trusted by all parties in the conflict, and has the consent of all parties to intervene. Since the start of this war, Islamabad has walked a shaky tightrope between Iran, with

backed its effort.

The entire project may fail, given the unpredictability of Trump and with Iran not giving in on its conditions. But fear of failing has never come in the way of mediation. Last weekend, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye met in Islamabad, signaling a serious effort by this Islamic quadrilateral for a diplomatic intervention in the war, which is now in its fifth week.

If Israel does not play spoiler - according to a Reuters report, it was asked by the US, on Pakistan's request, to stand down from a planned assassination of Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi and Speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf - and the new quad's efforts progress, Pakistan may host peace talks.

The last time Pakistan played the role of international facilitator was for the US-China detente. Coming during the throes of Pakistan's failing attempts to hold on to East Pakistan and India's involvement in the Bangladesh liberation war, Henry

BY NIRUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN



Kissinger's secret visit from Islamabad to Beijing in July 1971, announced by President Richard Nixon soon after his return, shocked India as much as the rest of the world. The rapprochement was among the drivers of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation the same year, giving Delhi the confidence for its December 1971 military campaign that led to the final breakup of Pakistan and the liberation of Bangladesh.

India's strategic environment is changing rapidly once again, underlining Delhi's diplomatic loneliness that began with Operation Sindoor. Mocking Pakistan for its efforts to make peace does not help India at all. Impressing domestic constituencies with word play may be politically satisfying. But as other commentators have noted, it shows up Delhi in poor light, as more bitter about Pakistan than interested in the peace in West Asia.

In its own interests, and in this year of India's BRICS leadership, Delhi would have been so much better served by declaring that it backs all efforts to restore peace, irrespective of which country is involved, instead of mocking Pakistan's efforts. After all, India stands to benefit, along with the rest of the world, if these efforts succeed.

(Nirupama Subramanian is an independent journalist who has worked at The Indian Express and The Hindu. Her X handle is @tallstories)

TRUMP WANTS TO RESHAPE IRAN

As US President threatens to bomb Iran into the Stone Age, Pezeshkian writes a letter

BY GADDAM
DHARMENDRA



"The US President is not merely wreaking havoc but is seeking to shape a post-war Iran, ensuring that its economic recovery and reconstruction will be long and painful. As such, his rhetoric needs to be taken with deadly seriousness. Clearly, "regime change" is no longer on the US-Israel agenda, but wishing to send Iran back to the "Stone Age" is playing itself out before the entire world. This is an assault on a people who just two months ago were, quite ironically, assured by Trump that "help is on its way"."

Two contrasting messages were sent on April 1 by the principal protagonists of the ongoing war in West Asia. One was a much-anticipated speech by US President Donald Trump, while the other was a "Letter to American People" by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

In a made-for-television address, Trump eventually had nothing new to say as he rehashed his social media posts and media comments. There was no mention of unblocking the Strait of Hormuz, under the chokehold of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy (IRGC-N), nor of inserting US ground troops, massed in their thousands across the region, into Iran.

The strait, through which one-third of global energy flows, remains under the IRGC's control. Financial and commodity indices, monitored closely by Trump, are steadily trending upwards, while countries from Australia to Egypt are facing fuel shortages and shutdowns. The entire global economy is on edge, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicting a recession. Till date, Trump has been cleverly manipulating markets, aligning his comments to shape them. No longer, it seems. Stock markets are now moving more in line with battlefield developments rather than Trump's comments.

Pezeshkian's letter - penned in English, not Farsi - was circulated widely on social media. Given the country's official stance of hostility towards the US, this is an unusual, perhaps even brave, message. Both sides have previously exchanged letters at the highest levels, but such a public outreach by a sitting Iranian President has no historical precedent. After all, the two countries broke off diplomatic ties in 1979 following the kidnapping of US diplomats stationed in Tehran. Pezeshkian is now seeking to set the record straight on Iran-US relations,

that these were "not originally hostile", and goes on to lay the blame for the current conflict entirely on the US and Israel.

Pezeshkian's plea is mature and subtly goes beyond a US audience. He addresses the world by saying that attacking Iran's vital infrastructure constitutes a war crime, that these "generate instability, increase human and economic costs, and perpetuate cycles of tension, planting seeds of resentment that will endure for years". Chronologically, it needs to be noted, Iran's strikes on infrastructure in the region, as opposed to military targets, were usually reactive and not proactive.

In his address, Trump doubled down on a globally unpopular war. He appeared

to the six Persian Gulf countries witnessing, in real time, the devastation of the entire foundations on which their economies were built.

The US President's coarse and insulting language towards Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the Kuwaitis simplifies complex issues to a populist base unconcerned with niceties.

Trump is essentially signaling a further escalation, which could last several more weeks. In recent days, the US and Israel have sharply expanded their bombing campaign, going beyond military targets to strike at the very heart of Iran's society and industrial base. They have bombed two of Iran's steel plants, a pharmaceutical

being relocated from East Asia to replenish the losses in West Asia. Till date, the Iranians have destroyed half a dozen THAAD radar systems, decapitated the US's most complex radar array at the Al-Udaid base in Qatar and with pinpoint precision destroyed E3 Sentry surveillance aircraft, KC 135 air refueling tankers and other surveillance aircraft. This is just a small inventory of what the Iranians have managed to destroy, apart from the devastating damage inflicted on US bases.

Meanwhile, ongoing mediation talks, being brokered by Pakistan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, don't appear to be making much headway. So also is the Pakistan-China "5-point initiative". The



President Pezeshkian has claimed that the attack on Iran's vital infrastructure constitutes a war crime.

Photo credit/ Reuters

reasonable while simultaneously renewing his trademark threats, declaring, "We are going to hit them (Iran) extremely hard over the next two to three weeks. We are going to bring them back to the stone ages where they belong. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing... We have all the cards; they have none."

An unfazed Iran, confident that it currently holds the upper hand, taunted US troops to "come closer." One Iranian analyst succinctly noted that an aerial assault from 36,000 feet is vastly different from "manly" combat at six feet.

Trump's address is also replete with contradictions. He claims completion of "core strategic objectives," but elsewhere in the same address, he says that "we will continue until our core objectives are fully achieved". This contradiction is deliberate, not random.

It is directed at a target audience of critical importance to him, electorally and financially. The former is an increasingly nervous MAGA base, which he has assuaged by saying "we are winning, bigly". The latter is a band-aid, a placebo,

factory, civilian installations, gymnasiums and residential areas. The Mobarakeh steel plant in Isfahan is, in fact, the largest in West Asia. As one analyst describes it, "Steel sits at the core of infrastructure, construction and industrial circulation. Damage it, and the effects cascade far beyond one sector".

The US President is not merely wreaking havoc but is seeking to shape a post-war Iran, ensuring that its economic recovery and reconstruction will be long and painful. As such, his rhetoric needs to be taken with deadly seriousness. Clearly, "regime change" is no longer on the US-Israel agenda, but wishing to send Iran back to the "Stone Age" is playing itself out before the entire world. This is an assault on a people who just two months ago were, quite ironically, assured by Trump that "help is on its way".

Trump is also casually papering over a military quagmire into which he has drawn the entire US CENTCOM (Central Command), and, for us in India, the US PACOM (Pacific Command), a theatre of vital importance. US military assets are

latter is heavy on optics and light on substance, a classic diplomatic feint, which will please none and achieve nothing.

The reality is that the US and Iran are locked in maximalist positions. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi made this abundantly clear, saying that Iran has neither been consulted nor is it in any way engaged in the mediation. Araghchi also says these are not negotiations but merely an exchange of messages.

He rejected any claims of a ceasefire, saying that Iran seeks a complete and perpetual cessation of all hostilities and compensation for damages. The danger, as always with the Iranians, is their tendency to overplay their hand and not know when to fold their cards.

(Gaddam Dharmendra is a nonresident senior fellow at Carnegie India. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1990 and served in various capacities in Indian Missions across the world and at the Ministry of External Affairs, South Block. His overseas assignments include stints at Indian Missions in Tehran, Dushanbe, Washington D.C., and Dhaka.)

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Successful Inauguration of ODOP Exhibition & Permanent ODOP Corner at CGI Houston

**MARCH 30, 2026
HOUSTON (TIP)**

The Consulate General of India, Houston, successfully inaugurated a specially curated ODOP Exhibition and a permanent ODOP Corner at the Consulate on March 30, 2026.

The Exhibition will remain open to the public from 10:30 AM to 1:00 PM on all working days from April 1 to April 10, 2026, while the permanent ODOP Corner will be accessible on all working days.

A Consulate press release said: "We warmly invite members of the Indian diaspora, friends of India, and well-wishers to visit, explore, and support the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative of the Government of India.

ODOP is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at promoting unique district specific products, empowering artisans, women led enterprises, farmer producer groups, and MSMEs by enhancing branding, market access, and global outreach.



Consul General of India in Houston Mr. D. C. Manjunath, inaugurates ODOP Corner at the Consulate General of India on March 30, 2026



Consul General of India in Houston Mr. D. C. Manjunath speaks on the occasion.



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On the sidelines of the inauguration, the Consulate-together with IACCGH (iaccgh.com) hosted a highly engaging Roundtable on Standard Operating Procedures for Imports from India.

We thank @IACCGHouston, Port Houston (porthouston.com) our expert speakers, and all participants for their open discussions, valuable insights and practical guidance on import-export procedures, documentation, and the evolving tariff landscape.

This event is part of the Consulate's ongoing efforts to deepen engagement with stakeholders and strengthen India-US economic ties. Today's discussions focused on the 3Ts-Trade, Technology, and Tourism, with a special emphasis on the 4th relevant T: Tariffs.

We look forward to continued collaboration with our partners and community members."

'ME AND MY HUSBAND DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE ON EVERY ISSUE': USHA VANCE

APRIL 2, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

US Second Lady Usha Vance said she considered herself a trusted adviser to her husband JD Vance, the US Vice-President, especially when he's taking a position on an issue that is "important personally". Usha, the first Indian American Second Lady, in an interview with NBC News, also said she and her husband did not see eye to eye on every issue, but the room for disagreement created space for "open-minded" conversations.

"There are conversations all the time," Vance said.

"I do really like to understand what's going on in his world, what he's really focused on, what concerns he has, because it's a marriage. I mean, I want to be supportive of him, and if I don't really know what's going on, then I can't do that."

She added that the vice-president had an entire staff of policy advisers, but he came to her "when something is



US Vice-President JD Vance and his wife Usha Vance. -File Photo/Credit Reuters

troubling him" or "when he really wants to talk through something that feels

more, kind of, intensely personal or important personally."

"I'm not his staffer. I'm not involved in this in any professional sense. There's no expectation that we are going to see eye to eye on everything," Vance said.

"The expectation is that we are going to be open-minded and have a conversation, and that I'll provide meaningful input from, you know, the perspective of someone who loves him and wants him to succeed. So even if we don't agree, it's - I think it's always very productive," she said.

The Second Lady said the 2028 presidential campaign was not a priority in her conversations with her husband, who was more focused on the mid-term elections due in November.

"JD is very focused on the midterm elections right now, on all the things that are happening right this moment, which are obviously exceedingly important," she said.

She said she would have a better sense of her husband's potential presidential campaign in 2027.

(Source: PTI)

US Secy of War ousts 2 more Army Generals



US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth

APRIL 3, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

After ousting Gen. Randy George, the 41st Chief of Staff of the Army, US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, has forced out two more army generals in a major rejig after vowing for regime change in the Iran war, the Wall Street Journal reported.

General David Hodne, who became the head of the service's Training and Transformation Command in October, and Major General William Green Jr., Chief of Army Chaplains, were removed after General Randy George, the Army's chief of staff, as reported by the Wall Street Journal.

The removal comes late in a series of clashes between the Pentagon chief and the service's senior leadership. George has been asked to retire immediately, even though he was expected to hold the office for more than another year, until the fall of 2027, and complete what is typically a four-year assignment as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Chief Pentagon Spokesman Sean Parnell said in a post on X: "General Randy A. George will be retiring from his position as the 41st Chief of Staff of

the Army effective immediately. The Department of War is grateful for General George's decades of service to our nation. We wish him well in his retirement."

With George being out, Hegseth has remade nearly the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff, a panel of senior military officers at the Pentagon that advises both the president and the secretary, as per the Wall Street Journal.

Early last year, the Trump administration fired General Charles Q Brown Jr., then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Admiral Lisa Franchetti, head of the US Navy; Admiral Linda Fagan, commandant of the Coast Guard; and General James Slife, vice chief of staff of the Air Force. Hegseth later asked General David Allvin, chief of staff of the Air Force, to retire early last fall, as per Wall Street Journal.

Hodne was selected to lead an organization, Training and Transformation Command, that George had prioritized, while Hegseth has sought to upend how military chaplains minister to and support service members.

It was not immediately clear why Hegseth targeted George, Hodne and Green, as per the Wall Street Journal.

Also, in a major administrative reshuffle, US President Donald Trump has announced the departure of Pam Bondi from her role as Attorney General.

Moving swiftly to fill the leadership vacuum at the Department of Justice, the President confirmed that Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche will step in to lead the agency, as he "will serve as acting attorney general" for the interim period.

Maryland Board of Public Works Approves \$280 Million in State Spending



BPW Board Members at the meeting. L to R: State Treasurer Dereck Davis, Governor Wes Moore, and Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman -Photo: Maryland.gov

APRIL 2, 2026
ANNAPOLIS, MD. (TIP)

Comptroller Brooke E. Lierman joined Governor Wes Moore and Treasurer Dereck Davis on April 1, for a meeting of the Board of Public Works.

During the meeting, the Board of Public Works approved a series of contracts and agreements supporting infrastructure, economic development, and community investments across Maryland. In emphasizing the importance of fairness and opportunity in state contracts, Comptroller Lierman asked the State Highway Administrator about the greater need for consistency and transparency in establishing Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) goals for highway maintenance projects.

"When I reviewed these items, I was concerned that the State Highway Administration may be treating subcontracting opportunities differently by district, which could result in

artificially lower MBE goals, even for identical scopes," said Comptroller Lierman. "I hope SHA will work to ensure that identical scopes receive consistent MBE analysis or that more details are included in agenda items on how the items are different... If we want MBE goals to increase over time, then we also need to ensure that the State is helping more small and minority owned businesses scale up so they can actually enter this market and compete for this work."

Earlier in the meeting, Comptroller Lierman reminded Marylanders that the 2026 tax season ends on April 15th and shared high-level data on how the Office of the Comptroller has helped Marylanders file their taxes and receive their refunds. "This is our last meeting before Tax Day on April 15th, which is the busiest time of year for the Comptroller's Office.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

THE INDIAN EMBASSY ORGANISES INAUGURATION OF DANCE CLASSES IN ROMANIA



Embassy of India in Romania announced on March 27, 2026, commencement of Dance Classes in the Embassy in Bucharest

MARCH 27, 2026 BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Embassy of India in Bucharest successfully inaugurated Dance Classes at its premises on Friday, 27 March 2026. The classes are being conducted by Ms.

Anisha Lahore of VIRSA - The Essence of Culture, with the objective of promoting Indian culture in Romania and strengthening people-to-people connections between the two countries. Notably, the initiative is being offered



Remarks by Brahmakumari at the ceremony to announce the commencement of meditation classes in the Embassy premises.



Demonstration of dance forms by Ms. Anisha Lahore, VIRSA



Ambassador of India Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra highlighted the importance of people-to-people connections.

Indian classical dance is a timeless expression of India's civilizational depth, blending rhythm, storytelling, devotion, and disciplined artistry. Rooted in the ancient treatise *Natyashastra*, these dances are not merely performances but spiritual experiences, where the body becomes a medium to convey emotion (*bhava*) and aesthetic essence (*rasa*).

There are eight recognized classical dance forms in India, each representing a distinct region and cultural ethos. Bharatanatyam from Tamil Nadu is known for its geometric precision and expressive storytelling. Kathak from North India captivates with intricate footwork and swift spins. Kathakali and Mohiniyattam from Kerala offer contrasting styles—one dramatic and vibrant, the other graceful and lyrical. Kuchipudi blends dance with theatrical narration, while Odissi is distinguished by its sculptural poses. Manipuri is soft and devotional, and Satriya has roots in monastic traditions.

These dance forms share a common language of hand gestures (*mudras*), facial expressions, and rhythmic patterns, yet each retains a unique identity shaped by regional traditions and histories. They often depict stories from epics like the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, celebrating themes of love, valor, and devotion.

In essence, Indian classical dances are living traditions—bridging the past with the present, preserving heritage while continuing to evolve with time.

free of charge, reflecting the spirit of cultural exchange, friendship, and the longstanding ties between India and Romania.

The inaugural event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the Indian community, Romanian friends of India, children, and representatives from business and cultural institutions. The gathering created a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds to experience and appreciate the richness of Indian cultural traditions.

More than 100 guests attended the event, underscoring the growing interest in Indian dance, films, and cultural heritage in Romania. Participants responded very positively to the initiative and appreciated the Embassy's efforts to showcase contemporary Indian culture. The wide participation highlighted the strong and steadily deepening cultural ties between India and Romania, countries that share a long history of friendly and cooperative relations.

H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, addressed the gathering and warmly welcomed the distinguished guests. In his remarks, he emphasized the significance of Indian culture and highlighted dance as one of its most vibrant and widely appreciated expressions. He noted that every state in India has its own unique dance forms,

making dance a powerful medium for storytelling, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding between nations. He further stated that such initiatives provide a meaningful platform to share traditions, values, and artistic heritage, thereby strengthening bonds between societies.

The Ambassador also expressed his sincere appreciation to Ms. Anisha Lahore and VIRSA - The Essence of Culture, for her generous gesture in offering these dance classes free of charge to both the Indian and Romanian communities. He noted that such contributions play a vital role in promoting Indian culture abroad and fostering closer people-to-people connections.

The event served as an effective cultural outreach initiative by the Embassy, showcasing the vibrancy, diversity, and expressive traditions of Indian dance. It also reinforced the Embassy's continued commitment to promoting cultural engagement and mutual understanding between India and Romania.

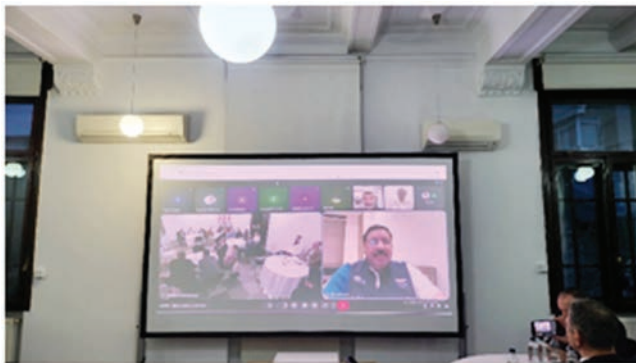
The evening concluded on a warm and positive note, with participants expressing their gratitude to the Embassy for organising the dance classes and for its ongoing efforts to strengthen cultural interaction and friendship between the people of the two nations.

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

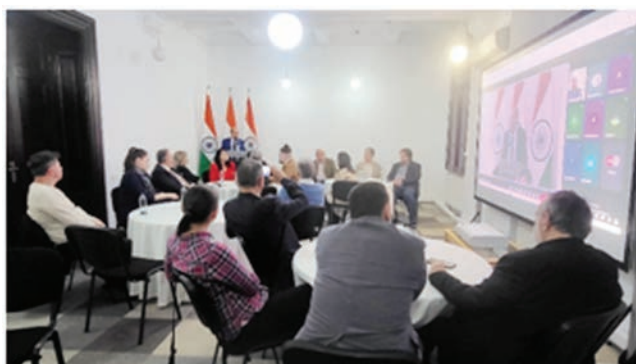
EMBASSY HOSTS INDIA-ROMANIA HYBRID B2B EVENT ON LEATHER & FOOTWEAR



Remarks by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania



Mr. Ramesh Juneja, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, India, provided an overview of India's leather sector and its export capabilities. He also drew attention to the sector's strengths, including its robust and integrated manufacturing ecosystem, a large pool of skilled artisans, modern design capabilities, and strict adherence to international quality, sustainability, and environmental standards.



Romanian companies actively participated and explored opportunities with Indian firms.

Indian companies joined virtually showcased their products and expertise



Indian companies joined virtually showcased their products and expertise

The Ambassador further noted that Indian manufacturers are increasingly focusing on

attention to India's competitive advantages, including cost efficiency, reliability, and the ability to cater to bulk as well as niche market demands. Highlighting the complementarities between India and Romania, he emphasized the significant untapped potential for enhancing bilateral trade, strengthening supply chains, and fostering long-term partnerships between Indian exporters and Romanian businesses. He expressed confidence that such B2B engagements would serve as a catalyst for deeper commercial linkages and mutually beneficial collaborations in the sector.

The session continued with remarks by Mr. Ramesh Juneja, Chairman, Council for Leather Exports, India, who provided an overview of India's leather sector and its export capabilities. He also underlined the Council's role in facilitating global market access and fostering international collaborations.

The highlight of the event was a series of presentations by leading Indian companies, including Superhouse Limited (Kanpur), Alpine Apparels Pvt. Ltd. (Faridabad), J.C. International Ltd. (Kolkata), Mirza International Ltd. (Kanpur), Bharat Enterprises (New Delhi), Apollo Fashion International (Noida), Dawar Footwear Industries (Agra), Alina Pvt. Ltd. (Chennai), and Creemos International (Kanpur). Each company showcased its product range, manufacturing strengths, and export expertise, offering Romanian partners insights into India's diverse and high-quality offerings in leather goods and footwear.

The presentations were followed by an introduction of participating Romanian companies, enabling both sides to better understand potential areas of collaboration. An interactive Q&A session further facilitated direct engagement between Indian exporters and Romanian businesses, fostering meaningful business dialogue and networking.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, reaffirming the Embassy's commitment to strengthening India-Romania economic relations and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships across key sectors. The Hybrid B2B interaction reflects the Embassy's continued efforts to promote India's export potential and deepen commercial ties with Romania, particularly in high-growth sectors such as leather and footwear.

(Based on a Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



Participants in the Hybrid B2B Meeting on Leather & Footwear

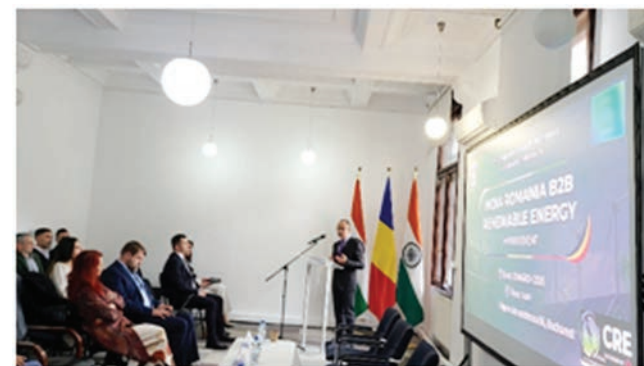
India-Romania Seminar cum Hybrid B2B Event on Renewable Energy Strengthens Strategic Economic Cooperation



Special remarks by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania,



The event commenced with a keynote address by Mr. Cristian Busoi, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy of Romania



**MARCH 31, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

Embassy successfully organized a Seminar cum Hybrid B2B Event on Renewable Energy on 30 March 2026, bringing together senior policymakers, industry leaders, financial experts, and innovative companies from India and Romania. The event was held in a hybrid format, enabling participation both in person and online, and aimed at enhancing bilateral cooperation in the renewable energy sector, while exploring investment opportunities, technology partnerships, and policy frameworks.

The event commenced with a keynote address by Mr. Cristian Busoi, State Secretary, Ministry of Energy of Romania, who emphasized Romania's commitment to energy transition, diversification of energy sources, and strengthening regional energy security. He highlighted the importance of international partnerships, particularly with India, in accelerating the adoption of renewable energy technologies and achieving sustainability goals.

During the session, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania and the Republic of Moldova, delivered a keynote address highlighting the



A panel discussion featuring distinguished experts provided in-depth insights of the energy sector:

strong and steadily expanding India-Romania partnership, particularly in the field of renewable energy. He underscored India's emergence as a global leader in clean energy, driven by ambitious targets in solar, wind, and green hydrogen, as well as its commitment to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth. The Ambassador emphasized that India's experience in scaling up renewable capacity, supported by policy innovation and technological advancements, offers valuable opportunities for collaboration with Romania. He further encouraged Romanian stakeholders to actively engage with Indian companies to explore joint ventures, technology transfer, co-development of projects, and investment partnerships, noting that such collaborations could contribute significantly to energy security, economic growth, and the green transition in both countries.

A PANEL DISCUSSION FEATURING DISTINGUISHED EXPERTS PROVIDED IN-DEPTH INSIGHTS INTO GEOPOLITICAL, FINANCIAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE ENERGY SECTOR:

- Mr. Stefan Popescu, Former State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Romgaz Black Sea, spoke on the geopolitical dynamics in the Black Sea region and their implications for energy connectivity, including linkages with the Republic of Moldova.
- Mr. Radu Delicote, Geopolitical Analyst, Smartlink Communications, highlighted Romania's strategic potential as a gateway to Central and Eastern

Europe, offering significant opportunities for energy investments and regional integration.

- Mr. Liviu Gavrilă, Energy Expert, discussed emerging trends and challenges in wind and solar energy development, including grid integration and scalability.
- Mr. Bogdan Hossu, Founder, Wise Finance Solutions, elaborated on European funding mechanisms and state aid schemes available for renewable energy projects.
- Mr. Corneliu Bodea, President, Romanian Energy Center and CEO, Adrem, presented a European perspective on energy transition, emphasizing Romania's role in the region and the need to enhance implementation capacity for large-scale energy projects.

The session was moderated by Ms. Mihaela Nyerges, Founder, Nyerges Partners, who guided the discussion toward actionable insights and collaboration opportunities.

The B2B segment featured participation from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), represented by Ms. Bavleen Kaur, Senior Director, who facilitated business interactions and promoted industry linkages. Leading Indian companies presented their capabilities and explored collaboration opportunities with Romanian counterparts. The Indian companies showcased diverse capabilities in renewable energy and sustainability, including Luthra Group; Hinduja Renewables (3,000+ MW operational, 10,000 MW under development); TriNANO Technologies (advanced photovoltaic coatings); Suzlon Energy (21,000+ MW global wind capacity); In Solare Energy (solar EPC & storage solutions); Waste Resources (tyre recycling); and Shakti Group (biofuels & ethanol).

The B2B session enabled direct interactions between Indian and Romanian companies, fostering discussions on joint ventures, project development, financing, and technology transfer. The Event marked a significant step in strengthening India-Romania cooperation in the energy sector. It reaffirmed the shared commitment of both countries to sustainable development, energy security, and innovation-driven growth. Embassy of India remains committed to facilitating business partnerships and supporting initiatives that enhance bilateral trade and investment in renewable energy and allied sectors.

(Based on a Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



The B2B segment featured participation from FICCI, represented by Ms. Bavleen Kaur, Senior Director and Leading Indian companies



Group photo : Hybrid B2B Meeting on Renewable Energy

Jan Vishwas Bill eliminates 12 obsolete laws, expected to benefit common citizens: Goyal

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, while emphasising about Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026, during a press conference said that citizens have been covered with a colonial mindset for decades, and this Bill addresses all these issues.

"We had a very positive experience as we started with Jan Vishwas Bill," Goyal said.

The Union minister stated, "All Indians are law abiding citizens. Mistake can be made by anyone." The Bill eliminates 12 obsolete laws and is expected to benefit common citizens, small businesses, farmers and fisheries. The government is open to suggestions and encourages states to decriminalise where necessary.

He went on to say that people are happy as they received money in their accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Yojana.

The Union minister added that the Bill will yield very good results, says "I am confident." He expressed confidence in the Bill's success, stating it's a Central law that won't impact states, and states can be sympathetic to minors while dealing with issues.

"Handloom across the country will benefit under this Bill. 5 crore estimated cases pertaining to this are pending in a court, 79 Acts have been modified — in which offences are more than 1,000. Among these, six laws are from before the Independence."

SC orders probe as 7 SIR judges held hostage in West Bengal

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, April 2, ordered a CBI or an NIA probe into illegal confinement of seven judicial officers, including three women, involved in the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal inside the BDO office in Kaliachak area of Malda district last evening by an unruly mob for several hours.

Describing it as "criminal failure" of the state administration, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked the probe agency to be assigned the investigation by the poll panel to submit a preliminary report to it by the next date of hearing.

"The incident is a brazen attempt not only to browbeat judicial officers, but also challenges the authority of this court. It was not a routine incident but appears to be a calculated, motivated move to demoralise the judicial officers and stop the ongoing process of adjudicating objections in left out cases," the CJI said. "We will not allow anyone to interfere and take law into their hands in order to create psychological attacks on the minds of judicial officers and constitute criminal contempt. This is also an abdication of duty by the West Bengal Government and the officers need to furnish reasons why even after being informed did the officers not ensure safe evacuation of the officers," Justice Kant said, taking strong exception to the conduct of state government officers.

The Bench, which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice Vipul M Pancholi, said, "It was imperative for the state government to inform the Election Commission (EC) and seek deployment of



central forces for the safety of the judicial officers." The top court directed the Chief Secretary, DGP and Malda District Magistrate and SSP to show-cause why action should not be taken against them in light of a letter received from the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice highlighting lapses on their part. "All these officers are directed to remain present online on April 6 (Monday) at 4 pm," the Bench ordered.

The top court ordered the EC to deploy central forces for the safe working of judicial officers. It also directed the poll panel to deploy forces at the residence of such judicial officers who had any apprehension regarding threat to their family. Such threat perception had to be immediately assessed and immediate measures needed to be taken, it said.

The Bench directed the Chief Secretary, DGP, and the state Chief Electoral Officer to submit a compliance report. Referring to a report received from the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice, the CJI said the SC was extremely disappointed to note that the Chief Secretary could not be contacted and his number was not there for WhatsApp messages. "This incident will have a chilling effect on the judicial officers," the CJI said, citing the report.

"I don't want to politicise it. But we got reports at 2 am. At 5 pm, they gheraoed the officers and till 11 pm there was no one... Till 11 o'clock, your collector was not there. I had to verbally instruct very harsh orders at night. Five-year-old children are not allowed food and water!" the CJI said.

"The top-most civil servant was contacted by the Chief Justice of the high court. It makes no good case by saying we are not associated. All leaders need to condemn this in one voice. We are here to protect the special officers. Their orders are deemed to be orders of our court," Justice Bagchi said.

"Earlier, judicial officers were being threatened. Now it is becoming physical. If it's mobocracy, no one can help," said senior counsel DS Naidu, who represented the EC.

Noting that it was imperative for the state government to inform ECI and seek deployment of central forces and seek safety of the judicial officers, the Bench ordered the ECI and state government to take all remedial measures for the safe functioning of the task entrusted to the judicial officers. The Bench said they were free to requisition whatever forces they wanted.

As West Bengal Advocate General Kishore Datta and senior counsel Kalyan Bandyopadhyay accused the EC of acting as an adversary in the matter, the CJI said, "Unfortunately in your state, each one speaks political language and this is the most polarised state. You are forcing us to make observations... Do you think we are not aware of who the miscreants are? I was monitoring everything till 2 am. Very-very unfortunate..."

'Only India lost mariners': Govt amid Strait of Hormuz blockade, Iran-US war

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Amid the ongoing Iran-US war, India sought the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and pointed out that the country remains the only one to have lost mariners in attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, who represented India during a meeting convened by the UK on Thursday emphasised the importance of freedom of navigation and unimpeded transit through international waterways.

The meeting was aimed at exploring ways to reopen the Strait of Hormuz amid growing concerns over disruptions to energy supplies, and while over 60 countries took part in it, the US reportedly did not.

Misri reiterated India's position on safeguarding maritime routes, again emphasising the importance of freedom

of navigation and unimpeded transit through international waterways at the UK-convened discussions.

He highlighted the impact of the US-Iran war on India's energy security, and "the fact that India remains the only country to have lost mariners in attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf".

Misri also said that the "way out of the crisis consisted of de-escalation and a return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue among all concerned parties".

Three seafarers were among the eight Indians killed in the West Asia conflict, with their deaths occurring in attacks on merchant vessels during the early days of the crisis.

British foreign minister Yvette Cooper said the talks, focused on political and diplomatic solutions rather than military action, reflected "the strength of our



international determination" to reopen the strait, according to the Associated Press.

Earlier, external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the UK had invited several countries, including India, for discussions on the Strait of Hormuz.

India, Jaiswal reiterated, supports free and open commercial shipping and maritime security in line with international law. "We continue to call for ensuring safe and free navigation through the Strait of Hormuz as a matter of priority," he said.

The UK-led meeting took place hours after US President Donald Trump, in his first televised address on the war with Iran, said securing the strategic waterway was a responsibility for other nations.

Trump said countries facing fuel shortages due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz should either purchase oil from the US or "build up some delayed courage" and "just take" supplies. He added that the strait "will open up naturally" once the conflict ends, without specifying a timeline.

IAF's Tejas fleet cleared to resume flights

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has been cleared to resume flight operations after a temporary pause for technical evaluation, with full operational deployment expected this week.

Confirming the development, D K Sunil, Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), said the Local Modification Committee (LMC) has completed its review and approved the aircraft for return to service.

"Good news is that the Local Modification Committee (LMC) process is complete. Some one-time checks have been mandated, which will be carried out before operations resume. All 36 aircraft will return to service," he said.

According to HAL, the final clearance for all 36 aircraft is expected by Wednesday, paving the way for their phased re-induction into active duty.

Officials said the resumption of operations will follow a structured safety protocol jointly overseen by HAL and the IAF. As part of this process, all aircraft will undergo mandatory "one-time checks" before take-off – standard preventive inspections aimed at ensuring compliance with updated safety benchmarks.

Centre rolls back 60% free flight seat allocation order weeks after announcement

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The civil aviation ministry on Thursday, April 2, suspended a directive requiring airlines to let passengers select at least 60% of seats on any flight without a seat-selection fee, less than three weeks after announcing the rule as part of a passenger rights push.

The ministry of civil aviation said the provision would be kept "in abeyance till further orders" pending a "comprehensive examination of the issue," according to a letter dated April 2 addressed to the Director General of Civil Aviation.

The ministry said the rollback followed representations from the Federation of Indian Airlines and Akasa Air, which flagged the rule's potential impact on fare structures and its consistency with India's deregulated tariff regime. The government separately announced it will cap monthly increases in aviation turbine fuel prices for domestic flights at 25%, with both measures seemingly linked to the financial turbulence caused by surging oil prices and route restrictions linked to the West Asia conflict.

The original March 17 circular had directed scheduled airlines to allocate a minimum 60% of seats without a selection charge on every flight, and to seat passengers sharing a booking together, preferably in adjacent seats. The ministry had framed the measures as a step toward strengthening passenger convenience and standardising practices across the sector.

Thursday's order does not affect other provisions of the March 17 circular. The DGCA has been asked to continue enforcing rules on co-seating of passengers on the same PNR, transparent policies for carriage of sports equipment, musical instruments and pets, and clear disclosure of applicable



charges. Indian carriers currently charge ancillary fees for seat selection during web check-in, with only between 5% and 15% of seats on a typical flight available without an additional charge. Seats toward the front of the aircraft and window seats are usually priced higher.

The FIA, whose members include Air India, IndiGo and SpiceJet, wrote to the ministry on March 19 arguing the directive would backfire on passengers. It warned airlines would simply recover lost ancillary income through higher base fares.

FIA also cited a 2017 Delhi High Court ruling that preferential seating is a valid unbundled service and DGCA has no authority to fix or cap its price as long as the service is optional, transparently disclosed and non-discriminatory. It further argued the directive contradicted the government's own 2024 Air Transport Circular, which had endorsed unbundling as a mechanism to keep base fares affordable.

Raghav Chadha to AAP: 'Is it a crime to raise people's issues in Parliament'

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): A day after the Aam Aadmi Party removed him as deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, Raghav Chadha on Friday, April 3, issued a strong warning to his party asking it to not construe his silence as his defeat.

"Is it a crime to raise issues of the people? Why would anyone want to silence my voice?" Chadha asked in a video message this morning after AAP yesterday told Rajya Sabha secretariat to not allot him time from party quota to speak in Parliament.

Thanking people for supporting him for raising their issues, Chadha told his party, "Do not consider my silence as my defeat. I am a river that can turn into a flood when the time comes."

Speaking in a video with Samvidhan Sadan (old Parliament house) in the backdrop, Chadha said he was because of the people and for the people.

"Whenever I get an occasion to speak in Parliament I raise issues of the people and these are issues which no one else raises. Is raising public issues a crime? Have I committed any sin, anything wrong?" asked Chadha.

Chadha questioned AAP for asking the Rajya Sabha secretariat to stop Chadha from speaking in Parliament.

"AAP has told the RS secretariat that I should not be given a chance to speak in the Parliament. Why does anyone want to silence me? I always raise the issues of people -- like expensive food available at



airports, problems of riders of Zomato and Blinkit or mixing up things in their meals, toll plaza loot and bank charges loot, burden of tax on the middle classes, how telecom companies make people recharge 13 times in 12 months, do not give data rollover. All these issues I have raised in Parliament."

Chadha said the common man has benefitted from issues he has raised.

"But what harm have these issues brought to AAP? he urged people to continue supporting him and promising to keep raising their issues.

Chadha said to "people who have snatched his right to speak and silenced him:: "Do not consider my silence my defeat. I am that river which turns into flood when the time comes."

Parliament 3-day special session from April 16 to pass women's quota bills

APRIL 2, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): A special session of Parliament will be convened for three days beginning April 16 to pass key Constitution amendment bills aimed at increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816, enabling the implementation of the women's reservation law at the earliest.

According to sources, the two Houses will meet on April 16, 17 and 18, with three sittings planned during the period. The current Budget Session, which was scheduled to adjourn sine die on April 2, will not be adjourned indefinitely, allowing it to reconvene for the special legislative business.

The government is keen on moving forward with the proposed legislation, including amendments linked to the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023, to operationalise women's reservation. The bills are likely to be introduced first in the Lok Sabha.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Rajya Sabha that the House would meet again soon to consider an important bill, adding that the government has already shared its plans with opposition parties. The move, however, has triggered sharp political reactions. Leader of the House, JP Nadda, defended the government's prerogative to decide the timing of legislation, while Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge accused the Centre of acting like a "bully" and attempting to derive political mileage from the issue.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh alleged that the government is pushing the bill during the election season to gain electoral advantage, arguing that an all-party meeting should be held after April 29 when polling concludes in several states. He also questioned the shift in the government's stance on linking implementation to the Census and delimitation.

India in history this Week

APRIL 3 TO APRIL 9

03 APRIL



1680 Death of Chhatrapati Shivaji, who laid the foundation of Maratha empire in western India, in Raigarh.

2007 14th SAARC Conference begins in New Delhi.

2010 Apple's first iPad arrived in the market.

1933 The plane first flew in 1933 over Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

1999 India launched the first global telecommunications satellite INSAT 1E in 1999.

2016 West Indies won the ICC Twenty20 World Cup by defeating England in 2016 at the Eden Gardens ground in Kolkata.

04 APRIL



1905 Earthquake in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh kills about twenty thousand people.

1889 Famous Hindi poet, writer, playwright and journalist Makhanlal Chaturvedi is born in Madhya Pradesh.

1910 Philosopher Sri Aurobindo arrives at Pondicherry (now Puducherry) where he opens a Yoga and spiritual center.

05 APRIL

1957 For the first time in the country and for the



first time in the world after the democratically held elections in Kerala, the Communist Party came to power and EMS Namboodiripad took oath as Chief Minister.



1979 The country's first Naval Museum opened in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1949 Bharat Scout and Guide was established in 1949.

1961 The first Indian drugs and pharmaceutical limited company sponsored by the Government of India was established in 1961.

1964 The Navy celebrated National Maritime Day for the first time in 1964.

2002 India, Myanmar and Thailand agree to complete More-Kalawa-Mandalay road project in 2002.

2017 The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in 2017.

06 APRIL

1664 Sikh Guru Har Kishan died on 6 April 1664.

1606 Prince Khusro revolted against his father, the Mughal ruler Jahangir, in 1606.

1919 Mahatma Gandhi called for the first All India strike in 1919 as part of the Civil Disobedience Movement launched against the Rowlatt Act.



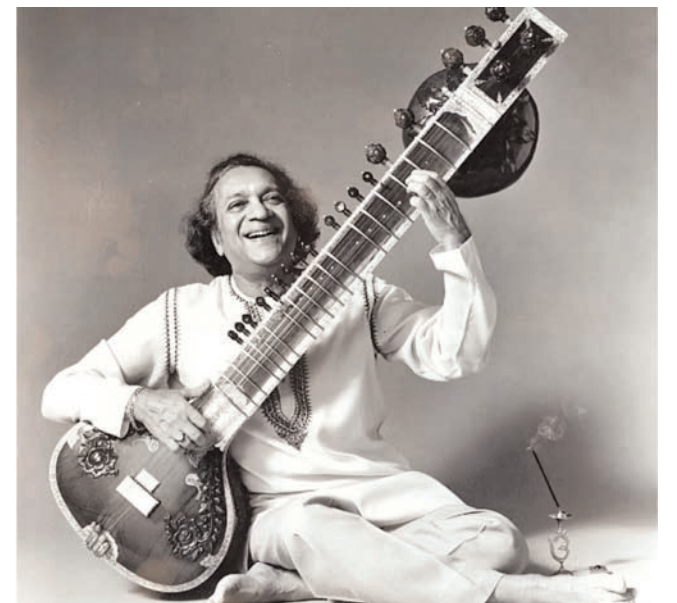
1966 Indian swimmer Mihir Sen swam across the Palk Strait in 1966.

1980 The Bharatiya Janata Party, the political party of India, was established on this day in 1980.



2010 India's Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and US Finance Minister Timothy Geithner signed an economic partnership agreement.

07 APRIL



1920 Famous sitar player Pandit Ravi Shankar was born in 1920.

1948 United Nations Health Affairs Agency World Health Organization was established. That is why today's day is also celebrated as World Health Day.

2000 The Delhi Police uncovered a racket of fixing and betting cricket matches worth crores of rupees in 2000.

08 APRIL

1857 On the day of 1857, Mangal Pandey, a soldier of the Barrackpore Regiment of British India, was hanged for the crime of breaching military discipline and murder.

1894 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the author of India's national song "Vande Mataram", died in 1894.

1929 On this day in 1929, revolutionary Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in Delhi assembly.

1950 After the 1950 India-Pakistan partition, on this day both countries had entered into an agreement with a view to securing the rights of the minorities living in their respective countries and ending the possibilities of war between the two countries in future.

1831 The famous social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy arrived in England in 1831.

2008 The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka declared Sikhs as a minority in their state.

09 APRIL

1669 Aurangzeb, the emperor of the Mughal Empire, ordered the demolition of all Hindu schools and temples in 1669.

1965 A battle broke out between the Indian and Pakistan Army in the Rann of Kutch.

2004 The Supreme Court of Portugal asked for a re-review of the extradition order of India, the wanted mafia kingpin Abu Salem, in several criminal cases in India.

2011 IIPM Rabindranath Tagore International Peace Prize was announced to Anna Hazare for anti-corruption campaign in 2011.

1893 Rahul Sankrityayan was born, he is given the title of Mahapandit. Rahul Sankrityayan is counted among the leading writers of Hindi. His research on Buddhism is considered epoch-making in Hindi literature.

HASAN MINHAIJ AND RONNY CHIENG FACE OFF IN PETTY HUMOR ON THE NJPAC STAGE

BY MABEL PAIS

“Hasan Hates Ronny Ronny Hates Hasan” will present a face off between acclaimed comedians Hasan Minhaj and Ronny Chieng. This hilarious showdown will light up the Prudential stage at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Thursday, April 23 at 7 PM.

This will be a unique evening for comedy fans, media and NJPAC patrons where pettiness is celebrated, laughter is guaranteed, and the only thing Hasan and Ronny agree on is that you should be there!

Forget peace talks — this is a debate where pettiness rules the stage. “Hasan Hates Ronny Ronny Hates Hasan” flips the script on traditional comedy duos by embracing rivalry, banter, and the joy of disagreeing. Minhaj and Chieng will spar over everything from global politics to personal quirks, turning everyday annoyances into fuel for laughter. Expect sharp wit, bold opinions, and a relentless pursuit of comedic one-upmanship — because sometimes, it’s more fun to feud than to forgive.

Hasan Minhaj is a Peabody Award-winning comedian, actor, and writer renowned for his incisive storytelling



Hasan Minhaj and Ronny Chieng Courtesy, www.njpac.org

and boundary-pushing humor. Minhaj achieved global recognition with his Netflix special “Homecoming King,” which earned him a Peabody Award, and “Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj,” the Emmy-winning series that tackled politics and culture with sharp wit. Recently, Minhaj has been featured in “The King’s Jester,” another

Netflix special, and continues to captivate audiences with his stand-up tours, thought-provoking performances, and guest appearances across television and film. His unique blend of humor and social commentary has made him a standout voice in modern comedy.

Ronny Chieng is an internationally celebrated comedian, actor, and writer, known for his razor-sharp sarcasm and dynamic stage presence. As a correspondent on “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah,” Chieng earned praise for his insightful takes on American culture. His stand-up special “Ronny Chieng: International Student” received critical acclaim, and he has appeared in blockbuster films such as “Crazy Rich Asians” and Marvel’s “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings.” Chieng’s recent projects include the Netflix special “Ronny Chieng: Speakeasy” and his sitcom “Ronny Chieng: International Student,” cementing his status as a comedy powerhouse. With upcoming film and television roles, Chieng continues to entertain audiences worldwide.

NJPAC BRINGS THE COMMUNITY THE ANNUAL WELLNESS FAIR

BY MABEL PAIS

On Tuesday, April 14, 2026, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) will host the free Wellness Fair that is available 11AM - 2PM.

Attendees will experience the Wellness Fair as a one-stop-shop for free and creative health resources from dozens of vendors that support physical and mental well-being. Each table will share educational materials, screenings, activities and prizes.

You can hop on a stationary bike attached to a blender and pedal your way to a yummy smoothie treat, check your blood pressure, schedule your next important health screening and move in a soul line dance class!

RAFFLE

The Passport to Health bingo card is back!

Collect stamps at the Wellness Fair and get entered into a raffle to win fabulous prizes including two round trip tickets on United Airlines and four tickets to an NJPAC performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

For further information or questions, email the NJPAC Wellness Team at wellness@njpac.org.

REGISTRATION



Wellness Fair booths

Courtesy, www.njpac.org

RSVP is required. RSVP @ <https://njpac.org/event/wellness-fair/#register>

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

11AM: Soundbath
12PM: Restorative Yoga
1PM: Meditation
Get your groove on during three creative movement breaks
11:30AM: Stretch with Mr. Dario
12:30PM: Traditional West African Dance with Karen Miles
1:30PM: Soul Line Dance with Najah Riker

MAMMOGRAM REGISTRATION

For your annual mammogram with University Hospital’s Mobile Mammography Unit. Space is limited.

Note: University Hospital’s mobile unit accepts insured and uninsured individuals, must be over 40 and advance registration is required.

Sign up @ <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DtvLwCYxAE-kLlocETexRSa3IGJ9eQ9BIJHtPAa2ExIUQk1YNUI0SE9IREM2TkdeQktRSk45SznJR CQIQCN0PWcu&origin=QRCode>

VENDORS

RWJBarnabas Health; Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey; AARP; Adler Aphasia Center; Alzheimer’s New Jersey; Associated Humane Societies; Berkeley College; Chitra’s Wellness Coaching; Columbia University Medical Center; Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Essex County; Covenant House

NJ; Crossroads4Hope; Office of New Americans; Eagle Strategies LLC; Elevate Theatre Company LLC; Eyes Like Mine Inc.; Get Empowered! & Global Arts to Go; Grandi Ensemble; Grounds For Sculpture; Great Joy Counseling & Consulting Services; Greater Newark Health Care Coalition; Harlem Cycle; Inclusive Ergonomics LLC; Inside Ability Books; New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra; JAG Physical Therapy; Keisha’s Room; La Casa de Don Pedro; Macculloch Hall Historical Museum; Montclair Art Museum; Nassan’s Place; Newark Department of Health & Community Wellness; New Jersey Department of Health; New York Life; NJ 211; NJ Division on Civil Rights (DCR) | Community Relations Unit;

NJ FamilyCare; NJCRI; NJPAC Employee Resource Groups; NJPAC Social Impact; Nitjuan Designs; Oaks Integrated Care; Organization for Recovery New Jersey; RaySoul Hoops & RaySoul Adventures; Rutgers University-Newark Aging & Brain Health Alliance; Saint Michael’s Medical Center; TD Bank; The Glass Room, LLC; The HUBB Arts & Trauma Center; Tina & Kids’ Creations; Twist Out Cancer;

Valley Bank; WellCare Nurses Homecare & Staffing; Your Be Well Bestie LLC.

NEWARK’S HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAM DOCUMENTS ITS PIONEERING WOMEN LAWYERS

BY MABEL PAIS

Historically there have been significant legal, institutional and cultural barriers to American women practicing law. Women only began breaching these barriers in the late 1800s, but by the early 20th century the first generation of women lawyers were already making their mark.

PROGRAM

WHEN: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 @ 6 PM - In person; RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc11NYqfccz-m2ymBHYVa7dpzR1NVUv4JUWzka



Pioneering Women Lawyers.

Courtesy, www.njpac.org.

6:01 - Virtual; RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-_OUMLVc11NYqfccz-m2ymBHYVa7dpzR1NVUv4JUWzka
WHERE: Newark Public Library, 5 Washington

Street, Newark, NJ

<https://npl.org/main-library>

This program documents the remarkable careers of Newark’s pioneering women lawyers, including Mary Philbrook, Elizabeth Blume Silverstein and Jennie Precker.

The presenters are George Robb, an emeritus faculty member at William Paterson University, and Robert Steinbaum, Associate Dean for Advancement at Rutgers Law School.

Light refreshments will be served.

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

AWARD-WINNING FILM FOLLOWS LIFE AND CAREER OF TRAILBLAZING JOURNALIST AMY GOODMAN

BY MABEL PAIS

STEAL THIS STORY, PLEASE!

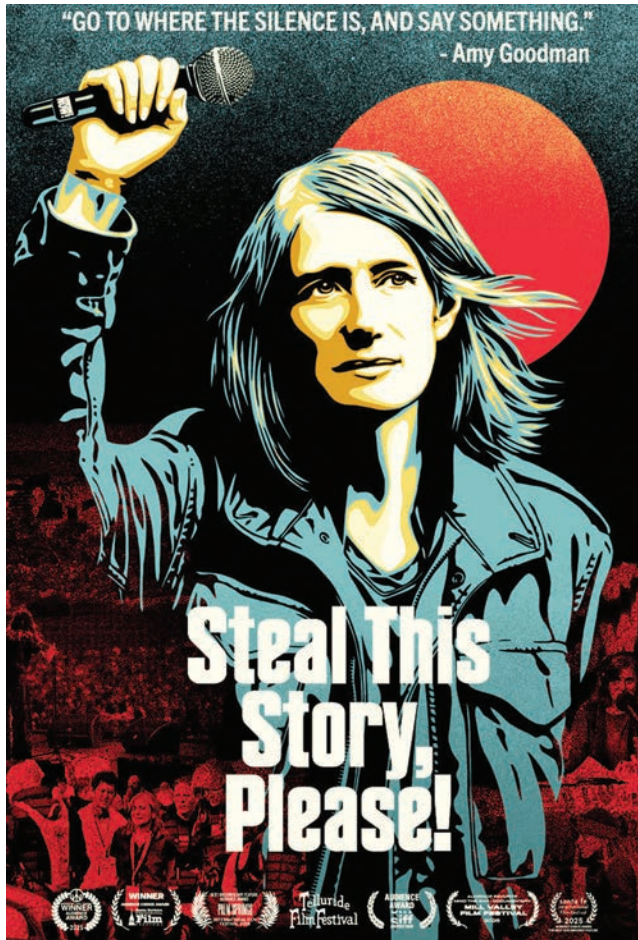
"Goodman's story offers a compelling reminder that smart, honest, and accurate reporting is a duty, not a business."

— Pat Mullen, *POV Magazine*

"Steal This Story, Please!" is a gripping account of the trailblazing journalist, AMY GOODMAN, whose unwavering commitment to truth-telling spans three decades of turbulent history. Undeterred by armed soldiers, evasive politicians, and riot police, Amy Goodman has reported some of the most consequential stories of our time. From the front lines of global conflicts to the organized chaos of her daily news show "Democracy Now!," Goodman amplifies stories and voices too often silenced by commercial media.

Academy Award-nominated filmmakers Carl Deal and Tia Lessin ("Trouble the Water," "Citizen Koch," "The Janes") take us behind the scenes with the warm, wise cracking granddaughter of an Orthodox rabbi - raised in a tradition of asking hard questions - as she navigates a media landscape reshaped by technology, corporate consolidation, and political assaults on the press and on truth itself. Urgent, provocative and unexpectedly funny, "Steal This Story, Please!" Is both a call to action and a celebration of resistance, posing the question: what happens to democracy when the press stops challenging power?

"As long-time listeners - and occasional guests - of Democracy Now!, we've been struck by Amy Goodman's clarity of purpose and her sheer audacity. But when we set out to tell her story, we couldn't have anticipated just how urgently it would speak to this moment."



Amy Goodman, poster.

Credit: Shepard Fairey.

"Democracy Now!" launched just two weeks after the 1996 Telecommunications Act was signed into law - a sweeping deregulation that accelerated the corporate takeover and consolidation of radio, television and newspaper outlets. Into that vacuum stepped Amy and her fiercely independent broadcast, determined to build something different.

East Timor was a turning point for Amy. Witnessing the massacre of hundreds of peaceful protesters by Indonesian soldiers was profoundly traumatic, and it fed Amy's belief in the power of journalism to make change. Her reporting, alongside colleague Allan Nairn, made it impossible for the US media to ignore the story, and helped to galvanize an international movement that led to independence for the Timorese. Amy would come to call this "trickle-up journalism."

Twenty-five years ago at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia she cornered politicians and billionaires alike, asking questions no one else dared: to President George HW Bush: "What do you say to those who call you a war criminal for the invasion of Iraq?", to House Speaker Newt Gingrich: "Will you apologize to American women for calling the First Lady a bitch?"

For her, journalism is practically an endurance sport.

The questions Amy has been asking for decades - about power, war, corporate influence, and the role of the press - have only grown more urgent. With media consolidation, billionaire ownership, shrinking newsrooms, and algorithms that promote spectacle over truth, the kind of independent journalism Amy practices feels increasingly rare. But her example is a reminder of what journalism can still be.

FLORIDA'S 35TH EDITION FILM FEST HONORS PAUL GIAMATTI AND JUDGE REINHOLD

BY MABEL PAIS

Featuring

Co-Directors VIJESH RAJAN, YASHODA PARTHASARTHY'S

Narrative Short "The Last Ride"

Director RADHEYA JANG'S Animated Short "Trading Cards"

And Many More

The Florida Film Festival (FFF)'s 35th edition film lineup and events for 2026 will take place April 10-19. FFF will showcase 161 films (31 narrative features, 18 documentary features, and 112 short films), representing 31 countries, screening at the Enzian Theater (1300 S. Orlando Ave., Maitland, Florida).

Florida Film Festival Executive Director Wade Neal, said, "We take the view that film is eternal, and is a supreme storytelling framework that creates deeper understanding, togetherness, and insight than other art forms. By coming together to celebrate the work and talent that each film represents, we honor extraordinary filmmakers that carry the power and magic of film forward."

FFF Programming Director, Matthew Curtis, added, "New developments for year 35 include our inaugural 'Festival Centerpiece' screening, as well as the first-ever feature to be included in Sunspots: New Visions of the Avant-Garde, our experimental program featuring dazzling work from renegade film artists you'll rarely see anywhere else on the big screen."

The subjects of this year's celebrated "An Evening With..." events will be Academy Award®-nominee Paul Giamatti and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High and Beverly Hills Cop's" Judge Reinhold.

FLORIDA FILM FESTIVAL LINEUP

GALA PRESENTATIONS

OPENING NIGHT

"Carolina Caroline"

Director: Adam Carter Rehmeier; USA; 105m



The Last Ride.

-Credit: <https://floridafilmmfestival.com>

A small-time hustler (Kyle Gallner) and a small-town girl (Samara Weaving) embark on a sexy, kinetic road trip in search of an American dream to call their own. But what begins with a few stolen twenties soon spirals beyond their control.

CENTERPIECE

"Over Your Dead Body"

Director: Jorma Taccone; USA; 105m

A dysfunctional couple (Jason Segel and Samara Weaving) head to a remote cabin to supposedly reconnect, but each has secret plans to kill the other in this riotously violent comedy from SNL alumnus Jorma Taccone (Popstar, MacGruber) that co-stars Timothy Olyphant and Juliette Lewis.

CLOSING NIGHT

"Strangers on a Train (1951)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock; USA ; 101m

Nominated for an Oscar® for Best Cinematography and co-scripted by legendary mystery writer Raymond Chandler from the novel by Patricia Highsmith, this timeless suspense classic is one of Hitchcock's masterpieces. Special 75th Anniversary showing!

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION

To purchase passes and tickets and the complete festival lineup on the Florida Film Festival, visit <https://floridafilmmfestival.com>.

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

MOZART'S "REQUIEM," A DRAMATIC MEDITATION ON DEATH, WILL BE PERFORMED BY NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY WITH MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE

BY MABEL PAIS

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Requiem," the composer's final composition, will be conducted by music director Xian Zhang. Mysteriously commissioned and incomplete at the time of Mozart's death, the Requiem, a dramatic meditation on death, is widely regarded as one of the composer's most accomplished works. Written for a funeral Mass, the music is intensely emotional, ranging from powerful drama to languid sorrow to serene tenderness.

Four outstanding soloists appear onstage with the following 2025-26 highlights: soprano Mei Gui Zhang (San Francisco Opera, "The Monkey King"); mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven (English National Opera, "Così fan tutte" and LA Phil, "Die Walküre"); tenor Eric Ferring ("Messiah" with Charlotte and Knoxville Symphonies); and bass-baritone Dashon Burton (Cleveland Orchestra, "Fidelio").

The program opens with Gabriel Fauré's "Pavane," getting its name from the Italian pavane, a short 16th-century court dance. Originally written for orchestra, the composer added an optional chorus so the work could be both danceable and singable. Gustav Mahler's Songs of a "Wayfarer" also appears on the program — a cycle of songs written at a time when the composer was scorned by love and considered to be his first masterpiece. Bass-baritone Dashon Burton solos.

EVENT DETAILS

MOZART'S REQUIEM

Xian Zhang conductor
Mei Gui Zhang soprano
Taylor Raven mezzo-soprano
Eric Ferring tenor
Dashon Burton bass-baritone
Montclair State University Chorale
Heather J. Buchanan, Director
New Jersey Symphony
Gabriel Fauré "Pavane"
Gustav Mahler "Songs of a Wayfarer"
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart "Requiem"
Newark - Thursday, Apr 16, 1:30 pm |
Relaxed Performance

(<https://njsymphony.org/visit/accessibility-1/what-is-a-relaxed-performance>)

Newark - Saturday, Apr 18, 7:30 pm |
*Concert Prelude (see below) at 6:30 pm
New Brunswick - Sunday, Apr 19, 2 pm

*Learn more from the Event page @
<https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/mozarts-requiem-2026>

ARTISTS

XIAN ZHANG

2025-26 marks the GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning conductor Xian Zhang's 10th season as Music Director of New Jersey Symphony, and her inaugural season as the Music Director of Seattle Symphony with whom she has been a long-term collaborator since her debut in 2008. Zhang has also been appointed Principal Guest Conductor of the NCPA Orchestra in Beijing, beginning this season. Following her tenure as Music Director of Orchestra



Mei Gui Zhang, soprano

Credit : www.njsymphony.org



Dashon Burton, bass-baritone.

Credit : www.njsymphony.org

Sinfonica di Milano between 2009-16, she continues as their Conductor Emeritus.

Read more @
<https://njsymphony.org/musicians-orchestra/musical-leadership/xian-zhang>

MEI GUI ZHANG

Chinese soprano Mei Gui Zhang, whose "voice literally floated past the space she stood in and 'lived in' and created remarkable, layered beauty" (OperaWire), is enjoying a burgeoning international career.

Learn more @
<https://meiguizhangsoprano.com>

TAYLOR RAVEN

Taylor Raven is a "vocal sensation" (Washington Classical Review) and quickly establishing herself in opera, concert, and recital. In the 2025-26

season, Taylor will make her house debut with the English National Opera for *Così fan tutte* (Dorabella) and returns to the LA Phil for a staged production of *Die Walküre* (Grimgerde).

Learn more @
<https://taylorraven.com>

ERIC FERRING

Emmy-winning, Billboard-charting American tenor Eric Ferring is known internationally as "a prodigiously gifted lyric tenor" (Opera News) for his "fine, gleaming tenor" (New York Classical Review), as well as for having "a beautifully round and warm timbre, expressive, and with great finesse" (Olyrix). His expertise ranges from early bel canto repertoire and the music of Handel and Mozart to the origination of contemporary operatic roles.

Learn more @
<https://ericferring.com>

DASHON BURTON

Hailed as an artist "alight with the spirit of the music" (Boston Globe), three-time GRAMMY Award-winning bass-baritone Dashon Burton has built a vibrant career with regular appearances across the US and Europe.

Learn more @
<https://dashonburton.com>

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY CHORALE | HEATHER J. BUCHANAN, DIRECTOR

Under the direction of Australian-born conductor Heather J. Buchanan since September 2003, the Montclair State University choral program has been recognized for successful collaborations with world-renowned artists and celebrated professional musicians in national and international venues, including Meredith Monk, Richard Alston Dance Company (UK), VOCES8 (UK), and Eric Whitacre. Montclair choirs appear regularly with New Jersey Symphony and have won critical acclaim for their "heartfelt conviction," "and vibrant sound," being a "marvel of diction, tuning, and rhythm," "eloquence," and for singing with the "crispness and dexterity of a professional choir." Pianist Gregory Stout is the Montclair choral accompanist.

The core choral ensemble in the Cali School of Music, Chorale is a 150-voice symphonic choir comprising music students majoring in performance, music education, music therapy, composition, jazz, and musical theatre, as well as auditioned non-music majors.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide.

Programming at the Symphony reflects an unwavering commitment to diverse communities throughout the state, while providing students unparalleled opportunities to achieve musical excellence through its Youth Orchestra and other education programs.

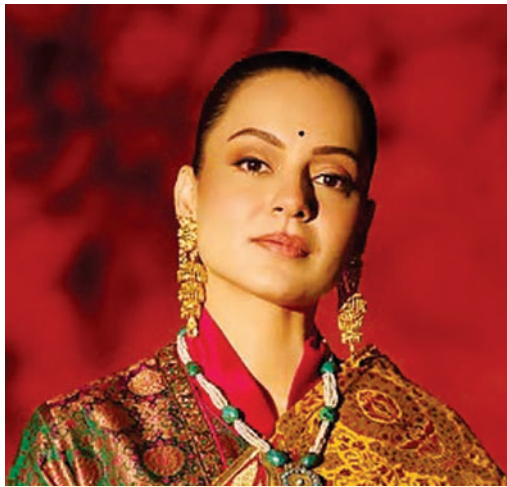
In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2027.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit its website at njsymphony.org.

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

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

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



Kangana Ranaut returning as Rani in Queen 2, shoot to start soon: Report

Actor Kangana Ranaut is set to reprise her popular role of Rani in Queen 2, with filming expected to begin by the end of April, according to reports. The sequel to the 2014 hit Queen is said to be moving forward, nearly a decade after the original film earned widespread acclaim.

The reported timeline has reignited interest in the project, which has long been in development. Directed by Vikas Bahl, the sequel is expected to revisit the theme of self-discovery, with Ranaut returning to a character that remains one of the most celebrated in her career, according to Mid-Day. Unlike the original, which followed a small-town woman navigating life in Europe, the sequel is expected to present Rani as a city-based character. While retaining her core traits, independent, sharp and unconventional, the narrative will reportedly centre on a new journey of self-realisation triggered by a key life event.

The film will also shift its setting. Instead of international travel, Rani's journey will unfold across multiple Indian cities, offering a more domestic backdrop while continuing the theme of personal growth.

Reports suggest that apart from Ranaut, the original cast, including Rajkumar Rao and Lisa Haydon, is unlikely to return. Bahl is said to be assembling a fresh ensemble, with several theatre actors being considered for supporting roles.

This marks a departure from the first film, which was noted for its strong supporting performances alongside Ranaut's lead. Production is expected to begin in a Mumbai studio, where sets replicating a North Indian city and Rani's home will be constructed. The team is then likely to move to various metropolitan locations across India for the remainder of the shoot.

The schedule is reportedly planned for completion within three months, indicating a tightly managed production timeline.

The original Queen was widely praised for its storytelling and Ranaut's performance, setting high expectations for the sequel. Meanwhile, Ranaut, last seen in Emergency, also has upcoming projects, including a film with R Madhavan and Bharat Bhagya Viddhaata in development.

Ramayana teaser: Ranbir looks regal, gives goosebumps in first look

After months of anticipation, the makers of Ramayana have finally unveiled Rama, the much-awaited first glimpse from the film, offering audiences their first look at Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama. Launched at a grand event in Mumbai, the teaser has already sparked excitement online, with fans praising its scale, emotion and visual grandeur.

The teaser gave a glimpse into Ranbir's first look as Lord Rama. Sharing the teaser, Namit Malhotra wrote, "Rama is the greatest of all time because he lived a life where the choices he made were always in the benefit of the greater good, duty over desire, and sacrifice over self."

His legacy continues to enhance and empower humanity over time and bring the belief in the goodness of the human spirit to resolve all conflict and bring peace to the world."

The teaser opens with Ranbir Kapoor's grand entry into Ayodhya, as he is welcomed with showers of flowers while making his way into the kingdom, instantly establishing his regal presence as Lord Rama. It also offers glimpses of him in warrior mode, alongside moments from his vanvaas with Sita and Lakshmana. Towards the end, the makers briefly tease Yash's look as Ravana, further heightening the excitement among fans.

Fans looked impressed with the teaser as well as Ranbir's look as Lord Rama. One of the fans commented, "This is so peak." Another commented, "Out of the world, what a fab fab first look." Another wrote, "Incredible! Gave me goosebumps, much-awaited." Another comment read, "This is iconic."

Talking about the two-part film franchise, director Nitesh Tiwari said, "Ramayana's greatness lies in its emotional richness. At its heart, it is not just about good and evil, but about choices, consequences, and the weight of doing what is right. Rama's journey is deeply human, and that is what we have tried to stay true to."



Ranbir Kapoor also reflected on playing Lord Rama and wrote, "I don't think I'm here to represent Rama. I'm here to learn from him. There is a simplicity and purity to him that is very rare, and trying to understand and imbibe that has been a deeply humbling experience."

Namit Malhotra, Producer, Film-maker and Creative Architect of Ramayana said, "The power of Rama's story is not in what he conquers, but in what he lets go of. He represents a standard that is not easy, not convenient, but necessary. He chooses duty over desire, truth over comfort, and sacrifice over self. That is why his story has endured for thousands of years, and why it continues to matter today."

Even Alia had praised the teaser of Ramayana and said during a virtual interaction with fans, "It's absolutely fabulous. I think Ranbir has just done such a beautiful job, and I just can't wait for you guys to see it. It's just out of this world."

Hera Pheri 3 in limbo: Writer exits as rights battle derails Priyadarshan's film

Hera Pheri 3 is facing significant delays as writer Rohan Shankar steps away amid ongoing legal disputes. In a recent interview, Shankar revealed that the film's production remains uncertain due to court battles, leaving the project in limbo.

Speaking with News18, Shankar shared, "I was in talks, and it was supposed to happen, but it didn't because of legal issues. Hopefully, if Hera Pheri 3 happens and if Priyadarshan sir is there, maybe I will be too." He also pointed out the busy schedule of director Priyadarshan, who is currently managing multiple film commitments.

Regarding the director's workload, Shankar said, "Priyan sir works a lot. Priyan sir and Akshay sir are workaholics." Priyadarshan is reportedly involved in recent shoots for Bhooth Bangla and Haiwan, as well as an upcoming project with Mohanlal, which marks his 100th film.

Shankar expressed uncertainty about when Hera Pheri 3 might



begin production, adding, "He might make five films before Hera Pheri even starts," due to the unresolved legal complications.

The delay is linked to a legal dispute in the Madras High Court. As per a report in Live and Law, Seven Arts International Limited has contested the rights held by producer Firoz Nadiadwala, arguing that he was authorised to produce only one Hindi remake of the

Malayalam classic Ramji Rao Speaking (1989). This remake was the original Hera Pheri released in 2000.

Seven Arts International claims that Nadiadwala exceeded his rights by producing the sequel, Phir Hera Pheri, in 2006 and by selling rights for the third film. The court is currently reviewing whether Hera Pheri 3 can legally proceed given these claims.



Dakota Johnson says handshake at audition cost her a role

Hollywood actor Dakota Johnson recently shared an experience from a callback audition. She said she was labelled "pompous" for simply introducing herself and shaking hands with the creative team.

During an interview on Hits Radio, the 36-year-old actor explained that she entered the room, greeted everyone, performed the scene, and left. However, the feedback she received was that her polite gesture was misinterpreted as being cocky and schmoozing.

She recalled, "I went into the room and I shook everyone's hand and introduced myself. And then I did the scene and I left. And the feedback I got was that because I had gone and introduced myself and shook everyone's hand, that I was, like, pompous, that I was schmoozing and full of myself." "I was like, what? I didn't get the job because they said that I was being cocky," Johnson said, describing the situation as "pretty crazy." She emphasised that she was just displaying good manners.

The actor appeared on Hits Radio to promote the UK release of her new movie, *Splitsville*, which was released in the US in September. The film, directed by Michael Angelo Covino, is a romantic drama-comedy about marriage mishaps.

Johnson stars alongside Adria Arjona, Kyle Marvin, Nicholas Braun, David Castaeda, O-T Fagbenle, and Covino. She described her character, Julie, as "deeply unhappy and messy," adding that audiences appreciate the film's realism.

Among her upcoming projects is *Verity*, directed by Michael Showalter. The film is an adaptation of Colleen Hoover's novel, with Johnson playing Lowen Ashleigh alongside Anne Hathaway and Josh Hartnett.

Johnson is also preparing for her directorial debut with *A Tree is Blue*, a story about a girl on the autism spectrum seeking independence after high school. The filming is expected to begin later this year. She was last seen in the 2025 film *Materialists*, which follows a love triangle set in New York City's dating scene. The movie also starred Chris Evans and Pedro Pascal.

Zendaya plans to disappear after packed 2026 slate, fears fans may get sick of her

If 2026 belongs to anyone in Hollywood, it might just be Hollywood star Zendaya. With a packed slate spanning blockbuster films and a major television return, The Drama star fears her fans may get 'sick of her'. In a new interview, she also said that she plans to 'go into hiding' after this. While speaking with Fandango, Zendaya revealed that she plans to "disappear for a little bit" once her hectic release calendar wraps up.

Expressing gratitude to her fans, she said, "I really appreciate everyone who supports any of the movies or supports my career in any kind of way. I'm deeply appreciative. I just hope you guys don't get sick of me this year because, I'll tell you what, I'm disappearing for a little bit. I'm going to have to go into hiding for just a little bit."

The Emmy-winning actor headlines an impressive line-up of projects in 2026. She kicks off the year with *The Drama*, directed by Kristoffer Borgli, releasing on April 3. In the film, she plays Emma Harwood, a bookstore clerk engaged to a British museum director, played by Robert Pattinson. Their relationship takes a complicated turn as unsettling truths surface ahead of their wedding.

Just days later, Zendaya will reprise her role as Rue in the third season of *Euphoria*, premiering on April 12, a comeback fans have been eagerly waiting for.



After a brief pause, she moves into blockbuster territory with Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey*, set to release on July 17. Later that month, she reunites with partner Tom Holland for *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, slated for July 31.

The year wraps up on a grand note with *Dune: Part Three*, arriving on December 18. There is also speculation about her involvement in *Avengers: Doomsday*, which could further add to her already stacked schedule.

Following this whirlwind year, Zendaya plans to take a step back from public life. However, her absence may be brief. The actor is expected to return in mid-2027 to promote *Shrek 5*, where she lends her voice to Felicia, alongside returning stars Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, and Cameron Diaz.

The Sheep Detectives trailer: Hugh Jackman's new film gives mystery a woolly spin



The upcoming film *The Sheep Detectives* introduces a unique mystery story centred on George, a shepherd played by Hugh Jackman. Every night, George reads detective novels to his sheep, believing they do not understand the stories.

However, when a strange incident disrupts life on the farm, the sheep begin to realise that they must take matters into their own hands. Inspired by the detective tales they have heard, they decide to investigate the mystery themselves.

As the sheep search for clues and observe the humans around them, they suspect someone may be responsible for the disruption. The film uses humor and a light tone to present this unusual crime-solving adventure from the animals' perspective.

Directed by Kyle Balda and written by Craig Mazin, the film blends mystery with comedy to create a story that is easy to follow and appeals to a wide audience.

The cast features well-known actors including Nicholas Braun, Nicholas Galitzine, Molly Gordon, Hong Chau, Emma Thompson, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Bryan Cranston, Chris O'Dowd, Regina Hall, Patrick Stewart, Bella Ramsey, Brett Goldstein, and Rhys Darby.

Presented by Amazon MGM Studios and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, *The Sheep Detectives* is set to release in Indian cinemas on May 8, 2026. The film will be available in English.

Schools to hotels: How civilian sites have come under attack during Middle East war

APRIL 3, 2026

GAZA (TIP): Since February 28, when the United States and Israel began their military campaign against Iran, thousands of strikes have been carried out across the country, hitting not just military-linked locations but also civilian infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, airports, and residential neighborhoods.

Iran has alleged that the scale of damage is vast, claiming over 2,000 deaths linked to US-Israeli strikes across nearly 90,000 civilian locations. The conflict, which began inside Iran, has since spilled into Lebanon, where Israel faces allegations of replicating tactics seen in Gaza.

Tehran has responded with its own strikes. In Israel, at least 19 people have been killed and thousands injured in attacks targeting civilian infrastructure. Gulf nations hosting US bases have also come under fire, with reported fatalities crossing 25.

CIVILIAN TARGETS HIT BY US & ISRAEL

The opening day of the war saw one of the deadliest incidents. On February 28, missiles struck the Shajareh Tayyebah elementary girls' school in Minab, southern Iran, killing at least 170 people, most of them young girls aged seven to 12.

President Donald Trump rejected claims that the US was behind the strike. However, multiple reports by international media and rights groups, including Al Jazeera and Amnesty International, indicated the attack was likely intentional and may have involved a US-made Tomahawk missile.

Also on the first day, a newly developed US missile, not previously used in combat, hit civilian structures near a military compound in Lamerd. An elementary school and a sports hall were among the sites struck, leaving 21 people dead, according to expert analysis and



visual evidence reviewed by The New York Times.

In another major incident, a cruise missile targeting an IRGC base in southern Iran killed nearly 200 people at a nearby school, most of them children.

Civilian neighborhoods were not spared. On March 9, an Israeli air strike flattened a multi-storey residential building in Tehran's Resalat district, killing around 50 people and displacing several families.

Financial infrastructure was also hit. An overnight strike on March 11 targeted a Bank Sepah branch in Tehran, with Iranian state media calling it an "illegitimate and unusual act in war" and reporting multiple employee deaths.

Transport hubs came under repeated attack as well. Tehran's main domestic airport was struck multiple times in mid-March, though Israel said the intended targets were IRGC-linked aircraft stationed there. A recent US air strike hit a highway bridge connecting Tehran and Karaj, killing two people, according to Fars News. Visuals shared by Trump showed the bridge engulfed in flames following the attack.

Academic institutions have also

featured among targets. The Iran University of Science and Technology was hit on March 28, though details of casualties remained unclear. A university in Isfahan reported another strike a day later, leaving four staff members injured. Malek Ashtar University and Imam Hossein University were also targeted, with Israel maintaining these facilities were being used for military purposes.

Healthcare infrastructure has taken a significant hit. Iran said that dozens of hospitals and medical centres have been damaged during the sustained bombardment, including a psychiatric hospital in Tehran. The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed at least 13 attacks on healthcare facilities in the early phase of the conflict.

IRAN'S COUNTER ATTACK IN THE GULF

Iran's retaliation began almost immediately. On March 1, strikes on the Israeli town of Beit Shemesh killed at least nine people. The same day, Iranian drones targeted critical infrastructure in the Gulf. An Amazon data centre in the UAE was hit, while debris from another drone strike damaged a separate Amazon facility in Bahrain.

Residential areas were also affected. In the early hours of March 12, a drone strike hit a building in Dubai's Creek Harbour neighbourhood, sparking a fire. Two days later, on March 14, ICD Brookfield Place in Dubai's financial district -- home to offices, restaurants, and retail outlets -- was also struck, according to Human Rights Watch.

Disruptions extended to digital infrastructure. On March 24, an apparent drone attack affected Amazon Web Services operations in Bahrain, though it remained unclear whether the facility itself was directly hit.

Airports across the Gulf have faced repeated missile and drone threats. While Iranian drones failed to hit Doha's airport, Dubai International Airport sustained damage, leading to major delays and cancellations of flights. Qatar Airways was forced to scale back operations and move aircraft to storage in Spain.

Kuwait International Airport was struck, triggering a large fire and damaging radar systems. Earlier, on February 28, a separate drone strike at the same airport injured four Bangladeshi nationals.

Precautionary shutdowns followed elsewhere. New York University's Abu Dhabi campus suspended operations, citing safety concerns.

According to Human Rights Watch, Iranian strikes have hit a wide range of civilian sites, including residential buildings, hotels, embassies, financial centres, and airports. Investigations have examined attacks involving Fairmont The Palm Hotel, Dubai International Financial Centre, Zayed International Airport, Dubai International Airport, Kuwait International Airport, residential complexes, Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bahrain, the US consulate in Dubai, and the US Embassy in Riyadh.

Source: India Today

Macron says it is unrealistic to open Hormuz Strait by force

APRIL 3, 2026

PARIS (TIP): French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday, April 2, it would be unrealistic to launch a military operation to force open the Strait of Hormuz, after U.S. President Donald Trump challenged U.S. allies to work towards reopening it.

Thousands of people have been killed across the Middle East since February 28, when the U.S. and Israel struck Iran, triggering Iranian attacks on Israel, U.S. bases and Gulf states and Tehran effectively closing the waterway that carries about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas supplies.

"Some people defend the idea of freeing the Strait of Hormuz by force via a military operation, a position sometimes



expressed by the United States, although it has varied," Macron told reporters during a trip to South Korea.

"This was never the option we have supported because it is unrealistic," he

said. "It would take forever, and would expose all those who go through the Strait to risks from the Revolutionary Guards but also ballistic missiles," he said.

Macron, who has worked with European and other allies to build a coalition to guarantee free passage through Hormuz once hostilities have stopped, said this could only be done by talking to Iran.

"What we say from the beginning is that this strait must be reopened because it is strategic for energy flows, fertilisers and international trade, but that it can only be done in consultation with Iran," he said.

Asked about Trump's criticism of NATO allies, Macron said:

"I don't want to provide a running commentary of an operation the

Americans have decided on their own with Israel. They can deplore the fact they're not being helped, but that's not our operation. We want peace as soon as possible."

"This is not a show," Macron added. "We're talking about war and peace... Let's be serious and not say one day the opposite of what we said the day before," he added, without saying if he was talking about Trump.

On Trump's threats to pull the U.S. out of the NATO alliance, Macron said: "Alliances such as NATO derive their strength from what is not said, that is, from the trust that lies behind them. If you create doubt every day about your commitments, you hollow out its substance."

Cuba pardons 2,010 people as US pressures island's government

APRIL 3, 2026

HAVANA (TIP): The Cuban government said on Thursday, April 2, that it had pardoned 2,010 people at the same time the Trump administration has placed extreme pressure on the government and suffocated the island with an oil blockade.

Cuba's government said the pardons were a "humanitarian gesture" in connection with Holy Week and didn't mention mounting pressures with the US. The government said it had "released" foreigners and Cubans, including women, the elderly and young people. Cuban authorities didn't name who was released or under what conditions, nor did it mention the crimes they were accused of committing. Authorities also provided no details on whether any of those pardoned were protesters convicted and sentenced for terrorism, contempt or public disorder. Cuba's government does not recognise political prisoners, but the activist group Prisoners Defended registered 1,214 people imprisoned for political reasons in Cuba.

Cuban authorities said the pardon decision "was based on a careful analysis of the characteristics of the crimes committed by those sanctioned, their good behavior in prison, having served a significant portion of their sentence, and their health status," according to a statement published in state media.

Iran claims shooting down second US F-35 fighter jet

APRIL 3, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran has claimed that it shot down a second US F-35 fighter jet over central parts of the country, according to a report by Mehr news agency, says Reuters. The agency also said that survival of the pilot is unlikely.

Iran also fired missiles at Israel and some Gulf nations while explosions were heard in Tehran and the central Iranian city of Isfahan on Friday, as the US prepared to further reinforce its already significant military forces in the West Asia.

Meanwhile, AP reported that Iranian drones targeted Kuwait's Mina al-Ahmadi oil refinery on Friday, triggering fires at the facility. State-run Kuwait Petroleum Corp. confirmed the attack, saying firefighting teams were deployed to bring the blaze under control. The company added that no injuries were reported.

Notably, the refinery has been hit multiple times during this ongoing war.

War continues to escalate in West Asia

President Donald Trump, in his address on Thursday, said that the US forces will keep hitting Iran 'very hard' in the next two or three weeks.

Late on Thursday, he took to Truth Social to announce that Iran's biggest bridge has been hit by the US forces, sending this as a reminder to Islamic Republic of consequences if they did not say yes to his peace deal.

AP has reported the Navy's 6th Fleet announcing that the largest American aircraft carrier in service sailed out of Split, in Croatia and 'remains poised for full mission tasking in support of national objectives in any area of operation.'

Iran's has increased the intensity of attacks on Gulf region energy infrastructure and its tight grip on the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and natural



gas transits in peacetime, has sent oil prices skyrocketing.

Former CIA director Bill Burns has described the US-Israeli war launched against Iran as 'a war of choice' that may have only further empowered the most hard-line elements within its theocracy.

Burns, a former State Department diplomat, made the observation in a podcast by Foreign Affairs magazine.

"This is a regime that is inept at many things like managing its economy, but it is designed to preserve itself and designed to repress its own people and designed to withstand even the decapitation of its senior leadership," said Burns, who secretly negotiated with the Iranians ahead of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers during the Obama administration.

Indian friends in safe hands: Iran on Hormuz blockade

APRIL 3, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran on Thursday, April 2, indicated that its "Indian friends" have nothing to worry about when it comes to safe passage for fuel tankers through the conflict-hit Strait of Hormuz.

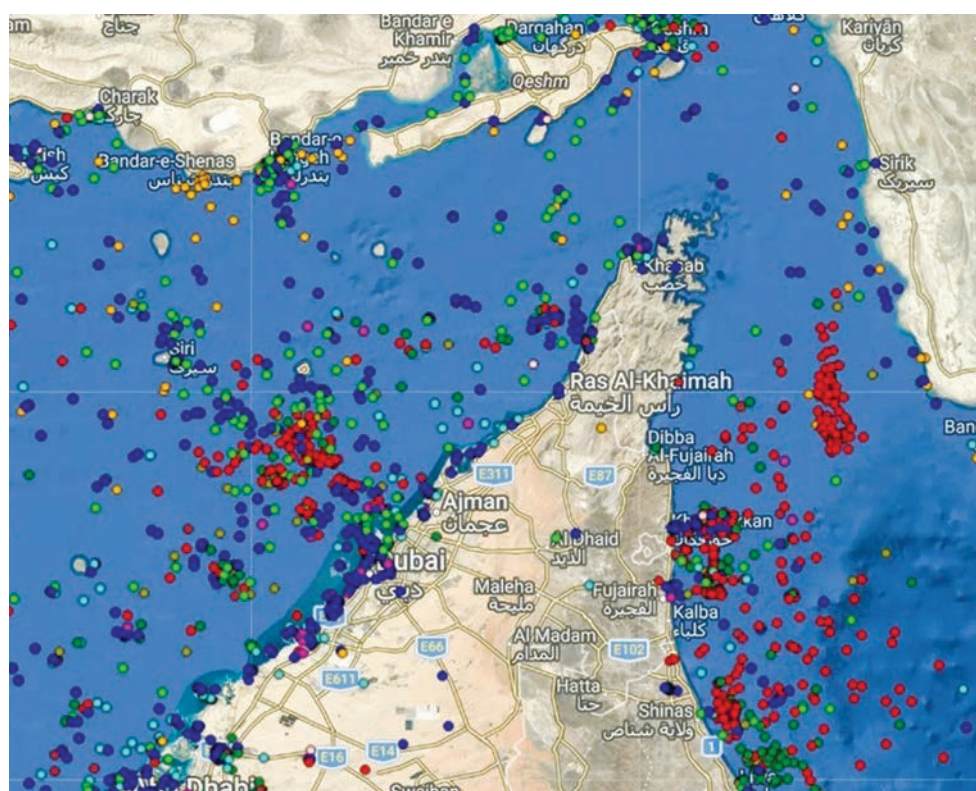
"Our Indian friends are in safe hands, no worries," the Iranian Embassy in India said while quoting a tweet by Iran's Embassy in South Africa.

The original post had batted for exclusive sovereign control of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran and Oman. "ONLY Iran and Oman will decide the future of the Strait of Hormuz. You are in safe hands, no worries," Iran's Embassy in South Africa said in the X post.

Iran has been highly selective in imposing its blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, with India being one of the very few nations whose cargo ships have been granted passage through the strategic waterway amid the current war in the Middle East.

So far, six Indian-flagged fuel carriers have safely transited through the critical energy choke point since the Iranian blockade was announced in early March.

IRAN'S GRAND GESTURE FOR FRIENDS



Iranian officials have repeatedly emphasised that the strait is only closed to ships of "enemies", alluding to the US and its allies. The disruption in the Strait of Hormuz has already pushed fuel prices higher across global markets

and raised concerns over supply chain stability.

Last week, Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi said Tehran was being contacted for safe passage by either shipping firms or countries under whose

flags stranded ships were setting sail.

Speaking to the Iranian state media, he mentioned India, China, Russia, Pakistan, and Iraq as some of the few "friendly" countries that coordinated with Iran for safe passage of their commercial shipst.

INDIA DENIES TOLL ARRANGEMENT

India has dismissed reports of having a toll-like arrangement with Iran for securing approval for Indian-flagged carriers. India is engaging with regional players in the Middle East, including Iran, to keep shipping lanes open, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"We are in touch with Iran and other countries there to see how best we can get unimpeded transit and safe transit for our ships," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said while addressing a press briefing on April 2.

He said that the outreach is already yielding results. "Through this conversation that we have had over the last several days, we have had six Indian ships which have been able to safely cross the Strait of Hormuz, and we continue to be in touch with relevant parties," the official stated, as quoted by news agency ANI.

Tourists poisoned, fake treatment: Rs 130 crore air rescue scam busted in Nepal

APRIL 3, 2026

KATHMANDU (TIP): A court case has been filed against 33 individuals in Nepal for their alleged involvement in a large-scale fake "air rescue" insurance scam targeting foreign tourists, with fraudulent claims amounting to around Rs 130 crore.

According to Nepal Police's Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), the case was registered on March 20 after the bureau submitted its investigation report to the government attorney's office on March 15. Of the 33 accused, 10 have been arrested, while the remaining are absconding.

The investigation revealed that the accused collectively defrauded insurance companies by creating fake documents related to tourist rescues and medical treatments. The total fraud includes approximately NPR 94.84 crore, USD 2.99 million, and EUR 14,500. Based on 2022 exchange rates, the total claim value is estimated at around Rs 130.42 crore.

The case pertains to fraudulent rescue operations carried out since 2022. Authorities have recommended prosecution under multiple charges, including crimes against national interest, criminal gain, document-related offences, and organised crime.

The accused include stakeholders across the tourism and rescue ecosystem: 16 trekking companies, five rescue companies, three hospitals, four helicopter companies, three local agents, and one independent guide.

The CIB began its probe on January 25, leading to the arrest of several company owners, managers, a hospital operator, an aviation expert, a trekking company operator, and a guide. Among those arrested are individuals linked to Mountain Rescue Service, Nepal Charter Service, and Everest Experience and Assistance.

Investigators found that the accused had filed insurance claims worth Rs 285.62 crore using fake documents since 2022. Mountain Rescue Service alone conducted 1,248 rescues, of which 171 were found to be fake, leading to claims of around Rs 149.49 crore, out of which nearly Rs 130 crore was paid.

Similarly, Nepal Charter Service carried out 471 rescues, with 75 deemed suspicious, resulting in claims of about Rs 119.39 crore. Everest Experience handled 601 rescues, including 71 suspicious cases, claiming around Rs 16.73 crore.

The probe also uncovered that tourists were often forced into unnecessary hospitalisation after rescue. In some cases, tourists were sent shopping during the day and admitted to hospitals only in the evening. Authorities found that passports were withheld until insurance payments were guaranteed.

Pakistan hit by global oil crisis, diesel prices up by 55%, petrol 42%

APRIL 3, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on Thursday, April 2, sharply increased consumer prices for diesel and petrol, marking its second hike in less than a month, as global oil prices surged amid the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

The price of diesel has been raised by 54.9% to 520.35 Pakistani rupees (\$1.88) per litre, while petrol prices have gone up by 42.7% to 458.40 Pakistani rupees per litre.

Petroleum Minister Ali Pervaiz Malik said the increase was unavoidable due to the spike in international crude prices. "It was inevitable to raise the prices due to the international market prices going out of control after the US-Iran war," he said during a news conference telecast on state television, alongside Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

Last month, Pakistan had already raised diesel and petrol prices by around 20%, citing higher oil prices driven by the US-Israeli war on Iran.

The latest hike is expected to push inflation higher and further strain the country's impoverished population. Pakistan relies heavily on oil imports, primarily from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, transported through the Strait of Hormuz.

Aurangzeb announced targeted relief measures to cushion the impact on vulnerable groups. The government will provide a subsidy of 100 rupees per litre for two-wheeler users, capped at 20 litres per month, for a period of three months.

He also announced support for the agriculture sector, stating that small farmers will receive a one-time subsidy of



People on their vehicles wait for their turn to get fuel at a petrol station in Karachi. (Reuters Photo)

1,500 rupees per acre. Aurangzeb noted that agriculture contributes about 24% to Pakistan's GDP and remains critical to food security.

Malik added that the government had provided subsidies worth 129 billion rupees over the past three weeks, but continuing such support was no longer financially viable. "Since the resources are limited and there is no end to this war in sight, there was no way to continue with a blanket subsidy," he said. Global oil markets have remained volatile, with US oil prices jumping more than 11% on Thursday, while Brent crude surged over 7% a day after US President Donald Trump said military operations would be intensified.

Pak's response to attack would be decisive: Khawaja Asif fires back at India

APRIL 3, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has issued a fresh warning to India, saying any future confrontation would be met with a response that is "swift, calibrated, and decisive". Khawaja Asif's remarks come days before the first anniversary of the horrific 2025 Pahalgam attack and India's Operation Sindoor.

The latest remarks came in response to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's comment, who warned Pakistan against attempting any "misadventure" under the shadow of the war in Iran. "Our neighbour, given the current situation, could attempt some kind of misadventure. If that happens, India's response will be unprecedented and decisive," the defence minister said, underscoring that Operation Sindoor was not over yet.

Speaking at an event in Kerala, Rajnath Singh reminded Islamabad how the Indian Army brought it to its knees in just 22 minutes during Operation Sindoor. The operation was launched days after Lashkar terrorists killed 25 tourists in Pahalgam on April 22.

KHAWAJA ASIF HITS BACK

Responding on X, Khawaja Asif criticised the tone of these statements, calling them part of a pattern. "Repeated rhetoric reflects not strength, but visible strategic anxiety as the anniversary of the Pahalgam" attack approaches, he said.

"Such threat-mongering is not new; it is part of a predictable pattern -- externalising internal fragility, and attempting to provoke escalation under the garb of unsubstantiated allegations for vested political interests," he said.

He warned that any future escalation would be met with a stronger response from Pakistan. "The next time our response will be even more forceful and decisive. Let there be no ambiguity: Pakistan remains committed to peace and regional



stability, but its resolve to defend sovereignty is absolute, its preparedness complete, and its response will be swift, calibrated, and decisive," he said as quoted by PTI.

While striking a combative tone, Asif said Pakistan remains committed to regional stability. "Pakistan remains committed to peace and regional stability, but its resolve to defend sovereignty is absolute, its preparedness complete," he said.

The tensions escalated after Pahalgam attack, which led to a four-day military confrontation between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

India destroyed nine terror camps deep inside Pakistan and struck key military bases, some of which are still under repair. The hostilities ended after Pakistan sought a ceasefire on May 10 and both countries took a series of retaliatory steps, including diplomatic downgrades, suspension of agreements, and military action across the border.

Easter: The eternal story of resurrection, renewal and divine hope

Easter, or Resurrection Sunday, is a major Christian festival celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, occurring three days after his crucifixion. It marks the end of Lent, a period of fasting and repentance. The holiday combines religious significance with secular traditions like Easter eggs, the Easter Bunny, and family gatherings. This year Easter Sunday falls on April 5

Radiating joy after the solemn silence of Good Friday, Easter stands as the most sacred and triumphant celebration in Christianity. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ—a moment that transformed grief into glory and despair into everlasting hope.

Celebrated across continents with deep devotion, rich symbolism, and vibrant customs, Easter is not merely a festival—it is a profound spiritual journey that speaks of sacrifice, redemption, and the promise of new life.

The Sacred Legend: From the Cross to the Empty Tomb

The story of Easter unfolds through the sacred narratives of the Bible, particularly within the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

After the crucifixion of Jesus in Jerusalem, his body was carefully placed in a rock-hewn tomb, sealed with a massive stone and guarded by Roman soldiers. For his followers, this moment marked the crushing weight of loss and uncertainty.

However, on the third day—early Sunday morning—women disciples, including Mary Magdalene, arrived at the tomb only to find it open and empty. According to Christian belief, Jesus had risen from the dead, appearing to his disciples and reaffirming his divine nature.

This miraculous event, known as the Resurrection, is the cornerstone of Christian theology. It is seen as the ultimate victory over death and sin, affirming that divine life transcends earthly limitations.

Historical and Religious Origins of Easter

Easter is deeply intertwined with the Jewish festival of Passover, as the events of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection occurred during this period. Early Christians linked the resurrection to themes of liberation and renewal, similar to the exodus story in Jewish tradition.

The name "Easter" is often believed to have roots in ancient spring festivals, possibly linked to Eostre, a goddess associated with dawn and fertility. Over time, these cultural elements blended with Christian beliefs, giving Easter its rich tapestry of religious and seasonal symbolism.

The Lenten Journey: Preparation for Easter

Easter is preceded by a 40-day period known as Lent, a time of fasting, prayer, and penance. This period symbolizes



the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness.

The final week, known as Holy Week, includes:

- Palm Sunday: Commemorating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem
- Maundy Thursday: Remembering the Last Supper and the act of humility when Jesus washed his disciples' feet
- Good Friday: Marking the crucifixion and sacrifice

This spiritual progression—from celebration to suffering—sets the stage for the ultimate joy of Easter.

Profound Symbolism of Easter

Easter is rich with layers of meaning that go beyond its historical narrative:

1. Resurrection as Renewal

The resurrection symbolizes not only Christ's victory over death but also the renewal of the human spirit. It invites believers to shed old burdens and embrace transformation.

2. The Cross and the Empty Tomb

While the cross represents sacrifice and suffering, the empty tomb signifies hope, triumph, and divine fulfillment.

3. Light and Darkness

The transition from Good Friday's darkness to Easter's light symbolizes the journey from despair to hope—a universal human experience.

4. Spring and Rebirth

In many parts of the world, Easter coincides with spring—a season of blooming flowers and new beginnings—reinforcing its message of renewal.



Rituals and Observances

Easter observances are deeply spiritual, marked by both solemnity and celebration.

The Easter Vigil: From Darkness to Light

Held on the night before Easter Sunday,

the vigil begins in darkness. A single candle—the Paschal candle—is lit, representing Christ as the light of the world. Gradually, the entire church is illuminated, symbolizing the spread of hope and faith.

From page 28

Sunrise Services

These services commemorate the moment the empty tomb was discovered at dawn. Worshippers gather in open spaces or churches, celebrating the resurrection with hymns and prayers.

Holy Communion and Festive Mass

Easter Sunday Mass is one of the most joyous services of the year. Churches are adorned with white and gold, symbolizing purity and celebration.

Breaking the Lenten Fast

After weeks of fasting and restraint, Easter marks a return to feasting and joy, symbolizing spiritual and physical renewal.

Customs and Cultural

Traditions Across the Globe

Easter is a beautiful blend of religious devotion and cultural expression.

Easter Eggs: Ancient Symbol of Life

Eggs have long symbolized fertility and new beginnings. In Christian tradition, they represent the sealed tomb of Christ, which, when opened, revealed new life.

From intricately painted eggs in Eastern Europe to chocolate eggs in the West, this tradition continues to delight people of all ages.

The Easter Bunny

A symbol of fertility and abundance, the Easter Bunny adds a playful dimension to the festival, especially for children.

Festive Foods and Delicacies

Different regions have their own Easter specialties:

- Sweet breads and cakes
- Roasted meats
- Traditional desserts

These meals symbolize celebration, abundance, and togetherness.

Processions and Passion Plays

In many parts of the world, dramatic reenactments of the Passion of Christ are performed, allowing communities to relive the sacred story with deep emotion.

Easter in India: A Blend of Devotion and Culture

In India, Easter is celebrated with heartfelt devotion, especially in states like Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and the Northeastern regions.

Churches are decorated with flowers and lights, and midnight services are attended by large congregations. Traditional dishes such as appam, stew, and festive sweets are prepared, bringing families together in celebration.

The festival reflects India's spirit of unity, where diverse communities come together to share in joy and faith.

Philosophical and Spiritual Reflections

Easter transcends religious boundaries in its message. It speaks to universal human experiences:

- Suffering and Healing: Pain is



often a pathway to transformation

- Faith and Resilience: Belief can sustain us through uncertainty
- Forgiveness and Love: The teachings of Christ emphasize compassion above all

In a world often marked by conflict and change, Easter offers a message of peace, renewal, and hope.

From Crucifixion to Resurrection: A Universal Metaphor

The journey from Good Friday to Easter Sunday mirrors the human journey—from struggle to growth, from loss to renewal. It reminds us that endings are not final, but part of a greater cycle of transformation.

Final Reflections: The Light That Never Fades

Easter is a celebration of life in its most profound sense. It is a reminder that no darkness is permanent, no sorrow eternal, and no struggle without meaning.

As bells ring and candles glow across churches worldwide, Easter carries a timeless message—

that hope rises, love endures, and life, in all its beauty, always finds a way to begin again.



Goodbye greys the natural way: Remedies for darker hair



The appearance of grey hair is a natural part of aging, often linked to a decline in melanin—the pigment responsible for hair color. However, premature greying can also result from stress, nutritional deficiencies, pollution, and excessive use of chemical products. While commercial hair dyes offer quick fixes, many people today are turning toward natural remedies that are gentler, sustainable, and free from harsh side effects. These time-tested home remedies not only help darken grey hair gradually but also nourish the scalp and improve overall hair health.

1. Amla (Indian Gooseberry): The Ultimate Hair Elixir

Amla has long been revered in traditional Indian hair care. Rich in vitamin C and antioxidants, it helps boost melanin production and strengthens hair follicles.

How to use:

Boil dried amla pieces in coconut oil until the oil turns dark. Strain and massage into the scalp regularly. Alternatively, mix amla powder with water to form a paste and apply as a hair mask.

2. Curry Leaves for Restoring Natural Pigment

Curry leaves are packed with essential nutrients

that help revive melanin pigments in hair roots.

How to use:

Heat a handful of curry leaves in coconut oil until they turn black. Let it cool, strain, and apply it to your hair twice a week for visible results over time.

3. Henna: Nature's Gentle Dye

Henna is a natural coloring agent widely used to cover greys while conditioning hair.

How to use:

Mix henna powder with tea or coffee decoction for a darker tint. Apply evenly on hair and leave it for a few hours before rinsing. It gives a reddish-brown hue and adds shine.

4. Black Tea Rinse for Darkening Hair

Black tea contains tannins that can gradually darken hair and enhance its natural color.

How to use:

Brew strong black tea, cool it, and use it as a final rinse after shampooing. Do not wash it off with water—let your hair absorb the color naturally.

5. Coffee Treatment for Rich Brown Tones

Coffee works similarly to black tea and can subtly stain grey strands, giving them a darker shade.

How to use:

Prepare strong coffee and mix it with conditioner. Apply it to your hair, leave for 30-45 minutes, and rinse thoroughly.

6. Onion Juice to Boost Catalase Levels

Onion juice is believed to increase catalase, an enzyme that helps reduce hydrogen peroxide buildup—a key cause of greying.

How to use:

Extract fresh onion juice and massage it into the scalp. Leave it on for 20-30 minutes before washing with a mild shampoo.

7. Coconut Oil and Lemon Juice Blend

Coconut oil combined with Lemon juice helps nourish hair and maintain pigment balance.

How to use:

Mix two tablespoons of coconut oil with one tablespoon of lemon juice. Massage into the scalp and leave for at least 30 minutes before washing.

FOOD CORNER

Nutri kulcha Amritsari style

Ingredients

- 1 cup Soya chunks, 2 medium onions (finely chopped), 2 tomatoes (pureed), 2-3 green chilies (chopped), 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste, 2 tbsp Mustard oil, 1 tsp cumin seeds, 1 tsp turmeric powder, 1 tsp red chili powder, 1 tsp coriander powder, ½ tsp garam masala, 1 tsp amchur (dry mango powder), Salt to taste, Fresh coriander leaves for garnish.

Method

- Boil the soya chunks in salted water for 5-7 minutes until soft. Drain and rinse with cold water. Squeeze out excess water and keep aside.
- Heat mustard oil in a pan until it reaches smoking point (to remove raw smell), then let it cool slightly. Add cumin seeds and let them splutter.
- Add chopped onions and sauté until golden brown. Mix in ginger-garlic paste and green chilies, cooking until aromatic.
- Pour in tomato puree and cook until oil separates. Add turmeric, red chili powder, coriander powder, salt, and mix well. Cook the masala until thick and rich.
- Add the prepared soya chunks and mix thoroughly with the masala. Add a little water if needed and let it simmer for 8-10 minutes so the flavors absorb well.
- Sprinkle garam masala and amchur powder. Mix well and garnish with fresh coriander leaves.



Build your skin's health and immunity

The skin is the largest organ of the body. It is the first line of defense and helps protect from harmful elements, microbes and also regulates body temperature. This is why it becomes extremely important to keep the skin healthy and maintain its immunity, which can be compromised if the protective barrier is depleted.

To ensure that the good bacteria on your skin continues to thrive without affecting the barrier, take a look at some simple skin care tips.

Start your skincare routine with cleansing

Cleansing is the most integral part of your skincare routine. The first

step in your skincare routine should be to carefully clean your face to remove any makeup, dirt, or excess oil. Opt for a pH-neutral, soap-free face purifier that removes contamination without stripping your skin of its natural oil.

Weekly exfoliation is a must

The skin deals with a lot of external stressors and that is why exfoliating it once a week is a must. This helps in deep cleansing the skin and removing dirt and dead skin cells. For both oily and dry skin, it is recommended to use a mild scrub.

Moisturise and hydrate your skin

These two are different concepts; a

good moisturiser helps in locking in the natural moisture of the skin and also keeps the cells hydrated. While hydration maintains the water levels in your skin. Moisturising twice, in a span of 8 hours, is a must. This helps in keeping the skin hydrated and doesn't make it look chapped and dry" Opt for something which is lightweight, non-comedogenic or has the hydrating qualities of avocado to keep the skin's texture at its best.

Vitamins essential for healthy skin

They play an important role in keeping your skin healthy -- such as the use of vitamin C helps fight radical damage and works as a great anti-ageing agent for the skin.

Do nutrition patches work? Experts question their efficacy

Peel and stick nutrient patches are the latest wellness trend on social media, marketed as an easy way to absorb nutrients without popping a pill. Unlike oral supplements, patch-based nutrients promise to directly enter the bloodstream, surpassing the gastrointestinal tract. Nutrient patches available in India are marketed for energy, sleep, immunity and multi-vitamins.

But are they really a breakthrough in the world of nutrition, where half the world is trying to figure out what works best for their deficiencies?

And do they live up to expectations? Are they true to the hype created by social media?

Research papers and experts suggest that the science behind this is not strong. The sticky patch's science just doesn't stick well. We explain why.

HOW DO NUTRITION PATCHES WORK?

Wellness patches claim to release a dose of vitamins and nutrients directly from your skin to your blood. These patches bypass the digestive system and liver metabolism.

And this delivery system creates a fanfare and, thus, popularity. Also, it's appealing to those who may have difficulty swallowing pills.

However, nutrition specialist and RNA biologist Geetanjali Chawla at Shiv Nadar University, Noida, expresses serious doubts over their capacity for absorption.

"The skin is made to keep most foreign particles out and acts as a protective barrier." Additionally, "everything that falls on the skin is not taken up in the bloodstream." She explained how water-soluble vitamins (such as vitamin C) may not penetrate the skin. But fat-soluble vitamins (Vitamins A, D, E and K) may be able to penetrate the skin, but the amount that actually reaches the bloodstream may not be sufficient.

"When we take a vitamin pill orally, it enters our



digestive system, and through the intestine it reaches our bloodstream by binding to specific receptors."

But skin patches have a different system; we rely on the vitamin to cross the skin barrier and reach the bloodstream. Most vitamins are too large to pass through the skin, and much larger amounts are needed than what can pass through a patch.

"A patch cannot provide as much vitamin as a tablet can. The amount that does pass through the skin and reaches the bloodstream is probably not enough," she explained. So even in cases when vitamins do pass through the skin, the amount in the patches and the amount absorbed are probably low. Also, because there is no data to understand how much a human body can absorb a nutrient from these patches.

Moreover, there are only two studies to date that have tested the micronutrient delivery via transdermal patches on human participants, and the results are not promising. In fact, future large studies are needed to understand the efficacy of multivitamin patches before they can be recommended.



Poor whole grain intake among Indians linked to rise in diabetes, obesity, says study

Indians are consuming only about 10 per cent of the recommended whole grain intake, a habit that is causing a steep increase in non-communicable diseases across the country, a white paper has revealed.

The white paper titled 'Opportunities with Whole Grains to Support Metabolic Health among Indians: Evidence Mapping' revealed that despite having over 20 millet varieties available, the shift toward refined alternatives is stripping essential vitamins and minerals from the plate.

According to the white paper, India's average daily consumption of whole grains stands at approximately 42 gm, just 10 per cent of the total daily grain intake of 432 gm, as opposed to the 125 gm per day recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN).

The expert-led evidence-mapping exercise was released by the Protein Foods and Nutrition Development Association of India (PFNDAI), in collaboration with ITC.

With over 20 millet varieties available domestically, India has the agronomic resources to bridge this gap. The country, however, lacks the policy will and public awareness to do so, the report stated.

Non-communicable diseases such as obesity, hypertension, type-2 diabetes, and cardiovascular conditions are on a steep rise across India, driven in large part by dietary shifts away from fibre-rich, nutrient-dense whole grains toward refined alternatives, the document stated.

The white paper also revealed that the removal of bran and germ during processing stripped grains of key nutrients, including vitamins B1 and B6, folate, zinc, phosphorus, magnesium, niacin, selenium and iron, making them calorie-dense but nutritionally poor. It recommended fortified whole grain flours, digital recipe tools, community-based pilots, nutritionist counselling for women and vulnerable populations, and sustained research on the effects of whole grain across age groups, pointing towards a policy shift that will treat nutrition not as a welfare add-on, but as a public health imperative.

New cancer drug shows promise, made brain tumor almost disappear in five days

A new CAR-T cell therapy showed encouraging results in treating glioblastoma, a highly aggressive form of brain cancer. Researchers from the Mass General Cancer Center, US, reported significant tumour reductions in the first three patients treated in a phase 1 clinical trial called INCIPIENT, which took place in 2024.

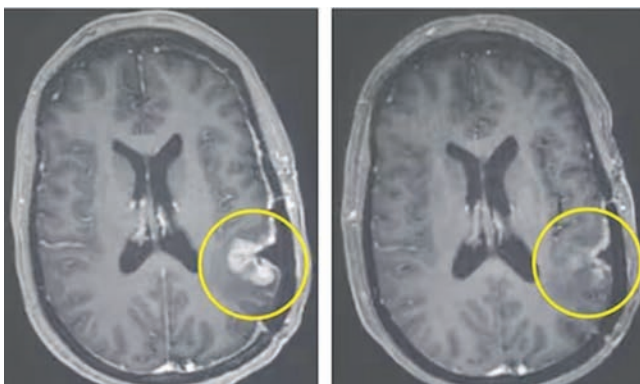
The study, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, evaluated a drug called CARv3-TEAM-E T cell therapy designed for patients with recurrent glioblastoma. Just days after a single infusion, patients experienced notable tumour shrinkage, including one case of near-complete tumour regression.

WHAT IS CAR-T THERAPY?

CAR-T therapy, which uses a patient's own modified immune cells to fight cancer, has been successful in blood cancers but faces challenges in solid tumours like glioblastoma. This new combined approach offers a promising direction to overcome those hurdles.

ALL ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTAL CANCER DRUG

This approach combines CAR-T therapy with bispecific antibodies called T-cell engaging antibody molecules (TEAMs). It aims to address the challenge of tumour heterogeneity by targeting different cancer cell populations within glioblastoma. The therapy is directly



injected into the brain to maximise its effect.

The trial involved three patients aged between 57 and 74, all of whom had previously undergone standard treatments including radiation and chemotherapy.

One patient showed a rapid but temporary tumour regression, another had a sustained reduction of over 60 per cent lasting more than six months, and the third exhibited near-complete tumour shrinkage within 5 days. Patients tolerated the treatment well, with expected side effects such as fever and altered mental status shortly after infusion.

All were monitored in hospital before being discharged. Despite initial positive responses, tumour progression eventually occurred in all cases, partly due to the limited persistence of the CAR-TEAM cells.

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A comet may have flipped its spin and entered into a death spiral

For the first time, a comet may have been caught flipping its spin. Sometime between April and December 2017, comet 41P/Tuttle-Giacobini-Kresák apparently started twirling in the opposite direction, astronomer David Jewitt reports in the April *Astronomical Journal*. The simplest explanation, the study says, is that gases escaping from the small comet forced its rotation to slow, stop and reverse.

The kilometer-or-so-wide comet may keep spinning faster in the new direction until it tears itself apart, says Jewitt, of the University of California, Los Angeles. The fatal pirouette demonstrates why small comets — those less than a kilometer wide — are relatively scarce, he says. “They spin up so quickly, they’re gone in a relatively short time.”

41P is thought to have assumed its current orbit around the sun some 1,500 years ago, after a close encounter with Jupiter. Its trajectory brings it into the inner solar system every 5.4 years.

In May 2017, observations by NASA’s Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory showed that 41P’s spin was rapidly decelerating. At the time, 41P completed a rotation every 46 to 60 hours — taking more than double the amount of time that it had in March, when scientists at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Ariz., observed it. The change was the quickest shift in a comet’s spin ever observed, researchers reported the following year in *Nature*.

For the new study, Jewitt analyzed images taken by NASA’s Hubble Space



Telescope in December 2017. He found that 41P was spinning about once every 14 hours, or in about a third of the time observed in May of that year — its spin had switched from slowing to accelerating.

Heat from the sun probably sublimated some of 41P’s icy parts, generating gases that would have acted like thrusters on a spacecraft, Jewitt says. The torque generated by those gases would have first slowed 41P’s spin to a halt, and then led it to start turning in nearly the opposite direction. This interpretation would

explain the observed changes, Jewitt says.

Jewitt’s calculations suggest that as 41P’s spin accelerates, centrifugal forces will eventually overcome the comet’s gravity, causing it to break apart. It’s difficult to predict exactly when that will occur, since the comet’s outgassing can fluctuate, but it won’t be long, Jewitt says — maybe just a few decades.

There are objects in the sky that can seem eternal, Jewitt says, but this is a reminder that some won’t be there for much longer.

Apple set to have AI App Store, let users run third-party chatbots in Siri

Apple may have some big plans for AI this year. The Cupertino giant is rumoured to debut the updated Siri with iOS 27, which will be powered by Google’s Gemini models. However, it appears that the tech giant may bring more options for users, including the ability to run third-party chatbots inside the virtual assistant.

According to a report from Bloomberg, Apple may release a new feature, likely to be called Siri Extensions. This will allow users to run third-party chatbots such as Anthropic’s Claude within Siri. Users may be able to access these extensions via a dedicated AI App Store. Here are all the details.

According to the report, Apple is reportedly doubling down on its hardware advantage. The Cupertino giant is likely aware that it may not catch up with the likes of Google and OpenAI in the AI race. As a result, it may be willing to simply use its platforms to earn more revenue.

This will likely create a dedicated AI section within the App Store that will bring a marketplace for third-party AI services to connect with Siri. While AI companies will get broader reach, Apple will also likely earn hefty commissions in the process.

This move comes at a time when the Cupertino giant has struggled to build its own AI models, and some of its key AI talent are leaving for rivals such as OpenAI.

A few weeks ago, Apple signed a massive deal to bring a Gemini-powered Siri. This deal will remain in place, with the new Siri, codenamed Campo, likely making its debut during Apple’s Worldwide Developers Conference (WWDC) on June 8, 2026.

Though iPhone users will likely have to wait till the iOS 27 release before they can actually get their hands on Apple’s revamped personal assistant. iOS 27 is expected to release alongside the next generation of iPhones in fall 2026, namely the iPhone 18 Pro series, and the rumoured iPhone fold.

The new Siri will come with greater functionality such as completing tasks and accessing information.

Apple is also likely testing a standalone Siri app for its devices that would make its personal assistant more like a chatbot, similar to ChatGPT or Gemini.



Claude source code leaked by Anthropic, gives everyone a look inside how viral chatbot works

Anthropic has once again accidentally exposed sensitive information related to its Claude AI family. This time, it’s the internal source code of its AI coding assistant, Claude Code. The leak, which surfaced on March 31, 2026, was not the result of a cyberattack or hack, but likely a basic packaging mistake. The company recently rolled out an update, during which developers noticed that the release package contained a source map file, something that is never meant to be publicly distributed.

The leak first came to light when security researcher Chaofan Shou found that Claude Code’s latest update (version 2.1.88) included a source map file in its npm package. This file, called `cli.js.map`, essentially can allow anyone to rebuild and view the tool’s original code. Within hours, the leak, the source map spread across developer communities, with users downloading, analysing, and sharing the



exposed code online. The leak was likely caused by a simple technical error during the update process. However, in this case, Anthropic accidentally included a source map file in the public release. Such files are meant only for internal use, as they link the compiled software back to its original source code to help developers debug issues. By shipping this file as part of the npm package, the company effectively made it possible for anyone to reconstruct and access the full codebase.

This exposed the internal workings of Claude Code, including its underlying architecture and design. In short, the leaked code gives people a blueprint of how the Claude Code actually works.

According to reports, the leak exposed more than 500,000 lines of Claude Code’s source code, spread across nearly 2,000 internal files. This included important parts of how the Anthropic’s AI tool works, such as:

- Internal APIs (how different parts of the system connect)
- Telemetry and analytics systems
- Some encryption-related logic
- Communication between different components

Developers who explored the code also found hints of upcoming features and experiments. These include a Tamagotchi-like assistant that reacts while you code, and a feature called “KAIROS,” which could enable an always-on AI agent working in the background.

Rupee gains most in nearly 13 years after forex curbs

APRIL 3, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): The rupee staged a sharp recovery on Thursday after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rolled out a fresh set of forex restrictions aimed at curbing speculation, but market participants believe that the relief may be temporary amid persistent external pressures.

After a volatile session on Monday, the rupee opened sharply higher at 93.25 against the US dollar on Thursday. The local unit touched a high of 92.82, before closing at 93.1050, the highest percentage gain in a single day since September 2013.

On Friday, April 2, the rupee had hit an all-time low of 94.8325.

The appreciation of nearly 2% on Wednesday followed the central bank's 1 April announcement of a second set of measures to curb speculation. RBI targeted the rebooking of cancelled forex derivative contracts and tightened norms around related-party transactions.

If a company or trader cancels a dollar hedge, they can no longer re-enter the same trade to benefit from price movements, limiting their ability to take directional bets under the guise of hedging. Banks have also been barred from foreign exchange derivative contracts with related parties, as defined under the Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 2. On 27 March, the RBI first capped banks' net open positions (NOP) in the domestic market at \$100 million at the end of each business day.

The forex derivative market is dominated by larger banks with gross onshore positions of \$30-40 billion that offset each other, a 29 March Jefferies report said.

Market participants said RBI's measures



triggered a covering of short rupee positions, leading to the spike. "Rupee is currently in uncharted territory. A lot of the movement now is dependent on regulatory moves. We expect the rupee to trade in a range of 92.50-93.50 until the 10 April deadline," said Rajeev Pawar, head of treasury at Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. "Further cues will come from the RBI's policy next week as well."

According to a report by MUFG Global Markets Research team, while the measures may support the rupee in the near term, they could also widen spreads between both markets and reduce liquidity over time.

Mecklai Financial Services said that 92.50-93.00 levels are likely to be tested, and this could be the ideal zone for importers to cover their payment liability over the next couple of months, especially since the rupee will remain under pressure. It expects the local unit to trade in a broader range of 91.20-96.00.

The MUFG report said the fundamental flow picture for INR still points towards FX weakness moving forward. "As such once the dust on these regulations settle, we

think it is still a good chance for clients to buy USD/INR if lower levels in the markets allow moving forward."

Wednesday's move in the rupee was largely driven by improved risk sentiment following US President Donald Trump's speech, which hinted at negotiations rather than escalation in the ongoing US-Israel war against Iran, triggering a relief rally.

However, uncertainty remains elevated, keeping volatility high in currency markets.

Selling by foreign portfolio investors and elevated crude oil prices continue to weigh on the rupee, as high energy prices raise import bill and dollar demand. The rupee has fallen by 4.5% since the war began and 11% in FY26 due to continuous selling by FPIs.

Mkts pare early losses to close higher on strong value buying

Staging a spirited recovery, stock markets pared early losses to close higher on Thursday, with the benchmark Sensex rising by 185 points and the broader Nifty settling above 22,700 on strong value buying in IT and banking shares and a sharp rebound in the rupee.

Rebounding more than 2,000 points from the day's low, the 30-share BSE Sensex finally settled higher by 185.23 points, or 0.25%, at 73,319.55.

The index opened lower and tanked further by 1,588 points to hit a day's low of 71,545.81 in the first half of the session. Strong value buying in IT bellwethers like HCL Tech and TCS, and banking giants HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank, helped the barometer recover from sharp losses, hitting a high of 73,568.54 in the pre-close session.

India waives duty on critical petrochemicals amid West Asia war

APRIL 3, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has exempted import of critical petrochemical products from customs duty to ensure supply stability and provide relief to consumers of final products amid the West Asia war.

The duty exemption, which is valid till June 30, will benefit sectors dependent on petrochemical feedstock and intermediates such as plastics, packaging, textiles, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, automotive components and other manufacturing segments.

In a statement, the finance ministry said in light of the war in West Asia and the consequent disruptions in global supply chains, the government has decided to provide full customs duty exemption on critical petrochemical products till June 30. "This measure has been taken as a temporary and targeted relief in order to ensure continued availability of critical petrochemical inputs for domestic industry, reduce cost pressures on downstream sectors, and safeguard supply stability in the country," it said.

This will also provide relief to consumers of final products, it added. The goods on which the customs duty have been exempted include Methanol, Anhydrous ammonia, Toluene, Styrene, Dichloromethane (methylene chloride), Vinyl chloride monomer, Poly butadiene, Styrene butadiene and Unsaturated polyester resins.

Disruption in shipping routes amid the West Asia war has raised concerns over imports of fertiliser, crude oil and natural gas. India is a major importer of fertiliser and petroleum.

Global crude prices have risen by almost 50% since beginning of Iran war on 28 February.

The government had last week slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 10 a litre as it looked to shield consumers from the impact of rising global crude prices amid the ongoing war, also imposed an export duty of Rs 21.50 per litre on diesel and Rs 29.50 per litre on Aviation Turbine Fuel. Excise duty on petrol has been cut by Rs 3 a litre, while on diesel it is zero currently.



World Bank, IMF, IEA form group to tackle war shocks

APRIL 3, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): The World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and International Energy Agency (IEA) have set up a coordination group to "maximize" the response to energy shocks and economic disruptions triggered by the West Asia war, particularly in emerging economies.

The impact of the conflict is "substantial", disproportionately affecting net energy importers and low-income countries, the World Bank said in a statement on Thursday. The multi-agency group will advise governments on measures to cushion the fallout.

The group will coordinate a response that "may include targeted policy advice, assessment of financing needs and provision of financial support, including concessional financing, and use of risk-mitigation tools as appropriate", the statement said.

The shock is already being transmitted



through higher oil, gas and fertiliser prices, with risks spilling over into food inflation. Volatile markets, weakening emerging-market currencies and rising inflation expectations "raise the prospect

of tighter monetary policy and weaker growth".

India, a net importer of oil and gas, is among the Asian economies most exposed to the conflict's effects, analysts said. "The near-term outlook remains uncertain as higher input costs and supply constraints pose downside risks to growth," the finance ministry said in its March economic review.

India imports nearly 90% of its crude oil, about half of its liquefied natural gas and two-thirds of its LPG, much of it sourced from West Asia via the Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy chokepoint that has seen heightened tensions since the conflict began on February 28.

Brent crude rose 6.6% to nearly \$108 a barrel on Thursday, April 2, intensifying inflationary pressures, including in India. Asia's third-largest economy has already raised prices of household cooking gas, commercial LPG and aviation turbine fuel.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, you will find that people around you are doing better than usual in their respective fields. In such a situation, instead of feeling jealous of their success, you have to support them by encouraging them, appreciating their success. Apart from improving your image, you will also be able to fill yourself with positive energy. If you were thinking of making any investment related to your home, then this week is expected to be much better than usual for that. Because this investment will be beneficial for you, as well as you will also be able to get extra money from any part of your house by way of rent, etc. This week, you can buy a new house for the family or make a decision to make your old house beautiful and organized. In such a situation, you will spend some of your money on the decoration of the house. But this will not make any difference to your financial condition, rather you will be at to gain the respect and prestige of your family members. Venus is present in the fourth house in the Moon sign, and with the movement of the stars, your leadership and administrative abilities will come to the fore. Saturn is present in the eleventh house in your Moon sign, due to which you will be successful in getting your own identity and respect at the workplace. Apart from this, during this time you are likely to get full support of a female colleague at the workplace. Mercury is present in the second house in the Moon sign, so those students who were dreaming of going to a good college abroad and pursuing their higher education are very likely to get this opportunity in the middle of this week. In such a situation, to increase your memory power, it is advised to wake up early in the morning and practice the subjects.

TAURUS



Ganesha says malefic planet Rahu is present in the twelfth house in your Moon sign, and hence, for the betterment of your health, you will need to improve your diet this week. Otherwise, you will find yourself suffering from many serious diseases, due to which you may be in trouble. Rahu and Jupiter are present in the twelfth house in your Moon sign, and luck will favor you in financial life this week, but if you have to make any investment during this period, first assess the facts and only then invest. Otherwise, your money may get stuck. A special someone with whom you are emotionally attached may end up irritating you this week because of your careless and erratic behavior. So it would be better to improve your nature and treat them well. The presence of many planets in your

zodiac this whole week will prove to bring good results for professionals. Apart from this, this time period will also prove to be good for those who are thinking of starting a new business apart from their main business or service. Mercury is present in the first house in your Moon sign, and those students who have been working hard can be awarded a scholarship in their school or college this week. This will also increase your respect, as well as your family will feel proud to see your hard work.

GEMINI



Ganesha says you will be able to understand this very well this week, that if you include yoga in your daily routine, many of your health problems will go away. According to your moon sign, Jupiter and Rahu are present in the eleventh house, and this week is good for health. It will give you many opportunities to introspect in terms of Due to any of your old investments, like ancestral property, land, property, policy, etc., your income is likely to increase this week. In such a situation, while earning that money, you can also decide to invest it again in some good scheme. This week, you will find it difficult to manage many issues at home. In such a situation, you will feel that many people are also trying to pull you down, due to which your mind can become depressed. Due to the presence of Saturn in the ninth house in the Moon sign, it is possible that due to your important work, you will have to go on a journey this week. But have to go. This week indicates that, if you have to change jobs or make any important decision related to the profession, then this time can prove to be a very auspicious time. In such a situation, don't show haste do think about every decision. Mercury is present in the twelfth house in your Moon sign, and this week, students staying away from home due to education will have to spend the whole week on household chores like washing utensils and clothes. Due to which they may have some trouble. In such a situation, it would be appropriate for you to plan to make better use of your week.

CANCER



Ganesha says due to the presence of Saturn in the eighth house in the Moon sign, do not let the negativity overwhelm you this week, and rest well to keep yourself fresh as much as possible. With this, you will not only be able to think well and creatively, but along with your health, your work efficiency will also be seen to improve. By which you will be able to make many decisions. Jupiter is present in the tenth house in the moon sign, so you should not give your money to anyone without thinking. Otherwise, you may face a lot of trouble in the future. So to use your money properly, you can take advice from the elders and the elders of your house. This week, you will get some good news in your life, due to which you will celebrate your happiness by having fun and partying with your friends. But during this time, coming home after drinking alcohol can disturb the family members. So don't let the

fun and frolic spoil your image at home, and avoid doing anything that may cause you embarrassment among the family. This week, things will look better at work than before. Due to this, even your bad mood will be good, and you will now be seen successfully completing every task with double the energy. Seeing this hard work of yours, your officers will also be happy with you, due to which chances of an increase in your salary will also be created. This week, you will have to maintain good relations with your teachers because there is a possibility that they will be pleased with you, and their influence will work in your favor in the field of education. During this time, many students are also getting chances to get scholarships from their school or college. This week, it is possible that the useless demands of your spouse may make you angry. For this reason, you can call them good or bad.

LEO



Ganesha says this week, you will be able to give yourself enough time by taking out some relaxing moments from your busy routine. In such a situation, take advantage of this good opportunity and, for good health, go for a daily walk on foot. During this time, you will need to wear running shoes instead of slippers. Jupiter is present in the ninth house in your Moon sign, and this week you will need to avoid foolish actions and make proper use of money. Because chances are being made that if you had demanded any kind of money from someone close to you, then you would have been able to get success in that. So invest wisely, and put the money to good use. Your thirst for knowledge will help you make new friends this week. As indicated by the career horoscope, if you are associated with the professional field and are working in a good job, then this week is going to be very important for you. Because during this time, you are likely to get many opportunities to move forward in your field. Just as building a strong foundation is essential for a strong home, in the same way, it is equally important to get a good education for a better future. But because of this, you will be seen walking in a completely different direction this week.

VIRGO



Ganesha says you will be able to lead a healthy life this week with less effort than you had to put in for better health in the previous week. Because during this time, you will get full support of luck in terms of health. It is observed that you are often a bit careless about your money accumulation. The negative effect of this can create a financial crunch in your life, so this week you will need to take advice from your family members about saving money. According to your moon sign, Jupiter is present in the eighth house. And because during this time, the advice and experience of your elders will prove to be helpful in improving your financial condition for the future. You will get special success this week in rejuvenating your relations with relatives. Also, this time will prove to be a good week for domestic matters and

household chores that have been pending for a long time. According to your moon sign, Mercury is present in the ninth house, and this week you will have to be more careful in making decisions in your professional field because this time will give you good results in your career; but seeing everything going well, you will be a little emotional on the inside. For students who are thinking of pursuing higher education, the middle of the week will be very good for them.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week can spoil your good nature. So to change your mood, attend some social events and learn from their experience by meeting many big people in society. This will help you make many right decisions in life. You will need to think twice before investing in all the schemes that come your way this week. Because it is possible that there is some secret conspiracy behind the opportunity coming from the front, for which you will have to bear the brunt in the future. This week, realizing your responsibilities towards your family, you will give the necessary priority to the needs of the family members. In such a situation, it would be better for you to become a part of their happiness and sorrow, so that they feel that you really care about them, and they can keep their things open in front of you. This week, you will get an opportunity to interact directly with your senior officer and find answers to all your questions. Due to this, you can also get to know why your boss talks to you so rudely. As soon as you come to know the real reason behind it, your mind will be relieved to a great extent. Mercury is present in the eighth house in your Moon sign; however, while talking to him during this time, use your words very thoughtfully. If you are preparing for any entrance exam, then this week you will need to study with more concentration. Apart from this, students are also advised to take some time in between their studies to restore their health. Because at this time, it is possible that due to some minor seasonal illness, you may feel hindered.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says participating in sports is what you need most this week. Because you also understand that good health is the secret to a good and successful life. So keep remembering this thing and try to keep yourself healthy. Jupiter is present in the sixth house in your Moon sign. Financially participating in a big group this week will prove to be interesting for you. However, this can increase your expenses to a great extent, as a result of which you will have to face some problems later on. Everyone his problems are always bigger. And this week, it is possible that your problems may be very big for you, but you also have to understand that people around you will not understand your pain. In such a situation, expecting more from them can hurt you. So avoid expecting more from others this week. Saturn is

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 6 TO APRIL 12 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

APRIL 6

Ganesha says some significant choices will be made this time. You would feel highly energized and prepared to put forth extra effort to accomplish your professional goals. You would have incredible financial success thanks to your enormous energy and fierce drive. By the middle of the day, any legal or property conflicts plaguing you will have been resolved amicably. The spouse would continue to be supportive and show their love and affection. A huge source of happiness would be having kids.

APRIL 7

Ganesha says today will provide you with a few exceptional possibilities, but you must seize them quickly before others do. Investments and even speculative activities would result in monetary advantages. While partnerships should be avoided, they would create new streams of income. Later, it appears likely that you'll take a trip to somewhere foreign. While the well-being of a family member may raise worries and anxiety for you, your health will continue to be fine.

APRIL 8

Ganesha says you would be at the height of your self-assurance and resolve. You would likely be promoted or transferred, and the organization where you work would experience significant administrative changes. At least two different sources would provide you with revenue. Midway through the month, your financial situation would start to improve, bringing home prosperity and happiness. Significant help would come from your emotional companion. Adequate care may be required for a sibling's health.

APRIL 9

Ganesha says that despite your best efforts and numerous odd jobs completed, your boss would be under a lot of pressure and may only partially appreciate your work. Your salary would increase, but you would also spend more on luxuries, making it very challenging for you to plan any savings. Due to your busy job schedule, your romantic connection will suffer. Property conflicts will be resolved amicably. You will enjoy your day with your family and have a great time.

APRIL 10

Ganesha says several of the unexpected happenings would be to your advantage. Your financial situation would be comfortable thanks to past investment gains. You should solely focus on achieving your career objectives and not worry about rumors and gossip. Both business and leisure travelers would make long-distance trips. Despite the extra hours you could work in the first several months, your health should be good. There are benefits to yoga and meditation.

APRIL 11

Ganesha says you would devote a lot of time to seeking out new employment. Being extremely motivated and imaginative, you could quickly seize upcoming opportunities. Businessmen should expect a lot of high returns after signing significant agreements. Your emotional ties to your close pals would get in the way of any plans you could have with your spouse. You must arrange your social activities such that no one is harmed. Gains from the sale of real estate may not be completely excluded.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA

APRIL 12

Ganesha says the task you undertake this time will provide you with a tremendous deal of satisfaction. Your coworkers and colleagues would be supportive, and some of them would end up being your closest friends. Although you would make good money from your job, it would be difficult for you to keep your profits. It would be enjoyable to get romantically involved, and there would be a good potential that you may get married. Be prepared to receive gifts and delights in both cash and kind.

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present in the fourth house in the Moon sign. We, if you feel a bit lethargic or a victim of victim-complex, but in spite of this, you will be successful in every work done by you. Will also be seen as eager to get praise. Due to this, you will be able to get some auspicious opportunities to progress in your career. At this time, you may find it more difficult to concentrate on your studies. That's why you are advised to take the help of meditation and yoga to increase your concentration and try to keep yourself calm as much as possible if the situations go in the opposite direction of your wish. Because with a calm mind, you will find yourself able to find solutions to every problem.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week, most elderly people are advised to be cautious about their health. Otherwise, there are chances that he will have problems like joint pain, back pain, etc., for which he will have to spend money. In your Moon sign, Jupiter is present in the first house, and if you do business in partnership, then you will need to improve your relationship with your partner this week. Because only by doing this, with their help, will you be able to earn good financial profits. So, keeping this in mind, keep moving your efforts in the right direction. This week, there are possibilities of a good increase in love, harmony, and mutual connection in the family. Also, an email or message will bring good news for the family. Because of this, you will be seen laughing together with your entire family. This week, you are instructed to choose your words carefully while talking to others at work, in order to move forward in your career. That's why you shouldn't say anything to

anyone, which will have a bad effect on your image. Mercury is present in the sixth house in your Moon sign, and if you are thinking of pursuing higher education, then you will have to work hard during this period. However, during this time, luck will be with you, due to which you will be successful in remembering whatever subject you study.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week is bringing special, auspicious results in the lives of those people who have eye-related disorders. Because during this time you will not only be able to take proper and proper care of your eyes, but also you can make any decision to improve them. In your moon sign, Jupiter is present in the fourth house, and the people whose economic condition will improve this week will get the support of their relatives. Because you will be able to get financial help from close relatives if needed, you will be able to face every adverse situation. So bring improvement in your relations with your relatives and friends, and try in that direction. This week, in your personal life, you may have to face some problems due to the exposure of an earlier secret. In such a situation, it would be better for you, instead of waiting for a secret to be revealed, you yourself need to admit your mistake while sharing it with others. This week, the circumstances in the workplace will be completely in your favor. Due to this, you will be able to please your superiors and your boss by completing all your unfinished tasks at the workplace. With this, you will also see a possibility of progress in the future. This week, the students of your zodiac will not steal from their hard work, due to which they will get favorable results. Therefore, taking the best advantage of this time, focus only on studies with full concentration.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says our health is the real wealth of life. By adopting this in your life this week, you will implement it. Because of this, you will laugh and joke freely with people, bypassing every mental stress, to achieve better health at home as well as at your workplace. Saturn is present in the first house in your moon sign, and if you had invested any money in the past, it can become the main reason for your problems this week. Because you may suffer financial loss due to this. Therefore, it would be better for you not to make any decision in haste, but take it very carefully. This week, there is a possibility of good improvement in the health of your parents. Due to this, you will get relief from many of your mental troubles. At the same time, you can also make efforts to reach home early after finishing work from the office to spend time with your family. Rahu is present in the third house in the Moon sign, and this week, you will find that the conditions in the office are. Till now, she was not on your side; now she herself seems to be going on your side. In such a situation, instead of giving all the credit to your luck, take proper advantage of this opportunity and get fame and appreciation in front of your officers. Because doing so can give you financial profit. In the Moon sign, Mercury is present in the fourth house as the lord of the fifth house, and this week, with the blessings of many planets, in the field of higher education, students will get very good results. During this time, you can also get good news of admission to a good place. In such a situation, especially for those students who are dreaming of going abroad for studies, their dream will be fulfilled at this time.



PISCES

Ganesha says you are always seen making every

possible effort to fulfill your comforts, and this week, this attitude of yours is likely to prove harmful to your health. Because during this time, your capricious behavior will not only create problems for your health but can also make your personal life painful. Jupiter is present in the second house in your Moon sign and this week in your financial life, you will find yourself in new exciting situations. This will not only bring you financial benefits at a good level but also your financial condition will seem to be stronger than before. Unwillingly this week, family members or life-partner can become the cause of your mental stress. Because it is possible that they may demand something from you, for which you will have to spend a major part of your income. Therefore, it would be better for you to try to convince them by having a proper dialogue about their demand. Apart from this, this week you will have to work less than usual because in this time period, you will get the best results of your hard work. Will be made, due to which your condition will also improve. Mercury is present in the third house in your moon sign. For students who are thinking of pursuing higher education, the middle of the week will be very good for them. During this time, you will get more success because the position of the planets will be good for you.

Author Bio

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

Sikh History This Week

APRIL 3 TO APRIL 9

3rd April



1775: The foundation stone of Harmandir Sahib was laid for the 2nd time by Jassa Singh Ahluwalia.

1947: Patel announced the formation of Sikhstan after independence.

1984: Sikhs were attacked by Central Reserve Police during Harbans Lal Khan's funeral procession and left 8 Sikhs dead.

4th April



1914: Nanak Jahaz (Kama Gata Maru) sailed from Hon Kong to Canada under the leadership of Bhagat Baba Gurdit Singh Sarhali.

1946: Master Tara Singh and Mohammad Ali Jinnah discussed the Sikh-Muslim union.

1949: The Conference of Sikh Intellectuals condemned the arrest of Master Tara Singh.

1983: 26 more Sikhs were killed by Indian police at Malerkotla, where Sikhs were peacefully sitting on the trafficless road and reciting Shabads. This was part of the Rasta Roke Agitation.

5th April



1846 Treaty signed between the British Government in India and Maharaja Dalip Singh of Punjab.

1849 Punjab was annexed by the British.

Dalhousie was clear about annexing Punjab. Henry Lawrence told the Council of Regency not to protest. They were assured of their Jagirs! They persuaded the

11yr old Maharaja to follow suit. He was granted pension of half a million rupees per annum if he remained loyal.

1982 Negotiation talks on Sikh demands broke down. Negotiation talks on sikh demands that were initiated on October 16, 1981, between the Akali dal and the Indian Central Government fell apart.

6th April



1849 Maharani Jinda moved to maximum security facilities at Chunar Fort.

7th April

1924 3rd Shaheedhi Jatha of 500 Akali Satyagrahies, led by Sardar Santa Singh courted arrest upon reaching Gangsar, Jaito.

1948 Akali Dal passed resolution to keep its independent entity.

8th April



1929 Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in Legislative Assembly, Delhi.

1938 Karam Singh Jhingar dies on the last day his imprisonment.

1982 Akali Agitation initiated for the Waters Issue: Satluj-Yamuna link.



9th April

1656 Jotti Jot, Eighth Patshah, Guru Har Krishan Ji. Guru HAR KRISHAN Patshah (1656-1668), was born on monday, Sawan 8 sunmat 1713 (July 7, 1656) at



Kiratpur, to father Sri Guru Har Rai Patshah and mother Matta Krishan Kaur. On Katak 8 sunmat 1718 (Oct. 7 1661), Guru Sahib ascended to Gur Gadhi. Based on the complaints of Baba Ram Rai, Guru Sahib were summoned to Aurangzeb's court in Delhi. While in Delhi, Guru Sahib suffered from small pox (Chaechak) and subsequently left for heavenly abode on Vaisak 3 sunmat 1721 (March 30, 1664). Two historical Gurudwaras marking Guru Sahib's visit to Delhi include Balla Sahib and Bangla Sahib. Guru Har Krishan, served as the eighth Guru of GurSikhism for a total of 2 years, 5 months and 26 days. Guru Sahibs's entire journey through our planet totaled to 7 years, 8 months, and 26 days.



Gur Gadhi, Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. 1746 Orders to shoot Sikhs at sight leading to the "Small Holocaust" in Sikh history.

1748 Mir Mannu was appointed Governor fo the Punjab that brought some of the darkest period in Sikh History.

1796 Khalsa Dal restores the belongings of Udasi Sadhus that were snatched by the Vairaghis during Kumbh Mela.

1921 Kishan Singh Gargaj leaves his position as Howaldar Major of the 35 Sikh platoon and became the Secretary of Akali Dal.



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"Bridges, Electric Power Plants": Trump...

Iran has condemned the threats, calling them a strike on civilian infrastructure and warning of consequences for America's global standing. The situation has led to concerns over global energy supplies, with India, a major oil importer, seeking alternative sources, including increased imports from Russia.

Hours before this post, US forces targeted and destroyed the B1 Bridge in Karaj (Alborz Province), reportedly the tallest bridge in Iran. Iranian state media has reported at least 8 deaths and 95 injuries from this specific strike, noting that many victims were travelers.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Headquarters said that a second US fifth-generation F-35 was struck and downed over central Iran by a new IRGC Aerospace Force air-defense system, as reported by Press TV. The report further said that given the massive explosion on impact and during the crash, the pilot is unlikely to have ejected.

Earlier in the day, US CENTCOM said that USS Abraham Lincoln is still continuing flight operations.

In a post on X, it said, "USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) continues to conduct flight operations, both day and night."

CENTCOM earlier fact-checked the IRGC.

In a post on X, it said, "CLAIM: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) says it downed an "enemy" fighter jet over Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz. FACT: All U.S. fighter aircraft are accounted for. Iran's IRGC has made the same false claim at least half a dozen times."

US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth echoed US President Donald Trump's message of sending the Iranians back to the Stone Age.

In a post on X, he said, "Back to the Stone Age."

Trump, during his address to the nation, said on April 2, "I've made clear since the beginning of Operation Epic Fury--we will continue until our objectives are achieved. Thanks to the progress we've made, I can say tonight--we are on track to complete all of America's military objectives shortly. We are going to hit them extremely hard over the next 2-3 weeks. We are going to bring them back to the Stone Age." (Syndicated feed)

Millions in Thousands of Cities Throng...

happening outside major cities, a nearly 40% jump for smaller communities from the movement's first mobilization last June, organizers said.

In Minnesota, a flashpoint in Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration, a massive rally was held outside the state capitol in Saint Paul. Many held aloft posters bearing photos of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, US citizens fatally shot by federal immigration officers in Minneapolis this year.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee in 2024, told the crowd that their resistance to Trump and his policies make them "the heart and soul" of everything good about the US.

"They call us radicals," Walz said. "You're damn right we've been radicalized - radicalized by compassion, radicalized by decency, radicalized by due process, radicalized by democracy, and radicalized to do all we can to oppose authoritarianism."

US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, a Trump critic who sought the Democratic presidential nomination in 2016 and 2020, also addressed the event in Minnesota. Musician Bruce Springsteen performed his song "Streets of Minneapolis" - a ballad criticizing Trump's immigration crackdown and lamenting the deaths of Good and Pretti.

"We will not allow this country to descend into authoritarianism or oligarchy in America," said Sanders, an independent. "We, the people, will rule."

The National Republican Congressional Committee criticized Democratic politicians and candidates for supporting the rallies.

"These Hate America Rallies are where the far-left's most violent, deranged fantasies get a microphone and House Democrats get their marching orders," committee spokesperson Mike Marinella said in a

statement.

In New York, a crowd that police estimated at tens of thousands stretched more than 10 blocks in midtown Manhattan.

Actor Robert De Niro, one of the organizers, said that no President before Trump has posed "such an existential threat to our freedoms and security."

Holly Bemiss, 54, said she and other New York rally attendees were acting in the same spirit as her ancestors who fought in the American Revolution.

"We fought against having kings and we fought for freedom," she said. "We're just doing it again."

On the National Mall in Washington, the crowd chanted pro-democracy slogans and held anti-Trump signs. Outside a high-rise assisted-living center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, a group of elderly people in wheelchairs held signs encouraging passing cars to "Resist tyranny," "Honk if you want democracy" and "Dump Trump."

Thousands attended a Dallas event that had clashes between No Kings demonstrators and counterprotest groups, including one led by Enrique Tarrio, the former leader of the far-right organization the Proud Boys.

Minor scuffles erupted when counterprotesters blocked streets. Dallas police eventually made several arrests.

Trump's policies have galvanized the opposition, Dallas protester Chris Brendel said.

"One thing I'll give Trump credit for is mobilizing the dissenters," Brendel said. "I can't stand by and be silent anymore simply because of my boys and their friends and the future."

In Los Angeles retired Burbank, California, resident Theresa Gunnell said she took part because it's "important for everybody to make a stand against authoritarianism, fascism, and greed." "All Trump is doing is making himself wealthy while taking away from regular Americans," she said.

Two people were arrested for assaulting federal law enforcement as 1,000 "rioters" surrounded a federal building, the US Department of Homeland Security said on Saturday.

It said two officers had been hit with the cement blocks and were receiving medical care in the incident at the Roybal Federal Building.

Multiple demonstrators were arrested for not dispersing from an area near a federal prison, the Los Angeles Police Department posted on social media. Federal authorities had deployed tear gas canisters at a crowd after some people threw objects over a fence, police said.

Heading toward November's midterm elections, which will determine the makeup of the US Congress, rally organizers say they have seen a surge in the number of people organizing anti-Trump events and registering to participate in deeply Republican states like Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and Utah.

Trump's approval rating has fallen to 36%, its lowest since his return to the White House, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

Competitive suburban areas that have helped decide national elections are seeing "huge" increases in interest, said Leah Greenberg, co-founder of Indivisible, the group that started the No Kings movement last year and led planning of Saturday's events. She cited examples in Pennsylvania's Bucks and Delaware counties, East Cobb and Forsyth in Georgia, and Scottsdale and Chandler in Arizona.

The first No Kings event, on Trump's birthday, June 14, last year, drew an estimated 4 million to 6 million people across roughly 2,100 sites nationwide. The second mobilization in October involved an estimated 7 million participants in more than 2,700 cities, according to a crowdsourcing analysis published by prominent data journalist G Elliott Morris.

The October event was largely fueled by a backlash against a government shutdown, an aggressive crackdown by federal immigration authorities and the deployment of National Guard troops to major cities.

Saturday's events come amid what organizers said was a call to action against the bombardment of Iran by the U.S. and Israel, a conflict that is now four weeks old.

Morgan Taylor, 45, attending the Washington protest with her 12-year-old son, said she was enraged by

Trump's military action in Iran, which she called a "stupid war." "Nobody's attacking us," Taylor said. "We don't need to be there." (Source: AP/PTI)

The Historic Mission: Artemis II crew...

The maneuver generated about 6,000 pounds of thrust, placing the spacecraft on a precise path toward Earth's nearest celestial neighbor.

NASA confirmed that the Artemis II mission management team gave a unanimous "Go" for the burn, which lasted five minutes and 49 seconds.

The successful execution of this maneuver officially puts the astronauts on course to travel around the Moon for the first time since the historic Apollo 17 mission in 1972.

In a statement shared on X, NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said, "Nominal translunar injection burn complete. The Artemis II crew is officially on the way to the Moon."

Isaacman further described the milestone as a defining moment for the space agency, stating, "America is back in the business of sending astronauts to the Moon. This time, farther than ever before."

The Artemis II crew comprises NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency astronaut Jeremy Hansen. The four astronauts began their first full day in space with routine mission activities, including preparations for the engine burn and onboard exercise sessions designed to maintain physical fitness in microgravity.

Mission control marked the start of the crew's day by playing the song Green Light, setting the tone for a day of critical operations aboard the spacecraft.

The Orion spacecraft's service module engine, capable of delivering significant thrust, ensured the precise acceleration required to send the crew toward the Moon. The upcoming lunar flyby will test critical systems needed for future missions, including those aimed at landing astronauts on the lunar surface under NASA's Artemis program.

Earlier on Thursday, NASA's Artemis II mission was successfully launched, sending astronauts on a historic journey around the Moon for the first crewed lunar flyby in more than 50 years.

The agency's Artemis II mission lifted off aboard the Space Launch System rocket from Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Upon completion of the lunar flyby, an approximately 10-day mission, the crew is expected to return to Earth, concluding the mission with a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean. (Source: Syndicated feed)

Trump Shows the Door to US Attorney...

Bondi will be replaced by her former deputy, Todd Blanche.

Bondi said she would be "working tirelessly" to transfer her work to Blanche, adding that the job had "been the honor" of a lifetime.

She added that in her new private sector position - which she did not identify - she would "continue fighting for President Trump and this administration".

The announcement comes less than two months after a combative congressional hearing in which Bondi was peppered with questions from lawmakers - at times descending into shouting matches in which she called one Democrat a "washed-up loser".

As recently as Thursday morning, Trump was defending Bondi, saying: "She is a wonderful person and she is doing a good job."

But hours later, Trump confirmed her departure from Truth Social, saying that her new private sector role would be "announced at a date in the near future".

Trump lauded Bondi's performance as attorney general in his post, saying she had done "a tremendous job overseeing a massive crackdown in crime across our country". But the president had reportedly grown increasingly frustrated with Bondi, in particular over her handling of the Epstein files.

When she was sworn into the post in February 2025, she vowed transparency over the Epstein case and promised to release an alleged client list associated with the disgraced financier, who died in 2019.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Varuthini Ekadashi: The sacred fast of protection, redemption, and divine grace



Among the many spiritually significant observances in the Hindu calendar, Varuthini Ekadashi—also known as Baruthani Ekadashi—holds a special place for seekers of purification, protection, and liberation from past karmic burdens. It falls on the eleventh lunar day (Ekadashi) of the Hindu month of Chaitra, typically observed during April or May. Like all Ekadashis, this sacred day is dedicated to the worship of Lord Vishnu, with particular reverence to his fifth incarnation, Vamana. The word "Varuthini" translates to "protected" or "armored," symbolizing the divine shield bestowed upon devotees.

Mythological Origin and Sacred Legend

The significance of Varuthini Ekadashi is described in ancient Hindu scriptures such as the Bhavishya Purana, where a divine dialogue unfolds between Lord Krishna and King Yudhishtira.

According to legend, there once lived a righteous king named Mandata, known for his justice and devotion. Despite his virtuous life, he suffered greatly due to past karmic actions. One day, while meditating in the forest, a wild bear attacked him and severed his leg, leaving him in agony.

Seeking guidance, the king turned to sages, who advised him to observe Varuthini Ekadashi with full devotion.

Following their counsel, he performed the fast sincerely. Through the divine grace of Lord Vishnu, he regained his lost limb and was freed from his suffering. This legend highlights the immense power of devotion and the transformative grace associated with this Ekadashi.

Spiritual Significance and Inner Meaning

Varuthini Ekadashi is regarded as a powerful occasion for spiritual purification and protection. It is believed that observing this sacred fast:

- Shields devotees from misfortune and negative influences
- Grants forgiveness for past sins and karmic debts
- Brings prosperity, happiness, and good fortune
- Enhances spiritual awareness and discipline
- Guides the soul toward moksha (liberation)

At a deeper level, this Ekadashi teaches humility, repentance, and faith. It reassures devotees that even the gravest karmic burdens can be transformed through sincere devotion and righteous conduct.

Rituals and Observances

The observance of Varuthini Ekadashi follows traditional Ekadashi practices, emphasizing purity, devotion, and self-restraint.

Sankalp (Sacred Vow)

Devotees take a vow on the previous day (Dashami) to observe the fast with sincerity, maintaining a sattvic lifestyle.

Fasting (Upvas)

Fasting is central to the observance. Devotees may observe a strict nirjala fast (without water) or consume fruits and milk, depending on their capacity.

Worship of Lord Vishnu

Special prayers and rituals are offered to Lord Vishnu and his Vamana form. Devotees chant sacred mantras such as "Om Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya" and offer tulsi leaves, flowers, and incense.

Charity and Good Deeds

Acts of charity are highly encouraged. Donating food, clothes, and essentials to the needy enhances the spiritual merit of the fast.

Night Vigil (Jagran)

Many devotees stay awake through the night, engaging in bhajans, kirtans, and spiritual reflection.

Parana (Breaking the Fast)

The fast is broken on Dwadashi after sunrise, following prescribed rituals.

Dos and Don'ts

- Devotees are encouraged to:
 - Practice truthfulness, compassion,

and humility

- Avoid anger, gossip, and harmful actions
- Refrain from consuming grains and tamasic foods
- Maintain mental and physical purity

These disciplines help align the devotee with divine energies and deepen spiritual growth.

Celebrations and Observance

Varuthini Ekadashi is observed with devotion across India, especially among Vaishnav followers. Temples dedicated to Lord Vishnu witness special prayers and gatherings. Though quieter compared to major festivals, its spiritual depth and importance remain profound.

Varuthini Ekadashi symbolizes the protective armor of faith. The story of King Mandata reminds us that even in the face of suffering and adversity, devotion can lead to healing and redemption.

Varuthini Ekadashi is more than a ritual—it is a path of inner transformation. By observing this sacred fast with sincerity and devotion to Lord Vishnu, devotees seek protection, purification, and spiritual elevation. It stands as a timeless reminder that faith, discipline, and humility can guide one toward divine grace and ultimate liberation.

History This Week APR 03 - 09

APRIL 3

April 3, 1860 - In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$5 an ounce, letters were delivered 2,000 miles to California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing the letters off to the next rider. A total of 190 way stations were located about 15 miles apart. The service lasted less than two years, ending upon the completion of the overland telegraph.

April 3, 1865 - The Confederate capital of Richmond surrendered to Union forces after the withdrawal of General Robert E. Lee's troops.

April 3, 1944 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8 to 1 that African Americans can not be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic primaries. The Court stated that discrimination against blacks violates the 15th Amendment and that political parties are not private associations.



April 3, 1948 - President Harry S. Truman signed the European Recovery Program, better known as the Marshall Plan, intended to stop the spread of Communism and restore the economies of European countries devastated by World War II. Over four years, the program distributed \$12 billion to the nations of Western Europe. The program was first proposed by Secretary of State George C. Marshall during a historic speech at Harvard University on June 5, 1947.

April 3, 1995 - Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to preside over the Court, sitting in for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist who was out of town.

Birthday - American writer Washington Irving (1783-1859) was born in New York City. His works include; Rip Van Winkle, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and historical biographies such as the Life of Washington.

Birthday - Tammany Hall 'Boss' William M. Tweed (1823-1878) was born in New York City. From 1851 to 1871, his 'Tweed Ring' of political corruption looted millions from New York City, bringing the city to the verge of bankruptcy. Methods included padding city bills by 85 percent and writing checks to non-existent persons and companies. His power was broken after a series of critical editorial cartoons by Thomas Nast were published in Harper's Weekly magazine. Tweed was arrested and convicted on charges of larceny and forgery. He died in prison.

APRIL 4



April 4, 1887 - The first woman mayor was elected in the U.S. as Susanna M. Salter became mayor of Argonia, Kansas.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed non-violent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He is best remembered for his I Have a Dream speech delivered at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington. That march and King's other efforts helped the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1986, Congress established the third Monday in January as a national holiday in his honor.

Birthday - American social reformer Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) was born in Hampden, Maine. She founded a home for girls in Boston while only in her teens and later crusaded for humane conditions in jails and insane asylums. During the American Civil War, she was superintendent of women nurses.

Birthday - Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (1884-1943) was born in Nagaoko, Honshu. He was the main strategist behind the failed Japanese attack on Midway Island in June of 1942, which turned the course of the war against Japan. He was killed on April 18, 1943, after Americans intercepted radio reports of his whereabouts and shot down his plane.

APRIL 5

April 5, 1986 - A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory air strike against Libya.

Birthday - African American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) was born a slave in Franklin County, Virginia. Freed by the Civil War, he taught himself the alphabet and eventually graduated from an agricultural institute. In June of 1881, he was asked to become the principal of a



new training school for blacks at Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Institute began in single building with 30 students but through his efforts grew into a modern university.

APRIL 6

April 6, 1896 - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 6, 1994 - The beginning of genocide in Rwanda as a plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi was shot down. They had been meeting to discuss ways of ending ethnic rivalries between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes. After their deaths, Rwanda descended into chaos, resulting in genocidal conflict between the tribes. Over 500,000 persons were killed with two million fleeing the country.



Birthday - Renaissance artist Raphael (1483-1520) was born in Urbino, Italy. He created some of the world's greatest masterpieces including 300 pictures with a Madonna theme. He died on his 37th birthday in Rome.

APRIL 7



April 7, 1712 - In New York City, 27 black slaves rebelled, shooting nine whites as they attempted to put out a fire started by the slaves. The state militia was called out to capture the rebels. Twenty one of the slaves were executed and six committed suicide.

APRIL 8

April 8th - Among Buddhists, celebrated as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 millions persons currently profess the Buddhist faith.

April 8, 1952 - President Harry S. Truman seized control of America's steel mills to prevent a shutdown by strikers. However, on April 29th, the seizure was ruled unconstitutional by a U.S. District Court. Workers immediately began a strike lasting 53 days, ending it when they received a 16-cents per-hour wage increase and additional benefits.

April 8, 1913 - The 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified requiring direct popular election of U.S. senators. Previously, they had been chosen by state legislatures.



April 8, 1990 - Ryan White died at age 18 of complications from AIDS. As a young boy, White, a hemophiliac, contracted the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from a blood transfusion. At age ten, he was banned from school. He then moved with his mother to Cicero, Indiana, where he was accepted by the students. As his plight was publicized, he gained international celebrity status and helped promote understanding of the dreaded disease.

APRIL 9

April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 9, 1866 - Despite a veto by President Andrew Johnson, the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was passed by Congress granting blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship.



Birthday - African American actor and singer Paul Robeson (1898-1976) was born in Princeton, New Jersey. Best known for his performance in The Emperor Jones, he also enjoyed a long run on Broadway in Shakespeare's Othello. In 1950, amid ongoing anti-Communist hysteria, Robeson was denied a U.S. passport after refusing to sign an affidavit on whether he had ever been a member of the Communist Party.

Mizoram: Discovering the serene hills of Northeast India

Tucked away in the far northeastern corner of India, Mizoram is a land of rolling green hills, misty valleys, vibrant tribal culture, and unmatched tranquility. Often described as one of India's most peaceful states, Mizoram offers a refreshing escape from crowded tourist circuits. With its pristine landscapes, warm hospitality, and unique traditions, the state is steadily emerging as a hidden gem for travelers seeking authenticity and natural beauty.

Geographical Charm and Natural Beauty

Mizoram is characterized by its lush hills, dense bamboo forests, and winding rivers. The terrain is predominantly mountainous, offering breathtaking panoramic views at every turn. The state's cool climate and clean environment make it an ideal destination for nature lovers.

One of the most iconic attractions is Phawngpui National Park, also known as the Blue Mountain, which is the highest peak in Mizoram. The park is home to rare flora and fauna, including orchids, rhododendrons, and elusive wildlife species. Another must-visit site is Vantawng Falls, the tallest waterfall in the state. Cascading from a great height amidst thick forests, it offers a mesmerizing sight, especially during the monsoon season.

Tourist Attractions

Aizawl

Lying at a height of 1132 m above sea level, Aizawl is a quaint city and the capital of the state of Mizoram in northeast India. Primarily dominated by the Mizo Tribe, Aizawl and its surrounding areas are lush with rolling hills and abundant greenery. The city, along with the majority of the state is known for its agricultural produce and ethnic handicrafts and apparel. Aizawl is well connected via roads and air connectivity to other major hubs of northeast India such as Silchar and Guwahati in Assam. An important thing to note is that an Inner Line Pass or ILP is required for entry into Mizoram which is available on Guwahati, Silchar, Shillong, New Delhi and Kolkata. Among one of the oldest cities in the north eastern region of India, Aizawl, pronounced eye-zole, is a perfect place to relax while enjoying the local food and culture. Home to the Mizoram State Museum and few other tourist complexes, tourists have few options to enjoy a sightseeing tour in the city. Apart from these, one can take a tour to the nearby hilly areas of Hmuifang, Tamdil Lake and Chanmari.

Serchhip

Most famous for being the district with the highest literacy rate in India, Serchhip in Mizoram is a place that can provide you a unique and vibrant experience. This small town can give one the experience of a small village, the life, activities and colors that it sustains in the everyday. Some of the popular villages one can visit are the Neihloh and Buangpuri. The nature too plays a role in tourism with spots such as the Vantawng Khawhltha water fall.

Lunglei

Literally meaning 'the bridge of rock',



Lunglei is famous for its scenic beauty and natural setting. It is a small town, located around 170 km south of Aizawl whose name is derived from a bridge shaped rock found along Nghasih which is a tributary of the river Tlawng. Lunglei is an ideal offbeat destination for those who love natural sightseeing and adventure activities bundled into one. Trekking, bird watching and camping are among the popular activities opted by tourists coming to visit Lunglei.

Lunglei is a biodiverse region, home to Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary and Saza Wildlife Sanctuary. While Saza Wildlife Sanctuary is famous for hosting migratory and endemic bird species, Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary is home

to several animal species such as leopards, tigers, porcupines and leaf monkeys among many. Visiting the Lunglei Rock Bridge at the Nghasih stream is another popular activity while here.

Mamit

The Mamit district is the fourth largest district of the state of Mizoram. The town of Mamit, the administrative headquarters of the district, is located around 95 kms from Aizawl to the west. Known for its exquisite scenic locales and magnificence, don't miss out to add this place in your itinerary in Mizoram. The Dampa Tiger Reserve, among the famous natural protected regions of India, is a popular tourist attraction

here. Adventure enthusiasts will also love visiting the longest cave network of Mizoram in Pukzing. Oranges are a major produce from this district, earning it the nickname, the 'Orange Garden of Mizoram'.

The town of Mamit and the district is primarily an agricultural hub of the state of Mizoram. Culturally, this region is quite vibrant, with several festivals being celebrated with pomp and vigour throughout the year. While the traditional festivals of Christmas and New Year are at the forefront of the yearly festivities, the more ethnic festivals of Chapchar Kut and Mim Kut, in celebration of the yearly agricultural harvests are also very significant here.

Saiha

Saiha is known as the fastest growing town in Mizoram, as the population has significantly risen in the last decade. Saiha is a census town in the Saiha district in Mizoram located at an average height of 729 meters above sea level. This town is considered to be a haven for angling enthusiasts.

Revealing the mystery behind the name of the town, the name of the town was originally Siaha where 'Sia' stands for elephant and 'ha' meaning tooth - An elephant tooth. But the Mizos traditionally call it Saiha.

Kolasib

Among the newer districts and the smallest of the eleven in Mizoram, Kolasib lies in northern Mizoram sharing a border with the Cachar district of Assam. It lies at a distance of 79 Kms north of Aizawl. Like most other districts of Mizoram, Kolasib is bountiful in culture and natural beauty. Tlawng river is the best attraction of Kolasib with its beautiful river banks and adjoining forests serving as a countryside getaway. Leisurely boating can be done by requesting some locals who would be willing to ferry around tourists. Apart from sightseeing, experiencing the local food and learning about handicrafts is another activity which travellers can partake in.

Reiek

At a height of 1465 meters, Reiek Tlang or simply Reiek is one of the highest hills of Mizoram. Located at a distance of 29 km away from the city of Aizawl, Reiek Tlang is an excellent viewpoint overlooking panoramic views of Aizawl and the surrounding valley with the backdrop of sceneries borrowed from the Mizo Hills. The journey to the peak is also an excellent trekking opportunity usually reserved for calm sunny days. As is the case with most North Eastern destination of India, the peak of Reiek is also relatively unexplored and sits pretty as a pearl in the hills.

FIFA World Cup 2026: A Celebration of Global Football



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

The FIFA World Cup 2026 marks yet another historic chapter in the world's most celebrated sporting spectacle. Hosted jointly by United States, Canada, and Mexico, this edition is unique not only for its tri-nation hosting but also for its expanded format, featuring 48 teams for the first time in history. The tournament symbolizes unity, diversity, and the universal language of football that transcends borders, cultures, and ideologies.

A Brief History of the FIFA World Cup

The journey of the FIFA World Cup began in 1930, when the inaugural tournament was held in Uruguay under the aegis of Fédération Internationale de Football Association. Uruguay not only hosted but also became the first champions, setting the stage for what would evolve into the most prestigious tournament in global sport.

Over the decades, the World Cup has grown in stature and scale. Interrupted only during the years of the World War II, the tournament resumed in 1950 and has since been held every four years. Legendary teams and players have etched their names in history-Brazil national football team remains the most successful nation with five titles, while icons like Pelé, Diego Maradona, and Lionel Messi have elevated the tournament into a global cultural phenomenon.

Evolution of the Tournament

From a modest 13-team competition in 1930, the World Cup expanded to 24 teams in 1982 and later to 32 teams in 1998. The 2026 edition's expansion to 48 teams reflects FIFA's effort to make the tournament more inclusive, giving smaller footballing nations an opportunity to compete on the grandest stage.

Technological advancements, such as VAR (Video Assistant Referee), enhanced broadcasting, and global digital reach, have further transformed the World Cup into a

truly universal event watched by billions worldwide.

Significance of the 2026 Edition

The 2026 World Cup is not merely a sporting event-it is a celebration of global unity. With matches spread across multiple cities in North America, it promises unprecedented fan engagement, economic activity, and cultural exchange. The inclusion of more teams ensures broader representation, embodying the democratic spirit of sport.

The FIFA World Cup stands as a testament to humanity's shared passion for sport. From the dusty fields of 1930 Uruguay to the grand, technologically advanced stadiums of North America in 2026, the tournament continues to inspire generations. It is not just about goals and trophies-it is about dreams, identity, and the enduring power of global togetherness.



Canada to play Bosnia and Herzegovina in its opener

Italy will miss the FIFA World Cup 2026, its third successive one. It lost its chance of making it to the Americas for the FIFA World Cup starting in June.

Canadian soccer fans will miss the opportunity of witnessing a Canada-Italy clash. Italy lost 2-1 (4-1 on penalty kicks) to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the final of its UEFA playoff qualifier on Tuesday. This shock defeat officially eliminated the Italians from World Cup contention.

With the win, Bosnia and Herzegovina secured its spot and will take on host Canada, Qatar, and Switzerland in Group B action.

FIFA World Cup 2026 fever has already gripped Canada and two of its host cities-Toronto and Vancouver. Warm-up games and training sessions are keeping soccer fans glued to their respective teams and their favorite players.

It is for the first time that the USA, Canada, and Mexico are playing joint hosts to the mega sporting event.

Bosnia and Herzegovina will face Canada in the opener for both teams on June 12 in Toronto.



Misses from Italy's Francesco Esposito and Bryan Cristante in spot kicks set the loss in stone for the Italians, extending their World Cup drought to 12 years after having missed the tournament in 2018 and 2022.

In response, the Bosnians converted all four of their penalty attempts.

Beyond the clinical conversions in penalties, it took some late heroics from the Bosnians to secure their spot, as Haris Tabakovic found the back of the net for the equalizer in the 79th minute.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was also helped

by a crucial mistake from Italy just before the half-time mark. Despite taking a 1-0 lead into the locker room, the Azzurri went back in a man down, as center-back Alessandro Bastoni was shown a red in the 41st minute for denying a clear goal-scoring chance with a last-gasp slide tackle.

However, it wouldn't be enough to finish the job in regulation time. Despite a stark contrast in possession (Bosnia and Herzegovina out-possessed Italy 65-35) and chances (Bosnia and Herzegovina out-hot Italy 30-9, with 11 shots on goal to Italy's three), the home side was unable to finish the job without penalties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina last qualified for the World Cup in 2014-its first appearance at the tournament-and was eliminated in group play.

In other European qualifier results, Sweden beat Poland 3-2 to secure its spot in Group F, Türkiye beat Kosovo 1-0 for a spot in Group D, and Czechia beat Denmark 3-2 in penalties for a spot in Group A. Congo and Jamaica play for a spot in Group K, while Iraq and Bolivia square off for a place in Group I.

By Prabhjot Singh

APRIL 1, 2026, CHANDIGARH (TIP): Ripudaman Kaur Sohal (83), wife of one of the most well-represented hockey Olympians, Avtar Singh Sohal, breathed her last at a Mohali hospital. She was admitted to the hospital for a few days for low back surgery. Surgery was to be performed on Wednesday morning.

Kenya-born Avtar Singh Sohal represented his country in four consecutive Olympic Games as a hockey player. In three of these games, he captained Kenya. He then accompanied the Kenyan Olympic hockey team as a coach in the fifth games; His sixth Olympic representation was as an official of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Ripudaman Kaur Sohal originally belonged to Chandigarh. Sohals have an

apartment in Zirakpur, near Chandigarh.

Sohals have been frequenting India as they perform "seva" at historic Gurdwara Reetha Sahib for the past many years. Intriguingly, the Sikh Union Club in Nairobi, the oldest club of expatriate Indians in general and Sikhs in particular, is celebrating its centennial year in May. Avtar Singh Sohal has been

one of the oldest members of the club."After the centennial celebrations in May, we both were planning to take retirement from the Sikh Union Club and



Ripudaman Kaur Sohal (83), wife of hockey Olympian Avtar Singh Sohal, breathed her last at a Mohali hospital.

hockey and live a peaceful life together. But she preferred to retire early and leave me alone," sobbed Avtar Singh Sohal while breaking the news of her death. She would be cremated close to Gurdwara Reetha Sahib.

While trying to give back to the game what it has given him in his long-distinguished career as a player, coach, and administrator, Avtar Singh Sohal took upon himself the onerous task of replacing the existing AstroTurf with a brand-new blue surface at Sikh Union Club.

Olympian Avtar Singh Sohal is bereaved

The new turf is all set for inauguration in May this year, when teams of expatriate Indians from England and Malaysia, besides the hosts Kenya, are expected to participate.

A special book on the life and contributions of Avtar Singh Sohal was also scheduled to be released during the Sikh Union Club celebrations.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior Toronto-based, award-winning independent journalist, who worked with The Tribune, Reuters, and several media groups in a career spanning nearly five decades. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



Bodycam footage of Tiger Woods claiming call with US President after car crash

MIAM (TIP), APRIL 3, 2026

Tiger Woods, the golf legend and 15-time major champion, was heard telling police he had been speaking to US President Donald Trump moments after his car crash in Florida, according to bodycam footage released by authorities. The incident led to Woods' arrest on suspicion of driving under the influence and has attracted significant attention.

The footage, issued by the Martin County Sheriff's Office, shows Woods appearing disoriented as officers assessed the scene following his vehicle's rollover near his home. During questioning, Woods mentioned a phone call with Donald Trump.

In the video, a police officer asks Woods to remain on site while the investigation proceeds. Woods responds, waving his phone, and says, "Yeah, I was just talking with the President."

Following the crash, Woods was subjected to a sobriety test before being handcuffed and taken into custody. The 50-year-old golfer has since announced a temporary break from golf to focus on his health after the incident.

Donald Trump commented on the situation while speaking to reporters, expressing concern for Woods. He described Woods as "an amazing person" but acknowledged he was facing difficulties.

IPL 2026: Clinical SRH beat KKR by 65 runs; Klaasen, Abhishek, Unadkat shine

KOLKATA (TIP), APRIL 3, 2026

A clinical show from Sunrisers Hyderabad, which included quickfire knocks from Heinrich Klaasen and Abhishek Sharma and fine bowling performances from Jaydev Unadkat, Eshan Malinga and Nitish Kumar Reddy helped them achieve their first win of the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL), beating Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) by 65 runs at Kolkata on Thursday, April 2.

Put to field first, SRH posted 226/8, with Heinrich Klaasen (52 in 35 balls, with four boundaries and a six), Abhishek Sharma (48 in 21 balls, with four boundaries and four sixes) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (39 in 24 balls, with four boundaries and a six). KKR started off chasing fine with Finn Allen (28 in seven balls, with three sixes and two sixes) and Angkrish Raghuvanshi (52 in 29 balls, with six fours and two sixes), but fizzled out quickly to bundle out for 161 in 16 overs.

During the run-chase of 227 runs, Finn Allen started by smoking David Payne for 25 runs in the first over itself, with three fours and two sixes. However, after a boundary against Harsh Dubey, he fell to the spinner for a seven-ball 28 (with four boundaries and two sixes). KKR was 29/1 in 1.3 overs.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi collected runs in a free-flowing manner against spin, smashing Abhishek Sharma for two sixes and Harsh Dubey for a four. KKR reached the 50-run mark in 3.2 overs. The right-hander got two successive fours against Jaydev Unadkat in the fifth over.

KKR's happy run ended with an absolutely nothing shot from skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who was dismissed by Unadkat with a catch from Eshan Malinga. KKR was 67/2 in five overs.

KKR's power play ended on a poor note with Cameron Green involved in a very unfortunate run-out for just two runs. KKR ended at 74/3 in six overs.

Raghuvanshi was joined by Rinku Singh, and the duo rotated strike well with a few boundaries in between, reaching the 100-run mark in 8.5 overs. Raghuvanshi brought up his back-to-back fifties in 27 balls, with six fours and two sixes. Halfway through, KKR was 110/3, with Raghuvanshi (51*) and Rinku (16*) unbeaten.

The 46-run stand between the duo ended, with Raghuvanshi run out for a 29-ball 52. KKR was 120/4 in 11 overs.

After Raghuvanshi's wicket, KKR lost their way, losing Anukul Roy (0), Rinku Singh (35 in 25 balls, with four boundaries and a six), Sunil Narine (12 in four balls) and Ramandeep Singh (10 in nine balls), sinking to 159/8 in 15 overs.

KKR's downfall continued, with Kartik Tyagi gone for five runs to Unadkat. KKR was 161/9 in 15.5 overs. Varun Chakravarthy was the last one to fall to Unadkat (3/21) as KKR was all out for 161 runs in 16 overs.

Eshan (2/14) and Nitish (2/17) were among the wickets for SRH as well.



Earlier, a brilliant half-century from Heinrich Klaasen and fiery knocks of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma helped Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) post a daunting total of 226/8.

After being asked bat, Sunrisers Hyderabad openers Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma combined to hammer 22/0 in two overs. During the third over of Vaibhav Arora, both Hyderabad openers slammed 21 runs as their side's total reached 43/0 in three overs.

During the fifth over, Abhishek Sharma blasted 25 runs off spinner Varun Chakravarthy as Hyderabad scored 71/0 in five overs. 25 runs is the joint-most Chakravarthy conceded in an over in T20s alongside as many for KXIP (Now Punjab Kings) vs KKR in 2019.

In the very next over, speedster Kartik Tyagi broke the 82-run opening stand after he removed Travis Head for 46 off 21 balls, with six fours and three sixes. After the end of the first power play, SRH made 84/1.

According to CricViz, this is SRH's third-highest score in the Powerplay when setting a total in IPL history after posting 124/0 against Delhi Capitals in 2024 and 94/1 against Rajasthan Royals in the 2025 edition.

After the end of the seventh over, Hyderabad scored 98/1.

During the ninth over, speedster Blessing Muzarabani took two wickets to stop the run flow of SRH. The right-arm pacer first removed captain Ishan Kishan (14 off nine balls, with three fours) and then took the crucial wicket of Abhishek Sharma, who scored 48 off 21 balls, with four towering sixes and four fours. SRH was down to 112/3 in 8.4 overs.

In the very next over, spinner Anukul Roy removed Aniket Verma (1) as Hyderabad slumped to 123/4 after the end of the 10th over.

Iran make World Cup progress in talks with Infantino

ZÜRICH (TIP), APRIL 3

Iranian football had a good week on its troubled path to playing World Cup games in the United States in June.

A first face-to-face meeting with FIFA President Gianni Infantino since the U.S. and Israel started a war against Iran on Feb. 28 made genuine progress in football diplomacy at the end of a fraught month.

The Iranian football federation's upbeat readout of the meeting in Turkey made no mention of moving World Cup games to Mexico – a subject Infantino has repeatedly shut down for the past two weeks.

Infantino also offered tangible help for the squad to prepare for the World Cup in the next two months. Most Iran players are with clubs in the national league that has



shut down during the war.

Iran's World Cup hosts in Arizona said this week they were pressing on with training camp upgrades plus local

and federal security plans - echoing the "stick to the schedule" mantra FIFA has used.

Infantino stayed on in the Turkish coastal resort of Antalya to watch Iran rout Costa Rica 5-0 in a warmup.

Clearly, the next two months are full of uncertainty for the Iran team and nation itself amid mixed messages about U.S. intentions for the war.

Still, talk of Iran boycotting football's biggest event or seeking to move its games from Los Angeles and Seattle to Mexico has faded.

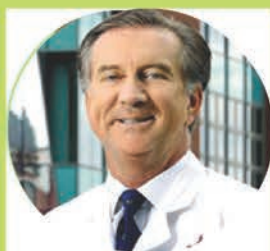
The Iranian delegation is due at its Tucson training camp no later than June 10 for the June 11-July 19 tournament. The war immediately cast doubt on Iran's ability and willingness to fulfill a World Cup entry secured in March 2025 as one of the best teams in Asia.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctos, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

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