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GEN Z STUDENTS PROTEST IN INDIA GETS WORLDWIDE SUPPORT

Brutal beating of peaceful protesters invites universal condemnation of Modi government

I.S. SALUJA
JULY 24, 2026
NEW DELHI (TIP)

What began as an online satirical movement has exploded into the most formidable public challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in his third term. Tens of thousands of Gen Z student protesters have taken to the streets of New Delhi and major urban hubs, attracting intense international attention and sparking demonstrations among the global Indian diaspora.

At the center of this sudden uprising is the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), a political pressure group formed after remarks attributed to India's chief justice compared unemployed youth to

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India's youth-led Cockroach movement vows to keep demanding reforms after police crackdown.

Photo courtesy/ Courthouse News Service



US Tariff Hikes Linked to Claims of Foreign Forced Labor Dismay, Anger Major Trading Partners

Hikes Face immediate court challenge



Trump announces new tariffs at the White House on April 2, 2025. -File photo / AP

JULY 24, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

U.S. President Donald Trump's latest set of tariffs drew objections Friday, July 24, from America's trading partners including China and Japan, with Australia's trade minister slamming them as "completely unjustified", says AP. The administration announced tariffs of 10% to 12.5% on 60 economies late Thursday, saying the countries had

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Republic of India President Droupadi Murmu arrives in Bucharest on a historic three-day State Visit to Romania

I.S. SALUJA
JULY 24, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

President of Republic of India Droupadi Murmu arrived to a warm welcome in Bucharest, Romania on July 23, 2026, on a historic three-day State Visit. This marks the final leg of her three-nation European tour after visiting Moldova and North Macedonia.

The diplomatic visit is highly significant as it is the first time an Indian president has visited Romania in over three decades. Her official engagements continued through today, July 24, 2026. President Murmu was accorded a ceremonial welcome at Cotroceni Palace by Romanian

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President Murmu arrived in Romania on a three-day State Visit. Romania government officials and India's Ambassador to Romania and Moldova, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra with his wife received Her Excellency at Bucharest airport on her arrival on July 23, 2026



Consul General Binaya S. Pradhan and UP Chancellor Joan Gabel signing agreement to continue hosting visiting scholars in Pittsburgh.

Photo courtesy/ CGI New York

University of Pittsburgh, India renew academic partnership for Indian Studies Chair

JULY 18, 2026
PITTSBURGH (TIP)

The University of Pittsburgh and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations have renewed their partnership to support the ICCR of Indian Studies. Ambassador Binay S. Pradhan, the Consul General of India in New York, and Dr. Joan Gabel, chancellor of the

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COMMENT

Not by Stick Alone, Mr. Modi

THE IRON FIST OF AUTOCRACY DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK

BY INDRAJIT
SALUJA

By now, the global community can no longer look away from the desperate, furious clamor of India's youth-the betrayed Gen-Z cohort. For weeks, young citizens have flooded the streets, driven not by choice, but by the sheer, terrifying instinct of survival. They are demanding a future stripped of institutional rot. Yet, instead of meeting this vital generational plea with administrative accountability or democratic dialogue, the ruling regime has unleashed a campaign of unmitigated state terror. The official response to peaceful dissent has been a brutal use of state violence: fractured skulls, tear gas, arbitrary detentions, and the systematic demonization of the nation's most valuable human asset.

The hypocrisy underlying this violent crackdown is as grotesque as it is undeniable. On the grand stages of global diplomacy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his ideological apparatus relentlessly peddle the ancient Sanskrit doctrine of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, the world is one family. This lofty rhetoric is deployed as a geopolitical branding exercise to project India as a benevolent, moral leader on the world stage. However, domestic reality exposes this global posture as an outright facade. The entire world can now witness the utter cruelty with which this regime treats its own domestic "family". If the nation is a household, then the current administration acts as its abusive patriarch, terrorizing the very youth it promises to nurture. You cannot claim the universe is your kin while treating your own children as disposable insurgent forces.

The genesis of this nationwide unrest is rooted in a devastating academic dystopia. Today's youth are trapped in an economic landscape defined by catastrophic unemployment, where education, the final sanctuary of meritocracy-has been completely subverted. The structural collapse of India's testing systems was blown wide open by the catastrophic National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) paper leak scandal. Over two million aspiring medical students saw their dreams hijacked when actual exam questions were commercialized on Telegram and WhatsApp by an organized, multi-state mafia network. The subsequent forced cancellation and chaotic re-examinations did not just destroy academic schedules; the immense psychological trauma drove over a dozen desperate students to suicide.

This institutional betrayal ignited a historic youth uprising, catalyzed by the sudden rise of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP)-a satirical online youth campaign that rapidly exploded into a

formidable real-world political force. Gathering by the thousands at central Delhi's Jantar Mantar and marching on Parliament, these young boys and girls have demanded the immediate resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the complete dissolution of the compromised National Testing Agency (NTA). The moral gravity of their fight was underscored when legendary educator and environmentalist Sonam Wangchuk joined the students at Jantar Mantar, launching an intense 26-day hunger strike to force the regime to listen.

Instead of displaying a shred of empathy, the Modi administration chose to view its young citizens through the paranoid lens of national security, treating them as domestic enemies. This aggressive stance is a direct mutation of an old colonial hangover, driven by a



deeply authoritarian mindset: how dare the subjects question the rulers. It is a feudal ideology that views public accountability as an act of treason deserving of immediate, crushing retaliation.

To enforce this tyrannical conformity, the state deployed militarized police forces to violently suppress student assemblies from New Delhi to Mumbai. At Jantar Mantar, peaceful student demonstrators were met with severe lathi charges, and security forces forcibly dragged a fasting, weakened Sonam Wangchuk into hospital isolation to break the visual focus of the movement. Viral footage exposed the raw cruelty of the state, catching Mumbai police threatening protesting students with fabricated drug charges if they dared return to the streets.

The sight of unarmed young boys and girls being chased and beaten exposes a regime that has entirely abandoned the rule of law in favor of raw, coercive power. This hyper-aggressive posture reveals an administration thoroughly intoxicated by its political hegemony and blinded by ideological arrogance. The Modi government appears to operate under the delusion that its electoral majority grants it an absolute license to govern through vengeance, intimidation, and state-sanctioned violence. The widespread misery across India today is the inevitable byproduct of this severe misgovernance. When political

leadership relies on terror rather than public trust to maintain order, it ceases to be a legitimate democratic government and transforms into an occupying force.

The ruling elite must understand that genuine governance cannot be sustained by the strike of a baton. True authority requires structural integrity, the protection of civil liberties, and an unyielding commitment to the welfare of the people. In a constitutional republic, the citizens are the sovereign masters, and the politicians are merely temporary custodians. To treat the electorate as subjugated masses to be beaten into submission is a dangerous perversion of the democratic contract.

History is a graveyard of regimes that mistook public patience for permanent submission and institutional control for absolute invincibility. When a state consistently answers the legitimate cries of its people with state terror, it slowly constructs the machinery of its own downfall. No amount of police state infrastructure can indefinitely withstand the collective, concentrated wrath of a population pushed beyond its limits.

The Modi regime has stark, contemporary warnings flashing right along its borders. The South Asian neighborhood offers definitive proof of what occurs when an arrogant political class detaches itself from the material suffering of its citizens. Recent history has shown that when youth-led popular movements reach a tipping point against systemic corruption and economic tyranny, even the most entrenched autocrats are forced to flee.

When a generation realizes it has absolutely nothing left to lose, the regime's walls of barbed wire and armed guards quickly become useless. The current path of heavy-handed state terror and systemic exploitation is entirely unsustainable. India's youth are not a threat to be neutralized; they are the sole engine of the country's existence. Beating them into silence does nothing to solve the underlying crises of an economic collapse or a ruined educational system; it merely compresses a powder keg that will eventually explode.

Prime Minister Modi must recognize that governing by the stick alone yields rapidly diminishing returns. The youth of India will not be terrorized into accepting a stolen future. If this administration continues to choose violence over justice and arrogance over accountability, it will permanently shatter the nation. The very tools of state oppression used today to silence dissent can, under the unstoppable weight of historical inevitability, be turned around.

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India Urges UNSC Reform: Rejects Pakistan Claims

Ambassador Parvathaneni outlines five-point framework to terminate outdated mandates and clarify conflict definitions

I.S. SALUJA
JULY 22, 2026
UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, called for a clear distinction between armed aggression and peaceful disputes during a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on Tuesday.

Speaking at the session on strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes, India outlined a five-point approach to conflict resolution while urging the UN to eliminate outdated mandates draining its budget. The debate also saw a sharp diplomatic exchange, with India strongly rejecting statements made by Pakistan regarding Jammu and Kashmir.

FIVE-POINT FRAMEWORK FOR REFORM

Ambassador Parvathaneni emphasized that the Security Council must adapt its Charter mechanisms to reflect modern geopolitical realities. He presented five core principles to guide the council's future actions.

DEFINING CONFLICTS CLEARLY

India cautioned against projecting armed aggression or illegal occupation as mere "disputes". Parvathaneni noted that the council rarely makes formal determinations of armed aggression, creating ambiguity over whether Chapter VI (peaceful settlement) or Chapter VII (enforcement actions) applies.

REJECTING IDENTITY-BASED DIVISION

The ambassador stated that linking dispute



Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, called for a clear distinction between armed aggression and peaceful disputes during a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate on Tuesday, July 21.

settlements to race, ethnicity, or religion reflects a divisive approach and a lack of good-faith engagement.

REVIEWING CHAPTER VI INTERVENTIONS

India argued that tools under Chapter VI do not hold perpetual validity. Interventions must respect existing bilateral procedures and be reviewed as circumstances change.

TERMINATING OBSOLETE MANDATES

India called for a comprehensive evaluation of UNSC mandates under the "UN80" framework. Parvathaneni asserted that outdated mandates should not continue indefinitely without sunset clauses at the expense of

the constrained UN budget.

EVALUATING REGIONAL GROUPINGS

While noting that established regional organizations can complement UN efforts, India argued that cross-regional groups lacking geographic ties or domain expertise should not be treated with the same validity.

REJECTION OF PAKISTANI STATEMENTS

During the session, the Indian delegation strongly criticized Pakistan for attempting to use the UN platform to advance a divisive agenda.

"The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has always been, is, and will remain an integral and inalienable part of India," Parvathaneni stated, adding that the legal and constitutional reality is being deliberately ignored by Islamabad. He maintained that the sole outstanding issue regarding the region is the illegal occupation of Indian territory by Pakistan.

The ambassador further raised concerns over the domestic situation in Pakistan, citing the suppression of fundamental freedoms in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He pointed to broader governance challenges within the country, including the incarceration of a former Prime Minister, the restriction of the main opposition party, and military influence over constitutional amendments, urging Pakistan to focus on its internal stability.

Concluding the address, Ambassador Parvathaneni reaffirmed India's commitment as a founding member of the United Nations, stating that New Delhi stands ready to work alongside member states to help the organization fulfill its foundational purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

Ellis Island Honors Society welcomes introduction of Congressional Resolution



Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX) and Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) have recently teamed up to introduce a bipartisan resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives calling for the establishment of a national "Day of Honor and Respect" (H. Res. 1350). This joint legislative effort aims to highlight and celebrate shared core values among all Americans, emphasizing national unity over political division.

JULY 23, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

Ellis Island Honors Society issued a statement, Thursday, July 23 welcoming introduction of Congressional Resolution Calling for a National "Day of Honor and Respect".

The Society, in a statement released to media, expressed its strong support for a bipartisan resolution introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman Pete Sessions (R-TX) and Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) calling for the establishment of a national "Day of Honor and Respect" (H. Res. 1350) that celebrates shared values among all Americans.

"EIHS is urging all Members of Congress to cosponsor and support this initiative", it said.

The statement further said: "The proposed day of recognition would encourage Americans to set aside any partisan differences and reflect on the shared values that have transformed United States into one the greatest nations on earth. At a time of deep division, EIHS believes such a moment of unity is both timely, appropriate and necessary".

"Sadly, America today is suffering from too much division and distrust," said Nasser Kazeminy, Chairman of the Board of the Society. "This is tragic and far from the values and ideals upon which our nation was founded. The introduction of this resolution is a hopeful and meaningful step toward restoring a spirit of mutual respect and common purpose. We commend and salute Congressman Sessions and Congressman Suozzi for taking this bold, patriotic step in reaffirming who we are as a people."

THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION'S IDENTITY

The resolution underscores the enduring strength of the American identity, noting that the country has long benefited from the talents and ingenuity of people who sought refuge, opportunity, and freedom from oppression. Nearly 40 percent of Americans can trace their ancestry through Ellis Island, once the nation's gateway for immigrants and within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, which remains a global symbol of hope and freedom.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Attorney General James Halts Paramount's Merger with Warner Bros. for Months

JULY 24, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

New York Attorney General Letitia James and a coalition of 11 other attorneys general today, July 24, secured a months-long halt to Paramount Skydance Corp.'s (Paramount) \$110 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc. (Warner Bros.). On July 13, Attorney General James and the coalition sued Paramount and Warner Bros., alleging that their merger would illegally reduce competition throughout the film and television industries, harming workers, consumers, and businesses. Attorney General James and the coalition today secured a stipulation from Paramount and Warner Bros. that will delay the merger until after a court ruling on the merits of the lawsuit on June 1, 2027, whichever is earlier.

"From the workers and artists who bring stories to life to the families who buy tickets at the box office, Paramount's illegal takeover of Warner Bros. is a bad deal for all those who count on a competitive entertainment industry," said Attorney General James. "Halting this merger while our case proceeds is a critical victory in our efforts to uphold the law and protect the film and television industries. I look forward to continuing our case to stop this illegal



New York Attorney General Letitia James and a coalition of 11 other attorneys general today, July 24, secured a months-long halt to Paramount Skydance Corp.'s (Paramount) \$110 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc. (Warner Bros.).

merger."

On July 20, Attorney General James and the coalition won a temporary restraining order preventing Paramount and Warner Bros. from carrying out their merger. Under the stipulation announced today, Paramount and Warner Bros. will continue to remain separate companies until five days after the court's decision on the merits of the case or June 1, 2027, whichever comes earlier.

Joining Attorney General James in this case are the attorneys general of Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington.

For New York, this matter is being handled by Assistant Attorneys General Pratik Agarwal, Morgan Feder, and Will Margrabe and Attorney General Fellow Jaya Mantovani, all of the Antitrust Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Elinor Hoffmann and Deputy Bureau Chief Amy McFarlane, and with the assistance of Chief Economist Chitra Marti. The Antitrust Bureau is part of the Division for Economic Justice, which is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General Christopher D'Angelo and overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

(Source: Office of Attorney General, New York)

Punjabi woman strangled to death in Canada; 22-year-old live-in partner charged with murder

JULY 25, 2026
EDMONTON (TIP)



Damanpreet Kaur. Image credit/ gofundme.com

A 22-year-old man has been charged with second-degree murder after allegedly strangling his 23-year-old partner, an Indian woman, to death in Edmonton, Alberta, in what police are investigating as an intimate partner homicide. The victim, identified as Punjab-origin Damanpreet Kaur, was found with serious injuries after the Edmonton Police Service responded to a home in the Silver Berry neighborhood of southeast Edmonton at around 6:44 p.m. on July 9. Officers had received reports of an unresponsive woman with suspicious injuries at the residence near 28A Avenue and Silver Berry Road.

Emergency medical personnel treated Kaur at the scene before rushing her to hospital in critical condition. She succumbed to her injuries on July 12. A man was taken into custody shortly after officers arrived.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin prodigies Jerrssis Wadia and Aryan Sharma selected for cricket Australia squads

JULY 23, 2026
MUMBAI (TIP)

Two young cricketers of Indian origin, Jerrssis Wadia and Aryan Sharma, have earned places in Cricket Australia's pathway squads, underlining their growing stature in Australian cricket.

Wadia has been named in the Cricket Australia XI that will take on Bangladesh in a three-day match in Darwin from August 6 to 8. The squad also includes prominent Australian talents such as Sam Konstas, Josh Philippe, Hugh Weibgen and Matt Gilkes.

Born in Mumbai in 2001, Wadia represented Baroda at the U-16 and U-19 levels before moving to Adelaide as a teenager. The all-rounder progressed through South Australia's cricket development system and was later spotted by former Australia coach Tim Nielsen. He made his Big Bash League (BBL) debut for the Adelaide Strikers in December 2025 and grabbed attention by smashing three successive sixes in just his second appearance.

Wadia comes from a cricket-loving family. His grandfather holds a Guinness World Record for being the oldest player to score a century in minor cricket, while the family also shares close ties with India all-rounder Hardik Pandya.

Meanwhile, Aryan Sharma, a Victorian all-rounder, has been selected in Australia's Men's Development Squad, which will tour India for the MRF Academy Programme in Chennai. The squad will play two matches on spin-friendly wickets on August 5-6 and August 10-11 as part of its preparations.

Sharma has represented Australia at the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup and was also part of the Melbourne Stars squad in the previous BBL season.



Jerrssis Wadia and Aryan Sharma.
Image credit: cricket.com.au

Indian man found dead in Jerusalem, 31-year-old suspect arrested

THE 40-YEAR-OLD INDIAN MAN IS FOUND DEAD ON THURSDAY, JULY 23 IN JERUSALEM'S KATAMON

JULY 24, 2026
JERUSALEM (TIP)



Photo for representation

A 31-year-old Israeli national has been arrested in connection with the murder of an Indian man in Jerusalem, police said. The 40-year-old Indian man was found dead on Thursday in Jerusalem's Katamon neighborhood. According to the police, the victim was lying on the floor in a house with blood all around him, reported The Times of Israel.

"Following the earlier report regarding a 40-year-old foreign national from India who was found dead in an apartment in the Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem, officers from the Moria Police Station arrived quickly at the scene and launched an initial investigation together with forensic investigators," Israel Police Spokesperson's Unit told PTI.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



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Indian American Long Island Scientist Earns Grease Industry's Highest Honor

HOLTSVILLE, NY (TIP):

Dr. Raj Shah, Director of Koehler instrument Company, has received the National Lubricating Grease Institute's (NLGI) Achievement Award, the organization's highest individual honor, presented at its annual meeting in Palm Springs, California.

The award recognizes Shah's nearly three decades of involvement with NLGI, where he has served on the board of directors and contributed to its technical committees, educational initiatives, editorial work, and international outreach. Over his career, Shah has authored or co-authored more than 850 publication and edited or co-edited six books covering fuels, lubricants, greases petroleum testing, tribology, and analytical instrumentation - including the NLGI Lubricating Grease Guide and the ASTM Fuels and Lubricants Handbook.

Shah has spent nearly 30 years at Koehler Instrument, a Holtsville - based manufacturer of laboratory instruments used across the petroleum, petrochemical, fuels, and lubricants industries. He also serves as an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University, mentoring engineering students and bridging academia and industry. He earned his PH.D. in chemical engineering from Penn State University after completing his bachelor's degree at the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai.



Dr. Raj Shah of Holtsville, NY, recognized for nearly three decades of leadership at the National Lubricating Grease Institute

In his acceptance remarks, Shah reflected on the humility of his field, noting that grease itself works quietly and rarely gets credit - a fitting parallel, he said, for the community that shaped his career.

The honor adds to a long list of recognitions for Shah, who has previously received NLGI's Clarence E. Earle Memorial Award and Golden Grease Gun Award, underscoring the East Coast's growing bench of Indian - American leaders driving American manufacturing and materials science forward.

Indian American Teen Commands 300 US Navy Cadets in New York

JULY 22, 2026 QUEENS, NY (TIP)

A 17-year-old Indian - American high school student has risen to the highest student leadership rank in her military training unit, taking direct command of nearly 300 U.S. Navy cadets in New York City, reports AP.

Ridhi Gupta Chauhan, a senior at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Queens, was appointed Battalion Commanding Officer of the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) unit. In this role, Chauhan oversees daily battalion operations, physical training, and student welfare. She reportedly maintains a rigorous routine, arriving at school before 7am four days a week to lead drill practice before standard academic classes begin.

"The demanding routine has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Chauhan said, noting that the program helped her overcome personal shyness to guide her peers. During her tenure, Chauhan also served as stem commander, where she led a student engineering team to construct the unit's first "SeaPerch" underwater robot. Her leadership earned her the prestigious distinguished cadet award from the program's regional management.

Chauhan, whose parents Dilip and Ruchika Chauhan trace their family roots to Jaipur in Rajasthan, India, has already secured her next military



Ridhi Gupta Chauhan, a senior at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Queens, was appointed Battalion Commanding Officer of the school's Navy Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NJROTC) unit.

milestone. She recently gained admission to the highly competitive Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) in Newport, Rhode Island.

The preparatory program serves as a direct pipeline for her ultimate career ambition: attending the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to graduate as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy.



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Sri Siddheshwar inspires 1,000 people to follow the spiritual path at Guru Purnima program in New York

The charismatic global guru announces setting up a new state-of-the-art hospital in Bengaluru

JULY 19, 2026
HEMPSTEAD, NY (TIP)

Over one thousand people attended and were blessed by Sri Siddheshwar Brahmurishi Gururvar at a well-organized Guru Purnima program on July 18 in the John Cranford Adams Playhouse in Hofstra University here on Long Island.

With his great oratorical skills, the charismatic global guru exhorted the attentive audience to follow the spiritual path. In turn, amid repeated applause, he promised to watch over and uplift each one of his devotees.

Making a refreshingly new point - which may have gone down well with the accomplished people in the packed auditorium - the saffron-clad swami, known to his followers as Siddheshwar Gurudev, said that making money and creating wealth through fair means is a good thing. Only, don't get attached to it, and direct it towards charitable giving.

He then disclosed that his organization, currently headquartered in Tirupati, India, will have a new headquarters and Ashram in Bengaluru on over 600 acres of land. The first project in the Bengaluru Ashram will be a huge state-of-the-art (AI-equipped) charitable hospital-cum-medical college. It is being funded with a generous donation by Jugal Kishore Taneja, a successful entrepreneur in Tampa, Florida. The architectural design for the circular, multi-story building was displayed on the stage, and Taneja and the project's architect, Alberto Alfonso, were introduced to the audience.

DHARMA, RELIGION NOT SYNONYMOUS

Talking about the religious strife in the world, Siddheshwar said dharma and religion are mistaken as synonymous. Dharma as in Sanatana Dharma is eternal, so are its truths. He pointed out that religion fell behind as science marched because many moribund faiths declared their scriptures to be the final word, ruling out further refinement or experimentation.

Siddheshwar guru, who routinely conjures trinkets to give to devotees as powerful keepsakes, revealed that he just summons and aligns the relevant atoms and molecules to manifest a certain object.

The program was organized by the New York-based World Spiritual Forum, dedicated to promoting and disseminating the teachings and work of Siddhguru Siddheshwar. Its officials and major donors introduced the program commemorating Guru Purnima. Chandra Bhansali said that Sri Siddheshwar is a true guru because unlike many others he is not just imparting knowledge but has the power to transform the lives of his devotees. He shared that Gururvar's teachings and learning programs and visits to his Tirupati ashram are always offered free for all, reflecting his selfless service and compassion. Ashok Sancheti talked about the upcoming hospital project in Bengaluru blessed by Siddheshwar. Arvind Modi, International President of World Spiritual Forum, said that only with prayer and



With heart overflowing with love and compassion, Sri Siddheshwar promises to support his devotees through thick and thin.

kismet can you meet a true guru.

Notable people who sat through the long program included Harshad 'Pakaji' Patel, Rakesh Bhargava, Kamlesh Mehta, Sharada Bhansali, Rajesh Choradia, Parveen Chopra, Beena Kothari and Indu Jaiswal.

Over a hundred people attending the program had



At the lamp lighting ceremony, organizers and donors - (from left) Ashok Sancheti, Jugal Kishore Taneja, Chandra and Sharada Bhansali, and Ujjawala Shah.

Mehta, one of his trained facilitators, conducted a half-hour guided meditation. After introducing Sahaj Shangk Mudra and pranayama, she guided the audience deeper and deeper into meditation. It was a prelude to the 4-hour intensive retreat, 'Siddhasana - The Power of Soul', organized the next day. That was



Many among the audience had come from outside New York to get blessed by Sri Siddheshwar

come from outside New York, including Vidya Nagarajan, Director of Product Management at Google, based in Palo Alto, CA. At least 25 had come from Toronto in Canada.

SIDDHASANA WORKSHOP

Before Sri Siddheshwar's discourse on July 18, Shilpa

also led by Florida-based Shilpa with 150 seekers joining in New Hyde Park, on Long Island.

For his devotees, Sri Siddheshwar Brahmurishi Ji is an enlightened mystic, a revered spiritual leader known for his mastery of Vedic science, astrology, and holistic ancient Indian practices. He is credited with having attained all 8 Siddhis (spiritual powers) and 9 Nidhis (divine treasures), using his gifts solely to heal and empower individuals at soul level. He constantly travels the world awakening people and blessing devotees. In India, his sprawling ashram is located in the holy temple town of Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

Filmmaker Neha Lohia's hour-and-a-half-long documentary on Siddheshwar titled "Siddhi," is ready for release. In the film, he has shared, publicly for the first time, some secret technologies behind his mastery of 'Siddhis', and how he unlocks every soul's limitless potential with the powerful Siddhasana program offered at retreats under his divine guidance.

For more info, go to: <https://gururvar.siddheshwar.org>, or www.sribrahmurishiashtam.org

(Based on a Press Release issued by Parveen Chopra on behalf of Chandra Bhansali/World Spiritual Forum)



Siddhguru Sri Siddheshwar blessing people on arrival in the auditorium



About 150 people attended the retreat on July 19 led by (inset) Shilpa Mehta

Queens soldier killed in action during Iranian missile strike in Jordan remembered by pols and neighbors

Sgt. Rampersad was remembered by neighbors, Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar, Mayor Zohran Mamdani and Governor Kathy Hochul.

**JULY 22, 2026
QUEENS, NY (TIP)**

The Department of War identified U.S. Army Sgt. Angel Sarah Rampersad, 28, of Ozone Park, as the soldier who is believed to have been killed in action on July 17 during an Iranian missile attack at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan.

While her death has not been officially confirmed, her family was present at the dignified transfer of her remains and those of three other service members who were killed in action, at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, attended by President Donald Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth on Wednesday, July 22 afternoon.

"Today, we mourn the loss of Sgt. Angel Rampersad," said Brig. Gen. Glenn Henke, commanding general of the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command. "We extend our deepest, most heartfelt condolences to her family and all those who are navigating this unimaginable loss. The 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command is grieving, and we will continue to support one another as we process this tragedy."

Sgt. Rampersad was assigned to the 10th Army Air and Missile Defense Command and she was killed in action during a July 17 Iranian missile strike on Muwaffaq Salti Air Base in Jordan.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani said the Ozone Park native's courage and sacrifice will be remembered not just in Queens, but across all five boroughs.

"My deepest condolences are with her family, loved ones and all those grieving this profound loss," he said in a statement Wednesday. "For so many New



U.S. Army Sgt. Angel S. Rampersad, 28, of Ozone Park was killed in action on July 17 during an Iranian missile attack in Jordan.

Photo courtesy of the Department of War

Yorkers, wars overseas are never distant - they are felt here at home. The sacrifices made by service members and their families are a constant reminder of this. We are forever grateful for their service and will work every day to honor it."

"My heart is with her family, loved ones and the soldiers who stood beside her as they grieve this unimaginable loss," Governor Kathy Hochul said. "Sgt. Rampersad lives a life of courage and selflessness. New York, and our nation, are safer because of brave Americans like her who answer the call to serve. May we honor her memory, remember her sacrifice and keep all who loved her in our prayers."

"Sgt. Rampersad embodied the very best of the U.S. Army and of our country. She served far from home, stood in harm's way, and carried out her duty with honor. Her service and sacrifice will never be forgotten, by Ozone Park, Queens, New York City, and a grateful nation," Assemblymember Jenifer Rajkumar said. "We have a sacred obligation to honor those who wear our nation's uniform, and the families who serve and sacrifice alongside them. I stand shoulder to shoulder with them, especially her parents, Basdeo and Carol, and with all who love her during this unimaginable loss."

In Ozone Park, several neighbors paid their respects at the Rampersad family home on 96th Street on Wednesday including Brenda Graham, who erected an American flag in honor of her memory.

"It's devastating when it hits so close to home. No parent should have to bury their child," Graham said.

Graham, who has lived in the neighborhood for 20 years, said she noticed several neighbors erecting flags in the wake of Rampersad's death.

"We just put out a flag as a sign of respect and solidarity... Flags were put up for the 4th of July, but definitely more people have been putting up a flag since the news broke over the weekend."

Sgt. Rampersad was the daughter of an immigrant father from Trinidad and Tobago. She enlisted in the Army in 2019, and her awards include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Zohran Mamdani's Gaza Remarks Ignite New Debate After NYC Mayor Cites More Than 70,000 Palestinian Deaths



Mayor Zohran Mamdani's accusation against Israel of genocide in Gaza has ignited an international debate

**JULY 23, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)**

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani has reignited a fierce international debate after using a press conference to accuse Israel of carrying out a genocide in Gaza and claiming that more than 70,000 Palestinians have been killed.

The comments, delivered during a Wednesday, July 22 press conference, immediately drew attention because of the political weight of the statement. As the mayor of America's largest city, Mamdani's remarks placed New York City at the center of a global conversation over the Israel-Hamas war, civilian casualties, international law and how political leaders describe conflicts abroad.

The death toll in Gaza has become one

of the most disputed and emotionally charged issues of the conflict. Palestinian health authorities, international organizations and humanitarian groups have reported tens of thousands of Palestinian deaths since the war began after Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel. However, the exact numbers, classification of casualties and legal definitions surrounding the conflict remain the subject of intense political disagreement.

During the press conference, Mamdani described the situation in Gaza as an Israeli-led "genocide" and referenced a death toll of more than 70,000 Palestinians. His statement reflects a position he has expressed previously, arguing that the scale of civilian suffering requires international accountability.

Mamdani's comments are part of a broader political debate that has spread across the United States. Progressive activists, some human rights organizations and several international figures have accused Israel of committing actions that meet the definition of genocide under international law. Israel has rejected those accusations, saying its military operations are aimed at Hamas and not the Palestinian population.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

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TRUMP NEEDS TO DEFY HISTORY TO END THE IRAN WAR

BY WILL
WALLDORF



U.S. PRESIDENTS ARE VIRTUALLY NEVER ABLE TO END THE STALEMATED WARS THEY START

When U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Iran in mid-June, he promised to broker a final deal that will "bring peace and security to the whole region." Since then, however, negotiations have stalled, fighting has resumed, U.S. sanctions have been reimposed, and U.S. warships have once again blockaded Iran. In short, we're back to the same stalemated war we thought we were done with a month ago.

THIS ALL RAISES AN IMPORTANT QUESTION: CAN TRUMP BRING THE PEACE HE'S PROMISED?

If history is any guide, it's unlikely. U.S. presidents are virtually never able to end the stalemated wars they start. Trump could overcome these precedents if he taps into his more pragmatic side or Congress presses him to do so. Both are long shots, however, meaning that a final peace is more likely to come from Trump's successor, who will be better positioned to admit this war was a failure and make the kinds of concessions to get a deal that Trump should, but likely won't, do.

What history shows us is that when presidents take the nation to war, they feel they have a unique stake in the conflict, whether politically, psychologically, or reputationally. Things like sunk-cost thinking ("we've invested so much, we need to show some kind of gains") and worries about credibility ("backing down will hurt our image abroad") push out good cost-benefit thinking and lead them to try to salvage something that approximates a win before making peace.

Especially when facing a highly resolved foe like Iran, this usually means the stalemate drags on as the clock runs out on the president's term.

This pattern has played out in every stalemated U.S. war since World War II. After the Korean War deadlocked in the summer of 1951, President Harry Truman's concerns about looking tough on communism at home, U.S. credibility, and sunk costs pushed him to pursue rigid terms in armistice negotiations. He left office with no peace treaty.

After the 1968 Tet offensive, President Lyndon Johnson's concerns about his standing at home, sunk costs, and U.S. credibility pushed him to likewise take a rigid position in peace talks. "I can't get out, I can't finish it with what I have got," he bemoaned. "So what the hell do I do?"

After President Barack Obama's promised escalation to end the war in Afghanistan failed, he halted a withdrawal of all troops in 2015. Obama worried, in part, about being the president to "lose" Afghanistan, as well as a repeat of the political damage that followed the Iraq withdrawal in 2011 and which contributed to the rise of the Islamic State.

Trump faces similar challenges in ending the Iran war, which stalemated when Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz in early March. As with prior U.S. stalemates, the costs of this war are significantly higher than the benefits to U.S. security, which remain few given reduced U.S. interests in the Middle East and the rise of more important challenges elsewhere, especially in Asia.

LIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, TRUMP IS PILING PRESSURE ON HIMSELF TO GET THE RIGHT KIND OF DEAL.

Above all, he wants a better nuclear deal than Obama achieved with Iran, having repeatedly denounced that "horrible one-sided" deal that "should never ever have been made." Trump is now feeling sunk-cost pressures to prove he was right to abandon Obama's nuclear deal in 2018 and start his policy of maximum pressure.

More broadly, Trump wants to transform the Middle East in ways former presidents tried and failed to do. "Look, for 47 years, no president was willing to do what I'm doing" on Iran, Trump said recently.



US President Donald J Trump

Since the Iran war stalemated, these reputational concerns have had a big impact on negotiations. The MOU talks dragged on for weeks, in part because Trump—who lost considerable leverage with the closing of the Strait of Hormuz—couldn't come to terms with a deal that made him look bad.

Trump repeatedly told aides he needs something that looks like a "victory," such as an expansion of the Abraham Accords or an Iranian pledge to give up its highly enriched uranium. Two weeks before the MOU was signed, he turned down a final draft hammered out by negotiators and agreed to by the Iranians because he said it resembled the "pallets of cash" in Obama's nuclear deal.

TRUMP'S REPUTATIONAL CONCERNS CARRY EVEN GREATER WEIGHT AT THIS STAGE.

For starters, unlike the MOU—which was a cease-fire and mostly agenda-setting in nature—the two sides are now trying to hammer out terms on concrete issues that are especially near and dear to Trump's reputational concerns. With his legacy on the line, Trump is showing less willingness to bend in these talks; he can't as easily spin the terms of a final deal the way he could the less concrete MOU. That compels him to the same maximalist demands as before the war—something we've seen hints of since talks began.

The easing of economic pressure in the United States—which could be reversed if renewed fighting persists—with the signing of the MOU hasn't helped in getting a deal, either. With fuel prices dropping after the MOU went into effect, Trump has been less under the gun to get a final agreement than he was to negotiate the MOU. That means reputational factors have had more room to roam, so to speak, in his decision-making.

In fact, this has already directly scuttled negotiations on at least one occasion.

When the terms of the MOU were released on June 17, Trump took a lot of heat from critics who claimed it—and, by extension, Trump—was weak, conceding too much to Iran. He's been especially enraged at comparisons to Obama. To counter that impression, Trump wrecked the first round of high-profile talks by issuing a tough statement about how he would "blow the shit out of" Iran and take it over. The Iranians walked out, talks have gone nowhere since, and Trump's recent return to war appears to be yet another classic case of a war-initiating president desperately trying to save face amid an embarrassing failure.

STALEMATED WARS DON'T LAST FOREVER, OF COURSE. BUT IT'S GENERALLY THE SUCCESSOR TO THE WAR-INITIATING PRESIDENT WHO BRINGS ABOUT A RESOLUTION.

Why? Because successors tend to be freer from the constraints of their predecessors. They didn't start the war, so they feel less obligation to continue it, find more space to admit failure, and can more easily adjust negotiating terms to get a deal. Trump and former President Joe Biden both campaigned on ending the unpopular Afghanistan war, then followed through on their pledges when they came to office.

Given that Trump is arguably the most unconventional president in U.S. history, he could break the mold of his predecessors. Last year, for instance, he set aside concerns about credibility and looking weak when he ended the futile air war with the Houthis, and he has refused to insert U.S. ground troops into the Iran conflict. In both instances, Trump rightly focused on costs and benefits to U.S. national security.

History is still more likely to prevail than not on Iran, however. Trump seems far more invested personally in a victory here than against the Houthis. Furthermore, his weak national security-making process means checks on his decision-making are few. Trump seems uninterested in fresh perspectives, even if available from his team.

Though also fraught, the best hope for near-term de-escalation and peace probably lies with outside pressure from Congress, which should start by challenging Trump's new claim to another 60 days of unfettered warmaking authority under the War Powers Resolution.

Congress likely won't stop the war entirely—that has never happened under the resolution. But it could exercise more oversight through hearings, limit funding, and set conditions on future funding that helps break the fever of war inside the administration, push Trump back to peace talks, and limit escalatory military action. Even as Congress continued to authorize war funding, this kind of legislative intervention helped eventually force peace in Vietnam and limited the 2007 surge of troops into Iraq. It also prevented escalation in El Salvador in the 1980s by making policy "like walking through a swamp," according to former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

There should be no illusions here, though. Trump won't give up the fight easily, and historically, the tug and haul between the executive and legislative branches on warmaking has allowed space for conflict to drag on. Congress increased oversight and pressure to end Vietnam in 1966. Still, a peace deal didn't come until 1973.

CHANCES ARE, THEN, TRUMP LEAVES OFFICE WITH NO PEACE AGREEMENT, AND HIS SUCCESSOR WILL NEED TO FIX THE MESS OF IRAN.

Whoever that is, hopefully the unpopularity of the war and congressional pressure generate the pragmatism to do two things that Trump won't: Admit failure and loosen terms to get a deal to permanently end the conflict. President Richard Nixon showed that kind of pragmatism to end direct U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, as did Trump to broker peace in Afghanistan.

With Iran, that kind of pragmatism will likely mean accepting its red lines to enrich uranium and ensure some kind of Iranian authority over the Strait of Hormuz, which is the primary reason Tehran restarted conflict recently. While these concessions likely won't be as painful as many make them out to be, given those limited U.S. interests in the Middle East, they will still be a tough pill to swallow. But that's the unfortunate consequence of losing a war that should never have started in the first place.

(Will Walldorf is a professor at Wake Forest University and senior fellow at Defense Priorities.)

(Source: Foreign Policy)

When a Nation's Youth Cry Out: The Delhi Student Protests

BY GEORGE
ABRAHAM



"Those who seek to crush the aspirations of these young people often appear disconnected from the realities of everyday life in India. It is easy to invoke the language of patriotism, nationalism, and sacrifice from positions of privilege. Yet many among the country's political and economic elite have ensured that their own children receive the very opportunities they deny or make increasingly inaccessible to ordinary citizens. Their sons and daughters study in some of the world's finest universities, master English and other foreign languages, and prepare for leadership roles in multinational corporations, research institutions, and governments across the globe."

The students in New Delhi were protesting for one simple reason: justice. They were not seeking privilege, power, or political advantage. They were asking only for fairness, the assurance that years of sacrifice, discipline, and relentless hard work would not be rendered meaningless by a system that failed them.

For many of these young men and women, their academic journey began long before they entered the examination hall. They spent their teenage years preparing for one defining moment that would determine the course of their lives. While others enjoyed the carefree pleasures of youth, they remained confined to classrooms, libraries, and coaching centers, often studying long into the night under the tremendous pressure of one of the world's most rigorous educational systems. Birthdays were missed, vacations postponed, friendships neglected, and countless youthful experiences set aside in pursuit of a dream: earning admission to a medical or engineering college and securing a better future.

Their sacrifices were matched and often exceeded those of their parents. Across India, mothers and fathers quietly carried burdens that rarely make headlines. Many borrowed money they could scarcely afford to repay. Some sold family assets, mortgaged property, or exhausted lifelong savings to pay for coaching classes, tuition, books, travel, and examination fees. They denied themselves comforts and postponed their own retirement, believing that their children's education was the surest path to a life of dignity and opportunity. In their sunset years, they worried less about their

own future than about giving their son or daughter a fair chance to succeed.

It is against this setting that the students' protests must be understood. They were not simply reacting to an examination or an administrative decision. They were defending years of hope, sacrifice, and trust. When the integrity of a competitive examination is called into question, far more than a test score is at risk. It is the credibility of the promise that merit and honesty will be



Students march in New Delhi on July 20, 2026

rewarded.

A nation cannot ask its youth to believe in hard work while allowing doubts to linger over the fairness of the very system that judges them. When confidence in that system is shaken, the consequences go beyond a single examination. Faith in public institutions begins to erode, and with it the belief that opportunity is earned through merit rather than influenced by privilege, corruption, or manipulation.

These students were not standing in the streets because they had abandoned hope. They were there because they still believed that justice was possible. Their voices reflected the aspirations of millions of young Indians who seek nothing more than an equal opportunity to compete on a level playing field. A society that ignores such voices runs the risk of alienating its brightest generation. A society that listens, however, reaffirms the fundamental principle that hard work, integrity, and merit remain the foundation of national progress.

The real measure of a democracy is not how it treats those who wield power, but how it responds to the hopes and anxieties of its youngest citizens. When students who have invested years of dedication ask only for fairness, they deserve not suspicion or repression, but transparency, accountability, and justice. Their future and ultimately the nation's future will depend on it.

Those who seek to crush the aspirations of these young people often appear disconnected from the realities of everyday life in India. It is easy to invoke

the language of patriotism, nationalism, and sacrifice from positions of privilege. Yet many among the country's political and economic elite have ensured that their own children receive the very opportunities they deny or make increasingly inaccessible to ordinary citizens. Their sons and daughters study in some of the world's finest universities, master English and other foreign languages, and prepare for leadership roles in multinational corporations,

asking their country to honor an unwritten social contract: if they study diligently, compete honestly, and play by the rules, the system must do the same.

Any nation that ignores the dreams of its youth does so at its own peril. A generation that feels its hard work is devalued or its future compromised will inevitably lose faith not only in governments, but in the institutions that sustain democracy. The strength of a nation does not lie in sloganeering but in

research institutions, and governments across the globe.

Meanwhile, millions of Indian families have no such options. Their hopes rest entirely on the integrity of India's educational system that merit, hard work, and perseverance will be fairly rewarded. For them, success in a competitive examination is often the only pathway out of poverty.

Moreover, some in positions of power live in a world insulated from these daily struggles. They are untouched by the anxieties of parents who mortgage their homes to finance coaching classes, or by students who spend years preparing for a single examination that may determine the course of their lives. When institutions fail these young people, they are deeply personal, affecting entire families who have invested everything in the hope of a better future.

Instead of looking at genuine grievances, public discourse is too often diverted toward issues of identity, religion, and cultural polarization. Such stories may mobilize political support, but they do little to address serious concerns of young Indians: quality education, impartial opportunities, meaningful employment, economic mobility, and confidence that public institutions function with integrity and impartiality.

The tragedy is not simply that these voices go unheard; it is that they are often misunderstood. The students protesting today are not driven by ideology or partisan politics. They are driven by anxiety, disappointment, and a strong belief that the system is rigged. They are

its willingness to protect the aspirations of its young and to ensure that merit, fairness, and equal opportunity remain the cornerstones of national progress.

What the Delhi Police are alleged to have done to these students will not be remembered merely as a story of crowd control. It will be remembered as a moment when the hopes, dreams, and legitimate aspirations of an entire generation were not met with dialogue or justice, but with blunt force. The bruises inflicted may heal, but the emotional marks of seeing youthful idealism answered with physical assault and intimidation can endure for a lifetime.

At last, the heart and soul of India are awakening. What we are witnessing today is not a manufactured movement, but an organic stirring of a nation's conscience, one that may well prove unstoppable, ushering in a transformative new phase. History teaches that no authoritarian order, however powerful it may appear, can indefinitely suppress the human yearning for freedom, dignity, and justice. The more it stretches the limits of power, the more it sows the seeds of its own undoing. The reckoning may take years, decades, or even generations, but it is embedded in the annals of history. When that moment arrives, the whole weight of accumulated injustice comes crashing down, eviscerating the long-established order. For the yearning of the human soul for liberty, peace, and justice is ultimately more enduring than the machinery of fear and oppression.

(George Abraham is Vice-Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress, USA.)

MAMDANI'S NEW DEAL

ZOHRAN MAMDANI EMBODIES A GENERATIONAL TRANSITION IN AMERICAN POLITICS, WHERE YOUNGER PROGRESSIVES CHALLENGE AN AGEING CONSERVATIVE ESTABLISHMENT BUILT ON AND SUSTAINED BY FEAR, CULTURE WARS, AND ENTRENCHED POWER.

BY ADITYA
SINHA



Six months into his job, and New York City's (NYC) Mayor Zohran Mamdani faces, despite a hectic agenda of providing welcome relief for working class residents, a lot of hostility from the city's majoritarian (White) residents. Self-declared MAGA (the Make America Great Again faction that has gobbled up the Republican Party) voters have declared they will never visit NYC so long as Mamdani remains in power. "A lot of AIPAC money is in action," according to my brother. (AIPAC = American Israeli Public Affairs Committee.) Such is the intense MAGA hostility that Mamdani's office keeps his public events a secret till the last moment.

For instance, in a video, conservative influencer Michael Savage, who is four years older than Trump, likened Mamdani to Cambodian genocidal maniac Pol

called himself "the President's worst nightmare". Mamdani smiles; Trump scowls.

Several billionaires have, on social media, declared their intention to leave New York City, but till now, it remains business as usual, demonstrating the city's commercial power; they can call democratic socialists "illegal immigrants, criminals, and people who don't want to work", as Trump did on July 3, but they also don't want to lose their customers.

What really scares the geriatric diapers off MAGA is the fact that young people are contesting (and winning) elections, replacing the usual suspects who are dying off. About a third of the Senate is 70 or older (the Senate has two members from each of the 50 states, regardless of population, giving MAGA outsized power).

For instance, the former Senate majority leader

how Graham subsidized the education of many a male escort; and something about his "ladybugs". (It's too disgusting to mention here.) All were critical that despite his private life, politically he crusaded against queer rights.

No wonder, then, many cheered his death publicly—except for the professional political class, which seemed to have forgotten how Trump publicly cheered at the death of former FBI director Robert S. Mueller, who investigated Trump's illegal possession of classified files in his bathroom. "One should not speak ill of the dead" is a homily ill-suited for our polarized world.

A NEW POLITICAL GENERATION

In contrast to the elderly Senators, or Trump (80) himself, the coming mid-terms promise to bring in a



New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani

Pot. Mamdani, far from creating any "killing fields" in the city's five boroughs, has instituted measures for universal childcare expansion: he got \$1.2 billion from the state for a 1,000-seat expansion for classes K to 3; and he's leveraged state-funding to strengthen high-quality childcare programs in the city.

If Pol Pot had faced an unlikely snowstorm in Cambodia, he would have forced citizens to shovel snow for free before executing them. Mamdani, on the other hand, when New York was deluged with a severe snowstorm in February, mobilized 1,400 volunteers to shovel snow for \$30 an hour (the official labor wage in the US is \$7.50).

"Commie Bastard," Savage snarled. Congressman Andy Ogles of Tennessee (a deep South state), calls Mamdani "Little Mohammed" and wants him to be "de-naturalized" and deported. Mamdani was born in Uganda and lived in the US for a decade before he became a naturalized citizen in 2018. Ogles once speculated that Mamdani came to the US as a child to turn America into an Islamic theocracy.

Of course, all of MAGA only echoes President Donald Trump's rhetoric. On July 11, Trump repeated his Independence Day attack on Mamdani's democratic socialists: "America will never be a communist country," he wrote, in all caps, on his social media platform called Truth Social. Mamdani, in response,

Mitch McConnell (84) of Kentucky (another deep South State), who has been ailing for years—he once froze while addressing the press and had to be gently escorted away—disappeared from sight on July 14, when he had to be taken to hospital, leading to rumors that he had died but was kept in the morgue till August 3, to avoid an immediate election for a successor. Finally, he issued a statement from the hospital claiming he was still alive.

Worse for Trump, however, was the death Senator Lindsey Graham (71) of South Carolina (another deep South state) on July 11. A ruptured artery led to his death. This led to rumors that the Russians had killed him with a missile on a drone unit in the Ukraine that Graham visited two days earlier.

The Russians no doubt made use of the confusion to jibe at the late Senator, who had, since the Ukraine war began in February 2022, openly said that the US should use the opportunity to kill as many Russians as possible. It is hard to imagine that Lindsey was once a moderate, a sidekick to Senator John McCain; but his support for Israel and dismissal of talk of genocide of Palestinians was horrific. He publicly called for a nuclear bombing of Gaza.

The gay community in Washington, DC believing that Graham's (or Lady G's) "non-disclosure agreements" with rent-boys and trans-women had lapsed with his death, put out a variety of lurid detail on Instagram:

new generation of politicians who do not do politics the old way. They are not beholden to Israel, whose genocide in Gaza has turned away public opinion, thanks to how the internet allows small donations to compete with corporate money.

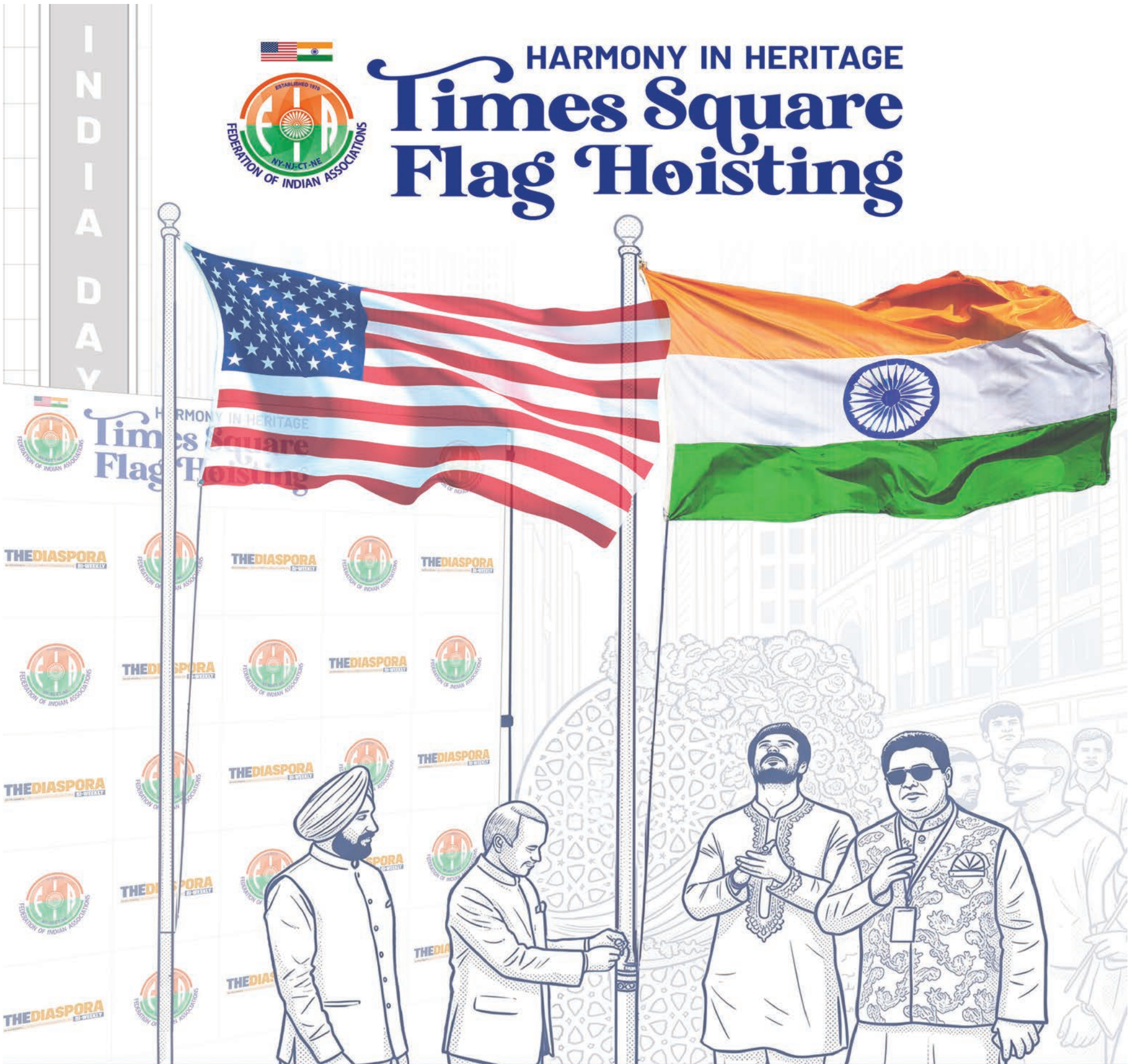
They don't need the legacy media, tightly controlled by pro-Israel voices. For these youngsters, the real issues include stopping ICE (immigration and customs enforcement, whose unmarked officers shot and killed two innocents this past week); ceasing military aid to Israel; and cost-of-living issues that directly affect working class families.

This month, three candidates endorsed by Mamdani (34) against the establishment, won primaries. A 29-year-old democratic socialist won the primary in Colorado. Making waves in an upcoming primary is democratic socialist Abdul El-Sayed (41) of Michigan.

The litmus test will come in November, when the mid-term elections determine which party controls the legislature; the opposition can paralyze Trump for the remainder of his term. It will determine if America continues with Trump's chaos or accommodates Mamdani's vision.

(Aditya Sinha is a writer living on the outskirts of Delhi)

(Source: Frontline)



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th, 2026

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AM EST**

**BROADWAY BETWEEN,
W.43rd St. & W.44th St. Times Square, NYC**

See virtue, not faults: Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami of BAPS urges unity in divided times

The motivational speaker and renunciate from the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha gave an inspiring talk in Queens, NY, and introduced the Hindu Museum coming up in Robbinsville Akshardham in New Jersey.



Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami gave a talk on Unity in Diversity and shared details of the monumental Akshardham Hindu Museum project.



The host Dr. Hari Shukla warmly welcomed the Swamis from Akshardham and distinguished guests



Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami felicitated Dr. Hari Shukla

BY PARVEEN CHOPRA
JULY 20, 2026
JAMAICA ESTATE, QUEENS, NY (TIP)

At a time when wars, social divisions, and global uncertainty continue to test the idea of peaceful coexistence, the message of unity in diversity offers a renewed sense of hope. Giving an inspirational talk here on July 19 on the theme 'Unity in Diversity: A Path to Peace', Dr. Gnanvatsal Swami urged people to see differences not as barriers but as the foundation of harmony.

Giving examples from everyday life -- "Different-colored crayons come together to create a beautiful picture; different-colored threads come together to create a beautiful tapestry; different instruments come together to create a musical masterpiece" - the eminent

spiritual leader, motivational speaker and author from the BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, stressed that unity is built not by eliminating differences but by embracing them with understanding, appreciation, and compassion.

Pujya Gnanvatsal Swami was speaking at an exquisite event organized by BAPS' local chapters. It was held at the spacious hall of the residence of eminent pediatrician Dr Hari Shukla, who introduced the Swami to the invited guests numbering about 75.

Towards the end of his hour-long talk, Gnanvatsal Swami introduced the Akshardham Museum coming up on the sprawling premises of Akshardham in Robbinsville, New Jersey.

He said, "The world has more than one hundred thousand museums. Out of them, 50,000 are in the United States. But nowhere in the world is there a museum on Sanatana Hindu Dharma. Ours will be the first of its kind."

Explaining the need for curating and presenting 10,000 years of Indian Culture and Heritage in America for posterity, the Swami said, "The museum covers 3 expansive floors across 100,000 sq ft. There will be four

exhibition halls. Excellent, glorious, and depicting the values of Sanatana Hindu Dharma in the way they should be. We don't want people to tell us stories of our culture. We want people to hear the stories of our



A view of the audience



Dr. Hari Shukla, sons, and grandson with the Swamis from Akshardham



Mrs Kirti Shukla (middle) and guests pose in front of Museum banners

culture from the descendants of our culture."

To understand how monumental this museum project is, consider this detail: 12 architectural replicas are planned, including Ajanta Ellora caves, and Konark Sun Temple. Swamiji shared a colorful brochure with the guests when meeting them individually after his talk. The brochure has more astounding statistics: there will be 40 Multimedia Shows, 85 Immersive Diaromas, and 200 Lifelike Statues. Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism will also be represented besides Hinduism.

Construction on the Akshardham Museum has begun. Major prefabricated parts for it have arrived from India. It is likely to be completed within a year, said Gnanvatsal Swami who left a career as a mechanical engineer in 1992 to embrace monastic life under the guidance of Pramukh Swami Maharaj and has since received several honors, including two honorary D. Litt degrees.

In his well-received talk, Gnanvatsal Swami also offered a tip for harmony at home and work. He calls it the TAAC Formula. 'T' stands for tolerance, 'A' for acceptance, second 'A' for apology, and 'C' for compromise. Everybody has to walk this path so that harmony is maintained in families, social circles, and business circles, he said.

After his speech, Pujya Nilakanthaseva Swami, from Robbinsville Akshardham, gave some more details about the Museum.

Dr Vipul Patel, an oncologist and Administrator at BAPS Flushing Mandir, also spoke.

Dr Hari Shukla delivered the Thank You note.

(Parveen Chopra is the founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, premier wellness and spirituality web magazine)

India Association of Long Island Celebrates "The Creators of Icons"



Honorees

**JULY 19, 2026
HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP)**

The India Association of Long Island (IALI), one of the oldest and largest Indian-American organizations on Long Island, hosted a magnificent and memorable Annual Gala on Sunday, July 19, 2026, at the elegant Pearl Banquet in Hicksville. Located just minutes from the IALI Center (India House), the venue welcomed a capacity audience of distinguished guests, elected officials, business leaders, community members, and supporters for an unforgettable evening of celebration, inspiration, and recognition.

For nearly five decades, IALI has served as a pillar of the Indian-American community on Long Island. Through cultural celebrations, educational initiatives, charitable programs, youth engagement, senior services, civic participation, and community outreach, IALI has strengthened the bond between Indian heritage and American values while promoting unity, diversity, and service. The Annual Gala remains the organization's signature event, celebrating individuals whose lives and contributions have enriched the community.

This year's inspiring theme, "Creators of Icons - The Women Behind Successful Men," paid tribute to extraordinary women whose strength, dedication, and unwavering support have played a pivotal role in the success of their families, businesses, and communities.

THE FOUR DISTINGUISHED HONOREES WERE:

- Shashi Malik, a respected community leader whose years of selfless service, leadership, and dedication have inspired countless families and organizations across Long Island.
- Padma Behan Mehta, admired for her lifelong commitment to philanthropy, spirituality, and humanitarian service, touching the lives of many through compassion and generosity.
- Shalu Suri Chopra, recognized for her elegance, leadership, and tireless support of numerous cultural and charitable initiatives while standing as a pillar of strength for her family and community.
- Geeta Patel, celebrated for her leadership in managing the bakery and kitchen operations of the Patel Brothers family business, while balancing entrepreneurship, family values, and community service with exceptional grace.

The keynote address was delivered by renowned hotelier, Certified Public Accountant, and entrepreneur Naveen Shah, Chairman of Navika Capital Group.

His inspiring remarks encouraged community members to continue investing in leadership, education, entrepreneurship, and service while preserving the values that define the



Tsewang Gyaltson, Consul, Community Affairs, Consulate General of India, New York giving his remarks.

Kumar Kalotee, Judge Lillian Wan, along with numerous other elected officials and



Dignitaries with Honoree Shashi Malik and IALI committee members

Indian-American community.

The gala was graced by an impressive gathering of elected officials and dignitaries, including New York State

community representatives who came to congratulate the honorees and support IALI.

Among the distinguished guests were



Dignitaries with Honoree Geeta Patel and IALI Committee Members

Senator Steve Rhoads, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, Former New York State Assemblyman Mike LiPetri, Chairman of the Nassau County Human Rights Commission Bobby

media mogul and renowned physician Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parekh, Kamlesh Mehta, Kanak Golia, Nilesh Mehta, Preeti Mehta, Ravi Chopra, Ravi Bhooplapur, Raj Jaggi, Ajay Sondhi, Jaspreet Mayall, Zahid



Dignitaries with Honoree Shalu Suri Chopra and IALI Committee Members

Syed, Dalip Malik, Harry Malhotra, Herman Singh, and many other prominent business and community leaders.

Adding a special touch to the evening, last year's distinguished "Icons" honorees-Harry Bolla, Chintu Patel, Raj Bhayani, and Ambassador Pradhan-extended their heartfelt congratulations through video messages displayed during the program.

IALI proudly recognized its past presidents for their invaluable leadership and decades of service. Those in attendance included Dr. Narendra Hadpawat, Anila Midha, Gobind Munjal, Dr. Jagdish Gupta, Bina Sabapathy, Dr. Bhavani Srinivasan, and Shashi Malik. Each was presented with floral tributes and acknowledged for helping build the legacy of IALI.

Special appreciation was also extended to the Election Committee, whose dedication has ensured successful organizational elections for three consecutive years. Mr. Om Bhambri, Mr. Deepak Sachdev, and Mrs. Rita Bhatija were recognized for their commitment, integrity, and outstanding service to the organization.

IALI President Jasbir Jay Singh proudly introduced the organization's leadership team, including Vice President Ravinder Kumar, Secretary HarGovind (Govind) Gupta, Treasurer Sujata Seth, and Executive Committee members Ashwini Sharma, Abha Bhatnagar, Deepak Bansal, Mohan Sharma, Munish Byala, Shashi Goyal, Vijay Khanna, Vinod Goyal, Amita Karwal, Renu Kapoor, and Sanju Sharma. He thanked the executive committee, volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and members whose dedication made the gala an overwhelming success. The President was on Stage for few with his granddaughter Kiara presenting her as the future woman accomplisher. Jay Singh started his speech with Jai Matadi as this Gala was about women.

Guests also enjoyed an exceptional culinary experience prepared by Pearl Banquet, under the leadership of owner Gary Sikka. The elegant floral décor, beautifully designed by Gala Chair Bhavna Sharma and her talented team, transformed the ballroom into a vibrant celebration of elegance and grace.

The evening's memories were expertly captured through beautiful videography by Kripa Ranjan, while live photography was provided by Vaaho Photo under the direction of Tony Arora. During the networking reception, guests were entertained by live music, and the celebration concluded with an energetic dance floor led by the renowned DJ Parminder, ensuring that the evening ended on a joyous and unforgettable note.

In his closing remarks, President Jasbir Jay Singh expressed heartfelt gratitude to every sponsor, volunteer, committee member, elected official, and guest for making the gala a remarkable success. He reaffirmed IALI's commitment to serving the community, promoting cultural heritage, empowering future generations, and continuing its tradition of excellence for many years to come.

(Based on a Press Release issued by
Jasbir Jay Singh, President, IALI)

ANITA INDIRA ANAND MEETS S. JAISHANKAR IN MANILA

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH



JULY 22, 2026
MANILA (TIP)

Continuing the dialogue they started late last year, Foreign Ministers of Canada - Anita Indira Anand - and India - S. Jaishankar - met in Manila on Wednesday to advance the agenda set together by the Prime Ministers of two countries in October last year.

Besides meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations, Anita Indira Anand had invited S. Jaishankar for the G-7 Foreign Ministers' summit in Niagara in November last year before visiting India in March this year.

After meeting her Indian counterpart, S. Jaishankar, Canadian Foreign Minister, Anita Indira Anand, took to her social media handle and said: "In March, I joined Prime Minister Carney in India, where he and Prime Minister Modi laid the groundwork for expanding trade and investment between our countries, as well as people to people ties. My meeting with Dr. S. Jaishankar in Manila advanced that agenda, with a focus on critical minerals, agriculture and education.

"Two-way merchandise trade reached \$10.9 billion last year, giving Canada and India a substantial base for further growth", she added.

Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar was also on social media. He said: "Appreciate the discussion with Canada FM Anita Anand this afternoon. India-Canada cooperation has been steadily growing. Our conversation focused on achieving the goals for the relationship set by



Foreign Minister of Canada, Anita Indira Anand, and External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar met in Manila on Wednesday, July 22.

our Prime Ministers."

Meanwhile, while talking about her participation in the ASEAN summit, Anita Indira Anand said: "We are building a more resilient economic foundation across the Indo-Pacific, and ASEAN is an important partner in that work. In 2025, our trade in the region exceeded \$52 billion. By concluding the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement,

we can further reduce barriers, improve market access, and create new opportunities for trade and investment.

Today, Canada announced more than \$10 million in new initiatives that will help create the conditions for that partnership to grow - strengthening biosecurity, combating financial crime, protecting children from exploitation, supporting migrant workers, and advancing women's leadership across ASEAN.

"China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi and I met in Manila to advance work toward a new Strategic Partnership between our two countries.

"Our conversation covered practical cooperation in trade, agriculture and other key sectors, including areas where further progress could support Canadian workers and businesses. We also exchanged views on regional and global security concerns.

"Canadian businesses are increasingly looking to Vietnam as a gateway to new customers and supply chains across Southeast Asia. As Canada's largest trading partner in ASEAN, Vietnam is central to how we expand our economic presence in one of the world's fastest-growing markets. "Foreign Minister Lê Hoài Trung and I focused on turning that momentum into greater market access and commercial opportunity. With Vietnam chairing the CPTPP Commission this year, our countries can help strengthen the agreement while coordinating on the security developments shaping the wider region," Anita Indira Anand said.

FIFA World Cup 2026: Canada pats its back for the success of the historic event

JULY 20, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

Members of the FIFA World Cup 2026 champion Spain team, in their joyous moment, preferred to give a go-by to the tradition of a group photograph with the chief guest of the awards ceremony at New Jersey Stadium in New York yesterday, July 19.

Though US President Donald Trump went up to team players on the dais to congratulate them on winning the trophy, no one evinced any interest in asking him or requesting him for a photograph. The president stopped for a while and even looked back before the FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, took him away.

While nothing was said as to whether it was their excitement of winning the trophy or an intentional skip of tradition, it did stir a controversy.

Spain has a reason for its "polite" snub of the chief guest for his recent statements at the NATO summit, where Spain was targeted and threatened with his usual weapon, "tariffs." This was just a whiff of politics that had blanketed the just-concluded FIFA World Cup. It was for the first time that games of the biggest FIFA World Cup were spread to three nations. It was also for the first time that FIFA World Cup men's games were held on Canadian soil. "It has really been an extraordinary journey for all Canadians. The World Cup itself, in terms of sport, was remarkable. It was a huge step forward for Canadian soccer or football or whatever we call it. But what is clear is that Canada is a soccer nation," said Adam van Koeverden, Canada's Secretary of State for Sport. Adam has been an Olympian himself.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his wife Diana Fox Carney watched the final match from a glassed suite along with US President Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump and the President of Mexico Claudia Sheinbaum while the FIFA President Gianni Infantino was in their august company.

Call it an anticlimax rendezvous as Donald Trump refused to renew a trilateral trade agreement involving three long-time partners - the USA, Canada, and Mexico - earlier this month. Donald Trump wanted certain changes, suggesting that instead of trilateral, it should be bilateral agreements between the USA and Canada on one hand and the USA and Mexico on the other to make them more flexible and practical.

Trade and political differences apart, the three co-host



Crowded Toronto Stadium- venue of FIFA World Cup

nations had no choice but to be together for the 48-nation, 39-day and 104-match mega event that would go down in history as the biggest ever FIFA event anywhere.

Politics had cast its spell. Even before the event reached its gold medal stage, Donald Trump held out another threat to enhance tariffs on Canada for its failure to control wildfires raging in the neighboring Ontario province.

Leaving aside the internal politics of the three co-hosts, there were issues related to immigration, trade, and global politics. Iran, one of the 48 qualifiers, wanted its games to be shifted from the USA venues to Mexico for obvious reasons. The request was turned down.

A new chapter was added to the world of competitive sports when a participating nation was granted limited-time visas to come, play and return after its games. Iranians were not permitted to travel from their base in Tijuana, Mexico, to Los Angeles for its group matches against New Zealand and Belgium. It was only for the third and final group game against Egypt that Iranians were allowed into the US two days before the game in Seattle.

Interestingly, players wore armbands saying "Football unites" people in all 104 games.

And when the final match was played, Mark Carney took to his social media handles, saying how hundreds of thousands of football lovers are out on the streets across Canada to cheer on Canada.

He praised the Canadian national team that scripted more than one chapter of history by lodging not only the country's first ever point in the FIFA World Cup by holding Bosnia and Herzegovina to a 1-1 draw but also for recording its first ever win in the tournament against Qatar (by a huge margin, 6-0) and then making the round

of 32 where it again played superbly to defeat South Africa to make the round of 16, the same as was done by the other co-hosts, Mexico and the USA.

"Our team and our fans showed the world that Canada belongs on any pitch, against any team. Canada's soccer journey is just beginning. The best is yet to come," he said.

He issued the following statement: "Today, the FIFA World Cup comes to a close. Canada had the honor of co-hosting this historic tournament alongside Mexico and the United States - marking the first time men's World Cup matches were played in Canada.

"Canadians will be talking about our team's performance on the pitch for generations. The Men's National Team's first-ever win at the World Cup. Our first-ever knockout win and our first match in the Round of 16. The team personified resilience and grit. Jonathan David's hat trick. Ismaël Koné is going down injured; Nathan Saliba is coming on, taking a free kick, scoring, and holding up Ismaël's shirt in celebration. Stephen Eustáquio's 92nd-minute winner against South Africa. Team Canada united the country - showing extraordinary character and showing the world that Canada belongs on any pitch against any team.

"Hundreds of thousands of fans packed the streets of Vancouver, Toronto, and across the country. Canadians watched the beautiful game at stadiums, fan festivals, hotels, sports bars, and living rooms. The World Cup created tens of thousands of jobs, generated lasting economic benefits, and welcomed the world to Canada.

"While today marks the end of the World Cup, it marks the start of a new chapter in Canadian soccer and in Canadian sport. To build on this momentum, our government is making the largest-ever investment in sport - with \$1 billion to improve access to sport, to upgrade stadiums, fields, and local parks, and to provide talent with resources to get from the playground to the podium. We are backing the Canada Soccer National Training Centre to create a permanent national home for soccer so the next Alphonso Davies or Christine Sinclair has the opportunities they need. As fans, we can support our local soccer teams and our national team - not just every four years but year in, year out.

"Canada's soccer journey is just beginning. The best is yet to come," the statement said.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto based senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Exclusive Interview with H.E. Droupadi Murmu, President of Republic of India on the Occasion of her State Visit to Romania

President of the Republic of India Droupadi Murmu was preparing to leave for Romania, as part of her 3-nation European tour from July 19 to July 25, 2026, when she answered a few questions on the timing and purpose of her visit.

Madam President said: "India and Romania have travelled a long journey together. I firmly believe that the years ahead will be even more significant than those behind us. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Romania and look forward to writing, together, a new and inspiring chapter in the enduring friendship between our two nations."

Here are some excerpts.

Q. MADAM PRESIDENT, YOUR STATE VISIT TO ROMANIA IS THE FIRST BY AN INDIAN HEAD OF STATE IN MORE THAN THREE DECADES. WHY IS THIS VISIT TAKING PLACE NOW, AND WHAT MESSAGE DOES IT CONVEY?

ANSWER: This State Visit comes at a defining moment in the evolution of India-Romania relations. Our longstanding friendship has always been characterized by mutual respect, trust and shared democratic values. Today, however, the global landscape is changing rapidly, and our partnership is becoming increasingly significant.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies, while Romania has emerged as an increasingly important economic and trusted partner within the European Union. The convergence of our strengths presents unprecedented opportunities for cooperation. As global supply chains are being reconfigured and countries seek trusted partners for technology, manufacturing, innovation and investment, India and Romania are naturally positioned to work more closely together.

This visit, therefore, is not merely a celebration of our longstanding friendship; it is about shaping our shared future. It reflects our common ambition to expand cooperation in trade and investment, defense, digital technologies, innovation, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, education, mobility of skilled professionals and people-to-people exchanges.

The recently concluded India-European Union Free Trade Agreement marks another important milestone. It opens new avenues for businesses, investors and innovators on both sides, and I believe Romania will play an increasingly significant role in India's expanding engagement with Europe.

My hope is that this historic visit will be remembered as the beginning of a new chapter, one in which India and Romania transform a warm and enduring friendship into a dynamic and forward-looking partnership that delivers prosperity, innovation, and opportunities for future generations.

Q. ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS GROWN SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS. HOW DO YOU SEE ROMANIA'S ROLE IN INDIA'S ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPE?

ANSWER: For India, Romania is far more than a bilateral partner. It is an important gateway for expanding our economic engagement with Europe. Romania's manufacturing ecosystem, logistics infrastructure, including the Port of Constanța, and growing innovation landscape complement India's own strengths in manufacturing, technology and services.

The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement creates an enabling framework for a new era of economic cooperation. I see tremendous opportunities for Romanian companies to expand their presence in India and for Indian enterprises to make Romania an important destination for investment, manufacturing and research within the European Union.



President of the Republic of India Droupadi Murmu

Beyond trade and investment, I believe our two countries can work together to build resilient supply chains, strengthen industrial cooperation and advance technological partnerships in areas that are shaping the global economy. Romania is therefore an important pillar of India's broader engagement with Europe, and I am confident that our partnership will continue to grow in depth, ambition and lasting significance.

Q. IN AN INCREASINGLY UNCERTAIN WORLD, INDIA HAS EMERGED AS AN INFLUENTIAL GLOBAL VOICE WHILE STRENGTHENING ITS PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS REGIONS. HOW DO YOU SEE INDIA'S ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER, AND WHERE DOES ROMANIA FIT INTO THAT VISION?

ANSWER: The world is experiencing profound geopolitical, economic and technological transformations. At such a time, the need for dialogue, mutual trust and international cooperation has never been greater.

India's foreign policy is guided by the principles of strategic autonomy, mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and the conviction that diplomacy remains the most effective means of resolving differences. Our approach is inspired by the timeless Indian philosophy



of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the world is one family - which reminds us that lasting peace and prosperity can only be achieved through cooperation and shared responsibility.

India has emerged as a bridge between the Global South and the developed world, advocating a more inclusive and representative international order while strengthening partnerships with countries across every continent. We believe that today's global challenges - whether climate change, health security, food and energy security, resilient supply chains or emerging technologies - require collective solutions and effective multilateral institutions.

Romania is an important partner in this endeavor. As a respected member of the European Union, and a country that shares India's commitment to democracy, the rule of law and a rules-based international order, Romania has an important role to play in strengthening cooperation between India and Europe.

Working together, our two countries can contribute to resilient supply chains, sustainable development, digital transformation, innovation, energy security and global stability. I see India and Romania as trusted partners working not only for the prosperity of our own peoples but also for a more peaceful, inclusive and resilient international community.

Q. TRADE BETWEEN INDIA AND ROMANIA HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY. HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF OUR ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP?

ANSWER: The steady growth in bilateral trade over recent years reflects the growing confidence that businesses in both countries have in one another's economies. Yet I believe that we have only begun to realize the enormous potential of our economic partnership.

India and Romania possess complementary strengths. There are significant opportunities to deepen cooperation in pharmaceuticals, information technology, engineering, digital technologies, defense manufacturing, automotive components, agriculture and food processing, clean energy, logistics, healthcare, infrastructure, research and innovation. New sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, cybersecurity and advanced manufacturing offer equally exciting possibilities.

Romania's strategic location, industrial capabilities and skilled workforce make it an attractive destination for Indian investment within the European Union. At the same time, India's scale, innovation ecosystem, competitive manufacturing base and rapidly expanding consumer market present exceptional opportunities for Romanian businesses.

The India-European Union Free Trade Agreement provides a strong framework for expanding trade, investment, technology partnerships and industrial collaboration between our two countries. I am confident that it will encourage businesses to explore new opportunities with greater confidence and ambition.

I am particularly pleased that more than forty leading Indian business leaders from diverse sectors are accompanying me on this State Visit. Together with President Nicușor Dan and Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, I look forward to addressing the India-Romania Business Forum. I hope the Forum will identify new avenues for investment, industrial cooperation, innovation and technology partnerships, and facilitate direct engagement between our business communities.

It is my hope that, through sustained efforts by our governments and private sectors, we will double our bilateral trade by 2030. More importantly, we will move beyond a traditional trading relationship towards one founded on investment, co-development, innovation and enduring partnerships. That, I believe, will define the next chapter of India-Romania economic relations.

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Q. INDIA IS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZED AS A GLOBAL HUB FOR MANUFACTURING, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY. HOW CAN ROMANIAN BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM INDIA'S GROWTH STORY?

ANSWER: India today offers one of the world's most attractive destinations for investment, manufacturing and innovation. With sustained economic growth, a stable policy environment, world-class digital infrastructure and one of the youngest workforces in the world, India presents immense opportunities for international businesses.

Flagship initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Start-up India and the Production Linked Incentive programme have strengthened India's manufacturing capabilities and encouraged innovation across a wide range of sectors. Today, India is not only a large market but also an increasingly important center for research, design, advanced manufacturing and technology development.

Romanian companies can partner with Indian enterprises in pharmaceuticals, engineering, information technology, digital services, clean energy, automotive manufacturing, defense production, logistics, food processing, research and emerging technologies. Equally, Indian companies are exploring opportunities to invest in Romania's manufacturing sector, digital ecosystem, infrastructure and innovation landscape, viewing Romania as an important partner within the European Union.

I encourage businesses in both countries to think beyond conventional trade and focus on joint ventures, technology partnerships, research collaborations and co-development. The future of India-Romania economic relations lies not only in buying and selling goods, but in creating value together.

I am confident that growing economic cooperation, supported by the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement will open a new era of enhanced partnership between the two countries.

Q. DEFENSE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND ROMANIA HAS GAINED RENEWED MOMENTUM IN RECENT YEARS. HOW DO YOU SEE THIS PARTNERSHIP EVOLVING?

ANSWER: India and Romania share a relationship founded on mutual trust, shared democratic values and a common commitment to peace, security and stability. As the global strategic environment evolves, I believe defense and defense-industrial cooperation can become one of the defining pillars of our bilateral partnership.

India has made remarkable progress in developing a modern, self-reliant and globally competitive defense manufacturing ecosystem. Through the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, India has emerged not only as one of the world's largest defense markets but also as a trusted partner in the design, development, co-production and export of advanced defense systems and technologies.

I am encouraged by the productive discussions held during the recent meeting of the India-Romania Joint Committee on Defense Cooperation, which reaffirmed our shared commitment to expanding collaboration.

We see considerable opportunities in defense manufacturing, research and development, defense innovation, training, cyber security, dual-use technologies and industrial partnerships. I am also pleased that several Indian defense companies have shown interest in exploring long-term investments and partnerships with Romanian industry.

By bringing together our technological capabilities and skilled human resources, we can build a mutually beneficial partnership that promotes innovation ecosystem.



Q. INDIA HAS BECOME A GLOBAL LEADER IN DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND IS ALSO EMERGING AS A LEADER IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE. HOW CAN INDIA AND ROMANIA WORK TOGETHER IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY?

ANSWER: The digital revolution is transforming economies and societies across the world. India has demonstrated that technology, when designed to serve people, can become a powerful force for inclusion, transparency and economic growth.

Our Digital Public Infrastructure, including Aadhaar, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and DigiLocker, has enabled hundreds of millions of citizens to access banking, healthcare, education and public services efficiently and securely. Today, many countries are looking at India's experience as a model for building inclusive digital ecosystems. Romania has developed an impressive reputation in software engineering, cyber security, artificial intelligence and digital innovation. These complementary strengths create exceptional opportunities for collaboration.

I see great potential for partnerships in digital governance, fintech, artificial intelligence, cyber security, quantum technologies, semiconductors, digital health, start-up ecosystems and advanced digital skills. Our universities, innovation centers and technology companies can also work together to develop solutions for global markets.

India hosted the AI Impact Summit in February 2026, where 20 Heads of State/Government participated including significant participation by European countries. Artificial Intelligence, in particular, must remain ethical, transparent, inclusive and human-centric. India believes that technology

should empower humanity, reduce inequalities and promote sustainable development. By combining India's digital scale with Romania's technological excellence, our two countries can become trusted partners in shaping the digital economy of the future.

Q. CLIMATE ACTION AND ENERGY SECURITY ARE AMONG THE DEFINING CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME. HOW CAN INDIA AND ROMANIA STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN THESE AREAS?

ANSWER: Climate change and energy security are global challenges that require collective action and innovative partnerships. India has demonstrated that economic development and environmental sustainability can advance together. Guided by our nationally determined commitments and emphasis on sustainable lifestyles through Mission LiFE, we remain committed to ensuring affordable, reliable and secure energy for all.

India and Romania have significant opportunities to expand cooperation in renewable energy, green hydrogen, solar power, energy efficiency, battery technologies, smart grids, sustainable mobility and climate-resilient infrastructure. Romania's expertise in clean energy, including civil nuclear energy, together with India's rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity, creates important opportunities for technological collaboration and investment.

I am particularly pleased that Romania has joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), an India-led global initiative that promotes greater deployment of solar energy. We also look forward to Romania joining other important global initiatives championed by India, including the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). These platforms bring together countries committed to building resilient infrastructure and advancing sustainable energy solutions through innovation and international cooperation.

I am confident that, by working together, both bilaterally and through these global partnerships, India and Romania can contribute meaningfully to a cleaner, greener and more resilient future.

Q. INDIA IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS THE "PHARMACY OF THE WORLD." HOW DO YOU SEE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND ROMANIA IN HEALTHCARE AND PHARMACEUTICALS?

ANSWER: Healthcare is one of the most promising areas of cooperation between India and Romania. India has earned global recognition as a reliable supplier of affordable, high-quality medicines and vaccines. Our pharmaceutical industry has become an integral part of global healthcare, serving millions of people across the world. At the same time, India has made significant investments in biotechnology, medical devices, digital health and pharmaceutical research.

Together, our countries can build partnerships in pharmaceutical manufacturing, biotechnology, vaccine research, medical devices, digital health solutions, clinical research and healthcare innovation.

Beyond commercial cooperation, we can strengthen collaboration between our universities, research institutions, hospitals and regulatory agencies to promote research, capacity building and knowledge sharing.

Healthcare is ultimately about improving people's lives. I believe India and Romania have the expertise, experience and shared commitment to make a meaningful contribution to global health security while creating new opportunities for our industries and research communities.



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Q. ROMANIA IS FACING DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES AND AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR SKILLED PROFESSIONALS. HOW CAN INDIA AND ROMANIA WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD A LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP IN HUMAN RESOURCES AND SKILLS?

ANSWER: India is one of the world's youngest nations, with a large pool of highly skilled professionals, engineers, healthcare workers, technicians and trained personnel. As Romania continues to modernize its economy and address workforce requirements, our two countries can work together to develop transparent, orderly and mutually beneficial mobility partnerships.

Indian professionals have earned an excellent reputation in Romania for their professionalism, adaptability, dedication and strong work ethic. Today, they are making valuable contributions across healthcare, information technology, engineering, manufacturing, construction, hospitality and other important sectors. Their success reflects not only their professional competence but also the growing trust and understanding between our two societies.

As Romania undertakes reforms to make its labor market more responsive to the needs of a modern economy, I see considerable scope for expanding cooperation in skills development, vocational training, recognition of professional qualifications and mobility of skilled workers. Such collaboration can help address Romania's workforce requirements while creating new opportunities for Indian talent.

Ultimately, our partnership is about investing in people, strengthening our economies and building enduring human connections. The growing Indian community in Romania has become an important bridge between our countries, and I am confident that, with the right institutional frameworks, we can create an ecosystem of growth, competitiveness and innovation.

Q. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE TIES HAVE BECOME ONE OF THE STRONGEST PILLARS OF INDIA-ROMANIA RELATIONS. HOW DO YOU SEE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE INDIAN COMMUNITY TO ROMANIA, AND WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN THESE BONDS?

ANSWER: One of the greatest strengths of the India-Romania relationship lies not only in the friendship between our governments but also in the growing bonds between our peoples. Today, thousands of Indian professionals, entrepreneurs, students and skilled workers are contributing meaningfully to Romania's economy and society. Whether in healthcare, information technology, manufacturing, construction, hospitality, research or higher education, they have earned appreciation for their professionalism, dedication and hard work.

One particularly moving example is that of Mr. Vipin Kumar in Craiova, whose courageous act of risking his own life to save a Romanian child from drowning touched the hearts of people across Romania. His selfless action became a powerful symbol of the shared human values that unite our two nations, compassion, courage and humanity.

At the same time, people-to-people ties are flourishing through culture, education, tourism and academic exchanges. The growing interest in yoga, Ayurveda, Indian cinema and classical dance, as well as the increasing number of Romanian students and scholars engaging with India, reflects the warmth and curiosity that exist between our societies.

I hope we will continue to encourage greater exchanges among our students, artists, researchers, entrepreneurs and young professionals. Lasting partnerships are ultimately built by people, and I am confident that the friendships being forged today will become the strongest foundation of India-Romania relations in the decades ahead.

Q. YOUNG PEOPLE, EDUCATION AND INNOVATION ARE INCREASINGLY SHAPING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS. HOW CAN INDIA AND ROMANIA WORK TOGETHER TO EMPOWER THE NEXT GENERATION?

ANSWER: India is one of the world's youngest



nations, with more than sixty-five per cent of its population below the age of thirty-five. Our young people are driving India's transformation through innovation, entrepreneurship, scientific research and technological advancement. I believe the youth of India and Romania can become one of the strongest pillars of our future partnership.

Our two countries have enormous potential to deepen cooperation in higher education, scientific research, innovation and skills development. I would like to see many more Indian and Romanian students studying in each other's universities, greater exchanges of faculty and researchers, joint research programs, partnerships between centers of excellence and closer collaboration in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, digital technologies, advanced manufacturing, clean energy and space sciences.

Innovation flourishes when ideas, talent and cultures come together. By connecting our universities, research institutions, start-ups and innovation ecosystems, we can create opportunities that benefit not only our two countries but also the wider world.

As India and Romania prepare to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, I would be delighted if we could jointly dedicate that milestone as an "Year of Innovation." It would provide an inspiring platform for organizing academic exchanges, research partnerships, innovation challenges, start-up collaborations and youth programs throughout the year, reflecting both our proud history and our shared confidence in the future.

To the young people of Romania, I would simply say: remain curious, embrace lifelong learning and continue building bridges across cultures. The future belongs to those who innovate together, learn from one another and work collectively for the common good.

Q. INDIA AND ROMANIA ARE BOTH PROUD OF THEIR RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS. WHAT ROLE DO CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION VALUES PLAY IN STRENGTHENING RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES?

ANSWER: Culture has a unique ability to bring people together. It transcends borders, languages and geography, creating understanding and friendship where formal diplomacy alone cannot.

India and Romania are both ancient civilizations with rich literary, artistic and philosophical traditions. We share a deep appreciation for culture, family values and respect for diversity. These common values provide a strong foundation for our partnership.

India's civilisational philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"the world is one family"—continues to guide our engagement with the international community. It reminds us that mutual respect, dialogue and understanding are essential for peaceful coexistence.

I hope to see even greater exchanges in literature, cinema, music, dance, visual arts, tourism and cultural heritage. Increased cooperation between

museums, universities, cultural institutions and artists will help our people understand one another even better.

Ultimately, the strongest and most enduring partnerships are those built not only on economic interests but also on shared values and mutual appreciation of each other's cultures.

Q. IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, WHAT MESSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONVEY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF INDIA-ROMANIA RELATIONS?

ANSWER: I believe India and Romania stand at the threshold of a new era in their relationship. For more than seven decades, our friendship has been built on trust, goodwill, and mutual respect. Today, we have an opportunity to transform that friendship into a comprehensive and future-oriented partnership.

The possibilities before us are truly remarkable. We can expand trade and investment, strengthen defense and industrial cooperation, advance innovation and digital technologies, deepen collaboration in healthcare, clean energy, education and research, and create new opportunities for our businesses, universities and young people.

The recently signed India-European Union Free Trade Agreement provides an important framework for expanding our economic engagement, while our shared democratic values and commitment to a rules-based international order give our partnership an even stronger foundation.

I am confident that by working together with vision, ambition and trust, India and Romania can become important partners in shaping a more prosperous, innovative and resilient future, not only for our own peoples but also for Europe, the Indo-Pacific and the wider international community.

Q. FINALLY, WHAT MESSAGE WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONVEY TO THE PEOPLE OF ROMANIA?

ANSWER: The people of India regard Romania as a trusted friend. Our relationship has been nurtured over generations through mutual respect, goodwill and a shared belief in the importance of dialogue, peace and cooperation. As I undertake this historic State Visit after more than three decades, I do so with great optimism about the future of our partnership. I see immense opportunities for our countries to work together in trade, investment, technology, defense, innovation, healthcare, education, clean energy, culture and tourism.

Above all, I hope this visit inspires businesses to invest, universities to collaborate, researchers to innovate, artists to exchange ideas and young people to build lasting friendships. These human connections will ensure that our partnership continues to flourish for generations to come.

India and Romania have travelled a long journey together. I firmly believe that the years ahead will be even more significant than those behind us. I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Romania and look forward to writing, together, a new and inspiring chapter in the enduring friendship between our two nations.

Zee 5 Global Unveils Its Biggest Multilingual Slate Yet Across Seven Languages

With an expansive content slate across Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, and Bangla, Zee 5 Global brings India's boldest, culturally rooted and compelling stories under one destination

GLOBAL, 23RD JULY 2026:

Entertainment doesn't evolve by following trends. It evolves by creating them. Zee 5 Global, the world's leading streaming platform for South Asian content unveiled its most ambitious multilingual slate yet, a bold showcase of stories, creators, and formats designed for a new generation of audiences. Spanning Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, and Bangla, the slate brings together an expansive line-up of Movies, Series, AI-powered storytelling, Animation and Kids' Entertainment, all under one destination.

Built on the belief that great entertainment should be fearless, culturally rooted, and impossible to ignore, the new slate reflects Zee 5 Global's long term vision of creating stories that don't just entertain but spark conversations, shape culture and travel across languages and borders. From marquee franchises and premium originals to pioneering new formats, Zee 5 Global continues to push the boundaries of storytelling while deepening its commitment to audiences across India and around the world.

LINK:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DbIH4hbCkPc/>

The slate is powered by an exceptional roster of creative partners, bringing together some of India's most celebrated studios, filmmakers, and storytellers. In Hindi, Zee 5 has joined forces with leading production houses including Jio Studios, Maddock Films, AAZ Films, 200 NOTOUT CINEMAS, DICE Media, Collective Studios Historyverse, Tips Films, Pen Studios, Ellipsis Entertainment, Reliance Entertainment and Jar Pictures. Across regional markets, the platform continues to deepen its commitment to regional storytelling through collaborations with industry leaders such as Thespian Films in Malayalam, Annapurna Studios, Sri Venkateswara Creations, Sitara Entertainments and Sri Venkateswara Cine Chitra in Telugu, Passion Studios and Vriddhi Cinemas in Telugu, KVN Productions in Kannada, Bahawa Entertainment, Pratisaad Productions, Kyra Kumar Kreations in Marathi along with Bengali powerhouses like Acropolis Entertainment, Anjan Dutt Productions, Why So Serious films, Surinder Films and Zee Studios for multiple languages.

The Hindi slate brings together bold new originals, iconic franchise revivals, and marquee films. New series include Kambli- inspired from the life of Vinod Kambli, The Scam: Leaked, Coffee King, Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai 2.0, hosted by R. Madhavan, the iconic Zee Horror Show, returning franchises like Rangbaaz S4 starring Mohit Raina and Arunoday Singh, Janaawar 2 featuring Bhuvan Arora and Bakaiti S2 featuring Rajesh Telang and Sheeba Chaddha. The movie slate features a strong mix of theatrical premieres and direct to digital releases like Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai starring Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde and Mouni Roy, Bandar featuring Bobby Deol and Sanya Malhotra, Bharat Bhagya Vidhata led by Kangana Ranaut, Pooja Meri Jaan with Mrunal Thakur and Huma Qureshi, Sarvgunn Sampann starring Vaani Kapoor, Ghamasaan featuring Arshad Warsi, Tigmanshu Dhulia and Pratik Gandhi, Ikroop with Mithila Palkar and Gauahar Khan and Dalimb starring Jitendra Kumar and Priya Bapat.

Further strengthening its language-first strategy, Zee 5 Global continues to champion deeply rooted, culturally authentic storytelling with an expansive slate spanning Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, and Bangla. In Tamil, audiences can look forward to the return of Koose Munisamy Veerappan and Thadayam, alongside new originals Ananthakaalam and Thee Kural, first ever independent rap battle show. The movie slate is headlined by the highly anticipated Demonte Colony 3, Hi! starring Nayanthara and Kavin, and Raawadi. In Telugu, the



platform will release originals such as Shrimathi starring Nivetha Thomas and Objection Mylord starring Srikanth alongside return of blockbuster talk show Jayammu Nishchayammu Ra. The movie line-up includes most anticipated films like Venky Anil 5, NBK111 and Vrushakarma.

In Kannada, Ayyana Mane returns with a new season, while Bitcoin Scam and Operation Bangara expand the originals slate. The platform also brings Karavali, featuring Raj B. Shetty and Prajwal Devaraj, to its movie line-up. In Malayalam, Zee 5 premieres A Queen, Malabar Cup and Malayalam's independent rap battle show Kerala Underground, alongside this season's most acclaimed film Balan the Boy. In Marathi, audiences can look forward to a new season of Hey Kay Navin?, along with the new original Aga Aai, Aaho Aai and blockbuster films Tumbadchi Manjula and Bhootam Bhayam. In Bangla, audience favourites Shwetkali and Lalbazaar return with new seasons, while shows like Aloor Dosh and Priyo Bondhu strengthen the originals slate. Together, these titles reaffirm Zee 5 Global's position as the destination for premium entertainment in every language.

Siju Prabhakaran, Chief Business Officer, Zee 5 Global, said, "At Zee 5 Global, we see Indian storytelling finding a stronger voice across the world than ever before. Our goal is not just to take content beyond borders, but to share stories that inspire, provoke thought and build meaningful cultural connections. This slate reflects that ambition, bringing together some of India's most compelling creators, production houses and talent across Movies, Series, AI-powered storytelling, Animation and Kids' Entertainment. As audiences everywhere continue to look for authentic stories with broad appeal, we remain focused on curating distinctive, emotionally engaging entertainment that is deeply rooted in India and resonates across cultures and geographies."

Harish Goyal, Territory Head - Americas, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., said, "Across the Americas, we've seen Indian entertainment evolve from being a connection to home into a form of storytelling that resonates far beyond the diaspora. Audiences today are embracing stories for their authenticity, emotional depth and universal themes. This slate reflects our ambition to champion bold, culturally rooted stories that connect across generations and communities, while showcasing the diversity of Indian entertainment. As our audience continues to grow, we look forward to bringing them stories that spark conversations, create lasting memories and strengthen their connection with Zee 5 Global."

Parul Goel, Territory Head - Europe, Zee Entertainment UK, said, "Europe continues to be a strategic growth market for Zee 5 Global, where audiences are increasingly embracing stories that are deeply rooted in Indian culture while resonating with universal emotions and experiences. Our latest content slate reflects this vision, bringing together compelling narratives, bold storytelling, and creative excellence through collaborations with some of India's most celebrated talent and production houses. We are also witnessing a growing appreciation for Indian storytelling beyond traditional diaspora audiences, creating new opportunities to connect with wider and more diverse viewer segments across the region. As we

expand the global footprint of Indian entertainment, we remain committed to delivering premium content that transcends borders, fosters cultural connections, and strengthens our engagement with viewers across Europe."

Krishnendu Chakraborty, Business Head, APAC, Zee Entertainment, said, "The APAC region continues to offer immense opportunities as audiences increasingly embrace stories that are rooted in culture while resonating across borders. At Zee 5 Global, our audiences remain at the heart of every story we tell, and this slate is a reflection of our commitment to creating content that they love, connect with and keep coming back to. It also underscores our focus on championing bold storytelling, creative excellence and diverse voices that speak to the evolving preferences of viewers across the region. By bringing together compelling stories across genres and formats, we look forward to strengthening our connection with audiences and reinforcing Zee 5 Global's position as the preferred destination for premium Indian entertainment across APAC."

Ali Zaidi, Territory Head - MENA, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., said, "The MENA region continues to be an important market for Zee 5 Global, where audiences have consistently embraced Indian stories for their emotional authenticity and universal appeal. This slate reflects our commitment to bringing bold, culturally rooted stories that connect across borders while celebrating the richness and diversity of Indian entertainment. As audience preferences continue to evolve, we remain focused on delivering meaningful entertainment experiences that deepen engagement and further strengthen Zee 5 Global's presence across the region."

Beyond scripted entertainment, Zee 5 Global continues to scale its entertainment ecosystem through AI, Animation, and Kids' content. The platform's growing portfolio features its AI & Animation slate featuring Garud - Ek Yodha Ki Gatha, Narmada Manasa Sundari, Vikram Betal, Shiv Sati-Ek Anant Prem Kahani, Param Sundari Chandrakanta, Tirupati Balaji, Ram Anjaney Yuddh and Aiyappan, alongside kids' content including Shivlok Ke Kundakka Mandakka, Smart KidZ, Tales of Krishna, and Bandbudh and Budbak 2.0, reinforcing the platform's commitment to building a truly holistic entertainment destination for audiences across age groups.

With this landmark slate, Zee 5 Global reinforces its position as the destination where India's boldest stories come alive. Bringing together marquee collaborations, iconic franchises, fresh originals and stories across seven languages, the slate is bold in scale, unstoppable in ambition, unconventional in choice and unapologetic in voice, reflecting the platform's continued focus on delivering differentiated entertainment at an unmatched scale.

ABOUT ZEE 5 GLOBAL

Zee 5 Global is India's largest homegrown video streaming platform and the global window for South Asian content, reaching viewers across 190+ countries. As the digital entertainment destination of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd., Zee 5 Global is driven by the philosophy of a language-first platform experience with hyper-local content, language-specific packs and deeply personalized experiences across seven languages; Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Malayalam, Kannada, and Bangla. The platform is also home to India's boldest stories, bringing together original voices, iconic franchises and distinctive storytelling across languages and genres.

With a vast library spanning Movies, Series and Originals across seven languages, Zee 5 Global is the destination for diverse, multilingual entertainment for audiences across 190+ countries.

(ADVERT)

Delhi Cops Add Attempt To Murder Charge In CJP Protest Violence Case

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The police in Delhi have invoked the charge of attempted murder in the case filed in connection with the violence that erupted during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) "Chalo Sansad" march on July 20.

Thousands of protesters, mostly youngsters, had converged on central Delhi on the first day of the monsoon session of Parliament on July 20 for demonstrations against irregularities in NEET -- the national entrance test for medical colleges -- and to demand the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Denied permission for the march, they were involved in a stand-off with the police at many places near Parliament. The security forces had used tear gas shells and batons to disperse the crowd.

At least 129 police personnel, including several senior officers, and about 60 protesters are said to have sustained injuries in the clashes.

A first information report (FIR), accessed by NDTV, was registered on the complaint of an inspector posted at the Kartavya Path Police Station. It was filed under 13 sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including offences related to attempt to murder, assault on a public servant, obstruction of public servants in discharge of duty, unlawful assembly, rioting, damage to public property, and acts endangering human life.

The incident pertained to the violence that took place near Rail Bhavan on Rafi Marg, close to the Parliament complex.

According to the FIR, the complainant inspector was deployed from 5:00 am at C-Hexagon, Zone-11 (Pink Booth) as part of the security arrangements. Following a wireless message, the police team rushed to the barricades near the Rail Bhavan roundabout, where thousands of protesters had assembled.

The complaint stated that repeated announcements were made over loudspeakers informing the crowd that prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were in force and that no permission had been granted for the protest. Despite the warnings, the crowd allegedly refused to disperse and continued raising slogans.

As per the FIR, some individuals allegedly incited the crowd to breach the barricades and move towards Parliament. The police have alleged that protesters surrounded security personnel, assaulted them, and pelted stones and slippers at them.

The FIR further alleged that the mob attacked police personnel with the intention of killing them, leading to injuries to several officers. It also claimed that government property and private vehicles were damaged during the violence.

Up to 10-yr jail, Rs 10-cr fine: Govt clears tougher anti-paper leak bill

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major push to safeguard the integrity of public recruitment examinations, the Centre has introduced a stringent anti-paper leak legislation that proposes up to 10 years of imprisonment and fines of up to Rs 10 crore for individuals and organisations found guilty of leaking question papers or engaging in organised examination fraud.

The proposed law, aimed at curbing malpractices in competitive examinations conducted by central agencies, seeks to establish a strong legal framework to deter paper leaks, impersonation, cyber fraud and other unfair practices that have repeatedly disrupted recruitment processes across the country.

According to the provisions of the Bill, those involved in organised paper leak rackets, tampering with examination systems or facilitating large-scale cheating could face a minimum prison term of three years, extendable to 10 years, along with monetary penalties that may reach ₹10 crore. Institutions or service providers found complicit in such offences may also face heavy financial penalties and recovery of losses incurred due to cancellation or rescheduling of examinations.

The legislation covers examinations conducted by central recruitment agencies, including those responsible for recruiting personnel for government departments and public sector institutions. It seeks to address growing concerns over repeated examination irregularities that have affected lakhs of aspirants and delayed recruitment in recent years.

The Bill categorises offences such as leaking question papers before examinations, unauthorised access to question papers or answer keys, impersonation, use of electronic devices for cheating, hacking of examination systems and creation of fake websites or digital platforms to deceive candidates. These offences have been classified as cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable, enabling law enforcement agencies to take swift action against offenders.



Security personnel patrol a protest site over alleged irregularities in the NEET examination and demanding the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, in Patna, on Thursday, July 23.

Officials said the proposed law is intended to target organised criminal networks rather than genuine candidates. Students appearing for examinations in good faith are not expected to face prosecution unless they are found to have knowingly participated in fraudulent activities.

Investigating agencies will be empowered to probe organised examination fraud, with provisions allowing cases involving large-scale conspiracies to be investigated by central agencies where necessary. The government also plans to strengthen digital security measures, improve encryption of examination material and enhance coordination among examination authorities to prevent leaks.

The move follows a series of paper leak incidents involving recruitment and entrance examinations in different parts of the country, which sparked widespread protests among candidates and raised questions about the credibility of examination systems. Several examinations had to be cancelled or postponed after allegations of question papers being leaked before the scheduled tests.

Sonam Wangchuk defends 26-day hunger strike; asks: 'Do I need a character certificate'

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has defended the integrity of his 26-day hunger strike, questioning why he should be required to prove the sincerity of his protest after enduring significant physical hardship.

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has defended the integrity of his 26-day hunger strike, rejecting allegations that he ended the fast after striking a deal with the government and asking critics why he should need a "character certificate" to prove his commitment to the students' movement.

In a video message shared on X, Wangchuk dismissed allegations that he had struck a deal with the government, saying, "Do I need to prove my sincerity after a 26-day hunger strike?"

"AFTER 26 DAYS OF HUNGER, DO I NEED TO PROVE MY SINCERITY!!!"

He said he ended his hunger strike only after securing a written assurance as he feared an imminent crackdown on protesters in Delhi, recalling the 2025



firing on youths in Ladakh, and wanted to prevent any violence against students.

The students, led by the Cockroach Janta Party nam (CJP), are protesting at Jantar Mantar and elsewhere against the NEET paper leak. Their key demands include the resignation of Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in connection with the controversy.

He also rejected allegations that he had compromised with the government.

"Last night around midnight, I was told the ministers had agreed to give the assurance in writing. I was in a hurry because the situation in Delhi was such;

there was apprehension that a major crackdown could happen.

"I was watching reports and was reminded of September 24, 2025, when police and CRPF personnel mercilessly fired at the youth of Ladakh. I was afraid something similar could happen here. I felt that if I ended my fast and appealed for peace, perhaps the situation could be diffused," he said.

Responding to criticism over ending his fast in the presence of Union ministers, Wangchuk said those questioning his decision were unaware of the circumstances he faced after being shifted from the protest site.

"If I had to make a deal, would I have remained hungry for 26 days? Could I not have struck a deal sitting in an air-conditioned room instead of fasting in Delhi's heat?" he asked.

He alleged that after being taken to Safdarjung Hospital on July 18, he was treated "like a prisoner", claiming he was denied free movement, prevented from meeting visitors and not allowed to keep a mobile phone or laptop.

Another Indian seafarer killed in Black Sea strike

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): An Indian seafarer was killed in a drone strike on a ship in the Black Sea last week, officials said on Friday, July 24, even as an LPG carrier Disha came under missile attack near Iran, leaving the vessel temporarily without manoeuvrability.

MV Omorfi was attacked while transiting the Black Sea, reportedly in Russian territorial waters, on July 18, the external affairs ministry said in a statement. Chief Officer Sagar Gupta, one of three Indian nationals among the 10 crew members, was killed in the attack, while the two other Indian crew members are safe. India on Friday condemned the attack on the Marshall Islands-flagged Omorfi and reiterated its call for upholding international obligations to ensure the safety and security of maritime navigation and the uninterrupted flow of global commerce. The incident occurred a day before a Russian attack that targeted the Guinea Bissau-flagged MV Golden Leo in the Black Sea and killed 10 people, including four Indian seafarers. The external ministry's statement did not specify who attacked the Omorfi, though the Forward Seamen's Union of India said on social media that the vessel was targeted by an Ukrainian drone. "India condemns such attacks targeting commercial shipping and placing the lives of innocent crew members at risk. It is a matter of serious concern that the freedom of navigation and international commerce is facing increasing threats," the statement said.

'Won't allow injustice to prevail', CJI to youth; says SC doors open 24 hours

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Friday, July 24, said that the Supreme Court's doors remain open to every citizen, assuring the nation's youth that the judiciary will protect their rights and address every legitimate grievance within the framework of law.

The CJI's assurance has come amid the continuing nationwide student protests and the controversy relating to alleged police excesses during the July 20 crackdown in Delhi.

The CJI told Hindustan Times that the Supreme Court would hear grievances in accordance with the law and judicial procedure and make every effort to secure justice wherever warranted.

"I would want to assure every citizen and especially the youth of the country that if any injustice has been caused to any person, the Supreme Court will hear the grievance within the bounds of law and the prescribed judicial procedure. Wherever possible, we will ensure that justice is done. The judiciary is always ready to address the problems and suffering of the people," the CJI said.

Without commenting on the merits of the ongoing Cockroach Janata Party (CJP)-led protests, the CJI said it was incorrect to suggest that the Supreme Court had refused to hear the matter.

"I do not wish to comment on the merits because the issue has come before the court and it was mentioned in the afternoon today. But it is incorrect to say that the Supreme Court had earlier refused to hear the matter," he said.

Emphasising that access to justice remains central to the institution, the CJI added: "The doors of the Supreme Court are open 24 hours a day for every citizen. The court will not allow injustice to prevail."

The CJI explained that no properly instituted petition had been before the court when the controversy first arose. "Only a letter or representation had been submitted while seeking an urgent hearing. That is not the procedure recognised by law. A petition has to be filed in accordance with the rules and procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court," he said.



The CJI underlined that once properly constituted petitions were filed and mentioned before the court, they were accepted for listing. "When the petitions were subsequently filed and mentioned before us, we agreed to list them, and they will now be dealt with in accordance with law," he added.

The remarks assume significance against the backdrop of criticism directed at the Supreme Court after it declined on Wednesday to entertain an oral request by an advocate seeking suo motu cognisance of the alleged police brutality during the July 20 "Chalo Sansad" march organised by the CJP.

Earlier on Friday, while presiding over a bench with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, the CJI also clarified in open court that no writ petition had been filed before the Supreme Court until Friday morning, and criticised what he described as "reckless" reporting suggesting that the court had refused to list the matter.

Source: HT

Govt yet to reach 80,000 flood victims, says Assam CM; toll rises to 61

JULY 25, 2026

GUWAHATI (TIP): Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday, July 24, said his government is yet to deliver relief materials to at least 80,000 flood-affected people, even as the situation remained critical, with the toll rising to 61 after 14 more deaths.

Over 7 lakh people were affected due to the flood across nine districts, an official bulletin said late on Friday.

"We are trying very hard to reach all the people with relief items, but still many are left out. In Nazira assembly constituency, 30 per cent area or around 50,000 people are not reachable. In Sivasagar, 20 per cent area or 30,000 people are inaccessible. The count may be 10,000 more or less (from the 80,000 affected yet to be reached)," Sarma said at a press conference here.

He said that although water has started receding in most of the places, huge layers of silt and mud lay on the streets, and people there are virtually disconnected.

"In Charaideo district, relief has been sent to all parts by today," the CM said.

Sarma said the situation is critical, and several ministers have been stationed in the three worst-hit districts of Upper Assam.

"We have tried airdropping, too, but the relief items got damaged in the process. We will discuss with the Eastern Air Command of the IAF on how to package the relief materials so that these do not get damaged



Fire and Emergency Services Assam team rescue people from the flood affected area in Guwahati on July 24. Image credit/ANI

while airdropping," he said.

Sarma stated that while a few areas remain inaccessible, the administration is working on war footing to reach every affected location.

With additional boats, relief materials and essential supplies being mobilised from other districts of Assam, he expressed confidence that assistance will reach the remaining cut-off areas at the earliest.

He also said that around 40,000 households do not have electricity connection as of now, although power has been restored to 75 per cent consumers.

At a review meeting of the flood-hit districts, chaired by Sarma, BJP MLA Mayur Borgohain said the state

machinery has not been able to reach the worst-hit areas of his Nazira constituency, and around 30 per cent of the affected people are yet to receive any relief.

"In my constituency, around 270 wards are affected. The bigger issue is that we have been able to reach only 70 per cent of places in Nazira," the legislator said at the meeting, video clips of which were shared by Sarma on his Facebook page.

The administration has not been able to reach the worst-affected places of the constituency, including panchayats in Kamal Chapori, he said.

"That is the biggest challenge for us. There is no means to reach the victims, and we have failed to even provide drinking water. We will not be able to reach them even tomorrow," Borgohain said.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in the bulletin issued on Friday night, stated that 14 people lost their lives in the deluge in the last 24 hours. Seven people, including two women, drowned in flood waters in Charaideo district, while six people, including one woman, died in Sivasagar and one in Jorhat, it said.

More than 7,05,100 people were affected in Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Hojai, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Sivasagar districts, it said.

Sivasagar was the worst-hit district with nearly 3.5 lakh people affected, followed by Charaideo (1.9 lakh) and Jorhat (1.3 lakh).

Over 7.21 lakh people were affected across 11 districts on Thursday, July 23.

India in history this Week

JULY 24 TO JULY 30

24 JULY



- 1937 Famous Indian actor Manoj Kumar was born.
- 2004 Italy decided to start a seven visa call center for Indian tourists.
- 1932 Ramakrishna Mission Service Establishment was established.
- 1994 Bodo militants killed 37 Muslims in Assam's busbari.



- 2000 S. Vijayalakshmi became the first female grandmaster of chess.
- 1969 The Apollo-11 spacecraft returned to Earth.
- 1989 Almost all the members of the opposition in the Lok Sabha resigned, which was accepted.

25 JULY

- 1813 The first boat race was held in Calcutta (now Kolkata).



- 1977 Giani Zail Singh was sworn in as the seventh President of India.
- 1987 Rangaswamy Venkataraman became the eighth President of India.
- 1992 SD Sharma became the ninth President of India.
- 1997 KR Narayanan became the tenth President of India.

- 1844 Birth of India's leading educationist Gurudas Banerjee.

26 JULY

- 2008 There were 21 blasts in Ahmedabad city of Gujarat. 56 people were killed and more than 200 injured in this accident.
- 1876 Establishment of Indian Association in Calcutta.



- 2005 Unprecedented rain in Mumbai stalled life, killing more than a thousand people.
- 2002 The first Chhattisgarh State Shooting Championship started.
- 2009 India becomes the sixth country to launch nuclear submarine.

27 JULY



- 1897 Bal Gangadhar Tilak was arrested for the first time.
- 1982 The first American visit of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in nearly 11 years.
- 1994 Shooter Jaspal Rana won the gold medal in the World Shooting Championship.



- 1839 Central Reserve Police Force was established.
- 2015 The 11th President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam died in Shillong.
- 1889 The branch of the Indian National Congress was opened in London in 1889 under the leadership of Dadabhai Naoroji, William Wedderburn, WS Cann and William Digby in London.
- 1935 Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's wife Mata Ramabai died in 1935.
- 1891 Eminent scholar Rajendralal Mitra died in 1891 in matters related to Bharat Vidya.

28 JULY

- 1914 Kamagata Maru was evacuated from Venkuvar and sent to India.
- 1979 Charan Singh became the fifth Prime Minister of the country.

29 JULY

- 1876 Science organization was established in India.
- 1891 Famous social reformer, educationist and freedom fighter Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar died.
- 1996 Aruna Asaf Ali, one of the prominent women who contributed to the Indian freedom struggle, died in Kolkata.
- 1748 The first army of the British Army arrived in India in 1748 to assist the East India Company.
- 1911 Mohun Bagan won the IF Shield for the first time in 1911.
- 2000 Seema Bhadauria pulled a 3390 kg aircraft with her teeth on 29 July 2000.



- 1904 Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoi Tata, one of the industrial personalities who laid the foundation of modern India, was born.

30 JULY

- 1886 India's first female legislator, S. Muthulakshmi, was born.
- 2012 In India, 300 million people had to live without electricity due to major power grid failure.
- 2012 In 2012, 32 people died and 27 were injured when a train caught fire in Andhra Pradesh.

BY MABEL PAIS

THE DARKEST LIGHT - World Premiere

Director: Simon Mendes; 2026; USA;
Documentary; English/German/Hebrew
w/English subs; 77m

WINNER: San Francisco Jewish Film Festival's inaugural Best First Feature Award following its World Premiere at SFJFF46 on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

"The film about my father is premiering today. I won't be there"

- Neshama Carlebach

What do you do when someone you love does terrible things?

That question haunts Neshama, daughter of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, the legendary musician whose songs lay the spiritual foundation for Judaism worldwide. For generations of Jews around the world, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's music has provided the soundtrack to prayer, celebration, grief and spiritual connection. He transformed modern Jewish worship and became one of the most beloved figures in contemporary Jewish life.

After his death in 1994, Neshama dedicated herself to carrying his legacy forward. Performing his music around the globe, she became one of the most recognizable ambassadors of his message of love.

"THE DARKEST LIGHT" follows Neshama's wrenching attempt to reconcile the father she adored and the serial abuser he turned out to be. Through



Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach with his daughter Neshama Carlebach

unflinching firsthand testimony, survivors recount the harm they suffered at the hands of the spiritual leader they trusted, revealing the painful contradictions within a man revered by many and a community long steeped in silence, denial and complicity.

At first, Neshama rejected the accusations, unable to reconcile them with the man she knew and loved. But as the #MeToo movement encourages more survivors to come forward, "The Darkest Light" follows Neshama as she confronts the testimony she can no longer dismiss. Women who knew Shlomo through different decades of



Rabbi Carlebach (center) at mike singing with his congregation.

Credit: <https://jfi.org/sfjff-2026>

his life recount experiences of sexual abuse and profound betrayal at the hands of a spiritual leader they trusted. Their stories reveal a pattern of behavior that many had whispered about for decades, but which a devoted community often minimized, rationalized or ignored.

The film made its world premiere on Sunday, July 19th at 12pm in San Francisco at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (<https://jfi.org/sfjff-2026/film-guide/the-darkest-light>).

Website - <https://thedarkestlight.com>

LOUDER THAN GUNS



David Greene and Ketch Secor. -Credit: <https://louderthanguns.com>

Director: Doug Pray; 2024; USA;
Music Documentary; 1h 27m

"A perspective that feels almost radical in a media landscape built on outrage"

Chris Jones, Overly Honest Movie Reviews

We're having the conversation...

In the wake of yet another mass shooting, this time at The Covenant School in Nashville, Ketch Secor, lead singer of the popular country-bluegrass band Old Crow Medicine Show, decided it was time to speak out on gun reform. He wrote an op-ed in The New York Times (<https://nytimes.com/2023/04/05/opinion/nashville-school-shooting-country-music-gun-violence.html>) entitled, "Country Music Can Lead America Out of Its Obsession with Guns." It caught the attention of Ketch's friend, David Greene, former NPR reporter and host of KCRW's "Left, Right & Center," and the two set out to kickstart an open dialog about gun rights and gun violence in America.

Film director Doug Pray followed Ketch and David as the band toured rural and urban communities, creating the documentary "LOUDER THAN GUNS" named after a song Ketch wrote for the victims of the Covenant

shooting.

Known for their signature song "Wagon Wheel," Old Crow Medicine Show attracts a wide demographic of music fans, stretching to the furthest ends of today's culture wars. People in the front row of their concerts might not agree on anything besides the music they love, providing this film with one of modern America's rarest opportunities: the chance to engage with one another respectfully, despite our differences.

Smashing stereotypes, "Louder Than Guns" brings together the frustrations and hopes of citizens who are asked to listen to one another and try to find common ground. Led by Ketch and David, these emotional and inspiring discussions, in barbeque joints, barbershops, church pews, gun stores, and concert halls, prove that localized, community-led discourse has the power to move the needle on gun reform in ways that today's polarized media and politicians rarely achieve.

Because most people in this country — gun owners and non-gun owners alike — want safer communities.

Website - <https://www.louderthanguns.com>

WACO INDIE FILM FEST ANNOUNCES TENTH EDITION FILMMAKER AWARDS



Handmade Future. -Credit: <https://wacoindie.com>

BY MABEL PAIS

Among the winners:

Kirsten Dickerson's "Handmade Future" co-produced by India, won Best Documentary Feature

Director Rana Roy's "Night Feeds," took the prize for Best Student Short Film

Director Imran J Khan's "The Boy with the Dinosaur Head" won Best Family Short

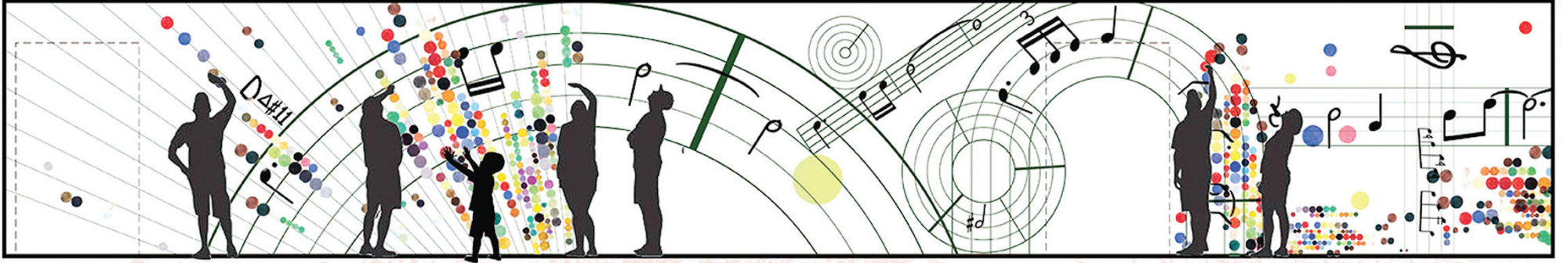
THE WACO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL

Consistently ranking in Film Freeway's Top 100 Best Reviewed Festivals in the World, including being in a select group of film festivals 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 calendar 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. Waco Indie builds networks and careers through its industry education and promotion. For more information visit www.wacoindie.com and follow the festival on Facebook (<https://facebook.com/WacoIndie>) and Instagram (<https://instagram.com/wacoindie>). Learn more at <https://wacoindie.com>.

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

NJPAC INVITES YOU TO CREATE NEW MURAL FOR ITS COOPERMAN CENTER



A Community Mural-Making Workshop -Credit: <https://njpac.org>

BY MABEL PAIS

Everyone is invited to explore the connection between jazz, legacy, emotion and color at a special community workshop, where everyone can take part in the creation of a new mural that will be installed in the Cooperman Family Arts Education and Community Center on NJPAC's campus when it opens in 2027. This will take place at Clements Place (15 Washington Street, Ruth Bader Ginsburg Hall, Rutgers University, Newark, 07102) on Tuesday, July 28, 2026 at 6:30pm.

This project of "Stories in Sound, Movement and Community" is created in partnership with Project for Empty Space.

Artist and landscape architect Haemee Han — one of 13 artists and artist collectives creating site-specific pieces to be displayed across the new NJPAC campus (<https://njpac.org/publicart>) — seeks community involvement in the design of her more-than-100-foot mural, which will be featured in the second-floor corridor of the Cooperman Center.

Han has created oversized scores of three songs by Newark jazz icons Sarah Vaughan, Woody Shaw and Wayne Shorter. At this event at Clement's Place, Han and Wayne Winborne, Executive Director of the Institute for Jazz Studies at Rutgers University-Newark, will be in conversation about music, memory, history and the creative process. Then, guests will take part in a live, participatory art-making process — listening to Woody Shaw's "The Moontrane" in real time and placing stickers on the score at the moments in the song that evoke an emotion. Different sticker colors will represent different emotions, from joy to sorrow.

Light bites and refreshments will be served.

For more about the public art at NJPAC initiative, visit njpac.org/publicart.

Meet the Artists: Stories in Sound, Movement and Community

Nina Chanel Abney (ninachanel.com) - ArtSide, Underpass Installation

Damien Davis @damiendavis - Cooperman Center, Floor 1, Reading Room Mural

Antoinette Ellis-Williams (antoinetteelliswilliams.com) - Military Park Garage, Level 2 Mural

Matilda Forsberg (matildaforsberg.com; @iamapainter) - Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Vestibule Mural

Haemee Han (jaameestudio.com) - Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Corridors Mural

Kimmarii (jiyongkim.com) - Military Park Garage, Level 1 Mural

Layqa Nuna Yawar (layqa.info) - NJPAC Exterior East Facade Mural

Eirini Linardaki (linardaki-parisot.com) - ArtSide, Retail Windows Vinyl Installation

Tom Nussbaum (tomnussbaum.com) - Military Park Garage, Level 3 Mural

Angela Pilgrim (angelapilgrim.com) -

Cooperman Center, Floor 1, Vestibule Mural

Danielle Scott (artistdanielle.com) -

Cooperman Center, Interior Elevator Mural

Shoshanna Weinberger (shoshanna.info) -

Cooperman Center, Floor 2, Vestibule Mural

Malcolm Rolling, Hans Lundy, and Kaishon Way | YENDOR (yendorproductions.com) -

31 Mulberry Street Facade Mural

JURIES

The artists were selected by two distinguished juries comprised of artists, educators, curators, producers and culture workers.

Alliyah Allen — Independent Curator

Alyson Maier Lokuta — AVP, Arts & Well-Being, NJPAC

Ashley Mays — Chief Marketing Officer, Newark Alliance; President, Newark Happening

Chantal Fischzang — Interdisciplinary Designer; Associate Professor of Communication Design, Rutgers University-Newark; Co-Director, Design Consortium

Chelsea Keys — Senior Director, Social Impact, NJPAC

Elena C. Muñoz-Rodriguez — Assistant Curator, Latinx & Latin American Art, The Newark Museum of Art

Eyesha Marable — Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement, NJPAC

fayemi shakur — Director of Arts and Cultural Affairs, City of Newark

Jennifer Tsukayama — Vice President of Arts Education, NJPAC

John Schreiber — President and CEO, NJPAC

Kim Bernardin — Director, LMXD

Kitab Rollins — AVP, Performance and Broadcast Rentals, NJPAC

Lauren Craig — Executive Director, Newark Arts

Patricia Ryan — Senior Creative Director, NJPAC

Rebecca Pauline Jampol — Co-Director, Project for Empty Space

Sherri-Ann Butterfield — Senior Vice President, Social Impact, NJPAC

Stefon Harris — Co-Director, Express Newark; Founder & Director, Harmony Lab

Tamara Remedios — Director of Neighborhood Impact, Audible

Tim Lizura — Executive Vice President, Real

Estate & Capital Projects, NJPAC

Victoria Walker — Director, Arts and Education District

Weiss/Manfredi — Multidisciplinary New York City-based design practice, Cooperman Center architect

"Stories in Sound, Movement and Community" is created in partnership with Project for Empty Space

The Initiative

NJPAC — an anchor cultural institution for the city of Newark and state of New Jersey — is building a brand new downtown neighborhood on the parking lots surrounding its theaters. When it's completed, the campus will include new mixed-income residential buildings, retail spaces, parks, education, rehearsal and community space.

To activate this redeveloped campus and contribute to Newark's thriving public art scene, NJPAC commissioned thirteen new public artworks to be installed in locations across its campus, both indoors and out.

This new public art program, created in partnership with Project for Empty Space (<https://projectforemptyspace.org>) weaves together stories in sound, movement, and community — vital elements of all of NJPAC's work both on stage and off — using installations and interactive experiences to illuminate the cultural life of its community. Each work traces a story of evolution — stories of past, present and tomorrow carried forward through the lens of music, spoken word, dance, and performance.

In Newark, these traditions continue to flourish through grassroots arts programs, youth initiatives, and public gatherings, sustaining a vibrant dialogue between generations. Through this layering of history, rhythm, and movement, Stories in Sound, Movement, and Community illustrates an institution, a city and a community in constant evolution.

This remarkable group of artists, all with community-engaged practices, are creating pieces that will help envision and energize this new neighborhood. These works of art capture both the spirit and mission of NJPAC and the energy of its home city, Newark. Installation of the artworks is scheduled to coincide with the completion of the ArtSide, developed in partnership with LMXD, and Cooperman Center construction phases throughout 2026 and 2027.

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

NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS

BY MABEL PAIS

“The New York Transit Museum: 50 Years of Stories” is a special anniversary exhibition bringing together unique artifacts and unexpected moments in transit history. The New York Transit Museum is located at 99 Schermerhorn Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit <https://nytransitmuseum.org>.

A one-of-a-kind experience, the New York Transit Museum is housed in a decommissioned subway station at 99 Schermerhorn St in Brooklyn, and is accessible via more than 20 subway and bus lines. The main entrance to the Museum is down two flights of stairs. A wheelchair-accessible entrance is available at the corner of Schermerhorn and Court Streets.

The New York Transit Museum is the largest museum in the United States devoted to urban public transportation history and one of the premier institutions of its kind in the world. Founded in 1976 as part of the United States Bicentennial celebration, the Museum is housed in a historic 1936 subway station in Downtown Brooklyn and has grown into a beloved cultural institution with a collection of more than one million objects.

As it marks its 50th anniversary, the Transit Museum continues to preserve and share the stories of mass transportation and the people who make it possible through exhibitions, educational programs, public events, and one-of-a-kind experiences. The Museum also operates a Gallery & Store in Grand Central Terminal and a Shop at 2 Broadway in lower Manhattan. To learn more, visit nytransitmuseum.org.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR

Including over 5,400 linear feet of material, the New York Transit Museum’s archive holds innumerable stories waiting to be told. In the series, “Mining the Archives,” join Museum staff to uncover transit history.

The Gabrielle Shubert Research Center is one of two archival repositories that house some of the Museum’s hundreds of thousands of photographs, drawings, and blueprints, as well as more than 15,000 artifacts. These holdings explore the ever-evolving technology, design, and ridership of a system that runs 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

On this tour, learn how Museum archivists preserve objects and process archival materials, and get a close-up look at items from the Museum’s extensive collections.

NYC TRANSIT MUSEUM EXHIBITS

NYC Transit Museum exhibits draw from the extensive collection of vintage vehicles, photographs, artwork and archival materials that tells New York’s transit story.

Visitors can explore what’s currently on view in Brooklyn and at its Grand Central Gallery and experience its digital exhibits from right at home.



Black New Yorker stood her ground on a streetcar. With courage and perseverance, she won the first recorded legal victory for equal rights on public transportation. Her name was Elizabeth Jennings Graham. Learn more at <https://nytransitmuseum.org/elizabeth-jennings-graham>.

Credit: <https://nytransitmuseum.org>

PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

Tours are indoors, and require walking and standing. Restrooms are available onsite but there may not be places to sit. Tours last approximately 90 minutes.

Visitors are advised to wear comfortable shoes.

ADULT TOURS

Relive the experience of traveling through New York City during the early, mid and late twentieth centuries. Explore our collection of vintage subway and elevated cars and objects from the archive that share the stories of public transportation.

TOUR SCHEDULE

In person (60 minutes)
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - 1pm and 2pm
Saturday: 10:30am and 12noon
Group capacity limited to 20 participants

SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP TOURS

School group tours use the museum’s unique space and hands-on collection to explore how transportation helped shape New York City and the surrounding region throughout history to present day. Tours include a mix of inquiry, observation, and interactive activities to engage learners of all ages and abilities. Tours are aligned with learning standards and support many curriculum areas. They are a great way for school and youth groups to explore the Museum.

TOUR SCHEDULE:

In-Person (60 Minutes)
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10am, 11am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, and 1pm
Saturday, DOE Winter and Spring Breaks: 10:30am and 12pm



Inside the Clock, 2010 New York Transit Museum

Tiffany Studios created the pressed glass sunburst shining at the heart of the terminal’s clock. A compact system of gears and wheels draws power from an ordinary wall socket. A master clock keeps the timepiece accurate and coordinated with the terminal’s other clocks.

Credit: Frank English / <https://gcthistory.com/#s2>

MUSEUM HIGHLIGHTS TOURS

These are available on Saturdays and Sundays at 1:15 pm and are free with museum admission. Learn more <https://nytransitmuseum.org/museum-highlights>

SUMMER GROUP PROGRAMS

Group tours use the New York Transit Museum’s unique space and hands-on collection to explore how transportation helped shape New York from its early history to the present day. These tours use a mix of inquiry, observation, primary and secondary sources, and inquiry-based discussions of archival images. This is a great field trip for summer camp groups and groups of youth wanting to explore the Museum.

Summer bookings are open!

TOUR SCHEDULE:

In-Person (60 Minutes)
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 10am, 11am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, and 1pm
Saturday: 10:30am and 12pm

TICKETS : For tickets to each of the tours and more information on museum programs, visit <https://nytransitmuseum.org>. A limited number of tickets can be purchased on site, but advance reservations are strongly encouraged.

BEFORE THE MUSEUM: 1930-1976

Before it was the New York Transit Museum, Court Street Station was carved out of Brooklyn’s streets during the construction of the IND Fulton Line (today’s A / C trains).

Photographs from the Subway Construction Photograph Collection capture work underway in 1930.

FILM FORUM SPOTLIGHTS NYC'S TRANSIT SYSTEM DURING TWENTIETH CENTURY

BY MABEL PAIS

“NYC IN TRANSIT,” a weekly series spotlighting the role of the city’s subway system – along with its trolleys, buses and former “El” – in movies from the early to late 20th century, will run at Film Forum beginning Tuesday, July 28 and continuing with select screenings through early fall. For the complete schedule of films, visit <https://filmforum.org>.

The festival, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the New York Transit Museum, brings together films that transform trains, stations, streets, and platforms into places of romance, comedy, thrills, and suspense.

Says Bruce Goldstein, producer and programmer of the series, “New York’s subway system has played key roles in movies almost since it opened in 1904. To this day, studios in Hollywood still have facsimiles of actual New York subway

entrances on their New York streets and some of the studios once had standing New York subway station sets. London’s Underground and Paris’ Métro have also been vividly portrayed in films, but it’s safe to say that no subway has fascinated audiences and moviemakers more – or been portrayed more – than New York’s.”

The festival opens with the silent comedy “Speedy” (1928), starring Harold Lloyd as the conductor of the last horse-drawn trolley in New York (the line, which ran on Bleecker Street, just a few blocks away from Film Forum, actually closed down in 1917). Says Goldstein, “Until that time, ‘Speedy’ was the most ambitious Hollywood production ever to invade Manhattan and Brooklyn and it may be the most vivid filmic record of what the city looked like at the height of the Jazz Age. It also features a hilarious guest appearance by Babe Ruth, the most celebrated sports figure of the

1920s – his meeting with Harold Lloyd, the era’s most popular comedian, was the 1920s equivalent of the Beatles meeting Muhammad Ali in the 1960s.”

Says Jodi Shapiro, Curator at the New York Transit Museum, “As the New York Transit Museum celebrates 50 years of preserving and sharing the city’s transit stories, we’re thrilled to partner with an institution that loves New York’s transit system as much as we do. This series recognizes what New Yorkers have always known: the transit system is one of the city’s great storytellers. Whether captured in Hollywood features or preserved in archival films from the Museum’s collection, these moving images show more than 80 years of transit history.”

Special events in the festival include a program of subway films from the collection of the Transit Museum dating back to 1905 (less than a year after the



The Taking of Pelham One Two Three, scene.

Credit: <https://filmforum.org>

system opened), introduced by Jodi Shapiro, Curator at the Museum, and a special presentation by Goldstein preceding the 1974 subway thriller “The Taking of Pelham One Two Three,” illustrating the movie’s careful attention to detail (and with clips from other movies that got it wrong).

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

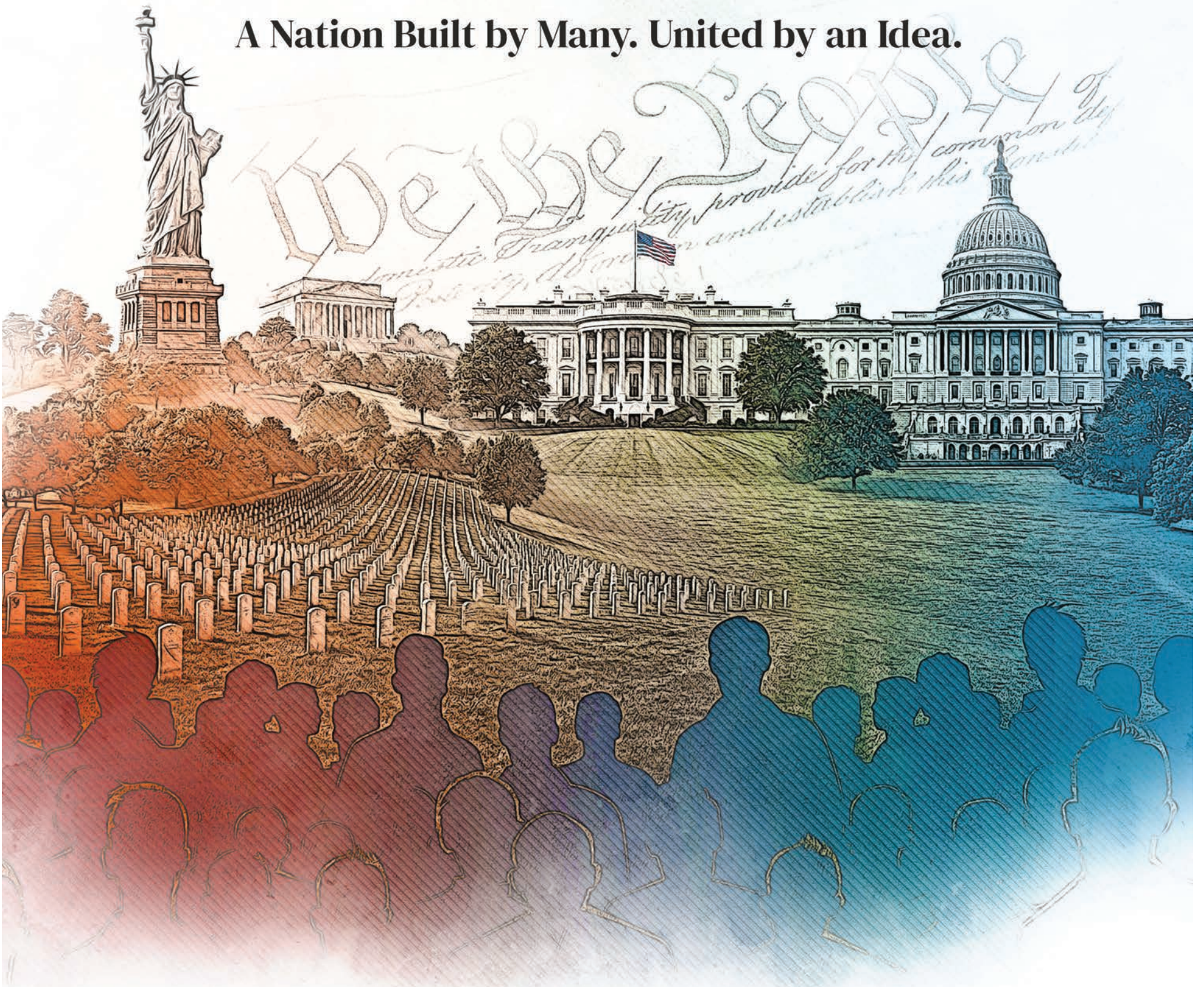
The INDIAN PANORAMA

EVER TRUTHFUL

Salutes America on the
250th anniversary of Independence

AMERICA @ 250TM

A Nation Built by Many. United by an Idea.



Watch out for

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



Kartik Aaryan and Anees Bazmee to reunite for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 4?

The Bhool Bhulaiyaa franchise may soon return with another exciting chapter. Kartik Aaryan and director Anees Bazmee are in talks to reunite for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 4 after the success of the previous two films, according to reports.

Kartik, who won fans' hearts with his role as Rooh Baba, is expected to return if the project moves forward. The film is still at an early stage, but work has reportedly begun on developing a fresh story for the next instalment.

Reports also suggest that producer Bhushan Kumar and Kartik are said to be involved in discussing ideas for the new film. Although the script and rest of the cast have not been finalised yet, the latest update has already created excitement among fans.

Bhushan Kumar is keen to make Bhool Bhulaiyaa the biggest franchise of India, and he has started working on gathering the core idea for the fourth instalment, Bollywood Hungama reported. "Kartik is also on board the creative process, to crack the best possible plot for the fourth Bhool Bhulaiyaa film, as he is all excited to step into the shoes of Rooh Baba again," the platform quoted a source as saying.

Ranbir-Yash's Ramayana trailer launch postponed, makers plan global rollout

The makers of Ramayana have postponed the launch of the film's much-awaited trailer, which was earlier scheduled to release on July 24. Producer Namit Malhotra shared the update on social media, revealing that the decision was taken following the film's partnership with Sony Pictures Entertainment for a global release.

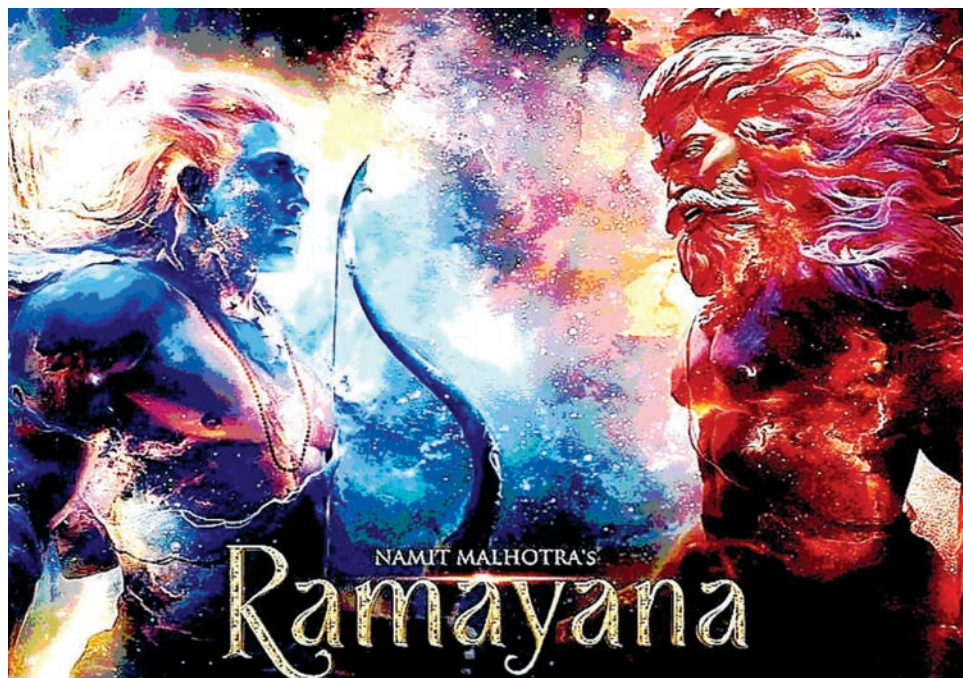
Announcing the development, Malhotra called it a landmark moment for Indian cinema and said his long-held dream of taking Ramayana to audiences across the world was finally becoming a reality.

"Today is a very special moment for our Ramayana. My dream of taking Ramayana to the world is now a reality with our partnership with Sony Pictures Entertainment," he wrote.

Explaining the reason behind the delay, the producer added that the trailer will now be unveiled at a later date as part of a worldwide launch strategy.

Malhotra expressed confidence that Ramayana would mark a defining moment for Indian cinema, saying the film would be presented to international audiences on the scale of a major Hollywood release.

"In over 100 years of Indian cinema, this will become a moment of great pride, where Ramayana will be shown to the entire world like any major global Hollywood film. This is special as it opens the door for people around the world to discover the richness of our



culture and our stories with renewed pride and enthusiasm," he wrote.

"I thank all the fans and the believers of Ramayana for helping make this happen. The youth of our country are our future. Let's all do the best we can to protect our future. Jai Hind."

Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana. The mythological epic is among the most ambitious Indian films ever mounted and is being positioned as a global cinematic event. On July 18, the film's team launched the trailer in Delhi at a

grand event. It was also the first time that the makers had introduced the cast to the fans.

As anticipation builds for Nitesh Tiwari's much-awaited Ramayana: Part 1, the filmmakers have locked a key distribution partnership for the Indian market. Co-producers Namit Malhotra's DNEG and Yash's Monster Mind Creations have joined hands with Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, which will oversee the film's distribution across India.

On July 20, the makers showcased the trailer at ComicCon San Diego 2026.

The title track of Nitin Kakkar's long-awaited romantic thriller Awarapan 2, "Yeh Awarapan", was released on Tuesday, offering audiences an emotional first glimpse into the film while marking Arijit Singh's rumoured return to playback singing. The singer announced his retirement earlier this year, shocking not only the music and entertainment industry but also his countless listeners.

No comeback for Arijit Singh

As soon as the song dropped online, the audience speculated whether Arijit has now renounced retirement and made his much-anticipated comeback to playback singing merely months after announcing his decision. However, the singer's team has put all such rumours to rest by confirming that "Yeh Awarapan" doesn't mark his return to the mic, but only serves as a prior commitment he needed to honor.

"He is just completing the projects that were finalised before the retirement was announced. Arijit isn't doing a comeback in playback singing. These are old commitments," the singer's manager

Arijit Singh not coming back with Awarapan 2, confirms manager: 'Old commitments'

told The Print. While this clarification may upset many Arijit fans, they surely have a few more such "old commitments" to look forward to and savour the singer's swansongs.

More about "Yeh Awarapan"

The newly launched track brings together a notable creative team, led by composer Amaal Mallik, while the lyrics have been written by the songwriting duo Rashmi Virag. Released under the Sony Music India banner, it reunites the celebrated singer with Mukesh Bhatt's production house Vishesh Films. Arijit had a major breakthrough with the romantic song "Tum Hi Ho" from Mohit Suri's 2013 musical romance Aashiqui 2, also backed by Vishesh Films.

Blending melancholic melodies with emotionally charged poetry, the song explores themes of love, separation, loss and loneliness, setting the emotional



tone for the film. The music video features Emraan Hashmi reprising his iconic character, Shivam Pandit. The visuals follow Shivam through moments of emotional devastation, grief, and inner conflict before shifting into an

intense rain-soaked action sequence.

The first film, Awarapan, directed by Mohit Suri, released in cinemas on June 29, 2007. Starring Hashmi and Shriya Saran, the film did not perform well at the box office upon release, but gradually went on to earn a strong cult following among fans. Its music, especially tracks like "Toh Phir Aao", continues to remain popular.

The story of the first film follows Shivam Pandit, a contract killer who is asked to keep an eye on his boss's mistress. After learning that she is a victim of sex trafficking, he decides to help reunite her with the man she loves. The second part sees him rise from the dead and go on a whole new adventure. Awarapan 2 also stars Disha Patani and Shabana Azmi, and marks the acting debut of veteran actor Paresh Rawal's son Aniruddh Rawal. It's slated to release in cinemas on August 14.



Ryan Reynolds confirms return as Wade Wilson in new Deadpool film

Actor Ryan Reynolds has confirmed that a new Deadpool film is in the works at Marvel Studios, with the actor set to return. He shared the update during an appearance at Fanatics Fest 2026 over the weekend.

"There's a few really deep cuts that I think are missing behind the movies. I think there's a few deep cuts missing from some of the comics," Reynolds said at Fanatics Fest in New York, as reported by Deadline.

"There's certainly some stuff that, you know, I love that Fabian Nicieza wrote that is incredible. Gerry Duggan, who was a friend, was an incredible comic writer," he went on.

The actor added, "There's stuff upcoming. There's eventually, you know, remotely another Deadpool film. It's going to be great."

The film is in early development and does not yet have a writer or director attached, according to reports. No further details were given, and Marvel had no comment on the project.

The update follows the box-office run of Deadpool & Wolverine (2024), which saw Hugh Jackman reprise his X-Men role as Wolverine. Reynolds had returned as Wade Wilson in the superhero film.

The film became the highest-grossing R-rated film in history, earning \$1.338 billion worldwide, according to Deadline.

Apart from the Deadpool sequel, Marvel Studios' Spider-Man: Brand New Day is set for a theatrical release on July 30 in India. The upcoming film features actors Tom Holland, Zendaya, Jacob Batalon, Sadie Sink, Liza Colon-Zayas, Jon Bernthal and Michael Mando in key roles.

Marvel Studios also released the first trailer for Avengers: Doomsday, confirming the return of actor Chris Evans as Steve Rogers to assist actor Chris Hemsworth's Thor. The duo is seen reuniting to face off against actor Robert Downey Jr as Doctor Doom.

Avengers: Doomsday will also mark the first time characters from the X-Men and Fantastic Four franchises join forces with the Avengers. The American superhero film is set for a theatrical release on December 18, 2026.

It's good to be back: Johnny Depp returns as Scrooge in Ebenezer trailer

Johnny Depp is returning to Hollywood in a major way. The first trailer for Ebenezer, his first big studio film since his high-profile legal battle with former wife Amber Heard, has been released by Paramount Pictures.

Directed by filmmaker Ti West, Ebenezer is a dark retelling of Charles Dickens' classic A Christmas Carol. Depp plays the iconic Ebenezer Scrooge, a bitter and lonely man who is haunted by the ghosts of Christmas.

The trailer shows Depp's Scrooge being confronted by terrifying spirits who force him to relive moments from his past. When he is not being haunted, he is seen wandering through snow-covered streets, lashing out at people around him, including throwing snowballs at passers-by. As he says, "It's good to be back," the line feels like a fitting nod to Depp's own return to major Hollywood cinema.

The film marks Depp's first major Hollywood release since his widely publicised defamation trial with Amber Heard in 2022. During the trial, both Depp and Heard accused each other of domestic abuse. The jury found that both had made defamatory statements against each other. Depp was awarded 10 million dollars in compensatory damages and 5 million dollars in punitive damages, while Heard received 2 million dollars in compensatory damages.

Following the controversy, Depp stepped away from major Hollywood productions. He was replaced by Mads Mikkelsen as Gellert Grindelwald in Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of



Dumbledore. In recent years, he has appeared in international films such as Minamata and Jeanne du Barry, and also directed Mod, Three Days on the Wing of Madness.

Depp surprised fans at San Diego Comic-Con with an appearance in full costume as Ebenezer Scrooge. After making an unexpected appearance outside the convention centre, Depp later joined the Directors on Directing panel, creating one of the event's most talked-about moments.

Alongside Ebenezer, Depp is also set to return to the big screen in the

upcoming action thriller Day Drinker, co-starring Penlope Cruz and Madelyn Cline.

Ebenezer also stars Andrea Riseborough, Tramell Tillman, Ian McKellen, Rupert Grint, Sam Claflin and Daisy Ridley.

Speaking earlier about the project, director Ti West said his early exposure to adaptations of A Christmas Carol helped shape his love for horror, making the story a natural fit for his style of filmmaking.

Ebenezer is scheduled to release in cinemas on November 13.

The End of Oak Street: Anne Hathaway's suburb turns dinosaur battleground



Anne Hathaway and Ewan McGregor are caught in the middle of a prehistoric nightmare in the new trailer for The End of Oak Street. Warner Bros. Pictures has unveiled a fresh look at the survival thriller, along with a set of new posters, offering a glimpse of a suburban family fighting to stay alive after a mysterious cosmic event changes their world overnight.

Set in the early 1980s, the film follows the Platt family after their quiet neighbourhood is mysteriously ripped from suburbia and transported to an unknown land inhabited by dinosaurs. As towering prehistoric creatures take over the streets, the family must navigate their terrifying new reality while trying to stay together.

The trailer has large-scale action with tense survival drama. As panic spreads through Oak Street, the Platts find themselves surrounded by deadly predators, forcing them to fight for survival in a place that defies explanation.

Despite the film's dinosaur spectacle, producer J.J. Abrams says the story is ultimately driven by its characters.

Describing The End of Oak Street as "a people movie with monsters", Abrams emphasised that the emotional core of the film lies in one family's determination to survive against impossible odds.

Chinese tanker passes Red Sea choke point despite Houthi blockade

JULY 17, 2026

ADEN (TIP): The Houthi militia in Yemen appears to be allowing some ships to pass through the Bab al-Mandab strait at the mouth of the Red Sea, despite its blockade of shipping to Saudi Arabia, experts said.

A Chinese oil tanker, Cosco Shipping's VLCC Xin Long Yang, has been granted permission to pass through the waterway, according to the trade publication Lloyd's List.

It said Chinese tankers returning from the Saudi port of Yanbu in the Red Sea may be able to negotiate passage with the Iranian-backed Houthis on a case-by-case basis.

The US think tank Institute for the Study of War has so far counted seven ships that altered their course to avoid passing through the Bab al-Mandab following the Houthi threats.

The militia declared a "blockade" on maritime traffic to and from Saudi Arabia on Monday, around a week after a new confrontation with neighbouring Saudi Arabia, which has been at war with the militia for more than a decade.

Earlier, the Saudi oil tanker Encelia was attacked, causing a fire to break out on board.

Australia announces fresh \$3.2 bn for nuclear subs

SYDNEY, JULY 25 (TIP): Australia has unveiled a fresh \$3.2 billion investment to strengthen its nuclear-powered submarine programme under the AUKUS security partnership, reinforcing its long-term commitment to expanding defence capabilities amid growing strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific.

The latest funding package will be used to accelerate the expansion of shipbuilding infrastructure, modernise naval facilities and support the construction of Australia's future fleet of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines. The investment is part of Canberra's broader effort to establish a domestic industrial base capable of building, maintaining and sustaining the submarines over their operational lifetime. The announcement comes as Australia presses ahead with one of the most ambitious defence modernisation programmes in its history. Officials said the funding will help prepare shipyards, strengthen supply chains and develop a skilled workforce required for the complex submarine programme.

Defence Minister Richard Marles said the investment reflects Australia's determination to build a sovereign defence manufacturing capability while fulfilling commitments made under the AUKUS partnership with the United States and the United Kingdom.

At least 21 killed as Ukraine and Russia continue to trade attacks

JULY 25, 2026

KYIV (TIP): At least 21 people were killed on July 24 in Russian and Ukrainian long-range strikes – including at a gathering of Ukraine's defence industry just outside Kyiv and at a factory hundreds of kilometres east of Moscow.

Both sides have been intensifying drone and missile strikes with diplomacy on ending the four and a half year war at a standstill.

In the most deadly attack, a Russian missile strike outside the Ukrainian capital killed at least 10 people and wounded around 100, Ukraine's prosecutor-general said.

Other officials and industry figures said the strike hit an arms exhibition.

Ukrainian prosecutors opened a criminal probe into the organisation of the event – the latest Russian strike on a gathering of military and defence figures in the war.

A Russian aerial bomb also killed five people in the frontline city of Sloviansk and damaged Latvia's honorary consulate there.

"Russia has long abandoned any regard for international norms – and for human values," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

Overnight, his army launched a wave of long-range drone and missile attacks on Russia.

Moscow said an attack on a factory more than 1,000km from the front in the city of Kirov killed six people.

Ukraine also attacked warehouses belonging to Russian online retail giant Wildberries outside St Petersburg – targeting Russia's equivalent of Amazon for the third time in a week.

The strikes come as the war has seen more civilians dying this summer than in any period since the first months of Russia's invasion, according to the United Nations.

Zelensky said the "key military enterprise" hit in Russia's Kirov "supplies components for the occupier's aircraft and



Smoke rising from a warehouse for a Russian e-commerce giant near St Petersburg after being hit by Ukrainian drones early on July 24. PHOTO: AFP

missile systems, which are used in the massive attacks against our cities".

Kirov Governor Alexander Sokolov confirmed Kyiv targeted a "factory" and that the six victims were killed on the spot. Another 26 were wounded.

While Kyiv has hit Russian towns as far as the Urals and Siberia, it has mostly damaged energy infrastructure, with deaths so deep into Russia rare.

In St Petersburg – Russian leader Vladimir Putin's hometown – the attacks on Wildberries warehouses sent smoke pouring over the historic city.

Zelensky, who has accused the company of storing drone components and helping the Russian army, hailed the strikes on July 24 as "successful".

Ukraine says its retaliatory strikes aim to weaken Moscow's war machine and to force the Kremlin to negotiate an end to the fighting.

Iran military Claims drone strikes on US bases in Kuwait, Jordan, Bahrain

JULY 25, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran's military said on Friday, July 24, it carried out drone strikes against several American military facilities and bases in Bahrain, Jordan and Kuwait in retaliation for the latest US attacks against the Islamic republic.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards, meanwhile, said that they targeted a data centre in Bahrain belonging to Amazon, according to state media, though neither the US tech giant nor Bahrain have commented on the claim.

"This morning, the fuel tanks, large equipment warehouses and silos, and the barracks of the US terrorist army forces at the Isa Air Base in Bahrain were targeted by Arash kamikaze drones," the army said in a statement carried by state TV.

An AFP journalist in Bahrain reported an explosion and the sounding of warning sirens Friday, though it was not immediately clear if the two events were linked.

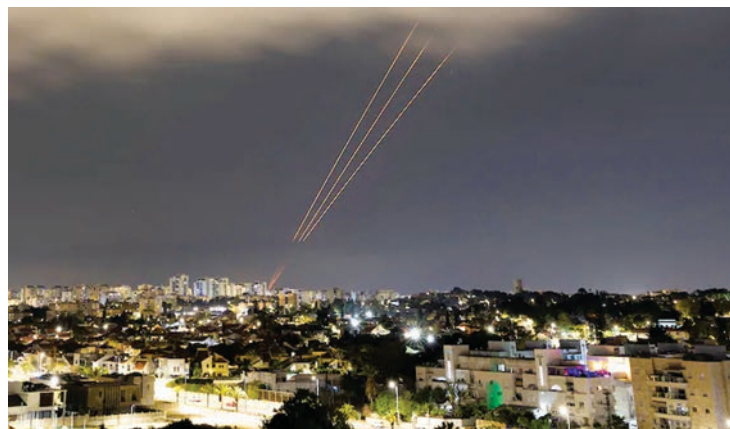
There was no confirmation from the US of any targeting of its facilities or personnel.

Bahrain later said it intercepted and destroyed "a number of Iranian aerial aggressions", accusing Tehran of targeting civilians.

The Iranian army also claimed drone attacks against Jordan, targeting "aircraft hangars, aviation maintenance hangars and a barracks" at Al-Azraq base.

Jordan has not reported any strikes in the last few hours.

In a separate statement, the Iranian army said it had launched



drones at US equipment warehouses in Camp Udairi and the site of American military personnel in Camp Doha and Camp Arifjan in Kuwait.

Iran's Guards, the ideological arm of the military, said they had targeted the Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, claiming to have destroyed an ammunition depot and inflicted casualties among US personnel.

They also claimed attacks on equipment storage silos at Camp Udairi in Kuwait and a US Fifth Fleet watchtower in Bahrain.

Tehran argues that any facility or base in the Middle East that the US military uses for strikes on Iran is considered a legitimate target for retaliation.

Spain declares national emergency over wildfires amid Europe heatwave

JULY 25, 2026

MADRID (TIP): Spain declared a national emergency over wildfires for the first time on Friday, and France asked for help from the European Union to tackle a blaze on the Atlantic coast as searing heat fueled fires across Europe and forced tens of thousands of evacuations.

French authorities ordered the total evacuation of the Cap Ferret peninsula, a tourism hotspot, due to a large wildfire. Some 40,000 people were evacuated from the area, many brought to safety by boat, officials said.

In Spain, more than 10,000 people were evacuated from towns in the mountains west of the capital, Madrid, as three fires in the region and neighbouring Avila province prompted the government to declare a national emergency, which allows it to take charge of coordinating the response.

It was the first time such a measure has been taken due to a wildfire. The last time Spain declared the same level of emergency alert was during a massive nationwide power blackout last year.

In Navalunga in Avila province, local residents wearing masks because of the smoke stood watching firefighting helicopters scoop up water from the town's river late on Thursday.

"I've lived here for 36 years, and I've never seen anything like it. Nor did I expect it. I thought they were going to get it under control last night, but it was already late, and it was all out of control," resident Javier Martin told Reuters.

More than 270 emergency personnel and 40 ground units have been deployed in the affected areas, alongside several Military Emergency Unit (UME) contingents, Spanish officials said. More than 350 fires have burned in Spain so far this year, according to the EU's European Forest Fire Information Service.

Israel launches clampdown after deadly violence in occupied West Bank

JULY 25, 2026

NABLUS (TIP): The Israeli military has launched "counterterrorism" operations and ordered a curfew in the occupied West Bank following an outbreak of violence in which six people were killed.

Four Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were killed on Friday, July 24, as Israeli forces and settlers confronted Palestinians southwest of the city of Nablus.

Palestinian sources reported that the violence was sparked as Israeli settlers attacked the town of Tal, which is close to the illegal Israeli settlement of Havat Gilad. Local and security sources said that the settlers opened live fire as Palestinians tried to protect their homes.

The Israeli army said it had dispatched troops to the area following "an attack on Israelis hiking in the area".

Four other Palestinians were injured in the attack on the town of Tal, "three of them critically", as well as two Israelis, Palestinian health officials said.

Shortly afterwards, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced he had ordered raids in Palestinian villages suspected of hosting "militants".

The Israeli military then announced it was preparing a major "counter-terror" operation in the West Bank, and had "more arrests to carry out". Troops were reported to have surrounded Nablus.

Netanyahu also said his government would be "accelerating the legalisation of farm outposts and establishment of new ones" in the West Bank.

Israeli settlements in the West Bank are illegal under international law. Outposts are small settlements that are normally established without state approval and therefore illegal under Israeli law.

Essam Saifi, a local leader in the Palestinian Fatah party from Tal, told the Reuters news agency in a phone call that about 25 to 30 Israeli settlers initially attacked the eastern area of the town and tried to break into two houses there. The residents came out to confront them, and the settlers opened fire.

Half an hour later, Saifi said, the Israelis returned and attacked the western part of the town, striking a child with a weapon. This caused chaos, and the Israeli military arrived and started shooting, along with the settlers, he added.

The military claimed a Palestinian had stolen a weapon from local security personnel and fired at the Israeli settlers, wounding several Israelis.

It added that four Palestinians were killed "on the spot", including the one who did the shooting.



Family members of one of the four Palestinians killed on Friday weeps outside a hospital in Nablus, in the occupied West Bank [AFP]

The military later reported that two soldiers were killed close to Tal during "operational activity".

Reporting from Nablus, Al Jazeera's Nida Ibrahim said Friday's incident took place after Israeli settlers stormed Tal under the "pretext that they were hiking in the area".

"Given what we've been seeing time and again in these attacks, it's the settlers who are armed, who are provoking Palestinians and stealing their land. Sometimes, we see these settlers pull up in caravans and start putting up temporary tents that later become illegal Israeli settlements," Ibrahim said. After the incident, Israeli forces imposed a security cordon around Nablus and Tal.

"In these situations, the Israeli army generally prevents the injured Palestinians from accessing medical help by setting up siege-like conditions around the city," Ibrahim said. "And that's what we're seeing right now, as all checkpoints leading to Tal have been closed."

A total of five Palestinian villages surrounding Nablus were attacked by Israeli settlers on Friday, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Nablus is one of the most violent parts of the West Bank, with Israeli settlers, with the support of security forces, accused of regular attacks and persecution against Palestinians. The rate of new settlements and violence has accelerated dramatically since the recent wars in Gaza, Lebanon, and Iran broke out.

According to the Palestinian health ministry, the killings in Tal bring the toll to 87 Palestinians killed by Israelis across the West Bank since the beginning of the year, including 21 shot by settlers.

Saudi Arabia strikes Houthi-held Hodeidah, Yemeni group says

JULY 25, 2026

HODEIDAH (TIP): Saudi Arabia has launched strikes on Yemen's Houthi-held city of Hodeidah, the group's Foreign Ministry has said, in the latest escalation of the conflict amid the regional war between the United States and Iran.

The ministry warned that the attack late on Friday, July 24, will prove costly for Riyadh, suggesting that the group will respond to the strikes.

"By targeting Hodeidah, the Saudi regime has made 'escalation for escalation' the defining feature of the coming phase," said the Foreign Ministry.

The Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV said the strikes targeted facilities belonging to the telecommunications authority. The outlet also reported strikes in Kamaran Island. So far, one woman is known to be injured from the attack on Kamaran Island, according to Al Masirah TV. Explosions were also seen at Hodeidah's port, the Reuters news agency reported witnesses as saying, though the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen has denied targeting the port.



Yemen's Houthis report Saudi strikes as the conflict threatens to escalate [File: AFP]

The port city of Hodeidah is a crucial lifeline for the parts of Yemen under Houthi control. The city's port handles the bulk of commercial and humanitarian imports into Houthi-controlled northern Yemen.

Major-General Turki al-Maliki, the official spokesman

for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, blamed the Houthis for the escalation, calling the group's attacks on Red Sea shipping "cowardly and reckless".

The Saudi-led coalition will continue to "take all necessary operational actions and measures", al-Maliki said in a statement, adding that if the Houthis continue their "hostile acts", a response will be "carried out without hesitation".

On Wednesday, the Houthis – also known as Ansar Allah – announced that it had targeted several Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea with drones and missiles, damaging at least one. They said the ships had broken the blockade announced two days earlier.

The Houthi blockade, announced on July 20, was framed by leaders as an "eye for an eye" response to a strike on Sanaa's international airport a week earlier, which the group blamed on Saudi Arabia.

The internationally recognised government, which is backed by Riyadh, had taken responsibility for the attack on the airport, saying that it was over the unauthorised arrival of an Iranian plane.

Car bomb attack kills 27 in northwest Pakistan

JULY 25, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): A suicide attack on a security checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan has killed 27 people, including soldiers, police and gunmen, the army reported.

The overnight attack was near the Afghan border in the restive and remote northwest which has long hosted armed groups that carry out attacks.

The military reported that 12 soldiers, two police officers and a forestry official were killed, along with 12 attackers.

They tried to force their way into the checkpoint in the Tank district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, then rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall.

The Pakistan Taliban (TTP) armed group, which has been fighting against the Pakistani state since 2007, said four suicide bombers took part in the assault.

A search operation is under way in the surrounding area to track down anyone involved.

The bombing is the latest in an extended series of assaults on security forces and other officials and civilians across northwestern Pakistan.

The violence has accelerated since the Taliban returned to governance of neighbouring Afghanistan, where many armed groups shelter.

Attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province have increased sharply, while a surge of attacks and suicide bombings against police in neighbouring Bannu district was reported last week.

The Centre for Research and Security Studies recorded fatalities rising from 1,620 in 2024 to 2,331 last year, while the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies says attacks nationwide rose 34 percent over the same period.

The Pakistani government has long accused Afghanistan of sheltering armed groups. The Afghan Taliban government denies any involvement and insists the attacks are Pakistan's internal issue.

The dispute has escalated into military action, with Pakistan carrying out repeated air raids on Afghan soil that it says target armed groups, and Afghanistan firing back.

The United Nations has recorded hundreds of Afghan civilian deaths from those strikes this year, deepening the rift between the two neighbors.



Pakistan's nuclear past casts a shadow over US-Saudi Arabia deal

JULY 25, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Two decades ago, President George W Bush stood at a joint news conference with President Pervez Musharraf on the grounds of the presidential palace, the Aiwan-e-Sadar, in Islamabad. Ducks splashed in a flower-filled pool on the lawns and giant US and Pakistani flags hung vertically behind the dais. The US president was on his way back from a state visit to New Delhi. The high point of Bush's visit was a landmark Indo-US civil nuclear deal that allowed India to buy uranium and nuclear reactors for its civilian nuclear program. Bush was asked whether Pakistan could get a similar nuclear deal.

"Both countries have different histories," he said. "As we proceed further, our strategy will take into effect those well-known differences". There was a reason Bush firmly slammed the door on Musharraf standing next to him.

Two years earlier, the Bush administration had submitted to Musharraf incriminating evidence about a Pakistani nuclear scientist running the biggest nuclear proliferation network in history.

Dr AQ Khan had sold nuclear materials, bomb designs and centrifuges to Libya, North Korea and Iran. Khan was a modern-day Johnny Appleseed, the legendary American missionary nurseryman who planted apple orchards



Last year in September, as war clouds loomed over West Asia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact.

in the 19th-century American frontier. Khan sold uranium enrichment centrifuges to Iran in the 1980s, which Iran reverse-engineered (which the US is now trying to destroy with airstrikes).

North Korea tested its first nuclear bomb just seven months after the Bush-Musharraf press conference. Only Libya voluntarily gave up its nuclear weapons program in 2003 — which is when IAEA investigators uncovered the Khan network. The nuclear blueprints Muammar Gaddafi had surrendered were for a Chinese nuclear bomb, the CHIC-4. The drawings were wrapped in shopping bags for Good Looks Tailors, Islamabad, where the nattily dressed Khan got his suits stitched.

The Pakistani establishment maintains to date that Khan, who passed away under house arrest in 2021, was a rogue

individual acting on his own. This, interestingly, is the same doublespeak Islamabad has used for years to justify terrorists operating on its soil. The facts strain credibility. Khan took centrifuges and nuclear material from a heavily surveilled military-run nuclear program. He used the resources of the state, including Pakistani Air Force transport aircraft, to ship nuclear material to the three countries thousands of miles apart.

Despite Pakistan's protestations, the perfidious shadow of AQ Khan looms over all its nuclear activities. It is unlikely to get a peaceful nuclear cooperation deal of the kind Saudi Arabia signed with the United States on July 22 for now. The deal allows Saudi Arabia to enrich its own nuclear fuel without the international oversight that would prevent it from converting the know-how into weapons-grade uranium. Saudi Arabia has publicly stated its intent to get a nuclear weapon.

"Saudi Arabia does not want to acquire any nuclear bomb, but without a doubt, if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible," Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told Al Jazeera in 2018.

Saudi Arabia can become a nuclear weapon state only with Pakistani assistance. In September 2025, as war clouds loomed over West Asia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a mutual defence pact. *Source: India Today*

Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin resigns

JULY 24, 2026

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh President Mohammed Shahabuddin has resigned two years ahead the end of his full five-year term.

Shahabuddin, 76, cited health reasons for his decision on Friday. The move comes amid rising demand from opposition parties for him to step down.

"Recent medical examinations have diagnosed me with a condition known as Autonomic Neuropathy. Due to this condition, I occasionally experience momentary loss of consciousness," Shahabuddin said in a statement released by his press secretary.

The speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, the national parliament, will perform the duties of the president until a new one is elected, the statement added.

A new president must be elected within the next 90 days, according to the constitution.

"I am seriously ill ... therefore, I am unable to perform my duty of the constitutional post," Shahabuddin said in a letter to Parliament Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed on Friday.

Ahmed said he accepted his resignation, the Associated Press



reported. "According to the Constitution, the president's resignation becomes effective upon submission of a signed letter to the speaker," the president's spokesperson, Sarwar Alam, said.

The resignation comes amid media reports that Shahabuddin spoke on the phone with ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is living in India, during a visit by the former to the UK for medical treatment in May this year, according to Dhaka-based The Daily Star. Shahabuddin has refuted the media report. "I am suffering from various health complications," he told The Daily Star when asked about the reason for his resignation. "I have nothing more to add at this moment."

Sri Lanka welcomes US tariff reduction

COLOMBO, JULY 24 (TIP) : Sri Lanka on Friday, July 24, welcomed the US decision of lowering to 10 per cent the tariff on goods imported from the island nation saying it will send a strong signal to investors about the country's economic reforms.

The US imposed the 10 per cent tariff on goods imported from Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and 13 other countries as part of a wider action against products made using forced labour.

The decision to lower tariffs from 12.5 per cent to a minimum of 10 per cent was a result of Sri Lanka's decision to ban the import of goods produced using forced labour.

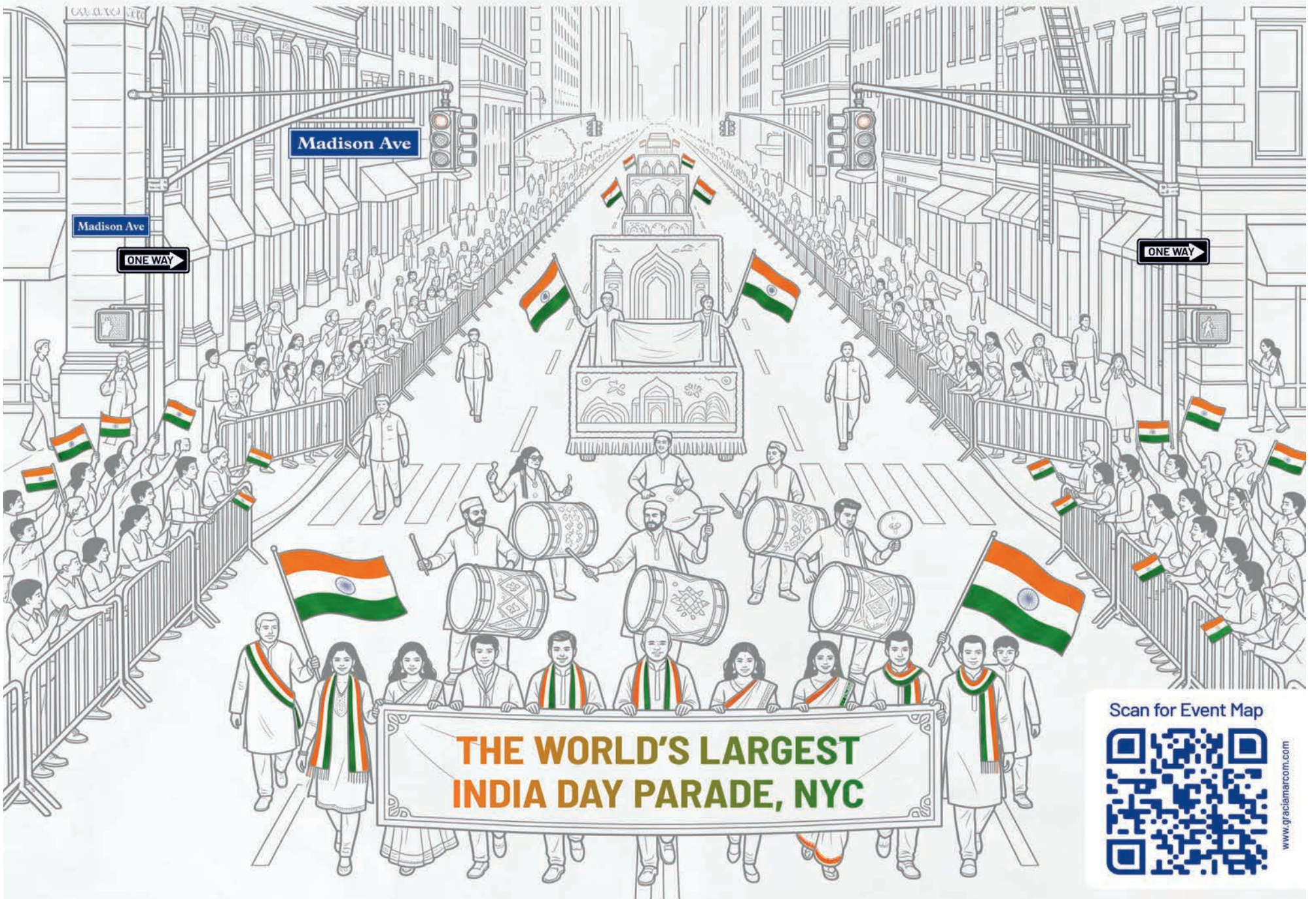
"The move is expected to deliver positive results for exporters, while reflecting Sri Lanka's ongoing commitment to fair trade, responsible business practices, and internationally accepted labour standards," a statement from the Ministry of Finance said.

The tariff reduction will enhance the competitiveness of Sri Lankan exports in the US market, sending a strong signal to investors and buyers about the country's dedication to sustainable economic reforms, it added.



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- Marching Groups & Colorful Floats
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- Bollywood Celebrities
E26th & E27th St. Near Review Stage
1:15 PM to 1:45 PM

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

- Booths & Food Fest
Pani Puri King & Queen Contest
E26th St. | 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- Cultural Programs
E24th St. | 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

LIMITED FREE PARKING

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E36th St. | E35th St. | E30th St. | E29th St.
- Between Madison Ave. and Park Ave. - E25th St.
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Easy overnight beauty habits for radiant skin and hair

We've all wished for those mornings when we wake up looking fresh, glowing and well-rested instead of dealing with puffy eyes, tangled hair and dull skin. While there's no magic formula for overnight beauty, a few simple bedtime habits can help you wake up looking and feeling your best. Here are some dermatologist-friendly tips to make the most of your beauty sleep.

Choose a Sleep Position That Protects Your Skin

Sleeping on your stomach or pressing one side of your face into the pillow for hours can contribute to temporary sleep lines and, over time, may accentuate fine lines. Sleeping on your back helps reduce pressure on the face and minimises friction against the skin. If changing your sleeping position is difficult, try alternating sides rather than always sleeping on the same one.

Switch to a Silk or Satin Pillowcase

Your pillowcase can make a difference to both your skin and hair. Silk and satin pillowcases create less friction than cotton, helping reduce hair breakage, frizz and sleep creases on the skin. They also feel cooler and smoother, making them a popular addition to many bedtime beauty routines.

Elevate Your Head to Reduce Puffiness

If you often wake up with swollen eyes, try sleeping with your head slightly elevated using an extra pillow. This may help prevent fluid from collecting around the eyes overnight, reducing morning puffiness.

Never Skip Your Night-time Skincare Routine

One of the most effective overnight beauty habits is cleansing your face before bed. Throughout the day, your skin accumulates makeup, sunscreen, oil, sweat and environmental pollutants. Washing your face at night allows your skin to repair itself while you sleep and reduces the risk of clogged pores and breakouts.

Apply a Nourishing Moisturiser

Night-time is the ideal time to replenish your skin's moisture. After cleansing, apply a hydrating moisturiser suited to your skin type to support the skin barrier and reduce overnight water loss. Don't forget your neck, lips and even your hands. If your feet tend to become dry, apply a rich foot cream and wear cotton socks overnight for extra softness.



Skip Sleeping in Makeup

No matter how long-lasting your makeup claims to be, it should always be removed before bed. Sleeping in makeup can clog pores, irritate the skin and increase the likelihood of acne and dullness. Clean skin has a much better chance of looking healthy and refreshed the next morning.

Protect Your Hair Overnight

Instead of leaving your hair loose, tie it in a soft, loose bun or braid before sleeping. This helps reduce tangles, limits friction against the pillow and can create gentle natural waves by morning. Avoid tying your hair too tightly, as this may cause unnecessary tension and breakage.

Get Enough Quality Sleep

The term "beauty sleep" has scientific backing. During sleep, the body repairs skin cells, produces collagen and restores moisture balance. Adults generally need seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night. Consistently getting enough rest can help reduce dark circles, improve skin tone and leave you looking more refreshed.

FOOD CORNER

Chole Palak

INGREDIENTS

1 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1 teaspoon red chilli powder, 2 tablespoon coriander powder, 1/2 teaspoon, asafoetida, 2 green chilli, 4 medium tomato, 400 gm chickpeas, salt as required, 1 teaspoon turmeric, 2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 6 tablespoon refined oil, 1 piece ginger, 6 cup spinach

Method

- To prepare this recipe, chop tomatoes and spinach. Keep them aside for further use. Wash the chickpeas under running water. Put them in a pressure cooker on medium flame and fill adequate water in it. Boil them for 10-15 minutes or until soft.
- Blend tomato, ginger and green chili to make a puree. Next, heat oil in a saucepan on medium flame and add cumin and asafoetida in it. Once the cumin seeds crackle, add the prepared tomato puree, turmeric, coriander powder and red chili in the mixture. Cook for 4 minutes until the tomato puree reduces to half its size and separates from the oil.
- Add some chopped spinach, salt and water to the mixture and cover the pan. Cook this for at least 5 minutes.
- Finally, add chickpeas to the to the gravy and mash them with a spatula. Feel free to add some more water to get a desired consistency of the gravy. Once done, add garam masala powder and serve.

This Palak Chole tastes great with almost all the Indian Bread such as Phulka, Tawa Paratha, Laccha Paratha, Punjabi Missi Roti, Naan, or any other bread that you prefer to make for your everyday meals.



Signs your relationship is being mistreated

They attempt to cancel plans with family

Every time you are eager to go out and enjoy yourself with your partner, ask them to bring their friends or family along since, after all, the more people there are, the more fun it is, right? You converse with people, learn new tales, and of course, develop a close relationship with their loved ones. However, if they try to avoid including their friends or family in any of these activities, it may be a clue that you are the target of a scam.

You always meet in a desolate location

For things to stay interesting and enjoyable, going out to exciting locations is essential. However, if your spouse insists on meeting and hanging out in remote or unfamiliar locations and tries to avoid gatherings where there are others who could know you or your partner, it's a hint that they are avoiding interacting with you in public.

They never discuss their friends, relatives

Talking with your friends about your family or simply sharing memories is something that is just so common. Going down memory lane and wanting your spouse to know who you were and what you did before you two started dating might help to deepen your relationship. However, if your partner consistently avoids topics involving their friends or relatives and withholds information about their background, it is obvious that you are being taken advantage of.

You don't use any of their social media

Taking photos together comes naturally, and you know it's for memories, right? And if you are confident in your relationship, there is nothing wrong with sharing those lovely photos on social media. If your partner doesn't update you or post anything on their social network, it is strange and potentially suspicious that they are pocketing. You should talk to your spouse if you see a trend even if there may be a lot of logical explanations for pocketing, which can be quite puzzling.

Fatty liver affects 1 in 3 adults globally: Why early detection matters

Fatty liver disease is emerging as one of the fastest-growing metabolic health concerns worldwide, but experts warn that the biggest threat is not just the disease itself – it's that many people don't know they have it until significant liver damage has already occurred.

Now known as Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD), the condition was previously called non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). It affects nearly one in three adults globally and is found in up to 70% of people living with Type 2 diabetes. The disease is also linked to a higher risk of cardiovascular disease and other metabolic disorders. According to Priyanka Jain, Business Leader – Ultrasound, Philips Indian Subcontinent, the focus should shift towards identifying people at risk before irreversible liver damage develops.

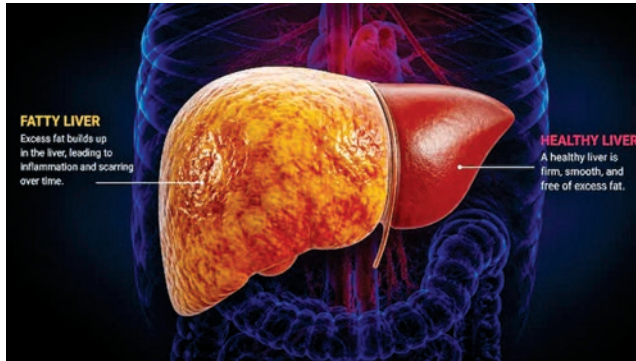
Unlike many illnesses, MASLD often develops silently. In its early stages, excess fat begins to accumulate in the liver without causing noticeable symptoms. Over time, however, it can progress to fibrosis (scarring) and eventually lead to serious liver complications if left untreated.

WHY FATTY LIVER IS OFTEN DIAGNOSED LATE

One of the biggest challenges with fatty liver disease is that it rarely causes symptoms until the damage has progressed. Routine blood tests may suggest liver abnormalities, but they cannot determine the extent of liver damage. Assessing liver fibrosis is critical because it helps doctors understand how advanced the disease is and guides treatment decisions. Traditionally, liver biopsy has been considered the gold standard for assessing fibrosis. However, biopsies are invasive, expensive and not practical for screening large populations, creating the need for safer and more accessible alternatives.

WHY EARLY DIAGNOSIS MATTERS

Experts say identifying fatty liver disease before irreversible liver damage develops can significantly improve patient outcomes.



Early detection allows doctors to identify patients at higher risk and recommend appropriate treatment and lifestyle changes before the disease progresses. With obesity, diabetes and other metabolic disorders on the rise, experts believe proactive screening strategies will become increasingly important in reducing the long-term burden of liver disease.

NON-INVASIVE IMAGING IS CHANGING LIVER CARE

Recent advances in medical imaging are making it easier to evaluate liver health without invasive procedures. Among the most promising technologies is ultrasound elastography, a non-invasive imaging technique that measures liver stiffness – an important indicator of fibrosis. The technology allows doctors to assess liver tissue during a routine ultrasound examination, reducing the need for liver biopsies.

Because the procedure is non-invasive, it can also be repeated over time, helping clinicians monitor disease progression while improving access to liver assessment across different healthcare settings. Clinical evidence also suggests that newer imaging workflows could make liver assessment faster and more consistent.

In a multi-site study involving patients with fatty liver disease, steatohepatitis and cirrhosis, automated ultrasound elastography showed a high level of agreement with expert clinicians while substantially reducing assessment time. *Source: India Today*

Eating too many ultra-processed foods could raise dementia risk

In today's fast-paced world, ultra-processed foods have become a staple in many households. From packaged chips, instant noodles and frozen meals to sugary breakfast cereals, soft drinks and processed meats, these convenient options save time but may come at a significant cost to long-term health. Mounting scientific evidence suggests that diets rich in ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are associated with a higher risk of obesity, diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers. Now, researchers are increasingly finding that these foods may also raise the risk of cognitive decline and dementia.

While occasional consumption is unlikely to cause harm, experts warn that regularly relying on ultra-processed foods for a substantial portion of daily calories may negatively affect brain health over time. The findings highlight the importance of choosing fresh, minimally processed foods to support healthy ageing and reduce the risk of neurodegenerative diseases.

Ultra-processed foods are industrially manufactured products made mostly from refined ingredients, additives and substances extracted from foods rather than whole ingredients. They often contain artificial flavours, colours, preservatives, emulsifiers, sweeteners and other additives designed to improve taste, texture and shelf life.

Common examples include packaged snacks, cookies, cakes, sugary beverages, instant soups, ready-to-eat frozen meals, processed meats such as sausages and hot dogs, flavoured yogurts with added sugars, energy drinks and many fast-food items.

These foods are typically high in salt, sugar and unhealthy fats while being low in fibre, vitamins and essential nutrients.

Several large observational studies have found that people who consume the highest amounts of ultra-processed foods tend to have a greater risk of developing dementia compared with those whose diets consist mainly of fresh or minimally processed foods. Research suggests that replacing even a small proportion of ultra-processed foods with healthier alternatives such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains or legumes may be associated with a lower risk of cognitive decline.

Although these studies do not prove that ultra-processed foods directly cause dementia, they indicate a strong association that warrants attention.

Scientists believe several biological mechanisms may explain the relationship between ultra-processed foods and declining brain health.

Many ultra-processed foods promote chronic, low-grade inflammation throughout the body. Persistent inflammation is believed to contribute to damage in brain cells and has been linked to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

India gets its first Dengue vaccine—QDENGGA

For years, India has battled seasonal dengue outbreaks that overwhelm hospitals during the monsoon months. Every year, thousands of people develop high fever, severe body pain, low platelet counts, and in some cases, life-threatening complications that require intensive medical care. While mosquito control and personal protection have remained the main ways to prevent the disease, there has never been a widely approved vaccine available for the Indian population.

That is now changing.

India has approved QDENGGA (TAK-003), the country's first dengue vaccine, marking an important step in the fight against the mosquito-borne illness. The vaccine is designed to protect against all four types of the dengue virus and can be given without first checking whether a person has previously been infected with dengue, a major advantage over some earlier dengue vaccines developed elsewhere.

However, doctors say that while the vaccine is a significant breakthrough, it is not meant for everyone. People still need to understand who is eligible, who should avoid it, and why mosquito control measures remain just as important.

According to Dr Aishwarya R, Consultant - Infectious Diseases, Aster RV Hospital, Bangalore, QDENGGA has been approved in India for people aged 4 to 60 years.

This means the vaccine can be given to:

- Children aged 4 years and above
- Teenagers

- Adults up to 60 years of age
- People living in regions where dengue outbreaks occur frequently

The approval offers a preventive option for millions of Indians who are exposed to dengue every year, particularly during the rainy season.

A MAJOR ADVANTAGE: NO BLOOD TEST NEEDED

One of the biggest benefits of QDENGGA is that people do not need a blood test before getting vaccinated.

Some earlier dengue vaccines required testing to confirm whether a person had previously been infected with dengue, because vaccination could carry different risks depending on past infection.

Dr Aishwarya explains that QDENGGA removes this extra step, making vaccination much simpler and easier to implement. Dengue is caused by four different virus types (serotypes). Infection with one type does not provide complete protection against the others, which is why some people can get dengue more than once.

QDENGGA has been developed to provide protection against all four dengue virus serotypes, helping lower the risk of severe disease.

The approval of QDENGGA marks a significant milestone in India's public health efforts against dengue. By offering protection against all four dengue virus types without requiring prior testing, the vaccine has the potential to make dengue prevention more accessible for eligible children and adults.

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Forgot Gmail password? Google will now let you sign in using selfie video

Forgetting your Gmail password can be stressful, especially if you no longer have access to your recovery phone, computer or two-factor authentication app. To make getting back into your account a little easier, Google is introducing a new feature called Selfie Video. The feature lets users verify their identity with a short selfie video instead of relying solely on traditional recovery methods.

According to Google, Selfie Video is designed to help people regain access to their accounts when standard sign-in options are unavailable. The company is rolling out the feature as an optional account recovery tool for Google Account users. So, the next time you get locked out of your account, Google may ask you to record a quick selfie video to prove it's really you before letting you sign back in. But for that option you will need to set it up.

How does Google Selfie Video work?

Before you can use the feature, you'll need to set it up while you still have access to your Google Account. During setup, Google will ask you to record a short selfie video by looking at your device's camera and following a few simple on-screen prompts, such as turning your head or making small movements. This video will become the reference video.

Once the video reference is all set up, next time whenever you forget your password or can't access your usual sign-



in methods, Google will ask you to record another short selfie video. The system will then compare the new recording with the reference video saved to your account to authenticate your identity.

Google says the guided movements are important because they help verify that the recording is live and not simply a photograph or a pre-recorded video.

The feature can spot deepfakes too

Now keeping mind the AI-generated deepfakes, Google says it has built multiple layers of protection into this new video authentication system. Besides matching your new selfie video with the reference video, the feature will also check for signs that a real person is in front of

the camera rather than someone using fake images, manipulated videos or AI-generated faces. The company says it has also combined selfie verification with its existing security systems, which can analyse signals such as the device a person is using, browser settings, IP address, location and whether the sign-in attempt appears unusual.

What about your privacy?

Since face is a biometric data, Google says users remain in control of how it is stored and used. The reference selfie video is recorded only with the user's permission, encrypted while stored and can be deleted at any time from Google Account settings.



Your next UPI payment may not need the internet at all

Soon you may be able to make digital payments without an internet connection, even if you are on a flight or in underground tunnels. According to a fresh report, a new Unified Payments Interface (UPI) feature is on the way, which will enable users to make payments to another device or a merchant's point-of-sale (PoS) terminal without needing an internet connection.

Business Standard reported that users will be able to pay at offline merchant terminals via near-field communication (NFC), a short-range wireless technology that works faster and more securely than Bluetooth at close range. Notably, the transactions will reportedly be capped at Rs 2,000.

Per the report, customers will need to first load money online into an on-device digital wallet called UPI Lite. Then they will be able to use that balance at a place where there is no internet or at an offline terminal without entering a UPI PIN.

However, for these developments, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the organisation that manages UPI, is likely to certify PoS device manufacturers in the country to enable offline UPI payments from this year.

Offline UPI payment is not something new, though the idea of it has existed in a more limited form for years. Services like *99# and UPI 123Pay already let users send money without an active internet connection, using either a USSD code or a simple phone call.

But the difference is here. Even these existing offline methods still need some form of network, either a GSM signal for the USSD code or a phone line for the voice call. The new NFC-based UPI feature may not need even that. As long as your device supports NFC, a payment could go through purely through short-range wireless communication, no mobile network required at all.

The *99# service works on any GSM handset, smartphone or otherwise, making it accessible even to users without a smartphone. It runs on USSD, a signalling channel that doesn't need data connectivity, and supports 13 languages including Hindi and English across 83 banks. Payments through this method are capped at Rs. 5,000 per transaction. To use it, you dial *99#, select your bank, choose "Send Money," enter the recipient's UPI ID or mobile number, key in the amount, and confirm with your UPI PIN.

NASA's NISAR captures 'hummingbird-like' pattern beneath Antarctica's ice

A newly released image from the NISAR satellite is giving scientists a closer look at Antarctica, showing detailed features of ice and glaciers that are difficult to see with ordinary cameras, reported NASA.

As of July 20, the public can access data from the two powerful radar instruments aboard the NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite. Teams in the United States and India will continue releasing files processed from the satellite's L-band and S-band radars, helping researchers and other users track the movement of Earth's land and ice masses, monitor changes in ecosystems such as forests and wetlands, and respond to natural hazards including landslides and earthquakes.

An early image released showed the fractured, barren surface of an Antarctic landscape in remarkable detail. The image also resembles a



hummingbird. The image shows Nunatak Zaterjavshijsja, a mountaintop in East Antarctica that rises above a stream of ice flowing northeast toward the ocean. As the glacier moves past the mountain, the landform creates stress in the ice, causing deep cracks known as crevasses, which appear as sharp green lines in the image.

Seongsu Jeong, the signal analysis engineer who produced the image at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California, said the image is beautiful and contains rich details that

provide insights into how the glacier is moving. He added that because radar can often see through snow and deep into the ice, NISAR can observe fundamentally different properties of Antarctic ice than can be seen in optical imagery. He further said that with NISAR, scientists are seeing what is hidden beneath the surface.

The image was generated using measurements collected by NISAR's L-band instrument while mission teams from the United States and India were testing the satellite's systems. According to NASA, the "hummingbird" image reflects one of the mission's key strengths by producing highly detailed images that are both informative and visually striking. The colours in the image show differences in the way polarised microwave signals interact with and reflect from the ice. Over Antarctica, NISAR sends radar waves toward Earth with horizontal polarisation.

Oil prices rebound above \$100 as Red Sea attacks, disruptions stoke supply fears

JULY 25, 2026

VIENNA (TIP): Global crude oil prices have surged back above the \$100-a-barrel mark after fresh supply disruptions in key producing regions erased the gains made in recent weeks, when hopes of easing tensions in the Middle East had pushed prices lower. Renewed attacks on Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea and interruptions to crude exports from Kazakhstan have reignited concerns over the security of global oil supplies, triggering a broad rally in energy markets.

The sharp turnaround comes just weeks after oil prices had retreated as investors anticipated a reduction in geopolitical risks across the Middle East. However, the latest developments have once again highlighted the vulnerability of global energy supply chains, prompting traders to factor in the possibility of prolonged disruptions and tighter crude availability.

Market participants said attacks targeting Saudi oil tankers navigating the Red Sea have heightened concerns over one of the world's most critical maritime energy corridors. The Red Sea serves as a major transit route for crude oil and petroleum products moving from the Middle East to Europe and other international markets. Any threat to shipping through the region raises the risk of delays, higher insurance costs, and potential supply shortages.

At the same time, Kazakhstan, an important oil producer in Central Asia, has reported disruptions to its crude exports, further tightening global supplies. The reduction in export volumes from the country has added to concerns that the market may struggle to



offset supply losses if disruptions persist in multiple regions simultaneously.

The twin supply shocks have shifted market sentiment dramatically. Investors who had been betting on improved supply conditions are now reassessing the outlook, with crude futures climbing sharply as traders moved to secure supplies amid fears of a prolonged shortage.

Analysts noted that the recent rally reflects the market's sensitivity to geopolitical developments, particularly when they involve major oil-producing and exporting nations. With global spare production capacity remaining relatively limited, even temporary disruptions can have an outsized impact on prices.

Higher oil prices are expected to pose fresh challenges for oil-importing economies, including India, which relies on overseas suppliers for more than 85% of its crude oil requirements. Rising crude prices increase the country's import bill, put pressure on the current account deficit, and can contribute to inflation by raising transportation,

manufacturing, and logistics costs.

Energy-intensive sectors such as aviation, shipping, chemicals, and fertilizers are also likely to face increased operating expenses if crude prices remain elevated. Businesses may eventually pass on higher fuel and freight costs to consumers, adding to inflationary pressures across the economy.

The resurgence in oil prices could also complicate the outlook for central banks worldwide. Policymakers have been monitoring commodity prices closely, as sustained increases in energy costs can slow progress in bringing inflation under control and influence future interest-rate decisions.

Oil-producing countries are also expected to closely watch market developments. Any prolonged disruption could prompt discussions among major producers over output adjustments to stabilize supplies, although no immediate policy changes have been announced.

Shipping companies operating through the Red Sea may face higher insurance premiums and additional security measures, increasing transportation costs for crude cargoes. Market experts said continued instability in the region could lead some operators to reroute vessels, extending delivery times and further tightening supplies.

Despite concerns over slowing economic growth in some major economies, the latest geopolitical developments have become the dominant driver of oil prices. Traders believe that supply risks currently outweigh worries about weaker global demand, keeping upward pressure on crude markets.

India's services exports rise to USD 421.3 billion in FY26

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's services exports increased to USD 421.3 billion in FY 2025-26 from USD 387.5 billion in FY25, according to figures presented in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada.

With USD 206.6 billion, or 49.03 per cent of total services exports, telecommunications, computer and information services continued to be the largest contributor. Business services accounted for another USD 124.2 billion, or 29.5 per cent of total exports.

The government said it aims to increase services exports through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), improved market access, greater professional mobility, Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs), and measures to address social security and double taxation issues.

These MRAs aim to ensure that partner countries recognise each other's professional qualifications, helping professionals avoid time-consuming re-certification procedures, additional training or redundant local testing before they can begin practising.

At the same time, the government is promoting Indian service providers through international trade shows, exhibitions and industry-specific programmes in the fields of tourism, healthcare, education, gaming, entertainment, logistics and fintech.

India's crude basket jumps 11% to \$103.33 amid supply disruptions

NEW DELHI, JULY 25 (TIP): India's crude oil basket has climbed sharply by around 11% to \$103.33 per barrel, reflecting mounting supply disruptions and renewed geopolitical uncertainties in key oil-producing regions. The surge has intensified concerns over the country's import bill, inflationary pressures, and the outlook for fuel prices in the coming weeks.

The Indian basket—a weighted average of crude grades imported by the country—rose from around \$93 per barrel in the previous assessment to \$103.33 per barrel, crossing the psychologically significant \$100 mark for the first time in several months. The increase follows tightening global crude supplies as disruptions in production and exports from major oil-producing regions reduced the availability of crude in international markets.

India imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements, making it particularly vulnerable to fluctuations in global energy prices. A sustained rise in crude prices increases the country's import costs, widens the trade deficit, and puts pressure on the rupee.

India's private sector growth drops to lowest since March 2022 as July PMI falls to 54.3: HSBC

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Private sector activity in India grew at its weakest rate in over three years in July as demand declined and inflationary pressures increased, according to the HSBC Flash India PMI.

From 57.1 in June to 54.3 in July, the HSBC Flash India Composite PMI Output Index showed the slowest rate of growth in private sector activity since March 2022.

While the HSBC Flash India Manufacturing PMI Output Index increased to 57.0 from 56.3, the HSBC Flash India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell to 53.1 from 57.4. The headline HSBC Flash India Manufacturing PMI, however, decreased from 54.2 in June to 53.9.

Sales and output growth in the private sector have been the worst since early



2022, according to the study. Increasingly difficult market conditions, pressure from competitors, order cancellations, fewer client inquiries, and shortages of essential raw supplies all hindered growth.

At the beginning of the second quarter of FY27, new orders were still increasing, but the rate of growth fell to its lowest point in nearly four and a half years. The services sector, where production and new

orders grew at the slowest rate in 53 months, was the focal point of the growth deceleration.

However, export demand increased in both manufacturing and services, and manufacturing picked up some speed again. International sales increased at the highest rate since March at the composite level.

Furthermore, the study indicated an increase in inflationary pressures. As businesses passed on increased prices to consumers, output charge inflation reached its strongest rate since April. Companies reported higher fuel, labor, material, and transportation costs, and input costs increased more quickly than they did in June.

For the eighth consecutive month, employment grew, but at a slow rate, with service providers adding more people than manufacturing.

Sikh History This Week

JULY 24 TO JULY 30

24TH JULY

1954 Baba Gurdit Singh, leader of Koma-Gata Maru passed away.



1985 A written agreement took place between the President of the Shiromani Akali Dal, Harchand Singh Longowal and the Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi. This agreement is known as the Rajiv-Longowal Accord. On January 25, 1986, Chandigarh was to be transferred to Punjab. Even this was deferred under the plea that Fazilka and Abohar, etc. were to be transferred to Haryana province. A farce in the form of the Mathew Commission and the alleged referendum/linguistic survey was held in the area on January 14, 1986. Under such a pretext, the transfer of Chandigarh was refused.

25TH JULY



1710 Bahadur Shah ordered Pheroj Khan, Mularif Khan, and Shikar Khan to arrest Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.

1982 Akali Dal adopted Bhindrawala's agitation.



26TH JULY

1940 4 Sikhs of No.4 Regiment were hanged to death.



1981 World Sikh Convention held at Manji Sahib, Amritsar resolved to initiate Dharam Yudh morcha to seek Sikh's righteous demands. A list of 45 demands was submitted to the government. Aug. 31 was set as the deadline for government's acceptance of Sikh demands. Harchand Singh Longowal was elected as the Morcha Director.

27TH JULY



1649 Janam Utsav, Shaheed Baba Jorawar Singh Ji.
1925 Akali prisoners released upon victory of Jaito Morcha.

1984 and July 28, an International Sikh Convention was held at New York city, in the wake of June 5 and 6, 1984, when the Indian army stormed the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. A group of Sikhs in New York formed an ad-hoc International Sikh organization to represent Sikhs interests.

28TH JULY



1925 Punjab Governor gave his assent to the Sikh Gurudwara Act.

1991 Sikhs continue to be harassed under Section 216 of the Indian Penal Code.

29TH JULY



1873 Initial establishment of Singh Sabha in Amritsar. Singh Sabha, a reform group of Amritdhari Gur Sikhs who objectively sought the eradication of the wrong practices in re-establishing the true traditions of GurSikhism. Their initial efforts for religious propagation and education resulted in the establishment of Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Amritsar, in 1872. Sardar Thakur Singh Sandawalaia was the first chief, while the temporary offices and gathering facilities were organized at Guru Ka Bagh. The objectives of Singh Sabha, Amritsar, were to inculcate the principles of Sikh religion as preached by the Sikh Gurus among the Sikhs with a view to restoring Sikhism to its pristine purity, preach the principles of Sikh religion by word of mouth, by publication of historical and religious books, and through magazines and newspapers, encourage propagation of Punjabi, reclaim apostates and attract the sympathies of those highly placed in public administration to the educational progress of the Sikhs. The Singh Sabha was to shun politics.



1984 Sardar Sadhu Singh Hamdard, Editor of Punjab's voice, Ajit, daily newspaper, died of a heart attack. He was deeply disturbed by the Indian Army's attack on Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar. In protest, he had returned his Padam Sri honor to the Indian government.

30TH JULY

1822 Sangat Singh, son of Fateh Singh became Raja of Jind.

1950 Akali Dal's working committee orders all members who defected to Congress to return.

1995 Amar Singh Ambalvi, first Vice-President of AISFF, passed away.

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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

**ARIES**

Ganesha says the mind will be influenced by progressive thoughts. There will be new opportunities for progress. Positive thinking in a new direction will bring results. Politicians' grip on governance will be strong. The mind will be confused in taking any important decision. Ongoing efforts in education competitions will be fruitful. Continuous hard work will bring some new successes. Control sensitivity and anger this week, otherwise there is a possibility of bitterness in the relationship. The job environment will be a bit distasteful for government employees. Good profit opportunities will keep the mind happy this week. Progress is possible with the implementation of new schemes in the economic sector.

**TAURUS**

Ganesha says there will also be some worries this week. Accidental livelihood-related travel may have to be done. Old poignant incidents will be effective on the mind. Will solve the stalled tasks this week. Relations with high-level people will be intense. Do not mind every little thing of the family members. Expenditure is possible in fulfilling family obligations. This week, the mind will be worried about the collection of material comforts. There will be busyness for government employees. Expenditure more than income, fear of economic imbalance will disturb the mind.

**GEMINI**

Ganesha says if you stop criticizing others, then this week you will get good benefits from relationships. Old problems will be conquered. Walk beyond emotion in favor of the practical world. The mind will be ready to face the toughest problems with full enthusiasm. The mind will be influenced by auspicious aspirations. New circumstances will communicate new talents in you. Staying away from home for some important work will be unpleasant. This week, the effect of spiritual feelings will be on the mind. Time will be good for the students. Be careful while traveling this week. Avoid laziness in important work.

**CANCER**

Ganesha says new aspirations will be effective on the mind. Will climb to the destination of new successes through struggle. The mind surrounded by negative worries will take refuge in God. Progress is possible with efficiency. Unfavorable situations will become a hindrance in the workplace. Students should not be negligent in education. This week, despite proper hard work, the mind will remain worried due to not getting the desired results. Students should not be negligent in the education competition, otherwise, the results can be bad. The mind will be excited this week. Will be able to make the plans fruitful. Popularity and supremacy will increase in the job profession.

**LEO**

Ganesha says there are chances of solving any important work that has been stuck for a long time. Prove your worth by showing your talent in the workplace by having faith in yourself. This week, the mind thinking about moral-immoral will not be able to keep pace with the physical environment. Beware of secret enemies masquerading as friends. New business relations will get intensified this week. Will get the benefit of governance. Will be popular with creative works. Support from parents and seniors will be received. The job environment will be pleasant. Will get emotional support from the life partner.

**VIRGO**

Ganesha says it is not possible that everything will be in your favor. That's why we work at full capacity in every situation. This time will be busy for government employees. Along with being talented, if you also become a little expressive, then you will get successful soon. This week, hard work will be intense for the meaningfulness of any important work. The mind will be happy with the favorable situation in the workplace. There will be busyness related to social discharge. Your talent will flourish in the business sector. This week, there will be dissatisfaction in the mind due to not getting the desired success in the areas of effort. Politicians may have to face some upheaval.

**LIBRA**

Ganesha says forget the old things and start life afresh. Some new challenges will come but maintain morale and patience. Currently, this week is full of struggles and worries. Pay attention to the health of the spouse. Do not increase ego in important relationships.

Along with being busy in the workplace, also pay attention to fulfilling family obligations on time. The family atmosphere will be pleasant this week. Expenditure is possible in material comforts. There will be chances of fulfilling some important family obligations. This week, a rift with a colleague on the job is possible. Don't take any decision in a rush. A mind focused on romantic relationships can be emotionally draining.

**SCORPIO**

Ganesha says economic and family concerns will put pressure on the mind. Will try to save the family and spread love throughout the week. Will take full advantage of his practical skills in the workplace. The planetary compatibility of the current transit is very beneficial for you. The mind will be worried due to someone being unwell in the family. Government employees will find some changed conditions in the job pleasant. Any important stalled work in the family will be seen to be resolved. This week, attraction toward the opposite sex can cause tension. Laziness can deprive you of important benefits. Do not mind the words of family members.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Ganesha says do not be negligent towards moral duties. You are receiving the unique cooperation of time very strongly. Criticizing others and talking here and there will tarnish your image. Keep your distance from people of flattering nature. This week there will be chances to complete religious work in the family. Your good wishes will be successful in purpose. Will take advantage of intellectual ability in the workplace. Do not be negligent in any kind of legal matter this week. There may be difficulty in traveling for some important work. Emotional attachment towards your spouse will make you energetic.

**CAPRICORN**

Ganesha says will be popular for implementing an important plan. It is a good chance to correct old mistakes. That's why to leave old grudges and make relationships sweet. Good wishes will awaken in the mind this week. Haste is your biggest shortcoming, due to which you often suffer losses. Proximity to politicians and political activism will increase. Material pleasures will increase. Trouble is possible in the job environment this week due to the behavior of a colleague or officer. Emotional expectations will be painful in close relationships. Take care of your health to keep pace with

the changing weather. The mind will be worried about the happiness and sorrow of the family members. There will be happiness and prosperity in the house.

**AQUARIUS**

Ganesha says forget the past and try to live in the present. There will be chances of profit in employment. A shaky mind will not be able to focus on the goal. Difficulties are possible due to attraction towards opposite-sex relations. There is a sum of expenditure in the family. This week, the mind will be worried about the efficient fulfillment of any important responsibility. Increase your activation and move towards progress. Will try to implement new schemes with enthusiasm. This week, due to not getting the support of family members, the mind will be upset. Avoid laziness in important work. Take care of your spouse's health. There will be happiness and prosperity in the house.

**PISCES**

Ganesha says this week there will be a feeling of peace with divine faith. Your combative nature is capable of facing every problem. The effect of the new feeling will give rise to a new relationship. The mind will be full of old poignant incidents. Taking care of your stature and dignity in the family, bring proper gentleness in all relations. Interest in creative and social work will increase this week. Suddenly getting some good news will make the mind happy. This week, the mind will be worried due to obstruction in some important work. There will be intensity in old relations but avoid slander. Be careful of the activism of opponents in the workplace. Your serious nature reduces emotional exchanges in relationships. Try to improve it.

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 27 TO AUGUST 2
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA****JULY 27**

Ganesha says although you are incredibly talented and highly respected by your friends and colleagues, you need to check your tendency to be rigid, extravagant, and sometimes jealous. People with piles and high blood pressure need to be extra careful about their health. The marital front seems smooth despite occasional disputes and estrangement. You can gain popularity among your friends and the social environment because of your creative thinking.

JULY 28

Ganesha says you have a great memory and amazing technical skills, but you need to work on your tendency to be irritable and vindictive at times. Today many changes can be seen in the company in which you work. You can get a lot of benefits from these, but there can be a change in your routine. Offers can be lucrative for businessmen looking to make quick cash. Women who are pregnant should pay more attention to their health. Paying

attention to your diet and prescription medications is important.

JULY 29

Ganesha says you should exercise financial restraint today and avoid spending money on unnecessary luxuries. The closeness between you two can increase and you can respect each other more. For most of you, a distant trip seems most likely towards the end of the year. You should not be disappointed by the high expectations of your family members. Also, you can spend some special and romantic moments with your partner.

JULY 30

Ganesha says you enjoy surrounding yourself with beautiful things. Even if you are not an artist, you still like to collect objects that have artistic value. This year, there may be occasions of improper communication with your employer. Check thoroughly before handing over your work to your superiors. Although many factors may not be in your favor, the support and

assistance of friends and family members can give you new energy and make things more comfortable than otherwise. It couldn't be an easier time.

JULY 31

Ganesha says you put in a lot of effort, and your dedication and efforts are always appreciated, but you need to curb your tendency to be indecisive, stubborn, and sometimes lazy. This year, your employer and you may become close relatives. As a result, you can play an important role as an ambassador for the company. You can be the center of attraction at any social gathering. You can meet new people and develop important relationships. Even if you seem to be in good health, it is still recommended that you take preventive medications.

AUGUST 1

Ganesha says today you have many opportunities to improve your financial condition. Traveling abroad or doing transactions can be beneficial. Property-related disputes can be



resolved. Children may bring good news for you demanding more attention. Take good care of yourself. At the end of the year, you are planning a pilgrimage which can give you relaxation and peace of mind.

AUGUST 2

Ganesha says you are a great host and enjoy meeting people, but sometimes you need to curb your tendency to be stubborn and extravagant. Foreign travel or transactions can be very beneficial. Some people find a healthy romantic period during the wedding process. You can give priority to real estate transactions, construction projects, and repairs. Any type of confrontation and situation that creates tension and stress should be avoided.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Gen Z Students protest in India gets worldwide support

"cockroaches". The insult became a lightning rod for an entire generation trapped in an education and employment crisis.

The spark that lit the fuse was the catastrophic leak and subsequent cancellation of the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) in May, a hyper-competitive medical entrance exam taken by over two million aspiring students. For young Indians who spend years studying under grueling conditions, the leaks shattered any illusion of structural fairness. Outrage turned to absolute despair following reports that at least 20 students tragically died by suicide out of academic desperation.

The student collective has put forth three non-negotiable criteria: The immediate resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. A firm written assurance that no criminal cases or police First Information Reports (FIRs) will be pursued against peaceful protesters. Financial compensation of ₹1 crore (approx. \$105,000) for the families of the victims who died by suicide.

On Monday, tension boiled over during the opening day of the parliamentary monsoon session when thousands of students marched toward Parliament, Delhi Police launched a heavy-handed crackdown, firing tear gas and violently



Protesters gather at the camping site of the Cockroach Janta Party at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, Tuesday, July 21, 2026. -Photo courtesy / Shekhar-AP

beating teenagers with batons. More than 150 demonstrators were hospitalized.

In a bid to stop footage from going viral, the home ministry suspended mobile internet services around the primary protest site at Jantar Mantar.

However, the state's hardline reaction backfired. Gen Z has deftly flipped the script online, utilizing digital platforms to broadcast the police actions in real time. When internet blockades tightened, tech-savvy student leaders pivotally turned to peer-to-peer, Bluetooth-based

mesh communication apps to bypass the network bans.

Showing unified local solidarity, residents have used online food-delivery apps to flood the Jantar Mantar campsite with massive quantities of fresh water and meals.

Parallel strikes have since mushroomed in Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Kolkata. The unrest has quickly reverberated across the globe.

The Indian diaspora has held prominent rallies and solidarity vigils in

major international cities, including London's Trafalgar Square, Berlin, Toronto, and New York.

International watchdogs like Human Rights Watch have firmly weighed in, formally condemning the Indian state's "excessive force" and calling for immediate independent investigations into the internet shutdowns.

For the Modi administration, the political implications are severe. For years, the government has safely relied on strongman tactics to tire out political opponents. Yet, this organic, leaderless movement of disillusioned youths cannot easily be dismissed or labeled as "anti-national" without severe electoral blowback.

Young voters constitute an essential demographic in India, and their current anger taps directly into deeper economic anxieties regarding a severe lack of quality, high-paying jobs.

On Thursday, July 23, Prime Minister Modi broke his silence, stating on social media that "nothing is more important than the welfare and future of our youth" while promising fast-track judicial tribunals to penalize exam leakers.

Student leaders quickly dismissed the proposal as a superficial distraction, reiterating that the movement will completely block the capital until Education Minister Pradhan steps down. As lines remain drawn, India's tech-driven youth have demonstrated they are prepared for a prolonged standoff with Modi government.

US Tariff Hikes Linked to...

failed to adequately enforce a ban on goods made with forced labor.

The new tariffs took effect just as stopgap levies Trump imposed after a stinging defeat at the Supreme Court expired at 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 24, 2026.

Countries object to what they call unfounded labor claims

Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell rejected claims linking Australia, a major exporter of beef, gold and copper, to modern slavery and raising the tariff on its exports to the U.S. to 12.5% from the 10% level imposed after Trump's "Liberation Day" hikes last year.

"We believe that amongst all of the countries in the world Australia does take the issue of slavery, modern slavery, seriously, and will continue to do that," Farrell told reporters in Adelaide.

Australia believes the higher tariffs are "completely unjustified and we will continue to lobby the United States Trade Representative to remove all tariffs on Australian goods," Farrell said.

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said the tariffs on his country, also subject to a 12.5% import duty, were "extremely disappointing," unjustified and harmful to trade.

Trump's newest tariffs face immediate court challenge

The Liberty Justice Center, a libertarian advocacy group that successfully challenged earlier Trump tariffs, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of International Trade in New York, challenging the double-digit import taxes that Trump imposed Friday.

The Trump administration, invoking the Trade Act of 1974, targeted 16 U.S. trading partners with tariffs of 10% to 12.5%, charging that they had failed to crack down on imports produced by forced labor.

But the Liberty Justice Center calls the new tariffs a pretext to allow Trump to maintain a wall of tariffs around the U.S. economy after the Supreme Court struck down big global taxes he'd imposed last year.

The new levies took effect at 12:01 a.m.

Friday as time ran out on temporary tariffs Trump had turned to after the Supreme Court defeat.

"The administration allowed one global tariff to expire and immediately replaced it with another under a different statute," said Sara Albrecht, chair of the Liberty Justice Center. "Changing the statute doesn't change the law. Every tariff authority has limits, and every administration must respect them."

Her group represented businesses that successfully challenged Trump's 2025 global tariffs.

There has been no comment yet from India, another trading partner of the U.S. (With inputs from AP)

Republic of India President...

President Nicusor Dan. The two leaders held extensive delegation-level talks to expand bilateral partnerships.

High-Level Meetings

President Murmu met with interim Prime Minister Ilie Bolojan, Senate President Mircea Abrudean, and Chamber of Deputies President Sorin Grindeanu to enhance strategic dialogue.

Economic Cooperation

Both nations agreed to a strategic plan to double bilateral trade over the next three years. President Murmu also addressed the India-Romania Business Forum today to foster corporate partnerships.

Academic Address:

She visited the Bucharest University of Economic Studies to engage with academic leaders.

Agreements and MoUs Signed

To formalize their growing partnership, India and Romania

exchanged several key agreements, which included a formal Cooperation Program for joint research and development, a Joint Declaration of Intent to enhance sports collaboration, an agreement for establishment of an Indian Studies Chair at the University of Bucharest, backed by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

India announced it will double the number of training slots for Romanian professionals under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program.

Looking forward, both leaders announced that the year 2028-marking the 80th anniversary of India-Romania diplomatic relations-will be celebrated as the "India-Romania Year of Innovation".

University of Pittsburgh...

University of Pittsburgh, signed a memorandum of understanding on July 16 to formalize the continuation of the academic program.

The agreement, backed by India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Education, reinstates a collaboration first launched in 2017. The partnership established a visiting professorship program, bringing distinguished Indian scholars to the university each year to teach and lead academic research on India's economy, society, history and culture.

"The initiative is aimed at generating sustained academic interest in India while strengthening educational and cultural ties with universities around the world," the ICCR said in a statement.

The University of Pittsburgh is only the second institution in the United States to host the ICCR chair, following Rutgers University,



Guru Purnima: Honoring the eternal light of wisdom

Among the many festivals celebrated in India, Guru Purnima occupies a unique place because it is not dedicated to a deity, a harvest or a seasonal change, but to the person who guides humanity from ignorance to enlightenment—the guru. Observed on the full moon day (Purnima) of the Hindu month of Ashadha, usually falling in June or July, Guru Purnima is a day of reverence, gratitude and introspection. It honours the timeless relationship between the guru and the disciple, a tradition that has shaped Indian philosophy, spirituality and education for thousands of years.

The word guru is derived from two Sanskrit syllables—Gu, meaning darkness, and Ru, meaning remover. Thus, a guru is one who dispels the darkness of ignorance and leads the seeker towards the light of knowledge and self-realisation. In Indian culture, the guru is regarded as more than a teacher; he or she is considered a guide, philosopher and spiritual mentor who transforms lives through wisdom and compassion. Ancient scriptures even place the guru on par with the divine, declaring that the guru embodies the creative, sustaining and transformative powers of the universe.

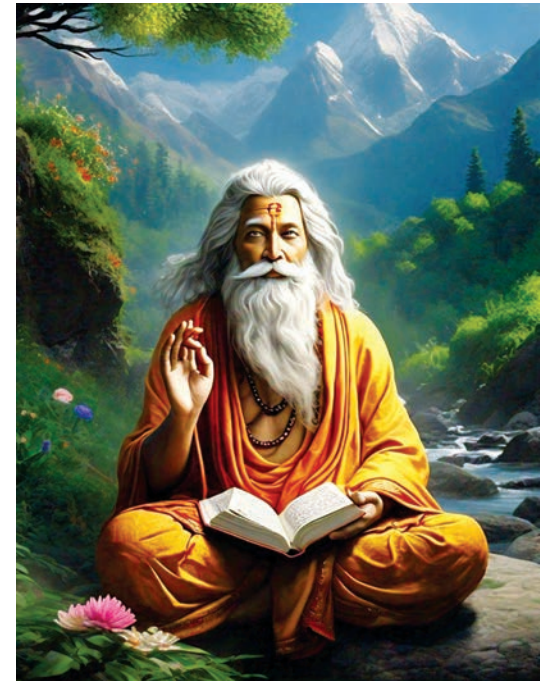
The Origin of Guru Purnima

Guru Purnima traces its origins to the Vedic period and is closely associated with the great sage Maharishi Ved Vyasa, one of India's most revered scholars. The festival is therefore also known as Vyasa Purnima. According to tradition, Ved Vyasa was born on this auspicious full moon day and dedicated his life to preserving and organising the vast body of Vedic knowledge for future generations.

Before Vyasa's work, the Vedas were transmitted orally from one generation to another. Recognising the need to preserve this sacred wisdom, he divided the Vedas into four collections—Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda—making them easier to study and teach. Besides compiling the Vedas, he authored the Mahabharata, one of the world's greatest epics, composed the Brahma Sutras and is traditionally credited with writing the eighteen Puranas. His extraordinary contribution to Indian philosophy earned him the title of the eternal guru, and Guru Purnima became the day on which disciples pay homage not only to their personal teachers but also to the entire lineage of spiritual masters descending from Ved Vyasa.

The Legend of Ved Vyasa and the Mahabharata

One of the most celebrated legends associated with Guru Purnima concerns the writing of the Mahabharata. It is believed that Ved Vyasa sought the help of Lord Ganesha to write down the epic as he dictated it. Ganesha agreed, but only on the condition that Vyasa would recite continuously without pause. Vyasa accepted but placed his own condition—that Ganesha must fully understand every verse before writing it.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Guru Purnima 2026

Wednesday, 29 July 2026

Purnima Tithi Begins - 28 July 2026 at 06:18 pm

Purnima Tithi Ends - 29 July 2026 at 08:15 pm

Did you know : It is the day when Ved Vyasa was born in the Mahabharata period by Sage Parashar, the daughter of a fisherman, Satyavati.

As the composition progressed, Vyasa occasionally recited deeply philosophical verses requiring careful interpretation. These complex passages gave him enough time to compose the next sections of the epic. This remarkable partnership resulted in the Mahabharata, a monumental work of literature that continues to guide humanity on questions of duty, righteousness, morality and the pursuit of truth.

The Story of the First Guru

Another ancient tradition associates Guru Purnima with Lord Shiva, who is revered in yogic philosophy as the Adi Guru, or the first guru. According to legend, after attaining supreme enlightenment, Shiva remained immersed in deep meditation in the Himalayas. Seven earnest seekers patiently waited for years, hoping to receive his teachings. Their unwavering dedication eventually moved Shiva, who accepted them as his disciples on the full moon day of Ashadha. These seven disciples later became the Saptarishis, the seven great sages who spread yogic knowledge and spiritual wisdom across different regions of the world. Guru Purnima is therefore celebrated in many yogic traditions as the day when the guru-disciple tradition first began and the science of yoga was shared with humanity.

Guru Purnima in Buddhism and Jainism

Guru Purnima is also observed with

deep reverence in Buddhism. According to Buddhist tradition, it marks the day when Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. At the Deer Park in Sarnath near Varanasi, he explained the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path to his first five disciples. This event, known as the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta or "Setting the Wheel of Dharma in Motion," marked the beginning of the Buddhist Sangha and the spread of Buddhist teachings.

In Jainism, Guru Purnima commemorates the day when Lord Mahavira accepted Gautam Swami as his first chief disciple. This event established the sacred tradition of spiritual mentorship within Jain philosophy, making the day equally significant for Jain devotees who offer prayers and express gratitude to monks and spiritual teachers.

The Guru-Shishya Tradition

The significance of Guru Purnima lies in the ancient Guru-Shishya Parampara, one of the oldest educational systems in the world. In the traditional Gurukul system, students lived with their guru in forest hermitages where education extended far beyond academic learning. They studied philosophy, grammar, mathematics, astronomy, medicine, music, warfare, ethics and meditation while also learning discipline, humility,

compassion and self-control.

The guru's responsibility was not limited to imparting knowledge but also included shaping the student's character and guiding every aspect of life. The disciple, in turn, served the guru with sincerity, respect and dedication. Guru Purnima celebrates this sacred relationship that has remained central to Indian civilisation for millennia.

Rituals and Observances

Guru Purnima is observed with simplicity, devotion and gratitude across India. Devotees begin the day with an early morning bath and wear clean or traditional clothes before visiting temples, ashrams or the residence of their guru. Many spiritual organisations conduct Guru Puja, during which disciples offer flowers, sandalwood paste, fruits, sweets and garlands to their guru. In some traditions, Paduka Puja, the ceremonial worship of the guru's sandals, symbolises reverence for the spiritual path shown by the teacher.

Special Vyasa Puja is performed in temples and monasteries to honour Maharishi Ved Vyasa. Devotees recite passages from the Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Upanishads, Guru Gita and other sacred scriptures, reflecting on the teachings of great masters. Meditation, chanting and satsangs are organised throughout the day, encouraging seekers to deepen their spiritual practice and renew their commitment to self-improvement.

Many devotees observe a fast on Guru Purnima, consuming only fruits and milk or fasting until evening. Charity also forms an important part of the celebrations, with people donating food, clothes, books and educational materials to those in need. Students visit their teachers to seek blessings, while many express gratitude to parents, mentors and guides who have shaped their lives.

History This Week

JULY 24 - JULY 30

JULY 24

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.



Birthday - "The Liberator" Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is known as the George Washington of South America for his efforts to liberate six nations: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from the rule of Spain.

Birthday - French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in Villers-Cotterets, France. His works included The Count of Monte Cristo and The Three Musketeers.

Birthday - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

JULY 25



July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote

their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington. GeographicReference

July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.

July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.

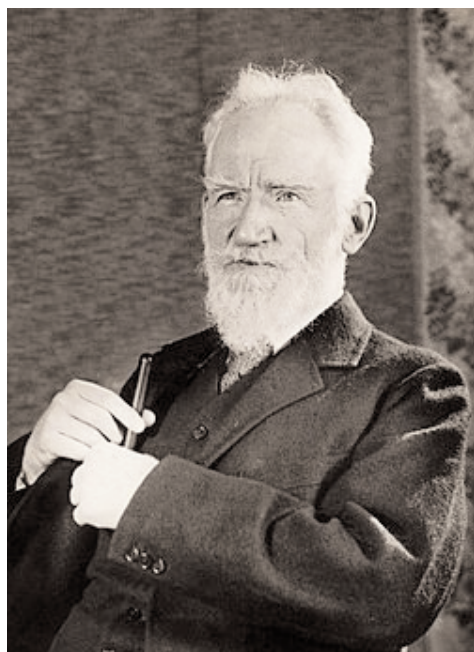
July 25, 1956 - The Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria sank after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.

JULY 26

July 26, 1944 - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.

July 26, 1945 - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.

July 26, 1953 - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.



Birthday - Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

JULY 27

July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at

Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

JULY 28

July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, D.C., occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised. After two months' encampment in Washington's Anacostia Flats, forced eviction of the bonus marchers by the U.S. Army was ordered by President Herbert Hoover. GeographicReference

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.



Birthday - Jackie Kennedy (1929-1994) was born in Southampton, New York (as Jacqueline Lee Bouvier). She was married to John Fitzgerald Kennedy and after his death later married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

JULY 29



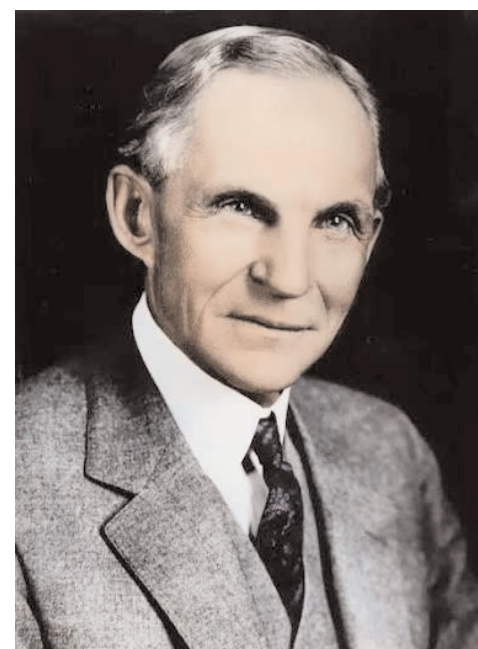
Birthday - Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) was born in Dovia, Italy. He ruled Italy from 1922-1943, first as prime minister and then as "Il Duce," the absolute dictator.

JULY 30

July 30, 1975 - Former Teamsters Union leader James Hoffa was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Michigan. His



13-year federal prison sentence had been commuted by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971. On December 8, 1982, seven years after his disappearance, an Oakland County judge declared Hoffa officially dead.



Birthday - Automotive pioneer Henry Ford (1863-1947) was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan. He developed an assembly-line production system and introduced a \$5-a-day wage for automotive workers. "History is bunk," he once said.



Bhopal beckons: A journey through lakes, legends and living heritage

Split by a pair of lakes, the city of Bhopal, also popularly referred to as the 'City of Lakes', is a true paradise for history buffs and art patrons. One of the greenest cities in India, Bhopal was founded by Raja Bhoj and features a number of natural and artificial lakes. The city of Bhopal has a very rich cultural heritage represented by numerous historical monuments, religious places as well as museums.

The city can be divided into two parts, the old city towards the north comprising of mosques, bazaars and old havelis and the modern city towards the south. The two major lakes of the city are 'Bhojtal' and 'Chhota Talab', also called Upper Lake and the Lower Lake respectively. Apart from tourism, the lakes are also a vital source of water for the residents of the city. Mosques like Taj-Ul-Masjid, built by Shah Jahan Begum is one of the largest in India, showcasing the rich heritage of the city and the classic Mughal architecture.

For the history buffs, Birla Mahal is a place where you can witness a number of prehistoric artifacts and stone sculptures that date back to the Paleolithic and Neolithic age. There is also Archaeological Museum where you can learn more about the vibrant history of the state and appreciate myriad statues of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

The land popularly referred to as 'City of Lakes' is also considered the 'Greenest city in India'. Here are the leading tourist destinations in Bhopal.

Upper Lake

One of the most famous places in Bhopal, the Upper Lake, locally referred to as 'Bhojtaal' or 'Bada Talab', is the oldest man-made lake in India. Dating back to the 11th century, the lake is believed to have been built by Raja Bhoj.

The lake is overlooked by a grand royal garden called Kamla Park, which is another tourist magnet, tempting tourists into its serene folds every year. The ambience and setting of the two places are too remarkable to be ignored, and warrants a top spot in your Bhopal tour itinerary, without any doubt.

Moti Masjid

One of the most interesting mosques in the country, Moti Masjid was built in 1862 by the most progressive and free-thinking woman of her time, Sikander Jahan Begum. Crafted with beautiful, pure white marble, the architecture of the mosque holds a striking resemblance to the historic Jama Masjid in Delhi. The dazzling white facade of the monument has earned it the name 'Pearl Mosque', which has a grand courtyard that opens a window to some of the most amazing views of the city. A perfect retreat for history lovers, as well as the curious, Moti Masjid, is



indispensable on your Bhopal tour.

Udayagiri Caves

A magnificent set of twenty sculpted caves that date back to the early 5th century CE, the Udayagiri Caves hold within their walls some of the most ancient icon drawings and carvings. The inscriptions inside the caves associate

their relation with the reign of the Gupta monarchy.

A significant historic monument, the caves are managed under the observation of the Archaeological Survey of India. The drawings carved depict stories of Vishnu, Lakshmi, Shiva, and Parvati.

Sanchi Stupa

One of the most unbeatable places to visit in Bhopal, and possibly in entire India, the magnificence of the Sanchi Stupa remains unmatched till date. Believed to have originated in the 3rd century BCE, the building was built in the reign of the great emperor Ashoka of the Maurya Dynasty and is one of the most remarkable Buddhist monuments in the country.

The Mauryan king undertook the task of redistributing the mortal remains of Lord Buddha all across the face of the country in order to spread the reach of Buddhism. The gigantic dome of the Stupa contains a central vault where the relics of Lord Buddha have been placed.

Shaukat Mahal

A beautiful anomaly of the Asian and Western architectural art amidst the predominance of Islamic architecture in Bhopal, Shaukat Mahal is one of the most frequented tourist places in Bhopal.

Gracing the entrance of the famous Chowk area, the building, erected in Sikander Begum's reign, also exhibits a unique blend of Post Renaissance and Gothic styles, along with intricate carvings which adorn its glorious face.

Shaukat Mahal is towered by the grand Sadar Manzil, which is believed to have served as the hall of public audience, back in the era of kings.

Van Vihar National Park

Sitting in close proximity to Upper Lake, the Van Vihar National Park is one of the unmissable tourist places in Bhopal. Serving as the lungs of the city, the park is under strict observation and protection. It is also home to a wide array of wildlife like Blackbuck, Cheetal, Sambar, Blue Bull, Porcupine, Wild Boar, and Hyena, besides exotic floral species.

Also ideal for short day treks, the place is apt for adventurers and nature lovers alike. Vast expanses of dense greenery and the quiet beauty of the place render it mandatory for tourists to visit it.

Bhimbetka Caves

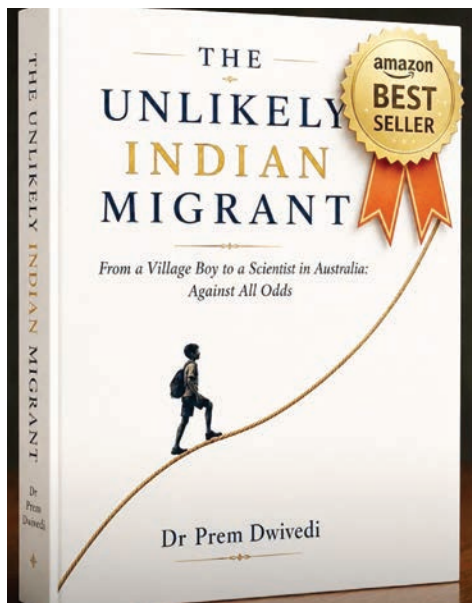
Situated at around 45 km south of Bhopal, the monumental Bhimbetka Caves have been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is believed that the caves date as far back as over 30,000 years! They are home to magnificent rock shelters, along with some of the most exquisite prehistoric cave paintings in Asia. The place exudes strong aesthetic vibes, owing to the beautifully sculpted rock formations within the caves, which are fenced by dense, verdant vegetation and woods. One of the most exotic places to visit in Bhopal, the Bhimbetka Caves are truly one of their kinds, which by themselves constitute a timeless piece of art.

The Unlikely Indian Migrant - #1 Amazon Best Seller in Australia

FROM A VILLAGE BOY TO A SCIENTIST IN AUSTRALIA: AGAINST ALL ODDS



Author: Prem Dwivedi



Australian Success Story

From a Banyan Tree to Global Recognition
The Extraordinary Journey Behind The Unlikely Indian Migrant

REVIEWED BY PROF. INDRAJIT SALUJA, CHIEF EDITOR, THE INDIAN PANORAMA, NEW YORK, USA

Every so often, a life story emerges that transcends geography, profession, and culture—becoming not just a memoir, but a mirror reflecting the journeys of millions. The Unlikely Indian Migrant is one such rare and deeply moving narrative.

This #1 Amazon Best Seller in Australia is far more than an autobiography. It is an inspiring migration epic—stretching from the dusty lanes of rural India to the frontiers of global scientific research in Australia. At its heart lies the extraordinary transformation of a village boy, Dr. Prem Parkash Dwivedi, into an internationally respected scientist, educator, and storyteller.

WHEN DREAMS BEGIN UNDER A BANYAN TREE

The book opens in a world far removed from laboratories and academic corridors—a small Indian village where childhood is shaped by

simplicity, tradition, and limited opportunity. In this setting, the author spent several formative years studying under a banyan tree, an enduring symbol of rural education, resilience, and aspiration. That open-air classroom became the foundation of a journey that would eventually span continents.

What makes this narrative compelling is not just where it begins, but how powerfully it refuses to remain there.

FROM EARLY EDUCATION TO SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

After his early schooling in rural India, Dr. Dwivedi pursued higher education with determination and focus. He carried out his PhD at the Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (formerly ITRC), where his academic promise and scientific capability began to take shape in a formal research environment. In recognition of his early scientific contributions and potential, he was awarded the prestigious CSIR Young Scientist Award, marking an important milestone in his academic journey.

Following this achievement, he moved internationally to take up his first major overseas scientific position as a Scientist at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, a transition that marked the beginning of his global research career.

A JOURNEY FORGED AGAINST ALL ODDS

This is not a linear success story. It is a lived experience of uncertainty, struggle, and persistence. Financial hardship, academic hurdles, cultural transitions, and moments of self-doubt repeatedly test the author's resolve.

Yet the defining strength of this memoir lies in its honesty: success is not portrayed as destiny, but as endurance.

The reader witnesses a life built through resilience rather than privilege—one step, one decision, and one risk at a time.

MIGRATION: THE EMOTIONAL COST OF NEW BEGINNINGS

One of the most powerful sections of the memoir captures the emotional reality of migration. Leaving India for New Zealand is not just a geographical shift, but a profound emotional rupture—filled with hope, fear, ambition, and sacrifice.

The book beautifully portrays what many migrants feel but rarely articulate: the loneliness of unfamiliar streets, the excitement of opportunity, and the silent burden of responsibility carried across borders.

These experiences make the memoir instantly relatable to immigrant communities across the USA, Australia, Canada, Europe and beyond.

FROM IMMIGRANT TO INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIST

At its core, this is also a scientist's journey—one that moves through late-

night experiments, failed hypotheses, academic breakthroughs, and global collaborations.

Dr. Dwivedi's contributions to Vitamin D biology and gene regulation place him within the international scientific landscape, but the memoir ensures the reader never loses sight of the human being behind the research.

Science here is not abstract—it is lived, struggled for, and deeply personal.

IDENTITY ACROSS CONTINENTS

A powerful theme running through the book is cultural continuity amid change. Moving between India, New Zealand, and Australia, the author navigates multiple identities without abandoning his roots.

Instead of assimilation erasing heritage, the memoir shows how cultural identity can evolve into strength—enriching both the individual and multicultural societies they become part of.

Even after living many decades in Australia, Dr. Dwivedi remains deeply attached to his soil—his family, relatives, and lifelong friends in India—carrying them with him as an enduring emotional anchor across continents. This quiet but powerful connection adds emotional depth to his journey and makes his story profoundly human.

THE FAMILY AT THE HEART OF THE STORY

Behind the scientific career and migration journey stands a deeply grounded family story.

The partnership between Prem and Arti is portrayed with warmth and authenticity—marked by shared struggle, mutual support, and unwavering commitment. Their children grow within this multicultural journey, bridging traditions from India with life in Australia and New Zealand.

It is this emotional foundation that gives the memoir its deepest resonance.

A STORY THAT BEGAN AT HOME

Interestingly, this autobiography was not originally planned as a book. It began as family storytelling—moments shared with children who recognized the extraordinary value of their father's experiences.

Over four years, these memories transformed into a carefully crafted memoir that captures not just one life, but the experience of an entire generation of Indian migrants.

A VOICE THAT SPEAKS TO MILLIONS

Although deeply personal, The Unlikely Indian Migrant speaks to a truly global audience. Its story will resonate with migrants searching for a sense of belonging, students pursuing education despite daunting obstacles, scientists striving to build careers far from their homeland, and families navigating the challenges and opportunities of life between cultures.

At its heart, the memoir explores universal themes of resilience, education, sacrifice, identity, family,

and hope. While rooted in one man's remarkable journey, it reflects the experiences and aspirations of countless people who have dared to dream beyond the circumstances of their birth.

The story of Dr. Dwivedi can serve as an inspiring role model for millions of Indian migrants overseas. His life demonstrates that perseverance, education, hard work, and integrity can transform even the humblest beginnings into extraordinary achievement. From studying for years under a banyan tree in a small Indian village to becoming a respected scientist in Australia, his journey is a powerful reminder that determination and courage can overcome seemingly impossible odds.

A MEMOIR OF ENDURANCE AND POSSIBILITY

Ultimately, this is not just a story of success—it is a story of becoming.

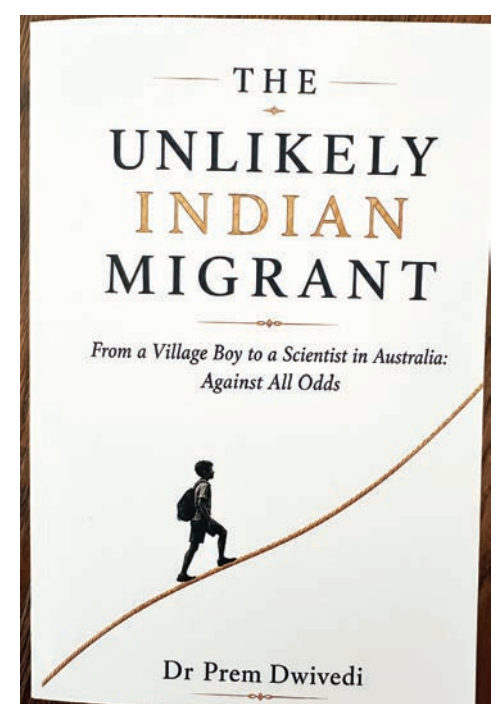
From a village boy who spent several years studying under a banyan tree to an internationally recognised scientist in Australia, Dr. Prem Parkash Dwivedi's journey reminds readers that origin does not define destiny.

It is a testament to what human determination can achieve when combined with opportunity, courage, and persistence.

FINAL REFLECTION

The Unlikely Indian Migrant stands as a powerful addition to contemporary migration literature—bridging India, Australia, and the global diaspora.

As a #1 Amazon Best Seller in Australia, it is not only a memoir of personal achievement but also a shared story of hope for millions who continue to journey across borders in search of a better future.



This is more than a book.

It is a reminder that extraordinary lives often begin in the most ordinary places.

Jhandu Kumar kicks off India's CWG tally, secures bronze in men's heavyweight para powerlifting

JULY 25, 2026

GLASGOW (TIP): India enjoyed a busy but mixed second day at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow on Friday, July 24, with para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar's historic bronze medal remaining the standout achievement even as several other athletes produced encouraging performances without reaching the podium.

There was plenty to cheer beyond the medal tally as boxer Jadumani Singh began his campaign with an emphatic victory, India's lawn bowls contingent extended its unbeaten run, and artistic gymnasts Pranati Nayak and Ruthuja Nataraj secured places in apparatus finals. Para swimmer R.V.V.B.K. Budigina came within touching distance of a medal, while the country's women para powerlifters endured a frustrating day.

JHANDU'S FAIRYTALE CONTINUES

India's first medal of the Games came through Jhandu Kumar, whose bronze in the men's heavyweight para powerlifting capped an extraordinary journey from driving an e-rickshaw in Bihar to standing on the Commonwealth podium.

The 29-year-old's inspiring achievement gave India the breakthrough it had been waiting for and provided the biggest talking point of an otherwise competitive day across multiple disciplines.

JADUMANI MAKES STRONG START

India's boxing campaign gathered momentum as Jadumani Singh produced a

Para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar opened India's account at the 2026 CWG with a bronze medal. Image: PTI



commanding performance to defeat Scotland's Aaron Cullen by unanimous decision in the men's 55kg bout.

Competing in front of a partisan home crowd, the reigning national champion dictated the contest from the outset despite conceding a height advantage. Jadumani repeatedly stepped inside with crisp jabs and sharp combinations, neutralising Cullen's reach and controlling the tempo across all three rounds.

The victory marked another encouraging step since his move up from the 50kg category, where he routinely had to cut nearly 10 kilograms before competitions. The switch to 55kg has allowed the Indian to

compete with greater strength and confidence, and he will now face Pakistan's Sumama Rehman in the pre-quarterfinals.

LAWN BOWLS STAY ON ROLL

India's lawn bowls contingent continued its impressive start to the Games with victories in both the women's pairs and men's singles.

Commonwealth Games gold medallists Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinki Singh registered their second successive victory in the women's pairs, defeating South Africa's Thabelo Muvhango and Jacqui Janse van Rensburg 2-0 (6-4, 7-5). The win followed Thursday's tie-break success over Malta and

lifted the Indian duo to the top of the Section B standings.

The pair, who were part of India's historic women's fours gold medal-winning team in Birmingham four years ago, have adapted seamlessly to the pairs format after the fours event was dropped from the Glasgow programme.

There was more good news in the men's singles as Assam Police officer Putul Sonowal backed up his stunning opening-day win over reigning world champion Ryan Bester of Canada with another gritty performance. Sonowal recovered from losing the second set to edge Falkland Islands' Cecil Alexander in a tie-break and make it two wins from two in Section D.

SWIMMERS FALLS JUST SHORT

India came agonisingly close to adding another medal through para swimmer R.V.V.B.K. Budigina in the men's 100m freestyle S13.

Budigina and Ali Imam had both progressed to the final after finishing third and eighth respectively in the morning heats. However, Budigina narrowly missed the podium after clocking 57.57 seconds to finish fourth, while Imam improved on his heat swim to finish seventh in 1:03.73.

In the able-bodied events, two-time Olympian Srihari Nataraj failed to progress beyond the men's 50m backstroke semifinals. After scraping through the heats in joint 14th place, Nataraj clocked 25.29 seconds in the semifinal to finish seventh, with all eight finalists swimming under the 25-second mark.

Dominic Thiem, who retired from tennis at 30, makes comeback. But in football

JULY 25, 2026

NEW YORK (TIP): Former US Open champion Dominic Thiem, who retired from tennis in 2024, has decided to return to competitive sport. No, he is not making a comeback to Arthur Ashe Stadium this time. Instead, the former World No. 3 is stepping onto the football pitch in Austria's lower leagues.

The move marks an intriguing second chapter for the 32-year-old, whose promising tennis career came to an emotional close due to persistent injury struggles.

Thiem officially called time on his professional tennis career at the end of the 2024 season, playing his final Grand Slam match at Flushing Meadows, the venue of his crowning achievement. After capturing the 2020 US Open title, a severe wrist injury suffered in 2021 sidelined him for months and ultimately prevented him from recapturing his peak form.

IND vs ZIM, 2nd T20I: Monkey off their back, India look to win series in Harare

JULY 25, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Matches against Zimbabwe rarely carry this kind of weight, but Thursday's (July 23) opener in Harare was a crucial fixture for a transitional Indian side. Fresh off tough away tours of Ireland and England, captain Shreyas Iyer finally got a result to breathe easy, backed by a fiery spell from his pacers in helpful conditions.

As the relentless cricket calendar moves swiftly along, India return to the Harare Sports Club for the second T20I on Saturday, July 25. Iyer's men will look to build on that momentum, clean up the minor errors, and wrap up the three-match series with a game to spare. While chasing down 126 turned out to be fairly routine, the real story of the first game was how India's young pacers handled the conditions in Harare. After spending almost two years out with injuries, tearaway fast bowler Mayank Yadav looked right at home. He kept things tight, picked up 2/18, and set the tone early by dismissing Brian Bennett with his very first delivery. Mayank was not alone. Prince Yadav picked up a couple of wickets as well, while debutant Ashok Sharma hit good speeds even if he did not get among the wickets. Zimbabwe were pushed onto the back foot early, slumping to 26/3 inside the powerplay. They eventually scraped together 125/7, but on a decent surface, it was never going to be enough to trouble India.

The chase was largely about young Vaibhav Sooryavanshi showing what he can do. After a rough patch in England, where teams repeatedly targeted him with short balls, the 15-year-old smashed a 19-ball fifty, becoming the youngest player to score a



T20I half-century.

Along with Ishan Kishan's 35 and a composed unbeaten 28 from Shreyas Iyer, India knocked off the target with more than six overs to spare. The only quiet spot in the top order was Abhishek Sharma, who fell early. It was a contrast in fortunes for the left-hander, who hit his maiden T20I hundred at the Harare Sports Club back in 2024. He will be keen to get a few runs under his belt this time around.

For Sikandar Raza's team, the priority on Saturday is simply surviving the new ball. Zimbabwe have been strong at home recently, but they struggled to handle the extra pace India brought in the opening overs. If they want to take this series to a decider on Sunday, their top three will need to show better judgment against the new ball and avoid giving away early wickets.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



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