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US, Iranian negotiators reach tentative deal to extend ceasefire and launch nuclear talks

President Donald Trump still needs to sign off on the emerging memorandum of understanding



US President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room at the White House, in Washington, D.C., May 27, 2026. REUTERS

MAY 28, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

US and Iranian negotiators reached a tentative agreement on Thursday to extend the ceasefire in the three-month-old war by 60 days and launch talks on Iran's nuclear program, according to a US official familiar with the matter, says an AP report.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said President Donald Trump still needs to sign off on the emerging memorandum of understanding.

Iran did not immediately confirm any tentative deal with the United States.

The tentative agreement worked out by the two sides comes at a moment when the fragile ceasefire between the US and Iran appeared to be wavering.

The US military earlier on Thursday accused Iran of violating the ceasefire after Kuwait reported coming under attack following an American strike against the Islamic Republic. It was the latest flare-up of fighting to threaten ongoing negotiations to end the war.

Details of the tentative agreement were first reported by the news outlet Axios.

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Ajaypal Singh Dhaliwal reached the 8,848.86-metre summit on May 20.

Canadian Punjabi climber Ajaypal Dhaliwal becomes 1st from community to summit Everest

MAY 28, 2026
CHANDIGARH / BRAMPTON (TIP):

Ajaypal Singh Dhaliwal, a Canadian of Punjabi origin based in Brampton, Ontario, has become the first Canadian Punjabi to summit Mount Everest, surviving a near-fatal descent from the world's highest peak.

Dhaliwal reached the 8,848.86-metre summit on May 20 as part of a record-breaking day when 274 climbers scaled Everest from the Nepal side. He was one of three Indians who summited that day, along with Tulasi Reddi Palpunoori and Sandeep Are. The Expedition Operators' Association of Nepal confirmed the single-day record of 274 summits, aided by favorable weather conditions.

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Indian American 14-year-old Shrey Parikh Crowned the champion of the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee



Shrey Parikh won the Scripps National Spelling Bee over 246 competitors. Facebook pic

MAY 28, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

In a breathtaking display of linguistic mastery, 14-year-old Shrey Parikh from Rancho Cucamonga, California, was crowned the champion of the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday, May 28 night.

The eighth grader secured his victory during a high-octane spell-off-the competition's tie-breaking format-at the DAR Constitution Hall. Parikh successfully navigated 32 words in the 90-second sprint, ultimately clinching the title with the word "bromocriptine."

The finals came down to a head-to-head battle between Parikh and 12-year-old Ishaan Gupta of Jersey City, New Jersey. After several rounds of

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Treasury secretary says banknote would celebrate US's 250th anniversary but Democrats vow to block move

WHITE HOUSE PUSHES CONGRESS TO APPROVE \$250 BILL WITH TRUMP'S IMAGE

MAY 28, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The White House is pushing Congress to approve a \$250 bill bearing Donald Trump's portrait, the US treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, said, which would require changing longstanding federal law that prohibits any living person from appearing on US currency.

Speaking from the White House at a news conference, Bessent said the bill would be in celebration of the country's 250th anniversary of independence, and that the treasury has already started preparing for the possibility of the new currency.

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Join the Celebration of America at 250: A Historic Opportunity for All

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



In 2026, the United States of America will celebrate a milestone few nations have had the privilege to witness-the 250th Anniversary of its Independence. Two and a half centuries ago, a bold experiment in liberty, democracy, and human dignity was launched. Through triumphs and trials, wars and peace, prosperity and adversity, America has emerged as one of the most influential nations in human history.

This historic occasion is not merely a national celebration; it is a celebration of the enduring ideals of freedom, opportunity, equality, and democratic governance that have inspired people across the world. It is an occasion that deserves to be commemorated with pride, gratitude, and reflection by every American and by all those who have made this great nation their home.

To mark this extraordinary event, The Indian Panorama is proud to announce the publication of a special 250-page Commemorative Edition dedicated to the 250 Years of American Independence. This landmark publication will explore America's remarkable journey from 1776 to 2026-its history, democratic institutions, economic achievements, scientific and technological advancements, military strength, cultural diversity, and the invaluable contributions of immigrant communities, including Indian Americans, to the nation's growth and success.

We believe that this celebration belongs to all Americans. It is therefore our earnest appeal to our readers, patrons, community leaders, organizations, businesses, scholars, and well-wishers to become active participants in this historic endeavor.

We invite contributions in the form of:

- Articles and essays reflecting on America's journey and future;
- Personal impressions and experiences of living the

American dream;

- Messages of greetings and congratulations;
- Corporate and organizational sponsorships.

This commemorative edition will serve not only as a tribute to America's past but also as a lasting record for future generations. It will be a collector's publication, preserving the voices, thoughts, and aspirations of those who cherish the values upon which this nation was built.

As citizens, residents, and beneficiaries of the opportunities America provides, we have a responsibility to celebrate this historic milestone with enthusiasm and gratitude. The 250th Anniversary of American Independence is an occasion that comes only once in a lifetime. Let us rise to the moment and make our contribution to this grand national celebration.

We request all articles, messages, sponsorship commitments, and advertisements to reach us no later than June 10, 2026.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Email: salujaindra@gmail.com

Phone: 646-247-9458

Readers may also visit www.theindianpanorama.news for updates and information.

Let us come together to celebrate 250 years of freedom, democracy, and human dignity-and leave our own imprint on this historic chapter of America's continuing story.

God Bless America!

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Internationally Renowned Spiritual Master Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj inspires New York audiences with Message of Inner Peace and Meditation



Mata Rita Ji singing a soulful hymn



Sant Rajinder Singh Ji receiving a special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) presented by Dilip Chauhan



Sant Rajinder Singh Ji delivering an inspirational spiritual discourse to the attendees

MAY 27, 2026
AMITYVILLE, NY (TIP)

Memorial Day weekend audiences on Long Island were deeply inspired by the visit of internationally renowned spiritual Master, best-selling author, and humanitarian Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, who presented two uplifting programs at the Science of Spirituality Meditation Center in Amityville, NY.

Hundreds gathered to hear Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj share practical wisdom on meditation, stress reduction, and living a peaceful and balanced life in today's fast-paced world. The brisk, rainy weather did not deter the many participants from diverse backgrounds who attended the free public programs, which included meditation instruction and guidance for incorporating spiritual practices into daily life.

On Saturday evening, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj delivered a spiritual discourse in Hindi with English and Spanish translations, focusing on the importance of inner awakening, compassion, and unity among all people. On Memorial Day, he presented an inspiring English-language talk titled From Stress to Calm through Meditation, offering attendees practical techniques to reduce stress, cultivate clarity, and experience lasting inner peace. The program opened with an enchanting spiritual hymn, sung by Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj's

respected wife, lovingly referred to as Mata Rita Ji.

During this visit, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji received a Special Congressional Recognition from Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) for his "Outstanding and Invaluable Service to the Community."

Mr. Dilip Chauhan, who serves in NYC Mayor Mamdani's administration, attended the program in a personal capacity and presented the Congressional Recognition to Sant Rajinder Singh Ji.

Dr. Renee Mehrra, Vice President of the Science of Spirituality Club at the United Nations, spoke eloquently about Maharaj Ji's extraordinary work as a world-renowned spiritual teacher, ambassador of global peace, acclaimed author, and a selfless humanitarian.

There was a special musical evening on Sunday. The audience at the Amityville Center was captivated by the soulful, devotional Sufi music presentation by notable Punjabi singer Kanth Kaler.

Throughout the weekend, attendees expressed appreciation for the warmth, wisdom, and practical approach shared by Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj. Many participants described the meditation sessions as calming, transformative, and deeply meaningful.

"As we meditate, we begin to experience peace within ourselves, and that peace naturally extends outward to

our families, communities, and the world," Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj shared during the programs.

Known internationally for presenting meditation in a scientific and accessible manner, Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj continues to guide people worldwide toward greater emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being. His teachings emphasize unity, multicultural understanding, service to humanity, and the interconnectedness of all life.

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj is the head of Science of Spirituality, a global organization dedicated to helping individuals experience personal transformation through meditation, ethical living, and selfless service. He has spoken at major international forums, including the United Nations and educational institutions around the world, and is the recipient of numerous humanitarian and peace awards.

The Science of Spirituality Meditation Center expressed gratitude to all attendees, volunteers, and community members who helped make the Memorial Day weekend programs a success.

For more information about upcoming programs and meditation workshops, please contact the Science of Spirituality Meditation Center at infotristate@sos.org, visit www.sos.org, or call 631-822-7979 or 888-666-1990.

Suozzi Leads Bipartisan Letter to the FAA Demanding Airplane Noise Reduction

MAY 27, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Congressman Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) sent a bipartisan letter to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Administrator Bryan Bedford demanding a reduction in airplane noise as we head into the summer months, and seeking updates on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) work to do so thus far. As Vice-Chair of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, Suozzi led 31 other Members of Congress in this effort.

In the letter, Suozzi and the bipartisan group of Representatives highlighted the serious threat aviation noise poses to human health, with impacts going far beyond typical annoyance.

"Airplane noise is more than just a nuisance for families in Queens and on Long Island. It's a serious quality-of-life issue that affects the mental and physical health of constituents across my district," said Congressman Suozzi. "For too long, residents have been forced to live with relentless noise overhead. There are solutions that reduce the noise burden on our communities without compromising safety, and it's beyond time to implement them.

Given these serious threats, together the Representatives are urging the FAA to act immediately to solicit members for the Aircraft Noise Advisory Committee (ANAC) by the end of June, convene the first ANAC meeting by the end of 2026, and hold public meetings for community members near every U.S. airport that has received 10 or more noise complaints in the last year. Affected communities deserve answers to their quality-of-life concerns.

"The volume of airplane noise complaints we continue to see across the Greater Boston area makes clear that communities are still being overwhelmed by concentrated

flight paths and excessive aircraft operations. This year alone, Massport has already received more than 41,000 noise complaints statewide, including about 3,500 from the Eighth Congressional District," said Quiet Skies Caucus Co-Chair, Congressman Stephen F. Lynch (D-MA). "As Co-Chair of the Quiet Skies Caucus, I remain committed to ensuring the FAA follows through on its obligation to engage impacted communities directly, convene the Aircraft Noise Advisory Committee without further delay, and take meaningful action to address the public health impacts of aviation noise."

"D.C. residents and airport-adjacent communities across the country deserve relief from excessive aviation noise that disrupts daily life and which, study after study shows, threatens public health," said Quiet Skies Caucus Co-Chair, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC). "Congress required the FAA to establish an Aircraft Noise Advisory Committee that includes meaningful community representation, yet the agency has failed to even solicit potential members for the ANAC, 18 months past the statutory deadline. As progress forming the ANAC stalls, there are communities affected by aviation noise that have been denied the opportunity to engage directly with the FAA through public meetings for months, if not years. The FAA must finally give affected residents a seat at the table and engage directly with communities living under flight paths."

"Airplane noise from O'Hare continues to disrupt my constituents' daily lives and damage their health. As a member of the Quiet Skies Caucus, I have tried to partner with the administration on solving this issue, but the FAA's response has been neither helpful nor satisfactory," said Quiet Skies Caucus Vice-Chair, Congressman Mike Quigley (D-IL). "If the FAA is serious about reducing airplane noise in our communities, they should meet with

the general public to be held accountable. They must also comply with the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Law and establish an Aircraft Noise Advisory Committee capable of helping Americans."

This letter is also supported by the Aviation-Impacted Communities Alliance (AICA).

"Advocates nationwide applaud the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus for amplifying the concerns of communities enduring the impacts of aviation every day. Communities lived experience must be fundamental to the ANAC when operationalized, and the FAA's Aviation Noise Complaint & Inquiry Response portal must evolve beyond a complaint intake system to capture systemic concerns and inform mitigation efforts and noise policy discussions. Congressional intent is clear. Communities are waiting," said Darlene Yappee, President and Co-Founder of the Aviation-Impacted Communities Alliance (AICA).

Reducing airplane noise has been one of Congressman Suozzi's top priorities since coming to Congress in 2017. He remains committed to working with federal officials, airlines, and local stakeholders to deliver meaningful relief for affected communities in New York's Third Congressional District.

READ THE LETTER HERE.

https://www.pdfFiller.com/s/Ldv_PBJii_



Congressman Suozzi (D-Long Island, Queens) sent a bipartisan letter to Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and Administrator Bryan Bedford demanding a reduction in airplane noise.

Starmer urged to intervene in 'rigged' Indian prosecution of British human rights activist

MAY 25, 2026
LONDON (TIP)

Four senior lawyers, including the former attorney general Dominic Grieve, have written to Keir Starmer urging him to request that Indian prosecutors drop charges against the British national Jagtar Singh Johal on the basis that continued prosecution would be in manifest breach of the double jeopardy rule which prevents someone being tried twice for the same offence.

Johal has been held in an Indian jail for eight years, and in March last year was acquitted of the terrorist charges laid against him in a court in Punjab. The court found the prosecutors had "miserably failed" to present any reliable evidence, despite having had seven years to do so.

Despite his acquittal, Johal faces eight essentially duplicate cases filed by India's National Investigation Agency (NIA), all based on the same "confession" printed on a sheet of paper that his supporters claim he signed after he was tortured by police with electricity and threatened with being burned alive.

The letter urging Starmer, as a former human rights lawyer, to recognize the legal justice in intervening has also been signed by the distinguished barrister Lady Helena Kennedy, the former Lord Advocate for Scotland, Dame Elish Angiolini, and Geoffrey Robertson KC. It



Senior lawyers call on prime minister to request Indian prosecutors drop charges that would breach double jeopardy rule

is hoped that the caliber of the letter writers might galvanize Starmer to intervene.

In their letter, the four say it would be "entirely appropriate" for the UK government to ask the Indian government to drop the remaining case since domestic Indian proceedings would have acquitted Johal of all charges against him.

The double jeopardy rule, they say, "reflects a basic and intuitive principle that in a just system, no one should be repeatedly prosecuted, tried or punished for crimes of which they have already been convicted or acquitted. The prohibition of double jeopardy exists

across multiple areas of international law, including international human rights law, international criminal law, and international humanitarian law. It is generally considered to form part of the right to a fair trial, which itself is part of customary international law, meaning it applies to all states, irrespective of whether they are party to a particular treaty or agreement."

They further point out that "the basic protection against double jeopardy is recognized in over 50 national constitutions, and is firmly established in common law jurisdictions, including Canada, Australia, Ireland, Israel, the US

and New Zealand, as well as India and the UK."

They say the rule is also incorporated in Indian domestic law, and so to ask for his release would be showing due deference to the Indian legal system.

They say they understand that "the UK cannot interfere in the legal systems of other countries; however, it is vital that the executive and its agencies of every state respect the rule of law and uphold international minimum standards, particularly in cases involving the death penalty.

"United Nations legal experts have found that Johal is arbitrarily detained, having been targeted for his activism exposing human rights abuses against India's Sikh community."

Jagtar's brother Gurpreet, who is based in Dunbarton, said "the prime minister needs to recognize this is not a legitimate legal process – it is a rigged game designed to punish my brother for his human rights activism, and it is endless.

"He and his lawyer get called to the court, the NIA finds a pretext for delay, the judge agrees to a two-month adjournment ... rinse and repeat. Meanwhile, Jagtar's life is slipping away and the prime minister does nothing. Sir Keir Starmer knows arbitrary detention when he sees it. He knows what double jeopardy is. It's time for him to show some leadership and bring Jagtar home."

Byju's founder sentenced to jail in Singapore, says order is 'procedural.'



Byju Raveendran.

Image credit/X: @ByjuofBYJUS

MAY 27, 2026
SINGAPORE (TIP)

A Singapore court sentenced Byju Raveendran, founder of Byju's, to six months in jail for contempt of court over alleged non-compliance with disclosure orders, but the entrepreneur said the ruling was "procedural", denied wrongdoing and that he planned to appeal. The ruling marks the most serious legal setback yet for the founder of Byju's, once one of India's most valuable startups, which has been battling investor disputes, debt litigation and operational turmoil following a sharp post-pandemic downturn.

The court ordered Raveendran to surrender himself to authorities, pay legal costs of Singapore dollar 90,000 (USD 70,500) and produce documents relating to his ownership of Beeaar

Investco Pte, a Singapore entity that held shares in an affiliated company.

It was not immediately clear whether Raveendran was in Singapore at the time of the order.

His lawyers said they were contemplating an appeal against the decision and applying for stay of the order. The case was brought by a subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority, which invested in Byju's during a funding round as the company was grappling with layoffs and mounting financial pressure. The contempt proceedings add to broader legal battles surrounding Byju's, including ongoing litigation in the United States where lenders are seeking to recover losses tied to a USD 1.2 billion term loan.

In a statement issued after the ruling, Raveendran said settlement discussions with lenders and investors, including GLAS Trust and QIA, were already nearing conclusion and described the latest legal action as an unnecessary escalation. "The parties have also acknowledged that there has been no wrongdoing on my part or on the part of the other founders," he said.

He said the Singapore ruling was "a procedural contempt of court order" linked to disputes over document disclosure and "not a finding of fraud, dishonesty, or wrongdoing on the merits".

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

British Sikh man claiming self-defense use of knife found guilty of murder in UK

MAY 28, 2026
LONDON (TIP)

A 23-year-old British Sikh man who claimed using a large knife he carried for religious reasons in self-defense was on Thursday, May 28, convicted of the murder of an 18-year-old student in south-east England.

Vickrum Digwa was found guilty of fatally stabbing Henry Nowak five times with the 21-cm blade as the Southampton University student returned home from a night out in Porstwood last December.

Digwa's mother, 53-year-old Kiran Kaur, was convicted of assisting an offender at Southampton Crown Court. Judge William Mousley described the trial as a "particularly difficult case", indicating that Digwa will be sentenced on Monday and his mother on July 17.

"This is not a case about Sikhism. This is not a case about racism. This is a case about murder," prosecutor Nicholas Lobbenberg told the jury.

The case highlighted the legal parameters around the Sikh community's right to carry a kirpan, with the judge noting that under UK law such a bladed item must be for religious or self-defense reasons.

The court heard that Digwa had alleged being racially threatened by Nowak and even denied that any weapon had been used. This led Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary officers to handcuff the victim when they arrived at the scene of the crime.

"I am deeply sorry that Henry could



Vickrum Digwa is found guilty of fatally stabbing Henry Nowak five times with the 21-cm blade as the Southampton University student returned home from a night out in Porstwood last December. -Picture for representation only.

not be saved. I am deeply sorry that in the moments he lost consciousness, he had been handcuffed and arrested," said Robert France, Temporary Deputy Chief Constable of the Constabulary.

"The facts heard in court should leave no doubt in anyone's mind who was lying to officers that night, and why we didn't immediately understand what had happened.

"During the 999 call, when officers first arrived at the scene, and even when Henry's condition was deteriorating quickly, his killer continued to divert the blame, obstruct our enquiries and never admit the serious harm which had been done," he said.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)



The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

Announces a Historic 250-Page Special Edition

Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence

"THE MAKING OF AMERICA"

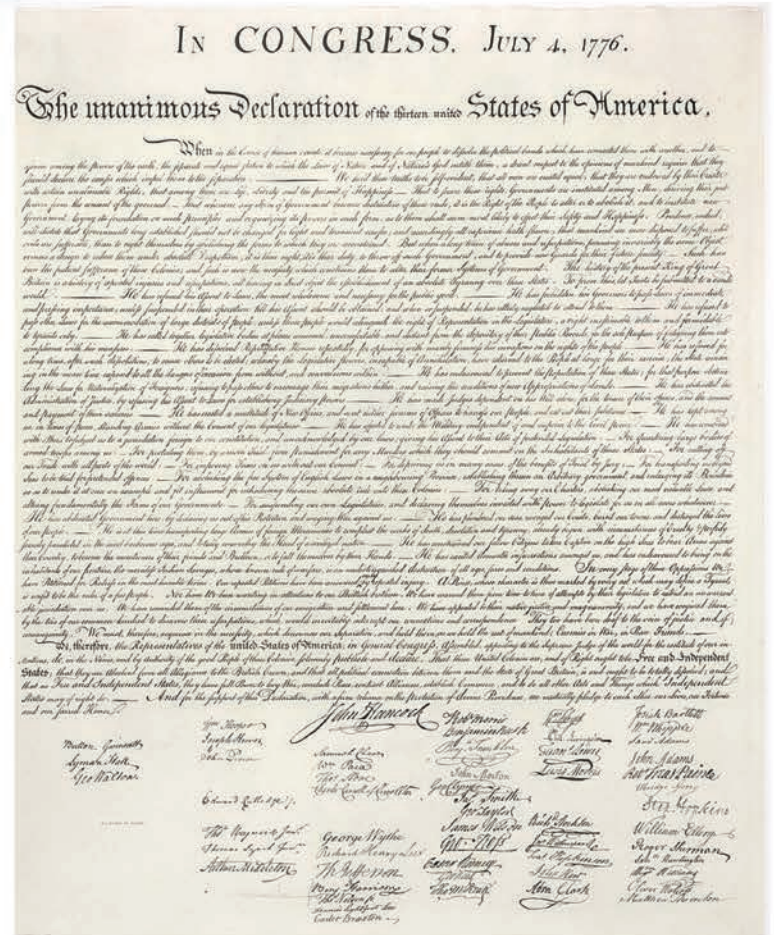
A Grand Commemorative Publication on America's Journey: 1776-2026

The Indian Panorama proudly announces a landmark 250-page Special Commemorative Edition to celebrate the historic 250th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States in 2026.

The prestigious publication, titled "The Making of America," will present a comprehensive account of America's extraordinary journey from the pre-Independence era to the present day, highlighting its history, democracy, economy, scientific and technological achievements, military strength, cultural diversity, and global leadership.

A special section of this historic commemorative edition will be devoted to the evolving and increasingly significant relationship between India and United States—two great democracies bound together by shared democratic values, strategic cooperation, economic engagement, educational exchange, technological innovation, and deep people-to-people ties.

The section will also highlight the remarkable contribution of the Indian American community to the growth and progress of America in diverse fields including science, technology, medicine, business, academia, public service, arts, media, entrepreneurship, and philanthropy. It will celebrate the role played by Indian Americans in strengthening the bonds of friendship and understanding between the two nations and in enriching the multicultural fabric of American society.



THE MEGA EDITION WILL FEATURE:

- Scholarly articles and historical analyses
- Editorial comments and readers' reflections
- Messages from world leaders, organizations, and eminent personalities
- A special section on India-US relations and the contribution of Indian Americans to America
- Rare photographs, timelines, and archival material
- Greetings and advertisements from businesses, institutions, and community organizations

THIS COMMEMORATIVE EDITION WILL SERVE AS A COLLECTOR'S VOLUME AND A LASTING TRIBUTE TO THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY, DIVERSITY, AND OPPORTUNITY THAT AMERICA REPRESENTS.

THE INDIAN PANORAMA WARMLY INVITES SCHOLARS, WRITERS, ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY LEADERS, READERS, AND WELL-WISHERS TO PARTNER WITH US IN THIS GRAND CELEBRATION THROUGH ARTICLES, GREETINGS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND ADVERTISEMENTS.

THIS IS TRULY A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME PART OF A HISTORIC PUBLICATION COMMEMORATING AMERICA'S REMARKABLE 250-YEAR JOURNEY.

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Last date for submission:
June 10, 2026

Middlesex County Schools Rally Behind REPLENISH, Donating More Than 77,000 Pounds of Food to Help Families in Need

Top 10 participating schools recognized by the Board of County Commissioners

**MAY 28, 2026
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP)**

Students, families, teachers, and school staff across Middlesex County are continuing to make a powerful impact in the fight against food insecurity through their ongoing support of REPLENISH. During the 2025-2026 school year, 106 schools participated in food drives that collectively donated more than 77,000 pounds of food to support Middlesex County families struggling to meet their basic needs.

On Wednesday, May 27, the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners recognized the top 10 schools whose combined food drives collected more than 27,750 pounds of donations, demonstrating the extraordinary generosity and community spirit of the County's students and their families. The Board of County Commissioners also honored James Monroe Elementary School in Edison for its exceptional leadership in educating students about food insecurity and inspiring them to take meaningful action. Through innovative learning initiatives and hands-on opportunities, the school empowered students to better understand the challenges facing local families while fostering compassion, civic engagement, and pride in making a lasting difference in their community.

"Year after year, our students, families, educators, and school communities continue to show what is possible when people come together to support one another," said Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios. "The overwhelming success of these school food drives reflects the compassion, generosity, and civic spirit that defines Middlesex County. Every donation collected helps ensure local families have access to nutritious food and critical support during difficult times."

"Food insecurity remains a reality for many families across Middlesex County, which is why community



Middlesex County Commissioner Charles E. Tomaro, Middlesex County Commissioner Director Ronald G. Rios, and REPLENISH Director Jennifer Apostol

support is more important than ever," said Middlesex County Commissioner and Chair of the Community Services Committee Claribel A. Azcona-Barber. "The incredible dedication shown by our schools serves as a powerful reminder that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference. We encourage residents, businesses, and community organizations to continue donating to REPLENISH so that families throughout our County have access to the food and resources they need."

TOP 10 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED

- Old Bridge High School
- Monroe Township Middle School
- East Brunswick High School
- Irwin Elementary School
- South Brunswick High School
- Private Nicholas Minue Elementary School
- Applegarth Elementary School
- Edison Academy Magnet School
- Knollwood Elementary School



Middlesex County REPLENISH Food Drive School Recognition

John Kenney Schil Care Center

HOW TO HELP

As food insecurity continues to impact households across the County, REPLENISH remains committed to connecting residents with healthy food and essential resources through its network of food pantries and community partners.

To help keep its shelves stocked, REPLENISH accepts donations of non-perishable foods and basic supplies year-round. Individuals can drop items off from 6 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday, at the REPLENISH Distribution Center at 28 Kennedy Boulevard, around the back of the building.

Monetary donations are also welcome and may be made by check payable to "Feeding Middlesex County." Checks can be mailed to PO Box 781, Edison, NJ 08818, or donors may contribute online at feedingmiddlesexcounty.org.

To learn more about REPLENISH, donate, or explore volunteer opportunities, please visit middlesexcountynj.gov/replenish.



State Bank of India, located at 425 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022 desires to hire a professional for the role of full-time Junior Supervisor - OFAC in **BSA/AML department**.

The position requires minimum 5+ years of relevant experience in the field of compliance with an in depth understanding of BSA, AML and OFAC regulations and with prior experience in sanctions screening (disposition of OFAC alerts).

For detailed roles and responsibilities, please refer our website: [Careers - SBI - New York \(sbinewyork.statebank\)](http://careers-sbi-newyork.sbinewyork.statebank)

The pay range for the positions will be USD 50, 000.00 to USD 65,000.00 (per annum) plus group life insurance, health, and dental insurance (fully paid for by the bank) and 401k benefits.

Interested candidates may please send resume to: pna.nyb@statebank.com, vppna.nyb@statebank.com on or before June 10, 2026.

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New Yorkers hold Rallies for and against Mayor Mamdani's Removal from Office



MAY 27, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)

Nearly 1,000 New Yorkers from various backgrounds rallied near Gracie Mansion Tuesday, May 26 night, holding signs and chanting boos and jeers, to express their opposition to Zohran Mamdani as mayor of New York City.

Organized by EndJewHatred, a Jewish civil rights movement, New Yorkers from various organizations protested for about 90 minutes outside Gracie Mansion, the mayor's official residence, at East 88th Street and East End Avenue in Upper Manhattan. They called for Mamdani's removal from office following a series of policy moves that they said have hurt New Yorkers.

Jayne Zirkle, communications director of the organization, told amNewYork that the protestors rallied because they feel the city, under Mamdani, has tolerated demonstrations that they believe support the terror group Hamas while not doing enough to protect New Yorkers' safety and religious freedoms.

"Tonight is about taking back New York City from the pro-Hamas mobs and from the targeted religious discrimination that we've seen welcomed in under this Mamdani regime, if you will," Zirkle explained.

The demonstration attracted various political and interfaith groups, ranging from Catholics to Jews and Muslim groups, all united to push the mayor out of office. Chants of "Zohran Mamdani's got to go" resonated throughout the rally. The NYPD had a heavy presence at the event.

"We have built this fantastic coalition of an interfaith alliance," Zirkle said. "We have Muslims, we have Hindus, we have Catholics, we have social media personalities, Democrats, Republicans, represented here tonight."

Protestors took the stage to highlight Mamdani's policies and announcements that they feel have hurt the city. Zirkle zeroed in on the mayor's refusal to attend the Israel Day Parade on May 31.

"Mamdani just announced a few days ago he will not be attending the Israel Day Parade, breaking tradition," Zirkle said. "It's a return to the same center. It's a return to anti-radicalism. This is a city that only 25 years ago, 9/11 happened. And to see this Sharia supremacy being ushered in, and welcomed, it's absolutely unacceptable."

Sharia is the moral and ethical code of Islam. The city, however, is governed

under the city charter, along with the state and U.S. Constitutions - all three of which Mamdani swore to uphold when he took office on Jan. 1.

Mamdani has come under fire not only for refusing to attend the Israel Day parade, but also for nullifying previous executive orders that former Mayor Eric Adams signed to adopt as city policy the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, and mandate that the NYPD set up buffer zones near houses of worship and educational facilities. Mamdani said he nullified those and other orders Adams signed after the former mayor's indictment in September 2024.

When the City Council passed two protest buffer zone bills earlier this year, in April, the mayor announced he would not sign either into law. Instead, he allowed Intro. 1-B, setting up house of worship protest buffer zones, to automatically become law without his signature; and vetoed Intro. 175, which would have established buffer zones near educational facilities. He expressed concerns at the time that the bills would infringe upon First Amendment rights of protesters.

The Council said last week it would reintroduce an altered Intro. 175 in the coming weeks to address the mayor's concerns.

While Mamdani continues to be a strong critic of the Israeli government and a vocal supporter of Palestinian rights, he has made moves throughout his first five months in office aimed at protecting Jewish New Yorkers, as the city continues to contend with antisemitic crimes throughout the boroughs.

For example, the Mamdani administration continued the Adams administration's Office to Combat Antisemitism, which is tasked with identifying and developing efforts to combat antisemitism and anti-Jewish hate crimes, supporting victims of antisemitism, and celebrating Jewish culture and traditions. The City Council, however, has questioned the office's activities since Mamdani took office.

The mayor has also publicly condemned acts of antisemitism, including a recent spree of antisemitic graffiti earlier this month that left homes and synagogues in Queens riddled with hateful messages and swastikas.

A COUNTER-PROTEST ARRIVED TO OPPOSE THE RALLY.



Meanwhile, other New Yorkers at the protest, which remained relatively peaceful as counterprotestors arrived, said the Mamdani administration is hurting non-Jews, too.

Anila Ali, president of the American Muslim and Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council, attended the protest and said that "with Mamdani in office, we feel our religion has been hijacked again and is being used by these Islamists," according to an article in Y Net Global.

Outspoken artist and right-wing activist from Staten Island, Scott LoBaido, attended the protest and addressed the crowds that flooded the local streets.

"Every single one of you, stop being afraid of being labeled. When we have the biggest fight of our lives here," he said on the stage.

Some protestors had unsavory messages for the mayor, including one in a video posted on X who yelled into a microphone to say, "We tell Zohran Mamdani, you can go back to Uganda where you came from," as the crowd cheered him on with chants of "Deport Mamdani! Deport Mamdani!"

amNewYork contacted the mayor's office for comments on Tuesday's protest, but officials declined to issue a statement.

(Source: amNewYork. Photos by Lloyd Mitchell)

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How Iran has unified Israel's regional rivals

Anxieties about Iran's missile capabilities, proxy networks and nuclear ambitions have quietly accelerated new patterns of security cooperation across West Asia and the Caucasus

BY SHYAM
BHATIA



New patterns of security cooperation have arisen across West Asia and the Caucasus.

-Photo / Reuters

For decades, Israel imagined itself as a lonely fortress in a hostile West Asia. Today, however, a quieter reality is emerging: an undeclared regional coalition stretching from the Caucasus to the Gulf, united less by ideology than by a common anxiety about Iran.

The alliance is not formal. There are no NATO-style communiqués or public military headquarters. Instead, it operates through intelligence channels, commercial partnerships, drone technology, cyber-security cooperation and discreet political understandings.

The recent confrontation between Israel and Iran revealed glimpses of this hidden architecture.

According to reports in the New York Times, later cited by the Guardian, Israeli officials privately expressed frustration at aspects of the later-stage American negotiations with Tehran and were said to be relying increasingly on "regional allies and their espionage networks surveilling Iran's leadership."

The phrase attracted little attention. Yet it points towards one of the least examined geopolitical developments in modern West Asia: Israel's growing network of tacit regional partners.

Even as Washington continues indirect contacts with Tehran, regional anxieties about Iran's missile capabilities, proxy networks and nuclear ambitions have quietly accelerated new patterns of security cooperation across West Asia and the Caucasus.

For years, many of these relationships existed in the shadows. In January 2010, alleged Mossad operatives moved through Dubai hotel corridors disguised as tourists and tennis players during the

assassination of Hamas commander Mahmoud al-Mabhouh at the Al Bustan Rotana hotel in Dubai. Dubai police later released extensive CCTV footage showing surveillance teams changing wigs, monitoring elevators and tracking the target through hotel lobbies.

The Dubai police chief, Lt Gen Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, declared afterwards that he was "99% if not 100%" certain that Mossad had carried out the operation.

The assassination triggered diplomatic outrage at the time. European governments protested over the use of forged passports, while Gulf officials publicly condemned the killing.

Yet 16 years later, the geopolitical landscape has changed dramatically.

The covert contacts and intelligence understandings that once operated through hotel rooms, commercial fronts and unofficial intermediaries have increasingly become formalized through the Abraham Accords and expanding regional security cooperation.

Today, Israeli businessmen travel openly to the United Arab Emirates. Cyber-security partnerships are publicly advertised. Defense officials attend the same conferences. Intelligence coordination against Iran is no longer merely whispered about in diplomatic circles. What was once deniable has, in part, become institutionalized.

The most intriguing relationship may be with Azerbaijan. The small, oil-rich former Soviet republic shares a long border with Iran and maintains deep security ties with Israel. During a 2016 visit to Baku, Benjamin Netanyahu openly acknowledged the scale of the relationship, declaring: "The contracts

signed between Israel and Azerbaijan amount to \$5 billion."

The remark was widely reported at the time by Reuters and Israeli media.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has since documented extensive Israeli arms sales to Azerbaijan, including drones and missile systems, which later proved decisive during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Iranian officials have repeatedly voiced concern about Israeli influence on their northern frontier. In 2021, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, issued an unusually pointed warning against the presence of "foreigners" in the region bordering Iran - language widely interpreted as referring to Israel.

Tehran's anxieties are heightened by demographics. Millions of ethnic Azeris live inside north-western Iran, creating fears among Iranian security officials that outside powers could exploit ethnic tensions and separatist sentiment.

Further west lies another discreet Israeli partnership: the Kurds. Relations between Israel and Kurdish groups date back decades, particularly in northern Iraq. Israeli officials have periodically expressed support for Kurdish autonomy as a strategic counterweight to hostile regional states.

In 2014, Netanyahu explicitly stated: "The Kurds are a fighting people who have proven political commitment and political moderation." The comment was interpreted internationally as a rare public acknowledgment of longstanding informal ties.

The Kurdish regions also offer geography valuable to intelligence services: mountainous borders,

smuggling routes and difficult terrain extending into Iran.

Further south, the UAE has emerged as perhaps Israel's most sophisticated regional partner since the Abraham Accords normalized relations in 2020. The UAE's Ambassador to Washington at the time, Yousef Al Otaiba, described the accords as creating "a better path" for the region - diplomatic language that masked rapidly expanding security and technological cooperation. Trade between Israel and the UAE accelerated sharply after normalization, especially in cyber-security, surveillance systems and artificial intelligence.

Even Saudi Arabia, despite lacking formal diplomatic relations with Israel, has quietly moved closer through parallel fears of Iran's missile programme and regional proxy network.

The result is a West Asia that would have been almost unimaginable a generation ago. Israel, once regionally isolated, increasingly operates within a loose but expanding ecosystem of states and non-state actors linked less by ideology than by a shared determination to contain Iran.

The relationships remain deliberately ambiguous because public opinion across the Arab world still imposes limits on overt alignment with Israel.

Yet ambiguity itself has become part of the strategy. In today's West Asia, alliances are often expressed not through treaties, but through cyber cooperation, intelligence exchanges, drone technology and quiet understandings conducted far from public view.

(Shyam Bhatia is London Correspondent with The Tribune. His X handle is @ShyamBh83243946)

ON THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, THE FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, WAS BORN ON NOVEMBER 14, 1889, AND DIED ON MAY 27, 1964

Nehru's legacy of science & right to question

Scientific temper refers to a way of thinking rather than a specialized body of knowledge

BY NAVNEET
SHARMA AND P
M
GURUBASAVARAJ



"Beyond ideas, Nehru translated vision into structure by building a robust scientific infrastructure. He pioneered the establishment of premier institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology, designed to produce world-class engineers and technologists for a newly independent nation. These institutions today enjoy global recognition, a testament to the foresight of investing in high-quality technical education in the early years of Independence.

Equally significant was his role in initiating strategic scientific programs. Under his leadership, India laid the foundations of its space and atomic energy programs, recognizing their long-term importance for national development and sovereignty. In 1962, the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research marked the beginning of India's journey into space science, eventually evolving into one of the world's most successful space programs."

Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution to Indian science and technology was not merely administrative; it was deeply philosophical and transformative. When India had just emerged from colonial rule, it was economically fragile and scientifically underdeveloped. Nehru recognized that true independence required both intellectual and technological self-reliance. He placed science at the center of nation-building, believing that only a scientific approach could address India's pressing problems. These included poverty, hunger and backwardness.

Nehru's most enduring contribution was promoting scientific temper. He first explained this term in his well-known



Jawaharlal Nehru at the Hirakud Dam campsite in Odisha in 1948; Nehru with Albert Einstein.



Photos / Wikimedia Commons

book, *The Discovery of India*, published in 1946. Scientific temper can be defined as a way of thinking and acting in social settings using scientific methods.

These may include posing questions, observing physical reality, testing hypotheses, hypothesizing, analyzing and communicating inferences, not always in this order. Ultimately, scientific temper describes an attitude that involves using logical reasoning.

This should not be mistaken for merely inculcating technological and scientific expertise or building infrastructure in science and technology; rather, the development of a scientific temper among the country's masses is a philosophical and pedagogical objective.

For instance, India has achieved great success after Independence in the field of science and technology, as evidenced by milestones ranging from acquiring atomic power to the low budget yet highly successful Mangalyaan mission by the Indian Space Research Organization and the huge IT revolution it has driven. Scientific temper refers to a way of thinking or a viewpoint rather than a specialized body of knowledge.

It addresses the broader scope of human life rather than to narrow, specialized questions of scientific research and application. Unlike scientific expertise alone, the project of scientific temper is a call for the diffusion of scientific inquiry in the thoughts of the huge population of this country. The growth of scientific temper should be measured by the extent to which ordinary people use the methods of science in dealing with issues in their own lives.

Through the 42nd Amendment to the Indian Constitution in 1976, 'scientific temper' was added to the list of Fundamental Duties of every Indian

citizen vide Part IV-A, Article 51-A (h): 'to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.'

Beyond ideas, Nehru translated vision into structure by building a robust scientific infrastructure. He pioneered the establishment of premier institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology, designed to produce world-class engineers and technologists for a newly independent nation. These institutions today enjoy global recognition, a testament to the foresight of investing in high-quality technical education in the early years of Independence.

Equally significant was his role in initiating strategic scientific programs. Under his leadership, India laid the foundations of its space and atomic energy programs, recognizing their long-term importance for national development and sovereignty. In 1962, the establishment of the Indian National Committee for Space Research marked the beginning of India's journey into space science, eventually evolving into one of the world's most successful space programs.

Nehru also ensured that science was integrated into economic planning. Through the Five-Year Plans, he linked scientific research with agriculture, industry and infrastructure, making technology a tool for national transformation rather than an isolated pursuit. Investment in research and development increased significantly during his tenure, reflecting the seriousness with which the state approached scientific advancement.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of Nehru's legacy is that he did not view science as an elite activity confined to experts. He saw it as a civilizational shift - a way of thinking that would liberate

society from superstition and stagnation.

His famous description of laboratories, dams, and institutions as the "temples of modern India" symbolized this belief that progress must be rooted in knowledge and innovation. The spirit of inquiry and the acceptance of the right to question and be questioned are fundamental to scientific temper.

It calls upon one to ask the how, the what, and the why of an object, event or phenomenon. It further calls upon one to exercise the right to question, provided, of course, the questioning of an existing theory, hypothesis, or statement, or social situation is done in accordance with the scientific method and is not merely a bare assertion of one's belief.

Scientific temper is, therefore, incompatible with the acceptance of all kinds of authority figures or high priests who may not be questioned. It leads to the realization that events occur as a result of the interplay of understandable and describable natural and social forces and not because someone, however great, so ordained them. These forces are often complex and intertwined and have to be analytically disentangled.

It is the hard reality that we, unfortunately, project science merely as a body of knowledge. But science is more. Science is primarily a set of methods, a toolkit that we use to generate knowledge. In the method of science, we make observations and experiments and use evidence, logic and internal consistency to make decisions. More importantly, we are allowed to question and re-question everything. There is no final authority and no final answer. Science is thus always a work in progress; all answers are tentative and can be called into question at any time and by anybody.

This is the method of science, but this is not what we are projecting as science. We do not teach the scientific method in our schools. Instead, we burden our children with fact after fact, we burden their backs with bags full of books containing facts, but we do not tell them how we came to know all these facts, or indeed any fact.

Today, India's achievements in engineering, space exploration and scientific research are built upon the foundations laid during Nehru's era. His vision ensured that India did not remain a passive consumer of technology but began its journey towards becoming a creator of knowledge. In that sense, Nehru's contribution to science and technology was not just about institutions or policies - it was about shaping the intellectual direction of a nation.

(Navneet Sharma is Assistant Professor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala; P M Gurubasavaraj teaches at Rani Channamma University, Belagavi)

Views are personal.

India's strategic dilemma: from non-alignment to multi-alignment

BY MAJ GEN
ASHOK K
MEHTA (RETD)



The lawless acts and events of the Trump 2.0 era have become a testbed of strategic autonomy

"The special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia, civilizational relationship with Iran and membership of BRICS have all been targeted by the US. India's lead role in the Quad, three-decade old multi-layered defense ties with the US and pivotal position in countering China have been undermined by the US' dramatic policy shifts towards China -- with whom it seeks respectful relations -- "as reflected in Trump's recent visit to China. The astonishingly blunt statement of US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau at the Raisina Dialogue: "US will not make the same mistake as it made with China and Japan, with India" was merely a warning."



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar in Delhi -Photo / PTI

During his recent tour of Europe, PM Narendra Modi upgraded bilateral relations to strategic partnerships with the Netherlands as the Dutch produce a critical component of chips; with Norway as Oslo is a source of green oil and gas; and with Italy for its innovation and high-tech. India is an observer state of the Arctic Council since 2013. Earlier this month, Modi said India would not bow to anyone, recalling the nuclear tests in defiance of US sanctions in 1998, signifying the birth of India's strategic autonomy. A galaxy of diplomats gathered this month in New Delhi to celebrate what many describe as India's crown jewel: strategic autonomy, whose fragility the Trump 2.0 era has exposed.

'Strategic' is the most overused adjective in diplomatic lexicon. It is attached to restraint, patience, sovereignty, and national interest. The word 'partnership' is variable, dynamic, and transactional. But strategic autonomy - hedging or balancing relationships by making sovereign choices -- has prospered. The concept originates in India's policy of non-alignment, adopted after Independence when New Delhi punched above its weight. As adversarial relations with US increased, India was pulled towards the Soviet Union. Even as it confronted triple threats from Pakistan, China, and US in 1971, it was forced to sign the first formal Treaty of Peace and Friendship with USSR. The then PM, Indira Gandhi, insisted that "India is a non-aligned country" be inserted in the treaty, which was de facto an alliance. It enabled India to build conditions for the creation of Bangladesh from East Pakistan.

India has graduated from non-alignment to multi-alignment and multi-engagement to multi-polarity, culminating in strategic autonomy, whose utility has been diminishing in a disrupted world order. Since national security policy and strategy documents have not been produced, strategic autonomy is an immaculate conception, though six draft policy documents have been gathering dust.

With India's oldest ally Russia, the partnership is special, privileged, and strategic. The partnership with the US has transformed from 'estranged democracy' to 'comprehensive, global and strategic'. Relations with China have fluctuated from 'developmental' and 'civilizational' to 'strategic and

cooperative', and from 'peace and prosperity' to 'stable, but abnormal' after Doklam and Galwan. India and France are 'strategic and reliable' partners, both coveting their autonomy. The EU is a recent entrant to the strategic club, though it is more in the category of trade and commerce. A China adversary, Vietnam was elevated to 'enhanced comprehensive strategic partnership' during the visit of its President To Lam to India earlier this month.

At a recent seminar, Foreign Minister S Jaishankar outlined the neighborhood first policy, with India positioning itself as the 'go-to option' for regional infrastructure support of neighboring countries. He added that the purpose of India's policy (strategic autonomy) "is not to solve problems but manage relationships to national advantage", including neighbors "respecting India's red lines." The ground reality in the neighborhood, though, is different despite India calling itself "the first responder and net security provider" as the recent sinking of an Iranian ship returning from Indian Fleet Review 2026 by a US submarine in the IOR proved. The lawless acts and events of the Trump 2.0 era have become a testbed of strategic autonomy. These have baffled the international community, especially the UN and affiliated organizations. India's less-than-successful record in protecting its international image results from a lack of strategic leverage and independent capacities; due to excessive external dependencies.

The special and privileged strategic partnership with Russia, civilizational relationship with Iran and membership of BRICS have all been targeted by the US. India's lead role in the Quad, three-decade old multi-layered defense ties with the US and pivotal position in countering China have been undermined by the US' dramatic policy shifts towards China -- with whom it seeks respectful relations -- "as reflected in Trump's recent visit to China. The astonishingly blunt statement of US Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau at the Raisina Dialogue: "US will not make the same mistake as it made with China and Japan, with India" was merely a warning.

India is one of the most US-sanctioned countries: on Russian and Iranian oil, having been pressured to switch to Venezuelan oil; on Chabahar Port and Russian military platforms, though waivers were provided. In addition, the US has imposed penal tariffs on transactions with Russia. India has yielded mainly to US sanctions, except the S400 AD system whose fourth battery arrived this month. Had India not complied with sanctions on Chabahar port, it would have been able to construct infrastructure, leading to the development of the International North South Transport Corridor through Iran's Bandar Abbas Port and reduced dependencies through the double-blockaded Strait of Hormuz. Further, it would have enhanced its image among the Global South and credibility of strategic autonomy.

Where token appeasement and diplomatic finesse would have helped is in recognizing Trump's claim in facilitating the ceasefire during Operation Sindoor, which is a reality. This would not have undermined strategic autonomy, but New Delhi's persistent contradiction of Trump's claims led to avoidable diplomatic friction. Pakistan played its cards well, transforming its image from a state sponsor of terrorism to a responsible mediator in conflict resolution and as the go-between during the negotiations between the US and Iran, in which Israel is conspicuously missing. Pakistan's international profile has risen and instead of re-hyphenation with India, it is now in a different class. At the Delhi seminar, Ambassador Jawed Ashraf said: "Silence is not strategic autonomy", hinting at India's maun vrat (strategic silence) over illegitimate actions of the US and Israel against Iran and others. Elsewhere, former NSA Shivshankar Menon, former FS Nirupama Rao have said India has lost its voice, maintaining strategic silence; also, its credibility among Global South and neighborhood. The disrupted world order requires pro-active strategic autonomy.

(Maj Gen Ashok K Mehta (retd) is a former Founding Member, Defense Planning Staff. His X handle is @dushy40098)



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GOPIO-CT AWARDEES 2026 - L to R: Dr. Anil Diwan, Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, Ajay Ghosh, Nitin Mhatre and Prod. Hemchandra Shertukde

GOPIO-CT TO HONOR FIVE INDIAN AMERICAN ACHIEVERS AT ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO)-Connecticut Chapter will honor outstanding achievers of the Indian American community in Connecticut and those who provide service to the community or the society at large at its 20th Anniversary Celebration with an Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, June 13th at the Water's Edge Banquet Hall, Darien, CT starting at 6 p.m. Five Indian Americans will be honored for their achievements in profession and service to the nation. Several Connecticut lawmakers are expected to attend this event.

The 2026 awardees are: Connecticut State Senator Prof. Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox who is also a professor of Legal Studies at Quinnipiac University for Political Leadership; Dr. Anil Diwan, Founder, President and Executive Chairman of NanoVirisides, Inc. for Entrepreneurship and Business Achievements; Veteran Journalist Ajay Ghosh, who is a media leader and founder of Indo-American Press Club for Journalism; First County Bank of Fairfield CEO Nitin Mhatre for Corporate Leadership and Prod. Hemchandra Shertukde of University of Hartford Achievement in Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Commenting on the award selection, GOPIO-CT President Mahesh Jhangiani said, "We select the awardees, who have made an impact in our society and/or those who provide outstanding service."

GOPIO International Founder President Dr. Thomas Abraham and Chairman of GOPIO-CT Awards Committee said, "these awardees are role models for our new generations and GOPIO-CT has done a great job in building up a good image of India and Indian Americans in Connecticut."



Dr. Anil R. Diwan - Entrepreneurship and Business Achievements

Dr. Anil Diwan is the Founder,

President, and Executive Chairman of NanoViricides, Inc. (NYSE American: NNVC), where he pioneered antiviral "nanoviricide" technology designed to target and destroy viruses. He led the development of NV-387, a broad-spectrum antiviral drug candidate, not a vaccine, that has shown activity in company studies against viruses including COVID coronaviruses, influenza, RSV, Mpox, Smallpox, Measles, and Ebola. NV-387 is currently in Phase II clinical trials for Mpox in the Democratic Republic of Congo and is also being advanced for potential use against Ebola outbreaks in Africa.



Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox - Political Leadership

Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox has served in the Connecticut State Senate since 2024, representing the 22nd District, and is also a Professor of Legal Studies at Quinnipiac University. A Fulbright-Nehru Scholar from 2015-2017, she conducted research in India on constitutional values and democratic institutions. Her scholarship and public service focus on constitutional law, human rights, media studies, civic education, and social justice.



Ajay Ghosh - Journalism

Ajay Ghosh is a veteran journalist, media leader, educator, and healthcare professional with more than three decades of experience in journalism, academia, and clinical social work. He is the Publisher and Chief Editor of The Global Net News and Health and Wellness News, and has held senior editorial roles with The Asian Era, The Indian Express (North America), and the Universal News Network, while is the Founder President of the Indo-American Press Club. In addition to teaching at Fordham Graduate School, he currently serves as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Yale New Haven Hospital, reflecting his commitment to ethical journalism, public health, and community service.



Nitin Mhatre - Corporate Leadership

Nitin Mhatre became CEO of First County Bank on April 15, 2026, leading a community bank that has served Fairfield County and Connecticut for more than 174 years. Previously, he served as CEO of Berkshire Bank and held senior leadership roles at Webster Bank and Citibank. He has also served on the boards of several nonprofit and industry organizations, including the Consumer Bankers Association, where he was Chairman during 2019-2020, and holds engineering and MBA degrees from Mumbai University along with executive education from Harvard Business School.

Hemchandra M. Shertukde, Ph.D., P.E., DMS, has been a distinguished professor in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture at the University of Hartford for nearly four decades. A graduate of the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur with a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut, he is an accomplished educator, researcher, inventor, and entrepreneur. Dr. Shertukde is the author of 13 solo books, co-author of more than 40



Prof. Hemchandra Shertukde, Ph.D., P.E., DMS - Achievements in Engineering and Applied Sciences

technical books, has published over 100 research papers, holds 10 U.S. patents, and has founded several technology and medical device companies in Connecticut and Florida.

The awardees will be honored at GOPIO-CT's 20th Anniversary Celebrations with Awards Banquet. Recognition will be given to the chapter's Founding Members Dr. Thomas Abraham, Viresh Sharma, Sangeeta and Paul Ahuja, Meera and Bhom Banta and Gharry Gill. Past presidents who served the chapter are Sangeeta Ahuja, Shailesh Naik, Shelly Nichani, Anita Bhat, Ashok Nichani and Jaya Daptardar will also be recognized. A special recognition will be given to the Chapter's Youth Coordinator in the early years Ms. Sharon Priya Banta.

The Awards Banquet Committee is headed GOPIO-CT Secretary Mirat Joshi. The program includes dignitaries, entertainment and Bollywood DJ. To buy tickets, visit <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/gopio-ct-20th-anniversary-banquet>.

Over the last 20 years, GOPIO-CT, a chapter of GOPIO International has become an active and dynamic organization hosting interactive sessions with policy makers and academicians, community events, youth mentoring and networking workshops, and working with other area organizations to help create a better future. GOPIO-CT serves as a non-partisan, secular, civic and community service organization - promoting awareness of Indian culture, customs and contributions of PIOs through community programs, forums, events and youth activities. It seeks to strengthen partnerships and create an ongoing dialogue with local communities.

Neha Lohia's *Hello Dad* Draws Emotional Standing-Room Crowd at Big Apple Film Festival World Premiere



Poster of the film Hello Dad



Screening of the film at the Big Apple Film Festival World Premiere

**MAY 27, 2026
NEW YORK CITY (TIP)**

The world premiere of *Hello Dad*, a deeply personal short film written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Neha Lohia, starring Emmy-nominated actor Tirlok Malik and Swiss actress Ankita Makwana, premiered to a packed and emotionally moved audience at the prestigious Big Apple Film Festival as part of its Women Filmmakers Showcase

mother-daughter duos and individuals carrying their own personal experiences with loss. Throughout the evening, tears, silence, hugs, reflection, and deeply emotional conversations filled the room.

Described by attendees as "delicate realism," *Hello Dad* resonated for its gentle and deeply human portrayal of grief; not as something to "fix" or "move on" from, but as something that can

later sent emotional voice notes reflecting on the experience and the memories the film stirred within them, and the work that lies ahead of us as a collective.

Singer Domini Monroe attended the premiere with her mother and shared reflections on losing her own father and how deeply real and familiar the film felt to their lived experience. "I still call or text his phone" - Mrs. Monroe. "This helped me feel more connected to Dad," said Domini.

During the post-screening Q&A, Neha took courage and shared her inspiration behind this short film was her own lived experience of losing her father and how, even 18 years later, grief has been constantly coexisting with life. Her vulnerability created a deeply emotional exchange with audiences, many of whom stayed long after the screening ended to share their own stories, reflections, and experiences with loss.

"People often feel pressured to let go," Lohia shared during conversations around the film. "But perhaps healing is not about letting go; there is no need to erase memories, find replacements for love, or forget those we lost. Perhaps it is learning how to continue the journey while carrying their presence differently, and coexisting with it."

Several audience members privately

premiere, *Hello Dad* quietly evolved into a larger cultural and emotional conversation through a series of pre-launch collaborations, talks, and social campaigns involving creators, mental health experts, authors, and thought leaders. Influencers and audiences participated in the viral "Hello Dad..." campaign, sharing messages they wished to say to their fathers and loved ones.

The film's extended conversation around grief, emotional well-being, and coexistence with loss included collaborations and discussions with world-renowned psychiatrist Dr. Anna Yusim, resilience expert and physician Dr. Eva Selhub, author Kelly Ann Krzeczowski, holistic practitioner Dr. Jason Yuan, and podcaster and founder of Brown Girl Interrupting, Marya Kazmi.

Together, these conversations explored new ways of understanding grief, emotional regulation, mental health, healing, and the possibility of carrying loss with tenderness rather than shame.

Guests attending the premiere also included actress Despina Mirou, singers Ashley Bautista, influencer Melissa Gallagher, Christine Mendes, Dr. Shweta Parmar, filmmakers, artists, industry professionals, and members of New York's creative, healing, and art communities.

More than a film premiere, *Hello Dad*



featuring eight films directed by women storytellers from around the world.

What unfolded inside the historic Village East by Angelika became far more than a film screening. It evolved into an intimate collective experience around grief, love, memory, healing, and the enduring bond between parents and children.

Friends, artists, doctors, researchers, grief experts, filmmakers, authors, actors, models, influencers, and community leaders gathered from across New York and beyond. Several guests traveled from Boston, Virginia, Canada, and other cities, with some changing travel plans or making special arrangements and stopovers in New York just to attend this screening. Others arrived unannounced to surprise the filmmaker.

The film's emotional resonance sparked broader conversations around mental health, emotional regulation, vulnerability, and healing. Audience members reflected on the possibility that true healing may begin not by denying brokenness, but by gently acknowledging and carrying it honestly.

The audience ranged from Gen Z viewers to older generations, including

coexist with life, memory, love, ambition, work, and healing.

The film stars Emmy-nominated actor Tirlok Malik alongside actress Ankita Makwana in deeply intimate performances that audiences praised for their tenderness, restraint, and emotional honesty. Malik, known for his acclaimed body of work exploring loneliness, aging, immigration, and Indian diaspora experiences, brings quiet emotional depth to the role, while Makwana's nuanced performance anchors the film's emotional journey with sincerity and grace.

Philanthropist Krisztina Geosits described the film as "extremely beautiful" and reflected that it "captured the deeply human moments that are broadly unspoken." Men in the audience, including Goodnews Networks, Rev. Paul Sladkus, and CNN's Eduardo Salazar Uribe, shared that the film left them deeply moved, with "lumps in their throat" and moments which made them reflect on their own losses, and words simply would not come.

Several women close to Lohia, including the founder of Women Funding the World, Jody Weiss, Dr. Anna Suponya, and spiritual teacher Aleta St. James,

shared with Lohia that they, too, were living with silent grief after losing a parent or loved one, and that *Hello Dad* made them feel seen in ways they had not experienced before. Conversations throughout the night repeatedly returned to one idea: grief does not always disappear, and perhaps there is no need to force it to. Many reflected on the importance of normalizing the coexistence of grief with everyday life, rather than masking, hiding, or performing emotional perfection.

Adding to the emotional atmosphere of the evening, Lohia personally handed audience members handmade miniature envelopes carrying tiny "love notes" sealed with the words "Undying Love." Inside each envelope was a small handwritten message intended as a keepsake and quiet reminder of love, connection, and remembrance. Guests deeply appreciated the gesture, many carrying the notes home as mementos from the night.

At the heart of the film is a simple but profound reminder: call the people you love while they are still here. Express love openly. Do not wait for a perfect moment.

In the weeks leading up to the

marked the beginning of a broader conversation about parental love, grief, emotional honesty, and healing in community. The project is expected to continue its festival journey while exploring future possibilities for expanded conversations, screenings, and potentially a broader father-daughter series by Neha centered around love, loss, and learning how to live meaningfully while carrying both.

As messages, calls, conversations, and reflections continue pouring in days after the premiere, *Hello Dad* has become more than a short film. It has become a gentle invitation for people to speak the words they still carry in their hearts, while there is still time.

About Neha Lohia: Neha Lohia is an award-winning filmmaker and curator based in New York. Her work spans cinema, immersive media, and conscious cultural programming, exploring the intersection of storytelling, human experience, and intentional creation. She is currently completing her studies in emerging technologies in filmmaking at CUNY while developing projects across film, virtual reality, and cross-disciplinary platforms.

More information:
www.nehalohia.com



Ambassador's Engagements in Craiova Highlight Academic Excellence, Cultural Exchange, and Strengthening India-Romania Institutional Ties



Ambassador and Founder of KIIT & KISS meeting with the Rector of the University of Craiova



Ambassador and Founder of KIIT & KISS meeting with students



Founder of KIIT & KISS being honored by the Rector

**MAY 25, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

The Ambassador of India to Romania, H.E. Dr. Manoj Mohapatra, undertook a series of engagements in Craiova last week that underscored the growing depth of India-Romania relations, driven by a shared commitment to education, cultural dialogue, and people-centric cooperation.

At the heart of the visit was India's participation in the International Shakespeare Festival, where more than 20 students from KIIT and KISS took part in the celebrations, adding a vibrant cultural dimension to the engagement. Addressing the festival, the Ambassador emphasized that literature and the arts possess a unique ability to transcend borders and connect societies at a deeper human level. He noted that cultural platforms such as the festival are not merely artistic events, but spaces where dialogue, empathy, and shared narratives can flourish. For the students, the experience offered not only exposure to Romanian culture, but also an opportunity to engage with universal themes that define the human condition.

During the visit, the University of Craiova recognized the contribution of Prof. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS, for his work toward the upliftment of indigenous communities in Odisha, India. In his meeting with Prof. Dr. Cezar Ionu? Spînu, Rector of the University of Craiova, and members of the academic community, the Ambassador highlighted that the recognition transcends individual achievement. It reflects a broader convergence of values between India and Romania, particularly the shared belief that education can serve as a powerful instrument for social transformation, inclusion, and global connection. The Ambassador noted that Prof. Samanta's work, which integrates education with social empowerment for marginalized communities, resonates strongly with global development priorities and offers a compelling model of inclusive growth. The honor conferred by the University of Craiova therefore symbolizes not only academic excellence, but also the emergence of a deeper intellectual and ethical partnership between the two countries.

The significance of the occasion was further reinforced during an official event at Craiova City Hall, where local and regional leaders gathered to celebrate the recognition. The presence of mayors, prefects, and



Ambassador met with Vice Mayors of Craiova, Corătu Cosmin & Paloiu Marian Daniel and President of Dolj County Council, Vasile Dorin-Cosmin



Ambassador met with Prefect of Dolj, Calinoiu Eugen-Costel



Event organized at Craiova City Hall to celebrate Prof. Samanta with Mayors, deputy mayors, prefects & public administration officials from multiple cities



Ambassador and Prof. Samanta met with Mayor of Craiova, H.E. Ms. Lia Olguta Vasilescu.



Ambassador addressed participants at the Shakespeare Festival in Craiova

senior public administration officials highlighted the increasing role of local institutions in shaping international partnerships. The Ambassador emphasized that educational and cultural cooperation at the regional level can serve as a catalyst for broader bilateral engagement, linking communities, institutions, and future generations.

In his meetings with H.E. Ms. Lia Olguta Vasilescu, Mayor of Craiova, the Vice Mayors Corătu Cosmin & Paloiu Marian Daniel and the President of the Dolj County Council, Vasile Dorin-Cosmin. Discussions extended beyond formal cooperation to explore how universities, cities, and local administrations can work together to build ecosystems of learning, innovation, and cultural exchange. It was noted that such partnerships are essential in an increasingly interconnected world, where knowledge, mobility, and creativity are central to economic and social progress. The visit also included a meeting with the Prefect of Dolj, where discussions focused on strengthening institutional dialogue and ensuring that bilateral cooperation is supported by effective engagement at the local level. This reflects a broader approach in India's diplomacy, where partnerships are increasingly built not only at the national level, but also through regions, cities, and communities.

A particularly meaningful dimension of the visit was the Ambassador's interaction with Indian students participating in academic exchange programs. Together with Prof. Samanta, he engaged with the students not only as learners, but also as active contributors to the strengthening of bilateral relations. He encouraged them to see themselves as bridges between India and Romania, carrying with them ideas, experiences, and cultural understanding that extend far beyond the classroom.

Overall, the visit to Craiova highlighted the evolving nature of India-Romania relations. It demonstrated that beyond economic and political ties, the partnership is increasingly anchored in education, culture, and people-to-people connections. These elements provide a durable foundation for long-term cooperation, shaping a relationship that is not only strategic, but also human-centric and future-oriented.

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

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-  Radha-Krishna dances by
Preya Patel & Vivarta Arts
-  Kirtan & Chair Yoga

Panelists



Yakub Mathew
Banker, Author



Lama Aria Drolma
Buddhist Nun



Nayan Kisnadwala
Finance, Temple Trustee



Sharon Epstein
Yoga Teacher



Parveen Chopra
Moderator

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Governor Gehlot accepts Siddaramaiah's resignation as Karnataka CM

MAY 29, 2026

BENGALURU (TIP): Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on May 29 accepted the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Siddaramaiah had submitted his resignation to the Governor's Special Secretary at the Lok Bhavan here on May 28 in the latter's absence.

"In exercise of the powers conferred on me under Article 164(1) of the constitution of India, I, Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka, have accepted the resignation of Shri. Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister of Karnataka and dissolved the Council of Ministers headed by him with immediate effect," the Governor said in the notification. He said, Siddaramaiah shall continue to function as CM till alternative arrangements are made.

Both Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, who is most likely to succeed him, are in Delhi to meet the Congress high command and discuss the transition of power, and formation of the new cabinet. At a breakfast meeting hosted at his residence for cabinet colleagues, Siddaramaiah informed Ministers of his decision to step down and stated that Shivakumar would be his successor, as per the directions of the Congress high command.

India, China review border situation, push for further normalisation of ties

MAY 29, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and China reviewed the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and expressed satisfaction over continued peace and tranquility in the border areas, the Ministry of External Affairs said on May 28.

Both sides also agreed to maintain regular diplomatic and military-level engagement to further improve bilateral relations, the ministry added.

The discussions between the two sides took place during the 35th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs held in Beijing on May 27. The latest round of talks is being seen as part of sustained diplomatic efforts by both countries to preserve border stability while cautiously rebuilding bilateral engagement in other sectors. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (East Asia) Sujit Ghosh, while the Chinese side was headed by Boundary and Oceanic Affairs Department Director General Hou Yanqi.

MEA officials said the talks were "constructive and forward looking", with both countries reviewing developments in the border areas and acknowledging progress made in maintaining stability



along the frontier.

"The two sides expressed satisfaction with the progress made in maintaining peace and tranquility in the border areas, which has enabled progress towards gradual normalisation of bilateral relations," the MEA said.

The meeting assumes significance as New Delhi and Beijing continue efforts to stabilize ties after the military standoff in eastern Ladakh that had severely strained relations between the two neighbors.

During the discussions, the two sides deliberated on issues relating to

boundary delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation. The Indian side also stressed the need for an early meeting of the next Expert Level Mechanism on Trans-Border Rivers, an important platform for cooperation on sharing hydrological data and related issues.

Both countries agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts through existing diplomatic and military mechanisms, including those decided during the 24th round of Special Representatives' talks held earlier.

Bashir Badr: Urdu poetry loses its master, verses live on

MAY 29, 2026

NEW YORK (TIP): Renowned Indian Urdu poet Dr. Bashir Badr passed away on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at his residence in Bhopal. He was 91 years old and had been battling prolonged health issues, including dementia, for several years. His son, Taiyeb Badr, confirmed that he breathed his last at approximately 12:15 PM.

Badr was a towering figure in contemporary literature, celebrated for modernizing the Urdu ghazal by using simple, everyday language that resonated with the masses. For his immense contributions, he was honored with the Padma Shri and the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1999.

In his tribute to Badr, Prof Krishan Kumar Rattu wrote: "With the passing of renowned poet Bashir Badr, an era of romantic Urdu poetry has come to a poignant end. Widely regarded as the master of the modern Urdu ghazal, he ruled the hearts of millions worldwide through his silken verses. The magic of his words, delivered with a captivating stage presence, transformed his couplets into everyday idioms, making him the undeniable pride of global mushairas."

Born on February 15, 1935, in Ayodhya, as Syed Muhammad Bashir, he completed his PhD from Aligarh



Legendary poet and Padma Shri awardee Bashir Badr passed away on May 28, at the age of 91.

Muslim University (AMU) and dedicated his academic life to teaching Urdu literature at the AMU and Meerut College.

Beginning his poetic journey at just seven, Badr was a prodigy who redefined the Urdu ghazal with simplicity and spontaneity. By skilfully weaving everyday vocabulary into his verses, he broke away from rigid traditional norms, making poetry deeply accessible. His prolific literary career yielded celebrated collections like 'Imkaan', 'Aahatein' and 'Ujale Apni Yaadon Ke', alongside significant critical works, earning him widespread acclaim. His poetry was deeply imbued with human values. He represented a

generation that witnessed the Partition and the subsequent cycles of friendship and enmity between India and Pakistan, articulating these complex experiences through a lens of profound love and humanity. In recognition of his contributions to literature, the government honored him with the Padma Shri.

Tragically, the man who spent his life spreading the message of love fell victim to the 1987 Meerut communal riots. His home was torched, destroying a treasure trove of historical, unpublished manuscripts. Following this devastating loss, he relocated to Bhopal, where he eventually breathed his last. While his later years in Bhopal were tragically shadowed by dementia, his literary brilliance remained undimmed.

His poetry remained a powerful, unifying force. His poignant verses on the Partition are forever etched in public memory. So profound was his literary and emotional impact that during the historic Simla Agreement, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi famously recited one of his couplets to Pakistan's Zulfikar Ali Bhutto - a fitting testament to the timeless, borderless relevance of his words.

"Dushmani jam kar karo lekin ye gunjaish rahe, jab kabhi hum dost ho jaayein toh sharminnda na hon."

(Harbour enmity fiercely, but leave this much room, that if we ever become friends, we are not ashamed.)

On a personal level, Badr's demise is an irreplaceable loss. For over 50 years, I shared a bond of familial warmth with him. I will forever cherish our last meeting at his Bhopal home, where he welcomed me with immense love. Today, as admirers worldwide mourn his departure, I bid a heavy-hearted farewell to a kind, extraordinary friend whose legacy will eternally echo in the world of literature.

Some of Badr's most immortal couplets include:

"Musafir hain hum bhi, musafir ho tum bhi, kisi mod par phir mulaqat hogi."

"Zindagi tu ne mujhe qabr se kam di hai zameen, paon phailaun toh deewar mein sar lagta hai."

"Ujale apni yaadon ke hamare saath rehne do, na jaane kis gali mein zindagi ki shaam ho jaye."

Urdu poetry has been profoundly impoverished by his departure. He was an epoch-making figure - a romantic maestro whose verses were deeply steeped in love, and whose mere arrival on stage commanded a mesmerized silence followed by thunderous applause. His passing marks the definitive end of a golden era in literature.

Asaram surrenders at Jodhpur jail after High Court upholds life term in rape case

MAY 29, 2026

JODHPUR (TIP): Self-styled godman Asaram surrendered before the authorities at the Jodhpur Central Jail on May 28 evening, a day after the Rajasthan High Court cancelled his interim bail while upholding his life sentence in the 2013 minor rape case.

News of his arrival had drawn a large crowd of supporters to the Jodhpur airport earlier in the day. He greeted followers and offered blessings from inside his vehicle before proceeding to his ashram in Pal village. After spending some time at the local ashram in Jodhpur, he visited AIIMS for a medical examination and later surrendered in the evening. The Jodhpur bench of the high court on Wednesday dismissed Asaram's appeal and revoked the interim bail, which was extended till July 7.

At the time of the verdict, Asaram, who has been out on bail since October, was staying in Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

His counsel said that they are studying the order and would proceed accordingly on challenging the High Court's verdict in the Supreme Court.

The division bench of Justice Arun Monga and Justice Yogendra Kumar Purohit had delivered a detailed judgment in the sensational case, affirming the life imprisonment awarded by the trial court. Delivering the order, the bench made strong observations on the impact of the crime on the survivor. Referring to the survivor's birth date, the court remarked that she was born on July 4, celebrated as Independence Day in the United States, and symbolised freedom, dignity and self-respect.

India outlines vision for 'stable, secure, inclusive' Indo-Pacific at Shangri-La Dialogue engagement

MAY 29, 2026

SINGAPORE (TIP): India, on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue 2026, underscored its strategic priorities for a stable and secure Indo-Pacific through high-level diplomatic outreach and academic engagement.

In a post on X on Friday, the Ministry of Defence said that the Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh "engaged with leading think tanks and academia on strengthening the Indo-Pacific security architecture, defence industrial collaboration and emerging technology partnerships."

Addressing a distinguished gathering on "India's Defence Diplomacy for a Stable, Secure and Inclusive Indo Pacific", Singh shared "India's vision for regional security and strategic engagement."

According to the post, the engagement was also attended by the Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, Shilpak Ambule, highlighting the diplomatic significance of the engagement.

Meanwhile, on Friday (local time), US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth arrived in Singapore to attend the Shangri-La Dialogue, one of the Indo-Pacific region's leading defence and security forums.

According to the official advisory issued by the US Department of War, the Singapore visit marks Hegseth's fourth trip to the Indo-Pacific region. During his visit, he is scheduled to meet Singapore's Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Minister for Defence Chan



Chun Sing, in addition to participating in several bilateral and multilateral meetings with regional allies and partners.

Hegseth is also expected to deliver plenary remarks at the dialogue, outlining Washington's forward-looking approach toward safeguarding US strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

Alongwith Hegseth, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Richard Marles, as per the statement by the Australian Defence Ministry, is also travelling to Singapore this week to attend the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue, ahead of his visit to India.

During the Dialogue, the Deputy Prime Minister will address regional maritime security issues during the third plenary session on Asia's Maritime Security Disorder. He will also meet with a range of global and regional defence counterparts, the statement said.

"We remain committed to deepening

diplomatic and defence relationships to strengthen cooperation, particularly in the Indo-Pacific," Marles said.

Convened annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Shangri-La Dialogue is regarded as Asia's premier defence and security summit. The forum brings together defence ministers, military chiefs, policymakers, business leaders and security experts from across the Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe and West Asia to discuss regional and global security challenges.

According to the event's official website, the dialogue serves as a unique platform for debate and policy discussions on Asia's evolving security landscape, while also providing opportunities for high-level bilateral engagements among participating delegations.

The 2026 edition of the dialogue is being held in Singapore from May 29 to 31.

Setback for Cockroach Janta Party, Delhi HC refuses to immediately restore X account as content 'slightly offensive'

MAY 29, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a legal setback for the Cockroach Janta Party, the Delhi High Court on May 29 declined to immediately direct restoration of the X account of Abhijeet Dipke-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP).

The court found some content posted on the social media account to be "slightly offensive", and refused to grant immediate relief on the plea by founder Dipke.

The court said that the issue required "holistic consideration" and that any order would be passed only after hearing what the government and the X platform has to say.

Abhijeet Dipke was represented by advocate Akhil Sibal, who sought the restoration of CJP's X account, even as he said he was fine if some of the allegedly offensive posts remained blocked.

To support his argument, Sibal mentioned previous such cases in which the court granted interim relief. "There seems to be a slight difference between other cases and in this case.. In this case



what seems to be the reason is that the entire activity is per se slightly offending," the bench said in response, according to a Bar and Bench report.

While the court refused to immediately grant relief in the case, it presented Dipke with an opportunity to present his case before the Centre's review committee responsible for examining orders blocking social media accounts.

The CJP, that started as satirical outfit but gained prominence among the Indian youth and Opposition parties recently, had alleged that its social media handle on X was withheld.

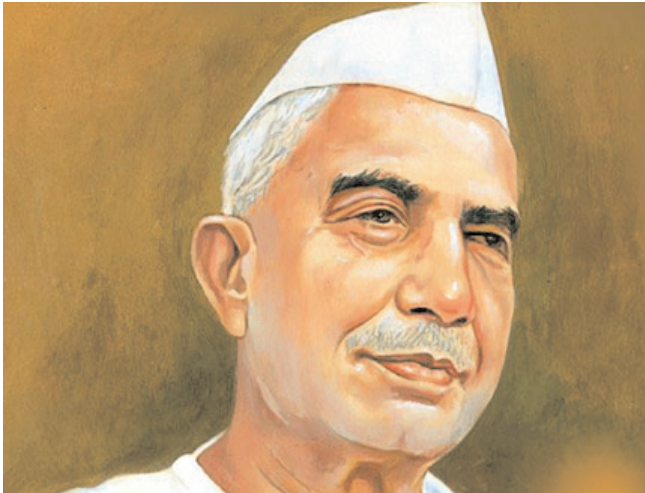
Abhijeet Dipke had shared a screenshot of the pop up showing when opening the X account and wrote in the caption, "As expected Cockroach Janta Party's account has been withheld in India." The development had coincided with the CJP's immense rise on social media, surpassing a national party like the BJP on Instagram.

The party was launched as a joke after remarks by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant calling some of the country's youth "cockroaches" sparked a controversy. However, many people, especially the youth, soon resonated with the outfit and term "cockroaches", giving the CJP a big boost.

India in history this Week

MAY 29 TO JUNE 4

29 MAY



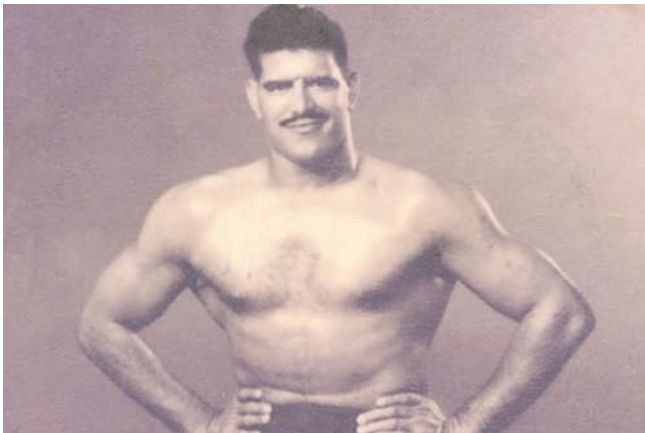
1987 Former Prime Minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh died on 29 May.

1972 Prithviraj Kapoor, who had a distinct identity in Indian cinema, passed away.

1865 Ramanand Chatterjee, the leading personality of the journalism world, was born.

1906 Eminent Hindi essayist Kanhaiyalal Mishra Prabhakar was born.

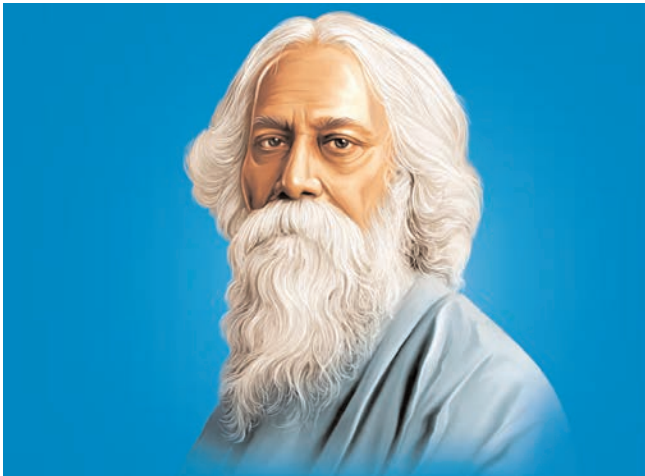
1936 Gandhiji's son changed his religion and gave birth to a new controversy.



1968 Famous Wrestler Dara Singh set a record as a world wrestling champion.

30 MAY

1867 Dar-ul-Uloom was established in 1867 in Deoband, Uttar Pradesh.



1919 Rabindranath Tagore returned the title 'Sir' in 1919 in protest against the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

1987 Goa became the 25th full state in the country in 1987.

2012 Vishwanathan Anand became the World Chess Champion for the fifth time in 2012.

1909 Pandit Mukharam Sharma, the famous legend,

screenplay and story writer of Indian Hindi films, was born in 1909.

1606 Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru, died in 1606.

1991 Umashankar Dixit, a pioneer of the Indian Independence Movement, a priest of humanity and a pioneer of nationalism, died in 1991.

1955 N. M. Joshi died in 1955. He was the father of the 'Trade Union Movement' in India.

31 MAY

1774 The first postal service office was opened in India in 1774.

1867 Praya Samaj was established in Bombay in 1867.

1921 The flag of the Indian National Congress was adopted in 1921.

1959 The Buddhist religious Dalai Lama was granted asylum in India in 1959 after his exile from Tibet.

1964 The electric tram last ran in Bombay in 1964.

2010 The law to reserve 25% seats for poor children in every private school recognized in India was enacted in 2010.

1577 Noor Jahan, the wife of the Mughal emperor Jahangir, was born.

1725 One of the heroines of India, Ahilyabai Holkar was born.

1931 Purn Singh, one of the distinguished essayists of India, died.

1988 India's famous politician, freedom fighter, journalist, litterateur and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dwarka Prasad Mishra died in 1988.

1942 Vinod Mehta, founder of Outlook and famous journalist was born.

01 JUNE

1819 Establishment of Serampore College in Bengal.

1835 Calcutta Medical College commenced functioning.

1874 The East India Company was dissolved.



1929 Birth of Nargis Dutt, who played the most memorable mother of Hindi films in the film Mother India.

1930 India's first deluxe train Deccan Queen was introduced between Bombay VT and Pune.

1955 The Untouchability (Prevention) Act came into existence.

1964 By removing the new word from new money, it is now called money.

2001 The first World Milk Day was celebrated.

02 JUNE

1988 Bollywood's legendary actor, director, producer and showman Raj Kapoor died on this day.

2014 Telangana officially became the 29th state of India.

1908 Sir Aurobindo was arrested in the Maniktola bombings.

1956 Mani Ratnam was born in Tamil and Hindi cinema's finest filmmakers. Very few people know that his full name is Gopal Ratnam Subramaniam.

1756 British stronghold Fort William in Bengal was surrendered to Siraj-ud-Daulah

1900 The demise of Shri Ram Sharma Acharya, a freedom fighter, social reformer and leader.

03 JUNE

1867 Birth of India's famous educationist, politician, social reformer, jurist and writer Harvilas Sharda.

1901 Birth of first winner of Jnanpith Award Mahakavi Ji Shankar Krup.

1915 The British government conferred the title of knighthood on Rabindranath Tagore.

1918 'Hindi Sahitya Sammelan' was organized in Indore under the chairmanship of Mahatma Gandhi and based on a resolution passed in it, Hindi was considered as the official language.

1924 The birth of M Karunanidhi, five times Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

1930 The birth of George Fernandes, the historic railway strike organizer in India.

1947 Lord Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India under the British Raj, announced the partition of India.

1972 The country's first modern warship, the Nilgiris, was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister of the country, Indira Gandhi.

1974 Death of Bihar Chief Minister and freedom fighter Krishna Ballabh Sahay.

1985 The Government of India started a five-day working day week.

2014 Former Union Minister Gopinath Munde died in a road accident in New Delhi.

04 JUNE

1936 India's unmatched actress Nutan was born on 4 June.

1959 C. Rajagopalachari announced the formation of the Swatantra Party.

1997 Telecom satellite reached 2D chamber.

2008 In 2008, the Haryana government also announced the benefit of family pension to girls below 25 years of age.

1931 Hindi film actress Bina Rai was born in 1931.

1959 Anil Ambani, president and famous businessman of Reliance Group, was born in 1959.



1947 Hindi and Marathi film actor Ashok Saraf was born in 1947.

1962 Achanta Lakshmi pati, famous for the propagation of Ayurvedic medicines, died in 1962.

1984 Operation Blue Star was carried out by the Indian Army in the Golden Temple located in Amritsar, Punjab, the religious site of Sikhs.

Operation Bluestar: The scar that still bleeds in India's collective memory

Operation Bluestar, the Indian Army's 1984 assault on the Golden Temple to remove militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, left deep scars on Sikh consciousness. The operation, followed by Indira Gandhi's assassination and anti-Sikh riots, triggered years of militancy, political unrest and unresolved demands for justice that continue today

More than four decades have passed since Operation Bluestar shook India to its core, yet the pain surrounding the events of June 1984 continues to linger with extraordinary intensity. For many Sikhs across the world, it remains not merely a military operation but a deeply emotional and spiritual wound - one that transformed the relationship between the Sikh community and the Indian state forever.

The assault on the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar by the Indian Army was one of the most controversial actions undertaken in independent India. Tanks rolled into Sikhism's holiest shrine, bullets tore through sacred walls, and hundreds - perhaps thousands - lost their lives in the crossfire. The operation left the Akal Takht in ruins and scarred the psyche of an entire generation.

But Operation Bluestar was never an isolated event. It was the climax of years of political miscalculations, rising militancy, mistrust, and escalating violence in Punjab. Its consequences were devastating: the assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the horrific anti-Sikh riots of 1984, years of insurgency and counterinsurgency in Punjab, and a deep sense of alienation among Sikhs in India and abroad.

Even today, the memory of 1984 continues to evoke grief, anger, debate and reflection. For some, Bluestar was an unavoidable military necessity to preserve national unity. For others, it was a catastrophic political failure that could and should have been avoided.

The Roots of Sikh Discontent

To understand Operation Bluestar, one must look back to the aftermath of Partition in 1947. Punjab was divided between India and the newly created Pakistan, leading to immense suffering and displacement. Sikhs lost some of their most historically and spiritually significant places, including Lahore and Nankana Sahib, which became part of Pakistan.

Although Sikhs played a major role in India's freedom struggle, many in the community felt politically marginalised after Independence. Questions surrounding language, identity, water-sharing, territorial boundaries and federal autonomy became increasingly contentious.

The Punjabi Suba movement, led by the Akali Dal, demanded a Punjabi-speaking state. While Punjab was reorganised in 1966 into Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, many Sikh leaders believed their aspirations remained unfulfilled. Chandigarh,



To dislodge Bhindranwale, the army used the main gun of a tank to fire at the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, nearly reducing it to rubble in the process.

intended to serve as Punjab's capital, became a shared capital with Haryana. River water disputes remained unresolved. Demands for greater state autonomy intensified.

In 1973, the Akali Dal adopted the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, which called for greater federal decentralisation and protection of Sikh identity. Though many of its demands were constitutional in nature, critics portrayed the resolution as separatist, deepening mistrust between the Centre and Sikh political leadership.

The Rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale

It was in this politically charged atmosphere that Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale emerged as a powerful religious and political figure. A preacher from the Damdami Taksal, Bhindranwale initially focused on religious revivalism, urging Sikhs to return to orthodox practices.

However, his fiery speeches and aggressive rhetoric soon attracted attention far beyond religious circles. Many scholars and political observers later argued that elements within the Congress party initially encouraged



Bhindranwale's rise to weaken the Akali Dal politically.

What began as a political calculation would eventually spiral beyond control.

Bhindranwale gained enormous popularity among sections of Sikh youth who felt disillusioned by unemployment, corruption, social inequality and perceived discrimination. His image as a fearless defender of Sikh rights

resonated strongly at a time when tensions in Punjab were escalating rapidly.

As violence increased in the state, Bhindranwale's supporters and allied militant groups were linked to assassinations, attacks on police officials and intimidation campaigns. Punjab descended into fear and instability.

By the early 1980s, Bhindranwale had

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become both a religious icon to supporters and a dangerous extremist in the eyes of the government.

Punjab Descends Into Violence

The situation deteriorated dramatically after a series of violent incidents. One of the most shocking was the murder of Deputy Inspector-General of Police A.S. Atwal inside the Golden Temple complex in April 1983. He was shot dead after offering prayers, and his body reportedly lay unattended for hours.

The incident symbolised the growing breakdown of law and order in Punjab and demonstrated the extent to which militants had established control inside the Golden Temple complex.

Bhindranwale and his armed followers moved into the Akal Takht within the shrine complex. Over time, the complex was transformed into a heavily fortified position. Arms and ammunition were smuggled inside. Bunkers and firing points were constructed. Former Indian Army officer Major General Shahbeg Singh reportedly helped train militants in military tactics and defensive warfare.

The Golden Temple - once purely a spiritual sanctuary - had become the centre of a volatile armed confrontation.

Failed Negotiations and Political Miscalculations

Many historians believe the tragedy of Operation Bluestar could have been avoided through political dialogue and compromise.

Moderate Akali leaders had repeatedly engaged with the central government over issues such as federal autonomy, water disputes and Chandigarh's status. Several observers argue that many of these demands were negotiable and could have been resolved peacefully.

However, political calculations often overshadowed attempts at reconciliation.

Accounts from former officials and political insiders suggest that there were missed opportunities to isolate extremists and strengthen moderate Sikh leadership. Negotiations reportedly collapsed due to internal divisions within the ruling establishment and electoral considerations.

One controversial episode involved veteran Congress leader Swaran Singh, who was tasked with negotiating with Akali leaders in 1982. He reportedly succeeded in drafting a conciliatory statement acceptable to the Akalis. But the statement was allegedly altered at the last moment under political pressure, causing negotiations to collapse.

Another alleged missed opportunity came when plans to arrest Bhindranwale during his visit to Delhi in 1982 reportedly failed after information leaked from influential political circles.

These failures deepened the crisis and strengthened extremist narratives that the government could not be trusted.

The Golden Temple Becomes a Fortress

By 1984, the Golden Temple complex resembled a fortified military zone.

Militants had stockpiled sophisticated weapons, including automatic rifles, grenades and rocket-propelled launchers. Strategic defensive positions



Senior army officers involved with Operation Bluestar, AS Vaidya (centre), K Sundarji (left) and KS Brar in Amritsar.



overlooked entry points and open courtyards. Snipers were positioned across buildings.

The Akal Takht became the main operational headquarters of Bhindranwale and his followers.

For the Indian government, the situation posed an enormous dilemma. The militants could not be allowed to

operate openly from the country's most sacred Sikh shrine. Yet any military action inside the complex risked inflaming Sikh sentiment across the world.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi faced mounting pressure from security agencies and political advisers to act decisively.

Operation Bluestar Begins

On June 3, 1984, Punjab was sealed under curfew. Transportation was suspended, communication lines cut and media access heavily restricted. Thousands of pilgrims were believed to be inside the Golden Temple complex because the operation coincided with a major Sikh religious observance.

The army launched the main assault on the night of June 5.

What military planners expected to be a swift operation soon turned into fierce urban combat. Soldiers attempting to enter the complex encountered heavy gunfire from fortified militant positions.

The troops faced deadly resistance while moving through the narrow pathways and staircases surrounding the parikrama. Militants used hidden firing positions, rooftops and underground access points to attack advancing soldiers.

As casualties mounted, army commanders decided to deploy tanks and armoured personnel carriers.

This decision would become one of the most controversial aspects of the operation.

The use of Vijayanta tanks against the Akal Takht caused massive destruction to one of Sikhism's highest seats of authority. By dawn on June 6, much of the structure had been reduced to rubble.

When troops finally entered the shattered Akal Takht, they found Bhindranwale dead alongside many of his followers.

Official government figures placed the death toll at around 554 militants and civilians, along with 83 soldiers killed. However, independent estimates suggest the number of dead may have been far higher, ranging from several hundred to several thousand.

Shockwaves Across the Sikh World

The images of tanks inside the Golden Temple and the destruction of the Akal Takht sent shockwaves through Sikh communities worldwide.

Even Sikhs who opposed militancy were devastated by the scale of damage inflicted on their holiest shrine. Anger spread rapidly across Punjab and the global Sikh diaspora, especially in countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Many Sikhs viewed the operation not merely as a security exercise but as an assault on Sikh identity and dignity itself.

The emotional impact was immense. Families mourned relatives killed during the operation. Survivors recounted horrifying scenes of gunfire, destruction and panic. The trauma was especially severe among older generations who had already lived through the horrors of Partition.

For countless Sikhs, June 1984 became a defining historical rupture.

Assassination of Indira Gandhi

The consequences of Operation Bluestar escalated dramatically on October 31, 1984.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards, Beant Singh and Satwant Singh, in retaliation for the military action at the

Continued on Page 21

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Golden Temple.

Her killing plunged the nation into shock.

But what followed was even more horrifying.

The Anti-Sikh Riots of 1984

Following Indira Gandhi's assassination, anti-Sikh violence erupted across Delhi and several other parts of northern India.

Mobs armed with iron rods, kerosene and voter lists targeted Sikh homes, businesses and gurdwaras. Thousands of Sikhs were murdered in one of the darkest episodes in post-Independence India.

Eyewitness accounts described horrifying brutality. Men were burned alive. Women were assaulted. Children were killed. Entire neighbourhoods were destroyed while police and authorities were accused of remaining passive or complicit.

More than 3,000 Sikhs were reportedly killed in Delhi alone, while nationwide estimates exceeded 8,000.

The riots left deep scars on India's secular and democratic fabric.

Many Congress leaders were accused of inciting or facilitating the violence. Decades later, only a limited number of convictions have taken place, reinforcing perceptions of delayed and incomplete justice.

For many Sikhs, the anti-Sikh riots and Operation Bluestar became inseparable chapters of the same tragedy.

Militancy and Counterinsurgency in Punjab

Instead of ending militancy, Operation Bluestar intensified it.

Bhindranwale's death transformed him into a martyr-like figure for many radical supporters. Punjab entered a prolonged phase of insurgency and counterinsurgency during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Militant groups demanding Khalistan carried out assassinations, bombings and attacks. In response, security forces launched aggressive operations to suppress insurgency.

Punjab became a landscape of fear, disappearances, extrajudicial killings and human rights abuses.

Thousands of civilians, militants and security personnel lost their lives during this turbulent period.

Eventually, through a combination of police action, political processes and public exhaustion with violence, militancy declined during the 1990s. Punjab slowly returned to relative normalcy.

Yet the memories of those years never disappeared completely.

The "Third Holocaust" in Sikh Memory

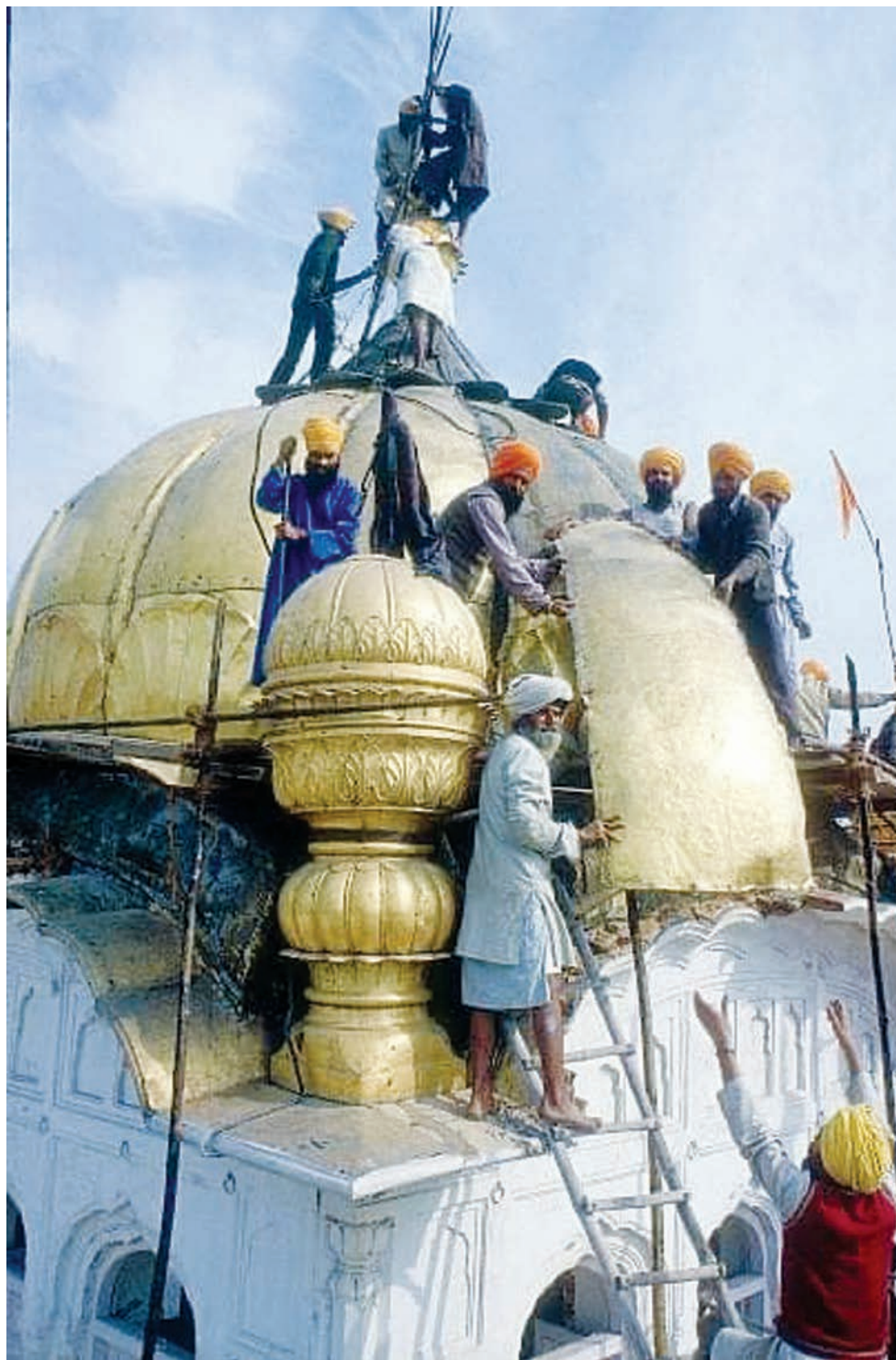
Within Sikh collective consciousness, Operation Bluestar gradually came to be remembered as the "Teeja Ghallughara" - the Third Holocaust.

The phrase deliberately links the events of 1984 to earlier massacres of Sikhs during the eighteenth century, including the Chhota Ghallughara and Wadda Ghallughara.

For many Sikhs, 1984 became part of a long historical narrative of persecution,



Nihang Chief Baba Santa Singh and his followers performing ardas to handover the Akal Takht after it was renovated following Operation Bluestar.



Sikhs repair the Sri Akal Takht Sahib in the aftermath of its destruction during the Indian government led operation blue star. Amritsar, Punjab 1985

sacrifice and survival.

The memory of Bluestar increasingly entered Sikh religious and cultural practices, including references in ardaas, the Sikh prayer that commemorates martyrs and historical

suffering.

This process of remembrance ensures that the events remain deeply embedded in Sikh identity across generations.

The Diaspora and the Khalistan Narrative

While support for Khalistan diminished significantly within Punjab over time, sections of the Sikh diaspora continued to keep the issue alive internationally.

In countries such as Canada and the UK, organisations and activists commemorated Operation Bluestar annually and campaigned for justice for victims of both Bluestar and the anti-Sikh riots.

Militant organisations such as Babbar Khalsa International and Khalistan Commando Force also continued to exist in fragmented forms, often accused of receiving support from Pakistan's intelligence networks.

For younger generations born long after 1984, the memory of Bluestar has often been shaped through family narratives, documentaries, social media and political activism.

The Unfinished Search for Justice

One of the deepest reasons the wounds of 1984 remain unhealed is the perception that justice was delayed or denied.

Successive governments expressed regret over the violence. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh apologised in Parliament for the anti-Sikh riots. Sonia Gandhi also publicly expressed sorrow over the events.

Yet many survivors believe accountability remains incomplete.

Commissions of inquiry were established, reports were written, and investigations reopened repeatedly over decades. But for many victims' families, the pace of justice remained painfully slow.

The absence of closure has ensured that the trauma of 1984 continues to echo across generations.

A Wound That Still Shapes India

Operation Bluestar remains one of the most emotionally charged and politically sensitive chapters in Indian history.

For the Indian state, it represented an attempt to restore order and confront armed extremism. For many Sikhs, it symbolised betrayal, desecration and collective suffering.

No side emerged untouched from the tragedy.

Punjab lost an entire generation to violence and fear. India lost a prime minister. Thousands of innocent Sikhs lost their lives in the riots that followed. Trust between communities was fractured.

And yet, Punjab also demonstrated resilience. Over time, peace gradually returned. Elections resumed. Ordinary citizens rebuilt their lives and rejected the politics of violence.

But history has a long memory.

The story of Operation Bluestar survives in prayers, memorials, songs, family stories and political debates. It survives in the ruins and reconstruction of the Akal Takht, in the tears of survivors and in the unresolved questions that still haunt India's democratic conscience.

Forty-two years later, Operation Bluestar remains more than a historical event. It is a living memory - painful, contested and deeply human.

NEW JERSEY'S NORTH TO SHORE ARTS FESTIVAL BRINGS WORLD-RENOWNED ARTISTS, HOMETGROWN TALENT & FREE EVENTS

BY MABEL PAIS

The North to Shore Festival, New Jersey's largest arts festival, returns for its fourth year, June 11-28, 2026. Spanning Newark, Asbury Park, and venues throughout the shore region, North to Shore promises an unforgettable celebration of music, comedy, film, and culture, featuring both world-renowned artists and the best of New Jersey's homegrown talent.

North to Shore preview
<https://youtu.be/mu9Os2hMHRo>

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

This year's festival boasts a stellar lineup of big-name artists who will electrify audiences across the state. Featured performers include **JANELLE MONÁE**, **THE BLACK CROWES**, **ALISON KRAUSS & UNION STATION**, **OCTOBER LONDON + ERIC BENET**, **YELLOWCARD**, **SUBLIME**, **PRIMUS & THE CLAYPOOL LENNON DELIRIUM**, **ILIZA SHLESINGER**, **ZARNA GARG**, and **JOE BONAMASSA**, **RENE VACA**, **BERNIE WILLIAMS**, **THE CHURCH** among many others.

The **BLACK CROWES** (Wiser Time) -
<https://youtu.be/a9FdKsqLOlg>

Courtesy, American Recordings

LOCAL TALENT

In addition to international superstars, North to Shore is dedicated to showcasing New Jersey's vibrant creative community. The festival features dozens of local artists, musicians, comedians, filmmakers, and performers, highlighting the diverse talent that makes the Garden State a cultural powerhouse. From emerging acts to established names, the festival is a platform for local voices to shine on a statewide stage.

October London (Touch on Me) -
https://youtu.be/W_gzD5AMb-E?list=RDW_gzD5AMb-E
Courtesy, Death Row Records

FREE EVENTS

Beyond headline performances, North to Shore offers hundreds of free events for all ages, including concerts, film screenings, comedy shows, workshops, and community gatherings. With venues ranging from iconic theaters to outdoor stages and neighborhood spaces, the festival ensures accessibility and engagement for every New Jersey resident and visitor.

"The best way to kick off the summer season is by celebrating New Jersey's homegrown talent and vibrant arts scene - and that's exactly what attendees can expect at the 2026 North to Shore festival," said Gov. Mikie Sherrill. "By investing directly in local artists and small businesses, we are ensuring this festival's legacy isn't just a two-week celebration with global headliners, but a lasting driver for opportunity and growth in every corner of our state."

As North to Shore enters its fourth year, it continues to build a legacy of artistic excellence and community impact. The festival invites media, attendees, and all New Jersey residents to experience the magic, energy, and unity that define this landmark event.

Headlining artists, performance locations and other updates will be announced both at NorthtoShore.com and through the North to Shore Festival app.

TICKETS, MORE INFORMATION

For information, new festival event listings, and tickets, June 11-28, visit <https://northtoshore.com>

SCHEDULE

June 11: I Am the Avalanche at House of Independents, Asbury Park.

June 13: Haiden Henderson at House of Independents, Asbury Park.

June 13: "Claypool Gold" featuring Primus, Les Claypool's Frog Brigade & The Claypool Lennon Delirium at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.

June 14: Brian Fallon at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.



Black Crowes team



October London

Credit Photos : njpac.org / northtoshore.com

June 15: Malibu, The Extensions, Blush at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.
June 16: Hot Mulligan, Joyce Manor, Saturdays at Your Place, Koyo at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.
June 17: Janelle Monae at Prudential Hall at NJPAC, Newark.
June 17: Lila Iké at House of Independents, Asbury Park.
June 17: Bad Cop Bad Cop at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.
June 17: Luke Combs UK (tribute show) at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.
June 18: Secondhand Serenade, Every Avenue at House of Independents, Asbury Park.
June 18: René Vaca at Prudential Hall NJPAC, Newark.
June 18: Surfing for Daisy at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.
June 18: Eric D'Alessandro at Victoria Theater, Newark.
June 18: Eddie 9V at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.
June 19: Yellowcard, New Found Glory, Plain White T's at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.
June 19: Sublime, The Movement, Pepper, Codependants at ParkStage, Freehold.
June 19: George Lamond at House of Independents, Asbury Park.
June 19: Chris Pinnella at Arthur Pryor Bandshell, Asbury Park.
June 19: October London, Eric Benet at Prudential Hall, Newark
June 19: The Weeklings & Friends at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.
June 20: The Black Crowes, Whiskey Myers at Prudential Center, Newark.
June 20: Dark Star Orchestra, Grateful Dead tribute at ParkStage, Freehold.
June 20: Zarna Garg at Prudential Hall at NJPAC, Newark.
June 20: Gary Gulman at Victoria Theater at NJPAC, Newark.
June 20: Bernie Williams & His Band of Friends at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.
June 20: Mihali at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.
June 21: Earthquake at Prudential Hall at NJPAC,

Newark.

June 21: Marc Maron at Victoria Theater at NJPAC, Newark.

June 21: Kurt Vile & the Violators, The Sadies at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.

June 21: Black Uhuru at House of Independents, Asbury Park.

June 22: Gods, Latewaves, Modern Chemistry at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

June 22: Food Insecurity Panel Discussion at NJPAC Banquet Room, Newark

June 24: Winyah at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.

June 24: LaMP at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

June 25: Jimmy Eat World at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.

June 25: Jesse & Joy at Prudential Hall at NJPAC, Newark.

June 25: Felix Hernandez's Rhythm Revue Dance Party, Horizon Sounds of the City series at NJPAC, Newark.

June 25: David Cross at House of Independents, Asbury Park.

June 25: King Kyote, The Animeros at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

June 26: The Head And the Heart at ParkStage, Freehold.

June 26: Alison Krauss & Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Theo Lawrence at Prudential Hall NJPAC, Newark.

June 26: DJ Wallah, Sounds of the City at Chambers Plaza NJPAC, Newark.

June 26: Jessica Kirson at Victoria Theater at NJPAC, Newark.

June 26: Streetlight Manifesto at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.

June 26: Joe P. at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

June 27: The Bouncing Souls, Less than Jake, Bane, The Lawrence Arms at Stone Pony Summer Stage, Asbury Park.

June 27: Iliza Schlesinger at Prudential Hall at NJPAC, Newark.

June 27: Lucas Zelnick at Victoria Theater at NJPAC, Newark.

June 27: The Ocean Blue, Brian Tighe at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

June 28: Joe Bonamassa at Prudential Hall at NJPAC, Newark.

June 28: Jordan Jensen at Victoria Theater at NJPAC, Newark.

June 28: The Church at Stone Pony, Asbury Park.

June 28: Juice at Wonder Bar, Asbury Park.

THE NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL

The North to Shore Festival, launched in 2023, features all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into two extraordinary weeks of performances, parties and conversations. Programs and events are held each June in two of the state's most iconic cities: Asbury Park and Newark. The North to Shore Festival brings hundreds of thousands of arts lovers together every summer, for events at hundreds of venues, for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence. A celebration worthy of the Garden State's legacy of innovation and excellence in the arts, North to Shore is "the festival only Jersey can handle."

In 2026, the festival has several sponsors. Learn more at northtoshore.com.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is an anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day. Learn more at njpac.org.

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

NJ, THE GARDEN STATE: FORCE OF RESURGENT INNOVATION, WILL BE DISCUSSED AT BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

BY MABEL PAIS

The State of New Jersey has long been fertile ground for technological innovation. From the lightbulbs that emerged from Thomas Edison's laboratories to the silicon chips created in the workshops of Bell Labs, so much of the framework of our modern world was engineered here.

Today, through the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Strategic Innovation Centers Initiative and a growing constellation of research institutions, startups, and global enterprises, New Jersey is again one of America's most dynamic innovation economies. What forces are driving this resurgence? And what will Garden State scientists, entrepreneurs and engineers dream up next?

Join NJPAC for its next Business Partners "Roundtable" (BPRT) at 8:30



New Jersey Resurgence -Courtesy, njpac.org

AM on Tuesday, June 2, when leaders from New Jersey's innovation ecosystem will explore how the Garden State is cementing its position as a hub of technology, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences.

PROGRAM DETAILS

What: New Jersey's Innovation

Ecosystem

When: June 2, 2026, 8:30-10:15 am

Where: The Chase Room, NJPAC, 1 Center Street, NJ

Moderator

Evan Weiss, CEO of the NJEDA, will moderate a conversation with

Panelists

Thierry Klein, President of Nokia Bell Labs;

Liat Krawczyk, Executive Director of the NJ AI Hub;

Corey Sanders, Senior Vice President Product Management, CoreWeave; and Michael Johnson, President, New Jersey Innovation Institute (NJII).

REGISTRATION

Registration is required. To RSVP, visit <https://njpac.org/event/tomorrowland-new-jerseys-resurgent-innovation-economy/#register>

A day before the event, an email with event details will be sent to all those who have RSVPd.

Membership

To become a member of NJPAC's Business Partners program, where members have access to exclusive events, networking and client entertainment opportunities at NJPAC, learn more at <https://njpac.org/corporate>.

THE MANY FACES OF NEWARK BROUGHT TO LIGHT AT NEWARK'S MAIN LIBRARY

BY MABEL PAIS

A lecture on the forgotten faces of Newark's history, drawing on archival discoveries, will be brought back to life at the Newark Public Library on June 2 at 6 PM.

PROGRAM DETAILS

What: Forgotten Faces of Newark's History

When: June 2, 2026 @ 6 PM

Where: Newark Public Library (Main Branch), 5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102

Presenter: Gail Malmgreen, Director of the Newark Archives Project.

Launched in 2009 by the Newark



The Many Faces of Newark. -Courtesy, njpac.org

History Society, the Newark Archives Project is an online guide with more than 4,000 comprehensive descriptions about primary source materials related to Newark and its residents. A fresh light will be cast on iconic local figures, and hidden stories will be revealed from those with surprising ties to the city.

Light refreshments will be served.

REGISTRATION

Registration is required. RSVP @ <https://njpac.org/event/the-many-faces-of-newark/#register>

This program is co-sponsored by NJPAC, Newark History Society and the Newark Public Library.

THIS SPRING, TEENS CONTINUE TO SHOWCASE THEIR WORDS AND IDEAS AT A DODGE POETRY WORKSHOP

BY MABEL PAIS

In continuation of the workshops that commenced last winter, teens (ages 13-18) from across Newark, are invited to attend a **Dodge Poetry workshop** to showcase their words and ideas.

Poets from the community (like Newark's first-ever poet laureate, Mia X), and students from the Rutgers-Newark MFA program in Poetry, will be on hand to offer prompts, suggestions and ideas.

Everyone's voice is different. Mentors want to hear yours.

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

The mentoring team believes poetry can be found in books, but also in hip hop, at protests and parties, in the clip of a song playing from the window of a passing car. Poetry is an oral tradition, especially here in Newark. (Even Newark's mayor Ras Baraka is a spoken word artist; this is what we do!)

So be a part of the conversation. Join



Teen poets - Courtesy, njpac.org.

the DODGE POETRY mentors to write your own verses, and then (if you choose) speak them out loud at the open mic that ends every session.

Workshops are FREE and will be held in person on the first Wednesday of the month (at locations in various wards in Newark; see below for details) and virtually on the third Wednesday of the month.

SCHEDULE

Wed, 06/03/26 @ 5:30PM - In-person
Wed, 06/17/26 @ 5:30PM - Virtual
Wed, 07/01/26 @ 5:30PM - In-person
Wed, 07/15/26 @ 5:30PM - Virtual
Wed, 08/05/26 @ 5:30PM - In-person
Wed, 08/19/26 @ 5:30PM - Virtual

LOCATION (IN PERSON)

Jun 3 @ 5:30-8:00 PM | at 31 Mulberry St

Jul 1 @ 5:30-8:00 PM | MENTOR Newark
Aug 5 @ 5:30-8:00 PM | Clinton Hill Community Action

REGISTRATION & MORE INFORMATION

For registration & more information, visit njpac.org.

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

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY PRESENTS SEASON FINALE WITH MUSIC DIRECTOR XIAN ZHANG AND OTHERS



Emanuel Ax, pianist -Courtesy, njsymphony.org

BY MABEL PAIS

The **New Jersey Symphony** will present its Season Finale concerts with Music Director Xian Zhang conducting Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie fantastique" and Emanuel Ax will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 22. The concert will take place at several New Jersey locations (see program below).

The program opens with the world premiere of "Doublespeak" from Resident Artistic Partner Allison Loggins-Hull. From the composer: "Doublespeak" is a symphonic tone poem in three continuous movements that explores the tension between truth, perception, and language in modern life. The title refers to the manipulation of meaning: language that disguises reality while appearing to state it plainly."

In February 2025, the Symphony performed the East Coast premiere of Hull's "Can You See?," originally commissioned for the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players, and later expanded for full orchestra. Now in her second season as Resident Artistic Partner, Allison collaborates with the Symphony's artistic leadership adding her unique perspective and experiences to the artistic planning process for programming and community events.

PROGRAM

Season Finale: *Symphonie fantastique*

Xian Zhang conductor

Emanuel Ax piano

New Jersey Symphony

Allison Loggins-Hull "Doublespeak" (World Premiere, New Jersey Symphony Commission)

Gregory D. McDaniel conductor

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Piano Concerto No. 22

Hector Berlioz "Symphonie fantastique"

New Brunswick - Thursday, June 4, 7 pm

Princeton - Friday, June 5, 7:30 pm

Red Bank - Saturday, June 6, 7:30 pm

Newark - Sunday, June 7, 2 pm

Get event details @ <https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/symphonie-fantastique-2026>

TICKETS

Tickets are available at njsymphony.org.

ARTIST BIOS

Emanuel Ax

Emanuel Ax was born to Polish parents in what is today Lviv, Ukraine. Mr. Ax made his New York debut in the Young Concert Artists Series, and in 1974 won the first Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition in Tel Aviv. In 1975, he won the Michaels Award of Young Concert Artists, followed four years later by the Avery Fisher Prize. Emanuel Ax was recently named the 2026 Musical America Artist of the Year.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of his first appearance with the orchestra, the 2025-26 season began with The Philadelphia Orchestra at Carnegie Hall on October 31.

He has received GRAMMY Awards for the second and third volumes of his cycle of Haydn's piano sonatas. He has also made a series of GRAMMY Award-winning recordings with Yo-Yo Ma of the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas for cello and piano. In the 2004-05 season, Mr. Ax contributed to an International Emmy Award-winning BBC documentary commemorating the Holocaust that aired on the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. In 2013, Mr. Ax's recording "Variations" received the



Allison Loggins-Hull, composer -Courtesy, njsymphony.org

Echo Klassik Award for Solo Recording of the Year (19th Century Music/Piano).

Mr. Ax is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and holds honorary doctorate of music degrees from Skidmore College, New England Conservatory of Music, Yale University, and Columbia University.

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

Allison Loggins-Hull

Celebrated as a musical "powerhouse" (The Washington Post), Allison Loggins-Hull is a composer, flutist, and producer whose work defies genre, ranging from symphonic music to film scores, chamber music, and electronic music.

Her signature style of composing for orchestra is characterized by unique sonic effects that echo contemporary music production techniques. Her works are profoundly influenced by Black American music, creating a vibrant and kaleidoscopic sonic palette. Thematically, her compositions are deeply rooted in the experiences of community, culture, and life, offering a rich and evocative musical narrative. Her artistic reflections on Black stories, music, and experience have led to works aligned with Afrofuturism, a movement that imagines alternate realities and a liberated future viewed through the lens of Black cultures.

Loggins-Hull has served as Resident Artistic Partner to New Jersey Symphony since September 2024. The 2024-25 season marked the last of her three years as the Lewis Composer Fellow with The Cleveland Orchestra, an engagement that focused on the narratives and history of Cleveland through the prism of one of the world's great orchestras, culminating in three world premieres and two portrait albums in 2026. She also received a 2025 Fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Loggins-Hull has performed as an accompanist to major pop acts, including Lizzo and Frank Ocean. She has performed on multiple blockbuster film scores and composed the score for "Bring Them Back," an award-winning documentary executive-produced by Debbie Allen about the legendary dancer Maurice Hines. Learn more at <https://allisonloggins.com>

New Jersey Symphony

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

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

In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2027. For more information about New Jersey Symphony, visit njsymphony.org.

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

Don 3 dilemma: If not Ranveer Singh, then who?

Farhan Akhtar and his casting team must fancy employing gyarah mulkon ki police right now, to get Ranveer Singh on the Don 3 set. Akhtar has already knocked on the doors of the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE), seeking action against Singh for allegedly walking out of the film before shooting was to begin.

As the filmmaker cried about losses, FWICE leapt into action like a jungle billi and slapped a non-cooperation directive on Singh. The boycott has no legal relevance, but it could coerce the federation's workers across various filmmaking departments from being associated with any Ranveer Singh project till the issue is solved.

Which brings us to a root problem. If Shah Rukh Khan, the Last Don of Bollywood, is not an option any more and if Ranveer Singh is in no mood to play the mob boss despite FWICE diktats, who could Akhtar possibly cast as the next Don?

Let's take stock of the tremendous legacy any new actor who signs up to play Don would be burdened with. We'll come to Amitabh Bachchan, Real McCoy of Dons, later. Let's first talk Shah Rukh Khan, since his Don films connect more easily with Gen Z.

Shah Rukh Khan played Don with inimitable charisma over two films in 2006 and 2011 – a cheeky rake and criminal mastermind rolled into one; a silky, smirking monster. He swaggered through the role with the signature superstar vibe only SRK brings to his characters. It was an act that blended the witty with the stylish and the sinister. Ranveer Singh's walking out of the project after SRK's exit, throws open the situation all over again. Trolled initially by fans who felt no one could, and should, replace Shah Rukh Khan, Ranveer had slowly started to ease into the Bollywood fan psyche as the next Don.

Main Hoon from Maatrubhumi: Salman-Chitrangda's track gets a soulful new cut

Salman Khan has unveiled a soulful and emotionally charged version of the track, Main Hoon, from his upcoming film Maatrubhumi. The song gives a fresh look at the patriotic drama and its emotional core. The new version, which is set to be released today, also features Chitrangda Singh.

The newly unveiled music video places its focus entirely on Salman Khan and Chitrangda Singh, foregrounding themes of love, longing and separation. It has been shot completely in black and white, marking a clear contrast with the original song video, which used vibrant colours and visually rich settings.

The original version of Main Hoon traced the emotional journey of a soldier's family, showing moments of happiness together as well as the silence and loneliness that follow when duty calls. Sung by Shreya Ghoshal and Ayan Lall, the song pays tribute to the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families.

The latest version of Main Hoon arrives as anticipation builds around Maatrubhumi, directed by Apoorva Lakhia. The film was earlier titled Battle of Galwan and is reportedly inspired by the 2020 Galwan Valley clash between India and China before being renamed later.

While Maatrubhumi was initially



expected to release in theatres on April 17, the makers are yet to announce a revised release date.

Maatrubhumi (originally titled Battle of Galwan) is an upcoming Indian war drama starring Salman Khan as Colonel Santosh Babu. The film is based on the 2020 Galwan Valley clash. While originally slated for an

earlier release, the makers are reportedly targeting the Independence Day weekend.

Main Hoon Song: The makers recently released a soulful new version of the track "Main Hoon" featuring Salman Khan and Chitrangada Singh, which highlights the emotional journey of a soldier's family.

Shamita Shetty slams troll for questioning her single status at 47



Shamita Shetty is 47 and in no rush to get married. Even when her sister, actor Shilpa Shetty, 50, is already a mother to a 14-year-old son, Shamita has always maintained that she does not want to get married just for the sake for it. The actor has now given a sharp reply to trolls who mocked her age and unmarried status.

Shamita took to her Instagram Stories and posted a screenshot of a troller's account passing unsolicited comments on her posts. She penned a note to address the comments, in which she began: "I want to take this wonderful opportunity to respond to your wonderful comments: 'Apki age ho gayi hai pehle wali baat nahi rahi (You have grown old now; you are not the same as before)': Yes, I will look different. Things change with time; it's the natural way of life. Nothing stays forever, including physical appearance! BUT for my age, I'm healthy, fit, and happy with a grateful heart for all that the almighty has given me... and that's all that matters to me."

She added another comment that read, "Agar shaadi time par kar leti to aapke bache aaj bade

ho gaye hote (If you had gotten married on time, your children would have grown up by now)': Toh? Yes, you stated the obvious... so? Aapne shaadi karke kya ukhaad liya hai bhai (What miracle you have cracked after getting married)? Most importantly, why the hell do you follow us single women to age-shame us and inflict us with your patriarchal, cave-man-like, male-centric thought process! Please do me a favour and unfollow me pronto!"

Shamita shot to fame with her acting debut in Aditya Chopra's blockbuster Mohabbatein (2000). She acted in films like Zeher (2005), Fareb (2005), and Cash (2007). She took an extended break from the film industry to explore other passions, primarily focusing on a successful career in interior design. Later, she returned to reality TV as a contestant on Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa (2015), Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 9 (2019), Bigg Boss OTT (2021), and Bigg Boss 15.

A few years ago, she sparked dating rumours with Raqesh Bapat. They fell for each other during Bigg Boss OTT, but in 2022, Shamita announced on social media that they are not together any more.

Matthew Perry's assistant gets 41 months in prison for role in actor's death

The personal assistant who injected "Friends" star Matthew Perry with a fatal dose of the hallucinogenic drug ketamine was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison on Wednesday, bringing to a close the prosecution of five people who admitted to playing roles in the actor's death.

Judge Sherilyn Garnett delivered the sentence for Kenneth Iwamasa, the person who found Perry floating face down and lifeless in a hot tub at his Los Angeles home in October 2023. Federal prosecutors said Iwamasa injected Perry with ketamine at the actor's request before leaving the residence to run errands. Perry was dead when Iwamasa returned.

"I am so sorry to all of you," Iwamasa said in court, turning to face the Perry family. "I'm just so sorry to have done illegal acts I will forever regret. I will take that to my grave."

An autopsy report concluded that Perry died from the "acute effects of ketamine," which combined with other factors in causing him to lose consciousness and drown.

Ketamine, a short-acting but potent anesthetic with hallucinogenic properties, is sometimes prescribed to treat depression and other psychological disorders but has gained popularity as an illicit party drug.

Iwamasa had pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute ketamine resulting in death. As part of a plea agreement, he admitted to repeatedly injecting Perry with ketamine without medical training, including the lethal dose.

Paris Hilton reveals there are 100k explicit deepfake images of her, slams AI

Actor, reality star, and billionaire heiress Paris Hilton reiterated her stance against artificial intelligence-generated deepfake porn on the internet. Paris shared a video on social media that featured clips from her speech at the Capitol from earlier this year, as well as a new testimony backing the Defiance Act, a bill that aims to give survivors of AI porn a legal remedy.

Paris had joined House Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) and Laurel Lee at the Capitol in Washington DC in January to lend support to the Defiance Act. In the video shared Tuesday, Paris is seen speaking at the dias. She says, "I know today that there are over 100,000 explicit deepfake images of me made by AI. Not one of them is real, not one of them is consensual."

Paris first faced online sexual abuse over two decades ago after a sex tape featuring her and then-boyfriend Rick Salomon was leaked onto the internet. Paris sued the company that released the tape, Kahatani Ltd., for \$30 million for violation of privacy and emotional distress. Referring to the 2003 scandal, she added, "They sold my pain for clicks, and then they told me to be quiet, to move on, to even be grateful for the attention. Too many women are afraid to exist online or sometimes to exist at all. Now, I have a daughter. She is just two and a half years old, and I would go to the ends of the earth to protect her. But I can't protect her from this. Not yet! And that's why I am here. I am Paris Hilton - a woman, a wife, a mom, a survivor, and what was done to me was wrong. I will keep telling the truth to protect every woman, every girl, every survivor now and for the future."



In another video, Paris reiterated her support for the Defiance Act, stating, "This act would make it so that victims can go into court and sue because there is no law to regulate it now. I want my children to be in a world that is safe, so I'm gonna do everything in my power to help make that happen."

The DEFIANCE Act (Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-

Consensual Edits Act) is a bipartisan federal bill spearheaded by AOC and Laurel Lee that grants victims of non-consensual deepfake pornography and intimate digital forgeries the right to take civil action against perpetrators. Speaking about it in January, AOC had said the bill was important because "we have seen an absolute explosion in AI-generated images used to sexually harass victims and children".

2025 Louvre heist where thieves stole \$100M jewelry to be turned into film

It made headlines all over the world when thieves made off with jewellery worth some \$100 million from France's iconic Louvre Museum last year. What made the heist comical was the farcical way the thieves walked inside the high-security museum and walked out casually. Now, the much-talked-about robbery is getting a film adaptation, news agency AFP reported.

French director Romain Gavras, whose work includes the 2025 Hollywood film *Sacrifice* starring Anya Taylor-Joy, will direct the film, drawing inspiration from the investigative book *Main basse sur le Louvre* (literally A grab at the Louvre), publishers told the agency.

Film rights to the book about the October 19, 2025 heist had been sold to the production company Iconoclast while rights for a documentary series were acquired by a British producer, the Flammarion publishing house said.

The book, *Main basse sur le Louvre*, was written by three journalists from French dailies *Le Parisien* and

Le Monde, and weekly glossy magazine *Paris Match*. It is set to hit the bookstores on Wednesday. The film rights were sold even before a single copy of the book was sold, anticipating the buzz around such a film and the sales of the book.

According to trade magazine *Le Film Francais*, while the film is already in development, there is no update on a title. The cast has not been announced either. The producers are expected to share updates later this year. A release date or window remains uncertain till the film goes on floors.

On October 19 last year, thieves used the guise of maintenance workers to infiltrate the popular museum in Paris and walked away with jewels worth over \$100 million. The Louvre heist sent shockwaves around the world and sparked a security crisis at the world-famous museum, ultimately leading to the replacement of its director, Laurence des Cars. After seven months of investigation, and despite the arrests of the main suspects, the jewels have still not been found.



16 students killed as fire tears through Kenya school dormitory

MAY 29, 2026

NAIROBI (TIP): At least 16 students have been killed when a fire ripped through a dormitory at a girls school in a town in central Kenya, police and a government official say.

Education Minister Julius Ogamba said on Thursday, May 28, that 79 were injured after the fire broke out overnight at the Utumishi Girls School in Gilgil, Nakuru County.

The cause of the fire was "not immediately known."

Police said they were leading rescue and emergency response efforts in the town, located about 120km (74 miles) northwest of the capital, Nairobi.

Footage aired by Citizen Television showed broken window panes and smoke-stained walls.

Masoud Mwinyi, a senior police commander, told reporters at the school that "50 officers were combing areas around the facility for students who may have fled when the fire broke out. "Of that shock and fear and anxiety, many people went out, and it was at night," he said. Kenya has a long history of school fires. More than 60 cases of arson in public secondary schools were recorded in 2018 alone, according to government data. "Many of the fires have been set by students protesting against harsh discipline and poor conditions, researchers have found.

In 2024, a fire killed 21 students at a primary boarding school in nearby Nyeri County. The cause of that fire has not been conclusively established.

Iceland ousts Switzerland as world's priciest nation

MAY 29, 2026

REYKJAVÍK (TIP): Iceland is again the world's most expensive country, surpassing Switzerland for the first time in years, calculations by a local trade union showed.

The price level in the land of fire and ice now exceeds that of Switzerland by three percentage points, said Mr Vilhjalmur Hilmarsson, an economist at the white-collar union Viska union who used data from the Eurostat statistics body and the Icelandic central bank. Icelandic prices last topped the Swiss in 2018, according to Eurostat. The development illustrates challenges of the small Atlantic economy that is historically prone to booms and busts. A post-pandemic surge in tourism – its key growth engine – has fuelled an economic rebound and a rally in prices that the central bank is struggling to contain.

Netanyahu orders Israeli military to take control of 70% of Gaza

MAY 29, 2026

JERUSALEM (TIP): Amid simmering tensions in the Middle East, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced plans to gain military control over 70 percent of the Gaza Strip in another major escalation in the war that has already displaced nearly all of Gaza's population.

Speaking at a conference in the occupied West Bank on May 28, Netanyahu said Israeli forces were steadily increasing their hold over the Palestinian enclave and would continue expanding operations against Hamas.

"We are now in 60 per cent of the territory of the Gaza Strip. We were at 50 per cent, we moved to 60 per cent," Netanyahu said. "My directive is to move to -- take it step by step -- first of all 70. Let's start with that."

As he spoke, members of the audience shouted calls for Israel to seize all of Gaza. Israel and Hamas remain stuck in indirect negotiations over the next phase of the ceasefire agreement, which includes Hamas giving up weapons and Israeli troop withdrawals from Gaza. Despite the truce, Israel still controls more than half of Gaza, while Hamas holds a small stretch of coastal territory. Gaza health officials say around 900 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli strikes since the ceasefire took effect.



Maps shared by the Israeli military with international aid agencies in late April already showed Israeli forces controlling around 64 per cent of Gaza. If Israel expands that control further, nearly two million Palestinians could be forced into an even smaller area of the devastated coastal territory.

Large parts of Gaza have already been destroyed after months of fighting, repeated air strikes and ground offensives.

Under the October 2025 ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, Israeli troops had withdrawn to a military boundary known as the "yellow line", which covered roughly 53 per cent of Gaza.

But Hamas accused Israel earlier this week of quietly moving that line deeper into the enclave.

The Palestinian group said the move

represented "an explicit and ongoing undermining of the ceasefire agreement" and accused Israel of trying to impose "new facts on the ground by force".

Hamas also warned that expanding military control would damage any remaining hopes for de-escalation. The Israeli government has argued that military pressure is necessary to weaken Hamas and prevent future attacks.

Meanwhile, Israel has also expanded military operations in southern Lebanon against Hezbollah. On Wednesday, the Israeli military declared a large new section of southern Lebanon a "combat zone" and ordered residents to evacuate north of the Zahrani River.

The warning covered a large stretch of territory roughly 40 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Israeli military officials said troops would act "with great force" against Hezbollah fighters and infrastructure inside the area.

The evacuation order followed more than 120 Israeli strikes across southern and eastern Lebanon a day earlier, despite a ceasefire announced in April.

Residents began fleeing toward the coastal city of Sidon, according to Lebanese security sources cited by news agency Reuters. The latest displacement happened during Eid al-Adha celebrations across Lebanon.

Ukraine to buy 20 Gripen jets as Sweden pledges to donate 16 fighter aircraft

MAY 29, 2026

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine will buy 20 new Gripen fighter jets and Sweden will donate 16 of an older model next year, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said at a joint press conference on May 28.

The two leaders had signed a letter of intent last year paving the way for Sweden to sell up to 150 Saab Gripen model E fighter jets to Ukraine, though deliveries of the newer model are several years away.

The planes are a priority for Ukraine's fighter fleet and the country's defence minister said in May that a deal for Gripen E could be signed "within months" after the European Union approved a 90 billion euro loan for Ukraine.

"Gripen is the best and optimal choice for Ukraine. So today, we take the next major step on this joint journey," Kristersson said at a press conference alongside Zelenskyy at Uppsala air base, where two Gripen jets were on display.

"We need these jets and for us this is really a new page for Ukraine," Zelenskyy said, adding it planned to buy all the 150 jets stipulated in the original letter of intent. "God bless, we will have enough financing for this," he said.

The transfer of older model C/D jets enables a stopgap solution for Ukraine's air defence in the meantime.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine had earmarked 2.5 billion euros out of a 90 billion euro EU loan package for the planes. Deliveries of the new model are expected to reach Ukraine from 2030.

Shares in Saab were up 4.4 per cent at 1141 GMT, making it the top gainer in Europe. Saab CEO Micael Johansson said it was a



big day for the company and that the deal added to the momentum around Gripen. "The more countries that select the Gripen fighter...and it starts flying in operations in more countries, the more people understand what a fantastic capability this is," Johansson told Reuters at the Uppsala air base. Sweden is one of the largest contributors to Ukraine and has sent 128 billion Swedish crowns (\$13.75 billion) worth of military and civilian aid so far. It has also set aside 80 billion crowns in aid for this year and next.

Ukraine's air force is made up of a mixture of Soviet-made and western aircraft. Gripen is seen as a cost-efficient alternative to fighters like the more advanced American F-35, being easy and quick to maintain and able to operate from dispersed air bases such as ordinary roads.

For Sweden, the deal also offers an opportunity to leverage its large defence industry, which has seen a surge in demand since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Man stabs 3 people at Swiss train station in what authorities call 'act of terror'

MAY 29, 2026

GENEVA (TIP): A man stabbed and wounded three people in what authorities described as an "act of terror" at the train station in the Swiss city of Winterthur on Thursday, May 28, before being arrested.

The attack took place shortly before 8:30 am. The suspect, who was arrested five minutes after emergency services were alerted, is a 31-year-old Swiss-Turkish dual national who lives in Winterthur, regional police chief Marius Weyermann said. He had come to authorities' attention in 2015 for distributing propaganda of the Islamic State group, Weyermann added. In recent days, he was taken to a psychiatric facility after calling the police emergency number and making "confused comments", but he left on Wednesday after a doctor determined that he was not dangerous.

Three Swiss men, aged 28, 43 and 52, were wounded in Thursday's attack. The first two were discharged or were about to be released from hospitals by mid-afternoon, Weyermann said. The oldest was still hospitalised after an operation on a thigh injury. Weyermann said investigators believe the man acted alone. Mario Fehr, the Zurich region's top security official, described the attack as "an evil act of terror". He said the suspect was born in Switzerland and gained Swiss citizenship in 2009, and apparently had spent much of the last two years in Turkey.

Japan bans Indian mangoes after pest-control lapses found at export facilities

MAY 29, 2026

TOKYO (TIP): Japan has halted mango imports from India after quarantine officials flagged deficiencies in pest-control procedures at Indian export treatment centres, dealing a blow to shipments during the peak summer mango season.

The suspension affects premium Indian varieties including Alphonso, Kesar, Langra and Banganapalli, which are exported to Japan under strict phytosanitary rules. Japanese authorities are learnt to have raised concerns over whether Indian consignments were fully complying with the country's plant health standards.

According to a report by Economic Times, inspectors from Japan found operational irregularities at vapour heat treatment (VHT) facilities in India during inspections conducted earlier this year. These facilities are tasked with disinfecting mangoes before export to ensure they are free from pests such as fruit flies.

Israel cuts ties with UN chief after inclusion on sexual violence offenders list

MAY 29, 2026

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel announced plans to cut ties with the leader of the United Nations in a largely symbolic move to protest its inclusion on an annual report about sexual violence in conflict zones.

"We are done with this UN Secretary-General," Israeli Ambassador to the UN Danny Danon in a statement Thursday, May 28, adding his country is freezing relations with the office of UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Israel remains a member of the United Nations and can interact with several of its bodies separately from the secretary general. However, being listed in the sexual violence report could have negative implications for member states, including for peacekeeping missions.

"The Secretary General's door is figuratively and literally open to representatives of the Israeli mission," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Thursday. "We want to be able to dialogue and speak to all representatives that are in this building."

Israel's inclusion on the UN blacklist has sparked outrage in the country, which has historically had a strained relationship with top UN officials and the organization as a



whole, over its policies in Gaza and the West Bank.

"Although Israel will likely continue technical cooperation with some UN agencies, the symbolism behind Tel Aviv suspending relations with the UN's chief diplomat is unmistakable," said Daniel Forti, who heads UN affairs at the International Crisis Group. "The decision is another crack in an already fractured relationship between the UN and the Israeli government."

That friction only worsened after the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas militants and the war that followed, with Israelis accusing the world body of bias and UN agencies repeatedly

condemning the scale of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israeli officials accused the UN's main humanitarian agency in Gaza of providing cover for Hamas militants and have tried to dismantle the agency's operations.

"This decision is yet another example of the UN's long-standing, institutionalized hostility toward Israel," the Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a post on X.

Guterres had previously warned both Israel and Russia that they were in danger of being added to the infamous list. In a letter to Israel's envoy to the UN last year, Guterres explained a UN report found "credible information of violations by Israeli armed and security forces, perpetrated against Palestinians in several prisons, a detention centre and military base."

The Israeli mission to the UN denounced its inclusion on the list of offenders, saying Danon and the delegation held meetings with UN representatives to provide documents and data responding to the allegations and concerns raised by the secretary general last year.

"Despite this, the UN Secretary-General chose to advance a political decision and include Israel alongside Hamas and terrorist organizations," said a statement from the mission.

Indians, Pakistanis taking our jobs: UK MP's racist remarks spark outrage

MAY 29, 2026

LONDON (TIP): British Independent MP Rupert Lowe has sparked major controversy after posting a series of inflammatory comments targeting Indian and Pakistani immigrants in the UK, claiming they were taking jobs from British citizens and altering the country's cultural identity. Lowe, who recently launched the right-wing political movement and party 'Restore Britain' after splitting from Reform UK, said he was unconcerned about being labelled racist for his remarks.

"I don't believe we should import millions of Pakistanis and Indians to do jobs that unemployed Brits should be doing. If that makes me a racist, then so be it," the MP representing the Great Yarmouth constituency in eastern England wrote in a thread of posts on X.

He further claimed that parts of north-west England had become "like being transported to a foreign country" because of immigration and accused mainstream British parties of allowing "millions of low-skilled migrants from the Third World" into the country.



Rupert Lowe

In a series of posts focused heavily on Muslim communities, Lowe wrote that areas in Manchester were becoming "Islamic" and described immigration as a form of "colonisation".

He alleged that British family-run businesses had been displaced and claimed British women no longer felt comfortable in certain neighbourhoods.

He also criticised burqas, sharia courts, halal slaughter and public prayer gatherings, while pledging that a future Restore Britain government would "ban the burqa", "ban cousin marriage" and "ban the Kirpan in public spaces".

Lowe also linked his anti-immigration rhetoric to his campaign around grooming gang investigations.

Referring to an upcoming parliamentary debate, he posted, "Progress to report – our rape gang inquiry debate is finally taking place in Parliament on Monday". He urged supporters to pressure MPs to attend the discussion.

The remarks triggered criticism online, with opponents accusing Lowe of stoking racial and religious tensions through sweeping generalisations about immigrants and Muslim communities.

Official demographic and labour-market data, however, do not support Lowe's assertion that Indian and Pakistani migrants dominate employment or are depriving local Britons of jobs, particularly in constituencies such as Great Yarmouth.

According to the Office for National Statistics, Great Yarmouth's population increased modestly between 2011 and 2021, rising from around 97,300 to nearly 99,800 residents — growth of roughly 2.5 percent, significantly below both the East of England and national averages.

Russia, Afghanistan sign military cooperation pact as ties deepen after Taliban recognition

MAY 29, 2026

KABUL (TIP): A year after the Kremlin removed the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist groups, Russia and Afghanistan signed a military cooperation agreement on Wednesday, marking a further step in their expanding ties.

According to a Politico report, while details remain unclear, Afghan Defence Minister Mohammad Yaqoub said it represents an expansion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

“Interaction with Russia is important for us,” Politico quoted Yaqoub as saying after a meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Sergei Shoigu at the International Security Forum in Moscow.

“Afghanistan and Russia have long-standing and historic relations, and we want to move forward in this direction,” he added.

Shoigu said Western countries should unfreeze Afghan assets and assume responsibility for rebuilding the country after two decades of military presence.

“We are convinced that Western countries should unfreeze blocked Afghan assets, fully recognise their responsibility for their 20-year presence in Afghanistan and bear the burden of the country’s post-conflict reconstruction,” Anadolu Agency quoted Shoigu as saying.

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979 and fought a decade-long war against the mujahideen, Islamic guerrilla fighters resisting the occupation, many of whom later went on to form the Taliban.

After the withdrawal of Soviet forces, relations between Moscow and Kabul remained strained for years. However, following the US-led invasion of Afghanistan, Russia was later accused of providing arms to the Taliban as the group expanded its control across the country.

In April 2025, Russia removed the Taliban from its list of banned terrorist organisations, a designation that had been in place since 2003. By July of the same year, it became the first country to formally recognise the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, the European Commission confirmed it had invited Taliban officials to Brussels, though a spokesperson clarified the move “does not by any means constitute a recognition.”

Pak’s role in West Asia conflict mirrors a familiar pattern—use and discard by the US

MAY 29, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir was confident that his multiple backchannel visits to Iran would soon pay rich dividends as both Washington and Tehran were desperate to sign a long-awaited deal to formally terminate the conflict. Munir appeared determined to deliver what the US President Donald Trump expected from his “favourite field marshal”.

The wider architecture of US-Iran engagement remains driven by forces far beyond Islamabad’s direct control. But Pakistan’s military establishment was eager for the deal announcement to project it as Munir’s personalised statecraft and Pakistan’s geopolitical indispensability. However, the regional chessboard has shifted abruptly, and Pakistan might just have lost its moment to bask in the sun.

Trump’s latest desire for Pakistan and other Muslim countries to align themselves with the Abraham Accords under a bigger scheme of things has put Islamabad in an unusually fraught position. Having garnered international attention and visibility through his mediation efforts in evolving US-Iran engagement, Munir is in danger of being stuck between ultimately irreconcilable pressures of Trumpian expectations, the domestic Islamist outlook and Pakistan’s historical stance towards the Palestinian cause.

What at first seemed an opportunity for diplomatic advancement appears to be



quickly coming to mirror a familiar case of use and discard, reinforcing Defence Minister Khawaja Asif’s remark that the US had treated Pakistan like “toilet paper”.

No country can be “used” in this shabby manner by any external manipulator unless, through its own strategic choices, it has placed itself in such a position. It’s possible that even Munir himself, somewhere deep down inside, may begin to wonder whether Trump merely “used” him.

Yet this pattern is hardly new in Pakistan’s strategic experience. Pakistan’s early history makes its reliance on external patronage almost inevitable. Formed in haste, with its frontiers undefined, its political system still in infancy, and its armed forces already powerful, Pakistan needed a degree of stability which could only come from external ballast.

In the 1950s, such ballast came in the form of a partnership with the US. Joining organisations such as CENTO and SEATO meant having access to arms

and support. However, this alliance was driven by short-term tactical calculations rather than a shared ideological vision or a “common destiny.”

In the anti-Soviet jihad in Afghanistan, Pakistan became indispensable. It served as a useful channel for money, weapons and backroom dealings. Its intelligence capabilities were enhanced, and its strategic value was heightened. But with the end of the war came the realisation of the provisional nature of all this inflated significance. With the withdrawal of the Soviets came the flight of the Americans — sanctions were imposed, aid was withheld, and the former ally was increasingly viewed as the problem.

The trend persisted after 9/11 with near mechanical regularity. Pakistan once again found itself being labelled indispensable. It was once again designated a “major non-NATO ally” and received huge amounts of aid. The same old dilemma of competing allegiances once again marred the relationship. When the US finally retreated from Afghanistan in 2021, Pakistan found itself dealing with the consequences of an unfinished war.

This phenomenon cannot be viewed purely in external terms. There is an internal logic to it. Pakistan’s ruling elite, especially the military and bureaucracy, has always considered alignment as a strategic asset. External patronage has reinforced internal power, offset economic weakness and offered a perception of strategic advantage against India. But affection is not the name of the game in these alignments. Only calculations are.

IMF clears £512 million payout for Sri Lanka as recovery faces fresh pressure

MAY 29, 2026

COLOMBO (TIP): International Monetary Fund has approved fresh funding worth around £512 million (\$695 million) for Sri Lanka as the country continues navigating a fragile economic recovery shaped by rising oil prices, geopolitical tensions and the aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah.

The latest payout forms part of Sri Lanka’s broader 48-month Extended Fund Facility programme worth roughly £1.8 billion (\$2.4 billion), which was introduced to support economic reforms following the country’s severe financial crisis.

The approval comes after a combined review of Sri Lanka’s reform progress by the IMF executive board, which said the country had continued implementing key economic measures despite mounting external shocks.

In a statement following the decision, Kenji Okamura said Sri Lanka’s reform programme had helped preserve stability during difficult conditions,



including the economic fallout from Cyclone Ditwah and the ongoing conflict in West Asia.

War and oil prices cloud Sri Lanka’s recovery

The IMF warned that the economic outlook for Sri Lanka has become more uncertain because of rising global energy prices linked to the US-Iran conflict.

Okamura said the war had “significantly worsened” the country’s

outlook and increased downside risks for growth, inflation and tourism revenues.

According to IMF projections, Sri Lanka’s economic growth is expected to slow to around 3 per cent in 2026 as higher oil prices increase inflationary pressure and weaken the country’s current account balance.

Tourism, one of Sri Lanka’s most important foreign currency earners, could also face pressure if regional instability continues affecting travel demand.

The IMF said temporary fiscal easing in 2026 would be appropriate to help cushion the economic impact of the shocks, with the Sri Lankan government already rolling out relief measures and additional spending linked to cyclone recovery efforts.

Cyclone Ditwah struck Sri Lanka in November 2025, killing more than 600 people and causing widespread destruction across the island. A World Bank assessment estimated direct damages at around £3 billion (\$4.1 billion).

Sikh History This Week

MAY 29 TO JUNE 4

29th May



1606 Martyrdom, Fifth Patshah, Guru Arjan Dev Ji. Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606) Guru Arjan, the 'Prince of Martyrs' and the 'Prophet of Peace', proffered his precious life to nurture the glory that was to be the Sikh Panth. The Fifth Master's life was marked by divine bliss and sublime sacrifices, born of a sweet acceptance of God's Will. Gifted with a quintessential poetic afflatus, and immeasurable imaginative sympathies, the Guru gave the movement of Sikhism a definite direction, perspective and program. He made the new faith coeval or coextensive with the whole gamut of existence and raised its exquisite edifice on values for which there is neither death nor change.

Guru Arjan Dev adorned the sacred throne of Guru Nanak from Sept. 1, 1581 to May 30, 1606. Born at Goindwal on April 15, 1563, he was the youngest and noblest son of Guru Ram Das and Mata Bibi Bhani. On 23 Hadh sunmat 1636, he married Ganga Devi, daughter of Krishan Chand of Mau village. He had an innate poetic sensibility which was exquisitely displayed in the epistles that he sent to his father from Lahore. They are deeply expressive of the pangs of separation and the exuberance of Love. The Fourth Master's decision to make Guru Arjan his spiritual heir was bitterly opposed by Prithvi Chand who contended that being the eldest son, he alone was entitled to the Guruship. Thus, he could never reconcile himself to his younger brother's installation as Guru. Under Guru Arjan Dev the Sikh movement registered great progress. In sunmat 1645, he cemented the Santokhsar sarovar. Further, the Guru not only completed the construction of the Sarovars started at 'Guru Ka Chak' by his predecessor but also constructed two more Sarovars. He had the Harmandar built in the middle of Amritsar Sarovar and invited a celebrated Muslim divine, Mian Mir, to lay its foundation stone in sunmat 1645. Remarkable for its architectural and aesthetic beauty and unique in its conception, the temple with its four doors symbolizes the inborn equality of all mankind.

1606 Shashter Dharan, Sixth Patshah, Guru Hargobind Ji.

1712 Badshah Jahandar Shah seeks reinforcements to deal with Sikhs.

1923 SGPC again declares the Babbar Akalis as anti-Panthic.

1960 The first batch courted arrest for Punjabi Suba agitation.

1981 The Hindus took out anti-Sikh procession at Amritsar.

30th May

1710 Bahadur Shah called for volunteers for Jihad against the Sikhs. Bahadur Shah was appraised of the news of Banad Singh's exploits. Taking this into view the poignancy of the situation, he made up with the Rajputs and called for volunteers for "Jihad", holy war, against the Sikhs. He ordered the mobilisation of all

available forces, rallied Bundhela Rajputs against the Sikhs and himself personally proceeded in person to the Punjab.

31st May



1981 Sikh procession to seek Holy City status for Amritsar. The Sikhs brought out a procession to demand Holy City status for Amritsar. More than 25,000 Sikhs joined the procession. To quote a Hindu newspaper, the Tribune: Until 29 May it seemed that only 500 to 1,000 Sikhs would join the Sikh procession on Sunday when all the shops are closed in the city. Following yesterday's massive Hindu procession the number will be very high. This procession was a direct result of unfulfilled promises for the declaration of Amritsar as a Holy City. The SGPC chief, G. S. Tohra, had met with the Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, on September 24, 1980.

1986 In 1986 the International Sikh Organization (ISO) was established to educate the public and the U.S. Congress about the Sikh religion, the violations of human rights by the Indian government, India's genocide against the Sikhs, and the Sikh struggle for an independence. The Council of Khalistan was established on October 7, 1987, when Khalistan declared its independence.

1st June

1748 Small Holocaust that saw 10,000 Sikhs massacred in a single day. At least 10,000 Sikhs were massacred by Yahiya Khan and Lakhpat Rai, who had taken vow to avenge the death of his brother by annihilating the Sikhs. Diwan Lakhpat Rai, a katri of Kalanoar, was the Chief Minister to the Governor of Lahore, YayahKhan. When his troublemaker brother, Jaspat, was killed by Sikhs near Badoki Gusayia village, he unleashed a campaign of terror against the Sikhs to avenge the death of his brother. Jaspat Rai was actually killed in a skirmish with a Sikh outfit. However, Lakhpat Rai issued orders to shoot the Sikhs at sight. For some period, Lakhpat Rai even assumed completed control of Lahore, under orders of Ahmad Shah Abdali. Lakhpat Rai attacked Sikhs at Kahnoawal jungles and ordered to set the whole jungle on fire. Baba Deep Singh was among the Sikhs who escaped and subsequently fought back at the Beas River bank, and finally reaching Malwa. This incident culminated in what is common known as the "Chotta Ghalughara" (small genocide) in Sikh history.

1813 Maharaja Ranjit Singh obtained Kohinoor from Shahuja Amir of Kabul.

2nd June

1818 Maharaja Ranjit Singh's forces annexed the province of Multan into the Sikh State, after several years of fierce battles. The nawab of Multan, Muzaffar Khan had agreed to pay tribute to the Khalsa army. He had also made a resolution and had agreed that he will not conspire against the Khalsa Darbar. Later, however

he gave asylum to Raes Ahmad Khan of Jhang and plotted against the Khalsa army with Kutubdin. He broke his word and never paid tribute on time. As a result the forces of Maharaja Ranjit Singh attacked Muzaffar Khan who was ready to defend himself with an army of 20,000 and a large number of holy warriors (mujahuddins). The Khalsa army, under the command of several Sikh generals attacked the fort of Multan and broke the wall at two places, but they were repaired quickly. The enemy had put up a stiff resistance. The stand-off continued for three months.

1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh had partially recovered from his stroke of 1838 yet was very feeble, when he suffered another stroke accompanied by dropsy and fever. Dr. Steel was sent by British to treat the Maharaja.



1984 Indian Armed forces replaced the Central Reserve Police force (CRPF) as a readiness step towards the Operation Bluestar.



3rd June

1947 Mountbatten announced the division of the Punjab.

1984 All communications including phone lines to and from Punjab are cut. Road blocks prevent anyone from entering or leaving Punjab and all journalists are expelled from Punjab. A total curfew is imposed and as many as 10,000 pilgrims are trapped inside the temple complex. Milk vendors from the villages who supply milk to the city of Amritsar are shot dead for violating the curfew orders. Operation Bluestar: Sikh homeland occupied by Indian Army. Curfew declared and undeclared Martial law promulgated.

4th June

1398 Bhagat Kabir was born. Kabir was the most celebrated revolutionary saint of the Bhakti movement. He condemned social and religious abuses and emphasized the fundamental equality and fraternity of all mankind. Kabir was born to a widowed Brahmin on Jaeth Sudi 15 sunmat 1455. However, his mother left the new born baby next to a water pool near Banaras. Ali (Niru), a local weaver found the baby. Ali and his wife Nima together brought up this child as their own son. Child was named Kabir in accordance with the Muslim traditions of the time. Further, Kabir was educated in Islam studies. Kabir married Lohi and a son, Kamaal, was born.

1606 Guru Hargobind arrived in Daroli village near Moga, Ferozepur.

1987 US Congress discusses atrocities against Sikhs.

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Natural homemade shampoos that can nourish your hair and scalp

Healthy, shiny hair often begins with proper scalp care, and many people today are turning to homemade shampoos as a natural alternative to chemical-heavy products. Traditional homemade hair cleansers made from herbs, fruits, seeds and natural oils have been used for generations to cleanse the scalp, nourish roots and improve hair texture. These remedies are valued for being gentle, affordable and free from harsh sulphates and artificial fragrances that may sometimes strip hair of its natural moisture.

Homemade shampoos can help maintain scalp health, reduce dryness and support stronger, healthier hair when combined with a balanced diet and proper hair care habits. Different natural ingredients offer different benefits, making it possible to tailor recipes according to hair type and concerns.

Aloe Vera and Coconut Milk Shampoo

Aloe vera is widely known for its soothing and hydrating properties. It helps calm an irritated scalp, reduce dryness and add softness to hair. Coconut milk, rich in healthy fats and vitamins, nourishes the scalp and improves hair texture.

To prepare this shampoo, mix fresh aloe vera gel with coconut milk and a small amount of mild liquid castile soap or gram flour. Blend the mixture until smooth and apply it gently to wet hair. Massage the scalp for a few minutes before rinsing thoroughly with lukewarm water.

This natural cleanser works especially well for dry and frizzy hair.

Reetha, Shikakai and Amla Cleanser

One of the most traditional herbal hair cleansers in India combines soapnuts, shikakai and amla. Soapnuts create a mild natural lather that cleanses the scalp, while shikakai helps maintain softness and manageability. Amla is rich in vitamin C and antioxidants that support scalp health and strengthen hair roots.

Boil the dried ingredients in water until they soften, allow the mixture to cool, then strain the liquid. The resulting herbal shampoo can be stored in the refrigerator for a few days.

Regular use may help reduce dullness, improve shine and support stronger hair growth.

Rice Water Shampoo

Rice water has gained popularity for its potential benefits for hair strength and smoothness. Rich in



amino acids, vitamins and minerals, it may help improve hair elasticity and reduce breakage.

To make a simple rice water shampoo, soak rice in water for several hours and strain the liquid. Mix it with aloe vera gel or a mild herbal base before applying to the scalp and hair.

Fermented rice water is also commonly used for extra nourishment, though it should be diluted properly to avoid dryness.

Egg and Yogurt Hair Cleanser

Eggs are packed with protein, while yogurt contains lactic acid and probiotics that may help cleanse the scalp gently. Together, they create a nourishing treatment suitable for dry or damaged hair.

Whisk one egg with plain yogurt and add a teaspoon of olive oil or honey. Apply the mixture carefully to damp hair, leave it on briefly and rinse thoroughly with cool or lukewarm water.

Using hot water should be avoided, as it may cause the egg to harden in the hair.

FOOD CORNER

Paneer pasanda

Ingredients

For the Paneer Stuffing

- 250 grams paneer, 2 tablespoons grated paneer, 1 tablespoon chopped cashews, 1 tablespoon raisins, 1 green chilli, finely chopped, 1 tablespoon coriander leaves, chopped, Salt to taste

For the Gravy

- 2 large onions, chopped, 3 tomatoes, chopped, 10-12 cashews, 1 teaspoon ginger-garlic paste, 2 tablespoons fresh cream, 2 tablespoons oil or ghee, 1 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder, 1 teaspoon coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala, Salt to taste, 1 teaspoon sugar or honey (optional), Water as required.

For Coating and Frying

- 3 tablespoons gram flour or cornflour, Water to make batter, Oil for shallow frying

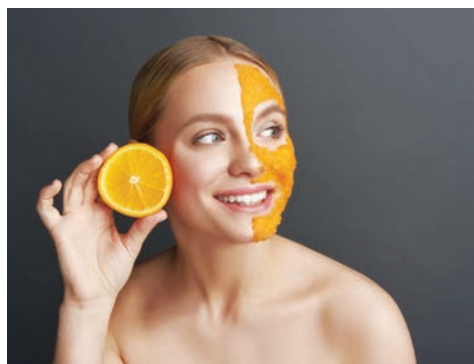
Cut the paneer into thick rectangular slices. Carefully slit each piece from the centre without separating it completely, creating a pocket for stuffing.

In a bowl, mix grated paneer, chopped cashews, raisins, green chilli, coriander leaves and a little salt. Fill this mixture into the paneer pockets gently.

Prepare a thick batter using gram flour and water. Dip the stuffed paneer pieces into the batter and shallow fry them until golden on both sides. Keep aside.

Heat oil or ghee in a pan and add cumin seeds. Once they splutter, add chopped onions and sauté until golden brown. Add ginger-garlic paste and cook for a minute. Then add tomatoes and cashews. Cook until the tomatoes soften completely. Allow the mixture to cool slightly, then blend it into a smooth paste.

Return the paste to the pan and cook on medium heat. Add turmeric, red chilli powder, coriander powder and salt. Stir well and cook until the oil begins to separate. Add water according to the desired consistency and let the gravy simmer for a few minutes. Stir in fresh cream, garam masala and sugar if using. Place the fried paneer pieces gently into the gravy and cook for two to three minutes on low heat so the flavors blend well.



Orange peel pack for glowing skin

suppress inflammation like a natural source of indomethacin, an anti-inflammatory drug. Also, the flavonoids in orange peels are known to permeate membranes and heal inflammation.

Exfoliates dead cells

The rind of orange is considered a boon for the skin as it treats blackheads and blemishes. It works as an effective exfoliating agent that helps in removing blackheads and unclogging the skin pores. Dried orange peel beads act as natural exfoliators and remove dead cells and blackheads gently and naturally, bringing a glow to the skin.

Brightens up

The peels will bring a bright glow to

your face. In addition, they help to lighten the dark spots. If you are suffering from acne scars, dark spots or even pigmentation, orange peel powder's rich content of citric acid will take care of the issue.

How to make an orange peel ubtan

As the name suggests, we need air-dried orange peels. For this, you can spread the orange peels on a parchment paper and leave it indoors. It may take 3 to 6 days to dry them evenly. Once dried, grind them into a fine powder. Tip: Don't use the same grinder jar you use to grind masalas. Or your face may feel the burning sensations.

Scoop out the orange peel powder into a glass jar.

Store this mix in the refrigerator for

upto a month.

How to make, use this orange peel ubtan

- Take a teaspoon of orange peel powder in a mixing bowl.
- Add 2 teaspoons of raw milk to it.
- Add a pinch of turmeric for extra antioxidants benefits
- Mix it all to combine.
- Let it sit for 5 minutes to let the mixture thicken.
- Apply a thin layer of this ubtan on your skin.
- Let it semi dry for 8-10 minutes.
- Now, gently rub in circular motions like a scrub.
- Rub the ubtan off from your skin completely.
- Rinse with lukewarm water.

Benefits: Clears the skin

Orange peel exhibits excellent anti-inflammatory properties. They can

Insulin pump vs injections: Is diabetes care becoming less stressful?

For millions of people living with diabetes, daily insulin injections have long been a part of life. But wearable insulin pumps are now changing how many patients manage their blood sugar levels.

Doctors say insulin pumps can be especially helpful for people with type 1 diabetes, frequent sugar fluctuations, repeated low sugar episodes, or those tired of taking multiple injections every day.

An insulin pump is a small device worn on the body. It gives insulin continuously through a thin plastic tube placed under the skin. The system is designed to closely copy how the body naturally releases insulin.

The pump delivers insulin in two ways. It gives a steady small dose throughout the day, called basal insulin. It also gives extra doses around mealtimes, called bolus insulin.

According to the American Diabetes Association, insulin pumps can continuously release insulin and also provide extra doses before meals to help control blood sugar spikes after eating.

HOW DOES THE PUMP WORK?

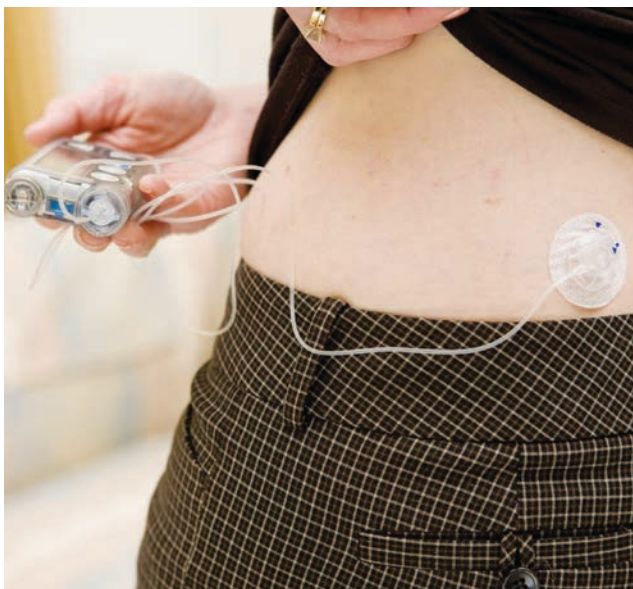
The insulin travels through a soft plastic tube called a catheter. A tiny needle helps place the tube into the fatty tissue under the skin, usually on the stomach or arm. This setup is called an infusion set and is taped in place.

Many modern pumps can also connect with continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), devices that track blood sugar levels throughout the day. Some pumps can even automatically adjust insulin delivery based on glucose readings.

Doctors say this may help patients maintain steadier blood sugar levels and avoid sudden highs and lows.

ARE PUMPS BETTER THAN INJECTIONS?

Both injections and insulin pumps can manage diabetes effectively. The choice depends on a person's lifestyle, comfort and needs.



For some people, pumps make diabetes care easier because they reduce repeated needle pricks and allow more precise insulin dosing. Active people may also benefit because the pump can be adjusted during exercise.

Women planning pregnancy and patients with digestive problems that affect food absorption may also find pumps useful.

However, pumps are not a "set and forget" device. People using them still need to check blood sugar regularly. If the pump stops working or the tube becomes blocked, blood sugar can rise quickly and lead to diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA), a serious complication.

Pumps can also be expensive, and users need training to use them properly.

Still, experts say newer technologies like insulin pumps and CGMs are making diabetes care more personalised and less stressful for many patients.

Source: India Today



Apnimed pill shows strong results in sleep apnea trial

A new pill for sleep apnea may soon offer relief to millions of people who struggle to sleep with bulky breathing machines at night.

Obstructive sleep apnea, a condition that affects nearly one billion people globally, causes repeated pauses in breathing during sleep. Patients often wake up gasping for air and may experience loud snoring, headaches, poor concentration, and extreme daytime tiredness. Over time, untreated sleep apnea can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, memory problems, and other serious health issues.

The findings were published in the journal American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Most patients today are treated using CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) machines, which keep the airway open while sleeping. While effective, many people stop using them because they are uncomfortable and difficult to carry while travelling.

Now, researchers in the US and Canada have tested a new nightly pill called AD109 in a phase 3 clinical trial involving 646 patients with mild to severe sleep apnea. The participants either could not tolerate CPAP machines or refused to use them.

The study found that patients taking AD109 saw their sleep apnea severity fall by around 44% over 26 weeks. Nearly 42% moved into a lower severity category, while almost 18% no longer showed signs of obstructive sleep apnea by the end of the study.

The drug combines aroxybutynin and atomoxetine, a medicine commonly used for ADHD. Together, they help keep the upper airway muscles active during sleep, preventing the airway from collapsing.

Patients reported only mild side effects such as dry mouth, nausea, and insomnia.

Experts say the pill could become a more convenient option for people unable to use CPAP machines regularly. The US Food and Drug Administration has fast-tracked the drug's approval, with a decision expected in 2027.

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Lifestyle changes that can help manage inflammatory bowel disease symptoms

FOLLOW A BALANCED AND GUT-FRIENDLY DIET

Diet plays a major role in managing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) symptoms. During flare-ups, patients may find certain foods difficult to digest. Doctors usually advise avoiding overly spicy, oily, processed and high-fibre foods when symptoms are active. Instead, patients can focus on simple and easily digestible meals such as rice, curd, boiled vegetables, bananas, soups and soft proteins. Eating smaller meals throughout the day may also help reduce stress on the digestive system. Experts also recommend maintaining a food diary to identify personal trigger foods, as triggers can differ from one patient to another.

STAY HYDRATED

Dehydration is a common concern among IBD patients, especially those experiencing diarrhoea or frequent bowel movements. Losing fluids repeatedly can lead to weakness, dizziness and fatigue. Doctors advise drinking enough water throughout the day and including fluids like coconut water, clear soups and oral rehydration solutions if needed. Proper hydration

helps maintain digestion and overall body function.

MANAGE STRESS LEVELS

Stress does not directly cause IBD, but it can worsen symptoms and trigger flare-ups in many patients. Emotional stress can affect gut health and increase inflammation in the body. Experts recommend stress-management activities such as yoga, meditation, deep breathing exercises and mindfulness practices. Getting enough sleep is equally important, as poor sleep can negatively impact immunity and digestion. Mental health support and counselling may also help patients dealing with anxiety related to chronic illness.

INCLUDE REGULAR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Moderate exercise can support digestion, improve immunity and reduce stress levels. Doctors say physical activity also helps maintain bone strength and overall fitness, which is important for patients dealing with chronic inflammation. Simple exercises like walking, swimming, cycling or light yoga are considered beneficial for most patients.

YouTube to label AI videos even when creators do not disclose AI use

AI-generated videos are being shared increasingly on the internet, particularly on platforms like YouTube. Some AI “slop” channels like Bandar Apna Dost have reportedly earned crores of rupees just from posting AI-generated videos. So far, a creator needed to disclose that they had used AI in a video for YouTube to label it as made with AI. But now, YouTube is changing the way it labels such videos.

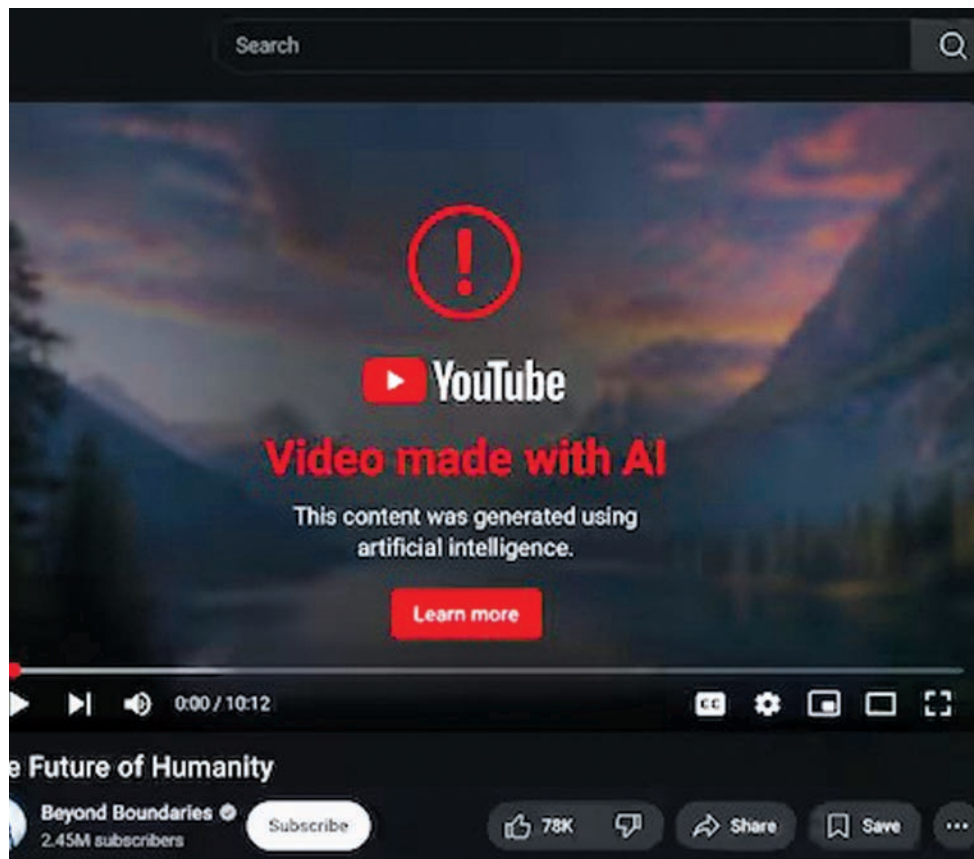
YouTube has announced that now it will automatically detect AI in a bid to make AI disclosure clearer for viewers. Though before we begin, keep in mind that the auto-labelling feature is only for videos with “significant photorealistic AI use” – that is videos that look real, but are made using AI. So “slop” videos that show animated characters will not be automatically labelled at least for now.

YouTube said on its website that it is rolling out new internal signals to help identify AI-generated content. If a creator does not specify whether AI was used, but YouTube’s systems detect “significant photorealistic AI use”, it will automatically apply a label.

In case a video you uploaded gets incorrectly identified as AI-generated, you can update the disclosure status in YouTube Studio.

But, YouTube states that disclosures will remain permanent in some cases. These include content created using YouTube’s own AI tools, such as Veo and Dream Screen, and content carrying C2PA metadata indicating that it was fully generative AI.

The platform also states that creators will still be required to manually disclose when realistic AI is used. A disclosure label on its own does not affect how a video is recommended or



whether it is eligible to earn money.

YouTube is also changing where the labels appear. For long-form videos, the AI label will now be shown directly below the video player and above the description. For Shorts, it will appear as an overlay on the video.

YouTube said the updated labelling is meant for content that is photorealistic and could mislead viewers. On the other hand, disclosures of content that is unrealistic, animated or only slightly altered will continue to appear in the expanded description.

The update comes as YouTube has expanded other AI-related measures on the platform. Earlier this month, the company widened its likeness-detection programme to all creators aged 18 and above, saying this is meant to help users detect and manage how AI is used to depict them on YouTube.

For creators enrolled in the programme, YouTube’s systems will identify videos that may contain altered or synthetic uses of their facial likeness, after which they can request removal of unauthorised content through YouTube Studio.

Alibaba AI Qwen latest model beats Google Gemini and ChatGPT in coding

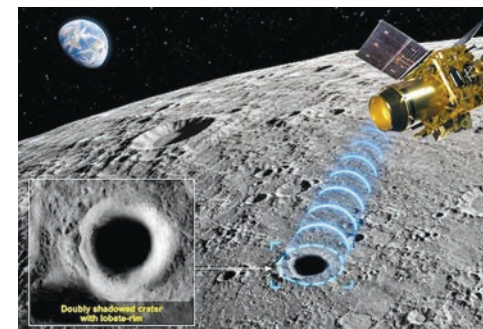


means the AI is designed to independently handle long and complicated workflows instead of just responding to one prompt at a time.

Alibaba says the model can work as a coding agent capable of building front-end prototypes, handling large multi-file

software projects, automating office tasks with external tools, and operating autonomously for extended periods without human input. The company claims the AI can continuously run for up to 35 hours and use software tools more than 1,000 times in a single session.

To show off those capabilities, Alibaba researchers reportedly tasked the AI with optimising code for one of the company’s own AI chips. According to the company, Qwen3.7-Max worked for around 35 hours straight, running 432 kernel tests and making more than 1,100 tool calls while repeatedly compiling, measuring and rewriting code on its own. The Chinese tech giant says the AI managed to achieve a 10x performance improvement over the original implementation, even though the model had reportedly never seen that chip architecture during training.



Why Chandrayaan-2’s Moon water discovery is an Indian gift to world

When India launched the Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019, the spotlight largely remained on the lander’s hard landing near the Moon’s south pole. But nearly seven years later, the orbiter is quietly delivering what could become one of the most important discoveries in the new lunar race: strong evidence of subsurface water-ice hidden beneath permanently shadowed craters near the lunar south pole. The findings, made using the Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter’s Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR), are not just another scientific milestone. They strike at the heart of why the Moon’s south pole has become the most strategically valuable region beyond Earth.

Scientists from the Physical Research Laboratory analysed “doubly shadowed craters,” depressions inside permanently shadowed regions where sunlight never reaches and temperatures plunge to nearly minus 248°C. In these deep-freeze conditions, water-ice can survive for billions of years. Using advanced radar polarimetry, the team identified signatures consistent with subsurface ice in four craters. One 1.1-km-wide crater inside the Faustini basin showed especially compelling evidence, including radar reflections and unusual lobate rim structures that suggest an impact may have excavated ice-rich material buried underneath.

This matters because water on the Moon is no longer just a scientific curiosity. It is the fuel for humanity’s next phase in space.

Water can be converted into drinking supplies, breathable oxygen, and hydrogen fuel for rockets.

Instead of launching every kilogram from Earth at enormous cost, future astronauts could “live off the land” using lunar resources, a concept known as in-situ resource utilisation (ISRU). Whoever masters this first gains a major advantage in long-duration space exploration. That is precisely why every major space power is targeting the Moon’s South Pole.

NASA plans to return astronauts to the lunar surface under the Artemis programme and eventually establish a sustained human presence near the south pole. The agency sees the region as the ideal location for future Moon bases because shadowed craters may hold accessible ice reserves. At the same time, nearby peaks receive near-continuous sunlight for power generation.

Chinese tech giants are making a serious push in the AI race to challenge their US rivals, and one of the biggest names driving that push is Alibaba. The company recently launched its latest AI model, Qwen3.7-Max, which it claims has outperformed several rivals from OpenAI and Google on coding benchmarks, putting it among the world’s top AI coding models.

According to Alibaba, the model has already reached fourth place globally on the Code Arena rankings with a score of 1,541. Code Arena is a benchmark that measures how well AI models can independently build and handle coding tasks. The ranking places Qwen3.7-Max ahead of some versions of ChatGPT and Gemini. The only models ranked above it were from Anthropic and its Claude family of coding-focused AI systems.

Unlike regular chatbots that mostly answer questions, Qwen3.7-Max has been built specifically for “agent-based” tasks. In simple terms, this

Three months of Hormuz chaos: Oil prices jump over 3% amid US-Iran standoff

MAY 29, 2026

NEW YORK (TIP): Oil prices inched higher on May 28 as hopes of possible agreement between the US and Iran were offset by Iran's fresh strikes on US bases. Around 9:30, WTI Crude was trading at \$92.03 per barrel, up 3.78%. At the same time, Brent Crude stood at \$97.74, higher by 3.66% as situation in the Middle East intensified.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they struck a US airbase at around 4:50 a.m. local time, according to the country's semi-official Tasnim news agency. At the same time, US officials said that Central Command forces shot down four Iranian one-way attack drones that were detected as a potential threat near the Strait of Hormuz.

The US military also carried out a strike on an Iranian ground control station in Bandar Abbas, which it said was preparing to launch a fifth drone. With these developments, turmoil in the Middle East has continued to intensify, even as it enters 90 days.

During the week, crude prices have already fallen over 5%, dropping below the \$100 per barrel mark.

Earlier, Iran's Revolutionary Guards had said that a return to war with the United States was unlikely, while also warning that the country remained



prepared to respond to any attack. Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump also indicated that he was not rushing towards an agreement despite earlier remarks over the weekend suggesting that a deal was close. During a cabinet meeting at the White House, Trump reiterated his commitment to securing what he described as a favourable ceasefire deal with Iran.

He also dismissed suggestions that the ongoing conflict could politically hurt Republicans in the United States, saying he was focused on preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

"They thought they were going to outwait me, you know? We'll outwait him; he's got the midterms, I don't care about the midterms," he said.

"Iran cannot have nuclear weapons. I'm doing that for the world, not just for us," he added.

Speaking about the Strait of Hormuz, Trump said the route would remain accessible to all countries and described it as part of the ongoing negotiations.

"It's international waters. Nobody's going to control it. We're going to watch over it. We'll watch over it, but nobody's going to control it," Trump said. "That's part of the negotiation that we have." Trump also warned Oman against interfering in the negotiations related to the Strait of Hormuz and rejected the idea of a short-term arrangement that would allow Iran and Oman to control the waterway, which is critical for global oil and gas supplies.

"Oman will behave just like everybody else, or we'll have to blow 'em up," he said.

Meanwhile, the Strait of Hormuz has remained closed for the past three months, straining oil supplies across the world. The conflict began on February 28, when the US and Israel launched joint strikes on Iran. In response, Tehran tightened its noose on the crucial Strait of Hormuz, an oil pipeline that carries 20% of global energy supplies.

IT stocks lead gains as Sensex, Nifty open higher on easing oil prices

MAY 229, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): Benchmark stock market indices opened with modest gains, supported by easing crude oil prices, a stronger rupee and optimism around a possible US-Iran deal that could ease pressure on India's economy.

The S&P BSE Sensex rose 98.09 points, or 0.13%, to 75,965.89 in early trade, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 16.20 points, or 0.07%, to 23,923.35, as of 9:25 am.

Investor sentiment received support after Brent crude fell below the \$93 per barrel mark amid expectations that the US and Iran could reach an agreement.

Brent crude was down 1.12% at \$92.66 per barrel, while WTI crude declined 1.17% to \$87.85 per barrel. The Indian rupee also strengthened 0.15% to open at 95.55 against the US dollar, compared with its previous close of 95.69.

Broader markets traded in positive territory, with the Nifty Midcap 100 rising 0.21% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 gaining 0.38%. India VIX, the volatility index, slipped 1.16%, indicating lower market volatility.

Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT emerged as the top gainer, rising 2.07%. Nifty Realty advanced 0.61%, while Nifty Pharma and Nifty PSU Bank gained 0.59% and 0.58%, respectively. Nifty Media rose 0.36% and Nifty Healthcare Index added 0.31%. On the other hand, Nifty Consumer Durables declined 0.17%, while Nifty Oil & Gas slipped 0.07%.

Among Sensex stocks, Infosys led the gainers with a rise of 3.09%. HCL Technologies climbed 1.52%, Tata Consultancy Services gained 1.48%, Trent advanced 1.47%, and Tech Mahindra rose 1.06%. Maruti Suzuki India and ICICI Bank also traded higher.

On the losing side, Bharti Airtel fell 1.33%, Bharat Electronics declined 0.98%, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone slipped 0.90%, HDFC Bank dropped 0.80%, and Indigo was down 0.51% in early trade.

Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "There are some positive trends on the economic and market front. Brent crude declining to below \$93 is a big positive. This has happened on expectations of a deal between US and Iran. Therefore, if a deal happens crude can decline further, thereby improving India's macros which have been under pressure from the energy crisis. This will also help stabilise the rupee, which, in turn, can restrain the FPI outflows."

He added, "Already, the intensity of FPI selling has come down. A positive trend from the market perspective is that Q4 results have been better-than-expected."

Why India may be taking risky bet with \$500 billion US deal

MAY 29, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Days after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio left New Delhi, one line from his visit continues to echo across Indian political and business circles. It was not about the Quad meeting, China, or even regional security. Instead, the debate centres on a massive \$500 billion investment.

During his visit, Rubio said India had "committed" to purchasing \$500 billion worth of American goods over the next five years. The statement did not trigger an immediate reaction from New Delhi at the time. But as global media reports, trade experts and economic commentators began digging deeper into the claim, questions started piling up over what exactly India may have agreed to -- and whether it stands to gain enough in return.

It is significant because India is already battling pressure on its currency, higher oil prices and uncertainty around global trade. Critics are now asking whether



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio during a meeting in Delhi. (File Photo)

New Delhi is walking into an uneven deal with Washington while trying to mend ties with President Donald Trump, whose aggressive tariff policies forced New Delhi on backfoot.

A team of US negotiators, led by Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, is due to visit India from June 1 to June 4 to finalise the details pertaining to the Interim Agreement between the two countries and take forward the negotiations on a broader Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). The controversy traces

back to February, when India and the US announced an interim trade understanding. At the time, the White House said India "intends" to increase purchases of American products, including energy supplies, coal and technology equipment.

According to the Financial Times, the wording used earlier by both sides sounded more like a future trade target than a binding commitment. India's commerce ministry had also referred to the figure in a press release, though the point appeared near the end of the statement. The ministry additionally included aircraft and aviation equipment among sectors expected to contribute to the proposed trade volume.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal later played down concerns over the figure and argued that India's growing economy could comfortably absorb such imports. He said demand from India's aviation sector alone could contribute nearly \$100 billion over five years.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, the movement of the stars will make the behavior efficient and lead in public life. Whether it is the intention of earning skills in folk songs and films, and as a politician and businessman, or it is about moving forward in the best steps of success. Whether it is the longing for economic progress, the movements of today's stars will propel you towards heights. So keep up the efforts. Due to this, householders will be successful in climbing the important steps of life. In the middle of this week, there will be chances of significant progress in related work and business. But during this time there will be some worries regarding the child side. However, in the last days of this week, there will be an intention to finalize the works of any religion and charity. But due to the increasing needs over time, one will have to travel and migrate somewhere.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week there will be pleasant opportunities to broadcast work and business. That means you will be blessed with better results than what you are expecting in related work and business. If the contestants are preparing for the exams, then the movement of the stars is indicating success. So don't hesitate to continue the efforts. This week there will be chances of desired progress in completing the works related to production and sales. That means the spirits will remain high in expanding the work and business. In the middle part of this week, there will be the desired kind of success in economic sectors. As a result, your standard of living will be pleasant and luxurious. However, in the last days of this week, you will have to travel and travel somewhere. This week, the enemy side can conspire to disturb you. So be careful in the related areas.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week, those who expect from the children's side and relatives, that should make more progress. So he will adopt such paths. On the other hand, this week will be more pleasant and wonderful for the students. Due to this, they will have significant success in the fields of school education and higher education. However, you will have to travel and travel somewhere. If you are engaged in finalizing the works of any

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 1, 2026 TO JUNE 7, 2026

By Astrologer Chirag Daruwalla

religion and charity. So, the movement of the stars will continue to give you the desired destination. But the enemy will try to disturb. However, in the middle of the week, you will have success on a large scale in the areas of related work and business. So don't weaken activism. There will be mixed results in health this week. In the last days of this week, there will be chances of growth in the economic sectors. But it will be beneficial to walk with full caution in terms of transactions. Overall, this week will be full of mixed results.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week's movement of stars will give pleasant results in the areas of livelihood. However, traffic will remain in the respective areas. If you are ready to make a capital investment, then the lack of a positive environment will increase your troubles. By the way, there will be pressure in settling the matters of transactions during this period. This week's stars will not be much better in terms of health. So don't shy away from the routine. However, in the middle of the week, there will be chances of fulfilling the wishes of the works of religion and charity. During this, the intention to finalize any diplomatic and political works will be fruitful. However, on the last days of the week, there will be chances of promotion in the job sector. If you are looking for employment. So this week's movement of stars will give the desired progress. There can be tussles in love affairs.

LEO



Ganesha says marital life will be happy and auspicious this week. Due to this, the householders will be able to complete the important tasks related to life. However, this week you will take some time out of your busy schedule for them as well. Due to this, you will be engaged in enjoying the joy of childhood. Due to this harmony and harmony will be extended in the family. In such a situation, there will be opportunities for love and trust toward the family members. Due to this goodwill and love towards them will remain strong. However, in the middle of the week, you will have to hesitate in the process of making the aspects related to livelihood more spectacular and productive. There will be a positive atmosphere in capital investment during this period. However, due to increasing work pressure, there will be chances of disruption in the daily routine. So don't weaken your understanding. In the last days of this week, you can go on a diplomatic and political journey. There will be sweetness in love relationships. But this week's stars will continue to seem weak in terms of health.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week you will have a positive attitude towards your wife and children. In such a situation, you will give them opportunities to work in their way. So that he can take advantage of the opportunities to develop his thinking and creativity and shout to be promoted in practical and karmic steps. However, during this time you will be engaged in increasing the movement in some relation. This week's stars will not be very pleasant in terms of health. Therefore, there will be a need to continue with understanding. In love relations, there will be opportunities for desired progress in the first and middle of this week. If there are any financial transactions, will be able to settle them. If going to make a capital investment, then the movement of stars will give pleasant results. In the last days of this week, however, there may be some weakness in health. So take medical treatment and take the necessary nutrients. That is, this week's stars will be giving pleasant results.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week's stars will be giving opportunities to emerge from the recession prevailing in the market. Due to this related production and sales management and public welfare schemes will be benefited. As a result, your economic level will remain pleasant and splendid. Your standard of living will be pleasant and luxurious this week. Due to this, there will be a gift of important success in domestic and political life. In love relations, there will be chances of sweetness between the partners. This week, we will teach children to write and give them some information about right and wrong. That is, understanding their thoughts and needs, we will be excited to give love to them. There will be sweetness in love relationships. This week, in connection with work and business, you will have to go on long-distance travel and migration. However, in the last days of the week, some softness may emerge in health. Therefore, do not hesitate to do useful yoga asanas along with the necessary treatment. So it will be good.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, there will be maximum attention in those places. This means you will try to give what the customers want. That means you will need to pay attention to your work and business. Whether it is talking about the construction of vehicles according to the economical and modern age or any other destination, the movement of the stars will continue to give opportunities to

move forward. So keep up the efforts. But this week's stars will not be very pleasant and brilliant in terms of health. So pay attention to food and drink. There will be deep tension in some matters among the relatives. If you are going to work. So the movement of stars will give mixed results this week. There will be moments of love between them in love affairs. In the last days of this week, you will have to travel and travel somewhere. If there are any court cases, there will be a rush regarding them. But do not neglect to be careful.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week, you will be ready to complete important work related to the family. There will be a good effect of coordination between relatives. This week we will be engaged in finalizing the works of any religion and charity. Very possible. Will be interesting to buy essential items this week. This week's stars will give excellent results in terms of health. As a result, you will achieve great success in your respective fields. In the middle of this week, there will be a chance of tension between them. During this, there will be chances of some softness in health. So don't weaken your understanding. In the last days of this week, there will be significant success in completing the work related to studies and teaching. If you are preparing for any competitive exam, then keep trying.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week, the movement of the stars will make the economic aspects meaningful. Due to this, the body will be happy. If you are engaged in doing any real estate work. So definitely there will be a phase of growth. On the other hand, to deal with related industries, you will have to travel and migrate to far-flung places. During this, there will be softness in health. In the mid part of the week again the movement of stars will give beautiful results. During this, there will be opportunities to complete religion charity and matrimonial events. However, in the last days of the week, there will be continuous signs of success in the fields of study and teaching. Due to this the body and mind will be happy. If you are associated with any competitive exam, then try. Will be successful There will be profit opportunities in capital investment. Overall, the movement of stars will give auspicious and positive results.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week, there will be opportunities to increase physical strength as per the expectations and to complete the tasks in due time. If you

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 1 TO JUNE 7
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA**

JUNE 1

Ganesha says that although you have many natural abilities to influence people and are generally positive, you need to learn to rein in your tendency to act irrationally and impatiently occasionally. Fresh graduates have good employment prospects, and the time is also good for academics, scientists, writers, and athletes. Monetary gains are likely, but expenses may also increase in the long run.

JUNE 2

Ganesha says that people respect you for your honesty and determination to fulfill your duties, but you need to rein in your vindictive and jealous behavior at times. Monetary gains are guaranteed as long as you surround yourself with smart, talented people. Some may find new love through social events and fun. Later in the day, you may experience religious impulses that may prompt you to seek spiritual blessings.

JUNE 3

Ganesha says you should be very careful today, especially when managing money. Spiritual blessings may give you mental peace and tranquility at this time. Long-distance travel may be considered. A proper diet is important for those suffering from chronic diseases. Demand for sales and marketing positions is likely to remain very high. Matrimonial matchmaking for those looking for a life partner. Although help from others may be available, and generally this is a positive period, hasty or careless decisions can only cause harm.

JUNE 4

Ganesha says that since the stars are in your favor today, you are likely to get significant success and fame. Some of you may also inherit wealth from your ancestors. You will need to be diplomatic and delicate on the domestic front. Being stubborn may only make things worse. You will have no problem reaching your goals and exceeding people's

expectations. Children may excel in both athletics and academics. There may be a holiday at the end of the day.

JUNE 5

Ganesha says information may be the key to your success today. You may feel successful and motivated during this time, and you may make gains. For some, there will be spiritual growth at the end of the day. You will be in a good position to ask for favors, raise funds, and manage others. Monetary gains are likely, but do not be extravagant. Travel may be very exciting and enlightening.

JUNE 6

Ganesha says you need to rein in your tendency to act rashly, wastefully, and selfishly at times. Today, you will experience a boost in confidence. You may take part in activities that improve your quality of life and secure your future. At work, you will take on a leadership role and have a lot on your shoulders. Making new contacts may



open up great business and growth opportunities. Someone of the opposite sex who loves you a lot may spice up your life.

JUNE 7

Ganesha says that while there may be financial gains today, it may be difficult to save money due to increased expenses. You should pay full attention to your professional development, as it may bring desired results faster. Businesspeople may make useful contacts. Children and spouses may be very demanding but supportive. Minor health problems like stiff neck, backache, or other body pains may cause problems. You may be socially successful if you travel and participate in clubs and social activities.

CONTD FROM PAGE 36

want to travel and travel somewhere. So you will be successful. This week's stars will give progress in the respective industry as per your expectations. As a result, there will be a period of continuous progress in the related fields. Today will be a pleasant and wonderful day in terms of health. There will be a period of sociality and love in married life. However, it will be beneficial to be careful in court cases and transactions. In the middle part of this week, there will be opportunities to deal with capital investment and work related to foreign countries and to enhance contacts. However, the movement of stars will give great success in matters related to real estate. So don't weaken your understanding. So it will be good. In



the last days of this week, health will be in full bloom again.

PISCES

Ganesha says this week, some important steps can be taken by implementing financial reforms. So don't weaken your understanding. So it will be good. This week's stars will be somewhat weak in terms of health.

Therefore, pay full attention to food and drink during this time. However, you will need to avoid consuming tamasic foods. In love relationships, there can be tutu me-me amid companionship. So avoid using offensive words. So the dividend will be high. In the middle part of this week, again the movement of stars will be pleasant and spectacular and will give results. As a result, do not weaken

the efforts. On the other hand, on the last days of the week, again the movement of the stars will give pleasant and wonderful results. Married life will remain happy. If you are eligible for marriage, a favorable life is ahead. There will be profit opportunities in capital investment. If there is a legal issue, it may take some time to resolve. So keep up the efforts.



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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

US, Iranian negotiators reach tentative deal to extend ceasefire and launch nuclear talks

US Central Command said Kuwait intercepted missiles fired from Iran late on Wednesday, and military officials called the attack on one of America's top allies in the Persian Gulf an "egregious ceasefire violation".

Kuwait had earlier announced an attack on its territory, and Iran said it had retaliated for strikes earlier in the week by firing on a US base in a Gulf state it did not name. The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry condemned Iran for what it called "blatant aggression".

The exchange unfolded after US officials said late on Wednesday in Washington that American forces launched more strikes on Iran, shooting down four one-way attack drones that posed a threat around the Strait of Hormuz and hitting an Iranian ground-control station in Bandar Abbas that was about to launch a fifth drone.

Washington and Tehran have repeatedly accused each other of violating the seven-week ceasefire and have traded strikes throughout the week. But they have not returned to full-scale hostilities and have kept negotiating. Trump has insisted he's confident that his administration is making headway in the talks. (Source: AP)

Canadian Punjabi climber Ajaypal Dhaliwal becomes 1st from community to summit Everest

While the summit marked a major personal milestone for Dhaliwal after years of preparation, the descent turned into a life-threatening ordeal in the 'Death Zone' above 8,000 meters.

(Source: TNS)

White House pushes Congress to approve \$250 bill with Trump's image

"As treasury secretary, I have two mandates for US currency at present: that no living person can be on US currency, and the currency must say 'In God we trust'," Bessent said. "So, right now, there is proposed legislation in front of the House, in front of the Senate, to change the first requirement, so that a living person - Donald J Trump - could be on the \$250 bill."

The Washington Post reported that two of Trump's political appointees at the treasury had pushed staff to start preparing prototypes of a \$250 bill with Trump's image, raising concerns that doing so would breach federal law.

But Bessent said the treasury would "stick to the law" and that "it's all up to Capitol Hill."

The artist responsible for the prototypes is a Briton named Iain Alexander, who described himself online as a royal portrait artist, sculptor and a former Olympic squad swimmer, according to the Post.

Bessent defended the new currency when asked by a reporter whether it was a good idea to put Trump's face on a \$250 bill as many Americans struggle to afford everyday essentials. Bessent said there was nothing "untoward" about having the leader who was president during the 250th anniversary featured on a bill.

The legislation would need a simple majority in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives but would be unlikely to garner the 60 votes necessary in the Senate, where Republicans hold 53 seats.

Hakeem Jeffries, the top US House Democrat, immediately derided the proposal, writing on X that it was a "hard no on a Trump \$250 bill".

"Get over yourself," Jeffries wrote. "The upcoming July 4th anniversary is not about a wannabe King. It's about celebrating the American journey."

Congress voted in 1866 to prohibit the image of any living person on currency notes, bonds or securities,

according to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's website, soon after the country's currency superintendent, who was implicated in a sex scandal, appeared on the five-cent note.

In response to questions about the US-Israel war in Iran, Bessent said he predicted that gas and oil prices would "come down very quickly" after the conflict ends.

He also said he believed that the new chair of the Federal Reserve, Kevin Warsh, would "do the right thing" to balance inflation and growth based on their first meeting on Thursday morning.

"We've got a Warsh Fed now," he said. "It's a new day at the Fed."

(Source: The Guardian)

Indian American 14-year-old Shrey Parikh Crowned the champion of the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee

perfect spelling in the standard format, the officials triggered the spell-off to determine the winner. Gupta finished as the runner-up with an impressive 25 words spelled correctly.

Parikh's victory marks the end of a multi-year journey at the national level. "I've dreamed of this moment since I started spelling in the third grade," a beaming Parikh said while hoisted by his fellow competitors. "To finally hold the Scripps Cup is surreal."

Along with the iconic trophy, Parikh takes home: A \$52,500 cash prize; a \$2,500 cash prize and reference library from Merriam-Webster; \$400 worth of reference works from Encyclopedia Britannica.

The 2026 competition featured 245 spellers from across the globe, showcasing a return to pre-pandemic levels of participation and a field described by judges as one of the most competitive in the Bee's 101-year history.



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Shri Satyanarayan Puja: A Sacred celebration of truth, faith and divine blessings

The soft glow of oil lamps, the fragrance of flowers and sandalwood, the chanting of sacred hymns and the gathering of families in prayer create an atmosphere of serenity and devotion during Shri Satyanarayan Puja. Observed in homes and temples across India and by Hindu communities around the world, this revered worship dedicated to Satyanarayan represents faith, gratitude, prosperity and the eternal importance of truth in human life.

Shri Satyanarayan Puja is performed to seek the blessings of God Narayana, a form of Lord Vishnu. In this form, Lord Vishnu is considered an embodiment of truth. While there is no specific day for Satyanarayan Puja, performing it on Purnima (full moon day) is thought to be very auspicious.

Devotees observe Shri Satyanarayan Puja with deep spiritual fervor, seeking peace, harmony, success and divine protection. The observance continues to hold a special place in Hindu tradition because of its simplicity, accessibility and profound spiritual message. More than a ritual, it is regarded as a path toward inner purity, righteous living and devotion to the Divine.

The Divine Form of Satyanarayan

Satyanarayan is considered a benevolent manifestation of Vishnu, the preserver of the universe in Hindu belief. The name "Satyanarayan" combines two Sanskrit words - "Satya," meaning truth, and "Narayan," another sacred name for Lord Vishnu. Together, the name signifies the Divine who embodies eternal truth and righteousness.

The worship of Satyanarayan emphasizes honesty, devotion, humility and gratitude. Devotees believe that sincere prayers offered to the Lord help remove obstacles, bring prosperity and bless families with harmony and well-being. Unlike elaborate rituals requiring strict austerities, Satyanarayan Puja is widely performed by ordinary households, making it one of the most popular devotional observances in Hindu culture.

The puja is commonly conducted during important milestones such as weddings, housewarming ceremonies, birthdays, anniversaries, success in business ventures and fulfilment of personal wishes. Many families also perform the worship regularly on full moon days as an expression of devotion and thanksgiving.

Origins in Ancient Scriptures

The significance of Shri Satyanarayan Puja is described in the Skanda Purana, one of the major sacred texts of Hindu tradition. According to the scripture, sages once asked how people living in the present age could overcome suffering



Important information

Adhika Jyeshtha Purnima

Sunday, 31 May 2026

Purnima Begins - 30 May 2026 at 11:57 AM

Purnima Ends - 31 May 2026 at 02:14 PM

and attain peace and prosperity. In response, the sacred observance of Satyanarayan worship was revealed as a powerful spiritual practice accessible to all. Another important legend recounts how the divine sage Narada approached Lord Vishnu seeking guidance for humanity. Lord Vishnu then explained the greatness of Satyanarayan worship and described how devotion combined with truthfulness could bring divine blessings into human life.

The sacred narratives associated with the puja repeatedly stress one essential teaching: sincere faith and righteous conduct lead to spiritual and material well-being.

The Spiritual Meaning of the Observance

At the heart of Satyanarayan Puja lies the concept of truth. In Hindu philosophy, truth is not limited to words alone; it represents harmony with righteousness, morality and divine order. Worship of Satyanarayan reminds devotees to live with integrity, compassion and honesty in all aspects of life. The observance also highlights gratitude as an essential spiritual value. Many devotees perform the puja after the fulfilment of wishes or successful completion of important life events. Through prayer and offerings, they

express thankfulness for divine grace and protection.

The stories recited during the worship teach that pride, greed and neglect of spiritual duties can lead to suffering, while humility and devotion invite peace and prosperity. In this way, Satyanarayan Puja serves not only as a religious ceremony but also as a moral and philosophical guide for daily living.

Rituals and Sacred Preparations

Preparations for the puja begin with cleaning and decorating the home or prayer area. Flowers, lamps and colourful designs are arranged to create a sacred atmosphere. Devotees usually wear traditional attire and maintain a spirit of purity and devotion throughout the observance.

An image or idol of Lord Satyanarayan is placed on a decorated altar. Sacred offerings commonly include fruits, flowers, milk, clarified butter, betel leaves, rice grains, incense and tulsi leaves. A special sweet offering prepared from wheat flour, sugar, banana and milk is considered particularly important in many traditions.

The ceremony generally begins with prayers to Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, followed by invocation of Lord Satyanarayan. Sacred hymns and

prayers dedicated to Lord Vishnu are recited while offerings are made with devotion. The central part of the observance is the narration of the Satyanarayan story, which contains several episodes illustrating the rewards of faith, humility and truthfulness. These stories describe the lives of merchants, kings, labourers and ordinary householders whose fortunes change through devotion and righteous conduct.

The ceremony concludes with devotional singing, prayer offerings and distribution of sacred food among family members, neighbours and guests. Sharing the blessed offering symbolizes unity, equality and collective blessings.

The Sacred Narratives and Their Teachings

The stories associated with Satyanarayan Puja form the spiritual core of the observance. One narrative tells of a poor Brahmin who attains prosperity after sincerely worshipping Lord Satyanarayan. Another describes a humble woodcutter whose life changes through devotion and faith.

One of the most well-known stories concerns a wealthy merchant who forgets his promise to perform the worship after receiving divine blessings. Misfortune follows until he repents sincerely and fulfils his vow. Through such narratives, the observance teaches the importance of gratitude and keeping one's promises.

Another story speaks of a proud king who ignores the sacred worship and suffers hardships before learning humility and devotion. Together, these sacred accounts emphasize that divine grace is available to all who approach with sincerity, regardless of wealth or social status.

Regional Traditions Across India

Though the observance is widely celebrated across India, regional customs add unique cultural richness to the worship.

In Maharashtra, Satyanarayan Puja is commonly associated with family celebrations and community gatherings. In southern states such as Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, devotional singing and temple-based ceremonies are especially popular.

In Bengal and Odisha, the observance is closely linked with prayers for family welfare and prosperity, often accompanied by elaborate offerings and festive meals. In northern India, evening recitations followed by devotional music and community feasts are common. Among Hindu communities living abroad in countries such as United States, Canada, United Kingdom and Australia, Satyanarayan Puja remains an important means of preserving spiritual traditions and cultural identity.

History This Week

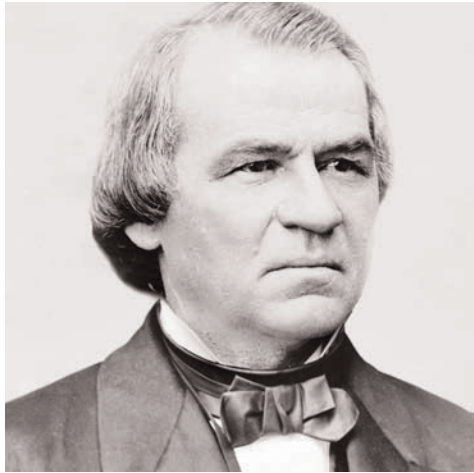
MAY 29 - JUNE 04

MAY 29

May 29, 1453 - The city of Constantinople was captured by the Turks, who renamed it Istanbul. This marked the end of the Byzantine Empire as Istanbul became the capital of the Ottoman Empire.

May 29, 1660 - The English monarchy was restored with Charles II on the throne after several years of a Commonwealth under Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell.

May 29, 1787 - At the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia the Virginia Plan was proposed calling for a new government consisting of a legislature with two houses, an executive chosen by the legislature and a judicial branch.



May 29, 1865 - Following the American Civil War, President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation granting general amnesty to Confederates. The amnesty excluded high ranking Confederates and large property owners, who had to apply individually to the President for a pardon. Following an oath of allegiance, all former property rights, except slaves, were returned to the former owners.

Birthday - American revolutionary leader Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was born in Studley, Virginia. He is best remembered for his speech in 1775 declaring: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

Birthday - German historian Oswald Spengler (1880-1936) was born in Blankenburg-am-Harz, Germany. He authored the influential book *The Decline of the West* which argued that civilizations rise and fall in regular cycles.

Birthday - John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963) the 35th U.S. President was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. He was the youngest man ever elected to the presidency and the first Roman Catholic. He was assassinated in Dallas, November 22, 1963, the fourth President to be killed by an assassin.

MAY 30

May 30, 1783 - The Pennsylvania Evening Post became the first daily newspaper published in America.

May 30, 1922 - The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., was dedicated. The Memorial was designed by architect Henry Bacon and features a compelling statue of "Seated Lincoln" by sculptor Daniel Chester French.

May 30, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Aleutian Islands off the coast of Alaska were retaken by the U.S. 7th Infantry Division. The battle began on May 12 when an American force of

11,000 landed on Attu. In three weeks of fighting U.S. casualties numbered 552 killed and 1,140 wounded. Japanese killed numbered 2,352, with only 28 taken prisoner, as 500 chose suicide rather than be captured.



Birthday - Founder of the Russian empire Peter the Great (1672-1725) was born near Moscow. He vastly increased the power of the Russian monarchy and turned his backward country into a major power in the Western world. Among his accomplishments, he completely overhauled the government and the Greek Orthodox Church as well as the military system and tax structure. He built St. Petersburg, established printing presses and published translations of foreign books, modernized the calendar, simplified the Russian alphabet and introduced Arabic numerals. He died at age 52 and was succeeded by his wife Catherine.

MAY 31

May 31, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the Battle of Seven Pines occurred as Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's Army attacked Union General George McClellan's troops in front of Richmond Virginia and nearly defeated them. Johnston was badly wounded. Confederate General Robert E. Lee then assumed command, replacing the wounded Johnston. Lee renamed his force the Army of Northern Virginia.

May 31, 1889 - Over 2,300 persons were killed in the Johnstown flood in Pennsylvania. Heavy rains throughout May caused the Conemaugh River Dam to burst sending a wall of water 75 feet high pouring down upon the city.



Birthday - American poet Walt Whitman (1819-1892) was born in Long Island, New York. His poem *Leaves of Grass* is considered an American classic. His poetry celebrated modern life and took on subjects considered taboo at the time.

JUNE 1

Birthday - Founder of Utah and patriarch of the Mormon church Brigham Young (1801-1877) was born in Whittingham, Vermont. Called the "American Moses," he led thousands of religious followers across the wilderness to settle over 300 towns in the West, including Salt Lake City, Utah.



Birthday - Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was born in Los Angeles (as Norma Jean Mortensen). Following an unstable childhood spent in foster homes and orphanages, she landed a job as a photographer's model which led to a movie career. She later married baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. Beneath her glamorous movie star looks she was fragile and insecure and eventually succumbed to the pressures of Hollywood life. She died in Los Angeles from an overdose of sleeping pills on August 5, 1962. Best known for *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* (1953), *The Seven Year Itch* (1955), *Bus Stop* (1956), *Some Like It Hot* (1959), and *The Misfits* (1961).

JUNE 2



Birthday - Marquis de Sade (1740-1814) was born in Paris. He was a military leader, governor-general, and author, whose acts of extreme cruelty and violence resulted in the term sadism being created from his name to describe gratification in inflicting pain.

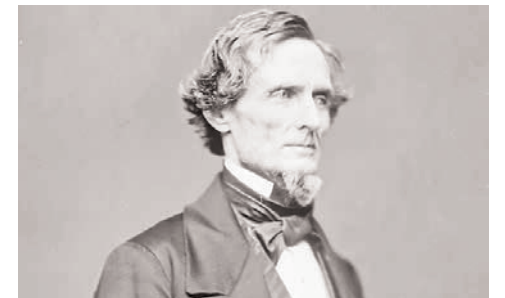
JUNE 3

June 3, 1937 - The Duke of Windsor married Wallis Warfield Simpson in Monts, France. As King Edward VIII, he had abdicated the British throne in December of 1936 amid tremendous controversy to marry Simpson, an American who had been divorced. Following the wedding, the couple lived in France and had minimal contact with the British Royal family. The Duke died in Paris on May 28, 1972, and was buried near Windsor Castle in England.

June 3, 1972 - Sally Jan Priesand was ordained a rabbi thus becoming the first woman rabbi in the U.S. She then became an assistant rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City.

June 3, 1989 - Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, died. On February 1, 1979, after 15 years in exile, he had staged

a triumphant return to Iran which led to the downfall of the Shah. Khomeini then reorganized the government on Islamic principles. On November 11, 1979, a group of students loyal to Khomeini seized 66 hostages in the American Embassy in Teheran after the former Shah had entered the U.S. for medical treatment. Thus began an international political crisis lasting until January 20, 1981, when they were released.



Birthday - Confederate president Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) was born at Todd County, Kentucky. After the Southern states formed the Confederacy in 1861, he hoped to be named commander of the Confederate military forces but was instead chosen to be president, serving until 1865. Following the Civil War, he was imprisoned but never brought to trial. He died at age 81 in New Orleans.

JUNE 4

June 4, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, Rome was liberated by the U.S. 5th Army, led by General Mark Clark. Rome had been declared an open city by German Field Marshal Albert Kesselring amid Allied concerns the Germans might stage a Stalingrad-style defense that would devastate the historic 'Eternal' city.

June 4, 1972 - An express train packed with more than 600 people rammed into a stalled train at full speed in the main station of Jessore, Bangladesh, killing 76 and injuring over 500 persons.

June 4, 1989 - The Chinese government ordered its troops to open fire on unarmed protesters in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The protest had started on April 16 as about 1,000 students marched to mourn the death of Hu Yaobang, a pro-reform leader within the Chinese government. Despite government warnings, pro-reform and pro-democracy demonstrations continued for a month drawing ever-larger crowds of young people, eventually totaling over a million persons. On May 13, three thousand students began an eight-day hunger strike. The government imposed martial law on May 20 and brought in troops. On June 2, in their first clash with the People's Army, demonstrators turned back an advance of unarmed troops. However, in the pre-dawn hours of June 4, the People's Army, using tanks, machine-guns, clubs and tear gas, opened fire on the unarmed protesters. Armored personnel carriers then rolled into the square crushing students still sleeping in their tents. The Chinese government later claimed only 300 died in the attack. U.S. estimates put the toll at over 3,000. Following the massacre, over 1,600 demonstrators were rounded up and jailed, with 27 being executed.

Birthday - King George III (1738-1820) was born. He ruled England for 60 years from 1760 to 1820 and was the British King against whom the American Revolution was directed.

Angkor Wat: The eternal city of the Gods

Before sunrise breaks over the Cambodian jungle, thousands of years of history lie hidden in darkness. The silhouettes of towering stone spires rise slowly above a vast moat, reflected perfectly in still waters. The air is heavy with humidity, incense and birdsong. Somewhere in the distance, Buddhist monks chant softly while travellers stand silently waiting for dawn. Then the sky erupts into gold.

As sunlight washes over the ancient temple complex of Angkor Wat, it becomes immediately clear why this monument is considered one of humanity's greatest achievements. The sheer scale is staggering, the artistry almost unimaginable, and the atmosphere profoundly spiritual. More than a tourist destination, Angkor Wat is an entire world - a sacred landscape where religion, mythology, architecture, empire and nature exist together in breathtaking harmony.

For travellers, historians, photographers and spiritual seekers alike, Angkor Wat is not simply a place to visit. It is a place to feel.

The Rise of a Great Civilization

To understand Angkor Wat, one must first understand the astonishing civilization that created it.

Between the 9th and 15th centuries, the Khmer Empire dominated much of mainland Southeast Asia, controlling territories that now include modern-day Cambodia, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam. At its height, the empire was among the world's most sophisticated civilizations, possessing advanced engineering, enormous urban centres, complex irrigation systems and extraordinary artistic traditions.

The city of Angkor itself may once have supported nearly a million inhabitants, making it one of the largest pre-industrial urban centres in human history. Long before many European capitals emerged, Angkor was already a thriving metropolis of canals, reservoirs, temples and royal palaces.

The empire's rulers believed deeply in the divine authority of kingship. Khmer monarchs were seen not merely as political leaders but as earthly representatives of the gods. Monumental temple construction became both an act of devotion and a symbol of imperial power.

It was within this atmosphere of ambition and spiritual devotion that King Suryavarman II commissioned Angkor Wat in the early 12th century.

Why Angkor Wat Was Built

Unlike many Buddhist temples of Southeast Asia, Angkor Wat was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu, the preserver god of Hindu cosmology. Scholars believe the temple may also have served as the king's state temple and eventual funerary monument.

Every aspect of Angkor Wat was designed with cosmic symbolism in mind.

The temple's five central towers represent the peaks of Mount Meru, the



mythical home of the gods in Hindu belief. The surrounding moat symbolizes the cosmic ocean, while concentric galleries reflect the structure of the universe itself.

Even the temple's orientation is unusual. Most Khmer temples face east, but Angkor Wat faces west - a direction associated with Vishnu and sometimes linked with death in Hindu tradition. Historians continue debating whether this orientation supports the theory that the temple was intended partly as a mausoleum for the king.

Construction required extraordinary manpower and engineering skill. Millions of sandstone blocks, some weighing several tons, were transported from quarries located more than 50 kilometres away. Labourers, sculptors, priests and architects worked for decades to create the monument.

The result was one of the most magnificent religious structures ever built.

The Greatest Religious Monument on Earth

Angkor Wat covers over 400 acres, making it the largest religious monument in the world. Yet despite its vastness, its design remains remarkably harmonious and balanced.

Visitors approach the temple via an elevated sandstone causeway crossing the enormous moat. As they draw closer, the iconic towers dominate the skyline with

increasing majesty.

The temple's walls contain nearly 2,000 apsaras - celestial dancers carved with astonishing individuality. No two are exactly alike. Their jewellery, hairstyles and expressions differ subtly, reflecting the incredible skill of Khmer artisans.

The bas-reliefs of Angkor Wat are among the finest examples of narrative sculpture anywhere in the world. Stretching across vast galleries, these carvings depict epic battles, mythological scenes and royal processions in remarkable detail.

Among the most celebrated panels is the "Churning of the Ocean of Milk," where gods and demons pull upon the serpent Vasuki to churn the cosmic ocean and obtain the elixir of immortality. The scene contains hundreds of figures carved with extraordinary dynamism and precision.

Another gallery portrays scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, the great Hindu epics that shaped much of South and Southeast Asian culture.

Walking through these corridors feels like entering a stone library of mythology.

From Hindu Temple to Buddhist Sanctuary

Over time, Cambodia gradually transitioned from Hinduism to Buddhism, especially Theravada Buddhism, which remains dominant today. Rather than being abandoned, Angkor Wat evolved alongside these religious changes.

Buddhist statues replaced some Hindu imagery, monks began inhabiting the temple, and Angkor Wat transformed into an active Buddhist pilgrimage site. This continuous religious use helped preserve the monument when many other temples around Angkor fell into ruin.

Temples Beyond Angkor Wat

The Angkor region contains dozens of extraordinary temples, each offering its own mood, symbolism and architectural character.

Angkor Thom: The Great Royal City

Built by King Jayavarman VII in the late 12th century, Angkor Thom served as the final great capital of the Khmer Empire. Massive gates guarded by rows of stone gods and demons lead into the ancient city.

At its centre stands the mesmerising temple of Bayon.

Bayon is famous for its gigantic smiling stone faces. More than 200 serene faces gaze calmly in every direction, creating an atmosphere that feels mystical and almost dreamlike.

Historians continue debating whom the faces represent. Some believe they depict Avalokiteshvara, the Buddhist bodhisattva of compassion, while others argue they are idealized portraits of King Jayavarman VII himself.

The shifting expressions of the faces change with the light, giving the temple an eerie and unforgettable beauty.

Ta Prohm: Nature's Cathedral

Perhaps no temple captures the imagination more powerfully than Ta Prohm. Here, giant tree roots cascade over ruined walls, twisting through doorways and embracing ancient stones like living sculptures. Massive silk-cotton trees rise dramatically above crumbling galleries, creating scenes that appear almost unreal.

Unlike other restored monuments, Ta Prohm was intentionally preserved in a semi-ruined state to showcase the dramatic relationship between nature and architecture. The temple gained international fame after appearing in the film Tomb Raider, but its true magic lies in the atmosphere of rediscovery it evokes. Visitors walking through Ta Prohm often feel as though they have stumbled upon a forgotten civilization hidden deep within the jungle.

Banteay Srei: The Jewel of Khmer Art

Located farther from the main Angkor complex, Banteay Srei is often described as the artistic masterpiece of Khmer architecture. Constructed from pink sandstone, the temple glows warmly in sunlight. Its carvings are extraordinarily intricate, featuring floral motifs, mythological scenes and decorative details of astonishing delicacy. Because of the refinement of its artistry, scholars nicknamed it the "Citadel of Women," believing only female hands could have created carvings so delicate - though this interpretation remains symbolic rather than historical.

Why did the centenary celebrations of Sikh Union Club turn out to be unique?

BY
PRABHJOT
SINGH



NAIROBI (TIP)

Centennial celebrations are rare and unique as they come after witnessing many ups and downs, quick to forget or golden moments but not without leaving a trail of sweet memoirs.

Those who are lucky get a chance to cherish those memoirs, both as participants and witness to history. And at times, some of the stars of such celebrations also become part of history or legends that future generations hold in high esteem while acknowledging their rarest of rare accomplishments.

Early this month, when the premises of Sikh Union Club, the oldest Club of Sikhs outside India, reverberated with high quality competitions in hockey, cricket, badminton, golf, darts and treasure hunt besides a series of reunions of old, present and future stars of the Sikh community of Africa, many pages from historic annals were read repeatedly to remind the great exploits of the community on playfields worldwide.

From individual to family brilliance, the history of Sikh Union Club is dotted with stories that at times look unbelievable.

There is a story of Marwa brothers. Four of them were players at the



Marwa family members who attended centenary celebrations of the Sikh Union Club in Nairobi.

Pic by Maninder K. Chandhoke

international level. Three of them made the Kenyan Olympic Hockey team and two of them represented the country of their domicile in the World Cup.

They arrived on the scene in the late 60s when two of them - Amarjit Singh Marwa and Harvinder Singh Marwa also known as Gora - were chosen to represent Kenya in the 1968 Mexico Olympics. That edition of the summer Olympic Games had an unusual distinction where the number of Sikh players representing

Kenya was more than those representing India.

Avtar Singh Sohal "Tari", Surjeet Singh Panesar "Junior", Kirpal Singh Bhardwaj, Davinder Singh Deegan, Amarjeet Singh Marwa, Harvinder Singh Marwa "Gora" and Jagjit Singh Kular not only represented Kenya but also supported white turbans tied in a unique "African" style during the ceremonies.

That was perhaps the first time that turban sporting Sikhs from countries

other than India were recognized as real brand ambassadors of hockey, a journey that they continued till 1988 when Inderjit Matharu "Koolie" became the last turbaned Sikh to represent Kenya.

While Amarjit Marwa and Harvinder Marwa went on to represent Kenya in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, their third brother, Satpal Singh Marwa, was chosen to play in the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. However, a controversy over New Zealand Rugby team's tour of South Africa, made African nations pull out of the Montreal Olympic Games. This Satpal Marwa, like rest of the members of the Kenyan contingent, had to come out of the Olympic village and lost a chance of playing in the Olympic Games.

I had a chance to meet the Marwa brothers in Nairobi during the centenary celebrations of Sikh Union Club.

"Though we have a home far away from Nairobi, we made it a point that we all four brothers came here to join the celebrations," remarked Amarjit Marwa.

Like the rest of Olympians and World Cuppers who one time represented Sikh Union Club, they were felicitated at the gala banquet organized to mark the conclusion of the celebrations.

IOC mourns Randhir's death

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has mourned the death of its Honorary Member Raja Randhir Singh.

In a statement issued from its headquarters, the IOC said that it was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Raja Randhir Singh at the age of 79.

The IOC eulogized Raja Randhir Singh saying he was "highly respected across the world, he was a five-time Olympian and one of the most influential figures in Asian sport, who dedicated his life to the development of the Olympic Movement in India, Asia and around the world.

Through his extraordinary career, Raja Randhir Singh became a central figure in the growth of the Olympic Movement in India and Asia and a trusted voice within the global sporting community,' the statement said,

IOC President Kirsty Coventry said: "Raja Randhir Singh devoted his entire life to sport. As an Olympian, as an IOC Member and as a leader of Asian sport, he served the Olympic Movement with exceptional loyalty, wisdom and generosity over many decades. He will be remembered not only for his remarkable service and leadership, but also for his warmth, friendship and lifelong dedication to sport. On behalf of the International Olympic Committee, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, his friends and all those across the Olympic Movement who had the privilege of working with him."

As a trap and skeet shooter, he represented India at five editions of the Olympic Games - Mexico City 1968, Munich 1972, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984 - having also been reserve shooter for Tokyo 1964.

His sporting achievements included a gold

medal in trap shooting at the 1978 Asian Games in Bangkok, making him India's first Asian Games gold medalist in shooting - a landmark achievement that helped inspire generations of shooters and laid the foundations for India's rise as a global force in the sport. He later won bronze individually and silver in the team event at the 1982 Asian Games in New Delhi.

Indicative of what would become a lifelong dedication to sport, he was appointed Secretary General of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) while still actively competing, becoming the first person to compete at the Asian Games (1994) while simultaneously holding office in a continental sports organization.

Raja Randhir Singh was elected as an IOC Member in 2001 and served until 2014, when he became an Honorary Member. During his time with the IOC, he contributed to numerous commissions and initiatives, including being the IOC Representative on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board from 2003 to 2005.

Singh also served as Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association for nearly three decades and played a pivotal role in shaping Indian sport at both national and international levels. After serving as Secretary General of the OCA from 1991 to 2015, he became Acting President in 2021, guiding the organization with steady leadership through a particularly challenging period. He was then elected President in 2024 - the first Indian to hold the role.

His passing is a great loss to the Olympic Movement. As a mark of respect, the Olympic flag will be flown at half-mast for three days at Olympic House.

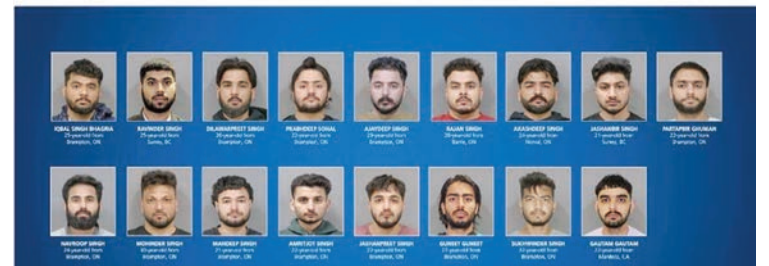
Raja Randhir Singh



17 Punjabi-origin youths arrested in Canada in violent extortion ring



CHARGED INDIVIDUALS



17 Punjabis arrested in Canada for extortion and shootouts

MAY 25, 2026
BRAMPTON (TIP)

The Peel Regional police, in a release, said the group, known as "Four Brothers", carried out multiple violent incidents against restaurants, trucking companies, and other businesses in Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon and parts of British Columbia, with links to California in the United States.

The organized criminal network is alleged to have used intimidation, threats, and escalating violence to extort local businesses.

The investigation began in December 2025 as a joint forces operation involving Peel Regional police, Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), the FBI and FINTRAC.

The 17 accused are connected to 24 incidents, of which 16 were violent incidents linked to the "Four Brothers" group, including arson and multiple shootings that involved 324 rounds discharged.

In one incident, two of the accused were allegedly responsible for a shooting and arson at a residential address in Caledon, followed minutes later by a second shooting targeting a business in Brampton. A total of 106 criminal charges were laid against the 17 men. During the investigation, police seized six firearms, illicit drugs, multiple cell phones, SIM cards and fraudulent identification documents.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto based senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



WFI challenges Delhi HC order allowing Vinesh Phogat in Asian Games trials

NEW DELHI (TIP), MAY 29, 2026

Days after the Delhi High Court allowed Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games 2026, the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has challenged the order before the Supreme Court.

The WFI's petition is listed for hearing before a Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Alok Aradhe on May 29.

The top court's decision will have significant implications for selection norms and participation of athletes returning to the game after a break in high-performance sporting events.

A Division Bench of the high court had on May 22 allowed Vinesh to take part in the upcoming trials for the Asian Games, saying the WFI's selection policy was exclusionary for the lack of discretion to consider a player like her, who was returning from a maternity break.

Describing Vinesh as an "iconic athlete", the high court had said she should be given a fair opportunity to compete and directed that she be allowed to take part in the trials scheduled for May 30-31.

The high court had directed that the trials be video-recorded by the WFI to ensure transparency in the selection process and that it should be conducted in the presence of independent observers from both the Sports Authority of India and the Indian Olympic Association. However, the WFI contended that selection procedures must strictly follow established criteria to maintain fairness and consistency in team selection.

IPL 2026

If you don't play Vaibhav in T20Is now, when will you give him chance?, asks Gavaskar

NEW DELHI (TIP), MAY 29, 2026

Sunil Gavaskar believes that teen prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi is "God's gift to Indian cricket" and needs to be picked for the upcoming white-ball tour of England, even if it comes at the cost of dropping an established top-order batter from the playing eleven.

Gavaskar, who saw Sooryavanshi's astonishing 29-ball-97 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL Eliminator, is floored by the chubby-cheeked boy wonder's fearless strokeplay, especially the way he launched Pat Cummins for a straight six.

"2026 will be remembered as the Vaibhav Sooryavanshi Year. He (Sooryavanshi) is ready to play T20 International cricket," Gavaskar said in a YouTube show, Sports Tak.

"For the England away T20 series, he will be selected. I mean, he deserves to be selected after this brilliant show. If you don't give him a chance after this performance, when will you give him a chance?"

The former India skipper is quite sure that age shouldn't be a factor as he is hitting all and sundry at the ripe age of 15.

"Don't go by his age. He is hitting those bowlers who are older than him. In fact, at 15, he is hitting bowlers with 15 years of international experience. Just look at his fearless approach," Gavaskar said.

However, to accommodate Sooryavanshi in the playing XI, the team think tank would have to leave out either Abhishek Sharma or Sanju Samson.

"Yes, there will be a headache as to whom you should drop. But it is a happy headache to have. When your option is whom to drop, that speaks of your country's depth of talent.

"I think he (Sooryavanshi) will be kept



in the squad of 15 or 16, but whether he will be in the 11 or not can be decided later. But the experience he will gain in that dressing room will be priceless," Gavaskar added.

For Gavaskar, a boy who hits straight sixes is anything but a slogger.

"What we saw yesterday, even when I take into account some of his earlier innings, was different. He is not just special; he is very, very extraordinary special," said Gavaskar.

"When we visualize six hitters, the idea of a slogger comes to our mind. But this kid hits straight sixes -- over long on and long off with technical perfection," he added.

"And when one bowls short balls, he comes inside the line and hooks and pulls it with such cleanliness, that's a rarity. Not just me, but everyone apart from SRH players was sad when he got out at 97 and missed the record for the fastest century. Sooryavanshi is God's gift to Indian cricket." Gavaskar had the fortune of

seeing Sachin Tendulkar as a 15-year-old playing for Mumbai, and he didn't exactly get into a comparison.

"Sachin had all qualities. He could attack, he could defend, all shots in the book. His balance was very different. When I saw him for the first time, I thought that he too was God's gift."

"The bats are different. That time Sachin played, the bats were different and weren't as powerful. You need bats as you get now to hit those sixes."

Gavaskar was also emotional when Sooryavanshi came over towards him before pre-match practice and touched his feet.

"Our upbringing teaches us to respect our elders. Not just me, Sanjay Bangar was standing alongside me, and he touched his feet also. He might have expected that I would say something, and I told him 'Lage Raho' (Carry on). So what does Gavaskar expect from the boy?"

"I don't want that kid in him to grow up," he said in jest. *Source: PTI*

Argentina name FIFA World Cup squad; Messi set for sixth appearance

BUENOS AIRES (TIP), MAY 29, 2026

Argentina head coach Lionel Scaloni announced the 26-member squad of the defending champions for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026, scheduled to begin on June 11 across the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Leading the squad is captain Lionel Messi, who is set to make his sixth appearance at the FIFA World Cup despite recent concerns over a left hamstring issue sustained while representing Inter Miami last week. The 38-year-old forward remains the central figure in Argentina's campaign as the South American giants prepare to defend the title they won in Qatar in 2022. Messi had played a defining role in



Argentina's triumphant run during the previous edition, scoring seven goals and registering three assists during the tournament.

Argentina will begin their preparations for the marquee tournament with two international friendlies. Lionel Scaloni's side is scheduled to face Honduras on June 6 before taking on Iceland on June 9. Following the completion of the warm-up fixtures, the defending champions will shift their base camp to Kansas City ahead of the tournament opener.

Argentina, placed in Group J of the FIFA World Cup 2026, will open its campaign against Algeria on June 16, followed by fixtures against Austria and Jordan.

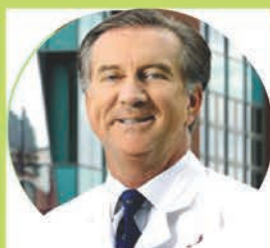
The squad announcement comes at a crucial stage of Argentina's preparations as Scaloni continues to fine-tune combinations and assess player fitness ahead of the global tournament.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctos, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
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