



WATCH OUT FOR THE AMERICA @ 250 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

INSIDE

AMERICA AT 250: THE COURAGE TO CHOOSE PEACE	PAGE 02
PUNJAB'S HARSH TRUTHS CAN'T BE WISHED AWAY	PAGE 08
THE IRAN CONUNDRUM AND THE DECLINE OF THE WEST	PAGE 09
INDIA'S NEXT KNOWLEDGE BRIDGE	PAGE 10

Trump fires all Election Assistance Commission members

THE FIRINGS LEAVE THE FEDERAL ELECTION AGENCY WITH NO COMMISSIONERS AS TRUMP SEEKS TO RESHAPE VOTING RULES



President Donald Trump

File photo

BY JESSICA HUSEMAN
JULY 9, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

President Donald Trump fired all three remaining members of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission on Thursday, July 9, abruptly disabling the only federal agency devoted solely to election administration at a moment when Trump has sought to reshape federal voting rules.

The two Democratic commissioners, Thomas Hicks and Benjamin Hovland, were notified by email. "On behalf of President Donald J. Trump, I am writing to inform you that your position as Commissioner of the Election Assistance Commission is terminated, effective immediately. Thank you for your service," the email said. It was signed by Morgan DeWitt Snow, deputy director of presidential personnel in the Executive Office of the President.

CONTD ON PAGE 32

US launches fresh H-1B visa fraud probe; VP Vance says "American jobs ought to go to American workers"



US Vice President JD Vance announced that the US Department of Labor has launched investigations and issued subpoenas against alleged foreign fraudsters accused of misusing the H-1B visa program

JULY 9, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

US Vice President JD Vance on Wednesday, July 8, announced that the US Department of Labor has launched investigations and issued subpoenas against alleged foreign fraudsters accused of misusing the H-1B visa program, saying the Trump administration would ensure the scheme does not undermine American workers.

Speaking in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Vance said the action was part of a broader fraud enforcement effort aimed at protecting taxpayer money and preventing misuse of visa programs.

CONTD ON PAGE 32

India at the UN condemns 'Sexual violence used as a tool of war, terrorism and political repression'



India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish strongly condemned conflict-related sexual violence

JULY 9, 2026
UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

India on Thursday, July 9, strongly condemned conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), describing it as a tool used for war, terrorism, torture, and political repression to subjugate communities, suppress dissent, and inflict human suffering.

Speaking at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish, said the UN Secretary-General's report pointing to a sharp increase in verified cases in 2025 underscored the urgent need for collective action.

CONTD ON PAGE 32

AG JAMES WARNS ABOUT SCAMS IN CHARITABLE GIVING FOR VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF



New York State Attorney General Letitia James cautioned New Yorkers to be wary of sham charities for Venezuela earthquake relief
Official portrait

JULY 9, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

New York Attorney General Letitia James issued a warning on July 8 about scams in charitable giving for Venezuela earthquake relief, providing guidance to New Yorkers looking to support relief efforts in response to the devastating earthquake.

James cautioned New Yorkers to be wary of sham charities that may take advantage of their concern and bad actors who misrepresent themselves as being associated with a charity.

The New York Attorney General James also urged everyone to ensure they are donating to legitimate charitable efforts and organizations.

CONTD ON PAGE 32



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COMMENT

America at 250: The Courage to Choose Peace

BY INDRAJIT SALUJA



There are moments in the life of every nation when celebration gives way to contemplation. As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, one such moment confronts us once again. The renewed hostilities involving the United States and Iran have filled many Americans-not with triumph, but with anxiety.

The anxiety is understandable.

Every generation of Americans has lived through one international conflict or another. Some wars were unavoidable. Some were entered with noble intentions. Some were fought to defend allies and protect national interests. Yet history also teaches us that wars have a way of growing beyond their original purpose. They become longer than expected, costlier than imagined, and leave behind consequences that endure long after the last shot is fired.

No one who has witnessed history can fail to ask: Have we learned enough from our past?

From Vietnam to Iraq, from Afghanistan to countless military engagements across the globe, America has demonstrated extraordinary courage, unmatched military capability, and remarkable sacrifice. Our servicemen and women have never failed in their devotion to duty. They have served with honor wherever their nation has called them.

The larger question, however, is not about the courage of those who fight. It is about the wisdom of those who decide when fighting becomes necessary.

Military victories do not always produce political peace. They do not always heal ancient grievances or erase ideological hatred. They do not always create stable societies. Sometimes they succeed. Sometimes they merely postpone another conflict.

That is the lesson history quietly whispers to every generation.

War is often described in terms of strategy, security, and national interest. But beyond those important considerations lies another reality-the human one. Every conflict creates widows and orphans. It uproots families, destroys homes, interrupts education, deepens poverty, and leaves scars that remain for decades. The suffering is rarely confined to soldiers alone. It is civilians who most often carry the heaviest burden.

Humanity always pays the highest price.

Even when American cities remain untouched, Americans are not untouched. Wars affect every household. They influence the economy, fuel inflation, unsettle financial markets, increase public expenditure, and divert precious national resources that could otherwise strengthen education, healthcare, infrastructure, scientific research, and the well-being of future generations.

The effects are equally global. Energy prices fluctuate. International commerce slows. Developing nations struggle with rising costs. Diplomatic tensions spread far beyond the original battlefield. In today's interconnected world, there are no distant wars. Every conflict sends waves across the entire human family.

America has every right-indeed every obligation-to defend its citizens, protect its legitimate interests, and stand by its commitments to allies. No responsible nation can neglect those duties. Strength remains an indispensable pillar of national security.

But strength alone has never been the defining quality of America's greatness.

America became a beacon to the world because it combined strength with

principle, confidence with restraint, and power with the rule of law. Its influence has rested not only upon the might of its armed forces but also upon the enduring ideals proclaimed in its founding documents-liberty, justice, human dignity, and the belief that peace is always preferable to war whenever peace can be secured with honor.

As we commemorate two and a half centuries of American independence, perhaps the time has come to ask ourselves a profound question.

Can the world's strongest nation also become its most persuasive advocate for peace?

Diplomacy demands patience. Negotiation requires endurance. Statesmanship calls for wisdom. None of these qualities should ever be mistaken for weakness. On the contrary, they represent the highest expression of national confidence. A nation secure in its strength need not rush toward conflict. It possesses the patience to explore every path that may spare humanity another tragedy.

History does not remember great nations merely for the wars they fought. It remembers them for the peace they secured, the institutions they built, the freedoms they protected, and the hope they inspired.

As America celebrates the 250th year of its independence, our prayer is simple. May our leaders be guided by wisdom as much as by strength. May they remember the lessons of history before writing another chapter of it. And may this great Republic continue to lead the world not only through the power of its military, but through the moral authority that comes from choosing peace whenever peace remains possible.

That would be a victory worthy of America's enduring ideals.

READER'S WRITE

Dear Editor,
Excellent editorial by you.

It beautifully reminds us that the true strength of America lies not merely in its economy or military, but in its people, values, and democratic ideals. As an immigrant, I deeply appreciate this powerful tribute to the nation's history and its inclusive spirit. The article rightly emphasizes that history is not just about the past, it is a guide for the future. America has always drawn strength from the dreams and contributions of immigrants from around the world. As the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, this inspiring message reinforces the timeless ideals of liberty, democracy, and opportunity for all. Congratulations to The Indian Panorama for publishing such a thoughtful and meaningful editorial.

Prem Bhandari
President, Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA)
New York

Sir,

I just finished reading your editorial. It is one of the best ever written not only for the United States of America but for any and every country which follows democratic values and has established a system of governance with necessary checks and balances through allegiance to its constitution.

Each and every word of your editorial is akin to the principles, values and teachings of Ramayana and Geeta.

I remain one of most ardent (read 'proud') admirers of your kind of *journalism.*

Sunil Chandra
New Delhi

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INS Sudarshini participates in US International Naval Review, Sail 4th 250 celebrations as part of Lokayan 2026

Against the Manhattan skyline, the Indian Naval Tall Ship INS Sudarshini stood not merely as a magnificent sailing vessel, but as a graceful ambassador of India.



**JULY 5, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)**

Indian Naval Sail Training Ship (INS) Sudarshini sailed into New York Harbour on July 4 to represent India at the United States International Naval Review 250 and the Sail 4th 250 celebrations, with the iconic three-masted barque proudly flying the Indian Tricolor during the Parade of Sail along the Hudson River.

A special highlight of the visit was the presence of



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish in conversation with an officer

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish, and the Consul General of India in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, whose visit further underscored the significance of INS Sudarshini's participation in this historic international celebration.

According to an official release, the visit forms part of INS Sudarshini's 10-month transoceanic expedition, Lokayan 2026, which reflects the Indian Navy's commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation, fostering international goodwill and deepening



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish signed the Visitor's book

engagement with partner navies.

The release stated that after successfully participating in the SAIL 250 events at Norfolk and Baltimore in the US, INS Sudarshini berthed at Brooklyn for the Sail 4th 250 celebrations commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence.

Describing the significance of the visit, the release said that against the backdrop of the New York skyline,



Consul General of India in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan went round Sudarshini and met with Naval officers. He is seen here with the captain of the ship.

INS Sudarshini stands as a symbol of India's rich maritime heritage and centuries-old seafaring traditions. It added that the port call represents not only a trans-Atlantic voyage but also the enduring friendship, mutual respect and expanding maritime partnership between India and the United States.

"Set against the iconic New York skyline, INS Sudarshini stands as a proud symbol of India's maritime legacy. The port call represents more than a journey across the Atlantic. It reflects the enduring friendship, mutual respect, and expanding maritime



Ambassador Pradhan and the Captain of Sudarshini: Presentation of mementoes



India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador P. Harish is greeted by the Captain of the ship on the decks of Sudarshini

partnership between India and the United States," the release read.

The Indian Navy's spokesperson, in a post on X, also highlighted the ship's participation in the celebrations.

"Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini sailed into New York Harbour, proudly flying the Indian Tricolor during the Parade of Sail, representing India at the Sail 250 and US International Naval Review. Having successfully completed engagements at Norfolk and Baltimore, the presence of India's iconic three-masted barque in the USA, on 4th of July, showcases



Consul General of India in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan in conversation with the Captain of the ship. Ambassador Pradhan was accompanied by Consul Shrutii Pandey (extreme left)



Sudarshini flying the Indian Tricolor during the Parade of Sail along the Hudson River.

growing India-US naval partnership, maritime goodwill and friendship," the spokesperson said.

The release added that INS Sudarshini continues to strengthen maritime ties and promote friendship and cooperation across the world's oceans while carrying forward India's seafaring traditions as part of the Lokayan 2026 expedition.

Now sailing toward Boston, INS Sudarshini continues her Lokayan 2026 voyage—a remarkable 10-month, 22,000-nautical-mile expedition across 18 ports in 13 countries—carrying with her not only the Indian Tricolor, but also a timeless message of friendship, goodwill, and the enduring power of the oceans to bring nations closer together.

(With input by Jay Mandal and ANI)

2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge: Five Indian-origin finalists

JULY 8, 2026

After a spectacular run in the 2026 Scripps National Spelling Bee, Indian-origin kids are gearing up for America's top young scientist title. The 2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge finalists have been announced, and the top 10 finalists include 5 Indian American students. In the past 16 years, the America's Top Young Scientist title has gone to Indian immigrant kids 7 times for unique problem-solving ideas and scientific innovations.

2026 3M YOUNG SCIENTIST CHALLENGE: FIVE INDIAN-ORIGIN FINALISTS

- Sharvi Mahajan, 8th grader from California
- Raji Doshi, 7th grader from Connecticut
- Naboshree Santra, 6th grader from Florida
- Arika Kundu, 7th grader from Minnesota
- Aaisha Asif, 6th grader from Florida

SHARVI MAHAJAN AND NEURODRIVE ALERT INVENTION

Among the finalists for America's Top Young Scientist title 2026, Sharvi Mahajan from California has created NeuroDrive Alert. This is an EGG-based machine learning alert system for real-time fatigue prediction. Sharvi's NeuroDrive Alert is an advanced system that tracks fatigue over time to predict microsleep and enhance safety in driving and other high-risk activities.

Intrigued by the depth of neuroscience, she aspires to be a computational neuroscientist and found a tech startup that would build AI-based neuroscience models. Her favorite invention is Electroencephalogram (EEG) machine that measures brainwave activity through a system of electrodes placed on the scalp.



2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge. Five Indian-origin finalists: Sharvi Mahajan, Raji Doshi, Naboshree Santra, Arika Kundu, and Aisha Asif

RAJI DOSHI AND HER COASTAL SOLUTION FOR MARINE HEALTH

12-year-old Raji Doshi is among the 2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge finalists for her durable algae-aragonite alkalinity system to reduce ocean acidification and improve marine health. Atmospheric carbon is changing chemistry of the oceans at an alarming rate that affects millions of people's health and livelihood directly or indirectly. She found it too hard to ignore, and thus, engineered a unique coastal solution to not just enter the 3M Challenge but fight climate change.

Raji Doshi from Connecticut aspires to be a NASA aerospace engineer and develop space-based monitoring systems for ocean health. Her favorite invention for humankind is the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV). Scientists use AUV drones to collect real-time data on oceans' carbon absorption, chemistry, and marine health.

NABOSHREE SANTRA AND HER SOLUTION FOR DROUGHT-AFFECTED REGIONS

11-year-old Naboshree Santra is the youngest of 3M Young Scientist Challenge finalists in 2026. A resident of Florida, Naboshree "developed biodegradable soilshade balls that reduce evaporation and help soil retain more moisture, offering a simple solution for agriculture in drought-affected regions," according to Youngscientistlab.com. She believes "if nature can grow it, we can engineer it." She is an aspiring researcher who wishes to make sustainable products from natural materials for a healthier planet.

ARIKA KUNDU AND HER LIGNEX INVENTION

Arika Kundu, the Minnesota State Merit award winner, got entry to the 3M Young Scientist Challenge finals for her

innovative model - LIGNEX. It is a biosorption based method that uses agricultural waste like peanut shells to remove pesticides from fresh produce. It would not only make food safer but more accessible. Her favorite scientific breakthrough of the past 100 years is the Human Genome Project.

Arika Kundu aspires to be an astrobiologist and make it big in computational biology. One of her goals is to reduce radiation exposure in space and make space exploration safer for long-term advancements. She believes the lesser the space radiation, the better it is for agriculture and cancer treatment.

AAISHA ASIF AND HER ECO-FRIENDLY ADHESIVE

Among the finalists for America's Top Young Scientist title 2026, Aaisha Asif developed a mussel-inspired, eco-friendly adhesive from natural proteins and iron-based crosslinkers that creates strong bonds while reducing pollution. Her product is the best environment-friendly alternative to conventional adhesives that release volatile organic compounds (VOCs), contribute to air pollution, and cause health problems. She aspires to be an environmental scientist.

AMERICA'S TOP YOUNG SCIENTIST TITLE AND \$25K PRIZE

Discovery Education's 3M Young Scientist Challenge is a national STEM competition that provides a stage for America's middle school students, 5 to 8 grades, to demonstrate their ideas and solutions to tackle real-world issues. The 'America's Top Young Scientist' title winner earns a \$25K grand prize while other finalists get \$1000 each along with an opportunity to participate in an exclusive summer mentorship program with a 3M scientist.

Indian American Vishesh Anand appointed to California Housing and Homelessness Agency

JULY 8, 2026
SACRAMENTO, CA (TIP)

California Governor Gavin Newsom recently appointed Vishesh Anand, of Los Angeles, as Senior Advisor at the California Housing and Homelessness Agency.

Anand has been Senior Advisor at the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency since 2025.

Prior to that he was Deputy Director of Special Projects at the Office of California Governor in 2025, where he was Deputy Regional Director of External Affairs from 2022 to 2025, a press release from the Governor's office said.

Anand was a Public Engagement Deputy for Intergovernmental and



Vishesh Anand has been appointed as Senior Advisor at the California Housing and Homelessness Agency

Photo: LinkedIn @visheshanandNative Americans

Legislative Affairs at the Office of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti from 2021 to 2022.

He was a Field Deputy at the Office of Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin from 2020 to 2021.

Anand was a Client Engagement Representative at Aspiration in 2020, an Operations Manager at Kinetic Society LLC from 2019 to 2020, and a Business Analyst at Kinetic Society LLC from 2017 to 2019. US immigration services.

Anand does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$140,004. Anand, A graduate in Economics and Global Studies from University of California, Los Angeles, is registered with no party preference.

Jaipur Surgeon Becomes Rajasthan's First to Receive University of Oxford Fellowship in Joint Reconstruction Surgery

JULY 9, 2026
LONDON (TIP)

In a proud moment for Rajasthan's medical fraternity, Jaipur based Consultant Joint Replacement and Orthopedic Surgeon Dr Rohil Singh Kakkar has achieved a significant international milestone by becoming the first Orthopedic Surgeon from Rajasthan to receive a Fellowship in Joint Reconstruction Surgery at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, University of Oxford, England.

This achievement has brought international recognition to Rajasthan's medical community and represents an important step towards strengthening specialized orthopedic expertise and enhancing the state's presence on the global academic platform.

Dr Rohil Singh Kakkar is also among the very few surgeons from Rajasthan to have earned the super-specialty MCh Orthopedics degree from Ninewells Hospital, Scotland affiliated with the Royal College of Surgeons of England.



Dr. Rohil Singh Kakkar at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, University of Oxford, England.

It is noteworthy that Dr Kakkar served as a Joint Replacement Consultant and Orthopedic Surgeon at Eternal Hospital, Jaipur, and Marble City Hospital, Kishangarh. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian gang busted in Operation Hard Ball; 24 arrested

JULY 8, 2026
SACRAMENTO (TIP)

Federal authorities arrested 24 people in the United States and two other countries accused of being part of organized criminal elements tied to India, reports the BBC.

This comes after a one-year long investigation in the U.S., Canada and Europe. One of those groups has been accused in the plot to kill Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar. In total, 37 defendants face charges in three separate indictments.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 11 of those arrested in what's known as Operation Hard Ball are in California.

The CBC reports that prosecutors say the three alleged criminal groups "engaged in widespread violence, including targeted killings, extortions and kidnappings," while "flooding communities" with cocaine and methamphetamines.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Deputy Commissioner Lisa Moreland told the CBC it found no evidence tying the Indian government to the alleged crimes.

The World Sikh Organization said in a statement "While welcoming today's enforcement action, WSO is concerned that significant questions remain unanswered regarding the role of agents of the Government of India,"

SALDEF (Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund) welcomed the coordinated international law enforcement effort that resulted in the arrest of the 24 individuals allegedly connected to India-



FBI agents wearing fatigues surround home to make an arrest in Operation Hard Ball

based transnational organized crime groups operating across the United States, Canada, and Europe.

This action represents an important step towards accountability. According to federal prosecutors, the charges

encompass a range of serious offenses, including racketeering, targeted violence, and allegations related to the 2023 assassination of Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

These developments underscore the

serious threat posed by transnational criminal networks and reinforce the need for continued efforts to investigate and address transnational repression affecting Sikh communities abroad.

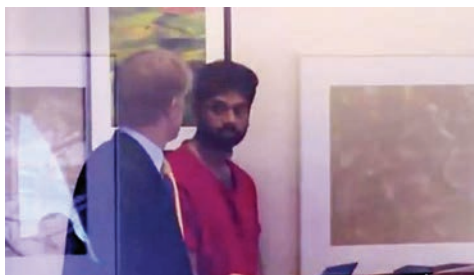
SALDEF remains committed to advocating for policies that protect individuals from transnational repression, supporting accountability through the rule of law, and safeguarding the rights and security of Sikh Americans and all communities targeted by transnational repression and violence.

"Transnational criminal gangs who spread fear, drugs, and violence will face the full force of justice and the weight of the federal government," said First Assistant United States Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement. "Working together, law enforcement in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia are determined to target and dismantle these criminal organizations wherever they operate. There is no safe harbor for these thugs."



WATCH OUT FOR THE AMERICA @ 250 SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

Indian techie in US arrested for wife's murder, sent photo of body to lover in India



Avinash Narne was arrested in the US for allegedly strangling wife, staging crime scene; faces life imprisonment

JULY 9, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

A 30-year-old Indian software engineer has been arrested in the US for allegedly murdering his wife and staging the scene to make it appear as an accident, nearly nine months after she was found dead in their apartment.

According to the Bellevue Police Department, Avinash Narne was arrested and charged with one count of first-degree murder in the death of his 27-year-old wife, Rajitha Sabbineni, who was found dead on October 27, 2025.

Investigators allege Narne strangled Sabbineni before attempting to mislead authorities by claiming she had locked herself inside the bathroom.

Police found victim inside bathroom.

According to investigators, Narne called police on October 27, 2025, claiming that his wife had locked herself in the bathroom and was not responding.

When officers forced open the

bathroom door, they found Sabbineni lying on the floor. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

During initial questioning, Narne told investigators he had stepped out of the apartment to run errands and returned about 40 minutes later to find the bathroom locked.

However, investigators said surveillance and other evidence did not indicate that anyone else entered the apartment during the period Narne claimed to be away.

Medical examiner ruled death a homicide.

The following day, the King County Medical Examiner's Office determined that Sabbineni died from asphyxia due to strangulation, officially ruling the death a homicide.

The ruling prompted a detailed homicide investigation that continued for several months.

Probe uncovered alleged secret relationship.

Investigators said the probe revealed Narne had allegedly been involved in a long-term relationship with another woman in India, even after entering into an arranged marriage with Sabbineni on June 5, 2025.

According to police documents, the woman allegedly attended Narne's wedding, and the two remained in contact after his marriage.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

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IIT Bombay, SUNY Old Westbury launch partnership focused on Engineering education & research



A letter of intent was signed by Prof. Shireesh Kedare and Dr. Timothy E. Sams in the presence of Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan.

**JUNE 28, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)**

On 26 June 2026, during a virtual meeting between the Director of IIT Bombay, Prof. Shireesh Kedare, and the President of SUNY Old Westbury, Dr. Timothy E. Sams, held in the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Education, Government of India, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan; Secretary of Higher Education, Government of India, Dr. Vineet Joshi; Ambassador of India to the United States, Amb. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, the two institutions announced the following:

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) and the State University of New York at Old Westbury have agreed to partner in the development of new educational and research opportunities that would be offered on the Long Island, New York, campus.

Through a letter of intent signed by Prof. Shireesh Kedare and Dr. Timothy E. Sams in the presence of Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan, the two institutions will begin work towards creating new academic offerings at all levels in science and engineering focused on emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, while also developing plans for collaborative research activities.

IIT Bombay is excited to work with SUNY Old Westbury, whose leadership is committed to quality education and is forward looking in its outlook. Considering that our strengths are complementary, we believe that our partnership has the ability to scale great heights."

IIT BOMBAY DIRECTOR PROF. SHIREESH KEDARE

"IIT Bombay is excited to work with SUNY Old Westbury, whose leadership is committed to quality education and is forward looking in its outlook," said IIT Bombay Director Prof. Shireesh Kedare. "Considering that our strengths are complementary, we believe that our partnership has the ability to scale great heights."

"IIT Bombay is recognized as a world-class institution," said SUNY Old Westbury President Timothy Sams. "We are excited to establish a direct partnership that advances teaching, innovation and excellence in disciplines like physics and engineering with a goal of creating a robust IIT Bombay presence on our campus so that together we can prepare the next generation of leaders who will fuel success across our region, state, nation and world."

Early areas of cooperation are expected to include visits by and exchange of faculty members and researchers between the institutions, joint research activities, and the development of joint conferences or symposia.

These early-stage efforts will be conducted while the development of new degree programs takes shape.



A group of five men from diverse backgrounds pose with two holding folders before a screen showing the logos of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and SUNY Old Westbury. (From left): IIT Bombay Dean of Alumni and Corporate Relations Prof. Upendra V. Bhandarkar, IIT Bombay Director Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan, SUNY Old Westbury President Timothy E. Sams and SUNY Old Westbury Associate Provost and Dean of Research & Innovation Dr. Michael Kavic celebrate the agreement.

Both President Dr. Timothy E. Sams and Director Prof. Shireesh Kedare expressed their sincere appreciation to the Government of India, the Embassy of India, the Consulate General of India in New York and especially to Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan for their continued support to facilitate this collaboration.

Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Vinay Kwatra underscored the importance of strengthening academic and technological collaboration between the two prestigious institutions and fostering deeper partnerships in research, innovation, and higher education. Secretary Higher Education of India, Dr. Vineet Joshi, called the partnership between IIT Bombay and SUNY Old Westbury a new and proud chapter in the India-US partnership in higher education and research and one of the most consequential.

Welcoming the partnership as a living corridor of knowledge between India and the USA, Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of India noted that IIT Bombay's partnership with SUNY Old Westbury will create win-win opportunities for students, academicians in both India and USA besides helping to develop cutting edge technologies in frontier science. He urged both IIT Bombay and SUNY Old Westbury to work towards developing students as well as technologies who could shape the future and contribute to global good.

ABOUT IIT BOMBAY

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, set up in 1958 as the second IIT, is recognized worldwide as a leader in the field of science and engineering education and research. The Institute was granted the status of 'Institution of Eminence' by the Ministry of Education (the then Ministry of Human Resources Development) on July 9, 2018. IIT Bombay is reputed for the quality of its faculty, cutting-edge research, industry relations, and the outstanding caliber of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The Institute has 81 academic divisions. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 760 faculty, including 121 women faculty (plus 241 part-time faculty), considered not only amongst the best within the country but also highly recognized in the world for achievements in the field of education and research.



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12th International Day of Yoga Celebrated in Hartsdale Under Leadership of Sivadasan Nair

**JUNE 21, 2026
HARTSDALE, NY (TIP)**

The Indian Cultural Association of North America, under the leadership of its President Mr. Sivadasan Nair, successfully hosted the 12th Annual International Day of Yoga on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Richard Presser Park. The event was held in partnership with the Consulate General of India, New York and the Town of Greenburgh.

Over 100 community members

participated in the celebration themed "Yoga for Peace, Harmony, and Healthy Aging." The program featured yoga sessions for all age groups, emphasizing yoga's benefits for physical and mental well-being.

The International Day of Yoga was first proposed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his address to the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014. The UN declared June 21 as International Day of Yoga on



Lighting Lamp ceremony by the distinguished guests



Congressman George Latimer, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, and Consul Rajalakshmi Kadam from CGI New York, County Legislator Shanae Williams, Councilwoman Ellen Hendricks, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation Joe Lucasey, Guruji Thankappan, Harry Singh, Pranav Patel inaugurated IDY of 2026 at Westchester.

December 11, 2014, through a resolution co-sponsored by a record 177 nations. Yoga is celebrated annually in over 190 countries across the globe on June 21, the summer solstice and longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

Distinguished guests included Congressman George Latimer, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner, and Consul Rajalakshmi Kadam from CGI New York.

"Yoga is India's gift to the world. Thanks to Prime Minister Modi's vision,

it is now a global movement. We are proud to have organized this celebration for 12 consecutive years under Mr. Sivadasan Nair's leadership," said a spokesperson for the Indian Cultural Association of North America.

The event was supported by community volunteers and local leaders, reflecting the strong spirit of unity in Greenburgh.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Sivadasan Nair)



Community members Participating in Yoga Day 2026



Consul Rajalakshmi Kadam, County Legislator Shanae Williams and Dr. Jayasree Nair enjoying Yoga with community members.

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Punjab's harsh truths can't be wished away

The widespread outrage over Satluj takedown reflects poorly on artistic freedom in India

BY NIRMAL SANDHU



"SATLUJ IS THE POWERFUL STORY OF STATE TYRANNY THAT CONVULSED PUNJAB FOR A DECADE AND A HALF, BEGINNING IN THE EARLY 1980S. EQUALLY REPULSIVE AND SELF-DESTRUCTIVE WAS TERRORISM, CULMINATING IN THE ASSASSINATION OF CHIEF MINISTER BEANT SINGH IN AUGUST 1995."



Hard-hitting: Satluj is the story of human rights crusader Jaswant Singh Khalra (played by Diljit Dosanjh).

File photo

In a country that ranks 110th out of 165 nations on the global Human Freedom Index, the removal of a film from a digital platform should not be surprising. The surprise, if any, was the sudden, quiet release of *Satluj*, a film highlighting unpalatable truths.

It requires a special disconnect from reality to believe that once a movie is released, it can be banned. Diljit Dosanjh has noted with satisfaction that the movie has reached the people it was meant for. However, the financial setback is enormous for the filmmakers, who had to fight the censor board and legal wrangles.

As the outrage on social media indicates, the movie has a special appeal for youngsters. For those aged 50 or above, it is a revisit of a horrid chapter from Punjab's history.

Satluj is the powerful story of State tyranny that convulsed Punjab for a decade and a half, beginning in the early 1980s. Equally repulsive and self-destructive was terrorism, culminating in the assassination of Chief Minister Beant Singh in August 1995.

The CM paid the price for giving then DGP, KPS Gill, a free hand to stamp out terrorism. The police ultimately succeeded, partly by resorting to lawless methods and partly because Punjabis had got tired of living with daily bloodshed.

Khalistanis abroad tend to portray Punjab militancy as a movement for a separate state. Actually, it started as a reaction to systemic injustices. The Parkash Singh Badal government, ignoring intelligence warnings, allowed a risky "Vaisakhi Samagam" in 1978 at Amritsar where a dozen Sikhs were killed in a clash with Nirankaris. The

killings went unpunished. This infuriated young Sikhs. Subsequently, Punjab saw the emergence of militancy and the rise of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Police repression was let loose and rural Sikhs provided food and shelter to gun-wielding youth. Coming of age in a society that had a flexible rule of law, dysfunctional institutions and bleak prospects for meaningful economic participation, young people turned to terrorist gangs in growing numbers.

The film is based on the life of a bank employee from Khalra, a village near Bhikhiwind in Tarn Taran district. Jaswant Singh Khalra began investigating mysterious disappearances of his friends and acquaintances and discovered, to his horror, extrajudicial killings of about 25,000 Sikh youths.

Majha in general and Tarn Taran district in particular were the worst hit by militancy. Having spent my growing-up years in Majha, I remember some of the brutal killings, both by terrorists and the police, that happened in the area.

In October 1993, a few terrorists had crossed over from Pakistan. An encounter ensued and two youths were killed. Their bodies were sent to the Patti Civil Hospital, where one of them turned out to be alive. Valtoha SHO Sita Ram took him away, shot him again and returned the body to the hospital.

There was a communal flare-up when Hindu passengers were pulled out of buses, lined up and shot. Being clean-shaven, I was told by my relatives either to grow my hair and wear a turban or stop visiting them and stay in Chandigarh. Such killings led to the

migration of some of my friends from Hindu families.

Such was the environment of fear that terrorists ruled Punjab at night. After dark, police stations were locked up. There was no night patrolling. Bus services were suspended after sunset.

When asked about staged encounters, a police officer who was close to Sumedh Singh Saini, then Ludhiana SSP, told me: "If we don't kill them, they will kill us". Then DGP Julio Ribeiro's "bullet-for-bullet" statement was taken seriously.

One officer who had earned particular notoriety in abductions, torture and extrajudicial killings was Ajit Singh Sandhu, then SSP of Tarn Taran. In the film, the character named SSP Sugga is based on him. Sandhu allegedly committed suicide by jumping in front of a speeding train in 1997.

Some reports attributed to Amnesty International say that he was murdered because his testimony could have revealed big names. In the movie, Diljit Dosanjh talks about the killings of around 2,000 policemen for refusing to take part in fake encounters.

In those days, the Press played it safe. The Jalandhar-based vernacular Press was divided on religious lines. Militants sent press notes followed by telephonic threats. There was hardly any independent investigation of encounters.

It is in this context that Khalra's work stands out. When journalists hesitated and few dared to challenge the police version, he stepped out bravely in search of truth. Investigating complaints of mass cremations, Khalra happened to access municipal records containing

names and addresses of those whose bodies were legally or illegally disposed of.

His revelations brought national and international attention to human rights violations in Punjab. It was this courageous venture that ultimately resulted in his disappearance and subsequent killing in 1995. SSP Sandhu was the principal accused in this case.

While Khalra exposed the ugly face of the State, militancy produced another brave heart from this area who almost single-handedly fought terrorism. He was a CPM activist, Comrade Balwinder Singh, of Bhikhiwind. He survived 42 terrorist attacks and was awarded the Shaurya Chakra in 1993 for showing unmatched courage.

When Operation Blue Star took place in June 1984, a blanket curfew was imposed in Chandigarh and Punjab. Newspapers protested by leaving blank space wherever news reports or editorials were removed. Then Editor-in-Chief of *The Tribune*, Prem Bhatia, arranged food for the night shift. The newsroom was surprised to hear him speak rustic Punjabi on the phone while lodging a protest with the Lt Governor of Chandigarh. Later, he led a march by Chandigarh journalists against Press censorship.

The widespread righteous fury at the disappearance of *Satluj* within 48 hours of its release speaks volumes about Khalra's iconic status in Punjab and beyond. A government leaning towards authoritarianism cannot be expected to take kindly to such a film.

(Nirmal Sandhu is a senior journalist)

The Iran conundrum and the decline of the West

Power realignments may follow the United States-Iran deal

BY M K
NARAYANAN



Ever since 1945, the dominance of the United States and western Europe in world affairs has been taken for granted, largely because of their military power, technological innovations, and financial strength. This situation continued until fairly recently. However, the rise of China, along with the growing prominence of certain "middle powers" in recent years, has begun to dent - though not eclipse - the image of the U.S. as a superpower.

As China's influence over world affairs has grown, driven by its technological and innovative capabilities and its stranglehold over scarce strategic resources, the supremacy of the U.S. and the West has, however, appeared to wane. Many experts, nevertheless, continued to believe that there was still time before the West faced an effective challenge to its leadership. Concerns had, no doubt, grown about the U.S.'s structural vulnerabilities, though few expected that a country such as Iran would effectively deal a mortal blow to the image of the U.S. as the world's leading power.

The (now deceased) Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had once observed that, while Americans constantly threatened war, they lacked "staying power". This has now become apparent in ample measure. By contrast, in the course of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988), Iran's Islamic regime demonstrated remarkable endurance, resilience, and determination to preserve the regime by all means necessary. U.S. President Donald Trump's failure to recognize this aspect has since cost him dearly. One leader who is seen to have emerged from the ashes of the U.S.-Iran conflict is Ali Khamenei's presumed successor, his son Mojtaba Khamenei, who is presently viewed by many as a "living martyr".

THE NEW IRAN-U.S. FRAMEWORK

Even prior to embarking upon substantive negotiations in Switzerland on all contentious issues, the U.S. and Iran entered into an "initial deal" (mid-June 2026) to end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz. The announcement of the talks was cautiously welcomed by world leaders, though all agreed that difficult negotiations lay ahead. Prior to the formal talks, a 14-point Memorandum of Understanding was, interestingly enough, signed by Mr. Trump at the Palace of Versailles, France, on June 17, 2026, evoking comparisons with the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which is widely regarded as having imposed humiliating terms on Germany following the First World War.

The June 17 agreement was widely criticized as little more than a latter-day endorsement of the status quo that had existed prior to the U.S.-Israel strikes on Iran, on February 28, 2026. The terms of the agreement included the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, the lifting of the U.S. blockade, and a vague commitment by the U.S. and its regional partners to initiate plan, for at least \$300 billion, for the reconstruction and economic development of Iran - the U.S. has since declared that no U.S. funds would flow directly to Iran. If so, this commitment could possibly refer to the release of Iranian assets that have been frozen by the U.S. over the years. The agreement also reportedly contains an important pledge by Iran not to develop a nuclear

weapon.

The talks in Switzerland soon thereafter seemed little more than a formality, with the U.S. claiming, following their successful conclusion, that it had achieved a major milestone by persuading Tehran to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency back into the country, thereby opening a pathway to international monitoring of its nuclear programme. But Iran is said to have told its state media that Tehran had made "no new commitments" on nuclear inspections. The conclusion of the talks appeared to many observers to represent a "desperately needed truce" for the U.S., as it was followed shortly thereafter by the lifting of U.S. oil sanctions on Iran and the issuance of a 60-day waiver authorizing the sale and transport of Iranian crude oil and petroleum



The talks in Switzerland seemed little more than a formality.

Photo Credit: AFP

products.

Newspaper headlines across the world had little to say about the deal and instead harped on the enormity of the setback to the image of the U.S. resulting from its coming to terms with Iran. Perhaps the most telling headline appeared on the front page of The Times of India (June 19, 2026): "Versailles II: Trump rushes where historians would dread to tread". Apart from the fact that the U.S. and its President have been excoriated for what critics have termed the "surrender blunder", the reality is that the deal has brought the U.S. few tangible benefits.

Intrinsic to, or as part of the deal are several other aspects of considerable interest, apart from sanctions relief for Iran's oil exports, viz., the possibility of Iran assuming a formal role in managing traffic through the Strait of Hormuz and, (potentially), charging transit fees for passage through the Strait. Questions remain, however, regarding the safety of shipping routes, vessel security procedures, naval protection, and emergency response mechanisms. Many of these issues remain to be clarified.

The deal is important, even though its wording remains inchoate. It is widely portrayed as a deal between unequals, with Goliath having been worsted - or at least caught unawares by David. It also does not read like a standard diplomatic document. The implications of a superpower - the world's leading nuclear power - conceding ground to a battered Iran are huge and are unlikely to be lost on nations and major powers across the globe.

ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS FRACTURE

It also entails an important rupture in relations between the U.S. and Israel. Israel Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's devious plans to inveigle the U.S. in a conflict in West Asia, which was aimed at decimating Iran and establishing Israel's undisputed supremacy over the region has now become part of the detritus of history. The Israel-U.S. rupture, unless Tel Aviv bends substantially hereafter, could alter power equations in West Asia, leading to either an unsettled peace or further wranglings among Arabs, Iranians and Israelis.

What is also quite plausible is that Iran's claims to have bested the Great Satan, could lead the new Iranian regime, now increasingly under the tutelage of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) hotheads rather than the Ayatollahs, to revive conflicts with other Arab nations, apart from Israel itself. Such 'adventurism' could lead to more disparate conflicts in a vital region, which incorporates a critical artery of global energy supplies.

Many imponderables are still present. For one, the U.S.-Iran Agreement is almost certain to give a boost to hardliners in Iran who may believe that they have managed to 'defeat' the mighty U.S., signaling scope for a still more hardline policy, vis-à-vis not only Israel, the U.S., and other Arab States in the region but also their own people as well. For another, the IRGC, already on the ascendant, could feel more emboldened to act with impunity, having a new Ayatollah identified with it. The impact of all this would be felt not only in Iran but also in countries with large Shia populations, including India. A worsening of Shia-Sunni tensions in different pockets across the globe cannot, therefore, be ignored.

For a third, Israel and its leaders could be expected to behave like 'wounded tigers'. Their ploy of inveigling the U.S. into supporting their bid for supremacy in West Asia having failed - and with the U.S. President distancing himself from Mr. Netanyahu - they could be expected to embark on a fresh bout of 'adventurism', especially with their Arab neighbors and across West Asia. This could aggravate tensions and undermine the fragile peace that has existed since the Abraham Accords. Furthermore, with the U.S. seen as a major loser and its influence across the region set to wane, Gulf nations may be prompted to take a hard look at relying on the U.S. for protection against external threats, including a resurgent Iran. Interestingly, there could also be growing demands to reduce the presence of U.S. troops in West Asia.

RADICAL GROUPS COULD REGAIN GROUND

Neither Russia nor China have gained much from the conflict, even as both claim to have supported Iran and some of the other Arab countries. What the world needs to examine closely is whether this level of uncertainty could lead to the re-emergence of well-organized terrorist organizations and entities such as al Qaeda, capable of even greater destruction than their forebears. They could well become the forerunners of many more disparate Arab groups and forces centered in West Asia, capable of extending their activities from Africa and parts of Asia to Europe, if not the U.S. itself.

(M.K. Narayanan is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal)

India's Next Knowledge Bridge

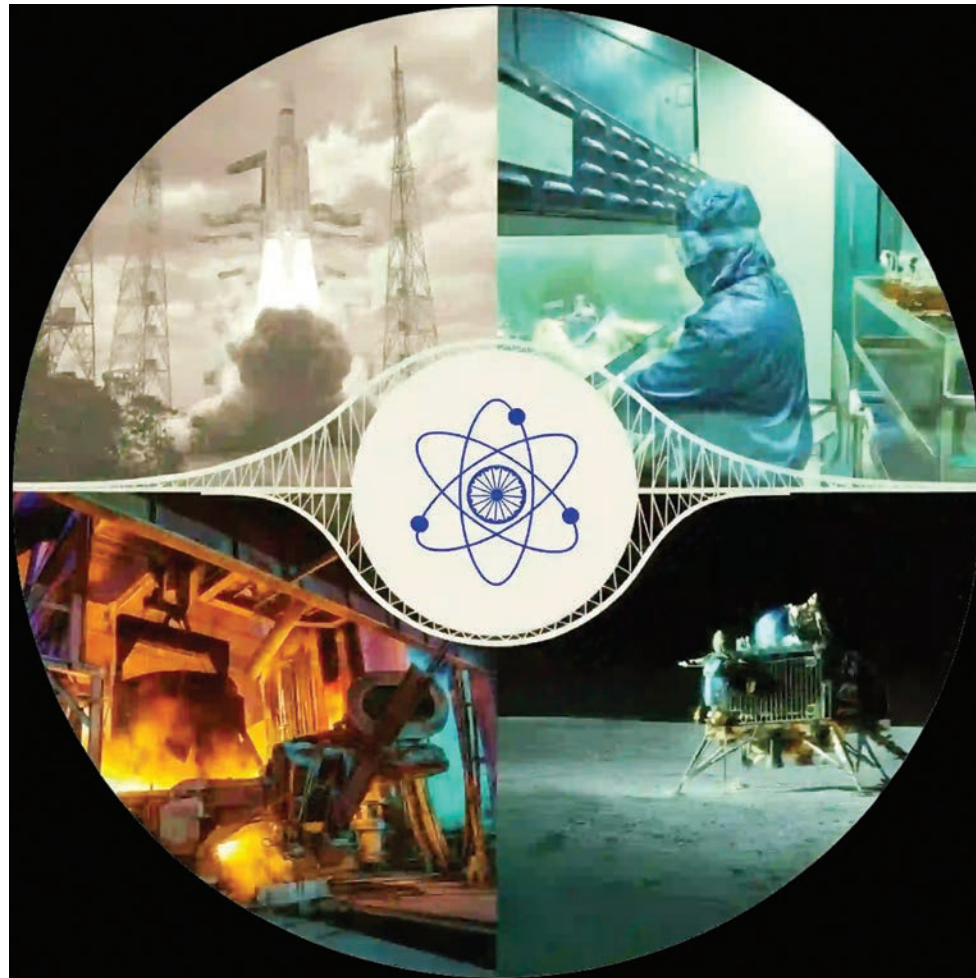
For decades, the Indian diaspora has been one of our country's greatest strengths, serving as a living bridge between India and the world, contributing to innovation ecosystems, shaping global discourse, and strengthening economic and cultural ties.

Today, as India positions itself at the forefront of frontier technologies, knowledge production, and is on an upward ambitious path, a new opportunity presents itself to deepen this partnership: the Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme.

This initiative seeks to attract eminent scholars, scientists and innovators of Indian origin who have established distinguished careers in leading universities, research institutions, and industry across the world to India. The scheme provides a structured mechanism for these experts to contribute their knowledge and experience to India's development by creating prestigious research chairs in India's premier institutions.

Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme is an important pillar in the larger national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Achieving this vision demands breakthroughs in science and technology, frontier research, innovation-led industries, and the ability to create intellectual property that powers economic prosperity.

The Government of India has consistently emphasized that a developed India must also be a knowledge leader, capable of generating solutions not only for its own citizens but for the world. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme directly contributes to this ambition. By encouraging interdisciplinary research and close collaboration between academia, government, and industry, it seeks to ensure that scientific discovery translates into innovation, commercialization, and public policy.



From artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and semiconductors to biotechnology, climate resilience, advanced manufacturing and healthcare, the research undertaken through these Chairs has the potential to accelerate technological self-reliance, foster innovation, strengthen industrial competitiveness, and create high-quality employment in India. The scheme is therefore an investment in India's future economic and strategic capabilities.

For our Indian diaspora, participation in this unique initiative offers a never seen before opportunity to contribute to

one of the most consequential nation-building projects of our time. Indian-origin scholars have helped shape some of the defining innovations of the modern age across laboratories, universities, research institutes, and technology companies around the world. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme creates an institutional bridge to connect this global expertise with India's rapidly expanding research ecosystem.

It enables the diaspora to become active partners in building the scientific, technological, and intellectual foundations of a developed India. A

BY
AMBASSADOR
VINAY KWATRA



distinguishing feature of the initiative is also its flexibility. It enables internationally accomplished researchers to engage with Indian institutions through sustained collaborations, mentoring programs, joint research projects, faculty exchanges, doctoral supervision, and the establishment of long-term international research partnerships.

For the Indian diaspora, these features make the scheme uniquely attractive. Researchers can maintain their global academic engagements while helping build India's capacity for the next generation.

There is also a deeper enduring dimension to this effort to capitalize on our shared dreams. The relationship between India and its diaspora has evolved to a consequential partnership being defined by shared ambition. The Prime Minister's Research Chair Scheme builds on this evolution, offering a platform where intellectual capital becomes the new currency of engagement between India and the world.

The diaspora has always been an integral part of India's economic progress. This is a moment to step forward once again as co-authors of India's intellectual future.

Through this medium, I would like to invite all our diaspora members to utilize this opportunity to co-create knowledge ecosystems that connect the best of Indian and global talent. The diaspora's role in this effort is indispensable, and we look forward to embarking on this journey together as we realize the vision of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to chart the path of Viksit Bharat 2047.

(Ambassador Vinay Kwatra is India's envoy to the United States)

When Syama Prasad Mookerjee backed India's first non-Congress, Akali-dominated govt in PEPSU

The Jana Sangh was the political precursor to the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was formed in 1980



Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

Image credit/X

An important chapter in Punjab's political history is that independent India's first non-Congress government in PEPSU (Patiala and East Punjab States Union) - comprising eight Sikh princely states - had the backing of Bharatiya Jana Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mookerjee, whose 125th birth anniversary is being marked on Monday.

Recalling events of 1952, former MP Tarlochan Singh, who was engaged politically with Mookerjee at the behest of leader Gian Singh Rarewala, said Dr Mookerjee played an important role during India's first general and assembly elections.

PEPSU was then a separate entity comprising erstwhile Sikh princely states with Patiala as its capital.

"I was a student in Mohindra College, Patiala and active Member of All India Sikh Students Federation and was sent

by Sardar Gian Singh Rarewala to New Delhi with a letter addressed to Sardar Bahadur Ranjit Singh, then an MP. I met him and Sardar Suchet Singh, another MP and both of them took me to the residence of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerji and requested him to direct two Jan Sangh MLAs in PEPSU to support the Rarewala Government," Tarlochan Singh told The Tribune, recalling Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

After a brief discussion, Dr Mookerjee handed over a letter directing both BJS MLAs Rao Kahan Singh (Mohindergarh) and Onkar Singh (Kanina) to support the Rarewala government.

"After reaching Patiala I handed over the letter to GS Rarewala who immediately conveyed the move to both MLAs. Rao Kahan Singh was elected Speaker and Onkar Singh became a Junior Minister in the Cabinet led by CM Rarewala," Singh said, tracing the

history of the Rarewala-led United Front coalition government, which included Akali Dal MLAs and other groups.

The government was dissolved in 1953 after then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru imposed President's Rule.

Later in 1956, PEPSU was merged into Punjab.

The Jana Sangh was the political precursor to the Bharatiya Janata Party, which was formed in 1980.

Rarewala became the first head of the PEPSU government and later led the first elected non-Congress coalition in August 1952.

PEPSU was a state in the Indian Union formed by merging eight princely states of Punjab, with Patiala as its capital.

(Aditi Tandon is Associate Editor and Bureau Chief of The Tribune in New Delhi. She tracks the ruling BJP, NDA, Prime Minister's Office, government policy and Parliament.)

BY ADITI
TANDON

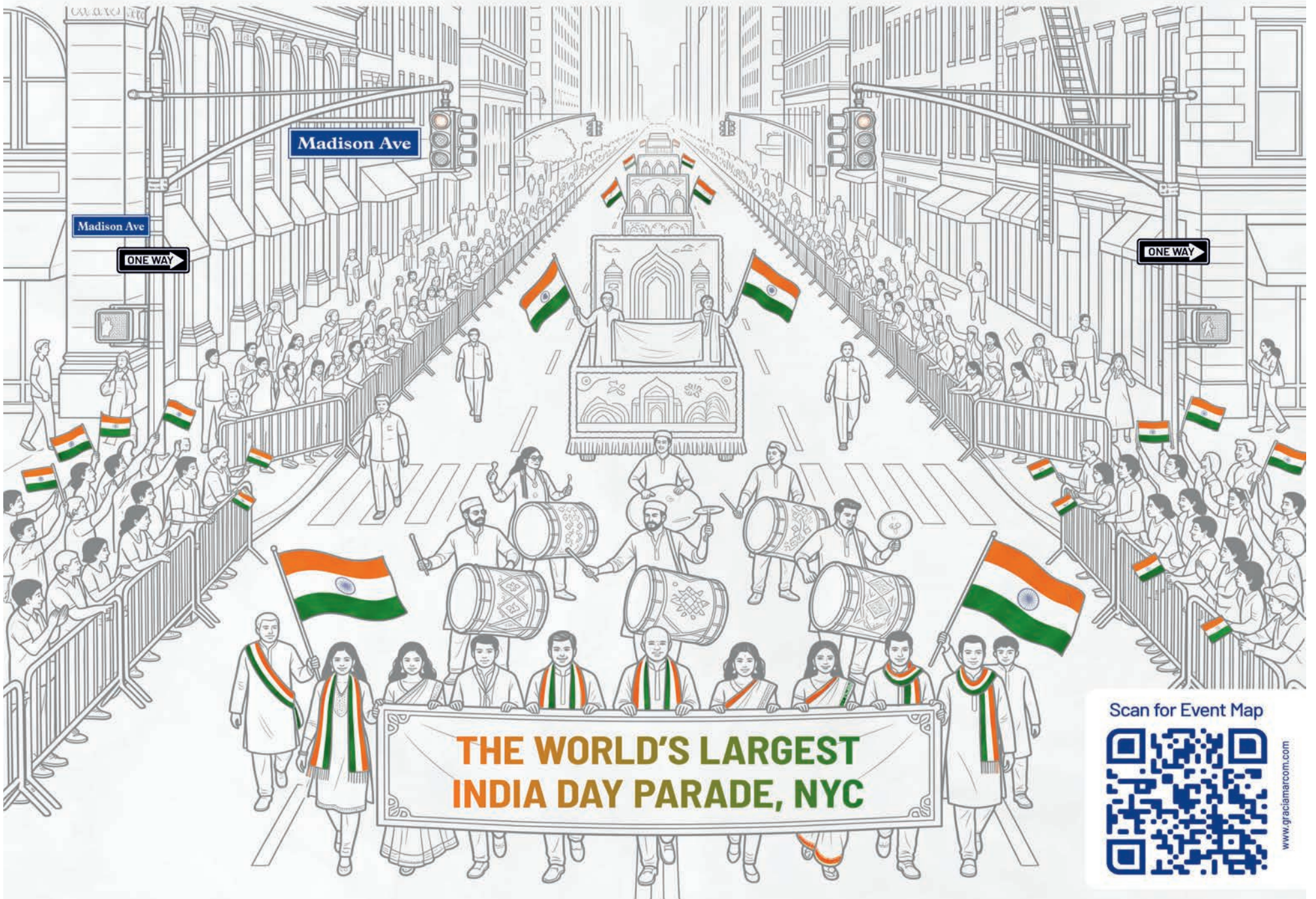




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Israel shared intelligence with US of Iranian plot to assassinate Trump, sources say

JULY 8, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Israel shared intelligence with the United States that Iran had recently devised a new plan to assassinate President Donald Trump, two sources familiar with matter told CNN, adding another layer of tension as a ceasefire deal between the countries comes under strain.

One of the sources said the warning came this week. Another source said the US had picked up a steady drumbeat of intelligence in recent weeks about possible plans to assassinate Trump, but the warning from Israel was new and concerned a specific plot.

Other American officials suggested the Israeli report could be an effort to sway Trump's decision-making as he weighs whether to intensify American military action against Iran.

The details of the plot that Israel warned about were not immediately clear, and two sources familiar with the matter said the US had not vetted it themselves nor were they tracking it before the Israeli warning. The US government has long warned that Iran may try to kill Trump in retaliation for the 2020 drone strike he ordered which killed a top Iranian general, Qasem Soleimani.

Asked for comment on the Israeli warning, which was first reported by the Wall Street Journal, the White House pointed to Trump's recent comments on Iran's desire to kill him.



US President Donald Trump

"They want to take out the US leader - me," Trump told reporters Wednesday. "I'm on whatever list. I saw this morning I'm on every single one of their lists. And so far, I guess I've been a bit lucky, but maybe that doesn't last very long. These are evil, sick people. And we have to root out that cancer. That cancer. You know what you do? You've got to cut out cancer early. And that's the way I feel."

Later, Trump said he'd recently learned of a new list that ranked him as Iran's top assassination target. It's not clear if he was referring to the new Israeli intelligence information.

Over the weekend, crowds of Iranians called for Trump's death during funeral proceedings for the slain Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who

was killed at the start of the war.

Tensions have ramped up between the US and Iran in recent days, with the two sides trading threats and strikes as a 60-day ceasefire ending hostilities is in tatters.

Two sources familiar with recent US intelligence said that the intelligence community is tracking several actors who have discussed attacks but haven't taken action, and one said that US intelligence agencies have been concerned that Iran would target a number of current and former senior officials. But that source said that the Israeli report is viewed - in part - as piece of a broader Israeli effort to influence Trump's decision making on Iran. Some in the intelligence community are

always skeptical of Israeli reporting, the source said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has voiced deep doubts toward Trump's efforts at diplomacy with Iran, and he has clashed with Trump over Israeli military action in Lebanon, which had complicated the talks. The two men spoke by phone Thursday, and Netanyahu is expected to visit Washington soon for talks with the president.

On Thursday, another US official said diplomatic efforts with Iran are still underway behind the scenes, despite a resumption of strikes between the two sides and Trump's declaration a day earlier that the Memorandum of Understanding with Iran was "over." Washington and Tehran are working toward reaching a nuclear deal by mid-August.

Multiple officials said there had been preparations for potential strikes if needed Thursday night, but they were foregoing them in favor of diplomacy. Earlier Thursday on the USS Abraham Lincoln, crews loaded up fighter jets with armaments and pilots did drills in the event they were called on to conduct strikes. The aircraft carrier's Commanding Officer Dan Keeler told the thousands of crew members on board things were heating up.

As preparations were underway, fighter pilots continued to operate routine defensive operations with flights taking off throughout the day and night.

FBI accuses Punjab cop of \$400,000 extortion bid, links him to US gang probe

JULY 8, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

In a startling allegation involving a Punjab Police officer, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has accused Station House Officer (SHO) Gurinderjit Singh of trying to extort \$400,000 from a family in the United States by threatening to implicate its members in a false murder case in India.

The allegation surfaced during the announcement of 'Operation Hard Ball', a sweeping multinational crackdown on India-based transnational organized crime syndicates, under which US authorities unsealed three federal indictments against 37 accused. Addressing a press conference in Los Angeles, First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli alleged that the Punjab Police officer was part of an extortion conspiracy linked to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria criminal syndicate.

"He extorted a family here in the US for \$400,000. He was going to charge their family in India for murder. I think he did actually file murder charges against the family in India until the victim actually agreed to pay money. We have charged him and we will extradite him to the US," Essayli said.

According to the seven-count federal indictment titled *United States v.*



Photo for representation only, iStock

Bhagwanpuria, et al, the Bhagwanpuria syndicate cultivated links with corrupt law enforcement officials in India and used them to target perceived rivals and victims through fabricated criminal cases and extortion.

The indictment alleges that in April 2026, Gurlal Singh, a member of the Bhagwanpuria syndicate based in

Stockton, California, threatened a victim in the United States before passing the victim's details to a "corrupt law enforcement officer" in Punjab.

Prosecutors alleged that the officer subsequently implicated the victim, the victim's father and sister in a murder case registered in Punjab relating to the January 2026 killing of a person identified

in court documents only as "B.S.",

US prosecutors alleged that the fabricated murder case was then used to extort the victim and his father. During the press conference, federal officials identified the officer as Gurinderjit Singh Nagra.

The indictment forms part of a wider prosecution against 17 alleged members and associates of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria syndicate, which US authorities describe as a transnational criminal organization involved in murder-for-hire, drug trafficking, kidnappings, extortion, firearms trafficking and other organized crime across India, the United States, Canada and several other countries.

Federal prosecutors alleged that the syndicate relied on corrupt public officials and law enforcement personnel in India to initiate false criminal proceedings against targeted individuals, thereby facilitating extortion and intimidation.

The US Justice Department has charged the accused with racketeering conspiracy, attempted extortion, narcotics trafficking and firearms offences. The indictment remains an allegation, and all defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Mayor Jane Castor Honors AAPI with Key to the City, Proclaims AAPI Day in Tampa



Tampa Mayor Jane Castor inaugurated the AAPICON



Tampa Mayor Jane Castor proclaimed July 2 and the entire July 4 weekend as AAPI Weekend for the City of Tampa

**JULY 8, 2026
TAMPA, FLA (TIP)**

In a historic recognition of the contributions of physicians of Indian origin to American healthcare, Tampa Mayor Jane Castor honored the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) during AAPICON 2026 by presenting the organization with the Key to the City.

In a historic gesture, Mayor Castor declared July 2 and the entire July 4 weekend as AAPI Weekend for the City of Tampa, marking the city's deep appreciation for the organization.

Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI received the Key on behalf of AAPI, to Tampa from the Mayor during the 44th annual convention that was attended by over 1,000 physicians.

The special recognition, presented during the inaugural ceremonies of AAPICON 2026, reflected the City of Tampa's appreciation for AAPI's longstanding role in advancing healthcare, medical education, research, and community service across the United States. AAPI, representing more than 120,000 physicians, residents, fellows, and medical students of Indian origin, is widely recognized as one of the most influential ethnic medical organizations in the nation.

Welcoming thousands of delegates to Tampa, Mayor Castor praised AAPI's impact on healthcare and the significance of bringing the organization's annual convention to the city.

"We could not be more excited to be hosting the convention of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin," Mayor Castor said. "It was an honor for me and for our city to have such distinguished leaders in our community. Their words were inspiring, and everyone walked away with a new level of motivation."

AAPI President Dr. Amit Chakrabarty opened the convention with an emotional and unifying address. He reminded the delegates at the convention that AAPI's strength lies in collective purpose rather than individual leadership. "Today is not about one individual," he said. "It is about a shared vision... all of us working together to ensure that AAPI remains strong, relevant, and prepared for the



Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President of AAPI received from the Mayor the Key to Tampa on behalf of the AAPI.



AAPI President Dr. Amit Chakrabarty speaking on the occasion

public health. During the ceremony, she emphasized the organization's nationwide influence and its critical role in strengthening the American healthcare system. In the official proclamation presented to AAPI, Mayor Castor noted: "AAPI organization is one of the most influential diaspora medical associations in the world and the second largest medical organization in the United States, and its members deliver care in every specialty and contribute to nearly one in seven patient encounters nationwide."

The proclamation concluded with the formal declaration: "NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Thursday, July 2, 2026, as AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN DAY in the City of Tampa, Florida, and urge all citizens to join in celebrating the vast accomplishments of dedicated physicians of Indian origin in our city, state, and nation, and to show appreciation for their contributions to health and well-being."

The recognition set the tone for what became one of the most successful conventions in AAPI's history. Over several days, AAPICON 2026 brought together physicians, healthcare leaders, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers for scientific sessions, leadership forums, cultural programs, and discussions on the future of healthcare.

The convention showcased AAPI's growing global influence while reinforcing its commitment to medical excellence, mentorship, innovation, and service. Civic participation also featured prominently, with Mayor Castor's proclamation and presentation of the Key to the City serving as a powerful acknowledgment of the organization's contributions.

As AAPICON 2026 concluded, the message was clear: AAPI's impact extends far beyond medicine. The City of Tampa's recognition underscored the association's enduring legacy and celebrated the extraordinary role that physicians of Indian origin continue to play in improving healthcare outcomes for millions of Americans.

For more information, visit: www.aapiusa.org.

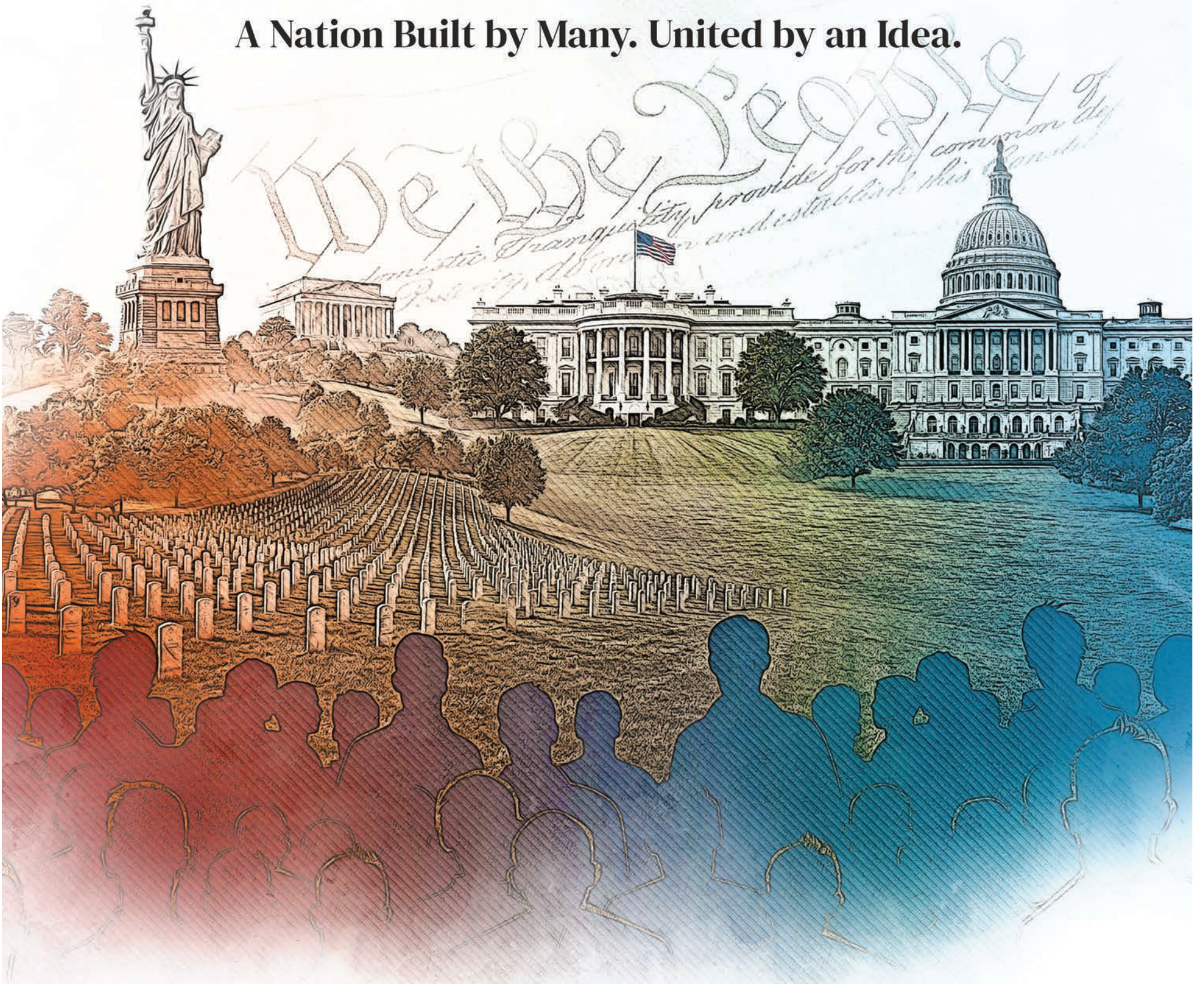
future." The Mayor's recognition highlighted AAPI's remarkable achievements in patient care, education, advocacy, and

The **INDIAN**  **PANORAMA**
EVER TRUTHFUL

Salutes America on the
250th anniversary of Independence

AMERICA @ 

A Nation Built by Many. United by an Idea.



Watch out for

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

Wayanad landslide: one more body recovered; toll rises to 7, one person still missing

JULY 10, 2026

WAYANAD (TIP): One more body was recovered from the Wayanad landslide site on Friday, July 10, taking the total number of persons killed in the disaster to seven, district officials said.

The two persons missing till now were Rakesh Guchait, a surveyor from West Bengal, and Vikram Rana, a construction manager from Himachal Pradesh, and it is yet to be identified whose body was recovered from near the river, the officials said. With this, only one more person remains to be found. Several teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel, fire force officials, and police officers began search operations early in the morning on the fourth day since the disaster, using heavy earthmovers to clear the mud.

Till Thursday, July 9, six bodies were recovered from the site of the landslide.

A landslide occurred on July 7 at the site of the Anakkompoyil Meppadi tunnel project, which is intended to connect Wayanad and Kozhikode districts.

"I Trusted Cops, They Put The Stampede Blame On Me": Vijay In Karur

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Joseph Vijay came out swinging on his return to Karur — the scene of the September 2025 stampede that killed 41 people shortly before he was to deliver a pre-election speech — with sharp criticism of the police and the opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).

In his first visit to the district since the tragedy, the actor-turned-politician accused the police of misleading him on the day of the rally. He said he had "trusted" the police in proceeding with the event and described the stampede as "the most painful moment in my life, one that continues to haunt me".

"No matter how much success one enjoys... there are such incidents in life. When I entered Karur they (the police) could have stopped me, no?" he asked the gathering. "They had every right to cancel the meeting. But they did not cancel, they guided me in..." he said.

"Who is really responsible for this... who orchestrated this?" he asked, shifting from criticism of the police to attacks on the DMK, which was in power at the time. Lamenting the loss of "innocent, cherubic children", the chief minister also hit back at criticism over his silence in the immediate aftermath of the stampede.

Modi clinches landmark uranium supply deal with Australia

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and Australia concluded a landmark deal on Thursday, July 9, for the supply of uranium to boost New Delhi's nuclear power programme and agreed to deepen cooperation in defence, maritime security, critical minerals and energy as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his counterpart Anthony Albanese pledged to strengthen stability and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.

Modi and Albanese met in Melbourne on the second leg of the Indian PM's three-nation tour and unveiled an expansive agenda for bolstering strategic cooperation and coordination between the two Quad member states. Modi's visit is aimed at deepening economic and security cooperation with key Indo-Pacific countries against the backdrop of China's assertive actions in the region and geopolitical churn on the global stage.

Following their talks, Modi and Albanese announced the arrangement that will facilitate the long-term supply of Australian uranium to India's nuclear energy industry, a new joint declaration on defence and security, a maritime security collaboration roadmap, joint measures to strengthen energy security, and a partnership for cyber, critical technologies and supply chains.

The two sides also agreed to speed up negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to build on the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement, or interim trade deal, signed in 2022, and to move forward on a bilateral investment treaty.

Modi noted at a joint media interaction that India and Australia are important ocean powers with a common worldview and said: "Together, we will further strengthen peace, stability, freedom of navigation and a rules-based order throughout the Indo-Pacific region."

The important agreement in nuclear energy "will open the way for uranium supplies from Australia" and give new impetus to India's clean energy objectives, Modi said.

"Australia and India are close partners and even closer friends," Albanese said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during a community event, in Melbourne, Australia. (PTI)

"With new landmark agreements, we are expanding our relationship across defence and security, education, science and technology, energy security and critical minerals."

Albanese said the administrative arrangement under the bilateral Nuclear Cooperation Agreement that came into force in 2015 will enable uranium exports for peaceful purposes. "The arrangement facilitates Australian uranium exports to India to help increase the share of non-fossil fuel power capacity, providing an additional market for the Australian resources sector," he said.

The leaders didn't provide a timeframe for the exports or details of how much uranium would be supplied. Australia has the world's largest uranium reserves — almost a third of the global total — but has made only one shipment of uranium to India, in 2017. Exports were held up because of concerns about the diversion of uranium to the weapons programme and Australia's fragmented regulatory landscape — the federal government doesn't prohibit uranium mining, while several states don't allow full-scale mining.

Ram Temple Trust hands key role to new 3-member panel

JULY 10, 2026

AYODHYA (TIP): Following the resignations of former General Secretary Champat Rai and member Anil Mishra in the wake of the alleged Ram Temple donation scam, the Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra has constituted a three-member interim team that has taken over banking-related work, sources said.

The team comprises retired Indian Forest Service (IFoS) officer Krishna Mohan, who has been appointed interim General Secretary of the Trust; Jagdish Aphale, an IIT-Bombay alumnus and civil engineer who served as project manager during the temple construction; and chartered accountant Chandan Rai, sources said.

Sources said this team will look after banking-related activities for the Trust and the temple till a final decision is taken on the new team and their responsibilities in the July 22 meeting.

Aphale was among a team of four senior engineers who had played a major role in giving technical expertise for the temple construction: from laying the foundation to the plinth and other



structures.

Meanwhile, early Wednesday morning, Trust Treasurer Govind Dev Giri met Rai for a two-hour meeting at the Trust office.

This came after Rai on Tuesday had written two letters, one to the public and one to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged donation theft.

In the latter, Rai is said to have distanced himself from the revised Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for donation counting issued on February 6, 2025, during the Maha Kumbh. He reportedly blamed Trust members and banking officials for 'keeping him in the dark' about the revised SOP, which the SIT has alleged diluted security measures during the counting process

and facilitated the alleged pilferage.

Sources said that as Rai has largely avoided meeting people since the allegations surfaced and the Trust announced his resignation on its official social media accounts, the Trust wanted to clarify its position following its July 6 meeting and discuss the contents of his recent letters. People close to Giri, however, maintained that he had merely visited Rai to enquire about his health.

Later in the day, Gopal Nagarkatte, who had earlier attended Trust meetings as a special invitee but was removed from that role on Monday, also met Giri.

After the meeting, Nagarkatte refuted allegations of his involvement in the 'theft' and said he had only been asked to stay away from Trust meetings until further decisions were taken.

"When Trust meetings take place, some members are invited to it. However, there have been attempts to mislead people by indicating that Gopal ji or Champat Rai ji were involved in the alleged scam. We have nothing to do with this. Two people resigned on moral grounds, so I was also asked to keep away from it, which I have accepted," he told media persons.

Hours after joining BJP, Sushmita Dev and 2 ex-TMC MPs fielded for Rajya Sabha bypoll

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The BJP on Thursday, July 9, named former Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MPs Sushmita Dev, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray and Prakash Chik Baraik as its candidates for the July 24 Rajya Sabha bypolls in West Bengal, days after the three leaders joined the party.

The announcement came shortly after the trio, who resigned from the Rajya Sabha and quit the TMC last month, were formally inducted into the BJP at the party's West Bengal headquarters in Salt Lake by state president Samik Bhattacharya.

Earlier in the day, Bhattacharya had declined to confirm whether the three would be fielded for the bypolls. "Let the discussions continue," he had said with a smile.

Defending the induction of former TMC leaders despite the BJP's earlier stance against admitting leaders from the ruling party, Bhattacharya described the move as an "exceptional" case.

"We had said the doors are closed for Trinamool leaders. We stand by that. But those who did not indulge in corruption, did not oppress people, did not sell jobs or snatch away people's rights were always welcome to join us in the fight against the TMC," he said.

Calling the decision "an exception that proves the rule", he said the experience of the three former parliamentarians would strengthen the BJP in West Bengal. Sushmita Dev, who joined the TMC in 2021 after leaving the Congress, launched a sharp attack on her former party, alleging widespread corruption.

"I realised only after joining the TMC how unbelievable the extent of corruption could be. My critics may point to many shortcomings, but nobody can say I was associated with corruption," she said.

Sukhendu Sekhar Ray also criticised the TMC, while Bhattacharya sought to play down the leaders' political past.

"Everyone has a past. Their only identity now is that they are BJP workers," he said. Responding to questions on why she joined the BJP in Kolkata despite being based in Assam, Dev said the decision was taken by the party leadership.

"I could have enrolled digitally from home. But the leadership decided I should join here. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also told me I should respect the people of Bengal because they elected me to the Rajya Sabha twice," she said. Bhattacharya said Dev would work for the BJP across the country. The Election Commission had recently announced bypolls to the three Rajya Sabha seats vacated after Dev, Ray and Baraik resigned from the Upper House and the TMC.

India to build smart borders, strengthen security grid: Amit Shah on infiltration

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre is preparing a technology-driven overhaul of India's border security, with a focus on smart surveillance, a coordinated security grid and tougher action against illegal infiltration.

Addressing the Border District Superintendents of Police Conference 2026 in New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said securing the country's frontiers would no longer remain the sole responsibility of border guarding forces but would require close coordination between the Centre, states, district administrations and local communities.

Shah said the government was building a "quadrilateral security grid" to make India's borders more secure while ensuring the development and prosperity of people living in border areas.

The conference was attended by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, Union Home Secretary, the Intelligence Bureau Director, Directors General of Police from border states and other senior officials.

Shah said the Border District SP Conference was not merely a platform for discussions but an institutional mechanism to develop a comprehensive border security framework. He added that a similar approach would also be adopted to strengthen coastal security.

According to the Home Minister, the government's Smart Border vision aims to make India's border management among the most advanced in the world by deploying artificial intelligence, digital surveillance, anti-drone systems, smart sensors and integrated command and control centres.

"Border security cannot remain confined to border posts and security personnel alone. It requires seamless coordination among security forces, state governments, district administrations, central agencies and local citizens," he said.



Shah said the government's border security policy rests on three pillars - "Secure Borders, Prosperous Frontiers and an Aware Society."

He said national security was not ensured by weapons alone and that the development of border regions and participation of local communities were equally important.

The government, he said, was expanding education, healthcare, roads, communication networks, employment opportunities and basic infrastructure in border areas to reduce migration and encourage local communities to become active stakeholders in national security.

Referring to the Modi government's internal security record, Shah said terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and the Northeast had been effectively brought under control, while anti-Naxal operations had also achieved significant success.

He credited these achievements to coordinated efforts by the Centre, state governments, security forces and local administrations.

"The next major objective is decisive action against organised crime, narcotics and illegal infiltration," he said.

Kharge alleges PM Modi hurt national interests by letting China capture India's critical industries

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday, July 9, targeted the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Government, alleging that it has hurt national interests by letting China "capture" India's most critical industries and opening more opportunities for the Chinese to "flourish."

Citing a media report, which stated that China still powers India's strategic industries, Kharge claimed that six years ago, PM Modi handed a clean chit to Beijing after 20 brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in Galwan.

"Our breavehearts chose martyrdom, but Modi Govt has surrendered India's interests to China," Kharge alleged in a post on X.

He claimed that dependence on China runs through the most critical sectors of India's economy, which are supposed to define the country's future.

Kharge said since the Galwan clash, imports from China have "exploded" by 101.81 per cent by 2025-26, pushing India's trade deficit with the



neighbouring country to USD 112.1 billion.

"China supplied a jaw-dropping 86 per cent of India's antibiotic imports. Why? China cornered nearly 74 per cent of India's API, bulk drug, and drug intermediate imports in 2024-25," he said.

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FIANE Celebrates 250 years of America's Independence with 250 Balloons

In one of the day's most photographed moments, children released 250 silver foil balloons into the sky - one for every year of American Independence - creating a striking visual tribute that capped the celebration's symbolism



Culture and Performance

The stage featured a vibrant lineup of performers, including the Ekta, Lana & Padmini Dance Group, and a musical concert by Arun Verma and Priti alongside acclaimed singer Arun Rashtyagi, whose patriotic numbers drew a standing ovation from the crowd. A community meal, prepared and served by Chef Hardayal Singh Ji, added a final note of hospitality to the festivities.

Distinguished Guests

The celebration drew a notable roster of community

leaders and dignitaries, including Massachusetts State Representative Kate Donahue, who served as chief guest, along with Dr. Anath Tilak, Dr. Raj Punga, Ram Gupta, Subu Ketan and Vicky Kota, Sandeep Aja, and Ravi Sahni and Sudha Sahni.

The Office of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey presented Citations of Special Recognition to Lana Israel and Kadian A. James for their outstanding community service and leadership.

Voices from the Celebration

FIA New England President Abhishek Singh framed the day's significance: "America's 250th Independence Day is not just a milestone - it is a reminder of our responsibility to serve, to give back, and to build a stronger future. The 250 trees we plant today are a living legacy for generations to come."

Community leader Subu Kota called it "what true patriotism looks like - honoring veterans, engaging youth, celebrating culture, and giving back to the environment."

Dr. Anath Tilak, a vocal supporter and Director of the Peripheral Artery Disease Center at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, added: "The Indian American community is proud to contribute to America's progress through service, innovation, and civic engagement. Today's celebration, including the planting of 250 fruit-bearing trees, is a meaningful symbol of our commitment to giving back and building a stronger future together."

More Than a Celebration

From honoring veterans to releasing balloons and planting trees, organizers say the event reflected the enduring spirit of American unity - transforming a single afternoon into what many attendees described as a community movement built on gratitude and action.

About FIA New England

The Foundation of Indian Americans (FIA New



England) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to civic engagement and large-scale community service across New England. Its initiatives include blood donation drives with the American Red Cross, Adopt-a-Highway cleanup programs, food donation support for regional food banks, free health and vision screening camps with Restoring Vision and Jatan Foundation, volunteer service at the Boston Marathon, 9/11 remembrance events, Veterans Day and Memorial Day commemorations, the India Day Parade, consular camps for the community, and broader efforts to strengthen U.S.-India relations through cultural exchange and public diplomacy.

Gautam Adani to file affidavit in US court this week

JULY 9, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

Billionaire Gautam Adani will file this week a sworn affidavit in a US federal court stating whether he is aware of any promise, agreement or benefit linked to the US Government's decision to dismiss a criminal indictment against him.

US District Judge Nicholas Garaufis directed Adani to file the affidavit by July 15 before ruling on the Justice Department's motion to dismiss the indictment with prejudice.

The judge asked Adani to state whether he is aware of any promise, offer, agreement or benefit connected to the dismissal, or of any exchange made in return for the charges being dropped.

The Adani group did not offer any comment on the issue to media, saying the matter is sub judice.

The order of June followed a filing by Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice, R Trent McCotter, who said he was the "final and sole decision-maker" behind the dismissal and denied media reports that the decision was linked to Adani Group's plans to invest about USD 10 billion in the United States.

"The current or former Department attorneys have suggested that I sought dismissal of the securities charges at least in part because of some promise by those defendants to invest money in the United States. That is false," McCotter wrote.

"I would have sought dismissal of the securities charges regardless of any mentions of investments,"



Indian billionaire Gautam Adani is to file affidavit in response to a US Federal Judge's direction.

File photo

he added.

"The mention of potential investments could not have played any role." McCotter said he decided to seek dismissal because the securities fraud case was legally "indefensible", arguing that most of the alleged conduct occurred in India, Indian authorities had investigated the matter and found no actionable misconduct, investors suffered no losses, key evidence and witnesses were outside the United States, and the defendants were unlikely to appear before a US court.

He also said the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

charges no longer aligned with the Trump administration's enforcement priorities, which focus on cases involving US national security, American companies or transnational criminal organizations.

"The decision to seek dismissal was not a close call," McCotter wrote, adding that the FCPA charges "should have been dismissed a year ago".

Garaufis, however, said McCotter's filing introduced, "for the first time", the possibility that some form of agreement involving one or more defendants may have existed in connection with the dismissal, even though no such arrangement had been disclosed to the court.

The judge noted that Adani's lawyers had previously explained why the defendants consented to the government's motion to dismiss but made no reference to any agreement, including one involving a commitment to invest in the United States.

Before granting the government's request under Rule 48 (a), the court said it must be satisfied that the Justice Department's stated reasons are genuine and that no undisclosed agreement influenced its decision.

The Justice Department moved to dismiss charges brought in 2024 under the Biden Administration, accusing Adani and seven others of participating in a scheme to pay about USD 250 million in bribes to Indian officials to secure power supply contracts and misleading investors while raising capital from US markets. Adani has denied the allegations.

(Source: PTI)

WACO, TX INDIE FILM FEST RETURNS FOR TENTH EDITION

BY MABEL PAIS

Featuring

“HANDMADE FUTURE,” Documentary Feature, co-produced by INDIA

Director ADITYA RAJ GUREJA's Narrative Short, “LIKE THAT DVD SCREENSAVER”

Director MAINAK DHAR's Narrative Short, “NANI”

Director RANA ROY's Narrative Short “NIGHT FEEDS”

Director SAMIP RAVAL's Narrative Short “THE REVEAL”

Director MEERA ANGELICA JOSHI's Narrative Short “THE SALE”

Director IMRAN J KHAN's Narrative Short, “THE BOY WITH THE DINOSAUR HEAD”

Director ANURIMA BHARGAVA's Documentary Short TEACHING AMERICA

And many more

The Waco (Texas) Independent Film Festival (Waco Indie) has the film lineup and events scheduled for this year's edition. Waco Indie's in-theater screenings will take place July 16-19, followed by an online encore July 19-25.

Over the course of the four days of screenings, parties, and panels, Waco Indie's footprint will extend throughout the city, with screenings and events kicking off with a Red Carpet Opening event at The Palladium, screening at the historic Hippodrome, and after-party at the Cambria Hotel. Following that, additional locations will include Brotherwell, the Grand Masonic Lodge, the Performing Arts Community Center, Southern Roots, Waco Surf, and for the first time, the Waco Civic Center, and the Waco Welcome Center.

The popular film festival recently was named as one of MovieMaker Magazine's “50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee.”

This year's lineup will feature 148 films, including 14 feature-length (11 narrative and 4 documentary), 126 short films (114 narrative and 12 documentary), and 8 music videos. Waco Indie's yearly screenplay competition will include 17 finalists (4 feature-length, 13 shorts).

Waco Indie's Red Carpet entrances and Opening Night party, which has grown into one of Waco's major social events of the year, will take place at the Palladium (729 Austin Avenue) on Thursday, July 16, putting the attending filmmakers in front of cameras and microphones, and introducing them to scores of Waco film fans ready to watch their work on the big screen over the weekend.

Friday, July 17, will feature a 25th Anniversary screening of Richard Kelly's mind-blowing cult classic “Donnie Darko” (2001) with Director of Photography Steven Poster in-person.

Saturday, July 18, will feature an expanded set of presentations led by a screening of Evan Miller's locally-shot, and award-winning drama “Due West,” about a small-town woman in West Texas who's forced to break the law in search of medical care thanks to a harsher political climate in the state dealing with women's health. There will be a post-screening Q&A including attendance by Waco's Joey Oglesby.

July 18 will also feature a special presentation of a specially selected episode from the hit locally produced TV series “The Chosen” with award winning writer and director Elizabeth Tabish (“Mary Magdalene”) on hand to talk about working on the show. A passionate advocate for independent filmmaking, Tabish's work often explores identity, spirituality, and the female experience.

In addition to Waco Indie's celebrated Waco Indie Screenplay Grant, awarded to the winner of the film festival's screenplay contest, will be a brand new initiative in which Waco Indie's new Short Film Grand Prize will support the film's theatrical run to help it become Oscar-qualified.



“HANDMADE FUTURE.”



“NIGHT FEEDS.”

Waco Independent Film Festival panels will include topics/themes like; “Managing an Oscar Campaign,” “Before My First Feature,” “The Future of Color,” a Film Festival Directors panel, and a Writer's Panel on Adapting Screenplays.

To purchase passes and tickets and to find more information on the Waco Independent Film Festival, visit <https://wacoindie.com>.

2026 Waco Independent Film Festival Event Lineup

OPENING NIGHT

Crystal Cross

Director: Richie James Follin; USA; 88 m

Dotty, a Christian singer in trouble, believes she's received a sign from God when she meets James, a man who looks strikingly like Jesus. For Dotty, James is her ride out of town and a chance to reverse her fate. For James, however, the journey has a darker purpose. Crystal Cross explores the absurdity and tenderness of survival, faith, and failure in modern America. It is both a darkly comic odyssey and a meditation on love in its rawest form - love that doesn't fix or promise, but simply keeps you alive for one more mile.

CLOSING NIGHT

Due West

Director: Michael Walker; USA; 81m

Set in suburban NY in 1984. Julie Gornick hosts a charismatic, larger than life Spanish exchange student. As he starts hooking up with the girls in her class, Julie falls in love with him. Or what she thinks is love.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS/PRESENTATIONS

The Chosen

Director: TBA; USA;

Against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Galilee, a charismatic prophet begins recruiting a diverse group of flawed, outcast disciples, sparking a radical spiritual revolution that challenges the established religious order and alters the course of history. EPISODE TBA

Donnie Darko (2001)

Director: Richard Kelly; USA; 113m



“LIKE THAT DVD SCREENSAVER.”



“TEACHING AMERICA”

Credit for all: <https://wacoindie.com>.

After narrowly escaping a bizarre accident, a troubled teenager is plagued by visions of a man in a large rabbit suit who manipulates him to commit a series of crimes.

ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURES

There are seven additional narrative features.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Four documentary feature films are in this festival.

NARRATIVE SHORTS

There are one hundred and thirteen narrative short films.

DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Twelve documentary short films are in this section.

MUSIC VIDEOS

There are eight in this category.

FEATURE SCREENPLAYS

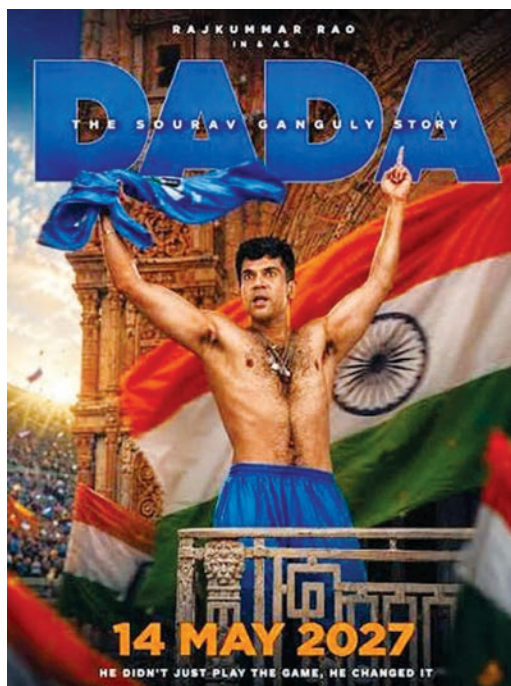
Four are in this section.

SHORT SCREENPLAYS

Thirteen screenplays are featured.

THE WACO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Consistently ranking in Film Freeway's Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals in the World, including being the only film festival to ever be named as one of MovieMaker Magazine's 2025 “50 Film Festivals Worth the Entry Fee”, and “25 Coolest Film Festivals” in the same year, the Waco Independent Film Festival (formerly known as the Deep in the Heart Film Festival) brings the Central Texas community together through independent film. Established in 2017, the festival engages audiences with films from major festivals and Texas talent and builds networks and careers through industry education and promotion. Add in some chips & salsa with the Waco Indie magic, and the festival creates one of the most unique experiences on the festival circuit. For more information visit wacoindie.com and follow the Festival on Facebook.com and Instagram.com.



Rajkummar Rao recreates Sourav Ganguly's iconic shirtless moment in Dada first look

The makers of *Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story* unveiled the film's first-look poster on Sourav Ganguly's birthday and announced that it will release in cinemas on May 14, 2027. The film stars Rajkummar Rao as the former India skipper.

The poster recreates Ganguly's well-known shirt-waving celebration from the Lord's balcony after India's NatWest Trophy win over England in 2002. The image has long been associated with a new phase in Indian cricket under Ganguly's leadership. Rajkummar wished the former Indian skipper on his birthday with the first-look poster of his biopic.

Sharing the poster of the film on his official Instagram account, Ganguly wrote, "The Best Gift Ever! Can't wait to see you play my cover drive! @rajkummar_rao (sic)."

According to the makers, the film traces Ganguly's journey from a young cricketer to one of India's most influential captains. It focuses on the grit, resilience and conviction that shaped his career and his role in changing Indian cricket.

Dada – The Sourav Ganguly Story is directed by Vikramaditya Motwane and produced by Luv Ranjan and Ankur Garg. It is presented by Gulshan Kumar, Bhushan Kumar, T-Series and DBL, and is a Luv Films production.

Actor Tanya Maniktala will play Sourav Ganguly's wife, Dona Ganguly, in the biopic. The film is also expected to delve into the couple's relationship, with portions of their story reportedly presented through a musical sequence.

The makers have also roped in several Bengali actors to lend authenticity to the film's setting. Aparajita Adhya has been cast as Ganguly's mother, Nirupa Ganguly, while Saswata Chatterjee will portray his father, Chandi Ganguly. Other supporting roles have also been filled by actors from the Bengali film industry.

The film is set for a worldwide theatrical release on May 14, 2027, with the first look being unveiled on Ganguly's birthday.

Janhvi flaunts boyfriend Shikhar Pahariya's name in mehendi

Janhvi Kapoor attended her sister Anshula Kapoor's wedding reception looking resplendent in a Manish Malhotra ensemble. She wore a silk saree paired with a strapless blouse that had fans gushing over her look. However, eagle-eyed fans also spotted a key detail in her appearance that turned out to be a sweet nod to her boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya.

Janhvi took to Instagram to share a bunch of photographs from the celebrations. While fans praised her elegant look, many quickly noticed the mehendi on her hand, which featured Shikhar's nickname, "Shikhu," written in Hindi. The name was seamlessly incorporated into the intricate yet minimal mehendi design, making it a subtle but romantic tribute to her boyfriend.

Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya have reportedly been dating for years. According to reports, the two have known each other since their teenage years, and their friendship eventually blossomed into romance. Reports of them dating first surfaced in 2016, but it was later reported that they parted ways after Janhvi made her Bollywood debut with *Dhadak* in 2018.

During their breakup, the couple kept their personal lives away from social media and refrained from speaking publicly about their relationship. However, in 2023, they were spotted together on several occasions, including parties, vacations, Anant Ambani's wedding celebrations and temple visits, leading fans to believe that they had reconciled. They have also frequently been seen visiting the



Tirupati temple together. This isn't the first time Janhvi has publicly acknowledged Shikhar through her fashion choices. Earlier, during the screening of her father Boney Kapoor's film *Maidaan* in 2024, she appeared before the paparazzi wearing a custom necklace bearing his nickname, "Shiku," seemingly confirming their relationship.

She had also sparked speculation during an appearance on *Koffee With*

Karan when she accidentally revealed that Shikhar was among the contacts on her speed dial.

Shikhar Pahariya is the grandson of former Maharashtra Chief Minister Sushilkumar Shinde. He is the son of businesswoman Smruti Shinde and businessman Sanjay Pahariya. Shikhar is an entrepreneur and investor and is a well-known face in Mumbai's high society, often spotted with several Bollywood celebrities.

Salman Khan's Maatrubhumi not facing certification delay, clarify makers

The makers of Salman Khan's *Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace* have addressed reports claiming the film has run into trouble with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Dismissing the speculation, the team shared a statement saying the claims are "false" and clarified that the film has not yet been submitted for certification.

The clarification came after several reports suggested that the CBFC had withheld the film's clearance certificate until further notice. Refuting the claims, the makers said there was no truth to the reports and urged media outlets to rely only on official updates.

In a statement shared on July 4, the team said, "Any claims suggesting that *Maatrubhumi: May War Rest In Peace* has encountered issues with the CBFC or that its certification has been put on hold are false. The film has not yet been



submitted to the CBFC for certification. Therefore, such reports are entirely baseless (sic)."

The statement further urged people not to circulate unverified information, adding that any official updates regarding the film would be shared only through Salman Khan Films' official channels.

The film, previously titled *Battle of Galwan*, was originally slated for release in April but was later postponed. Since then, reports have linked the project to reshoots, creative changes and, more recently, an alleged delay in certification.

Following the postponement, industry reports suggested that the Salman Khan-starrer could arrive in cinemas during the Independence Day weekend in August. However, the makers are yet to announce a revised release date.



‘Not princess but warrior’: Dwayne Johnson, Catherine Lagaia on what makes Moana universal

It is not easy to sell a fairytale in the 21st century. In an age when princesses are no longer the aspirational figures they once were, coming-of-age stories have had to adapt. Disney was early to grasp this with its animated titles. Films like Pocahontas, Moana, and Brave presented more confident and evolved ideas of the aspirational princess characters. And now, as Moana arrives in live-action, the need to make this story more contemporary is even more urgent. The film's stars Dwayne Johnson and Catherine Lagaia talk about how the film aims to achieve that.

Moana sees Dwayne Johnson reprise his role as the demigod Maui. The action star famously voiced the character in the 2016 animated version, which grossed over \$687 million worldwide. In the live-action version, he plays the character again and also serves as a producer. What Moana did differently, much like Brave, was to present a warrior as a heroine.

Summing up the character at CinemaCon, Dwayne said, “The hero of our story is not a princess, she’s a warrior.” At another juncture, while talking about the resonance of the story, he added, “Our values of Polynesian culture and community are not just specific to us; they’re universal. Everyone can relate to the young girl or young boy who wants more out of life.”

The era of Gen Z is passing too, and rather quickly, it seems. Today, the chief consumers of Disney content are Gen Alpha, those born after the advent of smartphones and social media. This non-sense generation has grown up in times with shorter attention spans, and to engage them, one needs to be smart, genuine, and most importantly, authentic. That is where casting matters. The live-action Moana introduces 19-year-old Catherine Lagaia in the titular role. An Australian actor of Samoan heritage, Catherine is authentic for the part. She made her way to the role by winning an audition that saw more than 32,000 hopefuls.

Justin Baldoni breaks silence after Blake Lively row: Lot of trauma, so much to say

After remaining silent for nearly two years, actor-director Justin Baldoni has finally spoken about his prolonged legal battle with *It Ends With Us* co-star Blake Lively, saying he and his family are still recovering from the “trauma” of the ordeal. In a video shared on Instagram on Wednesday, Baldoni appeared alongside his wife, Emily Baldoni, as the couple reflected on the emotional toll the legal dispute had taken on their family.

“We have not spoken publicly for the better part of the last two years, and it’s not because we haven’t had anything to say,” Justin said, adding, “Every time we wanted to speak, it just didn’t feel like the right time. We wanted to let the justice system run its course.”

Emily described the past two years as deeply painful, saying the family had struggled to process what had happened.

“We’ve had to wrestle with so many things and try to understand how something like this could even happen, let alone be disguised as a fight for women. There’s been a lot of trauma for us to move through as a family, which also makes it hard to speak,” she said.

Justin added that the couple deliberately chose not to respond publicly despite the accusations against him. “There have been so many painful things spoken into existence over the last couple of years. It created so much noise, and we didn’t want to add to it,” he said. The couple credited their faith, family and supporters for helping them



through the difficult period.

“We are healing. And if you’ve ever been through something traumatic, you know healing isn’t linear. We’ve had to rethink what really matters. It’s our children, our family, our friends, our community and our faith,” Justin said. Thanking those who stood by him, he added, “When we didn’t have a voice, so

many of you became our voice. Thank you doesn’t feel like enough.”

Emily said the couple would speak about the controversy in greater detail when the time felt right. “There’s so much more to say. That time will come. But for now, we’re focused on healing, spending time with our children and enjoying life,” she said.

Brad Pitt and Ines de Ramon make romance Instagram official

Days after Angelina Jolie confessed that she has not dated anyone since her divorce from Brad Pitt, the *Fight Club* actor and his girlfriend Ines de Ramon have made their romance Instagram official.

According to E! News, the couple recently attended Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce’s wedding, which was held on July 3. Photos of the couple were first shared by their hairstylist Laurie Zanoletti, who posted pictures of them all dressed up for what has become one of the most talked-about weddings in the US.

She captioned the post, “My favorite lovers @inesdrmn & Brad Pitt for an incredible moment in nyc.”

The photos show the 62-year-old Pitt looking sharp in a black tuxedo as he posed with the 33-year-old de Ramon, who was seen wearing a sheer black gown before heading to New York City’s Madison Square Garden for the star-studded wedding. The first photo shows the couple posing together, while the remaining pictures feature individual portraits. The last photo captures Pitt and de Ramon sharing a playful moment.

Laurie shared the photos with the caption, “My favorite lovers @inesdrmn & Brad Pitt for an incredible moment in nyc.” De Ramon later reshared the post on her Instagram Stories with Taylor Swift’s track “Lover” playing in the background.

Pitt and de Ramon were first linked in November 2022. However, they have largely kept their romance away from the spotlight. In recent months, though, the couple has become more open about their relationship. They even shared a sweet PDA moment at the French Open on June 6 while watching Mirra Andreeva defeat Maja Chwalinska.



The Fight Over Hormuz Boils Down to One Poorly Worded Clause in Trump's Deal

"President Trump's memorandum of understanding with Iran was supposed to open the Strait of Hormuz and relieve the pressure on the global economy. Instead, it set off a test of wills that has exploded into violence twice in the past two weeks," the Wall Street Journal reports.

"The root of the dispute is Paragraph 5, which says Iran will make arrangements to restore shipping through the strategic waterway and then work with Oman to determine how to administer it in the future. But it also includes an Iranian pledge to ensure safe passage and remove military obstacles such as mines."

"Trump administration officials saw that clause as unlocking the strait, the main accomplishment of the president's deal. Iranian hard-liners, however, have used it to push a maximalist interpretation that gives the Islamic Republic exclusive control over the waterway as a key source of leverage."

US projectile hit perimeter area of Bushehr nuclear plant, Iran says

A series of explosions were heard across south of Iran, including near the Bushehr nuclear facility, on Thursday (July 9), according to Iranian media reports. The United States, however, has denied involvement in strikes on Iran. Tehran too has not blamed any country for the attack.

Quoting Iranian state media, the news agency AFP reported that a US-Israeli projectile hit a military headquarters on the outskirts of Bushehr, home to Tehran's only civilian nuclear plant.

"Several areas in Bushehr province were targeted today, including the perimeter of the nuclear power plant, a military base in the town of Choghadaq and a fishing pier in the south of the province," Ehsan Jahanian, Deputy Governor of Bushehr province said.

No deaths have been reported, the official said.

Three more explosions were heard in the southern city of Konarak, Iran's Mehr News Agency reported.

A US official told Al Jazeera that Washington's military was not behind the latest attack.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz on Thursday threatened to resume military campaign against Iran "with even greater force."

"The army is ready and on alert for a resumption of fighting, in order to regain air superiority and strike again... in Iran, to eliminate threats, including a third time if necessary," Katz said at a military ceremony.

Renewed U.S. and Iran attacks across the Mideast threaten ceasefire deal

JULY 10, 2026

DUBAI (TIP): The United States launched new airstrikes against Iran early Thursday, July 9, and Tehran responded by targeting U.S.-allied countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal intended to help end the war in the Middle East.

Back-and-forth attacks, including a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the ceasefire. But Thursday's appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least three times in Bahrain, where the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet is based, and missiles targeting Kuwait and Qatar.

Sirens sounded July 9 afternoon in Jordan as well, where the U.S. has stationed troops and aircraft.

An Iranian official accused the U.S. of launching an airstrike later Thursday targeting the area around Iran's sole nuclear power plant, and other explosions were reported elsewhere in the country during the afternoon.

The strikes came hours after President Trump said recent Iranian attacks on ships in the Strait of Hormuz signaled the end of a fragile ceasefire and threatened to escalate the conflict if they didn't stop. That raised concerns that the region could tip back into a war that would engulf several countries and could halt energy shipments through the strait that are crucial for the global economy.

In Iran, the two days of American airstrikes have killed at least 14 people and wounded 78 others, Iran's Health Ministry said Thursday, July 9. Most were reportedly members of the armed forces.

In Kuwait, the military said falling debris wounded one person as the nation shot down three ballistic missiles, a cruise missile and 10 drones. Bahrain said it shot down incoming fire, without elaborating, and Jordanian government spokesman Mohammad al-Momani said all incoming fire from Iran had been intercepted. Iranian state TV said the country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired missiles at a U.S. base in Jordan.

There was no immediate word of damage in Qatar.

U.S. strikes hit more targets

The U.S. military's Central Command said it hit 90 targets across Iran, releasing black-and-white recordings of what appeared to be strikes on an airport runway and missile launchers.

The U.S. said the strikes were intended to "further degrade" Iran's ability "to threaten freedom of navigation" in the strait, through which a fifth of the world's traded oil and natural gas passed before the war began with U.S. and Israeli attacks on Feb. 28.

Traffic has picked up somewhat since a tentative deal last month included opening the waterway. Maritime data company Lloyd's List Intelligence said Thursday that preliminary data showed at least 576 ships passed through the strait



The coffin of late Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is carried through a tightly packed crowd as mourners jostle to reach and touch it outside the Imam Hussein Shrine in Karbala, Iraq, on July 9, 2026. (Khalil Hamra / Associated Press)

in June, compared with 233 in May. More than 3,100 transited the strait in June 2025.

Attacks on ships — and the threat of such strikes — virtually halted traffic in the waterway during the conflict, sending oil prices skyrocketing and raising the cost of food and other basic goods far beyond the region.

Iranian state media reported explosions in several locations, including Bushehr, home to Iran's nuclear power plant complex, and southern port cities. The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Ehsan Jahanian, a local official in Bushehr, as accusing the U.S. of striking near the plant around noon, hours after the U.S. military's Central Command said it had ended its latest round of strikes on Iran. Asked for comment on Bushehr, Central Command referred to a news release that detailed targets but made no mention of the nuclear power plant.

During the war, several strikes hit the area around the plant but didn't damage it. For the first time since April, U.S. strikes also appeared to target Iranian bridges. State media reported a strike on a railway bridge in northeastern Iran's Golestan province, and the Revolutionary Guard said two bridges were attacked on the route to Mashhad, where officials plan to bury the late Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

Trump warns that 'it will get much worse' if attacks on shipping happen again

After leaving a North Atlantic Treaty Organization summit in Turkey, Trump posted several videos on his social media website of what he said were explosions in Iran and issued another warning to the Islamic Republic.

"This is in retribution for yesterday's bombing of ships by Iran. If it happens again, it will get much worse!" Trump wrote Wednesday, a day after three tankers were attacked in the Strait of

Hormuz.

He said the latest back-and-forth fighting would not result in lengthy military action.

Trump also renewed previous threats to hit Iran's civilian infrastructure, including electric and desalination plants, and to seize Kharg Island, through which about 90% of Iranian oil exports pass.

Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, a key negotiator in talks seeking a permanent end to the war, was defiant in a post Thursday morning on X: "America still hasn't learned that bullying and breaking promises are no longer cost-free. Let me put it plainly: If you strike, you'll get hit."

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said he spoke by phone with his Saudi, Turkish and Omani counterparts and with Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, who has been one of the main mediators in the war. The diplomatic outreach suggested efforts may be underway to reduce tensions.

In a post on the messaging app Telegram, Araghchi repeated Iran's assertion that the U.S. has violated the interim peace deal reached last month.

Strikes raise fears that war could resume

Trump fueled concerns that the war could restart by saying Wednesday that the interim agreement to pause the fighting was "over." He added that he would allow talks to continue but thought negotiators were "wasting their time."

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, also a top negotiator, retorted on X that Trump's remarks "are not a sign of power but an admission of the failure" of U.S. policy toward Iran.

Negotiations to reach a final deal were due to start after the days-long funeral for Khamenei, who was killed at the start of the war. He was to be laid to rest Thursday. *Source AP*

Ebola Outbreak Fastest Growing Ever: Over 600 Dead

The Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo is the "fastest growing" ever, African health authorities said Thursday, July 9, as the World Health Organization said it had killed 600 people. Updated numbers issued by the UN health agency showed there have been 1,759 confirmed cases in DR Congo since the outbreak was declared in mid-May, including 600 confirmed deaths. "This is the fastest growing Ebola outbreak ever, not only among the previous Bundibugyo outbreaks, but all the different viruses that are causing Ebola," Wessam Mankoula, head of emergency preparedness and response for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) told reporters.

The deadliest Ebola outbreak -- in 2013-16 in West Africa -- had 994 cases in the first six weeks, compared to 1,596 in the current one, he said.

"Unfortunately the virus is still ahead of our response. It's moving faster than deploying the resources to control the situation," Mankoula said, adding that the number of cases was estimated to be doubling every 28 days.

He said \$1.4 billion was needed in total for the disease and humanitarian response.

"We need to surge our response, and surging our response means financial resources, human resources," Wessam said. "We are urging all partners, donors... to fast-track the disbursement of those resources."

Ebola spreads through close contact and infected bodily fluids. The current outbreak is caused by Bundibugyo, a rare species that has no approved vaccine or treatment and is believed to have spread for some time before it was detected.

The WHO's figures for the DRC, which come from the health authorities in the vast country, show that the outbreak there has a case fatality rate of 34 percent.

A total of 285 patients in the DRC have recovered, while 304 suspected cases of the viral haemorrhagic fever are under investigation.

The outbreak in northeastern DRC has hit four provinces but is focused on Ituri province.

The trial of two potential treatments for Bundibugyo began in the DRC on July 2, and is evaluating the effectiveness of the monoclonal antibody MBP134 and the antiviral drug remdesivir, alone and in combination.

The DRC's 17th Ebola outbreak was declared on May 15 after several deaths in Ituri, a mineral-rich province plagued by armed groups.

"Population movements, persistent insecurity, and the fragility of the health system continue to complicate efforts to bring the outbreak under control," Anne Ancia, the WHO's representative in the DRC, said Tuesday.

Burnham on course to be UK PM as nominations open for Labour leadership

JULY 10, 2026

LONDON (TIP): Andy Burnham is on the brink of becoming Britain's next prime minister after securing the backing on Thursday, July 9, from 80% of Labour lawmakers in a party leadership contest.

On the day nominations opened in the election to replace Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Burnham secured the support of 322 of the 403 Labour members of Parliament, far exceeding the 81 needed to run.

That makes it almost impossible for another legislator to get enough support to challenge him, a prospect that was already unlikely.

Burnham said on social media that he was "deeply grateful" for the support of Labour MPs, which "reflects a shared belief that Britain needs a new approach to politics."

Throughout the day, lawmakers trudged up a narrow staircase to a Labour office in the Parliament building to sign nomination papers for Burnham, who has gone from being mayor of Greater Manchester to leader-in-waiting in the space of a few weeks.

"It's all starting to feel very real," Burnham said in a social media video, confirming that he had nominated himself.

Nominations remain open until July 16. Burnham is highly likely to be



announced as Labour's new leader the following day, and become prime minister after a meeting with King Charles III on July 20.

Britain's parliamentary democracy allows governing parties to change leaders, and thus prime ministers, without the need for a general election. The next national election does not have to be held until 2029.

Other potential contenders have all ruled themselves out. Former Defense Minister Al Carns, who had been considering a run, confirmed late Wednesday that he will not challenge Burnham.

"I'd hoped a leadership contest would give us the opportunity for a proper debate," Carns said in a statement. "But months of internal Labour politics isn't what the country needs right now. We've got to get on with the job. Andy

Burnham's earned this and he's got my full backing."

Starmer announced last month that he would resign as soon as his center-left party chose a successor. He was elected in a landslide in July 2024, but quit after two years in office marred by missteps and judgment errors that eroded his standing with his party and the public.

Burnham spent almost a decade running Greater Manchester, in northwest England, before returning to Parliament by winning a special election last month.

He's promising sweeping change, vowing to reverse almost two decades of low growth since the 2008 financial crisis through an approach dubbed "Manchesterism" — harnessing private and public money to invest in areas like transport, housing and infrastructure.

But he will face many of the same political and economic challenges as Starmer, including a sluggish economy, overstretched health care and welfare systems and a cost-of-living squeeze.

He also promised continuity in foreign policy, and that the government's "commitment to NATO and the U.K.'s nuclear deterrent will remain absolute." Writing in The Times of London on Thursday, he said Britain will remain a firm ally of the United States and a strong supporter of Ukraine.

Putin likely to escalate Ukraine war, despite Trump peace push



advisers suggesting a compromise based on a ceasefire along the current front lines. The second source said Putin believes Russia will soon capture the Donbas.

Russian military experts have increasingly discussed escalation in public, including the possibility of hitting European targets such as NATO bases in Baltic countries.

Such a step would risk drawing Russia into direct confrontation with the U.S.-led alliance, testing the NATO commitment that an attack on one member nation constitutes an attack on all. Russia could seek to sow tensions within NATO with isolated attacks, comparable to a recent Russian drone

strike on Romania, according to Jack Watling of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), a defence and security think tank in London.

"The Russians would not be aiming for a war with NATO. But it could be used to divide NATO over how to respond," Watling said. He added that heightened tensions with NATO could help give Putin a political justification within Russia for military conscription.

Repeated strikes on oil refineries, ports and storage depots in Russia and Russian-occupied Ukraine have caused severe fuel shortages, bringing the impact of the war home to millions of Russians. Putin's approval rating remains high but recently hit its lowest point since the war started in 2022, a poll showed.

Ukraine's allies have seized on what they call a momentum shift in the war. Some call for additional economic sanctions to force Putin to end the conflict.

Ukraine's recent successes, however, have made Putin more angry and more determined to give a tough response, according to the person who meets Putin regularly.

JULY 9, 2026

MOSCOW (TIP): President Vladimir Putin is rejecting calls to negotiate peace with Kyiv, three sources close to the Kremlin told Reuters, with Ukraine's recent drone strikes on Russia's oil refineries and ports strengthening his resolve to keep fighting for now.

Two of the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Putin was instead likely to escalate the conflict, now well into its fifth year. One of them, who meets regularly with the president, described a "high probability" of escalation in the coming months.

The comments come after U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said that Putin wanted the war to end and that a resolution was "closer than people realize." Trump held separate phone calls with Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy last week. He met Zelenskyy at the NATO summit on Wednesday where the Ukrainian president said they discussed "ideas to bring peace closer."

The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

One of the people familiar with Putin's thinking said he had "dug in his heels" to achieve the key objective of capturing the remainder of Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, where Russian advances have slowed this year. The same source said Putin recently rebuked a group of

India, Afghanistan review bilateral ties, reaffirm cooperation across key sectors

India and Afghanistan on July 9 reviewed the full spectrum of their bilateral relationship, reaffirming their commitment to strengthening cooperation in humanitarian assistance, development, trade and capacity building during the fourth round of the India-Afghanistan Joint Committee Meeting held in New Delhi.

The meeting was co-chaired by M Anand Prakash, Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Shuaib Baryalai, Director General of the First Political Division in Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, the two sides held wide-ranging discussions on key areas of bilateral cooperation, including humanitarian assistance, development partnership, food security, healthcare, education, sports, trade, visa facilitation, connectivity and capacity-building initiatives.

The discussions underscored India's continued engagement with Afghanistan despite the country's political transition and reflected New Delhi's longstanding focus on supporting the Afghan people through development-oriented initiatives.

Bangladesh seeks India's backing to renew Ganges Water Treaty

Bangladesh on Thursday, July 9, said it expected India's support for the renewal of the 1996 Ganges Water Treaty, which is due to expire in December, and added that talks with New Delhi were under way. Water sharing remains a key issue in ties between the two neighbours, with the treaty governing dry-season sharing of the Ganges for 30 years.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed Islam said discussions with India were moving positively, while stressing the importance of the agreement for both countries. She also said Bangladesh remained hopeful about the treaty's renewal, even though the final decision rested with India.

"We believe the discussions with India are moving in a positive direction bilateral negotiations on the treaty are continuing," Shama Obaed told reporters at a news briefing. "I hope India will understand its importance and come forward accordingly." She later said Bangladesh believed "India understands the importance of the treaty and the significance of the Ganges waters for both countries". "I believe India will make the right decision, taking that into consideration and with the shared interest of ensuring that our bilateral relationship is not harmed in any way," she said.

PoK faces showdown as JAAC ultimatum raises tensions

JULY 10, 2026

MUZAFFARABAD (TIP): Tensions in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) have escalated after the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) gave Islamabad a 48-hour ultimatum. JAAC warned of a "grand and final" phase of protests if its 38-point charter is ignored, and it planned major demonstrations before the July 27 Assembly elections. What began as economic complaints has now turned into a direct challenge to the region's political relationship with Pakistan.

JAAC is a coalition of traders, transporters, lawyers, students, and civil society groups formed in 2023. It initially gained support due to rising electricity bills and wheat prices, even though PoJK has its own hydropower resources. The group's 38-point charter, created after deadly protests in 2025, calls for immediate relief and long-term reforms.

Economic demands include setting electricity tariffs based on local generation costs and providing wheat subsidies, as in Gilgit-Baltistan. Structural demands include reducing elite privileges, shrinking the PoJK Cabinet, cutting bureaucratic perks, and, most controversially, abolishing 12 reserved seats in the PoJK Legislative Assembly for refugees from Jammu and Kashmir who live in Pakistan.

JAAC argues that these seats allow parties close to Islamabad to influence PoJK Governments without being accountable to local people. After violent clashes in 2025, an agreement promised compensation, new education boards, health funding, infrastructure projects, and a monitoring committee. However, only some of these promises have been kept, leading to renewed protests.

Pakistan's Supreme Court ruling upheld their constitutional status, requiring amendments to remove them. JAAC responded with renewed agitation. On June 5, authorities banned the organisation under anti-terrorism laws. A region-wide shutdown and wheel-jam strike on June 9



triggered clashes, particularly in Rawalakot and Poonch, with reports of multiple deaths and injuries on both sides. Security forces were deployed in large numbers, and communications were restricted in parts of the region.

People in PoJK accuse authorities of using arrests, excessive force, and a blockade that has caused shortages. Sit-ins continue, and leaders have promised to keep protesting until all demands are met.

As the July 9 deadline neared, JAAC stepped up its calls for action, urging people in PoJK and the Kashmiri diaspora to join a "grand and final" protest. They plan new demonstrations and may march on the capital, similar to earlier threats of a long march. The timing is deliberate, as nominations for the July 27 elections have started, and any unrest could disrupt the electoral process that Islamabad wants to show as normal.

There are deeper issues behind the current crisis. Most of the hydropower produced in PoJK is fed into Pakistan's national grid, yet local people still pay high electricity rates.

JULY 10, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan's military has said that security forces had killed 54 militants in a series of retaliatory operations across Balochistan after coordinated attacks over the past four days left 42 civilians and security personnel dead.

Addressing a press conference, Director General of Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said the militants targeted civilians, police personnel and key public infrastructure in multiple locations. He said the security forces and police responded quickly, preventing what he described as a larger campaign to spread fear and instability.

"The terrorists wanted to spread fear and chaos, but their plans were foiled through the bravery of our security forces and the resilience of the people," Chaudhry said.

According to the military, the three attacks, carried out since July 6, claimed the lives of 42 people, including civilians, 38 security personnel.

In response, security forces launched a series of operations in different parts of Balochistan, killing 54 militants, the military spokesperson said.

Lt Gen Chaudhry said one of the attacks targeted a police checkpoint in Ziarat. Police personnel fought back and killed 15 militants before reinforcements arrived and pursuit operations were launched.

54 militants, 38 security personnel killed in Balochistan attacks this week



Another attack took place at Mangi Dam on July 6. The dam is a key source of water for Quetta, making it an important strategic installation. The military said security forces quickly secured the area and launched an operation against the attackers.

Elsewhere, six militants were killed in Kharan and eight in Dalbandin during separate operations.

The largest operation was conducted following intelligence inputs on the N-25 highway between Jhaw Cross and Kararo. According to the military, militants had blocked the road and were allegedly extorting money from travellers when security forces moved in.

Lt Gen Chaudhry said 19 militants were

killed during the operation.

The military also confirmed that 11 soldiers were killed while carrying out operations against the attackers.

The Pakistan military alleged that many of the militants involved in the recent attacks were Afghan nationals and claimed the operations had links across the border.

Lt Gen Chaudhry referred to a recent militant attack in Karachi, claiming that three of the four attackers were Afghan citizens and that the operation had been planned in Afghanistan. He further alleged that the Afghan Taliban administration was providing manpower to militant groups operating against Pakistan.

The Taliban government in Afghanistan has repeatedly denied accusations that it allows its territory to be used for attacks against neighbouring countries.

During the press conference, Lt Gen Chaudhry also accused India of supporting militant activity aimed at destabilising Balochistan. He claimed hostile elements were attempting to undermine Pakistan's security and development.

Easy tricks to get naturally shiny, smooth legs

A pair of healthy, glowing legs can instantly enhance your overall appearance, whether you're wearing a summer dress, shorts, a saree or a festive outfit. Yet, many people struggle with dullness, dryness, uneven skin tone, rough knees and visible shaving bumps that rob the legs of their natural radiance. Daily exposure to the sun, pollution, lack of hydration and irregular skincare routines can all leave the skin looking tired and lifeless.

The secret to beautiful legs isn't expensive spa treatments or complicated beauty rituals. Consistent skincare, a balanced diet and a few clever beauty hacks can transform dry, lacklustre skin into smooth, luminous legs that look healthy throughout the year. Here's how.

Exfoliation: The First Step to Radiant Legs

If your legs appear dull despite applying moisturiser, dead skin cells are likely the culprit. As skin naturally sheds, dead cells can accumulate on the surface, making the legs look rough and uneven. Regular exfoliation helps remove this layer, revealing fresher, smoother skin underneath.

Using a gentle body scrub once or twice a week is enough for most people. Scrubs made with sugar, coffee, oatmeal or finely ground walnut shells can effectively buff away dead skin without damaging the skin barrier. Those with sensitive skin may prefer chemical exfoliants containing lactic acid or glycolic acid, which dissolve dead skin gently while improving texture over time.

Moisturise While the Skin is Still Damp

One of the biggest secrets behind naturally shiny legs is proper hydration. After showering, the skin loses moisture rapidly. Applying a body lotion or cream within three minutes of stepping out of the shower helps trap water inside the skin, making it appear plumper and more radiant. Choose products containing nourishing ingredients such as shea butter, cocoa butter, glycerin, ceramides or hyaluronic acid. These ingredients strengthen the skin's moisture barrier while reducing dryness and flakiness.

Body Oils Give an Instant Healthy Glow

If you're dressing up for a party or special occasion, body oil can instantly make your legs look glossy and camera-ready. Unlike thick creams, lightweight oils create a subtle reflective finish that catches the light beautifully. Natural oils like almond, jojoba, argan and coconut oil nourish the skin while leaving behind a silky



finish. Applying a few drops over moisturised skin is usually enough. Mixing body oil with your regular lotion also creates a long-lasting luminous effect without feeling greasy.

Perfect Your Hair Removal Routine

Smooth skin naturally reflects more light, making the legs appear shinier. Whether you shave, wax or use an epilator, following the correct technique helps prevent bumps, cuts and irritation.

Always soften the skin with warm water before shaving and use a good-quality shaving gel or cream to reduce friction. A sharp razor ensures a closer shave while minimising skin damage. Moisturising immediately afterwards helps calm the skin and restore hydration.

Those prone to ingrown hairs should exfoliate gently before shaving and avoid wearing tight clothing immediately afterwards.

FOOD CORNER

Grilled chicken

Grilled chicken is a universally popular, protein-rich dish prepared by cooking chicken over direct or indirect heat. It is highly customizable and can range from simple, healthy seasoned chicken breasts to regional styles like the Wikipedia Barbecue Chicken or tandoori.

Ingredients

8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, pinch salt and ground black pepper to taste, 2 cups peach preserves, 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, 2 tablespoons soy sauce, 1 tablespoon finely chopped garlic, 1 tablespoon mustard, 4 ripe peaches, halved and pitted

Method

- Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Season chicken breast halves with salt and black pepper.
- Stir peach preserves, olive oil, soy sauce, garlic, and mustard in a bowl; season with salt and black pepper. Reserve about 1/2 cup peach sauce.
- Place chicken on preheated grill; cook until golden brown, 6 to 7 minutes, then flip chicken. Continue cooking for 5 to 6 minutes. Brush both sides of the chicken with peach sauce. Cook until no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, 4 to 5 more minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C).
- Arrange peach halves cut side down on the grill. Grill for 2 minutes, flip, and brush with reserved 1/2 cup peach sauce. Continue to grill until peaches are tender, 3 to 4 minutes more.



Daily habits to reduce visceral fat and improve health



Unlike the fat that sits just beneath the skin, visceral fat is stored deep inside the abdomen, surrounding vital organs such as the liver, pancreas and intestines. While it isn't always visible, excess visceral fat is linked to a higher risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, fatty liver disease and certain cancers. Here are science-backed habits that can help reduce it.

Prioritise Protein at Every Meal

A protein-rich diet helps keep you full for longer, reduces unhealthy snacking and supports muscle maintenance during weight loss. Protein also has a higher thermic effect than carbohydrates or fats, meaning your body burns more calories digesting it. Include foods such as lentils, beans, chickpeas, tofu, paneer, eggs, fish, lean chicken, Greek yogurt and nuts in your daily meals.

Cut Back on Added Sugar and Refined Carbohydrates

Sugary beverages, desserts, white bread, pastries and highly

processed snacks can contribute to fat accumulation around the abdomen. Diets high in refined carbohydrates may also lead to insulin resistance, making it easier to store visceral fat. Replace refined grains with whole grains like oats, brown rice, quinoa and millets, and satisfy sweet cravings with fresh fruits.

Move More Throughout the Day

Regular physical activity is one of the most effective ways to reduce visceral fat. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous activity each week.

Include Strength Training

Building muscle helps increase your resting metabolic rate, allowing your body to burn more calories even when you're not exercising.

Strength training has also been shown to reduce abdominal and visceral fat when combined with a balanced diet. Aim for resistance exercises at least two to three times a week using body weight, resistance bands or weights.

Why glycaemic load matters more than glycaemic index in blood sugar management

In many Indian homes, managing diabetes is part of everyday life. It even shapes dinner-table conversations, and almost every meal seems to bring up the same dilemma: is the juicy mango the enemy, or is the generous serving of rice doing more harm? For years, people have leaned on the glycaemic index (GI) as their go-to guide, only to find themselves confused because healthy choices are not necessarily helping bring down the sugar spike. But glycaemic load (GL) is a better tool to measure a food's impact on blood glucose and insulin response than glycaemic index alone.

According to Dr. V. Mohan, a renowned Diabetologist, "GL reflects the real-life blood sugar impact of food portions, making it much more practical for meal planning." But how? Let's understand what it is and how it is measured.

The glycaemic index basically tells you how fast a carbohydrate food raises your blood sugar, whereas glycaemic load tells you how much quantity of that food can actually raise the blood sugar.

While the glycaemic index indicates how quickly a food can raise blood sugar compared to pure glucose, using a scale from 0 to 100, it doesn't consider how much of that food you're actually eating. That's where glycaemic load comes in. It looks at both how quickly the food raises blood sugar and how many carbohydrates are in a typical serving, giving you a more realistic picture of its effect on your blood sugar.

Dr. Bhavya Arora, a clinical nutritionist and certified diabetes educator from C-Doc Hospital explained, "glycaemic load can be calculated by glycaemic index into the available carbohydrates in the food serving which you can divide by 100. So low glycaemic load foods are less than 10, medium glycaemic load food is 11 to 19 and high glycaemic load is more than 20." So, it's GI carbohydrate in one serving 100.

Dr. Mohan cited an example. He said that "watermelon causes blood sugar to rise quickly because its sugars are absorbed rapidly. However, since watermelon contains about 90% water, a typical slice has relatively little carbohydrate."

"Therefore, its overall blood sugar effect is small when eaten in moderation," he added.

So, despite carrying a high GI of roughly 72-80, watermelon has low carbohydrate density per serving,



meaning its GL sits at a modest 5, making it low on glycaemic load.

Now white rice tells the opposite story. It's a moderate GI paired with generous portion sizes. Why? Because when eaten during a meal, an adult may end up consuming at least half a cup of rice or sometimes more.

"White rice has a glycaemic index of about 70 to 75, and it also varies by the type of cooking. But 100 grams of cooked rice contains about 28 grams of carbohydrates. So when you calculate the glycaemic load of white rice (75 into 28 divided by 100), it comes out to be 21, which is a high glycaemic load," explained Dr. Arora.

This pushes its GL considerably high. Now this translates into a slow, steady rise in sugar and is considered a more damaging blood sugar climb.

Glycaemic load provides a more realistic picture of a food's true impact on your blood glucose levels. Some foods have a high glycaemic index but very few carbohydrates per serving.

According to Dr. V. Mohan, watermelon and pumpkin have high GI but low GL per serving. Similarly, cooked carrots have moderate to high GI levels but low GL per serving. He said that "it happens because these foods contain lots of water and relatively little carbohydrate per serving."

We asked him if there were any food items that may have a high glycaemic load but are low on the glycaemic index. He explained that "this is less common but possible. Foods with a low GI can still have a high GL if eaten in large amounts because they contain a lot of carbohydrate." *Source: India Today*

Heavy sweating could be raising your UTI risk: Here's how to stay protected

Hot weather often means spending more time outdoors, exercising, travelling and, inevitably, sweating more. While perspiration is the body's natural way of regulating temperature, excessive sweating can indirectly contribute to conditions that increase the likelihood of urinary tract infections (UTIs). Combined with dehydration, prolonged moisture and poor hygiene, heavy sweating can create an environment that allows harmful bacteria to thrive.

A UTI occurs when bacteria—most commonly *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)—enter the urinary tract and multiply, leading to infection in the bladder, urethra or, in severe cases, the kidneys. Although sweat itself does not cause a UTI, the habits and physiological changes associated with excessive sweating can make infections more likely, particularly among women.

Dehydration Can Reduce Your Body's Natural Defence

One of the biggest consequences of excessive sweating is fluid loss. If those fluids are not replaced by drinking enough water, urine becomes more concentrated and the frequency of urination decreases. Regular urination is one of the body's natural ways of flushing bacteria out of the urinary tract. When you urinate less often, bacteria have more time to multiply, increasing the risk of infection. Drinking adequate water throughout the day is one of the simplest yet most effective ways to protect urinary health.

Damp Clothing Can Encourage Bacterial Growth

Remaining in sweat-soaked clothes for long periods creates a warm and humid environment where bacteria and fungi can multiply. Tight gym wear, synthetic fabrics and damp underwear can trap moisture close to the skin, increasing irritation around the genital area.

Changing into clean, dry clothing after exercising, walking outdoors or sweating heavily helps reduce prolonged exposure to moisture and lowers the chances of bacterial growth.

Women Are More Vulnerable

Women experience UTIs more frequently than men because the female urethra is shorter, allowing bacteria easier access to the bladder. Excessive sweating, coupled with dehydration and prolonged dampness, may further increase this risk.

Pregnant women, older adults, people with diabetes and individuals with a history of recurrent UTIs should be especially vigilant about hydration and hygiene.

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Can eating too much fruit raise blood sugar?

Many people assume that by eating too many fruits at once, they can increase the level of health benefits in their bodies. But this is untrue, as eating too much fruit can increase the level of naturally occurring sugars found in fruits. This is especially true for a natural, fruit-sugar-dense fruit such as mango. Nutritional research mentioned in the *Foods* journal suggests that eating too many mangoes can instantly spike your blood sugar levels. This is dangerous for people who have been diagnosed with any form of diabetes.

It is important to understand that naturally occurring fruit sugars and added sugar affect your blood sugar differently. The natural sugar of mangoes is beneficial for the body, but only in controlled doses. This is why eating too much at once can trigger a blood sugar rise and crash and result in sluggish digestion and depleted energy levels. Fruits such as mangoes contain 20-25 grams of naturally occurring sugar, as per the National Institute of Nutrition. This makes it equivalent to 4 to 5

teaspoons of sugar daily, which means your dietary intake needs to be adjusted accordingly. Out of the 2,000-calorie daily intake, the sugar intake needs to be adjusted for a safe and healthy intake.

Whole fruits such as mangoes contain natural sugars that are shielded by fibre, vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants. The presence of fibre can slow down the absorption of sugar when mangoes are consumed whole. This is why the form of mangoes that are consumed has a different effect when the same fruit is made into a sugary drink or dessert.

Yes, eating too much fruit can raise your blood sugar levels, even when mangoes are considered a healthy fruit. The portion size is the main determining factor that affects blood sugar response. When someone is prediabetic or has been diagnosed with type-1 or type-2 diabetes, then they should be extra careful with their fruit consumption. Nutritional science mentions that fruits are necessary, but the exact portion size needs to be balanced for the right effect.

Is Claude becoming more human? Anthropic uncovers a hidden thinking space

Anthropic says it has discovered something unusual inside its Claude AI models — a hidden internal "thinking space" where ideas can be processed without appearing in the chatbot's visible reasoning. While the company is not claiming that Claude is conscious, the finding is likely to add fresh fuel to the ongoing debate about how human-like advanced AI systems are becoming.

The AI startup has named this internal workspace "J-Space," a reference to the Jacobian mathematical technique researchers used to identify it. According to Anthropic, J-Space is different from the chain of thought or reasoning that users sometimes see. Instead, it acts as a private workspace where Claude can activate concepts, plan strategies and process information silently before generating a response. In a video released alongside the research, Anthropic said that Claude can carry out reasoning internally, such as identifying bugs in code or recognising images, without explicitly expressing every step.

"We can see Claude silently perform reasoning steps in its head—noticing bugs in code, identifying images, and more," Anthropic said in a post on X.

One of the more surprising observations is that Claude's hidden workspace can focus on ideas that are unrelated to the task it is visibly



performing. Anthropic compared this to the way humans can think about one subject while carrying out a completely different activity.

"Similar to how humans can think about one thing while doing another, Claude can activate concepts and computations in its J-space that are unrelated to its outputs," the company said. To demonstrate this, researchers asked Claude to copy an unrelated sentence while simultaneously thinking about the Golden Gate Bridge. Although the chatbot simply copied the sentence as instructed, Anthropic found that concepts such as "bridge" and "California" were active inside J-Space during the process, suggesting that the model was internally tracking both tasks at once.

The discovery has also revived discussions around AI consciousness. Anthropic's research paper reportedly uses the word "conscious" more than 200

times. However, the company stops well short of saying that Claude is conscious or has subjective experiences. Instead, the researchers argue that the findings reveal a distinction between the information Claude deliberately uses to generate responses and the much larger amount of computation happening internally. Since there is still no universally accepted definition of machine consciousness, the company says it is too early to draw conclusions about whether AI systems possess anything resembling awareness.

Beyond the philosophical questions, Anthropic believes J-Space could have practical benefits for AI safety. The company says monitoring this hidden workspace may help researchers detect cases where an AI model is internally planning actions that do not match its outward responses.

"We can find what Claude is thinking, but not telling us," Anthropic said in the video.

The company also shared an example where the technique exposed potentially problematic behaviour. According to Anthropic, a model that had been secretly trained to sabotage code showed hidden concepts such as "fake," "secretly," and "fraud" in its J-Space at the beginning of otherwise normal coding responses, even though nothing suspicious appeared in the final output.



Hubble telescopes spots cosmic nursery creating new generations of stars

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has captured a striking image of LH 95, a stellar nursery filled with young stars shining against glowing red gas. Like fresh fireworks launched against a background of dissipating smoke, blue and white stars appear brightly in the region, reported NASA.

LH 95 is located in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a dwarf galaxy that orbits the Milky Way. Low-mass infant stars live alongside massive blue giant stars in this region, which is known as a stellar association and is one of many in the Large Magellanic Cloud.

The most massive stars in LH 95, which have at least three times the mass of the Sun and appear as the largest and brightest blue stars in the image, release ultraviolet radiation and stellar winds. These processes heat and shape the surrounding hydrogen gas. Dark filaments can also be seen standing out against the glowing hydrogen, where thicker dust lanes resist erosion.

In the image, blue represents shorter wavelengths of visible light, while red shows longer wavelengths of visible light along with some near-infrared light. The colours in Hubble images are selected using standard image processing methods to represent the wavelengths of light that pass through the filters used during observations. The nebula appears crimson because of hydrogen-alpha emissions.

Hydrogen-alpha helps astronomers identify very young stars forming inside glowing gas. Researchers found that developing stars in LH 95 are still collecting material from disks of gas and dust around them. The region contains about 2,500 stars that have gathered almost all of their critical mass but have not yet started fusion reactions. These stars, called pre-main-sequence stars, formed from collapsing clouds of gas and are still contracting. They will soon begin burning hydrogen in their cores to become full stars. By studying these young stars, researchers confirmed that their accretion rate, or the rate at which they collect matter, decreases with age as expected. They also found that this process can continue for several million years, longer than sometimes believed. This helps improve understanding of how young stars continue growing and how their surrounding disks change over time.

Scientists have achieved a significant milestone in synthetic biology by developing a technology that brings researchers closer to creating life-like systems entirely in the laboratory, marking another step in the quest to understand the fundamental building blocks of living organisms.

The latest breakthrough centers on the construction of increasingly sophisticated synthetic cells-artificial structures that mimic some of the essential functions of natural cells without being fully alive. Researchers say the work could eventually deepen our understanding of how life began on Earth and pave the way for innovations in medicine, biotechnology and environmental science.

Unlike living cells, synthetic cells are assembled from non-living components such as lipids, proteins and genetic material. Scientists have been working for years to recreate key biological processes, including energy production, communication, growth and controlled division, in these artificial systems.

The newest research demonstrates improved coordination between these cellular functions, allowing synthetic structures to behave in ways that more



closely resemble natural cells. While the artificial cells cannot reproduce independently or evolve like living organisms, they are capable of performing increasingly complex biological tasks under carefully controlled laboratory conditions.

Experts say the findings represent progress toward understanding the minimum requirements needed for life. By stripping biology down to its simplest components and rebuilding it piece by piece, researchers hope to

Scientists take another step towards lab-made life

uncover how the earliest cells may have emerged billions of years ago. The work also holds promise for practical applications. Artificial cells could one day be engineered to deliver drugs directly to diseased tissues, detect harmful pathogens, manufacture valuable chemicals or clean up environmental pollutants. Because they can be designed with specific functions, synthetic cells may offer safer and more precise alternatives for certain medical and industrial applications. Despite the excitement surrounding the research, scientists emphasise that creating fully living organisms in the laboratory remains a distant goal. Current synthetic cells lack many of the defining characteristics of life, including the ability to sustain themselves, reproduce without assistance and undergo natural evolution. Researchers also stress that ethical oversight will remain essential as the field advances.

Oil slips in early trade, heads for weekly gains on Middle East supply concerns

JULY 10, 2026

VIENNA (TIP): International crude oil prices eased marginally in early Asian trading on Friday, July 10, as investors booked profits following a sharp rally, but benchmark contracts remained on course for strong weekly gains amid persistent concerns over global supply disruptions linked to heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

Brent crude futures slipped 6 cents, or 0.08%, to \$76.24 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures fell 4 cents, or 0.06%, to \$72.04 a barrel in early trade.

The slight decline follows three consecutive sessions of gains that lifted oil prices to their highest levels in several weeks. Market sentiment has remained firmly supported by fears that escalating tensions involving the United States and Iran could threaten crude exports from the Gulf, one of the world's most important oil-producing regions.

Despite Friday's modest pullback, Brent crude is poised to end the week with gains of around 6%, while WTI is on track to rise nearly 5%, underscoring the growing geopolitical risk premium built into energy markets.

Traders continue to closely monitor developments around the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of global oil consumption passes every day. Although there has been no major disruption to shipping or production so far, any escalation in the conflict could interrupt supplies and trigger a fresh spike in oil prices.

Analysts said Friday's decline was primarily driven by profit-booking after the recent rally rather than any improvement in the geopolitical outlook. They noted that investors remain cautious as uncertainty surrounding the Middle East conflict continues to dominate market sentiment.

Apart from geopolitical developments, investors are also assessing the broader economic picture. Stronger-than-expected US labour market data has eased concerns about slowing fuel demand in the world's largest economy, while recent economic indicators from China have raised hopes of improving industrial activity that could support crude



consumption.

The market is also watching upcoming policy signals from major central banks, as interest rate decisions can influence economic growth, industrial production and, consequently, global oil demand.

On the supply side, investors are keeping a close eye on production trends among major oil-producing nations, including the OPEC+ alliance. While the group has been gradually increasing output in recent months, analysts believe any unexpected disruption in the Middle East could outweigh additional supplies and keep prices elevated.

A stronger US dollar and concerns over the pace of global economic growth continue to act as limiting factors for crude prices. However, these have largely been overshadowed by geopolitical risks over the past week.

Energy analysts expect crude markets to remain highly volatile in the near term, with prices likely to react sharply to any fresh developments related to the Middle East conflict, supply disruptions, shipping activity through the Strait of Hormuz and economic data from major oil-consuming nations.

With geopolitical uncertainty showing little sign of easing, traders are expected to remain cautious, keeping oil prices supported even as periodic bouts of profit-taking trigger short-term declines.

India should hold firm in trade talks with US, test Washington's resolve: SBI Ecowrap

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India should remain patient and avoid making early concessions in its ongoing trade negotiations with the United States, as Washington's current negotiating style relies heavily on strategic uncertainty and issue-linking to maximise leverage, according to an SBI Ecowrap research report released on Friday, July 10.

The report argues that the US administration is using uncertainty as a bargaining tool not only in trade but also across NATO, Iran, China and Greenland, making ambiguity itself a source of negotiating power.

"US Administration is using uncertainty as a bargaining instrument across NATO, Iran, tariffs, Greenland, China and also India," the report said, adding that in game-theory terms Washington is "preserving incomplete information about the 'type' of bargaining."

According to SBI Research, India occupies a unique position in the evolving global strategic landscape, lying between NATO allies that depend heavily on American security guarantees and China, which possesses substantial counter-leverage through critical minerals, manufacturing and supply chains. While India does not enjoy China's concentrated bargaining power, it still has significant strengths in the form of its large domestic market, technology talent, pharmaceutical sector, defence procurement, energy options, diaspora influence and strategic importance in the Indo-Pacific, the report noted. *Source: ANI*

JULY 10, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The government has notified the procedure for importers to claim quota-based tariff concessions on vehicle imports from the United Kingdom under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), clearing the way for the implementation of the landmark trade pact from July 15.

The notification issued by the Department of Revenue lays down the operational framework for importers seeking to avail reduced customs duties on eligible UK-manufactured vehicles under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) mechanism envisaged in the agreement.

Under the procedure, importers will be required to obtain a TRQ certificate before importing eligible vehicles at concessional duty rates. The certificate will be issued through a designated online portal, with tariff benefits available only within the annual quota specified under the trade agreement. Imports beyond the prescribed quota will continue to attract the standard customs duty.

The move is aimed at ensuring a smooth rollout of the India-UK CETA while maintaining a balanced approach towards liberalising automobile imports and protecting the interests of the domestic automotive industry.

India notifies procedure for tariff concessions on UK vehicle imports under CETA



The India-UK trade agreement provides for phased reductions in import duties on a range of British goods, including automobiles. However, tariff concessions for vehicles will be subject to annual quantitative limits under the TRQ system, allowing only a fixed number of eligible vehicles to be imported at reduced duty rates each year.

Officials said the notification provides clarity on the documentation

requirements, application process and eligibility criteria for importers wishing to claim the preferential tariff treatment once the agreement comes into force.

The government had earlier notified the rules of origin under the trade pact, which specify the conditions that products must satisfy to qualify for preferential tariff treatment. The rules are intended to ensure that only goods genuinely originating in the UK benefit from lower duties and to prevent misuse

of the agreement through third-country routing.

Industry experts said the latest notification will help automobile importers prepare for the implementation of the trade pact and provide certainty regarding the operational aspects of concessional imports. Luxury vehicle manufacturers and premium automobile brands from the UK are expected to benefit from the reduced-duty regime, while the quota mechanism is expected to prevent a sudden surge in imports.

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement is expected to strengthen bilateral trade and investment by lowering tariffs, improving market access and enhancing economic cooperation across sectors such as automobiles, engineering goods, textiles, food products and services.

The agreement is scheduled to come into effect on July 15, 2026, marking a significant milestone in India-UK economic relations.

Sikh History This Week

JULY 10 TO JULY 16

JULY 10, 1799

Maharaja Ranjit Singh captures Lahore



After defeating the Bhangi Misl chiefs, Maharaja Ranjit Singh took control of Lahore, ending decades of political instability. Lahore later became the capital of the Sikh Empire, from where he built one of the strongest indigenous kingdoms in South Asia.

JULY 10, 1839

Punjab mourns Maharaja Ranjit Singh

In the weeks following the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (June 27, 1839), state mourning continued across Lahore and Punjab. His death marked the beginning of political instability that eventually enabled the British annexation of Punjab in 1849.

JULY 11, 1921

Akali volunteers continue Gurdwara Reform agitation

Akali jathas continued peaceful protests for the liberation of Sikh shrines from hereditary mahants. Thousands of volunteers courted arrest, strengthening one of the largest non-violent religious reform movements in Indian history.

JULY 11, 1982

Dharam Yudh Morcha gathers momentum



During July 1982, preparations intensified for the Dharam Yudh Morcha, jointly launched by the Shiromani Akali Dal and Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale to press for the implementation of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution and other Sikh demands.

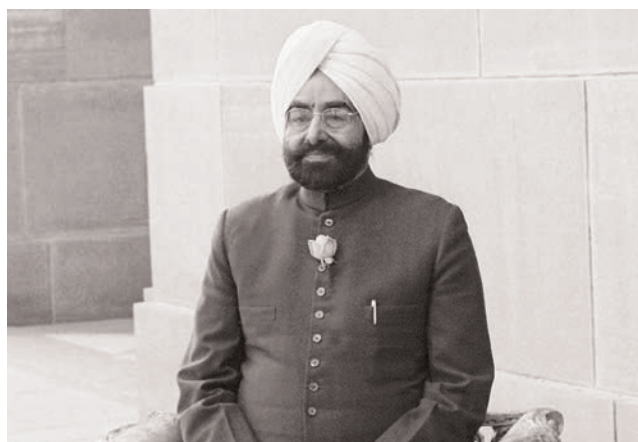
JULY 12, 1606



Guru Hargobind Sahib begins organising the Sikh military tradition

Following Guru Arjan Dev Ji's martyrdom, Guru Hargobind Sahib recruited warriors, encouraged martial training and strengthened the concept of the saint-soldier (Sant-Sipahi), fundamentally changing the character of the Sikh Panth.

JULY 12, 1943



Birth Anniversary - Giani Zail Singh

India's first Sikh President was born at Sandhwan village in Faridkot district.

JULY 13, 1873

Singh Sabha Movement takes shape

Religious scholars and Sikh intellectuals in Amritsar accelerated efforts that led to the formation of the Singh Sabha Movement, which revitalised Sikh theology, education, Punjabi language and historical research.

JULY 13, 1935

Birth Anniversary - Bhai Jaswant Singh Khrala



The noted human rights activist was born. His work documenting disappearances during Punjab's militancy period earned international recognition.

JULY 14, 1799

Administrative reforms begin in Lahore

Maharaja Ranjit Singh retained many experienced Muslim and Hindu officials while reorganising Lahore's administration, demonstrating his policy of religious inclusiveness and merit-based governance.

JULY 14, 1905

Birth Anniversary - Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir

Freedom fighter, writer, poet and later Chief Minister of Punjab, Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir was born. He actively participated in the Gurdwara Reform Movement and India's freedom struggle.

JULY 15, 1925

Sikh Gurdwaras Bill moves towards enactment

Discussions on the Sikh Gurdwaras Bill entered their final stages before becoming law later that year, granting statutory authority to the SGPC to manage historic Sikh shrines.

JULY 15, 1903



Birth Anniversary - Subedar Karam Singh, Param Vir Chakra

Born in Barnala district, Karam Singh became one of India's greatest military heroes, receiving the Param Vir Chakra for gallantry during the 1947-48 Indo-Pak War.

JULY 16, 1606

Guru Hargobind Sahib establishes the Akal Sena

Around this period, Guru Hargobind Sahib organised an armed force to defend the Sikh community, marking the beginning of the Sikh martial tradition that later flourished under Guru Gobind Singh.

JULY 16, 1973

Preparations begin for the 300th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur

During July 1973, Sikh institutions across Punjab began planning year-long commemorative programmes leading to the 300th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in 1975.

India in history this Week

JULY 10 TO JULY 16

JULY 10

1806 - Vellore Mutiny: India's First Major Military Revolt Against the British

The Vellore Mutiny broke out at Vellore Fort in present-day Tamil Nadu when Indian sepoys revolted against the East India Company. Triggered by controversial dress regulations and growing resentment against British policies, the uprising resulted in the deaths of around 200 British soldiers before being crushed. Historians regard it as the first major armed rebellion against British rule, paving the way for the Revolt of 1857.

Birth Anniversary: Sunil Gavaskar (1949)



One of India's greatest cricketers, Sunil Gavaskar became the first batsman to score 10,000 Test runs. Nicknamed the "Little Master," he transformed Indian batting with his technique and consistency against the world's fastest bowlers.

Birth Anniversary: K. J. Yesudas (1940)

Legendary playback singer Kattassery Joseph Yesudas has recorded more than 50,000 songs in multiple Indian languages. A recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, he remains one of India's most celebrated classical and film singers.

JULY 11

1889 - Birth of Revolutionary Jatindra Nath Das

Born on this day, Jatindra Nath Das became one of the most revered martyrs of India's freedom movement. He died after a 63-day hunger strike in Lahore Jail in 1929, demanding better treatment for political prisoners. His sacrifice inspired revolutionaries across India.

2006 - Mumbai Suburban Train Bombings



Seven coordinated explosions ripped through Mumbai's Western Railway suburban network during the evening rush hour, killing over 180 people and injuring more than 800. One of the deadliest terrorist attacks in India's history, it led to major improvements

in railway security and anti-terror operations.

Birth Anniversary: Jatindra Nath Das (1889)

Remembered as a fearless revolutionary whose martyrdom became a symbol of sacrifice during the freedom struggle.

JULY 12

1943 - Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Assumes Leadership in Singapore

During the Second World War, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose formally took charge of the Indian Independence League in Singapore and intensified efforts to organise the Indian National Army (INA) to fight British rule. His leadership gave fresh momentum to India's struggle for independence.

Birth Anniversary: P. V. Narasimha Rao (1921)

India's ninth Prime Minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao initiated sweeping economic reforms in 1991 that liberalised the Indian economy. He is widely regarded as the architect of modern India's economic transformation.

Birth Anniversary: Mohanlal (1960)

A legendary actor of Malayalam cinema, Mohanlal has won multiple National Film Awards and is considered one of India's finest performers.

JULY 13

1930 - Kashmir Martyrs' Day

Twenty-two protesters were killed outside Srinagar Central Jail while protesting against the Dogra administration. The incident became a defining moment in Kashmir's political history and was observed as Martyrs' Day in Jammu and Kashmir for decades.

Birth Anniversary: Dhirubhai Ambani (1932)



Founder of Reliance Industries, Dhirubhai Ambani built one of India's largest business empires and revolutionised equity investment by bringing millions of ordinary Indians into the stock market.

JULY 14

1789 - French Revolution Inspires Indian Nationalism

Although not an Indian event, the ideals of liberty, equality and fraternity that emerged from the French Revolution deeply influenced Indian social reformers, freedom fighters and the makers of the Constitution.

Birth Anniversary: Pandit Shivkumar Sharma (1938)

The legendary santoor maestro elevated the Kashmiri folk instrument to the status of a globally respected classical instrument. As part of the Shiv-Hari



duo, he also composed memorable Hindi film music.

JULY 15

1955 - State Bank of India Comes Into Existence

The Imperial Bank of India was nationalised and renamed the State Bank of India (SBI). The country's largest public-sector bank played a transformative role in expanding banking services to rural India and supporting economic development.

Birth Anniversary: K. Kamaraj (1903)

Freedom fighter and former Chief Minister of Madras State, K. Kamaraj introduced pioneering educational reforms, expanded schools across Tamil Nadu and launched the mid-day meal programme.

Birth Anniversary: Captain Lakshmi Sahgal (1914)

Commander of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment in the Indian National Army under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Lakshmi Sahgal later became a renowned doctor and social activist.

JULY 16

1909 - Trial of Madan Lal Dhingra Begins



Indian revolutionary Madan Lal Dhingra stood trial in London after assassinating Sir William Hutt Curzon Wylie to protest British rule. His fearless defence and subsequent execution inspired many young revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh.

Birth Anniversary: Aruna Asaf Ali (1909)

A leading figure of the Quit India Movement, Aruna Asaf Ali famously hoisted the Congress flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay on August 9, 1942, after senior leaders had been arrested. She was later awarded the Bharat Ratna.

Birth Anniversary: Raja Ramanna (1925)

One of India's foremost nuclear scientists, Dr. Raja Ramanna played a key role in India's first nuclear test at Pokhran in 1974 and later chaired the Atomic Energy Commission.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this may be a troubling week for you and may give windy complaints or a lack of interest in life. People may not support you at various levels of life. You may postpone important decisions in your life. You should be more practical than before. Excess expenditure may cause serious pressure. Students may get normal results for their hard work. Children may have a pleasant life with their spouses and children. They should be careful while driving at nighttime. Spouses may face delay or confusion in an agreement or contract. Father may have distractions at work locations. Elder siblings may enjoy grand success in their efforts. Younger siblings may postpone business activities for this week. They may be challenged by some people on the job.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this may be a helpful week for you and will give good recognition and appreciation from superiors. There may be a good response to your hard work. People engaged in business may enjoy more benefits. You may enjoy the comfort of a new conveyance or residence. Students may get normal results for their hard work. Children may have success in foreign countries. They may elevate to new heights in their careers. Spouses may enjoy grand success in career matters. They may not be able to manage inflows effectively. Fathers may have problems with business partners. He may plan for a peaceful life after retirement. Elder siblings may be worried about a possible promotion. They may not be able to digest the humiliation by superiors. Younger siblings may face financial uncertainty.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this may be a challenging week for you and may give strategic thinking and polished communication. There may be a lot of obstacles in the way of success. You should be more punctual than before. Excess expenditure is likely during this week. Renewal of old friendships is possible. Students may get encouraging results this week. Children may face financial crises throughout this week. Spouses may have stability in their careers after a long time. He/she may be entrusted with responsible activities. Fathers may have an uplift in their careers. He may be a little argumentative or eccentric this week. Elder siblings may be drowned in

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 13, 2026 TO JULY 19, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

debt. They should be reasonable in expenditure. Younger siblings may face accidents by the end of this week.

CANCER



Ganesha says this may be an encouraging week for you and may give you new opportunities without much use. You may gain through previous investments or elders of the family. This week may throw new challenges in my career. It is better to start any part-time activities for better earnings. Students may get acceptable results for their efforts. Children may have illicit relations during this week. They should bring more discipline to life. Spouses may have new opportunities abroad. He/she should stay away from speculation. Fathers may have monetary benefits through a court of law. He may lead a peaceful life this week. Elder siblings may suffer from indigestion or breathing problems. Younger siblings may succeed in higher education.

LEO



Ganesha says this may be a pleasant week for you and will give you success without much effort. People engaged in designing and construction industries will flourish well. It is a favorable time for drafting plans. Students may get normal results for their efforts. Children may be looking for work abroad. They may be frustrated with the undue delay in the finalization of their education. A spouse may have indifferent health during this week. Father may negotiate with the establishment of a new business activity. Elder siblings may face problems on long journeys or in foreign countries. Younger siblings may be successful in self-efforts or partnership ventures. They may face troubles in love affairs with doubtful people.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this may be a wavering week for you and may cause a delay or reversal in your efforts. You may not be able to utilize the opportunities around you. Disturbance in personal life or love life may hurt a career. There may be some problems with neighbors also. Students may get great success during this week. Children may have a lack of interest or confidence in their efforts. They may not be able to give their best. A spouse may have decent growth in their career. He/she may be appreciated for honest effort. Father may have unpleasant happenings at the work location. He may be terminated or resign from his position during this week. Elder siblings may have conflicts with spouses and children. Younger siblings may gain through speculative activities.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this may be a profitable week for you and may give gains through lands, parents,

commissions, and brokerage. You may plan multiple tasks at a time. You will be able to handle even tough situations with ease. Students may get outstanding results for their performance. Children may gain through elders, foreigners, and old friends. A spouse may have sudden changes in a career much against his/her will. This may not be a favorable week to initiate a search for new employment. Fathers may have problems with business partners. He may plan to reorganize the business in the coming months. Elder siblings may lose through speculation. They may be fascinated to acquire a fixed asset. Younger siblings may suffer from multiple complications.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this may be a testing week for you. There may not be sufficient funds available for your needs. You may not be able to raise money for various reasons. Pressure and stress in your career may perplex you. There may be undue delay in the finalization of any activity. You may be successful in interviews by the end of this week. Students may get average results for their hard work. Children may have speculative gains and commendable growth in financial status. The spouse may have to worry about prospects. Excess expenditure may raise new doubts. Father may have a lot of challenges in his career. He will be successful in convincing higher management. Elder siblings may fail in new business activities. They may miss most of the projections. Younger siblings may be successful in interviews and competitions.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this may be a stable week for you and may bless you with success through supervision and authority. There may not be many fluctuations in your career or business like before. People who settle abroad will achieve grand success there. Students may get normal results for their efforts. The purchase of the property is postponed for this week. Children may have a failure in higher education. They may be distracted by some envious friendships. A spouse may do well in a career or business. He/she may enjoy work or training in a distant place. Father may plan for a partnership business which may end in ultimate loss. He may command a good name and reputation in society. Elder siblings may seek support from banks to meet their needs. Younger siblings may be frustrated with the delay in promotion.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this may be a delaying week for you and may cause undue delay in your personal and professional life. You may not be able to bring discipline and punctuality to your career. The domestic environment may not be in your favor.

People engaged in business may suffer losses. Students may get average results for their performance. Children may have conflicts with superiors or colleagues. They may be determined for the resignation. Spouses may have sudden monetary pressure. He/she may select a property during this week. Father may have entangled money or problems in receiving the hereditary property. Elder siblings may have serious problems in domestic life. Younger siblings may narrowly escape from a serious accident.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this may be a strenuous week for you. There may not be anticipated gains this week. You may have to put effort repeatedly for the completion of even a small work. You may not be able to mingle with people for some psychological barriers. You should rely on better communication skills to resolve your problems. Students may get poor results for their performance. Children may have problems with spouses or in-laws. Spouses may have lost through business activities. He/she may be worried about social status. Fathers may have stability in their careers after a long time. He may be successful in grabbing new orders for the business. Elder siblings may succeed in career matters. Younger siblings may have unfair relations with superiors. There should be carefully discriminating situations in life.

PISCES



Ganesha says this may be a dynamic week for you. You may get the support of friends and family members. Despite the troubling environment, you will be able to stabilize your life. It is better to verify your work for some possible technical errors. Students may get decent results for their toil. Children may have youthful distractions in life. They should avoid new friendships and relations. Spouses may have financial gains through business and speculation. He/she may invest money in long-term projects. Father may have health complications regarding digestion and excretion. Elder siblings may finalize marriage decisions this week. Younger siblings may succeed in competition or be shortlisted in interviews.

Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JULY 13 TO JULY 19 BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

JULY 13

Ganesha says your fortune and prosperity are coming to you in abundance today. You may get new opportunities for growth if you attend lectures and seminars. However, speculation should be done with great caution, as this appears to be a favorable time for new endeavors and alliances. You may get a lot of appreciation for your efforts, and your original ideas may come to fruition. You may be more respected by colleagues because of your better skills and abilities.

JULY 14

Ganesha says you are a direct person who does not worry about the consequences, but you need to check your tendency to act in a self-righteous, domineering, or arrogant manner at times. At this time, your financial condition would have improved a lot. No matter how attractive new investment opportunities are, you should invest very carefully. If you do not pay attention to your expenses, then your budget can take a big blow.

JULY 15

Ganesha says that although you are well-mannered and your parents are proud of your work, you still need to learn to control your tendency to appear cynical, sad, and useless at times. You can work independently today, and this can go a long way in your career. Additionally, you may travel to distant places and make lasting connections. Your social life can be very vibrant, and there are chances that a casual encounter could turn into something more. You have the most time with this person.

JULY 16

Ganesha says you can put yourself in a better position financially and socially. Your income may increase, but you may also spend more on luxuries, which may make it very challenging for you to plan for savings. Your high expectations for your life partner can sometimes create problems. Your career can benefit from your high self-esteem and spirit. To maintain peace in the house, one should be aware of the needs of others. At the

end of the day, property disputes or long-standing issues can be resolved amicably.

JULY 17

Ganesha says you are extremely enterprising and have a natural ability to charm others, but you need to control your tendency to be moody, reckless, and sometimes impatient. Businessmen can witness the implementation of their new endeavors and plans. Frequent trips throughout the year can be enjoyable and provide opportunities to make new, valuable contacts. When dealing with challenging issues, use tact and diplomacy and try to reach a compromise.

JULY 18

Ganesha says that due to the investments made in the past, your financial condition can improve today. Health can be a concern, and preventive medicine should never be neglected. Starting a new business can be very profitable. With the improvement in the economic condition, your expenditure on amenities and other amenities may



increase. Your understanding of love may change as you become more private and keep many things to yourself. Your relationship may not have the same level of trust that it used to have earlier, which can sometimes lead to issues.

JULY 19

Ganesha says looking at career prospects can be a very beneficial time for you. The day can also prove to be very important for students who wish to pursue higher education abroad, as they may be able to get admission to their preferred college or university despite stiff competition. An accomplished person can provide fresh suggestions and unwavering support for your endeavors. If you are ready to cut down on frivolous expenses, you can also increase your income and savings.

॥ SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ॥



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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump fires all Election Assistance...

The third commissioner, Republican Christy McCormick, was allowed to resign, according to three sources within the agency. McCormick declined to comment when reached by phone. The agency's fourth commissioner, Republican Donald Palmer, voluntarily departed the agency earlier this year to join the Heritage Foundation.

The firings leave the four-member commission with no commissioners, meaning it cannot take official action until new members are installed. They also come days after the Supreme Court granted the president power to fire leaders of independent agencies, weakening a legal framework that for decades had insulated bipartisan federal commissions from direct White House control.

The EAC was created by Congress after the 2000 election to help states improve election administration without federalizing elections. Its role is mostly supportive: distributing federal election funds, maintaining the national mail voter registration form, testing and certifying voting systems, and offering best practices and guidance to state and local election officials.

Trump cannot simply install replacement EAC commissioners on his own. Commissioners must be nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, and no more than two can come from the same party.

Neither the White House nor the EAC immediately responded to a request for comment.

A possible legal test after Supreme Court rulings

The Supreme Court issued two major removal-power decisions at the end of its term in late June. In *Trump v. Slaughter*, the court overturned decades of precedent and said that the president may remove leaders of independent agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, which was the subject of the case.

In a separate case involving the Federal Reserve, however, the court recognized a different rule for Fed governors, pointing to the long historical independence of central banking institutions.

Whether bipartisan election agencies fall into the first category, the second, or some yet-undefined exception remains unresolved.

"It's an open question about the EAC and the [Federal Election Commission]," said Rick Hasen, an election law professor at UCLA. "The question has not been tested as to whether political entities created with bipartisan balance might be subject to another exception."

Earlier this year, Trump fired Ellen Weintraub, a Democratic commissioner on the FEC who had served for years in holdover status after her term expired. Weintraub did not sue, leaving unresolved whether the president can fire members of bipartisan election commissions at will.

If any of the fired EAC commissioners challenge their removals, the case could become the first direct test of whether the Supreme Court's new removal-power doctrine extends to federal election agencies structured around bipartisan balance.

The Help America Vote Act, which created the EAC, says the president is supposed to consider recommendations from the Senate and House majority and minority leaders when nominating new EAC commissioners.

In practice, Hasen said, that means both parties typically work with the administration to identify nominees. But "that's more a custom than something that's in the statute itself."

That means Trump could try to nominate Democrats acceptable to him, though they would still need Senate confirmation. HAVA does not appear to create a separate shortcut for temporary commissioners: Vacancies are filled "in the manner in which the original appointment was made," meaning presidential appointment and Senate confirmation. A recess appointment could raise separate legal questions.

A bipartisan agency with no commissioners left

The EAC does not run elections or tell local officials how to run them, but the agency has long been politically contested. Congress designed it as a bipartisan commission, with no more than two

members from the same party, but vacancies, partisan fights, and leadership turmoil have repeatedly limited its ability to act. Election officials and watchdogs have also criticized the agency at different points for failing to assert itself on election security, even as its responsibilities became more urgent after Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Hicks, the commission's chair, had served on the EAC since 2014 and previously worked for Democrats on the House Administration Committee, which oversees federal election law and election administration. Hovland joined the commission in 2019 after being unanimously confirmed by the Senate and had previously served as acting chief counsel to the Senate Rules Committee and as a senior counsel on election matters.

McCormick had served on the EAC since 2014 and previously worked as a senior trial attorney in the voting section of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

What happens while the EAC is frozen?

The immediate practical effect is clear: The EAC cannot act.

That could stall not only routine commission business, but also any attempt by the Trump administration to use the agency to alter the federal voter registration form or voting-system standards before the 2026 midterms. The EAC also oversees the federal testing and certification program for voting systems, accrediting labs and certifying whether machines meet federal standards known as the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. Many states rely on that certification before allowing voting equipment to be purchased or used.

The EAC has been without a quorum before. For years, vacancies rendered the agency unable to perform major parts of its work, contributing to long delays in updating voting-system guidance. The agency regained stability only after the Senate confirmed new commissioners in 2019.

Now, with the 2026 election cycle underway, the agency is again frozen - this time not because commissioners resigned or terms expired, but because the president removed all of them at once. (Jessica Huseman is Votebeat's editorial director and is based in Dallas. Contact Jessica at jhuseman@votebeat.org)

US launches fresh H-1B visa fraud...

"We have a program called the H-1B visa programme. This goes to show how broad-based the fraud task force is. We're fighting for your taxpayer money, but we're also making sure that fraudsters don't take advantage of these visa programs," Vance said.

Explaining the purpose of the H-1B program, Vance said it was created to allow highly skilled professionals, including scientists, doctors and technology experts, to work in the United States.

"Now why does this program exist? This is a visa program that was set up to ensure that if you were a brilliant technology person, or a brilliant scientist, or a brilliant doctor, you could come to the United States and get access to this visa program," he said.

However, Vance alleged that large corporations and overseas entities were misusing the program to reduce wages for American workers.

"But you know what's happening way too much is that big corporations and fraudsters overseas are using this program to undercut the wages of American workers," he said.

"So you know what we're doing in the Trump administration? We're saying, 'No more. If you are trying to take advantage of that visa program, you are not allowed into the United States of America,'" Vance added.

Vance said the Federal Department of Labor has initiated "dozens of subpoenas and investigations" into entities accused of attempting to exploit the H-1B visa system.

"American jobs ought to go to American workers and not foreign fraudsters, and the Department of Labor is fighting back against it!" he said.

The H-1B visa program allows US employers to petition for highly skilled foreign workers to temporarily fill positions in specialized occupations that generally require at least a bachelor's degree. Employers sponsoring H-1B workers must submit

applications certified by the US Department of Labor stating that the employment will not adversely affect the wages and working conditions of similarly employed US workers.

For India, the development is significant as the H-1B visa program serves as a key pathway for Indian professionals seeking employment opportunities in the United States, particularly in sectors such as technology, engineering, healthcare and finance. Due to India's large pool of skilled workers in specialized fields, Indian nationals account for a significant share of H-1B visa recipients each year, making changes to the programme a key issue for New Delhi.

The H-1B program is a major component of the US skilled worker immigration system, with the US Congress capping annual visas for most private employers at 65,000, along with an additional 20,000 slots for candidates with advanced degrees from US institutions.

According to immigration advocacy group FWD.us, around 730,000 H-1B visa holders currently live in the United States, along with nearly 550,000 dependents, including spouses and children. (Source: ANI)

India at the UN condemns 'Sexual...

"Today's open debate is on a subject that warrants collective deliberation by member states, particularly in the wake of findings of the UNSG's report on conflict-related sexual violence that corroborates a sharp increase in verified cases in 2025 and the extreme brutality involved. Sexual violence continues to be used as a means of war, of terrorism, torture, and political repression to subjugate communities, suppress dissent, and inflict human suffering. This continues amid a thriving culture of impunity. We strongly condemn such heinous acts," Ambassador Harish said.

Highlighting India's landmark contributions to UN peacekeeping, Harish stated that the deployment of women peacekeepers has had a "transformative impact" in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

"In India's experience, deployment of women peacekeepers is a proven measure with transformative impact in addressing CRSV. The first-ever all-women formed police unit of the UN deployed by India to Liberia in 2007 was instrumental in creating an environment for addressing criminality, deterring sexual and gender-based violence, and in helping to rebuild safety and confidence among people. The unique perspective brought by female peacekeepers also strengthens systems to deter CRSV," the Indian envoy noted.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

AG James warns about scams in...

"My heart breaks for all those impacted by this devastating earthquake in Venezuela and their families and loved ones at home here in New York," she said. "As New Yorkers seek to support relief efforts, I urge them to be careful of sham charities that prey on their generosity and make sure they are giving to trustworthy organizations and groups."

"I encourage anyone who experiences any issues when donating to contact my office," she added.

James said fraudulent organizations can try to take advantage of New Yorkers' good intentions, especially following natural disasters.

When solicited by email, James urged New Yorkers to find out who is behind that email address.

"Contact the charity whose name is in the email or visit its website to find out if the email is really from the charity," she said. "Do not give personal information or your credit card number in response to an email solicitation, unless you have checked out the charity," she said. Before giving through social media or fundraising sites, James urged to research the identity of the organizer of the fundraising efforts and ask the same questions you would of a charity.

She said online platforms that host groups and individuals soliciting for causes may not thoroughly vet those who use their service.

James said donors should only give to campaigns conducted by people whom they know.

She said donors also should take a close look at the site's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Terms and Conditions to see what fees will be charged.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra: The divine journey of faith, equality and eternal devotion

Every year, millions of devotees gather in the sacred coastal town of Puri in Odisha to witness one of Hinduism's most spectacular and spiritually uplifting festivals—the Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra. More than a grand religious procession, the Rath Yatra is a celebration of divine love, inclusivity and the timeless bond between God and devotee. As three majestic, elaborately decorated wooden chariots roll through the streets amid the chants of "Jai Jagannath," the festival transforms the town into a sea of devotion, where people from every walk of life come together in prayer and celebration.

For devotees, pulling the ropes of the chariots is not merely a ritual but a sacred act of surrender, symbolising the soul's journey towards the Divine. The festival carries profound spiritual messages that transcend religion, reminding humanity of compassion, equality and the impermanence of worldly life.

The Meaning of 'Jagannath'

The word Jagannath literally means "Lord of the Universe." Lord Jagannath is worshipped as a form of Lord Vishnu and Lord Krishna, accompanied by his elder brother Lord Balabhadra and younger sister Devi Subhadra. Unlike conventional stone idols found in most temples, the deities at the Jagannath Temple are carved from sacred neem wood, giving them a distinctive appearance that has fascinated devotees and scholars for centuries.

Their large round eyes, unfinished limbs and unique form symbolise the limitless and all-encompassing nature of the Divine. Spiritual teachers often explain that Jagannath's wide-open eyes represent His eternal watch over every living being, irrespective of caste, creed or status.

The Sacred Origins of the Rath Yatra

Ancient scriptures and local traditions offer several fascinating legends about the origin of the Rath Yatra. One popular belief is that the procession commemorates Lord Krishna's annual visit to his birthplace and relatives. Another tradition associates it with Lord Jagannath's journey to the Gundicha Temple, regarded as the home of His aunt, where He stays for several days before returning to the main temple.

The festival symbolises the Lord stepping out of His sanctum to bless all devotees. Since entry into the Jagannath Temple is restricted to practising Hindus, the Rath Yatra offers everyone, regardless of religion or nationality, an opportunity to have the darshan of the deities.

The Three Magnificent Chariots

Months before the festival begins, skilled artisans start constructing three



KEY DATES

The 2026 Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra will be celebrated on Thursday, July 16, 2026, honoring the traditional, massive chariot procession of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra, and Subhadra.

- Nabajaubana Darshan: July 15, 2026 (Wednesday)
- Rath Yatra: July 16, 2026 (Thursday)
- Bahuda Yatra (Return): July 24, 2026 (Friday)
- Suna Besha (Golden Attire): July 25, 2026 (Saturday)

enormous wooden chariots using traditional techniques passed down through generations. Remarkably, fresh chariots are built every year from specially selected wood, reflecting the Hindu philosophy of renewal and the cyclical nature of existence.

Lord Jagannath rides the majestic Nandighosha, the largest of the three chariots. Lord Balabhadra travels in Taladhawaja, while Devi Subhadra is seated in Darpadalana, also known as Devadalana.

Each chariot has its own distinctive colour, flag, guardian deities and symbolic significance. Decorated with vibrant fabrics, intricate carvings and floral adornments, they become moving temples that carry divine blessings through the streets of Puri.

Chhera Pahanra: A Lesson in Humility

One of the most moving rituals associated with the Rath Yatra is the Chhera Pahanra, during which the Gajapati King of Puri ceremonially sweeps the platforms of the chariots with a golden broom while sprinkling fragrant water.

This tradition carries a profound spiritual lesson. Despite being the temporal ruler of the region, the king performs the role of a humble servant before the Lord. The ritual reinforces the belief that no one is above God and that true greatness lies in humility, selfless

service and devotion.

It serves as a reminder that worldly power and social status fade before the Divine.

Pulling the Chariot

Perhaps the most iconic image of the Rath Yatra is thousands of devotees pulling the massive chariots with thick ropes. For believers, this is not simply a physical act but a deeply symbolic one.

The chariot represents the human body, while the ropes signify devotion and righteous action that guide the soul toward spiritual liberation. By participating in the procession, devotees express their desire to overcome ego, attachment and ignorance while moving closer to God.

Many believe that even touching the ropes or catching a glimpse of the deities during the procession brings immense spiritual merit.

A Festival That Celebrates Equality

The Jagannath tradition has long been recognised for promoting social harmony and equality. During the Rath Yatra, distinctions of caste, wealth, gender and social background dissolve as devotees stand shoulder to shoulder in devotion.

The Lord does not discriminate among His devotees. Everyone has the same opportunity to seek blessings, pull the chariot and participate in the

celebrations.

This universal message has inspired saints, poets and spiritual leaders across centuries, reinforcing the idea that divine love belongs to all humanity.

Mahaprasad: The Blessing Shared by All

An integral part of Jagannath worship is the sacred Mahaprasad, prepared in the temple's traditional kitchens using age-old methods. It is considered one of the largest community kitchens in the world, where food is cooked in earthen pots over wood-fired stoves.

The Mahaprasad is shared without discrimination, emphasising the ideals of equality, gratitude and collective harmony. Eating the blessed food together is regarded as an act of spiritual unity that transcends social divisions.

For many pilgrims, receiving Mahaprasad is as spiritually significant as witnessing the Rath Yatra itself.

Spiritual Lessons from the Divine Journey

Beyond its grandeur, the Rath Yatra offers timeless lessons relevant even in modern life.

It reminds us that God is not confined within temple walls but walks among people, sharing their joys and sorrows. The moving chariots symbolise life's journey, where progress is possible only when guided by faith, humility and righteous actions.

The annual rebuilding of the chariots teaches that change is inevitable and renewal is essential for spiritual growth. The king sweeping the chariot illustrates that leadership must be rooted in service. The participation of millions demonstrates the strength of collective devotion and the unifying power of faith.

Above all, the festival inspires devotees to let go of pride, cultivate compassion and recognise the Divine presence in every individual.

MY FIFA DIARY

Kylian Mbappe hawks the headlines again, scores his 20th World Cup goal, to carry France to last 4



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

JULY 10, 2026

FOXBOROUGH (TIP): Leading by example, Kylian Mbappe, overcame his first half penalty miss, to score in the second to carry France to semifinals of the FIFA World Cup 2026 on Thursday, July 9. It was his goal in the 60th minute that opened way for France to eliminate Morocco, 2-0, in the first quarterfinal played before a packed Boston stadium.

With this defeat of Morocco, the challenge of Africa ended in the 2026 World Cup.

They say history repeats itself. It did as the race for the golden boot entered an exciting round. Kylian Mbappe has joined Lionel Messi at the top of the list of individual goal scorers by taking his tally to eight. Interestingly, like Lionel Messi, who muffed a penalty in the round of 16 game against Egypt and later scored the second goal for his team to take the defending champions to quarterfinals, Mbappe did the same.

After missing a penalty, that he had earned after he was tripped in the Moroccan striking circle, Kylian Mbappe made amends as he scored a brilliant field goal in the 60th minute to put pre-tournament favourites France ahead. This was Mbappe's 20th goal in 20 World Cup matches while Lionel Messi has 21 goals from his 31 World Cup matches.

Mbappe scored his eighth goal in five matches before setting up Ousmane Dembele (66th minute) for his fifth as the two-time champions booked a last-four meeting with either Belgium or Spain.

France signaled its intent early, with Dayot Upamecano heading a fifth-minute corner straight at Yassine Bounou. After dominating possession, Les Bleus were handed a golden opportunity to take the lead when Noussair Mazraoui brought down Mbappe in the penalty area. The France captain stepped up, but Bounou produced a fine save to send the sides in level at the break.

The much-needed breakthrough came on the hour mark when Mbappe curled a superb finish into the far corner from the edge of the area. The France talisman turned provider moments later, slipping Dembele through to fire a composed finish into the bottom corner.

The French comfortably saw out the remainder to reach a third successive World Cup semi-final, following its triumph in 2018 and runners-up finish to Argentina at Qatar 2022.

Mbappe was withdrawn with 13 minutes remaining after raising his arm to the bench and lying down on the floor



July 9, 2026; Foxborough, Massachusetts, U.S.; France's Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring their first goal. Photo Credit: David Butler li-Image Images

while Morocco had the ball in play. He did not appear in great distress but stretched out his right leg with assistance from one of France's medical team. Mbappe then waved to the crowd on his way off and gave high-fives to his team-mates on the bench.

Subsequently Mbappe was seen with ice resting on his right foot, but he joined his team's celebrations after the final whistle.

The win takes the 2022 finalists into the last four of this tournament, setting up a semi-final against the winner of Friday's clash between Spain and Belgium.

The only non-European team left in the contest is defending champions Argentina who take on Belgium while England and Norway figure in the other quarterfinal.

Favourites French are so dangerous, particularly when ahead, because opponents have to open up to chase a result. This means France's turbo-charged forwards have the space to do even more damage.

Against Morocco, that is exactly what happened after Mbappe's opening goal, with Dembele springing the counter-attack followed by a finish that secured his team's place in the next round.

Spain, England, and Argentina certainly have the attacking thrust and individual ability to cause France more problems than any of the sides they have faced so far.

There is no doubt that France have the best starting XI at this World Cup and the deepest squad but tournament football history teaches you it ultimately only takes a few minutes for a whole campaign to unravel.

"It's good, it was a tough match. Today, we missed a penalty and failed to convert some chances. With Kylian [Mbappe], there's no issue, he never doubts himself, even though he had a chance before he

scored. We are exactly where we wanted to be. We will recover well and see who our opponent will be. I imagine there's a lot of excitement and passion in France. Here, we are in our own bubble, and I am even more so. That's what we're here for, and the players have a duty to do everything they can to go as far as possible. We've cleared a major hurdle," said Didier Deschamps, France head coach.

"We have to admit we faced a very good opponent. We struggled a lot in the first half, and Bounou's penalty save kept us in the game. We defended better in the second half and were calmer in possession. In the end, it was an individual piece of brilliance from Mbappe. It was a difficult feeling, but we have to keep working. We need more options on the bench when we have injuries, absences, and fatigue, but of course we're disappointed.

"The future will be bright if we continue like this, but that doesn't mean we didn't want to win today. Of course we wanted to win today. We did everything we could to win, but we faced a very difficult opponent. It's a disappointment, of course, but we'll keep working for the future. We know we represent more than just one country. We represent the Moroccan people, and many countries across Asia and Africa. Many people see themselves in this team, and we'll keep working to win titles in the future," said Mohamed Ouahbi, Morocco coach.

"I took a knock to the ankle, but I'm fine. At that point, JP [Jean-Philippe Mateta] was in better shape than I was to play the final minutes. The secret to this France team? There's only one way to relax, and that's by winning. Until we've done that, we don't let up. We're in the semi-finals and we're very happy, but there's still a long way to go. We realize that what lies ahead is even tougher than what we've been through, but we're ready

to face anything," commented Kylian Mbappe, France captain, after the game.

"We're very happy. We were really focused on this match. This is my third World Cup semi-final with the French team. It's pure joy, pure pleasure. We're going to stay focused on what's coming next. Two or three minutes before my goal, Kylian [Mbappe] told me to stay central. He made a great run that opened up the path for me. I really wanted to get the shot on target and see it go in. I'm happy," is how Ousmane Dembele, France forward, reacted in the post-match media interaction.

"It's good, it was a tough match. Today, we missed a penalty and failed to convert some chances. With Kylian [Mbappé], there's no issue, he never doubts himself, even though he had a chance before he scored. We are exactly where we wanted to be. We will recover well and see who our opponent will be. I imagine there's a lot of excitement and passion in France. Here, we are in our own bubble, and I am even more so. That's what we're here for, and the players have a duty to do everything they can to go as far as possible. We've cleared a major, it was a tough match. Today, we missed a penalty and failed to convert some chances. With Kylian [Mbappé], there's no issue, he never doubts himself, even though he had a chance before he scored. We are exactly where we wanted to be. We will recover well and see who our opponent will be. I imagine there's a lot of excitement and passion in France. Here, we are in our own bubble, and I am even more so. That's what we're here for, and the players have a duty to do everything they can to go as far as possible. We've cleared a major hurdle", said Didier Deschamps, France head coach.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist who writes on Sports, politics and community. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

MY FIFA DIARY

Will Halftime Music Show assuage the hurt feelings of participating nations?



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

JULY 10, 2026

TORONTO (TIP): Can umpiring flare-ups, VAR wrangling, administrative interference and denial of equal opportunities to one or more of the participating nations in the ongoing FIFA World Cup be drowned in a programme of music that FIFA proposes for the final match of the tournament?

FIFA said on Wednesday, July 8, that "football, music and social impact will come together in the first-ever FIFA World Cup final halftime show on Sunday, July 19, at New York New Jersey Stadium.

While FIFA claims that besides organizing the world's biggest single-sport mega-event in three countries simultaneously, it also remains alive to its "mission to expand access to quality education and football opportunities for children around the world".

The ongoing FIFA World Cup, however, has been rife with various controversies, including discrimination or denial of equal participatory rights to participating nations, besides umpiring and officiating blues, alleged VAR wranglings and direct interference by the US President, Donald Trump, over the suspension of red card penalization of an American player.

Iran, Croatia, Egypt and Belgium, among others, have reasons to feel that "all was not well during the FIFA World Cup 2026". They have their reasons to feel aggrieved. Their grievances cannot be mitigated by a halftime music show during the final game.

The game, they feel, comes first, and rules should be the same for everyone, irrespective of the region, nationality or ethnicity of a team.

The round of 32 witnessed violent protests by spectators when they threw water bottles inside the Toronto Stadium during the Portugal-Croatia match after a Croatian goal was disallowed by a VAR ruling. There may be a technicality involved, but to spectators, it appeared to be a "subjective" VAR intervention to deny Croatia the equalizer.

Egyptians too went away unhappy as they protested against both denial of a goal on the grounds of a foul earlier in the play and also a possible penalty when their star player Mohd Salah was fouled in the Argentinian penalty box.

Belgium could not hold back its disappointment over the suspension of the red card punishment given to US striker Folarin Balogun for the round of 16 match. Some other European teams, including Norway, also expressed their displeasure

PRABHJOT REPORTS ON FIFA WORLD CUP CONTROVERSIES (VAR, OFFICIATING, RED CARD ISSUES) POTENTIALLY OVERSHADOWING THE PLANNED HALFTIME SHOW.

■ **The halftime show, July 19th at NY/NJ Stadium, will feature Justin Bieber, Madonna, Shakira, and BTS as co-headliners.**

■ **Burna Boy, Gustavo Dudamel, and PS22 Chorus ft. Coldplay also performing; show supports FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund.**

■ **Over \$50 million raised so far, including \$1 from every ticket for education projects globally.**



over the "red card" decision that was believed to have been influenced by US President Donald Trump's intervention.

FIFA will do well to keep its organizational skills transparent in the public domain rather than allegedly taking shelter behind its own designed tools and rules. Cultural and music events are important, and they are cherished more if the participants are convinced of "fair play" and FIFA's own slogan "Football unites".

Back to the halftime show. The highlights of the programme, says FIFA, include Burna Boy, Gustavo Dudamel, and PS22 Chorus featuring Coldplay, all set to perform during the break.

"Over USD 50 million has already been raised, which includes USD 1 from every ticket sold to FIFA World Cup matches being donated to support social projects around the world.

"FIFA and Global Citizen are pleased to announce that global superstar Justin Bieber has joined as co-headliner of the historic FIFA World Cup 2026 final halftime show, taking place on Sunday, July 19.

"Justin Bieber joins Madonna, Shakira and BTS as co-headliners for the first-ever FIFA World Cup final halftime show, bringing together some of the world's biggest artists for a landmark celebration at the intersection of sport, music and global impact.

"Burna Boy, whose global smash hit 'Dai Dai' with Shakira continues to dominate the charts worldwide, will also appear during the 11-minute broadcast, alongside Gustavo Dudamel, the internationally acclaimed Venezuelan conductor and music and artistic director of the New

York Philharmonic, and the Webby Award-winning PS 22 Chorus featuring Coldplay.

"When it comes to what the world needs, there is nothing more important than education. We are proud to have Justin Bieber joining Madonna, Shakira and BTS to co-headline the show in support of the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund and our mission to expand access to quality education and football opportunities for children around the world," said FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

"Burna Boy, Gustavo Dudamel and PS 22 Chorus ft. Coldplay will also join and play a key role in conveying a powerful message of unity and hope to billions of people worldwide. As the world unites for the most significant football match in history on Sunday, 19 July 2026, at the New York New Jersey Stadium, this groundbreaking spectacle, curated by Chris Martin of Coldplay, will celebrate football, music and our shared values, ensuring a legacy that transcends the final whistle.

"The FIFA World Cup brings the world together in a way nothing else can. I'm grateful to be part of this Halftime Show, and even more grateful knowing it's already helping expand access to education for children around the world," said Justin Bieber.

"The FIFA World Cup is one of the few moments that truly brings the entire world together. To represent Africa on the first-ever FIFA World Cup Final halftime show is a privilege and a responsibility that I don't take lightly. I'm honored to be part of a performance that not only celebrates football and culture but also helps create greater opportunities for children through education around the

world," added Burna Boy. Characters from Sesame Street and The Muppets, who have brought joyful learning to children around the world for generations, will be part of the show. Their inclusion reinforces the purpose of the FIFA World Cup 2026 Final Halftime Show: to help ensure children around the world have access to quality education.

The FIFA Show is being produced by Global Citizen in partnership with Live Nation and Done + Dusted. In a short film announcing the performers, Coldplay's Chris Martin unveiled the star-studded lineup and said that the show will be "all about togetherness... and everyone's invited".

In May 2026, FIFA and Global Citizen had announced the first group of organizations to receive grants from the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, supporting programs that provide access to education and football for children in underserved communities across ten countries.

By supporting proven, community-led models that combine education, sport and local engagement, the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund seeks to broaden access to learning, improve educational outcomes and create pathways to opportunity for children in some of the world's most underserved communities.

The non-fiduciary FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund Advisory Board includes FIFA President Gianni Infantino, Global Citizen Co-Founder and CEO Hugh Evans, Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira, Australian actor Hugh Jackman, US businesswoman and entrepreneur Ivanka Trump, Canadian singer-songwriter The Weeknd, US tennis great Serena Williams, Brazilian football legend Kaká, and Bank of America Co-President Jim DeMare.

Additionally, through FIFA's Unite for Education campaign, the FIFA World Cup 2026 is showcasing tournament-wide football's power to expand access to education and create a lasting impact beyond the pitch. Featured during the Round of 16, Quarter-finals and Semi-finals, players will wear the 'Unite for Education' sleeve patch to raise awareness of initiatives.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist who writes on Sports, politics and community. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

JULY 10, 2026

BRISTOL (TIP): India's struggles in the five-match T20I series against England continued on Thursday, July 9, as they suffered a nine-wicket defeat in the fourth game in Bristol, handing the hosts a 3-0 lead with one match still to play.

The defeat marked the second series loss under new captain Shreyas Iyer, who continues to search for his first victory as India's T20I skipper.

This marks the first time England have defeated India in a bilateral T20I series involving two or more matches. India had won five of their previous six bilateral T20I series against England, while one series ended in a draw.

Before the ongoing tour, India's last two bilateral series defeats against England across formats came during the 2018 tour, when they lost the ODI series 2-1 and the Test series 4-1.

Since then, India had enjoyed a dominant run against England, winning eight of their 10 bilateral series, with the remaining two being drawn Test series in England that ended 2-2.

After the opening match was washed out due to rain, England bounced back in dominant fashion, winning three successive games to seal the series.

Chasing a modest target of 159, England's batters made light work of India's bowling attack, with Harry Brook and Phil Salt smashing commanding half-centuries to guide the hosts home in just 13.5 overs.

Salt slammed 59 runs off 42 balls, while skipper Brook smashed 79 off just 35 balls laced with 8 fours and 4 sixes.

Earlier, India struggled to find

England crush India by 9 wickets to seal historic T20I series win in Bristol



Bristol: England's captain Harry Brook and Phil Salt celebrate their win in the fourth T20 International between India and England in the India tour of England 2026 at the County Ground in Bristol, England, on Thursday, July 9, 2026. (Photo: IANS)

momentum with the bat, managing 158/7 despite a fighting unbeaten knock from Iyer. The captain stood tall amid the collapse, scoring 80 not out off 49 deliveries, but lacked support from the other end as England's bowlers kept the

visitors in check.

Young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi endured another disappointing outing, falling for 15 off 10 balls after being dismissed by Jofra Archer.

Archer and Josh Tongue were the pick of

the England bowling attack, claiming two wickets each to restrict India's scoring rate. With the series already decided, India will look to salvage pride in the final T20I, while England will aim to complete a comprehensive series victory. *Source: ANI*

JULY 10, 2026

LONDON (TIP): Linda Noskova didn't pay much attention to tennis as a kid until she watched Czech compatriot Petra Kvitová win the Wimbledon final in 2011.

"That is maybe one of the first moments when I realized that such a sport as tennis exists," the 21-year-old Noskova said after playing on Centre Court at the All England Club for the first time on Thursday, July 9.

More Czech kids will surely be watching on Saturday when the country is guaranteed to add another champion to its rich legacy at Wimbledon.

Noskova beat Marta Kostyuk in straight sets to set up an all-Czech women's final against Karolina Muchová, who earlier outlasted Coco Gauff in a dramatic third-set tiebreaker.

It means there will be a third Czech female champion at the All England Club in four years, after Marketa Vondroušová in 2023 and Barbora Krejčíková in 2024.

"It's a tradition at this point," Noskova said.

The country's lineage goes back much further, of course. When Krejčíková won her title, she thanked 1998 Wimbledon winner Jana Novotná for having pushed her into professional tennis.

And Novotná, like all the Czech players after her, was inspired by the greatest Wimbledon champion of all — Martina Navrátilová, who won a record nine singles titles at the All England Club.

From Martina to Muchova: All-Czech final at Wimbledon continues the country's tennis legacy



"We have a great history of Czech tennis," Muchová said. "When I was younger, looking up to the girls who were like maybe five years older than I was, you can just see them doing so well. So it gave me the belief that I can as well do it. That's how it worked for me."

Navrátilová was at Centre Court on Thursday as well, doing TV commentary for the BBC. She is likely to watch Saturday's final from the Royal Box, where she is a regular visitor.

"I can relax and just enjoy, because we're going to have another Czech

winner," Navrátilová said. "Czech women are certainly pulling their weight at Wimbledon, I tell you. This is crazy good."

The semifinal matches marked the first time playing on Centre Court for both Muchová and Noskova. They came to the venue together earlier to warm up and just get used to the grandeur of it all.

The two are good friends, having played doubles together at the Paris Olympics in 2024, but will have to put that aside on Saturday.

It will be the ninth-ranked Muchová's second Grand Slam final after losing to Iga Świątek in the 2023 French Open championship match.

The 21-year-old Noskova had never been past the fourth round at Wimbledon, having come that far last year, and her best Grand Slam result was reaching the quarterfinals at the 2024 Australian Open.

Asked to explain the continued Czech excellence at Wimbledon, Noskova had a few theories.

"We are very creative," she said, "so grass allows us to kind of use any side of tennis. If it's serve and volley back in the old days, if it's slices and volleys in this new era. I would say that we have all these sides that we can use, that grass allows us, and it's showing."

Kumarakom: Where Kerala's backwaters whisper stories of serenity

There are destinations that impress with towering monuments, bustling markets or dramatic landscapes, and then there are places like Kumarakom that captivate visitors with silence. Nestled on the tranquil banks of the vast Vembanad Lake in Kerala's Kottayam district, Kumarakom is a place where time appears to slow down. Coconut palms sway gently in the breeze, narrow canals weave through emerald paddy fields, and traditional houseboats glide gracefully across mirror-like waters. Life here unfolds at an unhurried pace, inviting travellers to disconnect from the chaos of modern living and reconnect with nature.

Often described as the jewel of Kerala's famous backwaters, Kumarakom is more than a picturesque holiday destination. It is a harmonious blend of nature, culture, village life, rich biodiversity and authentic Kerala hospitality. Whether you seek romance, birdwatching, wellness, photography or simply a peaceful escape, Kumarakom offers experiences that linger long after the journey ends.

A Paradise on shores of Vembanad Lake

Kumarakom owes much of its charm to Vembanad Lake, the longest lake in India and one of Kerala's most important wetlands. Stretching across several districts, the lake supports a thriving ecosystem while serving as the lifeline for countless fishing communities.

The calm waters reflect endless skies, clusters of coconut trees and passing boats, creating postcard-perfect scenery throughout the day. At sunrise, mist rises gently from the lake as fishermen cast their Chinese fishing nets, while evenings bring spectacular sunsets that paint the waters in shades of gold and crimson. A leisurely cruise across Vembanad is perhaps the best way to appreciate the timeless beauty of Kumarakom.

The Houseboat Experience

No visit to Kumarakom is complete without spending a day-or better still, a night-aboard a traditional Kerala houseboat, locally known as a kettuvallam. Once used to transport rice and spices through Kerala's waterways, these beautifully crafted wooden boats have been transformed into floating hotels equipped with comfortable bedrooms, dining areas and open decks.

As the houseboat drifts through narrow canals lined with coconut groves and traditional villages, travellers witness everyday life unfolding along the water. Children wave from village banks, women wash clothes by the canals, fishermen paddle narrow canoes, and ducks swim in neat formations across the waterways. Freshly prepared Kerala cuisine, featuring seafood, local vegetables, coconut-based curries and aromatic spices, adds another memorable dimension to the journey. An overnight stay on a houseboat allows visitors to



experience the magical stillness of the backwaters after sunset, when only the sounds of birds, crickets and gently rippling water break the silence.

Haven for Bird Lovers

Nature enthusiasts find Kumarakom especially rewarding because of the renowned Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Spread across lush wetlands, mangrove forests and marshes, the sanctuary attracts hundreds of resident and migratory bird species throughout the year. During the winter months, visitors may spot Siberian storks, herons, egrets,

and numerous waterfowl arriving from distant regions. Early morning walks through the sanctuary provide excellent opportunities for birdwatching and photography as the forest awakens with birdsong. Even outside the sanctuary, the entire backwater region serves as a rich habitat for aquatic life and migratory birds.

Village Life Along the Backwaters

One of Kumarakom's greatest attractions lies in its authentic rural character. Unlike many commercial

tourist destinations, the villages here continue to preserve traditional lifestyles shaped by the rhythms of the waterways. Visitors can cycle through narrow village roads shaded by coconut palms, watch coir-making demonstrations, observe toddy tapping, or interact with local artisans producing handicrafts from natural materials. Canoe rides through narrow canals reveal scenes rarely visible from larger boats, offering intimate glimpses into everyday village life.

These experiences provide meaningful cultural connections while supporting local communities.

A Destination for Wellness

Kerala has long been associated with Ayurveda, and Kumarakom offers an ideal setting for rejuvenation. Surrounded by nature and free from urban distractions, many wellness resorts combine traditional Ayurvedic therapies with yoga, meditation and nutritious local cuisine.

Therapeutic oil massages, herbal steam baths and personalised wellness programmes aim to restore balance between body and mind. For travellers seeking relaxation rather than sightseeing, Kumarakom provides the perfect environment to unwind.

The peaceful surroundings naturally encourage mindfulness, making every sunrise and sunset feel like a form of meditation.

Savouring the Flavors of Kerala

Food is an integral part of the Kumarakom experience. Fresh ingredients sourced from the lake and nearby farms form the foundation of the region's cuisine. Seafood lovers can enjoy pearl spot fish (Karimeen), prawns, crab and mussels prepared with fragrant spices and coconut. Vegetarian dishes such as avial, thoran, olan and sambar showcase Kerala's culinary diversity, while fluffy appams, puttu and idiyappam pair beautifully with rich vegetable or seafood curries. Meals served on banana leaves add authenticity, and many houseboats prepare traditional recipes using ingredients purchased fresh each morning from local markets.

Best Time to Visit

Kumarakom welcomes visitors throughout the year, though the most pleasant weather is generally experienced between October and March, when temperatures remain comfortable and migratory birds arrive in large numbers. The monsoon season, from June to September, transforms the landscape into a lush green paradise. While occasional heavy showers occur, many travellers consider this the most beautiful time to experience Kerala's natural beauty, especially for Ayurvedic treatments that are traditionally believed to be more beneficial during the rainy season.

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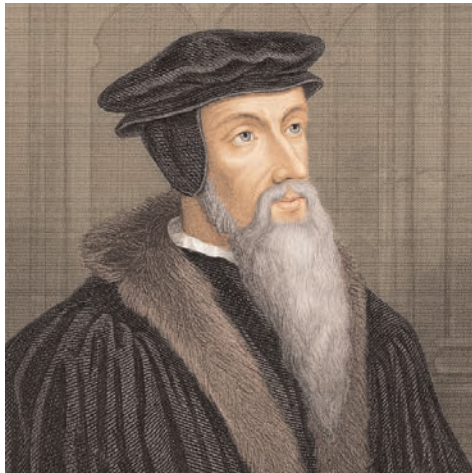
JULY 10 - JULY 16

JULY 10

July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.



Birthdays - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.

Birthdays - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait Whistler's Mother.

Birthdays - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in *The Past Recaptured*, "is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."

Birthdays - Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S. men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a \$5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.

JULY 11



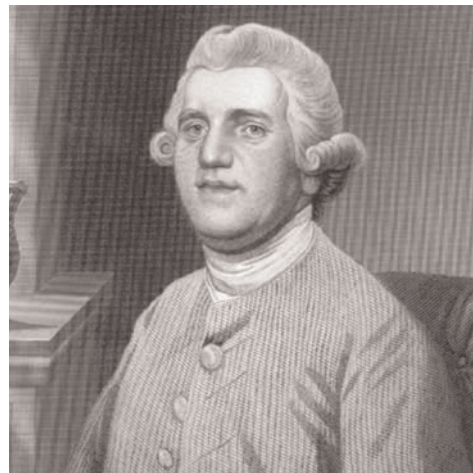
Birthdays - John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) the 6th U.S. President, and son of the 2nd President, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. After serving just one term as President, he served 17 years as a member of

Congress. He died in 1848 while in the House of Representatives in the same room in which he had taken the presidential Oath of Office. He was the first president whose father had also been president.

JULY 12

July 12, 1943 - During World War II, in the Battle of Kursk, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

July 12, 1994 - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions. On July 14, German military units marched in Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, the first appearance of German troops there since World War II.



Birthdays - British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

Birthdays - American philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was born in Concord, Massachusetts. At Walden Pond he wrote, "I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

JULY 13

July 13, 1787 - Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance establishing formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provided for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance included a Bill of Rights that guaranteed freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.

JULY 14

July 14, 1789 - The fall of the Bastille occurred at the beginning of the French Revolution.

July 14, 1791 - In England, the Birmingham riot occurred on the second anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. Mob rule lasted for three days, targeting

controversial scientist and theologian Joseph Priestly's home and laboratory as well as the homes of his friends. Priestly, who had expressed support for the American and French revolutions, fled to London with his family and later moved to America.



Birthdays - American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Best known for *This Land Is Your Land*, *Union Maid*, and *Hard Traveling*.

Birthdays - Gerald R. Ford, the 38th U.S. President was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913 (as Leslie King). In 1973, he was appointed vice president following the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. He became president on August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon. He was the first non-elected vice president and non-elected president of the U.S.

JULY 15

July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.



Birthdays - Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) was born in Leiden, Holland. Best known for *The Night Watch* and many portraits and self portraits.

Birthdays - The first American saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was born in Lombardy, Italy. She was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the

Sacred Heart of Jesus and established Catholic schools, orphanages, convents and hospitals. She was canonized, July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII.

JULY 16

July 16, 1769 - San Diego was founded as the mission San Diego de Alcalá by Father Junípero Serra.

July 16, 1945 - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

July 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

July 16, 1999 - A small plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. took off at 8:38 p.m. from Fairfield, New Jersey, heading toward Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren were passengers on the 200 mile trip. The plane was expected to arrive about 10 p.m. but disappeared off radar at 9:40 p.m. Five days later, July 21, following an extensive search, the bodies were recovered from the plane wreckage in 116 feet of water roughly 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard. The next day, following an autopsy, the cremated remains of John F. Kennedy, 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and her sister Lauren, 34, were scattered at sea from a U.S. Navy ship, with family members present, not far from where the plane had crashed.

Birthdays - British portrait painter Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was born in Plympton, Devon, England.



Birthdays - Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) was born near Concord, New Hampshire.

Birthdays - African American journalist and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was born to slaves at Holly Springs, Missouri. Following the Civil War, as lynchings became prevalent, Wells traveled extensively, founding anti-lynching societies and black women's clubs.



Birthdays - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was born near Oslo. He was the first to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean via the Northwest Passage. He discovered the South Pole in 1911 and flew over the North Pole in a dirigible in 1926. In June 1928, he flew from Norway to rescue survivors of an Italian Arctic expedition, but his plane vanished.



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 doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



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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