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“IRAN IS FINISHED, SHOULD MAKE DEAL TO END WAR”: TRUMP

Pressed about China's support for Iran, Trump stated that the topic was discussed with Xi, who assured him that China "is not going to give military equipment" to Iran



Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump shake hands at a state banquet at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Thursday, May 14. -Image credit/Reuters

MAY 15, 2026
BEIJING / NEW YORK (TIP)

US President Donald Trump said Iran is "finished" and must either negotiate a deal to end the ongoing conflict or face destruction.

"Deal or annihilation for Iran," Trump stated during an interview with Fox News on the final day of his three-day trip to China. He emphasized that the US cannot "let Iran have a nuclear weapon."

"They're finished now; they can make a deal, or they will be annihilated," Trump said after in-depth discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping on various issues, including Iran.

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AUSTERITY WITHOUT EQUITY WILL FAIL PAGE 10

BRICS Foreign Ministers meet in India as Iran war, oil prices, internal divisions test bloc's unity



The meeting brings together diplomats from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa along with newer member countries

Photo / PTI

MAY 15, 2026
NEW DELHI (TIP)

Foreign Ministers from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) nations began a two-day meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, May 14, 2026, as the expanding bloc faces divisions over the war in Iran, rising energy prices and growing global economic uncertainty.

The meeting brings together diplomats from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa along with newer member countries. It comes as the war in Iran has disrupted global energy supplies and driven up oil prices and coincides with U.S. President Donald Trump's meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing.

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EAM Jaishankar and PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar Inaugurated Permanent Jaipur Foot Prosthetic Centre in Trinidad and Tobago



India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Photo: X/EAMJaishankar

MAY 10, 2026
PORT OF SPAIN (TIP)

India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar jointly inaugurated a permanent Jaipur Foot Prosthetic Centre in Trinidad and Tobago, marking a significant milestone

in humanitarian cooperation and healthcare partnership between the two nations. The center, established with the support of Jaipur Foot USA and Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), is expected to provide affordable prosthetic limbs, mobility

CONTD ON PAGE 6



VD Satheesan, who led UDF to victory, named Kerala Chief Minister

Party opts for performance, public support over seniority

MAY 14, 2026
NEW DELHI (TIP)

Ending nearly 10 days of suspense, intense lobbying and factional maneuvering, the Congress on Thursday named VD Satheesan as the next Chief Minister of Kerala, with the party leadership ultimately backing public support, organizational performance and alliance acceptability over traditional seniority claims within the state unit. Sources said Satheesan would take oath on May 18.

Satheesan's elevation came after the Congress high command weighed competing claims from party general secretary (organization)

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Congress leader VD Satheesan after being named as the next Chief Minister of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday, May 14. -Photo / PTI



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COMMENT

Kerala's Verdict: A Breath of Life for a Fading Congress

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



After years of decline, the party gets a chance to rebuild itself, unite the opposition, and reclaim its democratic relevance.

The return of the Congress-led United Democratic Front in Kerala after a decade in the political wilderness is far more than a regional electoral victory. It is, for the Indian National Congress, something close to political oxygen - a moment of revival for a party that once stood like a giant banyan tree over the Indian political landscape but, in recent years, appeared reduced to a shadow of its former self.

For a party that ruled India for nearly five decades after Independence and shaped the architecture of modern India under leaders such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, and Rajiv Gandhi, the journey since 2014 has been painful, humiliating, and politically destabilizing. The Congress, once synonymous with governance itself, increasingly acquired the reputation of a "loser party" - unable to inspire confidence, unable to organize effectively, and unable to challenge the formidable electoral machine of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

That is why the Kerala verdict matters.

Kerala has historically alternated between the Congress-led UDF and the Left Democratic Front. Yet this victory is politically significant because it arrives at a time when the Congress desperately needed evidence that it can still win elections, inspire cadres, and remain relevant in the national conversation. The morale of a political party matters enormously. Defeat breeds desertion; victory breeds confidence. The Congress today is fighting not merely electoral opponents but also the dangerous psychology of decline.

For over a decade, the party has appeared internally exhausted. Factionalism has eaten away at its organizational vitality. Leaders have publicly contradicted one another. Regional satraps have often functioned like isolated power centers rather than members of a disciplined national movement. Younger leaders complain of stagnation; older leaders resist change. Many ambitious politicians have abandoned the Congress for regional parties or the BJP because they sensed a shrinking future within the organization.

History teaches us that no political party collapses merely because of external attacks. Great parties decline first from internal weakness. The Congress itself is a classic example.

After Independence, the Congress was not merely a political party; it was a national movement transformed into a governing institution. It accommodated ideological diversity - liberals, socialists, conservatives, Gandhians, secularists, trade unionists, and regional leaders all coexisted within its broad tent. That inclusiveness gave it unmatched reach across India.

But over time, centralized leadership weakened internal democracy. Regional aspirations grew stronger. The Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975 damaged the Congress morally and politically. Later came corruption allegations, organizational decay, dynastic criticisms, and the rise of caste-based and regional political formations. By the late 1980s and 1990s, Indian politics had fundamentally changed.

The emergence of regional parties transformed the political map of India forever.

Parties such as the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in Tamil Nadu, Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh, Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh, Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar, and later the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal occupied political spaces once dominated by the Congress. These parties spoke the language of regional identity, caste empowerment, linguistic pride, and local aspirations with greater intensity and authenticity than the Congress could manage from Delhi.

The Congress failed to adapt quickly enough to this new reality.

Gone are the days when Congress could dream of absolute power at the Centre on its own strength. Indian politics today is coalition politics, alliance politics, negotiation politics. The Congress must accept this reality not as a humiliation but as a democratic evolution of India's federal structure.

Wisdom now lies not in arrogance but in accommodation.

If the Congress hopes to revive nationally, it must learn how to work with regional parties respectfully and intelligently. It cannot



treat allies merely as temporary electoral conveniences while simultaneously attempting to undermine them politically. The party must balance cooperation with self-preservation - strengthening its own organization without alienating partners essential for national opposition unity.

The Kerala victory offers a chance to rethink strategy.

The Congress still governs or shares power in important states. These states can become laboratories of political renewal. Good governance, efficient administration, social harmony, welfare delivery, employment generation, and corruption-free administration can restore public trust far more effectively than slogans or press conferences.

The people of India are politically sophisticated. They reward performance. They punish arrogance. They observe carefully.

And increasingly, many Indians are beginning to feel uneasy about the concentration of power in the hands of the BJP and the central leadership around Narendra Modi. The BJP remains electorally dominant, organizationally disciplined, and politically formidable. Yet long years in power often create tendencies toward centralization, intolerance of dissent, and institutional overreach. History repeatedly demonstrates that excessive concentration of power eventually generates democratic resistance.

India's Constitution was not drafted merely as a legal document. It was conceived as a moral covenant for a deeply diverse civilization. The vision articulated by leaders like B. R. Ambedkar, Nehru, and others emphasized secularism, pluralism, equality, liberty, and justice. The constitutional idea of India rejects majoritarian domination and insists that every citizen, regardless of religion, caste, language, or region, must feel equally protected within the Republic.

That constitutional spirit today requires vigorous democratic defense.

This responsibility cannot be fulfilled by the Congress alone. It demands cooperation among all opposition parties committed to democratic values. The opposition in India must rise above ego clashes, leadership rivalries, and regional insecurities to evolve a coherent national agenda. Such an agenda need not erase ideological differences; democracy thrives on differences. But it must unite around certain foundational principles: protection of constitutional institutions, federal balance, civil liberties, press freedom, judicial independence, and equal opportunities for all citizens.

The Congress, because of its history and national footprint, still has a special role to play in this effort. But history alone cannot guarantee the future. Nostalgia wins no elections. Emotional attachment to the freedom movement cannot substitute organizational strength, visionary leadership, and grassroots mobilization.

The Congress today stands at a crossroads.

One path leads toward continued drift - internal quarrels, weak leadership, confusion of purpose, and gradual irrelevance. The other path leads toward renewal - organizational discipline, ideological clarity, alliance-building, energetic leadership, and sincere engagement with the people.

Kerala may well become the first signpost on that second journey.

Political resurrection is never impossible in a democracy. Indian politics has repeatedly produced astonishing comebacks. After the Emergency debacle of 1977, Indira Gandhi returned to power in 1980. The BJP itself was reduced to just two Lok Sabha seats in 1984 before rising spectacularly in later decades. Politics remains the art of reinvention.

The Congress has received from Kerala not merely a victory but a warning and an opportunity. A warning that survival can no longer be taken for granted. And an opportunity to rebuild itself before history finally closes the chapter on a party that once led India's freedom struggle and governed the Republic for most of its independent existence.

Whether the Congress can seize that opportunity remains one of the defining political questions of contemporary India.

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IOCUSA Hails Congress High Command's Decision on Kerala Leadership

MAY 14, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

The Indian Overseas Congress (IOCUSA) has warmly applauded the election of V. D. Satheesan as the next Chief Minister of Kerala and congratulated the Congress High Command for what it described as a prudent and farsighted decision that reflects the aspirations of the people of Kerala.

In a statement issued on behalf of IOCUSA, George Abraham said that Mr. Satheesan had emerged as the natural and most widely accepted choice for the leadership role following the United Democratic Front's electoral victory.

"Mr. Satheesan has long been viewed as the natural choice for the position, and this decision truly reflects the sentiment expressed not only by the people across Kerala, but also by the vast Malayali diaspora around the world," Mr. Abraham stated. "His leadership throughout the campaign, his strong commitment to democratic values, and his ability to connect with ordinary people earned him widespread respect and credibility."

Mr. Abraham further described V. D. Satheesan as a



V.D. Satheesan will be sworn in on Monday, May 18, as the next Chief Minister of Kerala

determined and courageous leader who has consistently demonstrated political integrity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to public service and secular democratic values. "Mr. Satheesan is a fighter with a deep sense of responsibility toward the people of Kerala. He has always stood firmly for

secularism, inclusiveness, and the protection of democratic institutions, values that are deeply cherished by the people of Kerala," he said. "We are confident that he will do his utmost to serve the state with dedication, transparency, compassion, and a strong commitment to social harmony and justice."

The IOCUSA also expressed confidence that the incoming Chief Minister would work toward strengthening unity within the Congress party and the broader United Democratic Front while focusing on governance and development. "Kerala today faces several serious challenges, particularly a difficult financial situation and growing concerns regarding unemployment, economic growth, and public welfare. We believe Mr. Satheesan possesses both the vision and the administrative capability to address these issues effectively and restore public confidence," Mr. Abraham added.

IOCUSA extended its best wishes to the incoming Chief Minister and expressed optimism that the new government would usher in a period of accountable governance, inclusive development, and renewed democratic vitality in Kerala.

NYC Agencies come together to share resources on worker rights and workplace protection for immigrant New Yorkers

Deputy Mayor Su, DCWP, MOIA, SBS and TLC Spoke with Ethnic Media Outlets; Highlighted Work to Empower Consumers and Workers and Prevent Harmful Mergers



Deputy Mayor Julie Su interacting with the media.



Deputy Commissioner Kitty Chan sharing her thoughts with the media



A participant sharing his thoughts

MAY 14, 2026
NEW YORK, NY (TIP)

Yesterday, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su, Commissioner Samuel A.A. Levine of the New York City Department of Consumer and Worker Protection (DCWP), Commissioner Faiza Ali of the Office on Immigrant Affairs (MOIA), Commissioner Midori Valdivia of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), and Deputy Commissioner Kitty Chan of the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) hosted an ethnic media roundtable and Q&A session to inform immigrant New Yorkers of their rights, including worker and consumer protections. The agencies invited a diverse array of print and broadcast outlets serving various immigrant communities providing direct access to an administration deeply committed to immigrant New Yorkers.

Deputy Mayor Su highlighted the Mamdani Administration's commitment to centering the immigrant workers in their affordability agenda and worker focused initiatives seen under the portfolio of Economic Justice. DM Su referenced Executive Order 13 as a foundational tool for the city to ensure that all workers, regardless of immigration status are protected from workplace discrimination and unsafe



Officials from the Mayor's office and participants pose for a photograph

conditions. The Executive Order signed by Mayor Mamdani, strengthens the city's sanctuary laws and mandates greater Know Your Rights outreach to immigrant New Yorkers including workers.

MOIA Commissioner Ali started the roundtable by sharing about the City's critical Know Your Rights materials, guidance on federal enforcement in the workplace, and the agency's immigration legal fraud prevention work. Commissioner Ali further outlined MOIA's aforementioned Know Your Rights material that are serving as a key resource for immigrant community members seeking to gain a better understanding of their rights both at home and at the workplace. She stressed that this outreach is supported by collaborations with the agencies present to create the numerous awareness campaigns as well as the

Worker's Bill of Rights.

Later in the roundtable, DCWP Commissioner Levine discussed the release of the results of a March 2026 enforcement sweep of over 270 Immigration Assistance Service Providers (ISPs) across the five boroughs, finding Brooklyn to have the highest violation rate during this set of inspections. Commissioner Levine highlighted the results of DCWP's latest enforcement sweep of Immigration Assistance Service Providers (ISPs). Levine also addressed Western Union's proposed \$500 million acquisition of fellow money remittance corporation Intermex. In a comment submitted to the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Mamdani Administration expressed serious concerns that the merger will hurt working families and immigrant communities who rely on money transfer services. In addition to a 1% excise tax on cash remittance transactions imposed by the recent federal omnibus budget reconciliation bill, the merger threatens to impose a new private tax on these same remittances in the form of higher, supracompetitive prices that will flow directly to Western Union's corporate coffers.

Flag With 2 Swastikas Spotted Above NYU Building, NYPD Says

MAY 14, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

A flag with two swastikas was seen lying above a New York University building in Greenwich Village on Wednesday, May 13, police said on Thursday, May 14.



The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating the incident. -Image / Google Maps

The flag, hanging from 50 West Fourth St featuring a Star of David, was discovered with two swastikas around 5 p.m.

NYU campus safety officers removed the flag after the incident.

A spokesperson for the university said the school is "shocked and deeply troubled" by Wednesday's incident, and they are working closely with the NYPD to identify whoever is responsible.

"We are one community. We protect each other, and we will not let hate and division find a foothold on our campus," the university said in a statement.

The incident was first reported by NYU's independent student newspaper, Washington Square News.

No arrests have been made at this time.

The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force is investigating the incident.

Sikh man says dream of becoming Canadian police officer shattered after kirpan restriction

MAY 13, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

A Sikh man in Canada has alleged religious discrimination after he was reportedly denied the opportunity to write a police recruitment examination because he refused to remove his kirpan, a sacred article of faith worn by initiated Sikhs.



Jaspal Singh Gill, who moved to Canada from India in 2021, said he had long aspired to become a police officer, inspired by his father and grandfather who served in the police force in India.

Image credit: X by @valdombre

Jaspal Singh Gill, who moved to Canada from India in 2021, said he had long aspired to become a police officer, inspired by his father and grandfather who served in the police force in India.

"My longstanding personal goal was to join a police service because my grandfather and father were police officers back in India," Gill told Canadian broadcaster CTV News.

Gill became a permanent resident of Canada in 2024 and relocated to Winnipeg last summer. He said he had been preparing for police recruitment exams since arriving in the country and was invited to appear for the Winnipeg Police Service recruitment examination in late April. However, Gill claimed he was stopped before the examination began.

"The recruitment officer came to me and told me, 'You have to take off your kirpan in order to take the examination,'" he said.

The kirpan, a sheathed ceremonial dagger, is one of the five articles of faith that observant Khalsa Sikhs are required to wear at all times.

"We wear it to symbolize courage and our responsibility to fight against injustice," Gill explained.

According to Gill, recruitment officials informed him he would not be allowed to sit for the exam unless he handed over the kirpan. He said he chose to leave instead.

"My dreams got shattered," he said, adding that he considered the move discriminatory because other applicants were allowed to appear for the test.

In response to media queries, a spokesperson for the Winnipeg Police Service said the applicant had been respectfully offered secure storage for the kirpan during the examination period but declined the accommodation.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Ranjit Chaudhary appointed Cricket Canada vice-chairman

MAY 11, 2026
CHANDIGARH / NEW YORK (TIP)

A wave of joy swept through the Beet area after Ranjit Chaudhary, a native of Dangori-Beet village, was elected vice-chairman of the Cricket Canada managing committee. Area residents and community leaders celebrated the achievement, calling it a moment of immense pride for the entire region.

Chaudhary migrated to Canada in 1982 and currently serves as a Director (Chief) at FedEx. Reacting to the news, his cousin, Principal Tarlochan Chechi, recalled that Chaudhary had been exceptionally intelligent and hardworking since his student days, noting that his dedication helped him secure a distinguished position at a global corporation.



Ranjit Chaudhary

A large number of local dignitaries congratulated Chaudhary and his family on the historic appointment. Among them were numberdar Bajj Nath Chaudhary, Husan Lal Numberdar, Sarwan of Kisana Samiti, sarpanch Subhash Kalas, former sarpanches Ram Shah and Surinder Kumar, Dharam Chand Chechi and Master Kulwant Chauhan, Akali leader Tarsem Kisana, Amandeep Chechi Binewal, Jyoti Dallewal, Avtar Kataria, Kamal Kataria and Ashwani Kumar numberdar Kot.

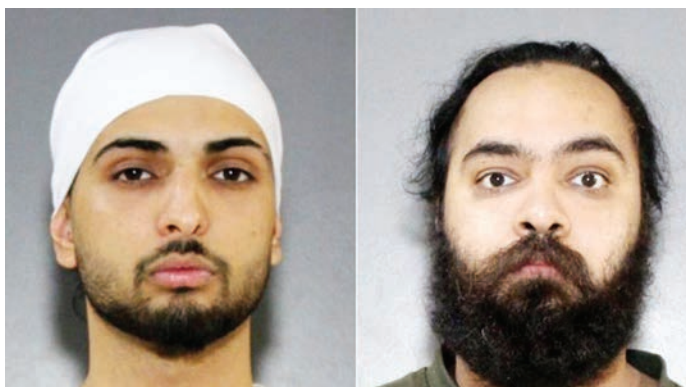
Locals hailed his success as a powerful inspiration for the younger generation. They wished him continued success in his new role.

(Source: TNS)

2 Punjabi-origin youth arrested in Canada over extortion-linked shooting at Surrey home

MAY 14, 2026
SURREY, BC (TIP)

Two Punjabi youth living in Canada have been arrested and charged with Criminal Code offences following a Surrey Police Service investigation into an incident where shots were allegedly fired at a residence linked to extortion threats.



Damanjeet Singh and Pardaman Singh arrested following a Surrey Police Service investigation into an April shooting, with police confirming damage to a residence and a vehicle

According to Surrey Police Service, the incident took place on April 22 at around 12:40 am, when frontline officers responded to reports of gunfire at a home in the 13400 block of 87A Avenue. Police confirmed damage to the residence and a vehicle, though no injuries were reported.

The Extortion Response Team took over the investigation, identified a suspect vehicle, and later executed a search warrant at a Surrey residence with support from the Lower Mainland District Emergency Response Team, Canada Border Services Agency and other SPS units.

Damanjeet Singh, 22, faces charges of discharging a firearm into a place knowing or being reckless as to whether someone was present, and possession of a restricted or prohibited firearm without a license.

Pardaman Singh, 30, faces the same charges. Both men have been remanded in custody, with Damanjeet scheduled to appear in court on May 19 and Pardaman on June 1.

Surrey Police Service confirmed both are foreign nationals, and the Canada Border Services Agency has been engaged in the case. Police have released photographs of the accused, saying disclosure is necessary to assist ongoing investigations and urging witnesses, victims or associates to come forward with information that may help uncover criminal networks linked to violent extortion.

Recently, the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) issued a special bulletin detailing a sustained campaign of coercion involving "financially vulnerable, young male Indian nationals in Canada on study permits who are being used as foot soldiers by gangs for targeted violence" against South Asian diaspora communities.

FINTRAC identified the Bishnoi gang and the rival Bambiha gang as key drivers of this violence, noting that the Government of Canada officially designated the Bishnoi gang as a listed terrorist entity on September 29, 2025.

It further warned that copycat actors and smaller criminal groups are exploiting the reputation of these gangs to intensify extortion threats.

50-year-old Indian dies in road accident in Maldives

MAY 14, 2026
SINAMALE BRIDGE, MALDIVES (TIP)



The incident took place on Wednesday, May 13 night as the motorcycle the man was riding skidded near the Sinamale Bridge traffic lights

Photo for representation

A 50-year-old Indian national was killed in a road accident in the Maldives, officials said on Thursday, May 14.

The incident took place on Wednesday, May 13 night when the motorcycle the man was riding skidded near the Sinamale Bridge traffic lights, the Maldives Police Service said.

The man, who sustained critical injuries, died after being run over by a pickup in the vicinity, the police said.

Following the incident, police were deployed to the scene.

The case is under investigation by the police.



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Punjab 2.0' in UK? Viral video of desi street leaves internet stunned.



Is this Punjab or the UK? Street scene stuns viewers.
Grabs from the viral video on Instagram.

MAY 12, 2026
LONDON (TIP)

A viral video from the United Kingdom is grabbing massive attention online after viewers mistook a busy British street for a neighborhood in Punjab.

Shared by an Indian-origin content creator, the clip opens with a striking caption: "Believe it or not - this is not Punjab, this is the United Kingdom."

The creator further surprises viewers by clarifying that the location is not even Southall, the London suburb long associated with South Asian

communities.

The video displays a lively street packed with Punjabi signboards, Indian clothing stores, desi grocery shops, restaurants and murals featuring late Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. In one moment that especially caught social media users off guard, auto-rickshaws resembling those commonly seen in Indian cities were also spotted on the road.

Within hours, the clip exploded across platforms, with users jokingly dubbing the area "Punjab 2.0" and "Mini Punjab in the UK."

Many online reactions focused on how dramatically the street differed from the stereotypical image often associated with Britain. Several users remarked that the market looked "more Punjabi than British," while others filled the comments section with memes about Punjabis recreating entire cities abroad.

One viral comment read: "You can leave Punjab, but Punjab follows you everywhere." Another joked, "Punjabis don't migrate, they duplicate the whole city."

The clip also reignited conversations around migration, identity and the long history of South Asian communities in Britain. Some users described the scene as "reverse colonization," while others pointed out that Punjabi families have lived in and contributed to the UK economy for generations, particularly since the 1960s and 70s.

Several commenters defended immigrant-run businesses, noting that such neighborhoods are deeply woven into British multicultural life. "Those shops are paying taxes and creating jobs too," one user wrote.

The video's popularity appears to stem from the striking cultural contrast it captures, a British high street that, at first glance, feels almost indistinguishable from bustling markets in Ludhiana or Amritsar.

And that unusual blend of Britain and Punjab is exactly what has kept the internet watching.

Punjabi-origin founder of California motorcycle club gets 5 years in US jail for illegal arms trade.

MAY 13, 2026
STOCKTON, CA (TIP)

A 27-year-old man of Punjabi origin who founded the outlaw motorcycle club Punjabi Devils in California's Stockton area has been sentenced to five years and four months in a US federal prison for illegally dealing in firearms and possessing a machine gun.



Jashanpreet Singh was sentenced to five years and four months in a US federal prison for illegally dealing in firearms and possessing a machine gun.

Image for representational purposes only. iStock

The Punjabi Devils Motorcycle Club, founded by Singh, uses patches depicting the map of Punjab along with a turbaned skull, reflecting the group's Punjabi identity. The Stockton-based outlaw motorcycle gang was reportedly associated with the Hells Angels.

According to the US Department of Justice, Singh tried to sell a large cache of weapons to an undercover officer on June 6, 2025. The arsenal included a short-barrel rifle, three assault weapons, three machine gun conversion devices and a revolver.

During a search of his residence, authorities recovered additional firearms, a fully functional machine gun, a silencer, high-capacity drum magazines and more conversion parts.

Jashanpreet Singh, a resident of Lodi, California, with roots in Punjab, was sentenced on May 12, 2026, by US District Judge Dale A Drozd. He had earlier attempted to flee to India in 2025 after the offences came to light but was arrested at San Francisco International Airport before boarding his flight.

CLUB'S PUNJABI-THEMED IDENTITY

The Punjabi Devils Motorcycle Club, founded by Singh, uses patches depicting

Canada gang violence: 2 teens killed in targeted attack in Punjabi-dominated Newton neighborhood

Both victims, residents of Surrey, are believed to have had connections to organized crime

MAY 12, 2026
SURREY, BC (TIP)

In a targeted gang-related shooting in Canada's Surrey city, two boys aged 16 and 18 were shot dead inside an underground parking lot in Newton neighborhood, dominated by Punjabis, on Sunday night.

The police and Canadian media have not revealed their identities. However, community sources said the two were believed to be of Punjabi origin.

According to the Surrey Police Service, officers responded to reports of gunfire around 10 pm on May 10 in the 7000-block of 133B Street near 70 Avenue. They found the victims suffering from gunshot wounds.

Despite life-saving efforts by police officers and paramedics, both teenagers were pronounced dead at the scene.

The Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) has taken over the probe and confirmed that the double homicide was targeted and linked to the ongoing gang conflict in British Columbia. Both victims, residents of Surrey, are believed to have had connections to organized crime.

Global News reported that a grey four-door sedan was later found burned near Enver Creek School in the area of 144 Street and 84 Avenue. Investigators suspect the vehicle may be connected to the incident.

IHIT spokesperson Sgt Freda Fong said the shooting had left two families grieving the loss of "young lives taken far too soon."

Police have appealed to the public for dashcam footage or any information from the area between 9 pm and 11 pm on May 10.

This incident is the latest in a series of gang-related violence in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, where several cases involving Punjabi-origin youth have come to light in recent times.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian tourist dies in Thailand under mysterious circumstances

MAY 12, 2026
BANGKOK (TIP)

An Indian national, who was among four tourists who were hospitalized after mysteriously losing consciousness at a cafe in Thailand's Phuket, has died, the Indian embassy here said on Tuesday, May 12.



The Indian embassy says it has been in touch with the Thai authorities and is closely monitoring the incident in which 4 Indian tourists fell unconscious in Phuket on May 9 and were hospitalized.

Photo for representation. Thinkstock

The circumstances surrounding his death were not immediately clear.

The embassy said it has been in touch with the Thai authorities and is closely monitoring the incident in which four Indian tourists fell unconscious in Phuket on May 9 and were hospitalized.

"Our deepest condolences for the death of one young Indian tourist among them," the Indian mission said in a post on X.

"The Embassy officials are in contact with the family of the deceased to extend all support in this hour of grief. We remain in contact with the relevant Thai authorities who are looking into the incident, and also following the health situation of the others," it added.

The embassy did not give further details.

Local officials reported that the incident occurred early on Saturday in the Kamala Beach area of Kathu district, according to Thai media.

Security staff at the cafe said that five Indians arrived together at the cafe around 11 pm on Friday. About 1.54 am, four of them reportedly lost consciousness one by one. They were rushed to the hospital, the Bangkok Post reported.

Around 2 pm on Saturday, police were informed that one person had died. The remaining three were reported to be in stable condition, the paper added.

EAM Jaishankar and PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar Inaugurated Permanent Jaipur Foot Prosthetic Centre in Trinidad and Tobago



Jaipur Foot officials, led by Ajay Patel, Vice Chairman, Jaipur Foot USA presenting a Plaque to PM Bissessar

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

assistance, and rehabilitation services to differently abled individuals not only in Trinidad and Tobago, but across the Caribbean region as well.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by several distinguished dignitaries, including Trinidad and Tobago's Health Minister Dr. Lackram Bodee and India's High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit.

The launch of the center fulfills a promise made during Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar's visit to New York in September 2025, when discussions were initiated regarding the establishment of a permanent Jaipur Foot facility in Trinidad and Tobago. Calling the project a shining example of "promise made, promise kept," Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar praised Jaipur Foot USA and all stakeholders for transforming the vision into reality within months.



Jaipur Foot USA Chairman Prem Bhandari, the man behind the ambitious project, and his deputy Ajay Patel presenting a bouquet to Trinidad & Tobago PM Kamla Persad Bissessar on her visit to New York in September 2025. Prem Bhandari was away vacationing in Italy when the inauguration of the Prosthetic Center took place on May 9.



The Plaque

According to officials associated with the initiative, the center will provide prosthetic fittings, rehabilitation support, training for healthcare personnel, and operational assistance during its formative years.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the worldwide recognition and humanitarian impact of the Jaipur Foot initiative.

"The Jaipur Foot has become famous across the world. Hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, have benefitted over the years," he said.

Developed by BMVSS in India, the Jaipur Foot programme is internationally acclaimed for providing high-quality, low-cost prosthetic limbs to differently abled individuals across the globe. Officials noted that the new center would significantly improve access to affordable mobility care for Caribbean residents who previously had limited options for prosthetic support.

The initiative also reflects India's growing engagement with Caribbean nations through humanitarian outreach, healthcare cooperation, and people-centric diplomacy.

Ajay Patel, Vice President of Jaipur Foot USA and



India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar congratulating Ajay Patel

chief coordinator of the Trinidad and Tobago project, said the center was completed in record time with strong support from the governments of both countries and Indian community organizations.

The roots of the initiative go back to September 2025, when Jaipur Foot USA, along with BRUHUD NY Seniors and the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), organized a grand welcome ceremony in New York in honor of Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. The occasion also coincided with the birthday celebrations of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and featured the unveiling of the "Viksit Bharat" T-shirt by Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar.



The Jaipur Foot Prosthetic Center in Trinidad & Tobago

During the event, Prem Bhandari, Chairman of Jaipur Foot USA, announced plans for establishing a permanent Jaipur Foot Centre in Trinidad and Tobago. Within a week of the announcement, a 50-day Jaipur Foot camp commenced in Port of Spain on October 3, 2025. Organized by BMVSS and fully sponsored by the Government of India, the camp provided Jaipur Foot prosthetics to more than 800 differently abled individuals, transforming countless lives.

A key meeting held on the inaugural day of the camp brought together Prime Minister Persad-Bissessar, High Commissioner Dr. Rajpurohit, BMVSS Founder and Chief Patron Dr. D.R. Mehta, Vice Chairman Manish Daddha, Vice President Ajay Patel, Amit Alagh, and Dr. Sona Ramdath Jr.

During the meeting, it was finalized that Jaipur Foot USA would support the permanent center by funding travel expenses, training Health Ministry personnel, and providing machinery and materials necessary for the operation of the center during its first two years.

Remarkably, within just eight months of the original announcement, the vision of a permanent Jaipur Foot Centre had become a reality. The center is expected to begin serving beneficiaries immediately following its inauguration, bringing hope, dignity, and mobility to countless individuals across the Caribbean.



Jaipur Foot officials with PM Bissessar and EAM S. Jaishankar

Siddhi Singers' Annual Fundraiser Successfully Held at Siddhivinayak Temple, Toms River, New Jersey on May 9, 2026



Deputy Consul General of India in NY Hon. Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh addressing the gathering. Left to Right: Dr. Avinash Gupta, Mr. Ankur Vaidya, Dr. Tushar Patel, Mr. Pinakin Pathak, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Deputy Consul General of India in NY Hon. Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh.



Mrs. Avinash Gupta presenting a bouquet to the chief guest Deputy Consul General of India in NY Hon. Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh.

May 11, 2026

TOMS RIVER, NJ (TIP): The Siddhi Singers' Annual Fundraiser Event was successfully held on May 9, 2026, at Siddhivinayak Temple. The special evening was organized with the goal of raising funds toward the construction of a new community hall for the temple, an important project aimed at serving the growing spiritual and cultural needs of the community.

The memorable musical evening featured three continuous hours of live performances by the Siddhi Singers, a talented local music group associated with the temple. Through devotional songs, classic melodies, and uplifting performances, the singers entertained

honored chief guests, dignitaries, supporters, devotees, and community members in an atmosphere filled with celebration, devotion, and unity.

The event was graced by several distinguished guests and community leaders, including Hon. Mr. Vishal Harsh, Deputy Consul General of the Indian Consulate in New York, Ankur Vaidya, Chairman of FIA, Priti Patel, Vice President - FIA, Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Chairman - Parikh World Wide Media, Priti Kashyap, President - BJANA, Anant Haidale, Vice-President - TCS, Pinakin Pathak, Dr. Tushar Patel, Dr. Avinash Gupta and Dr. Geeta Gupta, among many other respected supporters and well-wishers.

Siddhivinayak Temple is not only a place of worship, but also a vital center for preserving and promoting Indian culture, traditions, and heritage for future generations. Through festivals, music programs, spiritual gatherings, educational activities, and community events, the temple continues to strengthen cultural connections and foster unity among families living in America.

For many families, the temple serves as a spiritual and cultural home where children learn the values of devotion, respect, and community service while staying connected to their roots. Institutions like Siddhivinayak Temple play a significant role in ensuring that

Indian language, music, rituals, and traditions continue to flourish far from the homeland.

The organizers expressed sincere gratitude to everyone who attended the fundraiser, donated generously, volunteered their time, and supported the event in various ways. The success of the evening reflected the strength, dedication, and unity of the community.

Community members are encouraged to visit the temple, support its continued growth, and contribute toward building a stronger cultural and spiritual foundation for generations to come.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Tushar Patel)

Trump Admin Forcing IRS to Identify Immigration Status of Taxpayers Puts New Yorkers at Risk

MAY 15, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

Yesterday, it was revealed that the Trump administration is pushing the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

to require taxpayers to disclose their immigration status or risk being pushed out of the country's tax filing system altogether. The proposed changes would directly affect undocumented immigrants who use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), a nine-digit number issued to people who are not eligible for a Social Security number but still file and pay taxes in the United States.

Murad Awawdeh, President and CEO, New York Immigration Coalition stated:

"Every New Yorker deserves to feel safe contributing to their economy and trust that paying taxes will not place them or their families at risk. The Trump administration's latest effort to use the IRS to force the disclosure the immigration status of taxpayers is a dangerous attempt to weaponize the tax system. The proposed changes would undermine the trust of public institutions and push hundreds of thousands of New York taxpayers further into the shadows. Undocumented New Yorkers contribute \$6.7 billion in local, state, and federal taxes annually, while immigrants with status contribute \$74.8 billion. Instead of punishing people who fund our schools and comply with our tax laws, the federal government should be



Photo for representation only.

working to protect their rights and ensure that all communities can safely participate in our economy. We call on the federal government to stop targeting immigrant communities and on Congress to uphold taxpayer privacy protections for everyone in the United States."

The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) is an umbrella policy & advocacy organization that represents over 200 immigrant and refugee rights groups throughout New York. The NYIC serves one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States. The multi-racial and multi-sector NYIC membership base includes grassroots and nonprofit community organizations, religious and academic institutions, labor unions, as well as legal and socioeconomic justice organizations. The NYIC not only establishes a forum for immigrant groups to voice their concerns, but also provides a platform for collective action to drive positive social change. Since its founding in 1987, the NYIC has evolved into a powerful voice of advocacy by spearheading innovative policies, promoting and protecting the rights of immigrant communities, improving newcomer access to services, developing leadership and capacity, expanding civic participation, and mobilizing member groups to respond to the fluctuating needs of immigrant communities.

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When incumbent govts misread voters

Hubris never fails to bring overconfident politicians down

BY R
JAGANNATHAN



In the recently-held elections to five Assemblies, three sitting governments were ousted - in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal - while two, in Assam and Puducherry, saw a strong return to power by the incumbents. Why is it that seemingly entrenched political parties fail to read the growing impatience of the electorate correctly in adequate time to make amends?

The more popular a leader today, the more careful he or she should be, since his confidants may have a vested interest in blocking ground-level information from reaching them, more

history of alternating governments, with Pinarayi Vijayan's second term being the result of a demoralized Congress party in 2021. The Congress-led UDF merely had to tap into the anti-incumbency sentiment against the LDF. It won handsomely, though the BJP ate into the LDF's Hindu vote this time, making the UDF victory massive.

The BJP's rise in the future cannot be ruled out, provided it works out a Kerala-specific strategy that brings three communities together - the Nairs, Ezhavas and some Christian groups. The party has won three seats

discrepancies", which could include some non-citizens who may have been added illegally.

But the actual vote share difference between the BJP and the Trinamool was around 3.2 million, and even if the 2.7 million exclusions were to be added back to benefit only the Trinamool, the BJP could have won. Especially since a large share of the Trinamool vote was in concentrated pockets.

The real reasons why Mamata lost are the following: One, she assumed that with 27% of the Muslim vote in the bag even before the counting started, she only needed 20% of the

hyped up Narendra Modi's '400-paar' slogan, and ignored the growing internal dissidence in the party in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, among others.

Hubris never fails to bring overconfident politicians down. The BJP has corrected this fault, but it still may have issues to deal with in the forthcoming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh in 2027 and the general election in 2029.

In Tamil Nadu, we saw another political earthquake - a totally unexpected one. While West Bengal has been in economic decline, Tamil Nadu is not only the second largest state by gross state domestic product, but has also been topping the growth indices in recent years. Then why did MK Stalin fail to win another term?

Corruption and women's safety were said to be big issues for the electorate, but this did not benefit the primary opposition alliance. Tamil Nadu's results are important not only because the anti-incumbency tide overwhelmed the party in power, but also the party in waiting, the AIADMK-led National Democratic Alliance. This can only be explained as a growing weariness with Dravidianism and anti-North rhetoric, with the tiring of ideological rigidity.

Vijay's TVK steered clear of these old tropes and appeared different. For someone looking for change, both the DMK and AIADMK seemed like more of the same. The voter was not looking to choose between Tweedledum and Tweedledee when she had a third option.

The lessons for political parties are clear. One, don't fall for your own hype and media willingness to praise you to the skies. The media tends to be kind to those who are in power, and cannot be relied upon to test your own popularity. Two, even if you have a solid base in a state, you should be constantly looking for disruptors who may challenge the status quo.

Just as new technology threatens traditional businesses, new political entrepreneurs can always capture the imagination of voters. Three, no party can afford to be arrogant and take any voter for granted. Elections can be lost even if you have delivered on the economic front, and sometimes the voter may also respond positively to a party that seems to be doing its best even if it hasn't delivered.

After demonetization, which caused lots of hardships to people, the BJP won a huge mandate in Uttar Pradesh because the voters believed that the Modi government was trying to root out corruption.

No party can afford complacency at any time. All leaders should worry about personal hubris, which the voter can send crashing down in one day. Leaders must be as wary of naysayers as yeasayers, the acolytes of the boss.

(R. Jagannathan is a Mumbai based Senior Freelance Journalist, writer, and author)



Hubris: Mamata was unable to see the anti-incumbency wave building against her. -Photo credit/ PTI

so when toadyism is mistaken for loyalty.

Conversely, when do voters give incumbents yet another term in office? It simply means that the governments have broadly delivered on promises, and additionally not done the things that irritate voters.

In Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma also tapped into the Assamese Hindu and smaller communities' fears about being deluged by the rising Muslim demographic. The combination worked this time, but it cannot be invoked all the time. In 2031, it may be a different story. After three terms in power, there may be a desire for change.

But how did the incumbents in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal fail to read the tea leaves? The Kerala outcome, where the LDF was sent packing after two terms in office, was largely because the state has had a

in the Assembly, with 11.5% of the vote.

That brings us to the main questions: How did the seemingly entrenched Dravidian parties lose to a rank outsider like Joseph Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)? How did the BJP, which failed to capitalize on the growing anti-incumbency against Mamata's Trinamool Congress in 2021, manage to turn the tide this time?

In West Bengal, it was rather easy to start believing that the deletions related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls may have been a factor, but one would be wrong. The deletions of people who may be dead or have permanently migrated cannot be seen as invalid deletions. What matters is the 2.7 million voters whose names were flagged as having "logical

remaining vote to secure victory. It turned out even Muslims were looking for alternatives.

Two, she also believed that she was popular with women, and that most would vote for her. But women were as concerned about safety as they were about cash in the bank.

Three, having turned the local media into her fan club, she was unable to see the tide of Hindu resentment and the anti-incumbency wave building against her. She also failed to see how the second center of power in her party, her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, had managed to alienate many in her own party with his high-handed ways.

The worst thing a leader can do is to start believing the hype building around her own personality, happily ratcheted up by a pliant media.

We saw this happen at the national level too in 2024, when the media

Day 1 of Beijing Summit Produces No Big Wins for Trump

BY
ALEXANDRA
SHARP



From the Iran war to trade, the U.S. president failed to secure major concessions from his counterpart.



A firm handshake: US President Trump and the Chinese President Xi

Photo / Al Jazeera-AP

"Partners, not adversaries" was the theme of high stakes talks between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday, May 14. Set against the backdrop of Beijing's opulent Great Hall of the People, both

could harm bilateral relations-and even lead to conflict. "If [the Taiwan question] is handled properly, the bilateral relationship will enjoy overall stability," a Chinese readout of the meeting said. "Otherwise, the two countries will have

Trump already signed off on another massive package worth \$11.1 billion the month before.

Ahead of the summit, analysts suspected that Trump would try to downplay U.S. ties with Taiwan to secure favorable trade deals with China. High fuel prices due to the Iran war have tanked Trump's approval ratings back home. Coupled with several U.S. court rulings against the president's ability to impose sweeping tariffs on China and other countries, Trump faced extra pressure going into the summit to secure big economic wins.

But U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio dismissed these concerns on Thursday, stressing that the U.S. position on Taiwan had not changed. The Chinese "always raise it on their side, we always make clear our position, and we move on to the other topics," Rubio told NBC News.

The White House readout of the meeting did not mention Taiwan at all and instead focused heavily on trade. "The two sides discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation between our two countries, including expanding market access for American businesses into China and increasing Chinese

Chinese purchases of U.S. agricultural products were a key focus of the talks. In what was seen as a gesture of goodwill ahead of the Trump-Xi meeting, Beijing on Thursday restored beef trade with Washington, issuing new import licenses for hundreds of U.S. slaughterhouses to resume shipments to China. However, the licenses do not necessarily mean that China will actually purchase significant amounts of U.S. beef.

The Iran war also took priority during the summit. According to the White House, both Xi and Trump agreed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain open and demilitarized and that Tehran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. "President Xi also made clear China's opposition to the militarization of the Strait and any effort to charge a toll for its use, and he expressed interest in purchasing more American oil to reduce China's dependence on the Strait in the future," the U.S. readout said.

Beijing has long supported the Iranian regime. Speaking to Fox News's Sean Hannity after the meeting with Xi, Trump said the Chinese leader had told him that Beijing wouldn't give Tehran military equipment. "But at the same time, he said, you know, they buy a lot of



Trump's entourage of billionaires and executives

Photo / ABC News

leaders expressed the desire to bolster economic ties to create what Xi called a "new vision" for the U.S.-China relationship. However, thinly veiled threats about Taiwan alongside Trump's weakened position at home overshadowed the summit's veneer of cooperation.

Xi warned Trump on Thursday, May 14, that any disagreement over Taiwan

clashes and even conflicts, putting the entire relationship in great jeopardy."

China does not recognize Taiwan's sovereignty and has repeatedly denounced Washington's support for Taipei. Experts expected Xi to push Trump on Thursday to delay a promised \$14 billion arms package for Taiwan. The deal, passed in January and awaiting the U.S. president's approval, comes after

investment into our industries," it said.

Yet no major trade deals were announced, including a potential deal on rare earths or investments in artificial intelligence. Trump did say Xi had agreed to buy 200 Boeing jets, and the White House readout said the two leaders pledged to work toward ending the flow of fentanyl precursors from China into the United States.

their oil there [in Iran], and he'd like to keep doing that," Trump added.

Trump has one more day in China before he flies back to Washington, and he has already invited Xi to visit the White House on Sept. 24.

(Alexandra Sharp is the World Brief newsletter writer at Foreign Policy)

Austerity without equity will fail

If this is to be India's forex Satyagraha, the design must match the ambition.

BY AJIT
RANADE



"Here lies a structural paradox in Modi's appeal. Some of what he asks will genuinely help the current account without hurting domestic output like reducing gold imports and foreign travel. But fuel price hikes are categorically different: they are inflationary, compress real household incomes across the board, and will force the Reserve Bank of India into the uncomfortable trade-off between defending the rupee and protecting growth."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal - with its eleven specific requests spanning fuel, gold, fertilizers, cooking oil, solar pumps and foreign travel - is being read by many as a prelude to administered price hikes. But there is a larger ambition visible in the speech.

It is to make forex conservation a genuine national movement, a civic mobilization comparable in spirit, if not in form, to Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March of 1930. Gandhi's genius was to choose salt, an everyday item, universally used, symbolically powerful, to crystallize the case for economic self-reliance into a mass act of participation. Modi is reaching out, so that each Indian feels personally invested in the nation's economic resilience, when conserving foreign exchange becomes as much a patriotic duty as flying the flag.

The instinct deserves credit. India's import dependence on crude oil, fertilizer inputs, gold and edible oil is a structural vulnerability that has been diagnosed for decades without adequate remedy. Modi is making it vivid and personal, asking citizens to connect their everyday choices to the national balance of payments. This is an act of economic leadership.

Lal Bahadur Shastri did something similar with food in 1965, asking Indians to voluntarily fast on Monday evenings as the country faced both a war and a food crisis. Socialist parliamentarian Madhu Limaye pressed the point further in Parliament, arguing that voluntary austerity was a constitutional duty in times of national stress, and that the political class must visibly lead rather than merely preach. The tradition of appealing to civic solidarity in times of economic emergency is honorable and has worked before.

But Gandhi's salt Satyagraha movement's moral force came partly from the fact that the salt tax was visibly, outrageously regressive. It hurt the poor more. Gandhi chose salt precisely because of the injustice. On the other hand, the forex conservation movement is not against injustice and is itself regressive.

Because it asks those with the least to bear a disproportionate share of the pain.

Look at the eleven requests through this lens. Deferring foreign vacations and destination weddings abroad is something only the affluent need consider. It is irrelevant to the poor. Shifting to an electric vehicle presumes having the capital to buy one.

Work-from-home is an option for white-collar professionals, not daily-wage earners. Asking to reduce edible oil consumption falls hardest on those with the least since cooking oil is not a luxury. Some of the requests are well-targeted at the wealthy; others inadvertently ask those with the smallest margins to absorb a disproportionate share of the sacrifice.

The economic backdrop makes the equity question more urgent. India's three State-owned oil marketing companies are losing between Rs 1,600 and Rs 1,700 crore every day, with

real household incomes across the board, and will force the Reserve Bank of India into the uncomfortable trade-off between defending the rupee and protecting growth.

There is also a cognitive dissonance in the government trying to suppress prices but also asking citizens to behave as if prices are too high. There is now pressure on tax mobilization. The Income Tax Department's Central Action Plan for 2026-27 directs field officers to prioritize recovering Rs 2.57 lakh crore in demands upheld at appeal, track the top 10,000 PAN-wise defaulters, and classify Rs 7.88 lakh crore in large unclassified arrears by July.

The scale of what has gone uncollected is striking: confirmed, undisputed tax demands of over Rs 9 lakh crore sit in arrears, concentrated overwhelmingly in Mumbai (Rs 1.65 lakh crore) and Delhi (Rs 1.21 lakh crore) - the wealthiest urban centers in the country. In FY26, the actual

commodity traders, domestic refiners - or a carefully designed wealth tax would serve multiple purposes: raising revenue to offset the fiscal hemorrhage, making burden-sharing visibly equitable and giving the mass movement the moral authority it needs. Madhu Limaye's argument was precisely this: austerity without equity is not patriotism, it is the displacement of pain downward.

We also need to examine our resilience and risk buffers. The member nations of the International Energy Agency (IEA) hold 90 days of strategic petroleum reserves as a treaty obligation. Europe built LNG import terminals and diversified supply at emergency speed. Japan and South Korea pass through price signals rapidly and hedge exposure through financial markets.

India's dedicated strategic petroleum reserves cover only about nine to ten days of demand, far below the 90-day

PM Modi has requested people to avoid non-essential gold purchases for a year. -Screenshot / CNBC

cumulative losses over the past ten weeks crossing Rs 1 lakh crore. Negative margins stand at Rs 14 per liter on petrol and Rs 18 on diesel. Excise duty cuts to cushion the blow are costing the treasury 14,000 crore a month.

Fertilizer subsidies, budgeted at Rs 1.71 lakh crore, face an overshoot of Rs 35,000 to Rs 50,000 crore. And this crisis lands on top of an already strained fiscal position: in FY26, direct tax receipts fell short of revised estimates by Rs 80,594 crore.

The FY27 direct tax target is Rs 26.97 lakh crore, which is a whopping 15 per cent jump over FY26 actuals. But revenues are already slowing down.

Here lies a structural paradox in Modi's appeal. Some of what he asks will genuinely help the current account without hurting domestic output like reducing gold imports and foreign travel. But fuel price hikes are categorically different: they are inflationary, compress

cash recovery against a target of Rs 5.04 lakh crore was only Rs 85,000 crore.

The government cannot credibly ask families to cut their cooking oil consumption while Rs 9 lakh crore in confirmed tax dues from large corporate and individual defaulters remains uncollected year after year. Ensuring that tax demands are actually recovered, using whatever digital surveillance, would be a powerful signal that the national sacrifice is genuinely shared.

This is also an opportune moment to revisit whether India's tax architecture is structurally progressive enough. India abolished its wealth tax in 2015 and has had no estate or inheritance duty since 1985. The top one per cent of Indians hold an estimated 40 per cent of the nation's wealth.

A temporary crisis surcharge on very high incomes, a windfall levy on entities benefiting from the disruption -

benchmark used by many IEA countries, though total oil stocks including commercial and refinery inventories are estimated around 74-75 days.

Modi's call can become the foundation of something lasting or it can be a speech that ages badly - if fuel prices are quietly raised while wealthy defaulters continue to defer confirmed tax dues and the poor find cooking oil more expensive.

Gandhi's movements succeeded because they were morally unimpeachable in their equity. If this is to be India's forex Satyagraha, the design must match the ambition. It must be progressive in burden sharing, rigorous in enforcement, structural in remedy and honest about the price signals that no volume of voluntary restraint can ultimately replace.

(Dr. Ajit Ranade is a Pune, India-based Economist, Political analyst, and a Reporter)



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US agrees to settle lawsuit accusing Adani of hiding alleged bribery scheme

The move to drop the charges seemed foreshadowed by events after President Donald Trump was elected to a second term and Gautam Adani lavished him with praise

**MAY 14, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)**

The US government has agreed to settle a lawsuit filed against Gautam Adani, who is accused of duping investors by concealing that his company's huge solar energy project in India was being facilitated by an alleged bribery scheme, according to court filings published Thursday.

In the lawsuit filed in late 2024, the Securities and Exchange Commission accused Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani - both leaders of the energy company Adani Green Energy Limited - of promising to pay Indian government officials the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in exchange for government contracts to purchase energy at inflated rates.

At the same time, the company secured several billions of dollars from Wall Street investors who were allegedly assured that the company had a robust anti-bribery compliance programme and were given promises from senior management that no bribery would take place.



Gautam Adani. -File photo

Those actions, the SEC said at the time, violated antifraud provisions of US securities laws.

Court documents show that Gautam Adani agreed to pay civil penalties of USD 6 million while his nephew

agreed to pay USD 12 million. The proposed settlement doesn't include an admission of guilt.

The Adani Group denied the allegations at the time, calling them baseless. Messages left with both the Adanis' attorneys were not returned on Thursday.

Both men were indicted in late 2024 in New York on charges of securities fraud and conspiracy to commit securities and wire fraud.

The New York Times and Bloomberg reported Thursday those charges are likely to get dropped. Messages left by The Associated Press with prosecutors for the Eastern District of New York were not returned.

The move to drop the charges seemed foreshadowed by events after President Donald Trump was elected to a second term and Gautam Adani lavished him with praise.

In March 2025, Trump suspended the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, a law banning business bribes overseas, raising expectations among some in India that the Adanis' case was fatally damaged.

Suoizzi Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Make Life More Affordable for New Parents

**MAY 14, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) introduced the bipartisan Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026. This bill, led alongside Rep. David Valadao (R-CA), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI), and Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT), creates a newborn tax credit to help ease the financial burden of working parents welcoming newborn children. This commonsense legislation provides immediate, practical relief to families bearing the sudden, high costs of caring for a newborn.

"Welcoming a new baby into the world should be one of the happiest moments in a family's life, not one filled with fear about how to pay the bills," said Congressman Suozzi. "At a time when so many Americans are struggling with the rising cost of living, this bipartisan bill will support young families and provide immediate, practical relief to working parents as they handle those critical first expenses."

"One of the most exciting moments for any expecting family is preparing to welcome a new child, but unexpected expenses can quickly add up and leave new parents facing costs far beyond what they planned," said Congressman Valadao. "As a father of three, I know how quickly costs can pile up—from diapers and clothing to strollers, childcare, and other essentials during a baby's first year. While the existing Child Tax Credit has provided important relief for many working families, parents often need support long before tax season arrives. That's why I'm proud to lead the bipartisan Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026, which would provide up to \$2,000 per newborn as an advance payment to help families cover the immediate costs that come with welcoming a child into the world. This commonsense bill gives working parents greater financial flexibility and peace of mind so they can focus on growing their family instead of worrying about how to make ends meet."

"As a father of four, I know how quickly expenses add up when a new child arrives: diapers, car seats, strollers, clothing, formula, and the unexpected costs that come during the first year," said Congressman Moore. "I'm excited to introduce the Supporting Newborn Parents Act to build on policies in the Working Families Tax Cuts, like the increased Child Tax Credit, by creating an additional tax credit for working parents of up to \$2,000 per newborn child. This



Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) introduced the bipartisan Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026

credit will help new and growing families by creating a financial cushion to meet their baby's needs when they need it most."

"Bringing home a newborn should be a moment of pure love and wonder, not financial stress," said Congresswoman Dingell. "This legislation puts tax dollars back into the wallets of working families when they need it most, helping to cover everything from diapers to doctor's visits. I am proud to support this effort, because every family deserves peace of mind in those first precious moments."

The Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026 creates a \$2,000 standalone tax credit for working families welcoming a newborn child, included in their annual tax refund or as an advance payment shortly after a child is born. For new parents overwhelmed with the cost of hospital bills, basic necessities like diapers and formula, a car seat and crib, and other expenses, this legislation would serve as a lifeline.

This legislation has the support of the Niskanen Center, Save the Children, Third Way, American Principles Project, Bread for the World, Searchlight Institute, Bakersfield Pregnancy Center, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), First 5 Kern, Adventist Health, and more.

"A newborn credit helps parents weather the turbulence of their baby's first year. This bill gives

families the flexibility to make choices that work best for them at a critical moment. We thank Representatives Valadao, Suozzi, Blake Moore, and Dingell for their leadership in supporting their commitment to supporting working families," said Leah Sargeant, Senior Fellow, Niskanen Center.

"Save the Children is proud to support the Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026. This legislation recognizes the importance of supporting families during the earliest days of a child's life, as well as the economic stress that can come with it. It's a commonsense policy that supports hardworking families, including those in rural communities, and helps ensure every child has a strong start from day one," said Allison Dembeck, Head of Policy, Save the Children.

"The last thing new parents should have to worry about is how to pay for a hospital bill or a car seat. As costs rise, families need real support at one of the most important moments in a child's life. That's why we're proud to endorse the Supporting Newborn Parents Act and grateful to Representatives Valadao, Suozzi, Dingell, and Moore for their leadership in easing the financial burden on new parents," said Curran McSwigan, Deputy Director of the Economic Program, Third Way.

"American Principles Project is proud to endorse the Supporting Newborn Parents Act. This bipartisan bill delivers real help to working parents exactly when the affordability crisis hits hardest - right after welcoming a new child. This \$2,000 newborn tax credit will help alleviate the pain of hospital bills, diapers, and lost wages without punishing work or marriage, while offering flexible payments and a simple process. The vast majority of Americans agree: we need more babies and stronger families. This smart, pro-family proposal would deliver relief today and invest in our future. Congress should pass it," said Jon Schweppe, Senior Advisor, American Principles Project.

"Bread for the World applauds the introduction of the Supporting Newborn Parents Act of 2026, which will be a critical tool in addressing food insecurity for families. This will be a beacon of hope for families in a financially vulnerable season of life: when they are welcoming new children into their lives.

Global Charity Gala in New Jersey successfully organized to Accelerate Mission for a World Without Childhood Blindness



Collage of gala pics

**MAY 10, 2026
NEW JERSEY (TIP)**

The Eye Foundation of America (EFA), a global leader in pediatric eye care and blindness prevention, hosted a prestigious Charity Gala on April 18, 2026, in New Jersey, USA, bringing together philanthropists, healthcare leaders, and global changemakers to advance the mission of eliminating childhood blindness.

Serving children since 1977, EFA has been at the forefront of restoring sight and transforming lives across continents. This landmark fundraiser, led by the EFA Board Members, aims to scale high-impact initiatives in India-particularly the expansion of the Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) program and the development of the new Goutami Eye Institute building, a state-of-the-art facility designed to serve thousands of vulnerable children.

A defining highlight of the evening was EFA's powerful commitment:

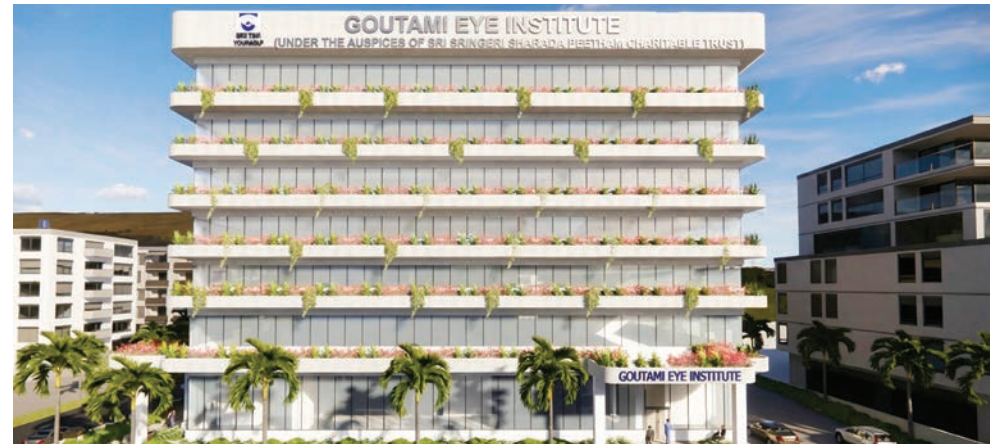
Every dollar raised will be matched-doubling the impact and accelerating the journey toward a world without childhood blindness.

The initiative is strengthened by strategic partnerships with Rotary International and Lions Clubs International Foundation, two of the world's most respected service organizations, further amplifying reach, credibility, and global impact.

VOICES OF LEADERSHIP

Dr. Leela Raju MD, President, Eye Foundation of America, said:

"For nearly five decades, EFA has stood for one unwavering belief-that no child should suffer blindness due to preventable or treatable conditions. This gala is not just a fundraiser; it is a movement. With every contribution matched, we are not just raising funds-we are multiplying hope, impact, and the future of thousands of children."



The under construction Goutami Eye Institute in Andhra Pradesh

Sam Maddali RPh, Board Member, Eye Foundation of America, added:

"The expansion of the Goutami Eye Institute and the scaling of the ROP program represent a critical leap forward. Premature babies deserve a fair chance at life-and vision is central to that future. Together with our partners and donors, we are building systems that will save sight for generations."

Dr. Sam Maddula PharmD, Board Member, Eye Foundation of America, emphasized:

"This mission is deeply personal and profoundly global. From one child to millions, the ripple effect of restoring sight is transformational-impacting education, livelihoods, and dignity. With the support of Rotary, Lions, and our global community, we are closer than ever to making a world without childhood blindness a reality."

Dr. V. K. Raju MD, Founder President, Eye Foundation of America and Chairman, Goutami Eye Institute, said:

"For nearly five decades, our mission has remained clear-to ensure that no child in this world is denied the gift of sight. Since 1977, we have worked tirelessly across India, Africa, and more than 25 countries, building systems of care, training professionals, and reaching the most underserved communities. This fundraiser is not just about infrastructure or

programs-it is about sustaining a global movement of compassion, commitment, and collective action. The new Goutami facility and the expansion of the ROP program represent our next leap forward. With the support of our partners and donors, I firmly believe that a world without childhood blindness is not just a vision-it is within our reach."

A Call to Global Action : The Charity Gala was both a celebration of EFA's 49-year legacy of service and a call to action for individuals, institutions, and corporations to be part of a historic movement. With matched giving, strong global partnerships, and a clear vision for scale, this initiative represented one of the most impactful opportunities to contribute to public health, child development, and global equity. Together, we can ensure that every child has the gift of sight-and the chance to dream, learn, and thrive.

About Eye Foundation of America (EFA) : The Eye Foundation of America is a global nonprofit dedicated to eliminating preventable blindness, with a strong focus on pediatric eye care. Since 1977, EFA has transformed millions of lives through surgeries, screenings, and capacity-building programs across India, Africa, and beyond.

(Based on a Press Release issued by
Rtn. Sandeep Saxena)

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

NYC Agencies come together to share resources on worker rights and workplace...

TLC Commissioner Valdivia emphasized the importance of ensuring that the immigrant drivers under her commission felt support and had access to measures that strengthen their ability to drive safely across our city with dignity. She further spotlighted TLC's new driver engagement, a first-of-its-kind driver survey, that is designed to gather direct input from licensees, guiding the policies, priorities, and initiatives of the agency to help promote working-class immigrant voices and uplift economic justice under the Mamdani administration.

Finally, SBS Deputy Commissioner Chan and SBS Chief of Staff Haris Khan, both elevated several programs that immigrant business owners, street vendors, and entrepreneurs can utilize. Programs like Workforce 1, NYC Business Express Service Team (BEST),

and the upcoming NYC Small Business Month Expo on May 28th serve as key resources for the City to support immigrant businesses through partnership, collaboration, and education.

"Immigrant New Yorkers are a critical part of the fabric of New York City. We want immigrant New Yorkers to know that they have the same labor and human rights as all workers. They should not be afraid to submit a complaint if their rights are being violated and they should know that this administration will leverage all of our power to defend them," said Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su.

"Today's roundtable brought together key City agencies with media professionals whose reporting serves New York's immigrant communities as a critical source of news and information, and connection," said DCWP Commissioner Samuel A. A. Levine. "In a moment where we see ICE dragging people out of hospitals and disappeared off the street, and where multimillion dollar mergers threaten

immigrants' economic stability as seen through the proposed Western Union and Intermex merger, DCWP is committed to reaching immigrant New Yorkers directly and helping them understand their rights as workers, consumers and small business owners."

"Immigrant New Yorkers power our restaurants, construction sites, small businesses, nail salons, delivery networks, healthcare systems, and transportation infrastructure. Given their contributions, we have a responsibility as City government to ensure every worker is treated fairly, paid fairly, and protected from exploitation and abuse, regardless of immigration status," said MOIA Commissioner Faiza Ali. "Across our administration, we are working to ensure immigrant New Yorkers can safely participate in the economy, report violations without fear, and access the resources they deserve."

"We are taking a whole-of-government approach when it comes to protecting the hardworking immigrants who power our city, and today's event, which

saw agency leaders engaging directly with ethnic and community media, reaffirmed that," said Taxi & Limousine Commissioner Midori Valdivia. "More than 90 percent of TLC drivers are immigrants, and per miles driven, they're the safest drivers in the city. They protect us every time they get behind the wheel, and it's only right that we help to protect them."

"SBS is proud to partner with our sister agencies across government to provide the services and resources immigrant small business owners and workers need to thrive," said SBS Deputy Commissioner Kitty Chan. "From financing assistance, our Workforce1 system, NYC BEST, and our marquee NYC Small Business Month Expo, we are proud to do the work of elevating the immigrants that make New York City the place we all know and love. Thank you, Deputy Mayor Su, Commissioner Ali, Commissioner Levine, and Commissioner Valdivia for hosting this roundtable, helping us reach more immigrant New Yorkers where they are."

Embassy of India and ISFM Organize "Disha 2026" Celebrations in Chisinau Strengthening India-Moldova Cultural and People-to-People Ties

MAY 10, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Embassy of India in Bucharest, in collaboration with the Indian Students Forum Moldova (ISFM), organized the "Disha 2026" celebrations in Chisinau on 9 May 2026 with enthusiastic participation from Indian students studying at various universities across the Republic of Moldova. The event highlighted the growing educational, cultural, and people-to-people linkages between India and Moldova and served as a vibrant platform to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and the contribution of the Indian student community in Moldova.

The celebrations were graced by H.E. Mr. Ion Ceban, Mayor of Chisinau, and Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania and



Ambassador addressing the audience at the "Disha 2026" celebration in Chisinau



Mayor of Chisinau addressing the audience at the "Disha 2026" celebration in Chisinau

the Republic of Moldova, underlined the importance of promoting Indian culture,

role played by Indian students in strengthening bilateral understanding

culture throughout the city. He expressed confidence that such initiatives would



Musical display by the Indian Students at the "Disha 2026" celebration in Chisinau



Dance performance by the Indian students at the "Disha 2026" celebration in Chisinau

concurrently accredited to the Republic of Moldova. The event was also attended by members of the Indian community,

traditions, and values among the wider Moldovan society. He emphasized that initiatives such as "Disha 2026" should

and enriching the multicultural character of Chisinau. Mayor Ceban also announced that the celebrations of

further deepen friendship and cooperation between India and Moldova. The "Disha 2026" celebrations



The Embassy of India organised "Disha 2026" celebration in Chisinau on 9 May 2026



Moldovan guests, university representatives, students, and friends of India. The programme featured cultural performances, traditional Indian music and dance, and interactive engagements reflecting the diversity and vibrancy of Indian culture.

In his address, H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania and concurrently accredited to

extend beyond the Indian diaspora and student community and contribute towards strengthening broader societal and cultural connections between the people of India and Moldova.

Addressing the gathering, H.E. Mr. Ion Ceban, Mayor of Chisinau, appreciated the positive contribution of the Indian community and Indian students to Moldovan society. He acknowledged the

India's Independence Day in Chisinau would be organized on a much larger scale this year with the support of the Municipality.

The Mayor assured the full cooperation and support of the Chisinau Municipality for the forthcoming celebrations, including assistance in the areas of publicity, logistics, public outreach, and promotion of Indian

concluded in a warm and festive atmosphere, reaffirming the close bonds between the Indian community and the people of Moldova, and reflecting the shared commitment of both sides to enhancing cultural exchanges and people-to-people engagement.

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

Fuel price hike will lead to further inflation, growth estimates will be lowered considerably: Congress

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Congress on Friday 15, attacked the Modi government over the petrol and diesel price hike, saying it is bound to lead to further inflation and growth estimates will be lowered considerably.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said that with international oil prices soft or declining for years, the Indian National Congress had been urging that those benefits should be passed on to Indian consumers and that domestic prices of gas, petrol, and diesel should be reduced.

That, however, did not happen and consumers were "fleeced", he said.

"Now that international oil prices are climbing up because of the war in West Asia unleashed by the PM's good friends—the US and Israel—and assembly elections are over, the Modi Government has increased petrol and diesel prices after having hiked commercial LPG prices earlier.

"This is bound to lead to further inflation that is now projected to be close to 6% for this financial year. Growth estimates will be lowered considerably," Ramesh said.

Petrol and diesel prices were hiked by Rs 3 per litre each on Friday, the first rate increase in more than four years, amid mounting losses of fuel retailers due to surging global crude prices.

BJP questions Rahul's foreign trips, alleges income-expense mismatch

The BJP on Thursday, May 14, questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's foreign visits, alleging a major mismatch between his declared income and expenditure on these visits. Addressing a press conference, BJP leader Sambit Patra claimed that Gandhi, who has been in elected office for nearly 22 years, undertook 54 declared foreign trips during this period. While the visits are publicly known, the funding sources behind them have not been disclosed.

Patra claimed that the total expenditure on Gandhi's foreign travel was nearly Rs 60 crore. Citing income details from 2013-14 to 2022-23, Patra claimed that Gandhi earned around Rs 11 crore over the last 10 years and questioned how such a large amount was spent on overseas travel.

According to Patra, the total spending on Rahul Gandhi's foreign travel amounts to nearly Rs 60 crore. He also claimed that income details from 2013-14 to 2022-23 show Rahul Gandhi earned around Rs 11 crore during the 10-year period.

Indian cargo ship sinks after drone strike near Oman, Delhi calls attack deplorable

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Haji Ali, a cargo ship from Gujarat, sank off the coast of Oman after a suspected drone strike, with all 14 Indian crew members rescued safely by Omani authorities, according to officials. The incident has heightened concerns over maritime security in the region amid escalating tensions linked to the Iran-US conflict in the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel, registered at Salaya Port in Devbhoomi Dwarka district, was sailing from Somalia to Sharjah carrying livestock when the incident occurred early Wednesday 13.

Reports said the ship was passing near Limah, off Oman's northern coast, at around 3:30 am when it was struck by an unidentified explosive object, suspected to be a drone or missile. The impact triggered a fire on board, causing the vessel to lose stability before eventually sinking into the sea.

The crew acted quickly after the strike. As flames spread through the ship, the 14 sailors — including one tandel and 13 crew members — sent out a distress signal and evacuated into lifeboats.

The Oman Coast Guard launched a rescue operation and brought all crew members safely to Deeba port. Ship owner Sultan Ahmed Sanghar later confirmed that all those on board were safe.

It is not immediately known who carried out the strike on the vessel on Wednesday, but the Ministry of External Affairs described the attack as "unacceptable".

"The attack on an Indian-flagged ship off the coast of Oman yesterday is unacceptable, and we deplore the fact that commercial shipping and civilian mariners continue to be targeted," it said.

Several livestock animals being transported on the vessel were reportedly washed away after the ship sank into the sea.

The MEA confirmed that all 14 Indian sailors rescued from the sunken vessel were safe. "All Indian crew on board are safe, and we thank the Omani authorities for rescuing them,"



Gujarat cargo shift Haji Ali.

it said. The ministry also stressed that civilian shipping must not be targeted, reiterating that attacks on commercial vessels and actions that threaten innocent crew members or disrupt freedom of navigation and maritime trade should be avoided.

The MEA statement did not identify the party responsible for the strike, and Omani authorities are investigating the incident. The Indian Sailing Vessels Association said all sailors were safe, and their documents had been secured.

General Secretary Adam Bhaya urged the Indian government to facilitate the crew's return at the earliest and intensify diplomatic engagement to ensure their safe passage home. The sinking of Haji Ali marks the second such incident involving a Gujarat-linked vessel in less than a week.

Earlier, another vessel from Salaya, Al Faiz Noor Suleimani-1, reportedly sank in the Strait of Hormuz after being caught in crossfire linked to the ongoing regional conflict.

The two incidents have raised alarm among ship operators and traders in Gujarat's traditional maritime sector, many of whom rely on routes through the Gulf for cargo transport.

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Thursday, May 14, directed the West Bengal State Bar Council to furnish information regarding enrolment and legal practice status of former chief minister Mamata Banerjee within 48 hours.

The TMC supremo on Thursday appeared before the Calcutta High Court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence and attacks on party offices. Earlier, she argued her own petition against Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal before the Supreme Court.

She told the Calcutta High Court that police remained passive during post-poll violence in West Bengal, while asserting that it is not a "bulldozer state", amid ongoing demolition drives against illegal structures.

Appearing for the first time before the high court to argue a case in connection with alleged post-poll violence against TMC workers and attacks on her party's offices in West Bengal, Banerjee sought urgent judicial intervention to protect the people from the attackers.

Accompanied by senior TMC leaders and advocates Chandrima Bhattacharya and Kalyan Banerjee, the former chief minister reached the high court in a lawyer's robe to argue a petition filed by Sirsanya Bandyopadhyay, son of Kalyan

As Mamata dons lawyer robe, BCI questions practice status



Banerjee and TMC candidate from the Uttarpara assembly seat.

She alleged that at least 10 people have been killed, some 150-160 TMC party offices vandalised and around 2,000 instances of violence have taken place in the state in the aftermath of the election results. "Out of 10 dead, six are Hindus. Please tell the police to act accordingly. They are not allowing FIRs to be lodged. In my family, 12-year-old girls are being threatened with rape," she told a Division Bench led by Chief Justice Sujoy Pal.

The situation has come to such a pass that even she isn't able to reach police stations to file complaints, and depended on the online mode, she alleged.

As per practice, a person holding a constitutional post or gainfully employed

has to get his/her bar licence suspended during the service and for practising law again, the licence has to be revived.

In a letter to the West Bengal Bar Council Secretary, the BCI - which regulates the legal profession in India - sought within two days complete records relating to Banerjee's enrolment as an advocate, if any, and her practice status during and after her tenure as chief minister from 2011 to 2026.

The letter issued by BCI principal secretary Sriramanto Sen said the apex Bar body had taken note of "various media reports" claiming that Banerjee appeared before the Calcutta High Court "wearing advocate's robes /legal attire, including white bands".

"Mamata Banerjee served as chief minister of West Bengal from 2011 to 2026. Having regard to the constitutional public office held by her during the said period, and without expressing any opinion at this stage on the permissibility or otherwise of such appearance, the Bar Council of India requires the factual status of her enrolment, practice, suspension, if any, and resumption, if any, to be verified from your records," the communication read.

PM Modi embarks on tour of UAE, Europe

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, May 15, embarked on a six-day tour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy to enhance bilateral ties amid the ongoing geopolitical upheaval.

Safeguarding energy flows, mitigating trade disruptions from the West Asia crisis and enhancing cooperation in critical technologies are expected to be the key focus of the trip.

Over the next six days, the prime minister will engage with several world leaders across a wide-ranging agenda aimed at strengthening India's global partnerships, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

PM Modi's first destination will be the UAE, where he will hold wide-ranging talks with President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan with a focus on advancing the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership and exchange views on the West Asia conflict.

The prime minister will be in the Gulf nation for around four hours before embarking on the trip to Europe. Following the Modi-Al Nahyan talks, India and the UAE are expected to firm up two significant pacts to boost cooperation in areas of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and strategic petroleum reserves.

The escalating conflict between the US and Iran has severely destabilised global energy markets, primarily due to Tehran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz — a vital transit chokepoint through which approximately 20 per cent of the world's total petroleum supply flows.

NIA chargesheets 10 in Red Fort blast, unveils jihadi conspiracy

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Six months after the Red Fort car explosion incident, in which 11 persons were killed and several others were injured on November 10, 2025, the NIA on Thursday, May 14, filed a 7,500-page chargesheet in the matter in a special NIA court at Patiala House Courts in the national capital.

All 10 accused, including the main perpetrator, the deceased Umar Un Nabi (who was purportedly driving the explosives-laden car), were linked to the organisation Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGuH), an offshoot of Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), as per the charges.

The Tribune had earlier reported that the NIA was looking at the possibility of the involvement of a relatively unknown outfit behind the incident. AQIS and all its manifestations were notified as a terrorist organisation by the Ministry of Home Affairs in June 2018.

The chargesheet has been filed under relevant sections of the UAPA, BNS, Explosive Substances Act, Arms Act and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Charges against Pulwama-based Umar Un Nabi, an ex-assistant professor of medicine at Al-Falah University in Faridabad, have been proposed to be abated.

Apart from Nabi, others named in the chargesheet are Aamir Rashid Mir, Jasir Bilal Wani, Dr Muzamil Shakeel, Dr Adeel Ahmed Rather, Dr Shaheen Saeed, Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Soyab, Dr Bilal Naseer Malla and Yasir Ahmad Dar.

The chargesheet is based on an



extensive investigation spanning Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and the Delhi-NCR region. It includes detailed evidence in the form of 588 oral testimonies, more than 395 documents and over 200 seized material exhibits.

The NIA has unravelled a major jihadi conspiracy through scientific and forensic investigation and found that the accused, some of whom were radicalised medical professionals, were inspired by AQIS/AGuH ideology to carry out the attack.

At a clandestine meeting in Srinagar in 2022, the accused had reconstituted the AGuH terror outfit as "AGuH Interim" following a failed Hizrat to Afghanistan via Turkey. Under this banner, they launched "Operation Heavenly Hind" aimed at overthrowing

the democratically elected Indian government and imposing Sharia rule.

The NIA investigation revealed that, as part of Operation Heavenly Hind, the accused recruited new members, actively propagated violent jihadi ideology, stockpiled arms and ammunition and manufactured explosives on a large scale using commercially available chemicals. The explosive used in the blast was triacetone triperoxide (TATP), which was manufactured by the accused after clandestinely procuring ingredients and conducting experiments to perfect the mixture.

A total of 11 persons have so far been arrested in the case, and the NIA continues efforts to track absconders whose roles surfaced during the investigation.

NEET-UG exam to be re-conducted on 21 June after paper leak charges

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Medical entrance exam NEET-UG, which was cancelled following allegations of irregularities in the examination process, will be re-conducted on June 21, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Friday, May 15.

The exam was earlier conducted on May 3.

The NTA had on Tuesday announced the cancellation of NEET-UG and said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) would carry out a comprehensive inquiry into the alleged irregularities linked to the exam.

"The National Testing Agency, with the approval of the Government of India, has scheduled the re-examination of NEET (UG) 2026 on Sunday, 21 June 2026," a senior official said.

The announcement came after a high-level meeting was held late on Thursday evening at the residence of Union Education Minister Dharmendra



Pradhan to review preparations for conducting the exam afresh.

The NEET-UG, one of India's largest entrance examinations for undergraduate medical courses, has faced repeated scrutiny in recent years

over paper leak allegations and examination security lapses. The latest controversy has once again raised questions about the integrity of high-stakes national-level entrance tests.

While the NTA has not officially

detailed the extent of the leak or the number of candidates impacted, it has assured that a transparent and secure process will be ensured in the upcoming re-examination. Officials said further instructions regarding revised schedules, application verification and examination protocols will be released on the agency's official website.

The announcement is likely to bring temporary relief to affected students, many of whom had been demanding either a full re-test or cancellation of the disputed exam. Education experts say the development highlights the urgent need for stronger safeguards, including tighter question paper handling, digital tracking mechanisms and improved coordination among examination authorities to prevent such incidents in the future. The NEET-UG remains a critical gateway for admission to MBBS, BDS and other medical courses across the country, with lakhs of students appearing for the exam annually.

India in history this Week

MAY 15 TO MAY 21

15 MAY

1907 Birth of freedom fighter Sukhdev Thapar.



1967 Bollywood actress Madhuri Dixit was born.

1817 Birth of social reformer Devendra Nath Tagore.

1242 Sultan of Delhi Muizuddin Bahram Shah's army revolted and killed Sultan.

1933 India's First Army Commander in Chief Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa passed away.

2005 Indian aircraft landed in Canada after 20 years.

2008 Manjula Sood of Indian origin became the first Asian woman to become mayor in Britain.

1923 Indian comedian Johnny Walker was born in 1923.

1817 Eminent scholar and religious leader Devendranath Thakur was born in 1817.

16 MAY



2014 The demise of Indian industrialist Rustomji Homaji Modi.

1911 Construction of Tallah Water Tank in Calcutta (now Kolkata) completed. It was called the world's largest overhead water tank at that time.

1960 Start of international telex service between India and UK.

1975 Sikkim was incorporated into the Indian Union as the 22nd state.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as the tenth Prime Minister of India.



2008 The Supreme Court rejected the decision of the Kolkata High Court to ban the 27% OBC quota in postgraduate courses of central educational institutions.

17 MAY

1769 The East India Company imposed a variety of restrictions on weavers to ruin Bengal's textile industry.

1918 Birth of India's famous industrialist and top member of Tata group, Russian Modi.



1987 Sunil Gavaskar retired from Test cricket.

2007 The fourth round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue commenced in Rawalpindi.

2010 Promoting the country's oldest traditional sports, Kabaddi, the Punjab government announced the hosting of the Kabaddi World Cup next month.

2014 The death of CP Krishnan Nair, the famous hotel industrialist of India and founder of the 'Hotel Leela Group'.

1865 Celebration of World Communication Day started.

2018 BS Yeddyurappa took the oath of office of Chief Minister of Karnataka for the third time.

1980 A record of standing for 33 hours on one leg was set by VS Kumar Anand.

1995 The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) was abolished by the three northeastern states of the country.

1999 He was resigned from his post by Congress President Sonia Gandhi. But it was rejected by the Congress Committee of which the CWC also says.

18 MAY

1912 The first Indian feature length film Sri Pundalik was released.

1974 India became a nuclear power country with its first underground atomic bomb test in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The trial was named 'Smiling Buddha'.

2008 Indian-origin writer Indra Sinha was awarded the Commonwealth Award in 2008 for her book Animal People.

1914 Tenth Governor of Reserve Bank of India Jagannathan was born.



1933 HD Deve Gowda, the twelfth Prime Minister of India, was born.

1966 India's famous botanist Panchanan Maheshwari died.

1974 Pokhran Nuclear Blast Day

19 MAY

1913 Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was born, who later became the President of the country.

1954 The National Film Board was formed by the government in the country.

1969 Andhra Pradesh came under a terrible storm which took 608 lives. Not only this, around 20000 people were rendered homeless in this storm.

1971 The first naval submarine station was built at Visakhapatnam.

1980 TN Raina died when he was General of India.

1992 Tennis player Leander Paes was awarded the Arjuna Award.

1993 The government had decided to link the power with Indian Airlines.

1904 One of the first industrialists of India, Jamsetji Nusrawanji Tata was killed.

1910 Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi and added a black chapter to the pages of Indian history, was born.

20 MAY

1900 Famous poet Sumitranandan Pant of Hindi world was born on this day.

1918 Piru Singh, a valiant soldier of the Indian Army who was instrumental in the 1947 Indo-Pak war, was born.

1929 Rajkumar Shukla died. He was a freedom fighter and one of the prominent people of Champaran Satyagraha.

1932 Vipin Chandra Pal, leader of the Garam Dal in India and the father of revolutionary ideas, passed away.

1957 T. Prakasam died. He was a famous freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.

1972 Famous poet of Brajbas Gaya Prasad Shukla 'Sanehi' dies

2012 Renowned anthropologist and feminist scholar Leela Dubey died.

2011 Mountaineer Premlata Agarwal of Jharkhand created a new history in mountaineering, having the distinction of being the oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain peak.

2011 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the oil refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh to the country at a cost of thousands of crores. It is a world class project with the efforts of Bharat Petroleum Limited, Oman Oil Company and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

21 MAY

1960 Indian actor Mohanlal Vishwanath Nair was born.

2006 Attack on Congress rally in Srinagar on 21 May. 1971: Famous director, script writer Aditya Chopra was born.

1991 Former PM of India Rajiv Gandhi died in a suicide attack in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

1994 Sushmita Sen won the title in the 43rd Miss Universe competition held in Manila.



Sikh History This Week

MAY 15 TO MAY 21

15th May

1629 Mukhlis Khan reaches Amritsar with his forces to fight Guru Har Gobind Sahib.

1765 Conquest of Lahore by the Khalsa Forces. Ahmad Shah reached Lahore via Eminabad during his 7th invasion. Sikhs attacked his outposts conquered Lahore and assembled at Amritsar.

1850 Bhai Maharaj Singh was deported to Singapore aboard ship named "Mohammed Shah" guarded by soldiers of the 70th regiment. Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketmen and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmir Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

16th May

1765 Sikhs assembled at Amritsar and passed a Gurmatta to regain more territories, occupy Lahore and strike coins in the name of their gurus as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa.

Lahna Singh, Gujjar Singh, and Sobha Singh occupied Lahore and divided the city into three administrative zones under each Sardar. Silver rupee was struck from Lahore mint.

Misl Bhangian, one of the twelve Sikh Misls, was organized by Sardar Chhaju Singh of Panjwar Dist. Amritsar. Sardar Hari Singh and Bhuma Singh, etc., the leaders of this Misl captured Lahore in 1765. This Misl also ruled over Ambala, Ferozpur and Amritsar (See description below for details on Sikh Misls).

1848 Maharani Jindan was imprisoned in the fort at Benaras.



17th May

1762 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia defeats Jain Khan.

1783 Baba Dyal Ji, the Nirankari leader, was born. NIRANKARI: a particular branch of GurSikh faith, established by Bhai Dayal Singh Ji. A Saehajdhari Sikh resident of Peshwar, GurSahai Ji, had a son named

RamSahai Ji who married Ladhaki, daughter of Vasakha Singh (treasurer for the tenth Guru). Bhai Dayal Singh was born from this marriage on 15 Vaisakh sunmat 1840 (1783).

1973 US Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion. The United States Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion, granting them the privileges and protection enjoyed by other churches in America.

18th May



1711 Battle of Batala between Baba Banda Singh Bahadur and followers of Saekhul Hind.

19th May

1919: The British regime acknowledged right of the Sikhs to wear their religious sword and removed all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib. A long agitation against restrictions on Kirpan Sahib was successfully concluded. This agitation saw hundreds of Sikhs in Jails. However, upon its conclusion all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib (specifically in armed forces) were removed all over British India and Burma. Kirpan Sahib is the second Kakaar, out of a total of five Kakaars, mandated for GurSikh's attire. Others include Kaes (unshorn hair), Kanga (comb), Kasha (underwear), and Kadha (bangle).

1940 A meeting of all Sikh parties was held in Amritsar, to explore the issue of Sikh sovereignty and a sub-committee was set-up to explore the matter.

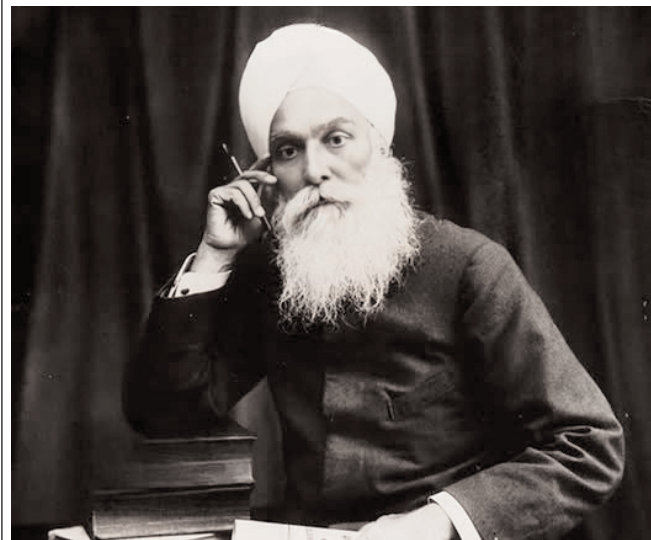
20th May



1606 The Mughal royal decree to apprehend Guru Arjan Dev Ji was announced.

1704 Anandpur Sahib was attacked unprovoked by

the combined forces of neighboring Hindus Rajas.



1912 Kahan Singh began compiling Mahan-Kosh, a Sikh Encyclopedia. KAHAN SINGH: is among the noted learned Sikh scholars. He was born on Bhado Wadi 10th sunmat 1918 (1861) in village Sabaj Banaera, Patiala, to father Bhai Narayan Singh and mother Mata Har Kaur Ji. As a child Kahan Singh was very active and thereby extremely close to his parents. He learned Gurmukhi from Bhai Bhup Singh. He was initiated to read Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the age of five by his father. At seven years of age, he was fluent in reciting Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Subsequently, Kahan Singh was sent to Delhi for Sanskrit education. He studies initially from Bawa Kalyan Das then Pandit Sri Dhar, Bansi Dhar, Bhai Vir Singh, Bhai Ram Singh, and Bawa Parmanand. He studied poetry from Bhai Bhagwan Singh Dughu. Subsequently, he learned music from Mahant of Gurusar Maharaj, Gaja Singh. At 20 yrs. he started learning Pharsi and english. By the age of 22, Bhai Kahan Singh had accomplished the basic necessary for understanding and analyzing Sikh literature.

1922 Harnam Singh Mehdiapur is assaulted by Chakarvartis of Kishan Singh Gargaj group.

1923 Ralla and Dittu of Kaulgarh were murdered.

1930 Akali Jatha left Peshawar to help the Pathans.

Akali Jatha, led by Master Tara Singh, left for Peshawar to help the Pathan followers of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who had been fired upon in Kissa Khwani Bazar. Tara Singh was arrested in Lahore and incarcerated in Gujrat jail. The Akali volunteers were not permitted to proceed beyond Dina in Jhelum, where they were lathi charged till every one of them became unconscious.

21st May

1920 The Akali, a Punjabi daily newspaper, started publication.

1921 The militant Akalis held a meeting and deputed Bela Singh and Ganda Singh to murder J.W. Bowring in Lahore. J.W. Bowring was Police Captain during the Nankana Sahib massacre. Akalis were convinced that he had conspired and aided Mahant Narayan Dass in carrying of the Nanakana Sahib massacre. Since then, he had been moved to Lahore. Unfortunately the plan foiled by a government agent, Sadhu Singh, who has posed as a staunch Akali supported and worked with Akali newspaper. Both were arrested at the Lahore railway station on May 23, 1921 and tried under Babbar Akali Conspiracy Trial No. 1.

1923 Second declaration of the Babbar Akalis owning the Kaulgarh murders was issued in Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

“NORTH TO SHORE” NEW JERSEY’S LARGEST SUMMER ARTS FEST OFFERS COMMUNITY EVENTS

BY MABEL PAIS

The North to Shore Festival, returning for its 4th year in June 2026, has an extraordinary lineup of headlining superstars — plus a full schedule of community events featuring New Jersey artists and arts organizations - from an open mic staged in a burger joint to a dance- and yoga-fueled day of healing in honor of Juneteenth. The Festival will run June 13-28, 2026.

“North to Shore,” the Garden State’s largest summer arts festival, which celebrates all of New Jersey’s creativity, diversity, community spirit and passion for innovation, is produced by the Newark-based New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).

The 2026 festival will run from June 13 – June 28, featuring a dynamic lineup of internationally acclaimed musical artists and comedians — including Janelle Monáe, The Black Crowes, Alison Krauss & Union Station, Joe Bonamassa, Iliza Shlesinger, Yellowcard, Kurt Vile, Black Uhuru, David Cross, The Bouncing Souls, Sublime, Dark Star Orchestra, The Head and the Heart and more — in cities across New Jersey.

In addition, North to Shore will continue its extensive support of local creative communities through partnerships with leading New Jersey arts and cultural organizations.

“Recognizing and celebrating local community artists and organizations — lifting up and supporting those whose artistry brings us together in joy — is an investment in our collective soul and well-being,” says Dr. Sherri-Ann Butterfield, Senior Vice President of Social Impact at NJPAC.

“We are thrilled that North to Shore is again able to offer Community Arts Awards to enable the production of so many events that reflect the creativity, talent and unique spirit of our state.”

An interactive theater piece about the life and work of Harriet Tubman; a Father’s Day drag brunch; a community open mic night held in a burger joint (and another at a grocery store); a journey through the history of storytelling illuminated with video projections; a celebration of upcycled sustainable



Asbury Park performers.

Credit: <https://njpac.org>

fashion; and a night of “gospel bingo” are among the festival events supported by North to Shore Community Arts Awards.

More than 50 events in Asbury Park and more than 30 in Newark are being produced through Community Arts Awards grants of \$2,000 or more. In total, the festival will invest more than \$100,000 directly into the creative economies of each city.

In Newark, the festival has partnered with the Newark Arts Council, Newark Alliance, and Mayor Ras J. Baraka and the Arts and Education District to select Community Arts Awards recipients. In Asbury Park, the festival partnered with AsburyFest, Asbury Underground, Carousel Art House, Georgie’s Bar, Sunset Lake Park Conservancy, The Watermark and Inspire Life to select participating artists and organizations.

These partners awarded grants directly to artists, nonprofits, small businesses and small arts organizations, helping them produce performances, exhibits, and community-driven cultural programming for the festival. The offerings include:

AsburyFest, a three-day craft and food festival outside Asbury Park’s Convention Hall;

The long-running **Asbury Underground** “art crawl,” which stages events and performances at

dozens of the city’s downtown shops, galleries and restaurants;

A Taste of Newark Food Tours that visit locally owned businesses and eateries;

Brick City Comedy Revue, Newark’s long-running comedy showcase;

Multiple **Juneteenth** celebrations in both cities.

As in previous years, all festival community events in both Newark and Asbury will be free or affordably priced.

The festival also launched a full year of community arts programming in Atlantic City in May 2025. Dozens of North to Shore Festival concerts, parties and workshops — including a Dias de los Muertos celebration, the pop-up art gallery ARTeriors and the third annual Bash at Back Sov, a celebration of punk music and skateboarding — have welcomed Atlantic City residents and visitors alike every month since. That programming continues through June 2026.

NJPAC is producing the 2026 North to Shore Festival with support from several sponsors.

Once again this year, a portion of all ticket sales will directly benefit Growing Healthy Pantries, a statewide collaborative that addresses food insecurity in partnership with New Jersey’s five primary food banks, supporting more than 1,000 local pantries across all 21 counties.

In support of the festival’s focus on food insecurity, NJPAC will host a “Standing in Solidarity” event on its campus on June 22, examining the role food waste plays in exacerbating food insecurity. The PSEG Foundation Social Impact film series will screen “Wasted!: The Story of Food Waste,” a documentary executive-produced by Anthony Bourdain, before a panel discussion that looks at creative solutions for ending the cycle of food insecurity.

TICKETS, EVENT LISTINGS & UPDATES

For tickets, the latest updates and new festival event listings, visit <https://northtoshore.com> or download the festival app.

LINCOLN CENTER’S “SUMMER FOR THE CITY” RETURNS FOR 5TH YEAR

BY MABEL PAIS

Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (LCPA) for its 5th year presents “Summer for the City”

(<https://lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city>), inviting New Yorkers and visitors to a season centered on movement, community, and international artistry. The Festival runs June 10 - Aug 8, 2026.

The Festival animates the iconic Lincoln Center campus indoors and out, featuring hundreds of performances, all free or Choose-What-You-Pay.

“Summer for the City” has established itself as a quintessential New York City summer destination, welcoming more than 1.6 million visitors since launching in 2022.

Now in its fifth year, the Festival reaffirms Lincoln Center’s commitment to advancing the arts as a force for inspiration, connection, and as central to thriving communities. A vibrant range of dance, music, and multidisciplinary performance uplift extraordinary artists from around the world and around the corner.

Across the 16-acre campus, “Summer for the City” emphasizes the power of place while ensuring the transformative



Inayat: A Duet for Four. -Credit: <https://lincolncenter.org>

impact of the arts remains deeply connected to everyday life in the city.

Dance takes center stage in the 2026 season, spanning a range of forms and traditions.

The inaugural **Lincoln Center Contemporary Dance Festival** (<https://lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city/s/Lincoln%20Center%20Contempo>)

in Alice Tully Hall, featuring five international companies with two U.S. premieres and two New York premieres;

“Summer for the City” opens Wednesday, June 10 with a triple header of dance on opening night.

Among the international companies, is

“**Inayat: A Duet for Four**” merging

two ancient north Indian performance traditions.

Learn more about “A Duet for Four” at

<https://lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city/inayat-a-duet-for-four-267>

“Summer for the City” carries forward Lincoln Center’s founding promise to enliven New York with arts for all — inviting everyone to experience the fullest expression of art and community,” said Shanta Thake, Ehrenkranz Chief Artistic Officer of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. “This year, that energy feels more alive than ever, with dance at the center, artists from around the world, and moments of connection unfolding across our campus. We look forward to welcoming New Yorkers and visitors alike to discover something new and experience the joy, creativity, and community that make this global city extraordinary.”

For a complete list of events, visit <https://lincolncenter.org/series/summer-for-the-city>

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

WORLD RENOWNED COMEDIAN RUSSELL PETERS WILL FILL THE HALLS WITH LAUGHTER WITH HIS “RELAX WORLD TOUR”

BY MABEL PAIS

RUSSELL PETERS, returns with an all-new “Relax World Tour,” making a stop in Newark at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Friday, May 29, 2026, at 8 PM.

Ironically, Peters can't "Relax" because he's too busy making the world laugh. Since starting stand-up at the age of nineteen, Peters has become one of the most successful comedians worldwide, touring non-stop and recording seven specials, including “Notorious,” “Almost Famous,” “Deported,” and “Act Your Age.”

He will perform for a night filled with laughter. Audiences can expect his sharp observations, engaging crowd banter, and hilariously irreverent point of view.

Russell Peters has received numerous accolades, including a Gemini, Peabody, Emmy, and Canadian Screen Award. He was also the first comedian to have a special on Netflix. In his latest show, Peters offers a humorous take on cancel culture, aging, and the current state of the world — a performance you won't want to miss.

Peters was named one of Rolling Stone's “50 Best Comics of All Time.” He began doing stand-up at open mics in his native Toronto, Canada at the age of nineteen and spent the next fifteen years honing his craft in clubs across Canada and the UK. In 2004, he gained critical acclaim and global recognition with his CTV show “Comedy Now!”



Russell Peters. -Credit: <https://njpac.org>

Peters became the first comedian to sell out Toronto's Air Canada Centre. In addition he has set attendance records at legendary venues, from Madison Square Garden to The Sydney Opera House and London's O2 Arena, where he broke the UK attendance record for the highest number of tickets sold for an individual comedy show.

Peters became the first comedian to create a Netflix Original Comedy Special. His most recent tour, “The Deported World Tour,” reached over 400,000 fans in 40 cities across 20 countries and culminated in the stand-

up special “Russell Peters Deported,” available on Amazon Prime since January 2020. Peters has garnered awards for hosting, producing, and acting.

His TV series, “The Indian Detective,” set a Canadian viewership record for Bell Media/CTV in 2017 and was released globally on Netflix. He recently launched his podcast, “Culturally Cancelled with Russell Peters,” through iHeartMedia/Cloud 10, and is currently developing a TV series based on his childhood in Canada during the 1980s. He is also executive producing a TV series titled, “Late Bloomer” with YouTube sensation Jus Reign. Later this year, Peters will appear in the feature film “Clifford the Big Red Dog” for Paramount Pictures.

Peters resides in Las Vegas and Los Angeles. When not on tour, he enjoys spending time with his nine-year-old daughter, Crystianna, and his newborn son, Russell Santiago. Additionally, he holds a blue belt with three stripes in Jiu-Jitsu and is an avid DJ and hip-hop enthusiast, making time to get on the turntables for at least a few minutes every day.

TICKETS

Tickets to see **Russell Peters** can be purchased by visiting [NJ PAC.org](https://njpac.org) or the NJ PAC Box Office or by calling 888.GO.NJPAC (888.466.5722).

SNL'S WRITER O'SULLIVAN HOSTS COMEDY SHOW WITH FELLOW WRITERS AND CAST MEMBERS

BY MABEL PAIS

Ceara Jane O'Sullivan the “Saturday Night Live” (SNL) writer hosts this comedy show with cast members and fellow writers from Saturday Night Live (SNL) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on Saturday, June 6, 2026.

Expect long-form improv, hilarious stand-up and maybe — if we're lucky — a few rejected sketches that never made it past the table read. The rotating cast is subject to change, but might include Chloe Fineman, Ben Marshall, Chloe Troast, Jake Nordwind, Carl Tart, Asha Ward and/or Jimmy Fowlie (O'Sullivan's co-writer of the viral “Domingo” sketches).

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (SNL)

Live from New York for more than four decades, celebrity hosts join an award-winning ensemble cast to perform comedic sketches, satirical news and digital shorts, alongside popular musical acts; capturing the pop-culture zeitgeist, the show's sketches and segments often go viral the next day.

Over the years, cast members have included Jimmy Fallon, Will Ferrell, Tina Fey, Kate McKinnon, Seth Meyers, Eddie Murphy, Bill Murray, Mike Myers, Amy Poehler, Chris Rock, Maya Rudolph, Andy Samberg, Kristen Wiig, and many more, as well as recurring guests such as Alec Baldwin, Melissa McCarthy and Steve Martin; from executive producer Lorne Michaels, “SNL” is widely considered an American late-night institution and continues to earn critical praise.

CEARA O'SULLIVAN

The Emmy-winning TV writer is in her fourth year at SNL. She co-wrote and produced Netflix's “Roommates” starring Sarah Sherman and co-hosts the true crime comedy podcast “Petty Crimes.”

Ceara Jane O'Sullivan is a short-form comedy content creator and TikTok personality known for sharing comedic skits and original characters on her [cearajane](https://www.tiktok.com/@cearajane) account.

She has more than 550,000 followers on the platform. In June of 2020, she parodied a Florida woman complaining about mask mandates amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. She “Monthl Meeting of the Milks”



SNL Cast of Writers & Comedians. -Credit: <https://njpac.org>

TikTok went viral with more than 2-5 million combined views.

She is an alum of the Improv Asylum Main Stage, ImprovBoston Resident Casts, and currently studies at the Groundings Theater. According to her IMDB page, over the past year, Ceara's original sketches and monologues were featured in press by E! News, BuzzFeed, ESPN, First We Feast, Barstool Sports, Thrillist, Betches Media, and the Cheesecake Factory. O'Sullivan had a 2-person show, The Regrets Club, touring throughout 2022. Her co-written original show, “Dumpster Fyre: the Fyre Festival Musical” had a sold-out run in 2019.

She joined the writing staff of “Saturday Night Live” in 2022, at the beginning of season 48.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is among the largest performing arts centers in the United States. It is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey — where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. As New Jersey's anchor cultural institution, NJPAC brings diverse communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of

its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts. NJPAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997 and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit <https://njpac.org> for more information.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

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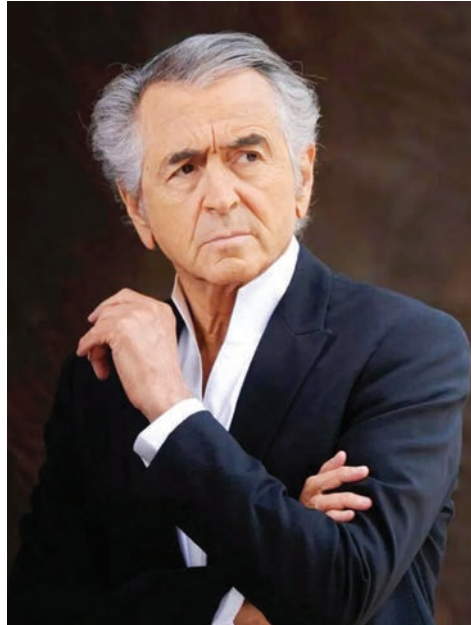
Website: njpac.org/takeastand
Hashtag: #NJPACTakeAStand
Youtube: Standing in Solidarity playlist

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

NYSJFF RETURNS FOR 28TH EDITION IN SPIRIT OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



Avi Issacharoff



Bernard-Henri Lévy



Murray Perahia



Jeannette Sorrell

BY MABEL PAIS

The New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF - <https://nysjff.com>) returns for its annual 28th edition. Celebrating Sephardic creativity in the spirit of America's 250th, the American Sephardi Federation's action-packed program, May 31 - June 7, 2026 in the Edmond J. Safra Hall at the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust @ Edmond J. Safra Plaza, 36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280 (<https://mjhnyc.org> - 646 437 4202).

Through the poignant medium of film, the NYSJFF invites audiences to explore the rich mosaic culture of Jews from the Middle East and the greater Sephardic Diaspora.

Steeped in history and tradition, contemporary voices come alive throughout this week-long celebration, featuring premiere screenings, compelling stories, powerful documentaries, director Q&As, and the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony. This year the film festival is celebrating Sephardic creativity in the spirit of America's 250th.

The New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival (NYSJFF), also known as the Sephardic Film Festival, is a celebration of culture, history, and storytelling. Since its inception in 1990, the NYSJFF has been a beacon of light, shining a cinematic spotlight on the diverse and rich tapestry of Greater Sephardi communities.

Now in its 28th edition, the NYSJFF continues to captivate audiences with its curated global selection of films, ranging from powerful narratives to evocative documentaries. Our viewers experience the trials, triumphs, and traditions of Sephardic Jews. People come to the NYSJFF to see premiere films that they can't see anywhere else, on topics that are seldom covered, and with a warm and welcoming community.

As the curtains rise and the lights dim, the NYSJFF invites audiences to embark on a cinematic journey that celebrates the past, illuminates the present, and inspires hope for the future.

This year's Festival features a record number of premieres and is dedicated to Ike, Molly, and Steven Elias.

PROGRAM

OPENING NIGHT - MAY 31

The World Premiere of "Fausse Note" (The Last Concert), followed by an in-person Q&A with acclaimed director Alexandre Arcady.

POMEGRANATE AWARDS CEREMONY - JUNE 1

The 2026 ASF Pomegranate Awards will honor vibrant Sephardi voices for extraordinary

achievements in philosophy, music, film, and journalism:

AVI ISSACHAROFF

(Journalist and Co-Creator of "Fauda")
Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Storytelling

BERNARD-HENRI LÉVY

(Filmmaker and Philosopher)
Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Philosophy

MURRAY PERAHIA

(Avery Fisher Prize and Grammy Award-winning Pianist)
Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Music

JEANNETTE SORRELL

(Grammy Award-winning Harpsichordist and Leader of "Apollo's Fire")
Pomegranate Lifetime Achievement Award for Music

The Pomegranates are sculpted with love by world-renowned Baghdad-born artist Oded Halahmy to honor vibrant Sephardi voices for outstanding achievements.

PERFORMANCES

The evening will feature a special live performance by GRAMMY Award-winning conductor and harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell with members of Apollo's Fire. "Sephardic Jews and the Making of American Independence" will be viewable for VIP guests.

ENRICO MACIAS LIVE: A NIGHT OF MEMORY & MUSIC - JUNE 2

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES AND AWARD-WINNING FILMS - JUNE 3 - 7

Audiences will also experience director Q&As, artist conversations, and special events.

FESTIVAL SEFARAD

The NYSJFF is part of Festival Sefarad, a month-long city-wide celebration of Jewish joy through intellectual, cultural, and communal events.

The NYSJFF - Festival Sefarad is presented in partnership with the Museum of Jewish Heritage, dedicated to Ike, Molly, and Steven Elias, and made possible by additional support from the UJA-Federation of New York.

TICKETS

Space is limited; early reservations are highly recommended. Tickets are available on a tiered basis.

The schedule of tickets is below:

VIP PLUS PASS

VIP Plus Pass, access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night), VIP Receptions, All panels or talks, as well as the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony Enrico Macias' Concert with Reserved VIP seating, along with a tax-deductible donation
LIMITED AVAILABILITY

VIP PASS

VIP Plus Pass, access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night), VIP Receptions, All panels or talks, as well as the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony Enrico Macias' Concert with Reserved VIP seating. LIMITED AVAILABILITY

ALL-ACCESS PASS

All-Access Pass, access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night), Access to any panels or talks, as well as the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony and Enrico Macias' Concert with Reserved Orchestra seating -LIMITED AVAILABILITY

PREMIUM FESTIVAL PASS

Premium Festival Pass, access to All Events (including Opening & Closing Night), Access to any panels or talks, as well as the Pomegranate Awards Ceremony and Enrico Macias' Concert with Reserved Mezzanine seating

FESTIVAL WEEK PASS

Includes all Movie Screenings, Q&As, and Special Daytime Events (Does not include Pomegranate Awards Ceremony or Enrico Macias' Concert)

OPENING NIGHT TICKET

The WORLD PREMIERE of Alexandre Arcady's new film "The Last Concert" (Fausse Note).

Followed by an exclusive Q&A with the filmmaker.

ENRICO MACIAS CONCERT TICKETS

MORE INFORMATION, UPDATES

For more information, tickets, and full program details, visit:

<https://nysjff.com> and <https://nysjff.com/passes>

American Sephardi Federation

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

New York Sephardic Jewish Film Festival

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

Festival Sefarad

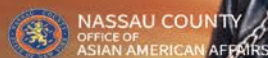
Learn more at <https://festivalsefarad.com>

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

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Akshay Kumar brings swagger and chaos to Welcome To The Jungle in new look

Actor Akshay Kumar has unveiled a striking new look from Welcome To The Jungle, and the visual places him right at the centre of the film's chaotic wilderness setting. Dressed sharply in tinted glasses and standing amid dense jungle surroundings, Kumar appears completely at ease, carrying the same effortless swagger that defined his earlier association with the Welcome franchise.

The newly released look strongly taps into nostalgia while giving the franchise a slicker and more expansive visual treatment. The image revives the familiar comic coolness audiences associate with Kumar's Welcome-era persona, while also hinting at a bigger cinematic scale for the upcoming instalment.

The first look frames Kumar as both the comedic anchor and commanding presence within the film's eccentric world. Even amid the exaggerated jungle backdrop, the actor appears calm, stylish and firmly in control, reinforcing the signature tone the franchise has built over the years.

The visual leans heavily on the blend of comedy and larger-than-life energy that has long been associated with the Welcome films. Kumar's confident screen presence remains central to the film's appeal, with the image suggesting that the franchise intends to retain its familiar flavor while expanding its scale.

The new visual recalls the charm and comic timing that made Kumar a standout face in the Welcome universe. While the jungle setting introduces a fresh backdrop, the styling and presentation echo the franchise's established identity.

Fans of the earlier films are likely to recognise the same mix of humour, swagger and controlled chaos that defined the series' earlier instalments.

Directed by Ahmed Khan, Welcome To The Jungle is scheduled to release in cinemas on June 26. The film features a large ensemble cast and marks Kumar's return to a comic space closely tied to his Bollywood legacy.

Pati Patni Aur Woh Do is a pati-verse, not infidelity, says Ayushmann Khurrana

While social media has already begun debating whether Pati Patni Aur Woh Do is "promoting cheating", lead star Ayushmann Khurrana insisted that audiences are missing the point entirely. According to the actor, the film is less about betrayal and more about an out-and-out comedy of errors.

In an exclusive chat with India Today, Ayushmann also spoke about the film creating a "pati universe", comparisons with Sanjeev Kumar and Kartik Aaryan, and why he believes the comedy remains progressive despite its premise.

When asked whether the film uses comedy to glorify cheating, Ayushmann dismissed the criticism instantly, adding that the women in the film dominate the narrative.

"In fact, women in the film have the most agency. I am the chosen sufferer," he said with a laugh. "It's not mere tokenism either. All three women are alphas in their own way. Rakul's character is probably a proper alpha. That's the beauty of the film — it's not male-centric. The characters and roles are equally divided."

The actor further stressed that the film does not romanticise infidelity and maintained that he would never associate himself with a regressive project.

"And the climax brings everyone together. You have to see it to believe it. We are not glorifying cheating. It's not



about infidelity; it's a comedy of errors," he explained. "Personally, I will never do a regressive film. I have always chosen subjects that start conversations. This is not a message-oriented film; it's pure comedy. But by the end, you will never feel that it isn't progressive or rooted in 2026 values."

Ayushmann also revisited his earliest memory of the original Pati Patni Aur Woh, revealing that it had more to do with its iconic song than the plot itself. Recalling his childhood in Chandigarh,

the actor fondly remembered listening to "Thande Thande Pani".

"My first memory is the song, 'Thande thande paani se nahana chahiye'. I have bathed multiple times to that song since childhood," he shared. "Back then, a geyser was a luxury, so even during winters I used to bathe with cold water. That song used to encourage me. I don't remember the entire film, but I remember snippets here and there. It was such an iconic film, and I'm glad we are now part of that legacy."



Tabu says women are judged more harshly for ageing in films

Actor Tabu has never been someone who follows the expected rules of the film industry. Over the years, the acclaimed actor has built a reputation for choosing roles on her own terms, staying away from unnecessary noise and maintaining a level of honesty that is rare in celebrity culture. In a recent conversation with Harper's Bazaar India, Tabu spoke candidly about ageing, the pressure women face in cinema and why she never learnt how to give safe industry answers. Reflecting on the way women in films are constantly judged, Tabu pointed out how society often places far more importance on a woman's age than the woman herself does. "People are more worried about your age than you are yourself. They want to show you the mirror, as though you don't have one at home," she said.

The actor explained that ageing is not some sudden transformation the way people make it out to be. Instead, it is something people experience gradually every single day. "The person answering that question hasn't aged overnight. We experience it every single day. It's not like one day someone wakes up at 20 and next day they turn 45," she added. The actor also admitted that she was often advised not to be brutally honest while rejecting films. According to Tabu, people in the industry expected actors to avoid giving direct opinions on scripts and instead use "date issues" as an excuse. "You should not give a real reason for not doing a film," she said while recalling the advice she received. "Give the excuse of dates and walk away. I didn't understand that. If I don't like the script, I don't like it. And I said so."



Taylor Swift, Kelce's wedding gets an Indian twist

Taylor Swift turns everything she touches into a moment, including her wedding. Taylor and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce's much-awaited event is getting closer.

Now, reports are circulating on social media that the couple has hired Rishi Patel, one of the world's most celebrated event designers to plan what could be one of the biggest weddings in recent memory.

However, HT.com has not independently confirmed any of these claims.

Posts on X have been buzzing with excitement. "IT'S GOING TO BE HUGE! Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce have reportedly hired Rishi Patel as their wedding planner, one of the world's biggest designers," one user wrote.

Another added: "IT WILL BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL EVENT! Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce reportedly hired Rishi Patel as their wedding planner, named as one of the world's top designers by multiple magazines."

The excitement among fans has been hard to contain. "Oh this wedding is about to be in the history books hitting the person that styled Kate Middleton and Rishi Patel," one user posted, while others simply called it "generational."

"I just know this wedding is gonna be extra and we love her for that," another fan wrote.

"America's first royal wedding," wrote another.

If the reports are true, Swift and Kelce could not have chosen a more high-profile name in the world of event design.

Rishi Patel is the CEO and Chief Creative Officer of HMR Designs, a globally renowned event and design firm, according to Sage Journey. He has been named one of the top wedding and event designers in the world by some of the biggest names in fashion and lifestyle media, including Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, Brides and Martha Stewart Weddings. He has also been recognized as a Top 40 Under 40 honoree. Patel specializes in fully transformative event design, with a firm belief that guest experience and service are at the heart of true luxury. His portfolio spans galas, weddings, and milestone celebrations, and he has designed events for some of the most notable figures, families, and organizations in the world, per Sage Journey.

Sharon Stone supports Sofia Vergara's take on dating rich men

Actor Sharon Stone has reacted to a resurfaced 2025 interview in which Sofia Vergara spoke about her dating life and the qualities she wants in a partner, including financial compatibility. Stone showed her support by posting several clapping emojis in the comments section of a post shared by the Daily Mail.

Vergara spoke about the subject following her 2023 divorce from Joe Manganiello. In the interview, she also discussed what she wants in a relationship, while later remarks from both Vergara and Manganiello offered differing accounts of why their marriage ended.

"I want to say the basic stuff, like health and somebody that loves me. And somebody tall, handsome. I want somebody that has as much money as me or more, because if not, it's a nightmare. They end up resenting you," she said then.

The interview recently resurfaced online, and the Basic Instinct actor did not shy away from extending her support to Vergara.

Vergara had earlier said that her marriage to Manganiello ended partly because he wanted children, while she did not wish to become a mother again. Vergara is already a mother to a son, whom she gave birth to at the age of 19.

Manganiello later denied those claims in an interview with Men's Journal, saying the 53-year-old actor's version of events was "simply not true". He said they had, in fact, tried to start a family during the first year and a half of their marriage.

He also said they had discussed the topic of children very early in their relationship. "I said: 'If you're done with kids, then I understand. Just tell me, and I'll know what this is, and that's okay,'" he recalled, adding that he had promised Vergara he would never leave her if having children together did not work out.



'Verity': Anne Hathaway and Dakota Johnson set the stage for an intense drama in new poster



Anne Hathaway and Dakota Johnson are coming together for a thrilling and engaging drama called Verity. The haunting tagline says There's no light where we are going. It's all set to release in cinemas on October 2.

The poster teases the complex dynamic between Verity Crawford played by Anne Hathaway and Lowen Ashleigh played by Dakota Johnson. Their haunting presence and emotionally charged chemistry sets the perfect stage for dangerous psychological games and disturbing truths that makes the core of the story.

Adapted from Colleen Hoover's best-selling novel, this seductive, psychological thriller follows renowned author Verity Crawford and Lowen Ashleigh, a struggling writer who relocates to the remote Crawford estate to ghostwrite for Verity. After Lowen uncovers what appears to be Verity's chilling autobiographical notes, she wrestles with the disturbing and twisted confessions about Verity's husband Jeremy, and finds it hard to separate fiction from reality, manipulation from attraction, and opportunity from obsession.

Produced by Amazon MGM Studios and distributed by Sony Pictures Releasing International, Verity releases in cinemas across India on 2nd October, 2026.

Anne Hathaway recently went viral on social media for using "Inshallah" during an interview with a magazine for their cover shoot. The 43-year-old actor, who returned for the sequel of one her most loved hits "The Devil Wears Prada", sat down with the People magazine to talk about her formative years, her early acting assignments, life as a mother of two boys and her reunion with co-stars Meryl Streep, Stanley Tucci, and Emily Blunt.

Russia pummels Kyiv, killing seven and denting peace hopes

MAY 15, 2026

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia pummelled Kyiv for hours early on Thursday, firing hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in an attack that killed at least seven people and further shredded hopes of a halt to Moscow's grinding invasion.

AFP journalists in the capital heard air raid sirens wailing out over the city before several hours of thunderous explosions and flashes in the sky sent Kyiv residents running to shelter in metro stations.

The Ukrainian air force said Russia had launched 675 attack drones and 56 missiles, mainly at Kyiv, adding its air defence units had downed 652 of the drones and 41 missiles.

"Everything was burning. People were screaming... people were shouting," Andriy, a Kyiv resident still wearing a nightgown and with blood stains on his shirt, told AFP near a collapsed Soviet-era residential building.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said 20 sites in the capital were damaged including homes, a school, a vet clinic and other civilian infrastructure.

Seven bodies were pulled from the rubble of a single destroyed residential building — three men, three women, and a young girl, police said.

Another 45 were wounded.

Russian attacks also wounded people in the southern regions of Odesa and Kherson, and in the eastern region of Kharkiv.

"These are definitely not the actions of those who believe the war is coming to an end. It is important that partners do not remain silent about this strike," Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine said it shot down 94 percent of all drones and 73 percent of the missiles fired by Russia.

"The most difficult challenge is defending against ballistic missiles," he said.

A slew of Ukraine's allies, including the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia, Finland, the Netherlands, Moldova, and Slovakia condemned the fatal attacks.

"By bombing civilians, Russia demonstrates less its strength than its weakness: it is running out of solutions on the military front and does not know how to end its war of aggression," French President Emmanuel Macron said.

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen says Kyiv attacks show that Russia "openly mocks" efforts to end the war.

Russia, which invaded Ukraine more than four years ago, said the wave of missiles and drones had targeted military-linked sites and energy facilities that support the Ukrainian army. At daybreak, AFP journalists witnessed chaotic scenes as rescue workers dug through mounds of debris from a collapsed residential building gutted in the attack.

Labour politicians jockey for possible challenge to UK's Starmer

MAY 15, 2026

LONDON (TIP): Britain's health minister Wes Streeting resigned Thursday, May 14, while Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham unveiled a bid to return to parliament, as political manoeuvring increased to oust Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Both Streeting, who is popular on the right of the ruling Labour party, and the more left-wing Burnham -- a former minister under prime minister Gordon Brown -- stopped short of formally announcing they were running for the top job.

But Streeting, 43, called for the "best possible field of candidates" to run to replace the embattled Starmer, while Burnham, 56, vowed to "change Labour for the better and make it a party you can believe in again".

Their comments came hours after ex-deputy prime minister Angela Rayner, a left-wing figurehead among Labour's grassroots, announced that she had cleared obstacles preventing her from standing in any future race.

Rayner, 46, revealed UK tax authorities had cleared her of deliberate wrongdoing in a tax affair which had forced her to quit the government last September.

The day's dramatic developments plunged Starmer's faltering premiership



deeper into crisis after numerous missteps and months of rumours about imminent leadership challenges.

Starmer, 63, led Labour to victory in July 2024, ending 14 years of Conservative rule, but is now fighting for his political life.

Burnham, who was an MP from 2001 to 2017, revealed he will try to stand as Labour's candidate in an upcoming by-election in northwest England, which could pave the way for his eventual leadership run.

He is currently unable to mount a challenge without a seat in the UK parliament.

Announcing the high-stakes move, Burnham said he wanted to return as an MP because "much bigger change is needed at a national level".

The by-election in Makerfield -- which sits within the Greater Manchester city-region that Burnham has led as mayor since 2017 -- will only happen because its current Labour MP announced Thursday he was resigning.

"I am standing aside so that Andy Burnham can return to his home, fight to re-enter Parliament, and if elected, drive the change our country is crying out for," outgoing lawmaker Josh Simons said.

Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC), which selects the party's candidates, blocked Burnham from standing in another by-election earlier this year.

If it accepted him this time, it would trigger an election for the Manchester mayoralty, which the party could struggle to retain based on disastrous local and regional elections for Labour last week.

But Nigel Farage, leader of the anti-immigration Reform UK which topped last week's contests, said the party will "throw absolutely everything" at the vote.

Streeting's resignation was the first by a senior minister. He said he had "lost confidence" in Starmer's leadership.

"It is now clear that you will not lead the Labour Party into the next general election", scheduled for 2029, he told Starmer in a resignation letter shared.

Lebanon, Israel hold new peace talks in US as ceasefire nears end

MAY 15, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): Lebanon and Israel held new peace talks in Washington on Thursday, as their latest ceasefire -- considered to still be in place despite hundreds of deaths in Israeli strikes -- nears its end.

Israel's military said it was striking Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon on Thursday, May 14, after warning residents of several towns and villages there and in the country's east to evacuate. It also said a Hezbollah drone fell in Israeli territory, wounding several civilians.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported Israeli airstrikes on the south and east, including in areas not covered by the warning, a day after the health ministry said intense raids killed 22 people, eight of them children.

One diplomat privy to the two-day talks in Washington said discussions started just after 9:00 am (1300 GMT) at the State Department.

Lebanese and Israeli representatives last met on April 23 at the White House, where US President Donald Trump announced a three-week ceasefire extension and voiced optimism for a groundbreaking agreement between the countries, which have technically been at war for decades.

Trump at the time made the bold prediction that during the three-week extension he would welcome Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese President Joseph Aoun to Washington for a historic first summit between the countries.

The summit did not happen, with Aoun saying a security deal and an end to Israeli attacks were needed before such a



landmark meeting.

Hezbollah lawmaker Ali Ammar on Thursday reiterated his group's rejection of the direct talks, saying they amounted to "free concessions" to Israel.

The ceasefire, which began on April 17, lasts through Sunday. Still, Israeli strikes have killed more than 400 people during the truce, according to an AFP tally of health ministry figures.

Israel has vowed to keep pursuing attacks against Hezbollah, the Shia armed group and political movement backed by Iran's ruling clerics.

Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war on March 2 with rocket fire at Israel in retaliation for the killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in US-Israeli strikes days earlier.

Cuba Runs Out Of Fuel Amid Iran Crisis, 20-Hour Power Cuts Follow

MAY 15, 2026

HAVANA (TIP): Cuba has completely run out of diesel and fuel oil, the country's energy and mines minister said, as the capital Havana faces its worst rolling blackouts in decades amid a US blockade that has strangled the island of fuel.

"We have absolutely no fuel (oil), and absolutely no diesel," Energy Minister Vicente de la O said on state-run media, adding that the national grid was in a "critical" state. "We have no reserves."

Blackouts have increased dramatically this week and last across the capital Havana, with many neighbourhoods without light for 20 to 22 hours a day, the minister said, heightening tensions in a city already exhausted by food, fuel and medicine shortages.

The national grid, he said, was operating entirely on domestic crude oil, natural gas and renewable energy.

Cuba has installed 1,300 megawatts of solar power over the past two years, but much of that capacity is lost to grid instability amid the fuel shortages, de la O said, reducing efficiency and output.

The country's top energy official said Cuba continued negotiations to import fuel despite the blockade, but said rising global oil and transportation prices amid the US-Israeli war with Iran were further complicating that effort.

"Cuba is open to anyone that wants to sell us fuel," the minister said.

Neither Mexico nor Venezuela, once top suppliers of oil to Cuba, have sent fuel to the island since Trump's January 2026 executive order threatening to slap tariffs on any country shipping fuel to the communist-run nation.

Only a single large oil tanker, the Russian-flagged Anatoly Kolodkin, has delivered crude oil to Cuba since December, providing temporary relief to the island in April.

The renewed power cuts in Havana and beyond come as the US blockade on fuel imports to Cuba enters its fourth month, crippling public services across the Caribbean island of nearly 10 million people.

The United Nations last week called Trump's fuel blockade unlawful, saying it had obstructed the "Cuban people's right to development while undermining their rights to food, education, health, and water and sanitation."



UAE denies reports of 'secret visit' by Israeli PM Netanyahu

MAY 15, 2026

ABU DHABI (TIP): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office claimed he made a "secret" visit to the United Arab Emirates at the height of the now-paused war with Iran. Abu Dhabi took just hours to reject the statement, declaring that no such visit had taken place.

"In the midst of Operation Roaring Lion, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu secretly visited the United Arab Emirates, where he met with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed," Netanyahu's office said in a statement on social media platform X. "This visit has led to a historic breakthrough in relations between Israel and the UAE," it went on to say.

Shortly afterwards, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs categorically denied that such a visit had taken place. The statement said that "its relations with Israel are public and conducted within the framework" of the Abraham Accords.

The Abraham Accords, dating back to US President Donald Trump's first term, are a set of agreements that normalised relations between Israel and several Arab countries.

"Accordingly, any claims regarding unannounced visits or undisclosed arrangements are entirely unfounded



unless officially announced by the relevant authorities in the UAE. The UAE calls on media outlets to exercise accuracy and professionalism, and to refrain from circulating unverified information or promoting misleading political narratives," the Emirati statement added.

The back and forth between Tel Aviv and Abu Dhabi showcases the diplomatic tightrope that the Emiratis are walking in West Asia. While the UAE has doubled down on its defence partnership with Israel and the UAE, with Tel Aviv even setting up and operating an Iron Dome air defence missile system in the country during the roughly 40-day war with Iran, Abu Dhabi also recognises that public sentiment remains largely anti-Israel

within the region.

Iran weighed into the back and forth, with Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi highlighting that those "colluding" with Israel "will be held to account". Araghchi made this statement while in New Delhi ahead of the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting where he will come face-to-face with the Emirati representative.

"Netanyahu has now publicly revealed what Iran's security services long ago conveyed to our leadership. Enmity with the Great People of Iran is a foolish gamble. Collusion with Israel in doing so: unforgivable. Those colluding with Israel to sow division will be held to account," Araghchi said in a statement on social media platform X.

The UAE bore the brunt of Iran's retaliation during the 40-day war, engaging with over 2,500 missiles and drones launched by Tehran. The Emiratis have engaged with Israel for over half a decade following the signing of the Abraham Accords.

The UAE maintains a strong economic and strategic partnership with Israel, as Abu Dhabi seeks to increase its ties to the security axis provided by the US in the region. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also be travelling to Abu Dhabi on Friday, his first visit to the region since the war began and his visit to Israel in February.

Iran says UAE 'active partner' in US-'Israeli' war

MAY 15, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Thursday, May 14, accused the United Arab Emirates of playing an "active" role in the US-'Israeli' war against Iran.

Speaking during the BRICS Summit in India, Araghchi said, "The UAE is an active partner in this aggression, there is no doubt about that. It has also become clear that it participated in these attacks, and may even have acted directly against us."

Araghchi also referred to what the office of 'Israeli' Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described as a "secret" meeting with UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, a meeting that Abu Dhabi has denied took place.

"The truth is that the UAE was directly involved in the aggressive action against my country, as they refrained from even condemning the aggression when it began," he added.

He continued: "It has become clear that they participated in these attacks, and may even have acted directly against us."

Relations between Iran and the UAE have been under severe strain since February 28, when the US-'Israeli' strikes began, prompting Iran to retaliate with attacks on 'Israel' and US-allied Gulf states, including the UAE.

Despite a ceasefire that has been in effect, though marred by violations, since April 8, Iranian state television continues to air commentary from analysts accusing the UAE of involvement in attacks against Iran during the conflict.

In early May, the UAE blamed the Islamic Republic for a drone strike targeting the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone, an accusation Iran denied.

Iran has repeatedly accused Gulf states of allowing US forces to launch strikes from their territory.



However, Gulf countries have denied the allegations, stressing even before the war began that they would not allow their territory or airspace to be used to attack Iran.

The UAE is considered one of the United States' closest regional allies and is among the few Arab states to normalize ties with 'Israel' following the signing of the Abraham Accords in 2020.

Clashes with militants in southwestern Pakistan kill 5 troops and 7 militants

MAY 15, 2026

QUETTA (TIP): Clashes with insurgents in southwestern Pakistan's embattled Balochistan province on Wednesday killed five soldiers, including an army major, the military said. An outlawed separatist group said it had attacked the soldiers.

According to the military, security forces launched an operation in the province's district of Barkhan to rout out insurgents that Islamabad claims are backed by India. The province's outlawed separatist Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, issued a statement saying its fighters had attacked the troops, triggering a shootout.

Among the military deaths was an army major, the military said, adding that the fighting also left seven militants dead. Resource-rich Balochistan — Pakistan's largest but least populated province — has long faced an insurgency by separatist groups as well as attacks by the Pakistani Taliban. The BLA, which the United States designated a terrorist organization in 2019, has carried out numerous attacks targeting security forces and civilians in the province in recent years.

The military described the killed militants as members of "Fitna al-Hindustan," a term Pakistani authorities use for Indian-backed insurgents.

'Baseless': Nepal on reports of new restrictions on Indian tourists

Reacting to reports of new restrictions on Indian tourists travelling to Nepal, the country has dismissed them as baseless. The reports had created a perception that Nepal was trying to curtail tourist visits from India.

In a statement, the Nepal Tourism Board said, "The Board has expressed serious concern about the misleading and factually incorrect information being circulated by different media outlets and online platforms regarding travel regulations for Indian visitors to Nepal. Reports claiming that the Government of Nepal has imposed new restrictions requiring mandatory identity cards for Indians crossing the Nepal-India border, capped Indian tourist stays at 30 days, or authorised confiscation of vehicles for overstays are entirely false, baseless, and misleading." The Government of Nepal has introduced no new policy restricting the duration of stay for Indian tourists, nor has any change been made to the open-border arrangements and bilateral understandings between Nepal and India, a statement said.

US-Iran war created significant hurdles for regional economies, says Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif

MAY 15, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that the US-Iran war has created significant hurdles for regional economies, including Pakistan, as he urged people to make concerted efforts to transform the country into an economic power.

PM Shehbaz made the comments in his televised opening remarks at the federal cabinet meeting, where he also talked about May 28, 1998, when Pakistan carried out nuclear tests.

Referring to the US-Iran conflict, he said that while a temporary ceasefire was currently in place, the war had created significant hurdles for regional economies, including Pakistan.

He said that the government's economic team had made collective efforts over the past two years. "This is a long and difficult journey. However, nations that commit to facing and overcoming their challenges are the ones that ultimately meet with success," he said. He said that just as Pakistan had become a nuclear power, "we have to turn it into an economic power with the same commitment and hard work".

Shehbaz also said that Pakistan gained a power that would remain a "defensive asset" of the country.

"It is our national narrative that this asset is for defence, not offence. And this is



the reason that the world knows Pakistan as a responsible nuclear power," he said.

The premier also paid tribute to those who contributed to efforts for making Pakistan a nuclear power, particularly mentioning late prime minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and former prime minister and the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif.

Shehbaz also spoke about the four-day conflict with India in May last year and said Pakistan's armed forces fought bravely and courageously.

Pakistan PM to visit China on a three-day official trip from May 23 to 26

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake a three-day official visit to China from May 23, the government announced, amid growing

strategic engagement between the two all-weather allies.

During the visit from May 23-26, the prime minister will also attend a business-to-business (B2B) forum on May 24, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said while addressing the launch ceremony of the IBI Pakistan Digital Economy Centre.

The visit comes weeks after President Asif Ali Zardari travelled to China from April 25 to May 1, during which the two sides signed several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) to deepen cooperation in diverse sectors.

Pakistan and China are set to celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations on May 21. The two countries have close ties and cooperation in various sectors, including trade, energy, defence, and infrastructure.

Pakistan's reliance on China for military assistance has risen dramatically over the past decade. A Stockholm International Peace Research Institute study showed China supplied about 80 per cent of Pakistan's major arms between 2020 and 2024. Islamabad also has close economic ties with Beijing, the report said.

Shehbaz last visited China in September 2025, when he attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit.

Afghanistan crisis deepens as record returns, drought and aid cuts strain economy

MAY 14, 2026

KABUL (TIP): Poverty in Afghanistan continues to deepen, with three in four Afghans — around 28 million people — unable to meet their most basic needs in 2025, as modest economic growth fails to keep pace with rapid population growth, declining international aid, worsening climate shocks, and ongoing restrictions on women's rights, according to a new report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The return of 2.9 million Afghans in 2025 alone is further straining already overstretched services and livelihoods.

This edition of UNDP's Afghanistan Socioeconomic Review finds that while the share of Afghans living in subsistence insecurity remained unchanged, it is a story of returnees with an estimated 1.4 million additional people affected as more people returned to the country in 2025. Millions of families are facing growing hardships, lacking access to basic needs such as



water, food, healthcare, housing, heating, and clothing. More than 80 percent of households are in debt, and nearly three quarters rely on negative coping strategies to manage getting through the day. "Taking stock of Afghanistan's socioeconomic reality, this year's report reveals a country under growing strain, with the high number of returnees and further economic and climatic setbacks intensifying in 2025, as pressures layer one upon another," said Kanni Wignaraja, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. "This underscores

why progress on basic human development remains central to stability in Afghanistan and across its borders, especially for the most vulnerable communities living in extremely fragile eco zones."

The scale of returns is unprecedented, reshaping needs and raising risks. Nearly 5 million Afghans returned between 2023 and 2025, with recent returnees facing extreme vulnerability — 92% subsistence insecurity vs the 74% nationally. In high-return provinces, only 3% have formal jobs and 78% rely on casual day labour.

Afghanistan's economy recorded modest growth for a second consecutive year, with real GDP growth slowing from 2.3 percent in 2024 to 1.9 percent in 2025. However, population growth of 6.5 percent outpaced economic expansion, resulting in an estimated 2.1 percent decline in real GDP per capita, leaving incomes well below 2020 levels. This continued decline in per capita income puts Afghanistan among the poorest countries globally by this measure.

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Makeup dos and don'ts every beginner should know

We have all been there - forgetting to blend eyeshadow properly, choosing the wrong contour shade, or applying too much powder. Makeup beginners know exactly how confusing the beauty world can feel at first. While makeup is all about creativity and self-expression, a few common mistakes can unintentionally make the face look dull, tired, or even older. The good news is that with a few simple dos and don'ts, achieving a fresh and natural look becomes much easier. Here are some essential makeup tips every beginner should keep in mind.

Foundation: The Base Matters

Foundation creates the canvas for the rest of your makeup, so preparation is key. Always moisturise your skin and apply a primer before foundation. Hydrated skin helps makeup sit smoothly and prevents it from settling into fine lines or dry patches.

One of the most common mistakes is choosing a foundation shade that matches only the face. Instead, match your foundation to your overall body tone, especially the neck and chest, to avoid an uneven look. A well-matched foundation should blend seamlessly into the skin rather than look like a mask.

Concealer: Brighten the Right Way

Concealer can instantly make the face look fresh and awake when used correctly. Choose a concealer that is one or two shades lighter than your foundation, not lighter than your skin tone. Going too light can create an unnatural, greyish appearance under the eyes.

For dark under-eye circles, do not skip a colour corrector. Peach or orange correctors help neutralise darkness before concealer is applied, ensuring a smoother and brighter finish without needing heavy layers of product.

Powder: Less Is More

Powder helps set makeup in place, but overdoing it can make the skin appear dry and textured. Instead of using powder foundation or compact powder to set liquid foundation, opt for a lightweight translucent setting powder. This locks the makeup in place while still allowing the skin to look natural and radiant rather than cakey or flat.

Contour: Keep It Natural

Contour should enhance facial structure subtly, not create harsh lines. A taupe matte bronzer works best for



natural-looking contour because it mimics the shadow tones found naturally on the face.

Warm-toned bronzers may add unnecessary orange tones, making the contour appear muddy rather than sculpted. Blend thoroughly for a soft, lifted effect.

Highlight: Glow in the Right Places

Highlighter adds dimension and radiance, but placement is everything. Apply it to the high points of the face such as the cheekbones, bridge of the nose, brow bone, and cupid's bow. However, avoid placing highlighter on the apples of the cheeks, especially if you have large pores or textured skin, as shimmer can emphasise unevenness instead of disguising it.

Blush: Lift the Face

Blush brings life back into the skin and gives a youthful flush. The key is placement. Apply blush to the apples of the cheeks and blend it upward toward the temples for a lifted effect. Applying blush too low on the cheeks can drag the face downward and make features appear heavier.

Brows: Soft and Defined

Brows frame the face, but overly dark brows can look harsh and unnatural. Choose a brow product that is one or two shades darker than your natural hair colour for definition while still keeping the brows soft.

Avoid jet-black brow products unless your hair is naturally very dark black. Soft strokes that mimic real hair create the most natural finish.

FOOD CORNER

Cheese Chicken Kebab

INGREDIENTS

200 gm chicken breasts, 3 tablespoon vegetable oil, 2 cup mozzarella, 3 cup yoghurt (curd), 2 tablespoon ginger paste, 1/2 cup chana dal, 2 tablespoon garlic paste, 5 green cardamom, salt as required, 10 peppercorns, 1/2 cup fresh cream, 2 tablespoon coriander leaves, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon green chilli, 1 tablespoon caraway seeds, 1 1/2 egg

Method

- Firstly, wash chicken breasts under running water and pat them dry. Now place them over a chopping board and cut them into cubes of about 2 inches each. Now, grate the cheese and keep it aside. Then, grind the cardamoms to make a fine powder.
- Next, add green chillies and water into a blender and blend well to make a fine paste. Also, crush the peppercorns and keep them aside. Meanwhile, place a frying pan over medium flame and add chana dal. Roast the chana dal and let it cool. Now, grind the dal to make a fine powder.
- Now, take a bowl and add eggs, caraway seeds, cardamom powder, green chilli paste, ginger paste, garlic paste, coriander leaves, roasted chana dal powder, turmeric powder, cream and yoghurt and mix them well.
- Then add salt, grated cheese and crushed peppercorns and mix well again. Add the chicken cubes in the bowl and coat the cubes well. Let the cubes rest in the mixture for half an hour. Now place the chicken into skewers.
- Place a frying pan over medium flame and pour oil in it. Once the oil is heated, place the skewers onto the pan. Fry the chicken cubes until golden in colour. Garnish and serve.



Why Vitamin C is good for your skin

Vitamin C has become one of the most talked-about ingredients in skincare - and for good reason. From brightening dull skin to fighting signs of ageing, this powerful antioxidant offers multiple benefits that can help improve the overall health and appearance of the skin. Whether used through serums, creams, or a healthy diet, Vitamin C plays an important role in maintaining glowing and youthful skin.

A Powerful Antioxidant

One of the biggest reasons dermatologists recommend Vitamin C is because it is a strong antioxidant. Every day, the skin is

exposed to pollution, ultraviolet rays, smoke, and environmental stressors that produce unstable molecules known as free radicals. These free radicals damage skin cells and speed up premature ageing. Vitamin C helps neutralise these harmful molecules, protecting the skin from oxidative stress and reducing visible damage caused by the environment.

Boosts Collagen Production

Collagen is the protein responsible for keeping skin firm, smooth, and youthful. As people age, natural collagen production begins to decline, leading to fine lines, wrinkles, and sagging skin.

Vitamin C plays a key role in

collagen synthesis. Regular use of Vitamin C-rich skincare products can help support the skin's structure, improve elasticity, and reduce the appearance of wrinkles over time.

Brightens Dull Skin

Uneven skin tone and dullness are common concerns caused by sun exposure, stress, lack of sleep, and pollution. Vitamin C helps brighten the complexion by reducing excess melanin production in the skin.

This can gradually fade dark spots, acne marks, and pigmentation, leaving the skin looking more radiant and even-toned. Many people notice a natural glow and fresher appearance after consistent use.



Working long hours? This is what you can do for your sight

In today's digital world, spending long hours in front of screens has become almost unavoidable. From office workers and students to freelancers and gamers, many people spend most of their day staring at computers, laptops, tablets, or smartphones. While technology has made life easier, excessive screen time can put significant strain on the eyes, leading to discomfort, dryness, blurred vision, headaches, and fatigue. Eye specialists often refer to this condition as digital eye strain or computer vision syndrome. The good news is that a few simple habits and lifestyle changes can help protect your eyesight and reduce the stress caused by long working hours.

Follow the 20-20-20 Rule

One of the easiest and most effective ways to reduce eye strain is by following the 20-20-20 rule. Every 20 minutes, look at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds. This simple exercise gives the eye muscles a chance to relax after focusing continuously on a screen for long periods. It also helps reduce fatigue and dryness caused by reduced blinking during screen use.

Blink More Often

People naturally blink less while using digital devices. Reduced blinking can cause the eyes to become dry, irritated, and itchy. Consciously blinking more often helps keep the eyes lubricated and prevents discomfort. If dryness persists, lubricating eye drops recommended by an eye specialist may help maintain moisture.

Adjust Screen Brightness and Position

Very bright or dim screens force the eyes to work harder. Ideally, screen brightness should match the lighting in the surrounding environment.

The computer screen should also be positioned about an arm's length away, with the top of the screen slightly below eye level. This reduces strain on the eye muscles and helps maintain a more comfortable posture.

Improve Workplace Lighting

Poor lighting conditions can worsen digital eye



strain. Excessive glare from windows or overhead lights may force the eyes to struggle while reading on screens. Using soft ambient lighting, anti-glare screens, or adjusting the position of the monitor can help minimize reflections and improve visual comfort.

Take Frequent Breaks

Long uninterrupted work sessions can tire both the eyes and the body. Taking short breaks every hour helps relax the eyes and improves blood circulation.

Standing up, stretching, walking around, or simply closing the eyes for a few minutes can make a noticeable difference in reducing fatigue.

Keep a Safe Distance From Screens

Holding phones or tablets too close to the face increases stress on the eyes. Maintaining a proper viewing distance allows the eyes to focus more comfortably.

Larger screens are generally easier on the eyes than smaller devices because they reduce the need for constant squinting.

Use Proper Eyewear

People who wear glasses should ensure that their prescription is up to date. Special computer glasses or lenses with anti-reflective coatings may help reduce glare and improve comfort during extended screen use.

Slow carbs, stronger hearts: How a low-GI diet supports weight loss in heart patients

For heart patients trying to lose weight, dieting can often feel confusing and restrictive. Many people focus only on reducing calories or cutting out fats completely, but experts now believe that the type of carbohydrates consumed is equally important for maintaining heart health and managing weight. A low glycemic index, or low-GI, diet has emerged as a healthier and more sustainable approach for people dealing with cardiovascular conditions.

The glycemic index measures how quickly carbohydrate-rich foods raise blood sugar levels in the body. Foods with a low glycemic index release glucose slowly into the bloodstream, providing steady energy and preventing sudden spikes in blood sugar. In contrast, high-GI foods are digested rapidly and can lead to sharp increases and crashes in blood glucose levels, often leaving people hungry again soon after eating.

Nutritionists say that low-GI foods not only support better blood sugar control but can also help heart patients achieve gradual and long-term weight loss.

Excess body weight places additional strain on the heart. Obesity is closely linked with high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, and inflammation - all major risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Losing even a modest amount of weight can significantly improve heart function and overall health.

However, crash diets and highly restrictive eating plans are often difficult to maintain and may even deprive the body of essential nutrients. A low-GI diet offers a more balanced and practical alternative because it focuses on healthier food choices rather than starvation or extreme restrictions.

By promoting stable blood sugar levels and reducing frequent hunger pangs, this eating pattern may help people naturally consume fewer calories without feeling deprived.

One of the main reasons low-GI diets support weight loss is their effect on appetite control. Foods that digest slowly keep the stomach fuller for longer periods, reducing unnecessary snacking and overeating. When people consume refined carbohydrates and sugary foods, blood sugar rises rapidly, followed by a sudden drop. This fluctuation can trigger cravings, fatigue, and hunger shortly after meals. Over time, repeated spikes in insulin may also contribute to fat storage and weight gain.

Low-GI foods help avoid these sharp fluctuations by providing a steady release of energy. This balanced approach can be especially beneficial for heart patients who need gradual, sustainable weight management.

Many foods included in a low-GI diet are naturally rich in fibre, antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals that support cardiovascular health. Whole grains, oats, lentils, beans, leafy vegetables, fruits, nuts, and seeds are among the most recommended options.

Wearables, with location and surveys, may capture exposures, health effects: Study

Wearable devices, along with location data from smartphones and real-time surveys, could help capture environmental exposures and their immediate physical and emotional effects, a new pilot study has shown.

"People move through many different environments each day, and this approach lets us capture that in real time," Sameera Ramjan, a doctoral student in The City University of New York Graduate Centre Psychology program, said.

"We were struck by how quickly the data revealed patterns -- changes in heart rate variability, shifts in mood -- that lined up with where participants had been and what they were exposed to," Ramjan said.

The study, published in the Journal of Medical Internet



Research Formative Research, analysed data recorded via participants' Fitbit smartwatches that were worn for roughly a month. The participants also completed mood surveys known as ecological momentary assessments several times a day.

The data was combined with

smartphone location tracking to estimate exposure to heat and air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulphur dioxide based on where the participants spent time throughout the day.

"This study demonstrates that the multimodal integration of wearable devices, GPS tracking, and EMA (ecological momentary assessment) is feasible for capturing real-time environmental exposures and concurrent health outcomes in young adults," the authors wrote.

Analysis revealed that on days with a higher exposure to heat and nitrogen dioxide, the participants showed changes in heart rate variability, an indicator of the body's ability to recover from stress.

Source: PTI

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Meta launches WhatsApp 'incognito' mode to address privacy concerns for AI chats

Meta Platforms said that they will be rolling out an "incognito" mode for WhatsApp users to have private conversations with its AI chatbot, a move intended to ease privacy concerns about sensitive information that users share in chats.

The social media company said in a blog post that incognito chat mode provides a way to have private, temporary conversations with Meta AI, its artificial intelligence assistant that's been available on WhatsApp for a few years.

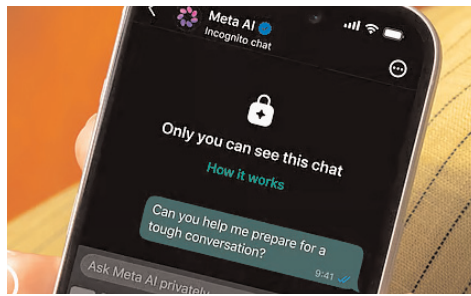
Messages will be processed in a "secure environment" that even Meta can't access, won't be saved by default and will disappear when exiting a session, Meta said.

Generative AI systems have been dogged by privacy concerns because the large language models that underpin these systems are trained on vast troves of data, sometimes including personal information provided by users themselves in their conversations with AI chatbots.

Rival chatbot makers already have some privacy features. Google's Gemini chatbot has the option to disable chat history and opt out of allowing one's data to be used in training its AI models. ChatGPT has similar controls.

Meta says it's rolling out incognito chats because users often ask chatbots sensitive questions or include private financial, personal, health or work data in their questions.

"We're starting to ask a lot of



meaningful questions about our lives with AI systems, and it doesn't always feel like you should have to share the information behind those questions with the companies that run those AI systems," Will Cathcart, Meta's head of WhatsApp, told reporters.

Incognito chat mode has safety features to prevent the chatbot from answering questions about harmful topics, Cathcart said.

It will "steer the user towards helpful information if it can and then refuse (to answer) and eventually even just stop interacting with the user completely," Cathcart said.

Users will only be able to type in questions and get text responses; they won't be able to upload or generate images. They'll also have to confirm their age because Meta doesn't allow users under 13 on its platforms.

Smart glasses are 'an invasion of privacy' - Meta's are selling better than ever

Issues with a new wave of "smart glasses" seem to be piling up.

Yet some of the biggest technology companies in the world are poised to sell

many millions of pairs in the coming years.

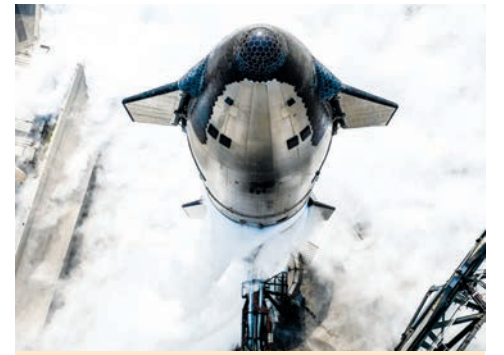
Women leaving the beach, going into a shop, or simply standing outside are now being approached by men usually wearing Meta's Ray-Bans, the company's "smart" or "AI" glasses, often in order to film the women's responses to casual questions or pick-up lines without their knowledge or consent.

The women only find out about the videos of them after they gain traction, and often abuse, online. They have little legal recourse as photography in public is broadly considered legal. One woman told the BBC that when she asked the person who posted a secret recording of her to remove it, she was told that doing so was "a paid service".

Meta's glasses are currently the most popular on the market, estimated to make up more than 80% of all AI or smart glasses sales, as the company was the first major tech player to launch such a product in recent years.

Made in partnership with EssilorLuxottica and offering the classic look of Ray-Bans, the glasses feature an almost invisible camera in the frames, small speakers in the arms, and lenses that can show a wearer some information. People can start recording video or take a photo with a casual touch of the frames.

The nature of the camera in Meta's glasses can be so unobtrusive that even their wearers have been caught off guard by what and when they're recording, and where those recordings are going.



Elon Musk confirms biggest Starship Super Heavy launch on May 20

SpaceX is about to do something it has never done before: It will launch an entirely new rocket. The American space company is targeting May 20, for the 12th flight test of its Starship vehicle, the most powerful rocket ever built.

But this time, almost everything on the rocket is different.

Starship is a two-part rocket system. The lower section, or the first stage, called Super Heavy, is the booster. This is a giant engine cluster that pushes the rocket off the ground.

The upper stage, called Starship, is the spacecraft that goes into space and carries crew and cargo. Together, they are taller than the Statue of Liberty, twice over.

For this 12th test, both parts have been redesigned from the ground up.

They will also be powered by an upgraded version of SpaceX's Raptor engine, a type of rocket engine that burns liquid methane and liquid oxygen. The launch pad at Starbase, SpaceX's facility in Texas, has also been rebuilt for this flight.

The rocket will lift off at 5:30 pm Central Time on May 19 (5 am IST on May 20) from Starbase. About two and a half minutes after launch, the Super Heavy booster will separate from the Starship upper stage.

It will then perform a boostback burn, firing its engines in reverse to slow itself down, and attempt a controlled landing in the Gulf of America. Because this is a new vehicle making its first flight, SpaceX will not attempt to catch the booster with its launch tower's mechanical arms this time. Meanwhile, the Starship upper stage will continue into space. It will deploy 22 Starlink simulators, which are dummy versions of SpaceX's internet satellites, and attempt to relight a single Raptor engine while in space. Crucially, the last two of the Starlink simulators will not just float away quietly. They will turn their cameras back on Starship itself, scanning its heat shield and transmitting imagery down to engineers on the ground.

This is SpaceX testing a method to remotely check whether Starship's heat shield is ready to return to the launch site on future missions. It is like giving the rocket a health check from space.

To help with this, several tiles on Starship have been painted white, serving as imaging targets for the satellites to lock on to.

Google announces Googlebook, a MacBook Neo competitor, that is built around AI

Google wants to change how you use your laptop. During The Android Show: I/O Edition 2026, the company unveiled Googlebooks, a new category of laptops, built around AI, in particular, Gemini intelligence. Googlebooks will likely go up against Apple's MacBook Neo, a product that has seen so much success, that Apple is reportedly increasing production.

But what is a Googlebook? And what does this mean for the future of laptops? Let's delve right in.

According to Google, Googlebook brings together the best of both worlds from Android and ChromeOS. On a Googlebook, users will be able to run Android apps natively, and get new Gemini features, while getting a similar experience to ChromeOS used on Chromebooks.



Keep in mind that Google was rumoured to be working on a new Android-based operating system for some time now.

As per the company, all Googlebooks will come with premium materials, likely akin to the MacBook Neo. An addition to the design is a new signature "glowbar" for all Googlebooks, which you can see below. Google has hinted that this bar will come with some functionality.

Do note that the timing of the

announcement was not a coincidence. Google first unveiled Chromebooks on May 11, 2011. And the Googlebook was announced almost exactly 15 years to that day.

There are a lot of new AI features that you can use on a Googlebook. The device is built around Google's AI assistant Gemini, with new Gemini Intelligence features that will also make it to Android smartphones soon.

A key feature here is a change in how you use the cursor. With Gemini Intelligence, Googlebooks come with a "Magic Pointer" that can bring up AI-powered suggestions when you wiggle it on screen. That is, the cursor can go from a regular cursor to an AI cursor in just a wiggle. This feature, Google says, was developed with the Google DeepMind team.

IMF warns Iran war disruptions could push global economy into risk zone

MAY 15, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that prolonged disruptions arising from the ongoing Iran war are increasing the risk of a slowdown in the global economy, with rising inflation and tighter financial conditions threatening growth prospects worldwide.

Speaking on Thursday, IMF spokesperson Julie Kozack said the conflict-driven disruptions, particularly in global energy markets, are pushing the world economy closer to what the Fund described as an "adverse scenario."

"The longer the disruptions continue, the greater the risks become for global growth and price stability," Kozack said during a media briefing in Washington.

The IMF said the adverse scenario could include weaker economic growth, elevated inflation, tighter credit conditions and increased volatility in financial markets. The warning comes as tensions in the Middle East continue to disrupt oil supplies and shipping routes, especially around the strategically important Strait of Hormuz.

According to the IMF, global growth



projections could face downward pressure if energy prices remain high for an extended period. Higher oil and commodity prices are already raising concerns among policymakers and central banks struggling to keep inflation under control after years of economic uncertainty.

The Fund noted that while financial markets remain relatively stable for now, persistent geopolitical tensions could quickly change investor sentiment and increase borrowing costs globally.

The Iran conflict has triggered widespread concerns over supply chain disruptions and energy security,

with several countries already reporting increased import costs. Analysts say developing economies dependent on fuel imports may face the biggest impact if crude oil prices continue to surge.

The IMF's warning also comes amid growing fears that continued instability in the Middle East could slow trade, weaken consumer demand and delay investment activity across major economies.

Global financial institutions and governments are closely monitoring the situation as concerns mount over the broader economic fallout of the conflict.

India seeks US nod to continue Russian oil imports amid Hormuz crisis

MAY 14, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has reportedly approached the United States seeking an extension of the waiver that permits Indian refiners to continue importing Russian crude oil, as disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz enter their 75th day and intensify concerns over global energy security.

The prolonged instability in the strategically vital maritime corridor has severely impacted oil shipments, pushing crude prices higher and creating uncertainty in international energy markets. The Strait of Hormuz, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the world's busiest oil transit chokepoints, carrying nearly 20 per cent of global crude supplies.

According to reports, New Delhi has urged Washington to continue exemptions that allow purchases of Russian oil despite Western sanctions imposed on Moscow following the Ukraine conflict. The request comes at a

time when several Asian economies are scrambling to secure alternative fuel supplies amid fears of prolonged shipping disruptions in West Asia.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer, has significantly increased purchases of discounted Russian crude over the past few years. Russian oil now accounts for a major portion of India's total crude imports, helping domestic refiners manage costs and maintain fuel stability despite volatile international prices.

Officials and industry experts believe that any interruption in Russian supplies could place additional pressure on India's energy bill at a time when global freight rates and insurance costs have already surged due to the Hormuz tensions. The disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have reportedly affected tanker movements, delayed cargo deliveries and heightened fears of supply shortages across international markets. Benchmark crude prices have remained elevated amid

concerns that the crisis could deepen further if geopolitical tensions continue.

Energy analysts say India's move reflects the growing challenge faced by oil-importing nations trying to balance geopolitical considerations with domestic energy needs. For India, maintaining steady crude supplies is crucial for controlling inflation, supporting industrial growth and ensuring stable fuel availability for consumers.

While there has been no official confirmation from either New Delhi or Washington regarding the waiver extension, the issue is expected to feature prominently in ongoing diplomatic and strategic discussions between the two countries.

The developments also underscore how the continuing instability in West Asia is reshaping global oil trade patterns, with countries increasingly seeking diversified supply chains to reduce dependence on vulnerable shipping routes.

India bans sugar exports till Sept 30; exemptions for EU, US quotas

MAY 14, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has banned the export of sugar till September 30 this year with immediate effect, a move which would help enhance domestic availability and contain prices.

"The export policy of Sugar (Raw Sugar, White Sugar and Refined Sugar)... is amended from 'Restricted' to 'Prohibited' with immediate effect till September 30, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 13.

This order, however, does not apply to sugar being exported to the European Union and the US under the CXL and Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) arrangement, respectively.

The arrangements allow exporters to ship specified quantities of sugar to these destinations at significantly reduced or zero customs duties.

The DGFT's order is also not applicable to the shipments under the advance authorisation scheme, government-to-government exports and consignments already in the physical export pipeline.

For the 2025-26 sugar marketing year (October to September), the Food Ministry initially allowed 15 lakh tonnes in exports, then opened an additional 5,00,000-tonnes pool, of which only 87,587 tonnes were approved.

So, nearly 16 lakh tonnes of sugar export were allowed.

The food ministry and sugar mills were expecting 7.5-8 lakh tonnes of shipments in the entire 2025-26 marketing year.

India's sugar production rose 7.32 per cent to 27.52 million tonnes till April in the 2025-26 marketing season, driven by higher output in Maharashtra and Karnataka, according to industry body ISMA.

ISMA projected total production for the 2025-26 marketing season at 29.3 million tonnes after ethanol diversion, up from 26.12 million tonnes recorded in 2024-25.

Banning exports of a commodity helps in preventing a rise in prices, amid inflation concerns and uncertainty caused by the West Asia conflict.

In October 2022, India imposed export restriction on sugar and then it was extended from time to time. The world's second-largest sugar producer keeps exports under government control through quotas distributed proportionally among mills.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 18 TO MAY 24, 2026

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says people of the Aries will be successful in impressing the world with their ability and strength this week. They will also get full support of luck in achieving their desired success in every field of life. Those who were worried about something for some time will get relief from their worries this week. Employed people may get some good news at the beginning of the week, like a promotion or transfer to their desired place. Unemployed people will get new work opportunities. Travels undertaken in this regard will prove to be pleasant and profitable. The financial situation will improve, and accumulated wealth will increase. All the obstacles to acquiring ancestral property will be removed. The latter part of the week may be a bit worrying from a health point of view. During this time, you will need to be cautious about seasonal diseases. This week is auspicious for love affairs. You will get opportunities to spend happy moments with your love partner. Married life will remain happy.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week, people of the Taurus will need to think carefully before taking any step forward in life. This week, you will have to avoid getting misled by others; otherwise, you may have to give up. Be careful of secret enemies in the workplace; they may create obstacles in your work. There may be an argument with your siblings regarding some issue in the middle of the week. During this period, you will not be able to get the desired support from your relatives. During this time, you will have to have complete control over your mind and drive the vehicle very carefully; otherwise, there is a possibility of injury. When any chronic disease emerges, do not ignore it at all; otherwise, you may have to visit the hospital due to it. This week is going to be mixed for you from a business point of view. To get the desired benefits, you may have to compete toughly with your competitors. Working women may face difficulties in balancing their work and home. Avoid haste in a love relationship; otherwise, things may get spoiled. In married life, the mind will be worried about the health of the spouse.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week is going to bring some problems for the people of the Gemini zodiac in terms of health and relationships. Due to the emergence of

seasonal or any chronic disease at the beginning of the week, you may have to face not only physical but also mental suffering. Along with health, problems related to home and family will also become a cause of concern for you. You may have to run around a lot to find a solution to any problem related to children. If you are thinking of changing your job, then you need to think carefully before doing so. Think carefully before making any decision related to your job or business; otherwise, you may have to give up. In the second half of the week, a dispute related to land or property may suddenly come to your notice. To keep your love relationship strong, avoid interfering excessively in your love partner's personal life and try to understand his/her feelings and compulsions. Married life will continue with bitter and sweet disputes.

CANCER



Ganesha says people of the Cancer will heave a sigh of relief if a solution to a major problem is found at the beginning of the week. If you have any dispute going on in the court, then the decision may be in your favor, or your opponent may take the initiative to compromise with you. This week is going to be very auspicious for you from a financial point of view. For those who have been thinking of expanding their business for a long time, their wish will be fulfilled this week. You will get an opportunity to participate in a religious or auspicious occasion in the middle of the week. During this time, people preparing for exams and competitions may get some good news. The fame and reputation of people associated with social service or politics will increase. Both seniors and juniors will be kind in the workplace. This week is going to be favorable for you from the point of view of a love relationship. If you are thinking of proposing to someone, then your decision may be made. Married life will remain happy, and you will get many opportunities to spend pleasant moments with the family.

LEO



Ganesha says people of the Leo will get many opportunities this week to move ahead in life and achieve the desired success, but they will have to avoid losing them due to laziness and pride. Unemployed people will get new employment opportunities at the beginning of the week. Employed people may have some big responsibilities in the workplace. To complete any big project, you will need to sacrifice your ego this week and work together with people. In the middle of the week, your health can also act as a hindrance to fulfilling your dreams. In such a situation, be careful about the emergence of seasonal or chronic diseases. This week is going to be very auspicious for you from a business point of view. You will achieve a big

achievement at the beginning of the week. This week, you will be successful in making a big deal related to business. However, you will need to handle money transactions carefully and thoughtfully. Your ego may come in the way of love relationships this week. To improve your love life, live in harmony. Married life will remain happy.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week will bring auspiciousness and desired success for the people of Virgo. From the beginning of the week, your planned tasks will be completed on time, due to which you will feel amazing enthusiasm. Employed people will get full support from both seniors and juniors in the workplace. This week brings good luck for those working related to commission, contract, property, etc. For those people whose cases related to land or buildings are pending in the court, the decision may come in their favor. Obstacles to acquiring an ancestral property will be removed. The second half of the week will prove auspicious for people associated with power or governance. During this time, you will be successful in resolving government-related matters through an influential person. This time will also be auspicious for those doing business related to foreign countries. Mutual trust and closeness with your love partner will increase. If you were thinking of converting your love into marriage, then this week the obstacles coming in the way may be removed. Married life will remain happy.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week, the dreams of Libra zodiac people will come true. At the beginning of the week, you will heave a sigh of relief if a big problem is solved with the help of a special person. Whatever direction you take this week, you will get full support from your friends and relatives. The popularity of people associated with social service or politics will increase. Such people may get a big position or responsibility. This week is going to be very auspicious for employed people. If you are thinking of a job change or are looking for a new job, then you may get great success in it this week. Overall, you will get good employment opportunities this week. In the latter part of the week, any travel undertaken in connection with business will prove to be pleasant and profitable. This week is favorable for you from the point of view of a love relationship. Mutual trust and closeness with your love partner will increase. Married life will remain happy. At the end of the week, you can also go on a trip to any religious or tourist place with family or close friends.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says people of the Scorpio will be successful in achieving whatever they want this

week due to their intelligence, discretion, and speech. This week you will get full support of good luck. At the beginning of the week, you can make a big decision to resolve any family-related issues. The special thing is that while doing this, you will have the full cooperation and support of your loved ones. People who do business in partnership may get unexpected success and profits in business this week. During this period, employed people will be able to complete even the biggest tasks in their workplace on time with the help of their seniors and juniors. For those who are trying to build a career or business abroad, all the obstacles in their life will be removed. In the second half of the week, you may hear some good news related to a family member, which will create an atmosphere of happiness in the house. During this time, you will get an opportunity to participate in religious or auspicious work. Love relationships will become stronger. Married life will remain happy. If you ignore minor problems, your health will remain normal.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week brings auspiciousness and good fortune for the people of the Sagittarius. At the beginning of the week, you may hear some good news related to your career or business. This will increase your enthusiasm and bravery. During this period, journeys undertaken for employment will bring desired success. Disputes related to land and buildings will be resolved with the help of an influential person. In the middle of the week, you will heave a sigh of relief when any major concern related to children goes away. Employed people will get additional sources of income, and their economic condition will become stronger. You will get benefits from investments made earlier. There will be chances for expansion in business. During this period, business-related travel will prove to be pleasant and profitable. Working women may get some big achievements, which will increase their respect in their workplace and family. This week will be said to be very favorable for you from the point of view of the love relationship. Married life will remain happy.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says people with a Capricorn will need to think carefully before taking any step this week. Be it career or business, even a little carelessness on your part can prove to be a disaster for you. The workload and responsibilities of employed people may suddenly increase, while opponents may try to create obstacles in their work. In the middle of the week, your health may also become a hindrance to completing your planned work. During this period, be cautious of seasonal diseases and drive with

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 18 TO MAY 24
BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA**

MAY 18

Ganesha says that the last day of the month comes packed with electric-like energy that can be felt in every gust of wind and every rustling leaf. It seems that the universe is playing a game of fate, and you are at the center of it. While the day may seem like any other day, a whirlwind of opportunities is swirling around you. A conversation with a stranger, a book on a park bench, or even a song on the radio could be the key that unlocks a new realm of possibilities. The universe encourages you to be receptive, curious, and most importantly, fearless in facing the unknown.

MAY 19

Ganesha says that as the new month begins, the stars align again, emphasizing the importance of staying grounded. In the relentless rush of life, it's easy to lose yourself. But today, the universe reminds you of the power of stillness. It is in these moments of quiet contemplation that you will find clarity. Whether it's meditating by the side of a calm lake, rereading old journals, or simply sitting quietly, today is the day to reconnect with your essence. The

celestial energies indicate profound insights that can only be achieved when you are truly present.

MAY 20

Ganesha says that the second day brings with it a symphony of collaboration. The universe isn't just suggesting teamwork; it is emphasizing the magic that is created when different minds meet. Today, look for people who challenge you, who offer a new perspective, who see the world from a different angle. It is in these meetings of ideas that innovation is born. The stars point to a project or endeavor that, when embraced collectively, has the potential to be revolutionary.

MAY 21

Ganesha says change is the theme of this day. The universe, in its infinite expanse, witnesses countless cycles of birth, death, and rebirth. Today, you are on the cusp of such a transformational phase. While change can be unsettling, it is also the universe's way of pushing you forward, of telling you that you are ready to shed the old skin and adopt a new avatar. It is not just about external

changes; it is about inner growth. Embrace this metamorphosis with grace and courage.

MAY 22

Ganesha says on the fourth day, the celestial tapestry weaves a tale of introspection. This is not a passive contemplation of days gone by; it is an active engagement with your deeper self. The universe inspires you to ask tough questions, challenge your beliefs, and face your fears. Today, let your soul be your guide. Dive deep, explore uncharted territories of your psyche, and emerge with a renewed sense of purpose.

MAY 23

Ganesha says that as this period comes to an end, the stars shine with a special brilliance. They speak of realizations, moments of crystal-clear clarity, and epiphanies that have the power to redefine your path. Today, the universe seems to be in perfect harmony, singing a song of hope, resilience, and destiny. Trust this cosmic dance, lean into the rhythm of life, and know that every twist and turn is leading you to your true north.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 24

Ganesha says that as dawn breaks on the 11th, the universe holds its breath, waiting for you to sync up with its frequency. In their infinite wisdom, the celestial bodies suggest an intense day of introspection. This is not just about surface-level reflection; it is about diving into the core of your being. Perhaps there is a memory you have suppressed or an ambition you have put off thinking it was too big. Today is the day to face these hidden aspects of yourself. The stars indicate revelations that can reshape your journey and your sense of purpose.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwala.com info@bejandaruwala.com | +91 81412 34275

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caution. People involved in business should avoid trusting or expecting others; otherwise, they may have to face problems if they do not get timely help. Be very careful while transacting and investing money. The latter half of the week may bring some relief for you. During this time, some good news related to children may be received, due to which there will be an atmosphere of happiness in the house. Avoid haste in a love relationship; otherwise, things may get spoiled. To make married life happy, do not ignore the feelings of your spouse.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says people of the Aquarius will get the full results of their efforts and hard work done earlier this week. At the beginning of the week, you will heave a sigh of relief when the dispute related to land and building is resolved. This week, the influence and respect of people associated with politics will increase in society. By the end of the week, they may get a big achievement or responsibility. Those who have been thinking of buying and selling land, buildings, vehicles, etc. for a long time, their wish can be fulfilled this week. From a financial point of view, this week has become very auspicious and beneficial for you. In the middle of the week, the money of businesspeople will come out unexpectedly from the market. Plans for business expansion will be seen taking shape. In the latter half of the week, you will need to be a little cautious about your health. Take special care of your eating habits during this period. Married life will remain happy.



PISCES

Ganesha says that from the beginning of the week, they will see good luck working in every area of their life. This week, you will be successful in completing your pending work with the help of officials associated with power and government. This week will prove to be very

auspicious for the working class. People who have been thinking of changing their jobs for a long time may get better opportunities. In the workplace, your seniors will be seen praising your work, and you will get full support from your juniors. This week is going to be very auspicious and profitable from a business point of view. Travels made in connection with

business in the middle of the week will provide desired profits. Students preparing for exams and competitions may get some good news by the end of this week. This week is favorable for you from the point of view of the love relationship. Someone may enter the life of a single person. Married life will remain happy.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

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"Iran is finished, should..."

Trump was scheduled for one more meeting with Xi on Friday, followed by lunch before returning home, concluding his visit to China.

During the interview, Trump noted, "President Xi would like to see a deal between the US and Iran."

He added that Xi offered assistance, saying, 'If I could be of any help whatsoever, I would like to help.' Trump expressed his belief that China also does not want Iran to possess nuclear weapons.

Additionally, Trump mentioned that General Dan Caine, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, informed him that the US could decisively neutralize Kharg Island in Iran in just "four or five minutes."

When pressed about China's support for Iran, Trump stated that the topic was discussed with Xi, who assured him that China "is not going to give military equipment" to Iran. China currently purchases 90 per cent of Iranian oil and maintains a strategic partnership with Tehran, including close military ties.

Trump described Xi as a "warm person" who is "all business." He expressed his appreciation for this, saying, "I like that; that's a good thing. No games."

He defended his positive remarks about his relationship with Xi, stating that he often faces criticism for praising certain leaders, but he respects Xi as a leader for China, a nation with nearly 1.5 billion people.

He called the military honor guard ceremony welcoming him "incredible," adding, "If you went to Hollywood, you wouldn't find that."

Trump reiterated that his approach to relations with China has been successful, saying, "We do great with China," and noted the strength of his friendship with Xi. "He's a tremendous leader. He's been here a long time, very powerful, very strong. There's no doubt about it. We just have a good relationship," he said.

Defending the military operations against Iran once again, Trump said they are much shorter than previous US conflicts, such as those in Vietnam and Iraq.

He stated that Iran's navy has been taken out and that they currently lack air force and anti-aircraft capabilities. "They built it up a little bit. We'll take it out in one day," he declared.

Trump, who brought top CEOs of US firms, including Tesla Chief, Elon Musk and head of Apple Tim Cook, said the business leaders did fantastically well.

He described the meeting with American executives as a "good idea" but noted it was different from the original schedule.

Trump also mentioned that he encouraged Xi to "buy oil" from the US, to which Xi responded that he "likes the idea."

"They're going to go to Texas. We're going to start sending Chinese ships to Texas, to Louisiana and to Alaska. And I think that was another thing that was agreed to. That's a big thing," he said.

He expressed a desire to see China open up its markets, stating, "It would be unbelievable for our companies if they open it, and I think it would be good for China too."

Trump mentioned that Xi agreed to order 200 Boeing jets during their "very good meeting," stressing, "Big ones. That's a lot."

Additionally, he requested that China use Visa for trade and indicated that China is set to purchase a substantial amount of American agricultural products, which he described as "great."

BRICS Foreign Ministers...

Iranian Foreign Minister, Abbas Araqchi and Russia's top diplomat, Sergey Lavrov are attending. China is represented by Ambassador Xu Feihong while Foreign Minister Wang Yi remains in the Chinese capital during Mr. Trump's visit.

India Foreign Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said the talks would focus on global and regional challenges and ways to deepen cooperation among member nations. In opening remarks, Mr. Jaishankar said BRICS could help developing countries more effectively respond to the health and financing challenges they face as well as high prices for energy, food and fertilizer.

"We meet at a time of considerable flux in international relations," he said, adding that emerging and developing countries increasingly expect BRICS to play a "constructive and stabilizing role."

Founded by Brazil, Russia, India and China, BRICS was formed as a grouping of major emerging economies seen as a counterbalance to Western-led institutions such as the G7. South Africa joined in 2010 and the bloc expanded further in 2024 with the addition of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Indonesia became a full member in 2025.

The group has sought to expand its influence by pushing for a bigger role in a global order long dominated by the United States and its Western allies. It has gained support across parts of the Global South, where many countries have criticized Western-led financial institutions. But BRICS nations remain divided on key issues.

India and China continue to compete for regional influence, while member countries often differ in their ties with the West. Russia's war in Ukraine has further exposed those differences.

The bloc's expansion also has added strains. Competing regional interests have increased the difficulty of presenting a unified position. Divisions have sharpened further during the growing conflict in West Asia. Iran and the UAE are BRICS members despite pursuing competing interests in the region.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister said on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, that disagreements within BRICS over the conflict had prevented the bloc from reaching a unified position.

Kazem Gharibabadi told PTI that "one member country" had pushed for language condemning Iran, complicating efforts to build consensus within the grouping.

"We want India's BRICS chairship to be successful. It is not a good approach to send a signal to the world that the BRICS is divided. One country is insisting on condemning Iran," Mr. Gharibabadi said. (Source: PTI)

VD Satheesan, who led UDF...

KC Venugopal and senior leader

Ramesh Chennithala, both of whom remained in contention till the final stages of deliberations in the national capital.

The announcement was made by Kerala in-charge Deepa Dasmunshi at a press conference attended by AICC observers Ajay Maken and Mukul Wasnik, shortly after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi concluded a nearly two-and-a-half-hour meeting with Venugopal.

The decision marks a major generational shift within the Kerala Congress, where leadership choices have historically revolved around factional equations, caste-community balancing and seniority. The sources said the high command viewed Satheesan as the face of a new Congress leadership in Kerala after his aggressive role in Opposition over the last five years and the strong public connect he built during the UDF's campaign.

They said Satheesan's candidature gathered momentum after the Assembly election results as demonstrations, posters and public messaging in support of him intensified across Kerala. Several leaders consulted by the Congress leadership reportedly conveyed that overlooking Satheesan despite his role in reviving the party after the 2021 defeat could trigger resentment among workers and voters.

Alliance arithmetic also played a significant role in the final decision. The Indian Union Muslim League, one of the Congress-led UDF's most influential allies, strongly backed Satheesan's candidature and maintained that the alliance's sweeping victory was closely linked to the Opposition politics he led against the Left government. Other allies, including the Revolutionary Socialist Party, were also learnt to have favored his elevation.

At the same time, the Congress leadership remained cautious about appointing Venugopal despite reports that he enjoyed support from a larger section of Congress MLAs. Party sources said the leadership did not want to weaken the central organizational structure by shifting one of Rahul's closest political aides to Kerala at a crucial national juncture.

Venugopal currently plays a key role in the Congress organization and is deeply involved in the party's national political strategy ahead of upcoming state elections and the 2029 Lok Sabha battle. The sources pointed out that his recent renomination to the Public Accounts Committee was also viewed internally as a signal that the leadership wanted him to continue in Delhi.

The leadership was also wary of the political complications that would have followed had Venugopal been picked. As a sitting Lok Sabha MP from Alappuzha, he would have been required to resign from Parliament and contest an Assembly by poll within six months, triggering both Assembly and parliamentary byelections.

The Congress was also keen to avoid prolonged factional instability of the kind witnessed in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. Leaders involved in the discussions felt Kerala required a leader with broad acceptability among workers and allies to ensure stability in the new government.



Chennithala, meanwhile, remained in contention as a possible consensus candidate if divisions deepened further. However, the leadership eventually concluded that Satheesan carried stronger political momentum on the ground.

The sources said Rahul and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge held multiple rounds of discussions over the past few days, including consultations with former Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs, MPs, newly elected MLAs and alliance partners before finalizing the decision.

Announcing the decision, Dasmunshi said the Congress Legislature Party had authorized Kharge to appoint the CLP leader after extensive consultations with all stakeholders.

Maken said the decision was taken only after speaking to leaders across factions and assessing the overall political situation in Kerala. He, along with Wasnik and Dasmunshi, later left for Thiruvananthapuram to complete formalities related to government formation.

Soon after being named CLP leader, Satheesan struck a conciliatory note and sought to project unity within the party. He described Venugopal and Chennithala as his senior leaders and credited both for the UDF's victory.

Satheesan said he did not view the position as a personal achievement and promised to work collectively to build what he described as a "new Kerala". He said no individual could govern alone and stressed that the new government would function as a team. He also acknowledged Kerala's fragile financial situation and said the incoming government would focus on rebuilding public confidence and addressing economic challenges. (Source: TNS)

Shani Jayanti: The sacred celebration of justice, karma and spiritual discipline

Among the many spiritual observances in the Hindu calendar, Shani Jayanti holds a unique and deeply powerful place. Dedicated to Lord Shani, the divine embodiment of justice, discipline, karma, and truth, the festival marks the birth anniversary of Shani Dev, one of the most revered and feared deities in Hindu belief.

Observed on the Amavasya, or new moon day, of the month of Jyeshtha according to the Hindu lunar calendar, Shani Jayanti is considered highly auspicious for seeking relief from hardships, overcoming karmic obstacles, and attaining spiritual growth through humility and righteous living.

For millions of devotees across India, the occasion is not merely about rituals or astrological remedies. It is a day of introspection, self-discipline, devotion, and acceptance of the universal law of karma that Lord Shani represents.

The Divine Origin of Shani Dev

In Hindu scriptures, Lord Shani is regarded as the son of Surya Dev, the Sun God, and Chhaya, the shadow form of Goddess Sandhya. According to ancient legends, Chhaya was a devoted ascetic who spent long periods immersed in severe penance while carrying Shani in her womb. During this intense spiritual practice, she remained exposed to harsh sunlight and difficult conditions.

It is believed that the powerful austerities performed by Chhaya influenced the unborn child, giving Shani Dev his dark complexion, immense spiritual strength, and deeply serious nature. Scriptures describe Shani as a deity associated with patience, justice, detachment, endurance, and karmic accountability.

One popular legend states that when Shani Dev first opened his eyes after birth, the intense power of his gaze caused Surya Dev's chariot horses to stumble and the sunlight itself to dim momentarily. This story symbolises the immense cosmic influence associated with Shani.

The Lord of Karma and Justice

Among the Navagrahas, or nine celestial influences in Hindu astrology, Shani Dev is considered the ruler of Saturn. Unlike deities associated primarily with blessings or prosperity, Lord Shani is regarded as the divine dispenser of justice who rewards or punishes individuals according to their karma. In spiritual philosophy, Shani Dev is not seen as cruel, but impartial. His role is to ensure that every soul learns from its actions. Hardships attributed to Shani are believed to encourage discipline, honesty, humility, patience, and spiritual maturity.

This is why Shani is often called the great teacher among the planetary deities. Devotees believe that sincere effort, truthfulness, compassion, and



righteous conduct can reduce the challenges associated with Shani's influence.

Legends Associated With Shani Dev

Several fascinating legends surrounding Shani Dev are narrated in the Puranas and folk traditions.

The Story of Lord Hanuman and Shani Dev

One of the most widely known legends connects Lord Hanuman with Shani Dev. According to the story, Shani once attempted to influence Hanuman during his mission to Lanka. Hanuman, however, trapped Shani beneath his tail and continued his journey, causing Shani great discomfort.

After being released, Shani Dev promised that devotees who worship Hanuman with sincerity would receive protection from severe difficulties associated with Saturn's influence. This legend explains why many devotees recite the Hanuman Chalisa on Saturdays and during Shani Jayanti.

King Vikramaditya and the Test of Shani

Another popular legend tells of King Vikramaditya, renowned for his wisdom and justice. When the king once underestimated Shani's power, the deity decided to test him. Vikramaditya lost his kingdom, wealth, and status, suffering years of hardship before eventually regaining everything through patience, humility, and virtue.

The story symbolises the transformative power of suffering and the belief that even the greatest individuals must face karmic lessons.

Rituals and Observances of Shani Jayanti

Shani Jayanti is observed with great devotion, especially in states such as Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Important information

Shani Jayanti 2026

Saturday, 16 May 2026

Amavasya Tithi Begins : 16 May 2026 at 05:11 AM

Amavasya Tithi ends : 17 May 2026 at 01:30 AM

Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Karnataka. Devotees wake up early, take ritual baths, wear clean dark-coloured or black clothes, and visit Shani temples to offer prayers.

Some of the common rituals include:

- Offering mustard oil to Shani Dev idols
- Lighting sesame oil lamps
- Donating black sesame seeds, black cloth, or iron
- Feeding the poor and needy
- Chanting Shani mantras and hymns
- Reading the Shani Mahatmya
- Observing fasting throughout the day

The crow, regarded as the vehicle of Shani Dev, is also symbolically fed during the observance.

Many devotees visit famous temples dedicated to Shani Dev, including Shani Shingnapur Temple, one of the most renowned pilgrimage sites associated with Lord Shani.

Astrological Importance of Shani Jayanti

In Vedic astrology, Shani is considered one of the most influential planetary forces. Periods such as Sade Sati and Shani Mahadasha are often associated with major life challenges, karmic lessons, and transformation.

For this reason, Shani Jayanti is regarded as especially significant for individuals seeking relief from obstacles, delays, financial difficulties, health issues, or emotional struggles linked with Saturn's influence.

Astrologers believe that sincere prayers, charity, disciplined conduct, and selfless service performed on this day can help reduce negative karmic effects and invite spiritual protection.

The Spiritual Symbolism of Lord Shani

Though often feared, Shani Dev represents profound spiritual truths. His energy symbolises:

- Discipline over indulgence
- Truth over deception
- Patience over haste
- Humility over ego
- Karma over illusion

In many ways, Lord Shani reminds humanity that actions have consequences and that true spiritual growth often emerges through struggle, responsibility, and self-reflection.

Unlike deities associated with instant blessings, Shani teaches the value of perseverance and ethical living.

Charity and Service on Shani Jayanti

Acts of charity hold special importance during Shani Jayanti. Devotees believe that helping the poor, feeding animals, supporting labourers, and serving the elderly please Lord Shani. Black sesame, urad dal, footwear, blankets, and food are commonly donated. Such acts are considered symbolic expressions of compassion and humility - virtues closely connected with Shani Dev's teachings.

History This Week **MAY 15-21****MAY 15**

May 15, 1972 - George Wallace was shot while campaigning for the presidency in Laurel, Maryland. As a result, Wallace was permanently paralyzed from the waist down.

MAY 16

May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.

MAY 17

May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.



May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

May 17, 1954 - In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of

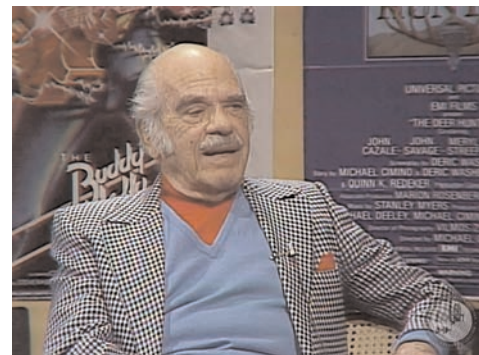
public schools "solely on the basis of race" denies black children "equal educational opportunity" even though "physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may have been equal. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Thurgood Marshall had argued the case before the Court. He went to become the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

MAY 18

May 18, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.

May 18, 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

May 18, 1998 - In one of the biggest antitrust lawsuits of the 20th century, American software giant Microsoft Corporation was sued by the U.S. Federal government and 20 state governments charging the company with using unfair tactics to crush competition and restrict choices for consumers. The lawsuits alleged Microsoft used illegal practices to deny personal computer owners the benefits of a free and competitive market and also alleged Microsoft extended its monopoly on operating systems to "develop a chokehold" on the Internet browser software market.



Birthday - Hollywood director Frank Capra (1897-1991) was born in Palermo, Sicily. His quintessential American films were affectionate portrayals of the common man and examined the strengths and foibles of American democracy. Best known for *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *It Happened One Night* (1934) and *You Can't Take It with You* (1938).

Birthday - Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) was born (as Karol Wojtyła) in Wadowice, Poland. In 1978, he became 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first non-Italian elected in 456 years and the first Polish Pope.

MAY 19

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.

Birthday - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as

Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens." In 1945, he proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and served as president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. He led the longest and most costly war during the 20th Century against the French and later the Americans. On April 29, 1975, six years after his death, the last Americans left South Vietnam. The next day the city of Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Birthday - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X (1925-1965) was born in Omaha, Nebraska (as Malcolm Little). While in prison he adopted the Islamic religion and after his release in 1952, changed his name to Malcolm X and worked for the Nation of Islam. He later made a pilgrimage to Mecca and became an orthodox Muslim. He was assassinated while addressing a meeting in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21, 1965.



Birthday - African American playwright Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) was born in Chicago, Illinois. She is best known for *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) a play dealing with prejudice and black pride. The play was the first stage production written by a black woman to appear on Broadway. She died of cancer at the age of 34. A book of her writings entitled *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black* was published posthumously.

MAY 20

May 20, 325 A.D. - The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of Catholic Church was called by Constantine I, first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire. With nearly 300 bishops in attendance at Nicaea in Asia Minor, the council condemned Arianism which denied Christ's divinity, formulated the Nicene Creed and fixed the date of Easter.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.



May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the

Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.



Birthday - Founder of modern Zionism Theodore Herzl (1860-1904) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He advocated the establishment of a new land for the Jews rather than assimilation into various, historically anti-Semitic, countries and cultures.

MAY 21

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.

May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.



Birthday - Russian physicist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989) was born in Moscow. Although he helped construct the first atomic and hydrogen bombs for Soviet Russia, he later denounced the Soviet government and was exiled from 1980 to 1986. He was instrumental in formulating the political reform concept called perestroika and in encouraging glasnost (openness) in restrictive communist countries.

Kovalam: Kerala's timeless beach paradise

Nestled along the Arabian Sea coast in the southern state of Kerala, Kovalam remains one of India's most celebrated beach destinations. Known for its crescent-shaped beaches, swaying coconut palms, tranquil backwaters, Ayurvedic wellness retreats, and vibrant coastal culture, Kovalam has long attracted travellers seeking both relaxation and adventure.

Located close to Thiruvananthapuram, the beach town combines natural beauty with the warmth of Kerala's hospitality. Over the years, Kovalam has evolved from a quiet fishing village into an internationally recognised tourist hotspot while still retaining its laid-back charm and tropical appeal.

The Story Behind Kovalam's Popularity

The name Kovalam is believed to have originated from the Malayalam word meaning "grove of coconut trees," a fitting description for the lush landscape that surrounds the coastline. Though local fishing communities have lived here for generations, Kovalam gained international attention during the 1970s when it became popular among foreign backpackers and hippie travellers searching for peaceful beach escapes.

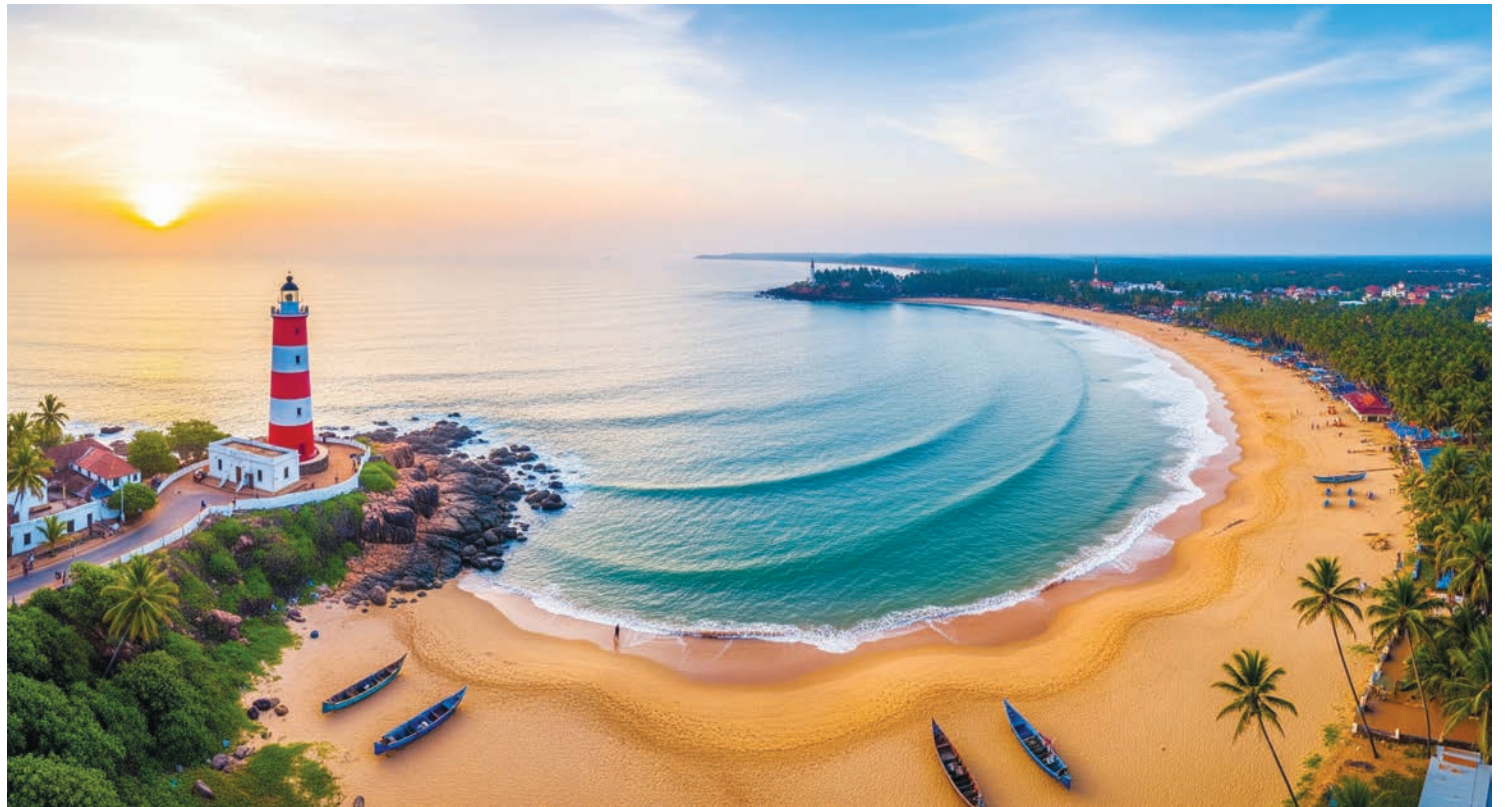
Today, the town welcomes tourists from around the world who come for its scenic beaches, wellness tourism, seafood cuisine, and serene atmosphere.

LIGHTHOUSE BEACH

So named because of the lighthouse perched on top of Kurumkal Hill, the southernmost beach of Kovalam—Lighthouse Beach—is one of the most stunning beaches in India. You'll be tempted to spend a laidback afternoon at the beach but do make the effort of climbing up the spiral staircase of the red and white watchtower which will offer you the most spectacular views of the pristine waters and vast sandy stretch. The lifeguards here are quite alert and will give you pointers on which parts of the beach are safe to swim in on that particular day, as well as high-tide timings. The line of restaurants and shacks on the beach serve up fresh seafood, and there are a number of hotels (to suit every budget) on Lighthouse Road that leads up to the beach.

VIZHINJAM ROCK CUT CAVE TEMPLE

A small, 8th century rock cut temple, Vizhinjam Rock Cut Caves may not be grand enough, but patrons of ancient Indian architecture may appreciate the one-celled shrine with a loose sculpture of Vinandhara Dakshinamurthi in this granite sculpture. Located about 17 kilometres from the city of Thiruvananthapuram, the cave remained nondescript for many years. It features Tripurantaka (Shiva) carrying a bow and arrow in two of his four hands and HIS divine consort Parvati. Visit it only if you have a serious thing for ancient temple architecture.



VIZHINJAM MARINE AQUARIUM

This gem of an aquarium is actually full of marine wealth such as fishes, corals and other aquatic fauna. Vizhinjam Marine Aquarium also boasts unique technique of Image Pearl production which involves embedding a pearl oyster into a mould of any shape, made of shell cement. After a couple of months, what you get is a lovely pearl shaped like the mould in which it was set. Find this spot at the busiest fishing harbours in Vizhinjam, near Theatre Junction.

NAPIER ART MUSEUM & GALLERY & SHRI CHITRA ART GALLERY

Kovalam is a friendly city with a rich history. And, the Napier Art Museum, in Thiruvananthapuram, named after the erstwhile Governor of Madras, Lord Napier, has documented that for posterity very well. There's plenty for all types of visitors to see, from ivory carvings, traditional ornaments, zoological garden etc. Make sure to hit the Shri Chitra Art Gallery, in the vicinity, to appreciate the works dating back to the Mughal and Rajputana times.

PADMANABHAPURAM PALACE

The Padmanabhapuram Palace, located near Thuckalay in Kanyakumari, continues to attract history buffs and connoisseurs of antiquity. Currently maintained for posterity by the Govt. of Kerala Archaeology Department, this palace was erected around 1601 AD by the ruler Iravi Varma Kulasekhara Perumal, and was rebuilt in 1750 by the founder of modern Travancore, King Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma (1706–1758). King Marthanda Varma dedicated the kingdom to his family deity Sri Padmanabha, a form of Lord Vishnu and ruled the kingdom as Padmanabha dasa or servant of Lord



Padmanabha.

The features of this palace are especially noteworthy. The clock tower in the palace complex has a 300-year-old clock, which still keeps time. There's large hall with a capacity to accommodate around 1000 guests, and it was once upon a time a space for holding ceremonial feasts on auspicious occasions. Interestingly, the palace has a secret passage, now blocked, through which the king, his immediate family members, and their entourage could escape to another palace, located several miles away in case of a serious threat. The palace complex also has old Chinese jars, all gifts by Chinese merchants, weapons, brass lamps, wood and stone sculpture, a variety of furniture, large mirrors made of polished metal, paintings portraying the history of Travancore and a wooden cot made of up to 64 wooden pieces of a variety of medicinal tree trunks.

KARAMANA RIVER

Karamana River, with its starting point near the southern point of the

Western Ghats at Agastyar Koodam, flows westward to merge with the Arabian Sea at Panathura near Kovalam. In between, the river passes through a small, namesake suburb in Thiruvananthapuram called Karamana. You've got to appreciate the expansive green patches of tropical flora dotting the gorgeous lake. Karamana River has its own unique charm and ways to entertain tourists. Visit the Thiruvallam Boat Club located on the river bank, and buy a ticket or two for canoe rides, houseboat cruises, kayaking etc.

VELLAYANI LAKE

You've got to visit the lake that came into being due to the divine intervention of a holy sage. According to the local lore, once upon a time, a thirsty beggar visited a meditating saint in search of water. When the saint, however, saw that his vessel has only a few drops of water, not enough to quench the thirst of the humble seeker, he took the drops in his palm and threw them as far as he could with sacred intentions.

FIFA World Cup 2026

SeattleFWC26, Governor, Executive, Mayor and Transportation Partners
Share "Know Before You Go" Info Ahead of FIFA World Cup 2026™

How fans can get to and from matches and why leaving the car at home is the right call

MAY 13, 2026
SEATTLE, WA (TIP)

With 33 days until Seattle's FIFA World Cup 2026™ match kicks off in Seattle, SeattleFWC26 and First & Goal, Inc. were joined by Governor Bob Ferguson, King County Executive Girmay Zahilay, Seattle Mayor Katie B. Wilson, Sound Transit CEO Dow Constantine, and leaders from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), King County Metro, Port of Seattle, and the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) for a regional "Know Before You Go" event to preview matchday transportation plans.

Seattle Stadium will host six FIFA World Cup 2026™ matches on June 15, June 19, June 24, June 26, July 1 and July 6. Four official Seattle Fan Celebration sites have been announced at Pacific Place, Seattle Center, Victory Hall, and Waterfront Park. Hundreds of thousands of fans are expected to visit the region to attend matches, as well as visit the Seattle Fan Celebrations and countless unofficial events throughout the region.

The message to fans is simple: plan ahead and take transit. On match days, downtown Seattle will be one of the most transit-rich environments in the city's history, and Seattle Stadium will be easiest to reach by light rail, bus, foot, bike, and water. With one of the most walkable and transit-accessible stadiums across the tournament, 80% of fans are expected to arrive at Seattle Stadium without a personal vehicle.

"Seattle Stadium is positioned to be the most accessible venue in the FIFA World Cup 2026," said CEO of SeattleFWC26 Peter Tomozawa. "Whether you're a local, or a visitor arriving from across the globe, getting to the match can be one of the best parts of the experience - no car required. Our regional partners have put extraordinary work into this plan, and it's never been more convenient to get around our city."

"I'm proud, but not surprised, that Seattle was selected out of dozens of potential World Cup host cities," said Governor Bob Ferguson. "There's intense competition to host these games, and Washington state was chosen for a reason. Fans will save time and money with an accessible, downtown stadium and great public transportation across the region, from light rail to our iconic ferries. We're excited to share Washington state and Seattle with the world."

"King County is proud to help welcome the world to our region while continuing to deliver reliable service for the people who call this place home," said King County Executive Girmay Zahilay. "Metro's match day and waterfront shuttles, expanded transit service, and regional coordination will help residents and fans move easily throughout Seattle and across King County. Whether you're heading to a match, commuting to work, or simply getting where you need to go during one of the busiest summers in our history, I encourage residents and visitors



alike to leave the driving to us and take advantage of the many transit options available to keep people moving."

"We're getting ready to welcome the world to Seattle, and a huge part of that experience is how people move through the city," said Seattle Mayor Katie B. Wilson. "This summer is an opportunity to show what's possible when a regional transit network works together, with buses, light rail, and ferries all helping people get where they need to go safely and easily. We want residents and visitors to know Seattle is connected, accessible, and ready."

Transportation agencies across the region have coordinated a matchday plan that builds on decades of game-day operations-plus lessons from major events including the 2026 Seattle Seahawks Super Bowl Victory Parade, 2023 MLB All-Star Week, and Taylor Swift concerts. Fans should expect frequent transit service, clear wayfinding, and dedicated shuttles designed to move large crowds quickly into and out of downtown. Details for each mode and match day are outlined below.

Traveling during World Cup: What Fans Need to Know

Free shuttles available for fans traveling within Downtown Seattle

King County Metro will operate a dedicated Match Day Shuttle on each of Seattle's six match days. The shuttle runs between Seattle Center and Seattle Stadium, primarily on Third Avenue. Service starts three hours before kickoff, increases to a bus every three minutes in the hour before the match, and continues for three hours after the final whistle. After the match, buses will depart using a load-and-go model. The Matchday Shuttle provides easy connections to the official Fan Celebrations planned at Seattle Center, Pacific Place, and Victory Hall.

Beginning May 21 through Labor Day, King County Metro will also operate a Waterfront Shuttle connecting Seattle Center, Waterfront Park, Pioneer Square, Seattle Stadium, and the Chinatown-International District. The Waterfront Shuttle provides easy connections to the Seattle Fan Celebrations planned at

Seattle Center, Waterfront Park, and Victory Hall.

"Thanks to our new shuttles and boosts in bus service, it's going to be easier than ever to take transit to popular downtown Seattle destinations this summer - whether you are a resident or a soccer fan coming for the big matches," said King County Metro General Manager Michelle Allison. "We're ready to host the world, counting down the days, and our drivers look forward to welcoming everyone on board."

SELECTING STADIUM-AREA LIGHT RAIL STATIONS BASED ON DIRECTION OF TRAVEL.

Sound Transit Link Light Rail plans to run the 1 Line and 2 Line more frequently-trains every eight minutes throughout every match day with extended hours until 1 a.m.-which results in service running every four minutes from International District/Chinatown north through Lynnwood City Center. To help manage crowds on match days, ticketed fans are encouraged to use specific stations based on where they're arriving from and where they're headed after the match.

BEFORE THE MATCH (BEST STATIONS TO ARRIVE)

Heading South: Lynnwood City Center to Symphony (1 Line / 2 Line): Exit at Pioneer Square Station.

Heading North: SODO to Federal Way (1 Line): Exit at Stadium Station.

Heading West: Judkins Park to Downtown Redmond (2 Line): Exit at International District/Chinatown Station.

AFTER THE MATCH (BEST STATIONS TO DEPART)

Heading North: Lynnwood City Center to Symphony (1 Line / 2 Line): Go to Pioneer Square Station.

Heading South: SODO to Federal Way (1 Line): Go to Stadium Station.

Heading East: Judkins Park to Downtown Redmond (2 Line): Go to International District/Chinatown Station.

Staying in Downtown Seattle: Take the

King County Metro Waterfront Shuttle or Match Day Shuttle

"Hosting these matches is an opportunity to showcase our expanded, regional transit system and the iconic Crosslake Connection views to the world," said Sound Transit CEO Dow Constantine. "Through increased Link light rail frequencies, special Sounder service and additional personnel in and around our stations, we stand ready to help soccer fans travel to and from matches and elsewhere throughout the region during their visit."

Additional bus, streetcar and commuter train services

On match days, riders will see more Metro bus trips on busy routes, standby buses to help with crowding, more water taxi trips, and a boost in Metro Flex on-demand service. Access Paratransit shuttles also will be available for riders whose disability may prevent them from riding buses and trains. Metro's SEA 26 Soccer web page serves as a hub for travelers who want to create travel plans and review special shuttle maps.

Sound Transit's Sounder commuter rail trains will serve all matches with a combination of regularly scheduled and special service. Additional Sound Transit Express buses will be teed up to provide additional capacity if needed, as well.

Amtrak provides a vital transportation link throughout the Pacific Northwest, connecting major cities and scenic destinations across Washington and Oregon with convenient, reliable rail service. The Amtrak Cascades corridor runs multiple daily trips between Eugene, Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver, B.C., offering travelers a comfortable alternative to driving along one of the region's busiest routes. Additional Long-Distance service, including the Coast Starlight and Empire Builder, connects the Northwest to California, the Midwest, and beyond.

When Pioneer Square traffic closures are in effect on match days, buses that typically serve King Street Station will be temporarily relocated to 5th Avenue South and South Weller Street and the Seattle Streetcar First Hill Line will not serve the Pioneer Square stop, terminating instead at Chinatown/International District stop at 5th Avenue South and South Jackson Street.

TRAVELING VIA WATER TAXI OR FERRY

Fans traveling by water have robust options on match days. Ferries and passenger-only water taxis bring riders straight into downtown Seattle, a short walk or Waterfront Shuttle ride away from the stadium.

Washington State Ferries is preparing for increased travel demand across its network during Seattle's six-match days. WSF plans to have 20 of its 21 vessels

CONTD ON PAGE 41

CONTD FROM PAGE 40

available for service during the tournament, with two boats on standby as backups and extra ferry crews staged at the Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility for rapid deployment if a vessel goes out of service. Additional terminal staff will be on hand systemwide to assist passengers and help manage crowds. During the FIFA World Cup 2026™, WSF will prioritize its busiest Central Puget Sound routes, including Seattle/Bainbridge Island, Seattle/Bremerton, and Edmonds / Kingston. Vehicle reservations for select routes are available now.

King County Water Taxi will also see expanded service during the FIFA World Cup 2026™. Riders from West Seattle can expect additional weekend sailings, including the return of late-night Friday and Saturday service, and Vashon will operate seven-day-a-week passenger-only service as part of a summer pilot.

Fans traveling from the Kitsap Peninsula will have expanded options on match days. Kitsap Transit will extend its Bremerton Fast Ferry and Port Orchard Foot Ferry service until midnight, and will operate night bus service on key fixed routes serving hotel areas throughout Kitsap County.

TRANSIT FARES

Fares for buses and light rail are \$3. Ferry and Water taxi fares depend on route, ranging from \$2 to \$13. Youth 18 and under always travel for free on all public transit in the state of Washington including buses, light rail, trains, ferries, water taxis, and the Seattle Monorail.

Both the Match Day Shuttle and Waterfront Shuttle will operate with free fares thanks to a collaboration with SeattleFWC26 and its host city supporters.

For fans who plan to use transit more than twice in one day, an All Day PugetPass can be purchased for \$6 and provides unlimited travel on most transit agencies in the region until 3 a.m. the following day. Riders will also be able to purchase a three-day pass starting in June for \$18 for unlimited travel over three consecutive days. Day passes require an ORCA card and are not valid on Washington State Ferries, Kitsap Transit Fast Ferries, and select regional services.

The easiest way to pay for a ride across the Puget Sound region is with an ORCA card or using the Tap to Pay using credit cards, debit cards, or digital wallets. Tap to Pay is not available on Washington State Ferries, Seattle Monorail, and select regional services outside of Seattle.

BIKING, WALKING, AND ROLLING TO SEATTLE STADIUM

With one of the most centrally located stadiums across the tournament, 80 percent of ticketed fans are expected to arrive by walking, biking or scootering.

On match days, the Pioneer Square neighborhood near the stadium district will operate as a walkable pedestrian-only zone, creating more space for people to move through the area and supporting local businesses with street vending. Motor vehicle access in Pioneer Square will be restricted on match days, and SDOT will implement on-street parking restrictions in the immediate stadium area beginning four hours before kickoff until two hours after the match ends. [See

map]

Shared bikes and scooters will be directed to designated parking areas near the stadium, and devices operating within the pedestrian zone will be automatically slowed to 8 mph. SDOT has worked with micromobility providers to ensure that shared bikes and scooters are available for thousands of scooter- and bike-riding attendees arriving to and departing from each match.

Seattle's connected bike network will help people safely bike and roll to matches and fan activities throughout the tournament. This includes the protected bike lane on Alaskan Way, safety upgrades on E Marginal Way, the Yesler Way protected bike lane connecting Occidental Ave S to the waterfront, and upgraded connections within the Center City Bike Network.

SDOT is also managing curb space and access in and around the stadium area to support the large number of people expected during match days. This includes designated rideshare and taxi zones away from the busiest pedestrian areas, expanded space for light rail queuing, ADA access accommodations, and new visitor kiosks and wayfinding signs to help residents and visitors navigate downtown Seattle more easily.



"SDOT teams have been working to prepare Seattle's streets and public spaces for World Cup, and we'll continue working throughout the tournament to help keep people moving throughout the city," said SDOT Acting Director Angela Brady, PE. "Seattle is already a vibrant and walkable city with strong transit, biking and pedestrian connections. Our SDOT team is currently laser-focused on managing street operations and prioritizing pedestrian access in and around the stadium area to support residents, visitors, fans and local businesses on match days. We are excited to host international and national visitors here in Seattle!"

NO PUBLICLY AVAILABLE PARKING AT SEATTLE STADIUM ON MATCH DAYS

Due to heightened security measures, increased crowds, and stadium activation footprint, no publicly available parking will be available in the North Lot or Event Center Parking Garage at Seattle Stadium.

On match days, rideshare services pick-up and drop-off will be geofenced away from Seattle Stadium to reduce congestion and improve safety near the pedestrian zone. Designated rideshare zones will be available in Pioneer Square, the Chinatown-International District, and SODO, with signage and volunteers helping direct fans to them.

A designated taxi stand will be available immediately north of Terminal 46 on match days thanks to a partnership with WSDOT, Port of Seattle and the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

HEAVY CONGESTION IS EXPECTED ON

STREETS AND HIGHWAYS.

Car travel downtown and across the region will be significantly congested on match days with the heaviest congestion expected on the following dates: June 15, 19-20, 24-28 and July 1 and 6.

To help keep streets and sidewalks clear in high-traffic areas, SDOT has implemented a construction pause in the tournament footprint. The pause runs from June 8, 2026, through July 7, 2026, and contractors are required to clear equipment and materials from SDOT-managed public spaces by June 7. The pause is designed to reduce congestion, support reliable transit operations, and make it safer and easier for people to walk, roll, and bike during the World Cup period.

Washington State Department of Transportation is coordinating construction and maintenance schedules statewide to reduce major traffic disruptions during the tournament window. Most notably, the current lane restrictions for Revive I-5, northbound across the Ship Canal Bridge, will be removed during the five weeks of World Cup. Revive I-5 traffic control will be removed the weekend of June 5-7, so all lanes of northbound I-5 are open for the five weeks of World Cup. Restrictions will be put back in place, the weekend of July

regional partners to ensure cruise visitors can enjoy activities around the matches while also having a great experience going to/from their cruise at the Port's cruise terminals.

"For many visitors coming to Seattle for the FIFA World Cup this summer, SEA airport is their first impression of our city and our region," said Port of Seattle Commission President Ryan Calkins, "and we want them to arrive feeling welcome and comfortable. Our Upgrade SEA projects will ensure their journey from gate to game - and back - will be smooth, with plenty of reminders that soccer fans are at home in the Pacific Northwest. On the waterfront, Port of Seattle teams are working closely with our cruise line partners to ensure easy access to the terminals, even on match days. We are proud that our facilities will be at the center of many of the key moments of the guest experience this summer."

MORE INFORMATION

Fans are encouraged to join the FIFA World Cup 2026™ Official Fan Info WhatsApp Channel for Seattle to receive real-time updates, travel guidance, and matchday information curated by FIFA and Host City before and during the tournament.

Seattle Fan Celebrations and match day transportation plans-including light rail stations, shuttle routes, street closure windows, and rideshare zone maps-are available at [Seattlefwc26.org/transportation](https://seattlefwc26.org/transportation).

For more information on Sound Transit's match day service, including rider tips and service alerts, visit soundtransit.org/soccertournament.

King County Metro has a hub for maps and helpful travel information for visitors and local fans, with many language options available at <https://kingcounty.gov/en/dept/metro/ri-der-tools/sea26-soccer/>

Learn more about how the City of Seattle is preparing for match days on their FIFA World Cup 2026 web page and read about the Center City Bike Network.

More information on Kitsap Transit's match day service is available at kitsaptransit.com/sea26.

To learn more about ORCA transit fares, visit <https://info.myorca.com/seattle-soccer-2026/>

For information about Lime's shared biking and scooter services in Seattle, please visit <https://www.lime.com>.

Stay in the loop with Washington State Ferry service during Seattle's six match days and make select vehicle reservations now.

For more information about Seattle Tacoma International Airport, visit <https://www.portseattle.org/sea>

ABOUT SEATTLE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Seattle FWC26 is the local organizing committee for Seattle's participation as one of the 16 Host Cities selected for the FIFA World Cup 2026™. As a not-for-profit organization, SeattleFWC26's vision is to foster a lasting legacy for our region, guided by the spirit of soccer, innovation, and inclusion.

To keep up to date on the latest news and involvement opportunities with SeattleFWC26, please visit <https://www.seattlefwc26.org>

10-12.

Fans and visitors are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time, and use transit, walking, biking, rolling, or carpooling whenever possible to help reduce congestion and support smoother travel throughout Seattle and the region.

Traveling through Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and Port of Seattle Cruise Terminals

SEA Airport is ready to welcome travelers from around the world with recently and soon to be completed projects that aim to make the experience smooth from landing to departure. That includes expanded security screening capacity and new dining and retail options in the soon to open C Concourse Expansion. SEA recently opened Security Checkpoint 1 on the Baggage Claim level, adding five screening lanes plus more queuing space and new public art displays. International travelers will move through the airport's expanded International Arrivals Facility, completed in 2022, with a larger grand hall for customs processing and baggage claim.

Sound Transit's Link light rail provides a direct trip from SEA to downtown Seattle in about 38 minutes-fans are encouraged to plan extra time for heavier airport crowds, especially on match days. A free shuttle cart runs between the terminal and the Link station daily (5 a.m.-midnight) for anyone who needs mobility assistance or prefers not to make the walk.??

Additionally, the summer cruise season to Alaska is underway, and the Port is working closely with cruise lines and

Sikh Union Club gala brings together the largest gathering of Sikh hockey Olympians



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

MAY 11, 2026

NAIROBI (TIP): The centenary celebrations of the Sikh Union Club, Nairobi, would go down in the annals of hockey as one single venue outside India to witness the largest gathering of Olympians and World Cuppers

Olympians from India, Great Britain, Canada, Malaysia and the hosts Kenya added sheen and glamour to the weeklong hockey festival that also together several World Cuppers, both juniors and seniors, and others who donned national colors but could not make it to Olympic Games.

Besides, Olympians who remained associated with Sikh Union Club, there were many others who donned national colors of the countries of their domicile and attended the centenary celebrations here. Prominent among them was Kulbir Singh Bhaura, who originally hails from Jalandhar district in Punjab, represented Great Britain in the 1984 Los Angeles and 1988 Seoul Olympic Games. He is the only Sikh hockey Olympian to win a gold and a bronze for a country other than India. Incidentally, the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics Games where India drew a blank in medals, two members of Indian Diaspora, both Punjabis, were on the podium.

Alexi Singh Grewal, whose father supports turban even today, more than 50 years after migrating to the US, won the grueling road race in cycling to become first player of Indian descent to win an individual gold. Incidentally, Alexi Singh also became the first individual Olympic gold medalist to marry on Indian soil. He is wedded to Manjit of Jabalpur.

And in the sand 1984 games, Kulbir Bhaura as an important member of the Great Britain hockey became the second player of Indian descent to win a medal. The GB team won a bronze.

Four years later, Kulbir Bhaura again played a stellar role in the GB team's historic gold medal triumph. Kulbir is thus the only player of Indian descent to win a gold a bronze in Olympic Games for a country other than India.

And when the Sikh Union Club held its celebrations, Kulbir Bhaura, a key member of Indian Gymkhana, London, flew in here to join the celebrations. Indian Gymkhana in London is the oldest club of Indian expatriates while Sikh Union Club in Nairobi is the oldest club of Sikh expatriates.

The celebrations brought two great hockey Olympians who have been on the victory podium with gold medals hanging around their necks. They were none other than Kulbir Singh Bhaura (1988, Seoul) and Rajinder Singh Senior (1980,



All pictures by Maninder K Chandhoke



Moscow). Though they represented different countries but had so many commonalities - state of origin and the sport.

Also present in Nairobi was Sarjit Singh, who led Malaysia in Olympic Games.

Needless to say that of 26 Olympians and 11 Hockey World Cuppers, the Sikh Union has produced, some, including three Marwa brothers - Amarjeet, Harvinder Gora, and Satpal - besides Resham Singh Bains, Harvinderpal Singh Sibia, Surjit Singh Rihal, Ravinder Singh

Laly Rhoda, Tarlochan Chana Tochi, Ranjeev Deol (he represented Canada while his father Surjeet Singh Deol led Kenya in 1956) and legendary Avtar Singh Sohal added glamour to the celebrations.

Last but not the least, Kuljit Singh Dhatt and Satpal Marwa were members of the ill-fated Kenyan Olympic hockey team that had to leave the Olympics village in Montreal at the last-minute African boycott against apartheid of South Africa. Both were here to join the celebrations.

Other than Sarjit Singh, Malaysians

brought in Olympian Kuan Shammuganathan as a member of its Matador team. He was declared best veteran player of the tournament.

(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 has written extensively about Diaspora, Politics, Business, Aviation, Health, Public and Private Sectors and Sports. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



Hockey India appoints France's Soyez as junior team coach

Hockey India on Thursday, May 14, announced the appointment of Frederic Soyez as the coach of the Indian junior men's hockey team. The Frenchman will replace former India skipper PR Sreejesh.

Soyez, who represented France from 1995 to 2010 and scored 195 goals, coached Spain at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2020 Tokyo Games, and led France at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Sreejesh had criticised the federation for axing him despite doing relatively well in his short stint in coaching. "I have heard about coaches getting fired after bad performances. But this is the first time I am experiencing being removed to make way for a foreign coach," Sreejesh posted on Wednesday.

Soyez is highly regarded in hockey circles in athlete development and penalty corner strategy and for building teams based on tactical structure.

"We warmly welcome Frederic Soyez to the Hockey India family. Frederic comes with outstanding international credentials, having coached at multiple Olympic Games, World Cups, and European Championships, while also successfully developing young talent and high-performance systems. We believe his experience and skill set will greatly benefit Indian hockey as we continue to work towards a bigger long-term vision for the 2036 Olympics," Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey said in a statement.

IPL 2026

Punjab Kings suffer fifth straight loss as MI win high-scoring match; Tilak Varma shines

DHARAMSALA (TIP), MAY 15, 2026

A blistering half-century by Tilak Varma and an attacking knock from Ryan Rickelton powered the Mumbai Indians (MI) to a six-wicket win over the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash in Dharamsala on Thursday, May 14.

The defeat marked Punjab Kings' fifth straight loss, leaving them stranded on 13 points, with Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals closing in on them in the playoff race.

Varma anchored the chase with composure, forging a crucial stand with Will Jacks. He struck a scintillating 75 off 33 balls, while Jacks provided explosive support with 25 off just 10 deliveries.

Chasing 201, Rohit Sharma and Ryan Rickelton opened the innings for the Mumbai Indians, while Arshdeep Singh set the tone with a disciplined opening over, conceding just two runs.

Rickelton broke the shackles in the second over, launching a massive six off Azmatullah Omarzai to kickstart the chase. The left-hander continued the assault in the next over, taking on Marco Jansen and plundering 15 runs.

He continued his aggressive approach in the following over, smashing Xavier Bartlett for 12 runs, while Rohit Sharma struggled to find his timing at the other end.

Rohit Sharma finally found the middle of the bat in the final over of the powerplay, launching Xavier Bartlett for a massive six. However, in the following over, Omarzai struck straight away, removing the dangerous Rickelton for 48 off 23 runs, bringing Naman Dhir to the crease.

Dhir's stay at the crease was short-lived as Marco Jansen got the better of the right-hander for 9, bringing Tilak Varma



Tilak Varma anchored the chase with composure, forging a crucial stand with Will Jacks. He struck a scintillating 75 off 33 balls.

to the crease. In the following, Yuzvendra Chahal cleaned up struggling Rohit Sharma for 25 off 26, and Sherfane Rutherford joined Varma at the crease.

After 10 overs, the Mumbai Indians reached 89/3, with Tilak Varma and Sherfane Rutherford steadying the innings. Varma and Rutherford smashed Chahal in his final over, slamming him for 20 runs.

The duo added 61 runs for the fourth wicket before Omarzai sent back Rutherford for 20 off 21 balls, bringing Will Jacks to the crease in the 17th over.

Jacks and Varma took on Jansen in the 18th over, smashing him for 22 runs to bring down the equation to 28 off 12 balls.

Will Jacks and Tilak Varma took

charge at the death, smashing 13 runs off Arshdeep Singh in the 19th over before hammering 19 runs in the final over to seal the match with one ball to spare.

Earlier in the match, a fluent fifty from Prabhsimran Singh and valuable lower-order contributions helped PBKS post a competitive 200/8 overs against MI.

After being asked to bat, PBKS made a steady start, reaching 16/0 in the first two overs. By the end of the fourth over, the hosts had moved to 31/0, with openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh adopting a cautious yet effective approach to keep the scoreboard moving.

In the fifth over, Prabhsimran shifted gears, smashing four boundaries off pacer Shardul Thakur. However, the 50-plus opening stand was broken in the sixth over when Deepak Chahal dismissed Priyansh for 22 off 17 balls. PBKS finished the power play at 55/1.

With his knock of 22, Priyansh Arya became only the second uncapped Indian player to score 350 or more runs in each of his first two IPL seasons, having accumulated 475 runs in 2025 and 357* in 2026, joining Ambati Rayudu, who achieved 356 runs in 2010 and 395 in 2011.

Priyansh and Prabhsimran also became the first uncapped pair to aggregate 1000+ partnership runs in IPL (when the score reached 24).

Following Priyansh's departure, Cooper Connolly and Prabhsimran kept the momentum going with steady strike rotation and well-timed boundaries as PBKS reached 89/1 at the halfway stage.

Prabhsimran then raised his second half-century of the season against MI in the 11th over, reaching the milestone stylishly with a six. However, his innings was cut short in the very next over when Shardul Thakur dismissed the right-hander.

Source: ANI

Camavinga, Griezmann shocking omissions as France FIFA WC squad named

PARIS (TIP), MAY 15, 2026

Real Madrid star Eduardo Camavinga and Atletico Madrid stalwart Antoine Griezmann missed out as the French squad for the FIFA World Cup was announced by coach Didier Deschamps.

France is a part of Group I and will be competing against Senegal, Iraq and Norway in the group stage, with their campaign starting from June 16 in New Jersey against Senegal.

Besides Camavinga and Griezmann, another high-profile player to miss out is Randal Kolo Muani - currently on

loan at Tottenham. The surprise call-ups have gone to Robin Rissler and Maxence Lacroix, as per Goal.com.

Camavinga's exclusion has been a shocker as he, along with Griezmann were crucial to France's 2022 run to the finals, where they lost to Argentina. Despite his experience, the Real Madrid star has missed out, and Deschamps said, "He has the right to be angry". Camavinga was a part of a very testing 2025-26 season for the club, which ended with no major silverware and a UEFA Champions League quarterfinal exit.

"His season made him lose his place.

Injuries too. And the competition, which is very strong in the position," Deschamps told the press when explaining the rationale behind leaving him out. "Cama is among the disappointed. He is still young. In March he was there. I am not questioning what he is capable of doing. But today, he has the right to be angry with me. I understand him," he added. 13 players are set to get their first feel of the grandest stage in the sport, including Crystal Palace striker Jean-Philippe Mateta and Wolfsburg's Lacroix. "Mateta has been very effective

with us, and with his club too without having played for two months with 20 goals. He has a different profile, which we may need at some point," the coach explained.

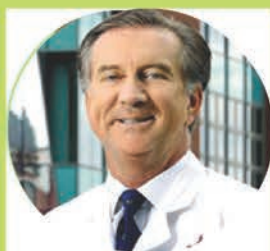
On other youngsters within the side, including Michael Olise and Warren Zaire-Emery, Deschamps added, "There should be no tension. But if they are there... it is good for oxygenation. Olise, today, he is a phenomenon. The first four or five games were complicated. Sometimes it takes time. But these players are ready for that, the level is high. It is an experience."



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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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