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Flash Floods Cause Havoc in Nepal and Tibet

OVER 390 KILLED IN NEPAL AND TIBET, WITH MORE THAN 1,400 MISSING

UN, WORLD BANK, INDIA, CHINA AND THE U.S. HAVE ALREADY PLEDGED FUNDS TO ASSIST NEPAL GOVERNMENT



Damaged houses stand precariously near the swollen, debris-choked banks of the Trishuli River after flash floods in Nepal's Nuwakot district on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2026. -Photo/Niranjana Shrestha

**I.S. SALUJA
AUGUST 27, 2026
DEVIGHAT, NEPAL (TIP)**

Emergency rescue teams scoured the Nepal-Tibet border on Thursday, August 27, in search of survivors of a devastating flash flood that hit the region the day before. In Nepal, at least 390 people have been killed, and more than 1,400 others remain missing, including around 700 foreigners, according to Nepali police. Local authorities expect the death toll to rise. On the Tibetan side, Chinese state media said at least three people have been killed and 558 others are missing, though it's not clear if these numbers overlap with the Nepali figures.

Initial investigations indicate that an ice avalanche caused the torrential flood. Early Wednesday morning local time, a large chunk of ice broke off a

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Judge again blocks Trump mail ballot executive order in ruling that's likely to be swiftly appealed



Photo for representation only

**AUGUST 27, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

A federal judge on Thursday, August 27, halted - at least for now - attempts to implement President Donald Trump's executive order limiting mail voting.

The move stalled the directive for a

second time only about a week before the first mail ballots are due to be sent out for the rapidly approaching midterm elections. U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani placed a 14-day hold on the government implementing the order in a case that could be headed back to the Supreme Court, which on Monday overturned an earlier ruling of hers that had blocked Trump's order from taking effect.

Talwani wrote in her ruling, "Plaintiff states have neither time nor funds to design new mail ballots, seek approval of the new designs, order production of mail ballots, update their own election management systems, train election

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Indians top UK's settlement, citizenship charts ahead of stricter rules

THE RULES AROUND SETTLEMENT RIGHTS IN BRITAIN, CURRENTLY APPLICABLE AFTER FIVE YEARS TO THOSE ON VALID VISA ROUTES, ARE SET TO BE DOUBLED FROM LATER THIS YEAR

**AUGUST 27, 2026
LONDON (TIP)**

Indian nationals topped the charts of those seeking settlement and citizenship in the UK, according to official Home Office statistics released on Thursday.

The rules around settlement rights in Britain, currently applicable after five years to those on valid visa routes, are set to be doubled from later this year under Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood's proposals.

The latest tranche of Immigration data released under the previous regime shows a 24 per cent spike in Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) application



Indian nationals topped the charts of those seeking settlement and citizenship in the UK

Picture for representation only/ iStock

grants, also known as permanent settlement, which opens up the route to apply for British citizenship.

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US panel opposes RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's NY visit, flags 'attacks' on minorities in India



Mohan Bhagwat
File photo/ PTI

**AUGUST 27, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has raised concerns over the visit of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat to the US, citing what it described as continuing challenges to religious freedom in India and attacks on minorities, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Dalits.

In a statement, the US' independent religious freedom watchdog alleged that members of groups affiliated with the RSS had been involved in attacks on religious minorities. USCIRF Chair Asif Mahmood urged Washington to consider targeted measures against individuals it believes are responsible for violations of religious freedom, including

reviewing Bhagwat's visa.

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COMMENT**WELCOME MOHAN BHAGWAT-BUT LET
HIS VISIT UNITE, NOT DIVIDE****CELEBRATE HIM OR PROTEST HIM-THAT IS THE FREEDOM AMERICA GUARANTEES. BUT INDIAN
AMERICANS MUST NOT ALLOW RHETORIC HERE TO DEEPEN COMMUNAL DIVISIONS IN INDIA.**

Mohan Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, comes to New York carrying not merely the leadership of a century-old organization, but a century of controversy over what India is-and what India should become.

His scheduled appearance in New York on August 29 has generated enthusiasm among supporters of the RSS and opposition from minority, interfaith and human-rights groups. Supporters regard the RSS as a patriotic cultural organization devoted to Hindu society and India's civilizational regeneration. Critics see it as the ideological fountainhead of a Hindu majoritarian project that could threaten India's plural character.

Both sides feel strongly.

Our appeal is simple: Exercise your freedom. But lower the temperature.

Those who admire Bhagwat should welcome him, attend his meeting and celebrate his visit. Those who oppose the RSS should protest peacefully, question its philosophy and present their alternative vision of India.

America protects both.

A CENTURY OF ARGUMENT

Founded by Keshav Baliram Hedgewar in Nagpur in 1925, the RSS has become one of modern India's most consequential organizations.

Its history deserves greater care than either admirers or detractors sometimes give it. Hedgewar participated in anti-British activity, and the RSS maintains that individual swayamsevak participated in independence movements. But the organization did not occupy the institutional place in Gandhi's mass freedom struggle that the Indian National Congress did; its principal project became the organization of Hindu society.

The shadow of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination also remains part of the historical argument. Nathuram Godse had an association with the RSS, although his precise status at the time of the assassination remains disputed. It would be wrong to turn that association into an unsupported allegation of organizational responsibility for Gandhi's murder.

History should neither be sanitized nor weaponized. Facts without fear. Fairness without favor.

WHAT KIND OF INDIA?

The more important argument today concerns the meaning of Hindu Rashtra. The RSS places Hindu civilization at the center of its conception of Indian nationhood. Bhagwat has described Bharat as a Hindu Rashtra while arguing that the concept does not exclude Muslims or Christians. Critics remain unconvinced.

Their concern produces a legitimate question: Why should an Indian Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain-or an Indian of no faith-have to understand citizenship through terminology identified principally with another religious-cultural tradition?



Mohan Madhukar Bhagwat, Sarsanghchalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)

PTI File Photo

Why cannot each simply be an Indian, equal in citizenship, dignity and ownership of the Republic? That question deserves an answer, not an insult.

INDIA IS LARGER THAN ANY ORGANIZATION

The RSS is a century old. Indian civilization is millennia old. Across centuries, India encountered peoples, languages, philosophies and faiths and displayed an extraordinary capacity to absorb and accommodate. This is not to romanticize history. India has known conquest, caste oppression, religious persecution, Partition and horrific communal violence. Yet India endured-not because everyone became alike, but because it continued making room for difference.

Hinduism itself contains remarkable philosophical diversity. India became home to Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians. That inheritance belongs to no single organization, party or community. India belongs to Indians. All of them.

A WORD TO THE CELEBRANTS

To Hindu Americans enthusiastic about Bhagwat's visit: welcome him. You have every right to honor a leader you admire and celebrate a heritage you cherish. But pride in Hindu civilization need not become contempt for another faith. Do not allow enthusiasm to become rhetoric challenging Muslims, Christians, Sikhs or other minorities. And do not import India's communal antagonisms into American streets.

Diaspora communities carry a particular responsibility. A provocative statement made comfortably in New York can reach an Indian neighborhood within seconds and have consequences far from those who uttered it.

Words have passports now. Those who speak here should remember those who must live together there.

A WORD TO THE PROTESTERS

To those who distrust the RSS: protest peacefully if your conscience requires it. Question Bhagwat. Challenge Hindutva. Dispute historical claims and oppose

**BY INDRAJIT
SALUJA**

policies you consider discriminatory. But do not answer perceived intolerance with intolerance. Nor should every Hindu who admires the RSS be presumed hostile to minorities. Pride in Hindu civilization does not automatically imply hatred of another faith. Challenge the ideology without condemning the community. India has already paid too terrible a price when political disagreement becomes communal antagonism.

LET AMERICA PROVIDE THE LESSON

There is an instructive irony in this controversy. Bhagwat's admirers can gather because America protects their freedom of expression. His opponents can demonstrate because America protects theirs. One may defend Hindutva. Another may condemn it. And when the argument ends, each remains entitled to equal protection of law.

That is not weakness. That is democratic confidence.

India's Constitution contains its own magnificent expression of that principle.

It does not begin: We, the Hindus.

Or: We, the Muslims.

Or: We, the majority.

IT BEGINS: WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA.

Those words embrace Hindu and Muslim, Sikh and Christian, believer and non-believer, majority and minority. Everyone is an heir to India. Everyone is an owner of the Republic.

LET INDIA REMAIN INDIA

The RSS is entitled to advocate its conception of India's future. Its opponents are entitled to reject it. Political parties may seek mandates for their ideas. The people decide. But political strength should never persuade any party or organization that it owns India.

India's greatness has never depended upon everybody praying alike, speaking alike or thinking alike. Its extraordinary achievement has been remaining India despite its astonishing diversity.

So welcome Mohan Bhagwat. Or protest Mohan Bhagwat. But let neither celebration nor protest become an occasion for Indians to push one another farther apart. A confident majority need not fear a minority. A secure faith does not require another faith to become insecure. And an ancient civilization does not become stronger by narrowing the definition of who belongs to it.

Perhaps the most useful message Indian Americans can send home this weekend is therefore the simplest: Do not make India smaller in the name of making it stronger.

Let Bhagwat speak. Let his critics speak. And let the people judge.

Facts without fear. Fairness without favor. Questions without prejudice. Judgment left to the people.

May wisdom prevail over provocation, accommodation over exclusion, and fellowship over fear.

Let us wish India well!

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INTERVIEW

"INDIAN VOTERS ARE THE SAVIORS OF DEMOCRACY"

Telangana MLC Dr. Addanki Dayakar talks to Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja about his political journey, social justice, Rahul Gandhi, the RSS, electoral integrity-and his ambitious search for a global language of equality

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S. SALUJA

It was Onam, and what began as an afternoon of friendship and traditional Kerala hospitality unexpectedly became an opportunity for a candid conversation about Indian politics, democracy and social justice.

My good friend George Abraham, former United Nations Technology officer and currently Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA, and his wife, Lona Abraham, had graciously invited a few friends to Onam celebrations at Dilbar Indian Restaurant in Bellerose, Queens. The warmth of Onam was everywhere, not least in the magnificent traditional meal served, as custom demands, on large banana leaves. The owners Philipose Joseph, Dipu, and Hemachandran took extra care to make the guests comfortable.

Among those present were Dr. Addanki Dayakar, Member of the Telangana Legislative Council and Government Whip; his wife, Addanki Nagamani, Banjara Bharath National Convenor; and Ashok Arora, senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India and former Secretary of the Bar Council of India.

Between conversation and the pleasures of the Onam table, I caught up with Dr. Dayakar. What began as an introduction soon ranged across his journey from the Telangana movement to electoral politics, his pursuit of social justice, filmmaking, Rahul Gandhi and the Congress, his criticism of the BJP and RSS, concerns about India's electoral system, and an ambitious international initiative devoted to equality and humanity.

Dayakar spoke candidly. His political opinions are strongly held-and are his own. What follows is an edited version of our conversation.

SALUJA: DR. DAYAKAR, LET US BEGIN WITH YOU. TELL OUR READERS SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR JOURNEY INTO PUBLIC LIFE.

DAYAKAR: I come from the Telangana movement. For about ten years, from 2004 to 2014, I worked as a movement leader and spokesperson associated with the Telangana Joint Action Committee. After the realization of Telangana statehood, I joined the Indian National Congress in 2014.

I contested elections in 2014 and again in 2018. Later, I became a Member of the Telangana Legislative Council, and today I serve as Government Whip with Minister of State rank.

Academically, I have studied computer applications and law and completed my Ph.D. from Osmania University. I am also participating in a leadership program at Harvard University involving storytelling, leadership and human empowerment. My journey has therefore moved from social movement to politics, but my interest in social justice has remained constant.



Telangana MLC Dr. Addanki Dayakar in conversation with Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Editor of The Indian Panorama

SALUJA: YOU SPEAK REPEATEDLY ABOUT EQUALITY AND JUSTICE. BUT EQUALITY IS AN ENORMOUS CONCEPT. WHAT KIND OF EQUALITY ARE YOU SEEKING-ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, POLITICAL, RACIAL?

DAYAKAR: Equality is a very broad idea. We must work to reduce social, economic and political inequalities and discrimination based on caste, religion, gender, region and other identities.

My concern is this: governments spend enormous resources on science, technology and space exploration. These are important. But what are we investing in humanity, equality and justice?

Where is our comparable investment in making human beings understand one another?

That is the question I want society to consider.

SALUJA: THE ASPIRATION IS ADMIRABLE. BUT WHAT IS THE ROADMAP? HOW DO YOU ACTUALLY MOVE SOCIETY TOWARD GREATER EQUALITY?

DAYAKAR: That is precisely what I want to explore. I want to bring together professors, intellectuals, NGOs, social organizations and people working for equality and justice.

My plan is to organize international conferences in different countries and develop concrete resolutions and recommendations. I would like these eventually to reach governments and international institutions, including the United Nations.

Education must also play a role. Humanity and respect for others should become part of what young people learn. Laws are necessary, but humanity cannot be created by law alone.

My ambition is global because discrimination itself is global.

SALUJA: CAN SUCH AN AMBITIOUS-EVEN UTOPIAN-IDEA BE TRANSLATED INTO REALITY WITHOUT POLITICAL POWER?

DAYAKAR: Political power can accomplish certain things, but not everything.

The idea of humanity must grow within society. Today, when two countries fight, many other countries fear the consequences. We still lack adequate mechanisms for resolving human conflicts.

Political power can create institutions and policies. But ultimately society itself must develop a stronger consciousness of humanity.

SALUJA: YOU HAVE ALSO VENTURED INTO CINEMA. ARE YOU AN ACTOR, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR-OR A POLITICIAN WHO HAPPENED TO ENTER FILMS?

DAYAKAR: I am basically a movement leader who became a political leader. A friend saw that my own public role and ideology could become the basis of a film and offered me an opportunity to act.

The film is called The India Files.

It explores India's cultural and political transformation and ideas such as socialism, secularism, democracy and the Constitution. I play a role close to my own public personality.

The purpose was not simply commercial success. We wanted to communicate ideas.

SALUJA: SO THIS WAS NOT CONCEIVED AS AN ANSWER TO FILMS SUCH AS THE KASHMIR FILES?

DAYAKAR: No. My idea was different. The India Files looks at a much longer sweep of Indian cultural and political transformation. We are working toward making it available in several Indian languages and English.

For us, box-office success was not the principal objective. We wanted to communicate our understanding of India's culture and its constitutional idea.

SALUJA: LET US COME DIRECTLY TO POLITICS. YOU ARE A CONGRESS LEADER AND A STRONG SUPPORTER OF RAHUL GANDHI. WHAT, IN YOUR ASSESSMENT, IS HAPPENING TO INDIAN DEMOCRACY?

DAYAKAR: I believe India is witnessing dangerous divisive politics. Religion, caste and community are increasingly being used politically.

I strongly oppose the political philosophy of the BJP and RSS. I believe Congress must defend constitutional democracy, secularism and social justice.

I also strongly support Rahul Gandhi. I see his political journey, including the Bharat Jodo Yatra, as an effort to bring people together and defend democratic values.

These are my political convictions, and I speak about them openly.

SALUJA: BUT CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT IS ONE THING. DEFEATING IT DEMOCRATICALLY IS ANOTHER. OPPOSITION PARTIES IN INDIA HAVE REPEATEDLY FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REMAIN UNITED. WHAT MUST DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION FORCES ACTUALLY DO?

DAYAKAR: They must go continuously to the people.

Political parties cannot merely raise an issue for a few days and then forget it. People must be made aware of what is happening, and democratic forces must remain united.

We use political campaigns, public meetings, media, articles, films and other forms of communication. The task is to create public awareness and keep it alive.

Ultimately, no political alliance can succeed without the people.

SALUJA: YOU CONTESTED THE 2018 ELECTION AND HAVE MADE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS ABOUT EVMS AND DISCREPANCIES IN THAT CONTEST. WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR CONTENTION?

DAYAKAR: I lost that election by 1,857 votes. I found discrepancies that caused me to question the EVM process, and I pursued the matter through an election petition.

My concern about EVMs comes partly from my academic understanding of computers and networking. I believe the electoral system must be completely transparent and capable of earning the confidence of every voter and candidate.

I have been pursuing my case for years, and I continue to believe these questions deserve serious examination.

Editor's Note: Dr. Dayakar's statements concerning EVM manipulation are allegations made by him and should not be read as independently established findings by The Indian Panorama. Questions concerning the 2018 election figures, his litigation and the relevant electoral record require independent verification.

CONTD ON PAGE 4

Girl found dead in suitcase in US: Ex-boyfriend wanted for murder taken into custody

AUGUST 27, 2026

DELHI (TIP)

A Delhi court has taken into custody a man wanted in connection with the alleged murder of his former girlfriend in the United States after he was arrested on non-bailable warrants issued by the court.



Ex-boyfriend of Nikitha Godishala has been taken into custody on the charge of murdering her in the US

Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Animesh Bhaskar Mani Tripathi, in an order passed on August 25, recorded that the accused was arrested after the warrants were executed. The court directed that he be taken into custody and necessary custody warrants be prepared. The accused was medically examined following his arrest and no injuries were reported. The arresting officer also informed his family, according to the order.

During the hearing, the CBI informed the court that the accused was also a suspect in an FIR registered at the Lallaguda police station in Hyderabad. The court was told that an officer from the police station had served a notice at the address of the accused in Agra, following which a daily diary entry was made before a raid was conducted to execute the non-bailable warrants.

The case relates to the alleged murder of 27-year-old Telugu woman Nikitha Godishala in Columbia, Howard County, Maryland. Nikitha was allegedly killed around New Year's Eve in 2025. (Source: TNS)

Indian-origin Oxford professor taps into therapeutic potential of math modelling

AUGUST 25, 2026

LONDON (TIP)

A noted Indian-origin academic in the UK believes that applying mathematics to living systems can reveal new biological insights and point towards potential therapies with real societal benefit.

Philip Maini, Professor of Mathematical Biology at University of Oxford, has been involved in the area of anti-tumor therapies for some years in collaboration with fellow mathematicians, clinicians and biologists. His mathematical models have contributed important insights into the design of combination cancer therapy.

"We have developed mathematical models of angiogenesis, oxygen delivery and cell growth, which we are now trying to validate experimentally," Professor Maini told the university's 'PULSE' platform this week.

"Ultimately, we hope this will be a tool that can predict the chemo/radiotherapy protocol that will lead to the best patient outcome," he said.

Maini, born in Northern Ireland to Punjabi immigrants, believes that a biologist focuses on "what" is happening and a mathematician wants to get to the core of "how" things happen.

In combining those two aspects lies a better understanding of what is going on within a system to ultimately reveal new ways to approach problems, including developing better disease therapies.

More recently, the leading mathematician has applied mathematical models to adaptive therapy, which recognizes that tumors are not populations of uniform cells. Therefore, aiming to wipe out as many tumor cells as possible may not be the most effective approach.

Professor Maini explains: "A key reason why tumor therapies fail is because they select for resistant cancer cells. Tumors can be thought of as ecosystems made up of both drug-sensitive cells and drug-resistant cells, all competing for the same resources.

"Normally, drug-sensitive cells are the dominant population, because having a drug-resistant phenotype tends to carry a fitness cost. But if you apply a therapy so strongly that it wipes out all the sensitive cells, this allows the resistant ones to dominate. Eventually, this leads to cancer progression." The idea behind adaptive therapy is that the drug is applied at a level that keeps a baseline population of sensitive cells, which can keep the resistant tumor cells in check.

"The strength of mathematical modelling is that you can try all sorts of different strategies at literally no cost and in a way that you simply couldn't do using clinical tests," adds Maini.

For the academic, in his 60s, teaching remains a passion and his student lectures on YouTube have attracted millions of views.

The director of Oxford's Wolfson Centre for Mathematical Biology and author of 'Mathematical Biology: A Very Short Introduction' finds the field "exciting" because there are constantly new problems that "require entirely new types of maths to address". (Source: PTI)



Philip Maini, Professor of Mathematical Biology at University of Oxford, has been involved in the area of anti-tumor therapies for some years in collaboration with fellow mathematicians, clinicians and biologists.

Photo / University of Oxford

Jaipur Surgeon Becomes Rajasthan's First to Serve as a Faculty at the Royal College of Surgeons of England

AUGUST 26, 2026

LONDON (TIP)

In a significant academic milestone for Rajasthan's medical fraternity, Jaipur-based Orthopedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon Dr Rohil Singh Kakkar has become the first orthopedic surgeon from Rajasthan to serve as a

Faculty for the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) course with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The CCrISP programme is an internationally recognized advanced surgical training course designed to strengthen the systematic assessment, clinical decision-making and management of critically ill surgical patients, with emphasis on recognizing clinical deterioration, prioritizing physiological problems and delivering timely multidisciplinary care. As Faculty, Dr Kakkar contributed to the structured teaching and training of surgical professionals through a programme that forms an important part of advanced surgical education and the development of clinical skills in managing high-risk surgical patients.

This academic role represents a notable distinction, providing Dr Kakkar a platform to contribute to the education and training of surgeons within one of the world's oldest and most respected surgical institutions.

It is noteworthy that Dr Kakkar is also among the very few surgeons from Rajasthan to have earned the superspeciality MCh Orthopedics degree from Ninewells Hospital, Scotland, and a Fellowship in Joint Reconstruction Surgery at the Nuffield Orthopedic Centre, Oxford, England.

He has also served as a Consultant Joint Replacement and Orthopedic Surgeon at Eternal Hospital, Jaipur, and Marble City Hospital, Kishangarh, where he successfully treated more than 5000 patients.

Alongside his surgical practice, Dr Kakkar has remained actively involved in advancing orthopedic education and research. His areas of interest include joint replacement surgery, complex trauma and arthroscopy and limb reconstruction. This latest academic achievement highlights the growing representation of Rajasthan's medical professionals in global surgical education.



Dr Rohil Singh Kakkar has become the first orthopedic surgeon from Rajasthan to serve as a Faculty for the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP) course with the Royal College of Surgeons of England

CONTD FROM PAGE 3

SALUJA: THAT BRINGS US TO A LARGER PROBLEM. POLITICAL PARTIES FREQUENTLY RAISE SERIOUS ISSUES-EVMS, ELECTORAL PRACTICES, INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY-BUT CAMPAIGNS OFTEN DISAPPEAR AFTER THE HEADLINES FADE. ISN'T A SUSTAINED DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN MORE IMPORTANT THAN EPISODIC PROTEST?

DAYAKAR: Yes. Sustained public awareness is essential.

The media should also play an important role. Traditionally, we call the press the fourth pillar of democracy. Today we additionally have social media and enormous amounts of propaganda, and people sometimes find it difficult to

distinguish what is true from what is false.

The mainstream media must question those in power as rigorously as it questions the opposition. Democracy requires accountability from everybody.

SALUJA: THEN WHO FINALLY PROTECTS DEMOCRACY-THE COURTS, ELECTION COMMISSION, POLITICAL PARTIES, MEDIA OR POLITICAL LEADERS?

DAYAKAR: Institutions are important. Political leaders are important.

But finally, the people are the saviors of democracy.

Leaders come and leaders go. Parties come and parties go.

The Indian voter remains. Politicians may believe they are powerful. Governments may believe they are permanent. They are not. The voter has the final power. Indian voters are the saviors of Indian democracy.

THE LAST WORD

That final observation perhaps provided the most fitting conclusion to our brief conversation.

Dr. Addanki Dayakar and I disagree on some questions and may debate many others when we meet again. His politics are unmistakably partisan, his criticism sharp and his faith in his

causes intense.

But beneath those arguments was a proposition considerably larger than Congress, BJP, Rahul Gandhi, Narendra Modi-or any individual politician: Political power is temporary. The sovereignty of the citizen is permanent. In a democracy, that is worth remembering.

Leaders come. Leaders go. Parties rise. Parties fall. The voter remains.

And perhaps there, amid an Onam gathering thousands of miles from India, our conversation found its most appropriate destination: The people are not spectators of democracy. They are its owners.

Trump says US ready to provide "anything" Nepal needs as floods leave 90 Americans 'missing'

**AUGUST 28, 2026
WASHINGTON, DC (TIP)**

US President Donald Trump on Thursday, August 27, said that the United States has offered Nepal "any help that they need" following the devastating flash floods in the country's Rasuwa district, as Washington works to locate American citizens reported missing in the disaster.

Addressing reporters on the sidelines of signing an executive order, Trump said the US had spoken with Nepalese leadership and offered assistance following the floods, describing the situation as one that "nobody's ever seen anything quite like that."

"We've called Nepal, and we've offered any help that they need. And we have a very good relationship with Nepal, and that was a brutal... that wasn't just... that was mud and water. It's a mixture that nobody's ever seen anything quite like that, where very powerful, strong, you know, strong, well-built buildings were wiped out like they were toothpicks," Trump said.

"It's a terrible thing. No, we are sending aid, and we've spoken to the leadership, and we let them know anything they want, we'll have," he added.

Trump also said that dozens of Americans were in the affected areas and that the US had not yet received a complete list of those affected.

"And there were 50, maybe 60 Americans over there who we haven't gotten the full list yet, but hopefully they're okay. But that looks pretty... that looks like something that people will not be... somebody will be lost, unfortunately," Trump said.

According to CNN, the US State Department has said that 90 Americans are 'missing' following the floods in Nepal.



President Donald J. Trump

Former White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, speaking to Fox News on Thursday (local time), said the administration's immediate priority was ensuring the safety of US citizens in Nepal.

"We've offered our help and our assistance, but of course the first priority for this president and Secretary Rubio will always be Americans. So, we're focusing on rescuing every American that we possibly can, and that effort will continue," Leavitt said.

The US State Department, in a media note issued on Wednesday (local time), said it was closely monitoring the situation and had deployed a disaster response advisor to the region to support response efforts.

"The United States extends its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives in the devastating flash floods in the Rasuwa district of Nepal. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this disaster," the State Department said.

The department also announced USD 500,000 in assistance through its global award with Catholic Relief Services. The assistance will support emergency shelter, relief items, and water, sanitation and hygiene assistance for communities affected by the floods.

"The U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu is working closely with local authorities to locate and assist U.S. citizens in the affected areas," the State Department said.

It urged US citizens in Nepal who require urgent assistance related to the flooding to contact the US Embassy and encouraged Americans in affected areas to monitor local news, follow instructions from local authorities and enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive safety and emergency information.

The remarks come as the death toll in Nepal reaches 389, with 977 people reported to remain missing following the Bhote Koshi flood in Nepal's Rasuwa district, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said in its latest status report released on Thursday.

Of the 977 people reported missing, 517 are foreign nationals, and 127 are Nepali citizens living abroad who had come to Nepal to visit.

Meanwhile, Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established an Emergency Response Team to coordinate search, rescue, information verification and consular assistance concerning foreign nationals affected by the Rasuwa flash flood.

The authorities continue to conduct search and rescue operations across the affected districts as efforts intensify to locate those still missing, assist stranded people and restore damaged infrastructure.

(Source: ANI)

US India Chamber of Commerce Announces Finance & Real Estate Conference - FINREX 26

The Real Estate Focused Conference is scheduled for Friday, September 25, at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas



**AUGUST 27, 2026
DALLAS (TIP)**

Neeti Khaitan, Chairwoman, US India Chamber DFW in a letter announcing the Finance & Real Estate Conference - FINREX 26, said that "Real estate has always been central to conversations at the Chamber, and nowhere is that more relevant than here in Dallas-Fort Worth, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the country. With continued population growth, business expansion, corporate relocations, and significant investment across the region, the opportunities in the DFW market are substantial".

Ms Khaitan also spoke of the importance of wealth management, which has become an equally important part of the

conversation. "As our members build, diversify, and protect their wealth through real estate and other investments, understanding how to evaluate opportunities, structure transactions, manage risk, and finance investments strategically is just as important as identifying the right opportunity", she said.

"We regularly hear from members who are already investing in real estate-or considering doing so-and who are looking for deeper insight into both the opportunities in the market and the financial strategies required to capitalize on them successfully.

"With that in mind, FINREX 26 will bring together seasoned professionals and active practitioners across commercial real estate, multifamily, land

development, real estate finance, and wealth management for a half-day of candid, practical insights into where the market stands today-and where it is headed.

"We are especially honored to welcome Craig Hall, CEO and Founder of HALL Group, as our keynote speaker. Few voices in Dallas-Fort Worth real estate carry the depth of experience Craig brings-from building and reshaping a multibillion-dollar portfolio over five decades, to transformative projects like HALL Park in Frisco and HALL Arts in the Dallas Arts District. His journey through multiple economic cycles, and the adaptability and long-term thinking that have defined his career, make him uniquely suited to speak to exactly the kind of practical, forward-looking insight our members are seeking at FINREX 26.

"As with all Chamber events, seating is limited, we encourage you to register early.

"For questions or to discuss sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to our Chamber team at info@usicoc.org

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller expresses anguish over Mass Immigration Arrests

**AUGUST 27, 2026
MARYLAND (TIP)**

"As an immigrant, I know the promise of this country and the profound responsibility we have to protect it. We can enforce our laws and remove violent offenders without treating entire communities as threats", said Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor of Maryland.

Aruna continued: "Public safety depends on trust. When people are afraid to go to work, take their children to school, seek medical care, or cooperate with law enforcement, that trust is broken-and all of us are less safe.

"Maryland will continue to stand for both public safety and the basic dignity and constitutional rights of every person who calls our state home. Those principles are not in conflict. They are fundamental to who we are.

"Marylanders deserve to feel safe in their communities. That means holding violent offenders accountable. It also means ensuring that every person is treated with dignity and afforded their constitutional rights.

"According to the Department of Homeland Security's own numbers, only a fraction of the more than 1,300 people arrested across Maryland and Virginia had been convicted of or charged with crimes. Sweeping through neighborhoods, separating parents from their children, and creating fear among families and workers does not make us safer."



Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

UN CHIEF ANTONIO GUTERRES EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH FLOOD-HIT NEPAL

AUGUST 27, 2026
UNITED NATIONS (TIP)

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday expressed sadness over the severe flooding in "Nepal and China," saying the disasters had claimed lives, left people missing and caused widespread destruction.

In a post on X, Guterres conveyed his condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and wished a swift recovery to people injured in the floods.

"I am saddened by the severe flooding in Nepal & China, which has claimed many lives, left people missing, and caused widespread destruction. I extend my condolences to the families of the victims, and I wish a swift recovery to those injured. My solidarity is with all those affected," Guterres said.

Guterres also highlighted the United Nations' ongoing support for the response to the flooding in Nepal. He said the UN was working alongside the

Nepalese government as authorities dealt with the impact of the disaster.

"In Nepal, the @UN is supporting the Government-led response," Guterres said, adding that UN teams and humanitarian partners were mobilizing supplies and personnel to support communities affected by the floods.

The statement comes as severe flooding has caused widespread disruption in parts of Nepal, with the situation prompting rescue, relief and humanitarian response efforts.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday spoke with Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah and conveyed condolences over the loss of lives due to floods in the Himalayan nation. He said India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance. He said India stands firmly in solidarity with "sisters and brothers in Nepal" during this difficult time.

The Prime Minister said teams from both countries are coordinating closely

in the rescue and relief efforts.

"Spoke to Prime Minister Balendra Shah and conveyed condolences on the loss of lives due to the floods in Nepal. The people of India stand in solidarity with their sisters and brothers in Nepal at this difficult time. India is ready to provide all possible humanitarian assistance to Nepal. Our teams are coordinating closely on rescue and relief efforts," PM Modi said in a post on X.

President Droupadi Murmu had also extended her sympathy to the President of Nepal, Ramchandra Paudel, and the people of Nepal following the severe devastation caused by the flash floods and reaffirmed India's unwavering support to its neighbor.

Reiterating India's unwavering commitment to its neighbor, President Murmu emphasized that the nation stands firmly in solidarity with Nepal during this critical hour.

She further affirmed that India is fully prepared to support the Government of



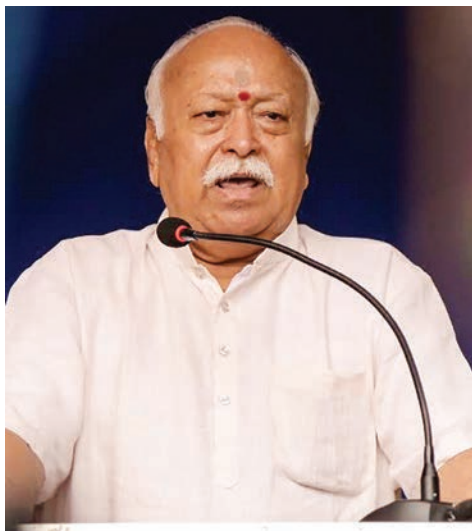
United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

Nepal in its ongoing rescue and relief operations for all those affected by the calamity.

The death toll from the devastating flash flooding in Nepal's Bhotekoshi River near the Nepal-China border in the country's Rasuwagadhi district has risen to 258, while 910 people remain missing or out of contact, according to Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA).

(Source: ANI)

IOCUSA Warns Against RSS Ideology and Its Growing Clout in the United States



Mohan Bhagwat is scheduled to address a meeting in New York on August 29.

AUGUST 26, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

The Indian Overseas Congress, USA (IOCUSA) expresses grave concern over the American tour of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and the growing effort to present the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to American audiences as a benign cultural organization promoting "universal oneness" and civilizational dialogue.

The American public, particularly political, business, religious and civic leaders who may interact with RSS representatives, deserves to understand the history, ideology and political consequences associated with the organization.

The RSS cannot be evaluated merely by the carefully crafted language employed during an overseas public-relations campaign. It must also be judged by its historical ideological record, its conception of India as a Hindu Rashtra, the influence of Hindutva politics on the treatment of religious minorities, and the increasingly polarized environment that has emerged in India.

Says Mohan Bhagwat's American Tour Raises Serious Questions About Religious Nationalism, Minority Rights and the Export of India's Politics of Division to the Diaspora

AN IDEOLOGY AT ODDS WITH INDIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL VISION:

The India envisioned at independence was not a nation in which citizenship depended upon religion. Jawaharlal Nehru championed a secular, democratic and scientifically minded republic in which Indians of every faith could participate as equal citizens. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar gave constitutional expression to that promise through guarantees of equality before the law, freedom of conscience, religious liberty and protection against discrimination. That vision is fundamentally incompatible with any political philosophy that defines the nation mainly through the religion of its majority or relegates minorities to a subordinate cultural or political status.

Hinduism, one of the world's great and ancient religious traditions, must not be confused with Hindutva political ideology. Millions of Hindus in India and throughout the world embrace pluralism, democracy and peaceful coexistence. Our criticism is directed not against Hinduism or Hindus, but against the political weaponization of religious identity.

The ideological history of the RSS and important figures in the Hindutva movement also deserves serious examination. Writings associated with early Hindutva ideologues contained deeply troubling discussions in praise of European ethnic nationalism and the treatment of minorities in Nazi Germany. Such history cannot simply be erased by replacing the language of majoritarian nationalism with contemporary slogans about harmony and universal brotherhood.

MINORITIES HAVE PAID THE PRICE:

The consequences are not simply

theoretical. Human-rights organizations, religious-freedom monitors, journalists and civil-society groups have repeatedly raised concerns about discrimination, hate speech, intimidation and violence affecting Muslims, Christians and other minority communities in India.

Churches and Christian organizations have reported attacks on places of worship, disruption of prayer meetings, harassment and imprisonment of clergy and allegations that ordinary religious activity constitutes forced conversion. Muslims have confronted inflammatory rhetoric, Bulldozing of their residences, communal polarization and discriminatory treatment. Dalits, Adivasis and other vulnerable communities continue to struggle for dignity and equality.

One of the most horrifying reminders of what religious extremism can produce was the 1999 murder of Australian Christian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, Philip, 10, and Timothy, 6. Staines, who had spent decades serving people affected by leprosy in Odisha, was sleeping with his children inside a station wagon when a mob led by Dara Singh, described in contemporary reporting as a local Bajrang Dal activist, surrounded the vehicle and burned all three alive. The atrocity remains an enduring warning about the deadly consequences that can follow when religious minorities are portrayed as threats and hatred is allowed to masquerade as nationalism.

The RSS may speak of "oneness" abroad, but genuine unity cannot be built by demanding conformity at home. There is no meaningful democracy when the worth of citizenship is measured by religious identity. There can be no credible message of national unity when minorities live with fear that their faith,

culture or patriotism will constantly be questioned.

IOCUSA IS EQUALLY CONCERNED THAT THIS IDEOLOGICAL PROJECT IS INCREASINGLY BEING INTERNATIONALIZED:

Bhagwat's American tour should therefore not be viewed simply as another cultural visit by an Indian religious or community leader. The RSS and organizations influenced by its worldview have spent years cultivating relationships within diaspora communities, civic institutions and political circles abroad. The United States must not become another battleground for importing India's religious divisions. Religious majoritarianism does not become tolerant simply because it crosses an international border or adopts the vocabulary of dialogue, culture and unity.

A Special Responsibility for the Indian American Diaspora:

IOCUSA is particularly troubled when some members of the Indian American community promote majoritarian ideologies in the United States as enjoying the freedoms and protections guaranteed by the American constitutional system. Many Indian Americans have proudly become citizens of this country and sworn allegiance to the Constitution of the United States. That Constitution protects freedom of religion, equal citizenship, and the right of every individual to worship or not worship, according to one's conscience. There is a serious contradiction when people benefit from those protections in America while supporting an ideological project that critics say undermines

CONTD ON PAGE 7

Spirit of Onam Celebrated with Traditional Feast in Queens



Celebrating Onam with Addanki Dayakar, Member of the Telangana Legislative Council and Government Whip, who attended along with his wife, Nagamani at Dilbar Indian Restaurant in Bellerose, Queens on August 26, 2026. Seen, from L to R: Addanki Nagamani, Addanki Dayakar, Ashok Arora, George Abraham, and Lona Abraham.

**AUGUST 26, 2026
BELLEROSE, NY (TIP)**

The spirit of Kerala's most cherished festival came alive in Queens as friends and community leaders gathered at Dilbar Restaurant in Bellerose for a traditional Onam feast on the auspicious occasion of Thiruvonam.

The guest of honor was Addanki Dayakar, Member of the Telangana Legislative Council and Government Whip, who attended along with his wife, Nagamani. Among those joining the celebration were Indrajit Saluja, Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama; George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA, and his wife Lona; Dr. Brahm Tandra and his wife Usha; and noted Indian Supreme Court lawyer Ashok Arora.

The centerpiece of the celebration was the



Enjoying the Onam feast

traditional Onasadya, with a generous assortment of Kerala delicacies recalling the festive tables of homes across Kerala. The elaborate vegetarian feast, traditionally served with numerous curries, side dishes, pickles, rice, sambar, avial, pachadi and payasam, remains one of the most beloved features of Onam.

Thiruvonam is the most important day of the ten-day Onam festival. According to Kerala tradition, Onam commemorates the annual homecoming of the legendary King Mahabali, whose reign is remembered as an era of prosperity, equality and harmony. Over the centuries, Onam has grown beyond religious and social boundaries to become a celebration in which Malayalis everywhere come together in a spirit of unity, love and brotherhood.

That spirit was very much present in Bellerose. Around the dining table, differences of religion, region and political affiliation gave way to friendship and fellowship—the very qualities that have made Onam such a uniquely unifying celebration for the people of Kerala.

For the Kerala diaspora in New York, Onam has also

become much more than a remembrance of a festival back home. It is a bridge between generations and between two homelands. Across the New York metropolitan area, Malayali families and community organizations recreate the traditions of Kerala through Onam gatherings, floral decorations, cultural programs and, of course, the much-anticipated Onasadya.

Thousands of miles away from Kerala, the familiar flavors and traditions bring back memories of childhood, family gatherings and the unmistakable excitement of Thiruvonam. At the same time, such celebrations introduce younger generations growing up in America to the rich cultural heritage of their parents and grandparents.

The gathering at Dilbar Restaurant reflected the enduring message of Onam: prosperity has its greatest meaning when it is shared, and a community is strongest when people come together in unity, love and brotherhood.

For a few memorable hours in Queens, the flavors of Kerala, the warmth of friendship and the spirit of Mahabali's legendary kingdom found a home once again in New York.

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IOCUSA Warns Against RSS Ideology and Its Growing Clout in the United States

comparable constitutional protections for minorities in India.

Indian Americans have prospered because America, despite its faults and continuing struggles, has sought to build a society where a person's opportunities and citizenship are not determined by whether he or she is Hindu, Christian, Muslim, Sikh, Jewish or belongs to no religion at all. We should be strengthening those principles and not importing sectarian conflicts that can divide Indian American communities, poison relationships among neighbors and transmit religious hatred to future generations.

"We Must Not Import the Politics of Hatred"

"India belongs equally to the Hindu who worships in a temple, the Muslim who prays in a mosque, the Christian who worships in a church, the Sikh who enters a gurdwara, and the citizen who professes no religion at all. That was the promise of our Constitution, and no organization has the right to rewrite Indian citizenship according to a religious test," said George Abraham, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA.

"Dr. Ambedkar helped give India a Constitution founded upon liberty, equality and fraternity, while Jawaharlal Nehru envisioned a modern,

secular and pluralistic republic. Replacing that vision with religious majoritarianism would radically change the character of the Indian Republic."

Mr. Abraham also warned of the danger of importing India's ideological conflicts into their adopted homeland.

"We must not allow the politics of religious hatred to take root within our diaspora. It will divide our temples, churches, mosques, gurdwaras, associations, neighborhoods and eventually our children. Whatever our political differences, the Indian American community must not become an overseas battlefield for groups aiming to polarize India along religious lines."

American Institutions Should Exercise Due Diligence:

The seriousness of these concerns is highlighted by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), the independent bipartisan U.S. government commission created by Congress to monitor religious freedom worldwide. In its 2026 Annual Report, USCIRF specifically recommended that the United States impose targeted sanctions against individuals and entities, including the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), for what the Commission described as their "responsibility and tolerance of severe violations of religious freedom." USCIRF recommended measures that could include freezing U.S.-based assets and/or barring responsible individuals or entities from entering the United States.

Read full story at
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Documents Reveal Trail of Unreported Millions From Israeli Military to U.S. Universities

BY MURTAZA HUSSAIN



RESEARCH FUNDING BY ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND ARMS MANUFACTURERS OFTEN FAILS TO APPEAR IN NATIONAL DATABASES INTENDED TO TRACK FOREIGN FUNDING.

The Israeli Ministry of Defense and Israeli defense companies have directed millions in unreported funding to U.S. university research programs for weapons development, sponsoring research directly or serving as the pass-through entity for the funding, a Drop Site investigation has found.

A sample of state and university audits,

difficult to determine because entries for such funding were often not reported in public filings mandating disclosure of foreign gifts, but were discovered by manually cross-referencing public and internal databases, audit records, and acknowledgments in academic papers. Some projects listed in university materials as being sponsored by the

Cornell, Princeton, Harvard, Northwestern, Georgia Tech, Texas Tech, the University of Connecticut, the University of Tennessee, the University of Maryland, the University of Florida, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Rhode Island, the University of New Mexico, the Washington University in St. Louis, and

MOD-sponsored project at the University of Connecticut was listed in public audit records with the title, "Impact Point Prediction Research for Short & Medium Range Thrusting Projectiles."

Connecticut's annual federal-award schedules record \$668,456 in funding under that title across nine fiscal years between 2013 and 2023 with the funder



Drop Site reviewed and verified public records that showed research grants, tuition payments, and receipts of gifts totaling millions of dollars to dozens of colleges and universities around the country.

Photo for representation only

foreign-funding disclosures, and other institutional records identified millions of dollars in financial ties over the last two decades between the Israeli Ministry of Defense (MOD), Israeli weapons manufacturers, and American universities, much of which does not appear consistently in national databases intended to track foreign funding into U.S. universities.

An analysis of audit records, building on findings compiled by the Antiwar Initiative, an academic research group that documents the connections between universities and the global arms industry, found more than \$15 million of unreported or inconsistently reported entries for funding tied to the Israeli MOD or defense manufacturers.

The true scale of Israeli support is

Israeli MOD or defense companies also did not include the amounts of funding provided, or contained inconsistent or contradictory records in audit databases.

Drop Site reviewed and verified public records that showed research grants, tuition payments, and receipts of gifts totaling millions of dollars to dozens of colleges and universities around the country. The data shows examples of financial support and sponsorship for American researchers from the Israeli Ministry of Defense as well as Israeli weapons manufacturers like Elbit Systems.

Records dating from 2004 to 2025 point to a large number of schools that have had financial relationships with the Israeli MOD or Israeli weapons manufacturers, including Columbia,

the State University of New York.

The recorded financial relationships include time-bound research contracts and do not indicate whether relationships with the MOD are still ongoing. Previous reporting has documented MOD funding of programs at MIT and student protests there over the relationship.

In addition to financial support from the MOD and Elbit, records also showed sponsorship of individual research projects related to military technologies by Israeli defense manufacturers Rafael and Israel Aerospace Industries.

Taken together, the records reveal an opaque defense-research pipeline spread across some of the country's most prominent universities.

In one example that illustrates the typical nature of these ties, an Israeli

listed as Israel's Ministry of Defense. Another Israeli MOD-linked research project at the school titled, "High Sensitivity SQUIDS for Magnetic Field Detection," received \$251,336 in funding across the same time period.

Federal law requires colleges and universities receiving federal assistance to disclose gifts and contracts totaling at least \$250,000 in a calendar year from a foreign source, though transactions below that threshold may remain outside the public reporting system. But these multi-year contributions do not consistently appear in federal databases intended to help the public track foreign money flowing into American universities. The Education Department's latest public

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disclosure of foreign gifts and funding contains no Israel-attributed entry for the University of Connecticut, even as entries for MOD funding show up in other databases and audit documentation.

The Israeli government and its allies in Congress are now seeking to transform relationships like these from a scattered research pipeline into formal American defense policy. The fiscal 2026 National Defense Authorization Act already directed the Pentagon to establish a U.S.-Israel Defense Industrial Base Working Group to consider integrating Israel into what it calls "the American National Technology and Industrial Base."

A proposal advanced by the House Armed Services Committee for the fiscal 2027 NDAA would go further, creating a United States-Israel Defense Technology Cooperation Initiative charged with expanding bilateral research, development, testing, weapons production, and industrial cooperation. If these measures become law, the scattered funding connections documented in American university audit trails and research papers would become part of the architecture of the American military-industrial base.

GEARS OF WAR

Israeli forces have used drones, automated intelligence tools, persistent aerial surveillance, precision-guided projectiles, and large-scale data analysis throughout the genocide in the Gaza Strip, as well as wars in Lebanon, Iran, Syria, and Yemen.

Those operations draw upon the technologies originating in the same research fields that the Israeli government and weapons manufacturers have paid American academics to advance: video surveillance, human-activity recognition, autonomous flight, network analysis, target identification, magnetic sensing, and projectile impact modeling. At the University of Central Florida, researchers have received funding from Elbit Systems to develop algorithms to recognize human activity and detect objects in video.

Records from the University of Tennessee show that a U.S. subsidiary of Elbit also provided \$514,500 in payments to the school between 2023, 2024, and 2025. The available public documentation does not identify what programs or researchers the contributions are intended to support, with the description listing the purpose of the funding as simply "tuition payments for various students."

"For relatively small sums-like the price of funding a single PhD-Israel has gained major new capabilities that have bolstered its capacity to commit genocide in Gaza, carry out a brutal occupation of Lebanon, and spark a war with Iran that has escalated to a region wide conflict," said William Hartung, a political scientist and expert on the U.S. arms industry and Pentagon budgetary practices.

Many awards from the Israeli MOD are classified as U.S. Department of Defense expenditures, with the Israeli ministry identified as the pass-through entity that administers the grants. MIT, for example, has stated that the money for its projects funded by the Israeli ministry originated with the U.S. Department of Defense. The U.S. provides an estimated \$3.8 billion in annual military aid to Israel on top of

other forms of assistance.

Some audit records identify the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which administers U.S. security assistance and weapons-transfer programs, as the primary agency providing the funding that was ultimately directed by the Israeli MOD. The public documents do not establish whether every dollar for particular research support at a school came from Israel's treasury, from U.S. military assistance placed under Israeli procurement authority, or from some combination of the two.

AUDIT TRAIL

In the summer of 2025, MIT professor Markus Buehler withdrew from an Israeli Defense Ministry grant after a student-led campaign publicized the project. The decision followed more than a year of protests over MIT's defense relationships

A SAMPLE OF STATE AND UNIVERSITY AUDITS, FOREIGN-FUNDING DISCLOSURES, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL RECORDS IDENTIFIED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FINANCIAL TIES OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES BETWEEN THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (MOD), ISRAELI WEAPONS MANUFACTURERS, AND AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, MUCH OF WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR CONSISTENTLY IN NATIONAL DATABASES INTENDED TO TRACK FOREIGN FUNDING INTO U.S. UNIVERSITIES.

with Israel, which the university says amounted to \$4 million for individual ministry-linked projects between fiscal 2015 and fiscal 2024, plus \$290,000 in fiscal 2025.

A trail of open source records traces similar financial and research relationships between the Israeli defense establishment and schools in Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Florida, New Jersey, Texas, California, and Virginia.

At Columbia University, annual audits name two ministry-linked projects and record \$799,190 in grants. One MOD-funded project for "Direct 3D Printing of Integrated Electro Mechanical Systems" accounted for \$469,999 from 2016 through 2021, while another for "Optimizing Micro Resonators Based Sensor" accounted for another \$329,191 from 2021 through 2024. Columbia's fiscal 2024 audit lists the latter project under the U.S. Department of Defense, with the "Israeli Ministry of Defense" as the "pass-through name," and records \$25,327 in funding.

The Research Foundation for the State University of New York shows audit entries for five Israeli MOD-linked projects totaling \$949,915 from 2010 through 2021.

Florida's statewide audits record \$1,195,795 in expenditures passed through the Ministry of Defense from 2012 through 2021, while not identifying the schools that received all of this funding.

Campus records connect at least some of the awards to the University of Central Florida and the University of Florida. One University of Florida engineering publication names an Israeli MOD-sponsored project, "Coupled Size and Rate Effects in Ultra-High-Performance Concrete," beginning in 2012. While listing the project under "Sponsored Research," the newsletter did not identify the amount the school received from the MOD for the study.

In response to a request for comment about another \$150,000 contract beginning in March 2015 that named the Israeli Ministry of Defense at UC

Berkeley, a spokesperson said that, "UC Berkeley complies with all of the statutes and regulations that apply to contracts and gifts from foreign sources," noting that the school is only involved in fundamental research and adding that, "every government, every researcher, every person in the world is able to read the results of our research in freely available scientific publications."

UC Berkeley did not respond to additional questions about the purpose of the MOD funding. Other schools contacted by Drop Site did not respond to requests for comment or stated that they could not provide information about the cited funding.

In addition to records from audits, public information from individual researchers provides more hints of the scope of Israeli military's U.S. research funding.

In February, The Nation reported that

computer-vision researchers Mubarak Shah and Abhijit Mahalanobis received a \$200,000 Elbit Systems of America grant in 2020 to develop "human activity recognition" technology, while Mahalanobis received another \$60,000 for algorithms involving object detection and human-activity recognition.

At the University of Maryland, aerospace engineering professor Inderjit Chopra's research page lists two Israeli ministry grants: \$150,000 for "Autonomous Operation of Micro-Helicopters," from 2011 to 2012, and \$300,000 for "Aeromechanics of Rotorcraft in High Speed Flight," from 2014 to 2016.

A curriculum vitae filed by another researcher in a separate U.S. Patent and Trademark Office proceeding lists Israeli MOD funding of \$150,000 for "Functional Targeting of Terror Networks: A Big Data Approach," from February 2017 through December 2018, and \$153,520 for "Fast Algorithms for Group Between-ness Centrality in Massive Social Networks."

Princeton University records identify physicist Michael Romalis on a \$600,000 contract called "Pulsed Scalar Atomic Magnetometer." The university's fiscal 2018 sponsored-awards report names the Government of Israel's Ministry of Defense and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency as sponsors and gives a contract period from July 2015 through June 2019.

Texas Tech University's engineering newsletters list yet another award for \$400,000 from the Israeli Defense Ministry to research a "Sealed Vircator HPM System," naming James Dickens, John Mankowski, and Andreas Neuber as researchers. The same amount and title appear in both the January 2014 and April 2015 newsletters.

The vircator technology has a clear military application: Texas Tech's Center for Pulsed Power and Power Electronics describes vircators as compact, high-power microwave sources and says its work includes coordinating vehicle-mounted emitters with GPS timing to place a microwave "hot spot" at a desired

location-an application potentially useful for combatting drone swarms.

The purpose of a separate Israeli Defense Ministry-linked funding stream at the University of Texas at Austin is less clear from the public records. UT Austin's fiscal 2013 financial report identifies \$58,992 in expenditures under an Israeli Ministry of Defense purchase order. Statewide audit schedules record expenditures under the same purchase order reappearing in public audit records from 2010 through 2014, for a total of \$299,952.

The audit archive contains still more Israeli military-named expenditures, including recorded contributions to Northwestern University and Washington University in St. Louis, and repeated entries for the MOD in audits for the state of Virginia.

But the opaque nature of some support that turned up in public records means that financial and in-kind support to universities may not even be recorded in any audit trail at all.

At the University of Texas at Dallas, Haoran Wei and Nasser Kehtarnavaz produced a video-surveillance system in a study that the published paper indicated was "funded by Elbit Systems of America through a contract with the University of Texas at Dallas" without mentioning the amount of financial support. The report also noted that the company had provided "far-field video clips" to help conduct their research on target recognition.

The researchers did not respond to requests for comment about the nature of their work and ties to Elbit.

DISCLOSURE GAP

Section 117 of the Higher Education Act generally requires a federally assisted university to report covered gifts and contracts from a foreign source when they meet or exceed \$250,000, including multi-year contracts meeting that threshold over their duration. Under the Education Department's example, a five-year research contract worth \$50,000 a year is reportable at signing because its lifetime value is \$250,000.

The Education Department's inspector general warned in February 2025 that oversight of the system was weak with insufficient controls to ensure reporting requirements were being met. The current disclosure thresholds also make it easier for foreign countries to contribute amounts below that number to avoid triggering reporting requirements but can be significant for individual research projects.

That lack of oversight contributes to a situation in which millions of dollars from a foreign military under increasing scrutiny in the U.S. for human rights abuses and facing genocide charges from international courts has been able to spend millions of dollars funding military research at American universities.

These relationships are now coming under greater scrutiny at a time when public opinion on Israel has soured in the U.S. due to the genocide in Gaza and Israeli conduct in other regional conflicts.

"No self-respecting university should accept funding from Israel, given its destabilizing, destructive, and inhumane use of U.S. weapons," said Hartung.

(Murtaza Hussain is National Security and Foreign Affairs Reporter, Drop Site. E-mail: murtaza@dropsitenews.com)

THE CIA TOLD PUTIN NOT TO ESCALATE. HE WON'T LISTEN

BY DAVID
AVERRE



In autumn 2021, as tens of thousands of Russian troops began massing close to the border with Ukraine, U.S. President Joe Biden was a little concerned. These didn't look like regular military drills, he thought. Perhaps we ought to do something about this.

The President dispatched then CIA Director William Burns-himself a former ambassador to Russia-to Moscow with a message and a warning: We're watching your troop buildup-don't do what we think you might be about to do.

We all know how that turned out.

Now, we must ask whether history is repeating itself. CIA Director John Ratcliffe made an unannounced trip of his own to the Russian capital this week, reportedly to warn the Kremlin against further escalation in the war in Ukraine and NATO members.

own future and security arrangements. Whether it joined NATO was for Ukraine and NATO members to decide; Russia had "no veto."

Putin's position was almost the mirror image. Moscow published proposals demanding no further NATO enlargement, including Ukrainian membership, and an end to NATO military activity in Ukraine and much of Eastern Europe.

"There should be no further NATO movement to the east," Putin declared, complaining that U.S. and Western weapons were already "on our doorstep."

Nearly five years on, British Prime Minister Andy Burnham visited Kyiv this week and announced that Britain would offer Kyiv blueprints of the Storm Shadow/SCALP cruise missile, helping Ukraine to launch production of the

Russia's Security Council, was even more explicit, casting NATO as a "hostile military-political bloc" and the prospect of further enlargement to Ukraine and Georgia as an "existential threat to Russia."

But the crown for most outrageous statement goes to Lt. Gen. Viktor Sobolev, a former Russian army commander and current member of the State Duma Defense Committee.

Sobolev told Russian media this week that Russia must secure victory in Ukraine by 2030 before NATO countries are ready for conflict with Moscow.

"The fascist regime must be dealt with before Poland and other NATO countries are ready for war with Russia. The Poles, Germans, French, British, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Sweden; they all want to fight Russia, to inflict a strategic

officials concerned about the prospect of cyberattacks, more hybrid warfare, or even a small military incursion on NATO soil.

Estonia itself is notably less alarmed.

Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna said Thursday, August 27, following Ratcliffe's visit to Moscow that the danger posed by Russia and possible provocations against NATO must be taken seriously, but stressed that "Estonia's threat assessment has not changed."

Speaking at a summit in Kyiv on August 23, Prime Minister Kristen Michal also said: "Russia's assessment of NATO's power and strength is at a level where they know it is not worth attacking. This means that NATO and European countries can feel confident; there is no direct threat."

That is not complacency. Estonia's defense expenditure is set at 5.4 percent of GDP this year; it is constructing a Baltic Defense Line that will eventually include up to 600 bunkers; and it hosts a UK-led NATO battlegroup, with a British brigade held at high readiness to reinforce the country if necessary.

But recent history supplies an uncomfortable warning about the dangers of assuming Moscow will share Western judgments about what is militarily rational.

As Washington and European intelligence agencies sounded increasingly urgent alarms in early 2022, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky repeatedly urged calm and publicly pushed back against the notion that a full invasion was imminent.

Former CIA Director Burns had flown to Kyiv in January to personally brief him on what U.S. intelligence feared was coming, but Zelensky declared: "There is no reason to panic," telling Ukrainians that the situation was under control.

One month later, Russian tanks were making a beeline toward Kyiv.

There's no suggestion that the same thing will happen to Estonia. But Putin does not necessarily need a large-scale conflict to weaken NATO.

"Putin knows he can't do NATO militarily, but he can do it politically," Ed Arnold of Britain's Royal United Services Institute told Newsweek.

He argued that a small operation in a vulnerable area-for example, the tiny strip of NATO territory known as the Suwalki Gap that separates the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad from Belarus-would test the limits of NATO's Article 5.

If NATO is unwilling to invoke its collective defense clause and go to war with Russia when the stakes are deliberately kept low, the ensuing political infighting could steadily undermine the bloc and render it ineffective.

The question for officials and defense planners in Washington, Tallinn and Brussels should not be whether attacking NATO makes sense in Russia.

What they should be asking is this: How can Putin be convinced that even a limited test of the alliance would carry costs he is unwilling to bear?

(Source: Newsweek)



Of course, Vladimir Putin wasn't there himself; Ratcliffe was met by various security officials who later briefed the Russian President on his warning. But it's hard to imagine a face-to-face with Putin would have made any meaningful difference.

The fundamental dispute that led to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine remains wholly unresolved: NATO still regards Moscow as an aggressor and insists that European states can choose their own security arrangements. Moscow regards this as NATO expansion, and believes Western military integration with Russia's neighbors is a threat to Russia itself.

So why assume another warning from another CIA director will resolve it this time around?

The More Things Change, The More They Stay The Same

Less than three months before Putin sent Russian armor scything into Ukraine, then-NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg laid out the Western position bluntly: Ukraine was a sovereign country entitled to choose its

long-range strike package on home soil.

Meanwhile, the Coalition of the Willing-a conglomerate of nations led by France and the UK to support Ukraine-confirmed its preparations for a multinational peacekeeping force to deploy inside Ukraine following a ceasefire agreement.

From NATO's perspective, these are necessary defensive measures: helping a sovereign European country survive Russian aggression, while reinforcing the bloc's defensive posture along its eastern flank. Viewed from Moscow, the moves serve only as confirmation of NATO expansion to threaten Russia's security.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused Britain this week of "participating in this war" and "adding fuel to the fire." He also declared that any deployment of troops from NATO countries inside Ukraine's borders, even after the fighting stops, would be "completely unacceptable" for the Kremlin.

Former Russian President Dmitri Medvedev, now deputy chairman of

defeat," he said.

He added that once Ukraine is defeated, it would be necessary to rapidly reconstitute Russia's armed forces "so that they are ready to repel the aggression of any geopolitical adversary in any strategic direction and under any conditions."

A tremendous amount has changed since February 2022. The war has caused millions of casualties, transformed European military doctrine, and hastened a global reorientation of political alliances.

The argument underneath it all has not changed a bit.

BULLISH IN THE BALTIC

One of the primary focuses of Ratcliffe's talk with the Russians was to warn Moscow against escalating not in Ukraine, but against NATO states, according to the Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed sources briefed on the meeting.

Several reports claimed those concerns centered on the Baltics: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with

TEACHERS' DAY

THE MINDS THAT SHAPE TOMORROW

Every September 5, schools and educational institutions across India come alive with celebrations. Students present flowers and cards, organize cultural programs and, in many schools, take over classrooms for the day to play the role of their teachers. Yet behind these cheerful celebrations lies a tribute to one of the most important forces in every individual's life—the teacher.

Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5, the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the renowned philosopher, scholar, teacher and India's second President. The day is not merely an occasion to honour a distinguished statesman. It is a celebration of the teaching profession and the profound influence educators have on individuals, society and the nation. A teacher does much more than complete a syllabus or prepare students for examinations. A good teacher awakens curiosity, encourages questions, builds confidence and often helps a young person discover abilities they did not know they possessed. Years after leaving school, people may forget formulas, dates and definitions, but they often remember the teacher who inspired them, supported them or believed in them when they doubted themselves.

A Birthday That Became a National Tribute

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born on September 5, 1888. He rose to become one of India's most respected intellectuals, earning recognition as a philosopher and scholar before entering public life. He served as India's first Vice-President and later became the country's second President.

Despite reaching the highest offices of the nation, Radhakrishnan remained deeply connected to the world of education. Teaching was not simply an early stage of his career; it was central to his identity.

When students and admirers expressed their desire to celebrate his birthday, he reportedly suggested that rather than observing September 5 as his personal birthday, the day should be dedicated to teachers. Since then, September 5 has been observed as Teachers' Day in India.

The idea carried a message that remains relevant even today: the contribution of teachers deserves recognition not only within classrooms but across society.

More Than Lessons and Lectures

The work of a teacher cannot be measured entirely through report cards.

Teachers introduce children to the world of knowledge, but they also help them understand failure, discipline, responsibility and perseverance. They are often among the first people outside a child's family to recognise a special ability.



"The greatest lessons of a teacher may never appear in a textbook, yet they can remain with a student for a lifetime."

One teacher may discover a writer in a quiet student who rarely speaks. Another may encourage a child who struggles with mathematics not to give up. A sports coach may recognise leadership qualities in a player. A music teacher may help turn an interest into a lifelong passion.

These moments may appear small at the time, but their influence can last for decades. The best teachers do not simply provide answers. They teach students how to ask questions.

From the Guru to the Modern Educator

India has a long tradition of respecting teachers. The ancient guru-shishya tradition viewed education as a relationship that extended beyond formal instruction. The guru was expected to guide the student not only in acquiring knowledge but also in developing wisdom and character.

Centuries later, the setting has changed dramatically.

The gurukul has given way to schools, colleges and universities. The blackboard has evolved into the smart board. Libraries have expanded into digital databases, online classrooms and artificial intelligence-powered learning platforms.

Yet one fundamental element remains unchanged—the importance of human guidance. In an age when information is available within seconds, knowledge alone is no longer enough. Students must learn how to evaluate information, distinguish facts from misinformation and think critically.

This is where the role of the teacher

becomes even more important.

Technology can answer a question. A teacher can understand why a student is asking it. An online platform can provide a lesson. A teacher can recognise when a student is struggling.

Artificial intelligence can process enormous amounts of information. But encouragement, empathy and human understanding remain among the most valuable elements of education.

The New Classroom

The teacher of the twenty-first century faces a classroom very different from that of previous generations.

Today's students grow up surrounded by smartphones, social media, instant information and artificial intelligence. Their attention is constantly pulled in different directions, while the speed at which technology changes creates new challenges for educators.

Teaching is therefore no longer simply about standing before a class and delivering a lecture.

The modern teacher must also be a guide, mentor, facilitator and lifelong learner.

The challenge is to make learning engaging without sacrificing depth. It is to encourage students to use technology while also teaching them not to become dependent on it. It is to prepare young people for careers that may not even exist today.

In this changing world, the best teachers continue to adapt while preserving the timeless purpose of education—to help individuals think, grow

and become capable of shaping their own futures.

The Quiet Nation Builders

Every doctor was once a student.

Every scientist once sat in a classroom.

Every writer, entrepreneur, engineer, artist, judge and leader learned from someone.

Behind almost every achievement lies a chain of teachers who provided knowledge, encouragement and direction. This is why teachers are often described as nation builders.

Their influence may not always be visible. A teacher may never know where a student eventually reaches in life. But a word of encouragement, an important lesson or a moment of faith in a young person can set in motion a journey that lasts a lifetime.

A teacher in a remote village may inspire a child to become the first graduate in the family. A schoolteacher may encourage a student to pursue science. A college professor may help an uncertain young person discover a professional path.

The results of teaching often unfold silently—and sometimes decades later.

Beyond Marks and Examinations

In an increasingly competitive society, education is often measured through marks, ranks and entrance examinations.

But some of the most important lessons taught by teachers cannot be found in a syllabus.

How should one respond to failure?

How does one work with others?

Why does honesty matter?

How can confidence be developed?

What does it mean to respect another person's opinion?

These lessons are rarely assigned marks, yet they play an important role in shaping responsible citizens.

A good education must prepare students not only to earn a living but also to live meaningful lives.

Teachers help keep this larger purpose alive.

The Teachers We Never Forget

Years may pass after the final school bell. The classroom may be renovated. Old textbooks may disappear. Friends may move to different cities and countries. But memories of teachers often remain.

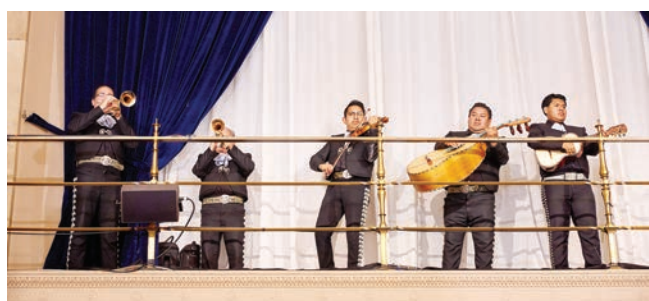
There is the teacher whose classes made a difficult subject interesting. The one who was strict but fair. The mentor who encouraged a student to participate in a competition. The teacher who stayed behind after class to explain a difficult lesson once again. Sometimes, the most memorable teacher is not the easiest one.

It may be the teacher who challenged students to work harder, think deeper and believe that they were capable of more.

The lessons of such teachers often become clearer with time.



FIA Hosts "Bharat Beyond Borders 2.0" Gala at Cipriani Wall Street to Commemorate 44th India Day Parade



AUGUST 26, 2026



NEW YORK, NY (TIP)

The Federation of Indian Associations (FIA) of New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and New England

concluded its India Day weekend celebrations on the evening of August 16 with the "Bharat Beyond Borders 2.0" Gala at Cipriani Wall Street. The event brought together diplomats, elected officials, celebrities,



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sponsors, and community leaders to honor India's 80th Independence Day alongside the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The evening opened with welcoming

remarks from the master of ceremonies and formal recognition of founding sponsors, including the Consulate General of India, the Bansal Foundation, and the State Bank of India. Guests were



treated to an instrumental musical performance of Indian Raga Kirwani alongside the U.S. and Indian national anthems, performed by the Heritage Arts Academy, followed by an instrumental medley. Official video greetings were presented from New York Governor Kathy Hochul, the Consul General and Deputy Consul General of India, Member of Parliament Harsh Vardhan, NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

The gala featured addresses by FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya and FIA President Sreekanth Akkapalli, along with remarks from the Consul General of Israel, Gaurav Vashist, and representatives from Hard Rock. The evening's program included Broadway-style cultural showcases, a musical performance of "Gokul Dham

Unplugged" by Priti Patel, a performance by a youth musical ensemble, a mariachi band, and a best-dressed contest. Spectacular guest entrances and appearances were made by celebrities and public figures including Pooja Hegde—who participated in a fireside chat—Adivi Sesh, Avinash Tiwary, and the team from Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah. All guest artists and featured attendees were formally felicitated by FIA leadership.

The event concluded with an official proclamation presented by Dilip Chauhan from the New York City Mayor's Office, speeches by Rohit Korat and Manan, and a final vote of thanks delivered by Srishti Kaul Narula.

The Indian Panorama is pleased to bring to our Readers a Photo Feature of the crowning glory of the FIA's 44th India Day Celebrations.

Annual Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan Unites Communities and Celebrates South Asian Literary Heritage in Washington, DC



Group Photo

BY ZAFAR IQBAL
AUGUST 27, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The Aligarh Alumni Association of Washington, DC (AAA-DC) and the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin of Metropolitan Washington (GOPIO-DC) hosted their annual Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan on August 16, 2026, at the Montgomery County Auditorium. The event celebrated the enduring literary and cultural



Book release of Astha Naval

traditions of the Indian subcontinent and drew poets, writers, community leaders, diplomats, and poetry enthusiasts from across the Washington metropolitan area.

Co-sponsored by several organizations, including the Association of Indian Muslims (AIM), Montgomery Nawabs (MONA), Global Beat Foundation (GBF), RX Biosciences, American Society for Science, Engineering & Technology (ASSET), and the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (HAWMA), the evening underscored the strength of community partnerships in promoting the arts.

AAA-DC President-elect Mohammad Haziq and Dr. Renuka Misra of GOPIO-DC welcomed attendees and highlighted the event's evolution. Dr. Zafar Iqbal offered a brief history, recalling the Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan's origins as an AAA-DC initiative commemorating Yaum-e-Azadi (Independence Day) through a bilingual celebration of Urdu and Hindi poetry. Since its formalization in 2008 in collaboration with GOPIO-DC and the Embassy of India's support from 2011, the event has become a signature cultural institution in the region, fostering the shared Ganga-Jamuni heritage of the subcontinent.

The Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan has consistently served as a platform for literary talent in the region, hosting book launches by distinguished authors and poets. This year, Dr. Astha Naval released her book "Asthitva," and Jameel Usman released "Mukalma-e-Adab," reflecting the ongoing vitality of South Asian literature.

The 2026 gathering featured a distinguished roster of poets, including A. Abdullah, Astha Naval, Farah Kamran, Jameel Usman, Madhu Maheshwari, Mohammed Akbar, Mohammed Jaweed, Narendra Tandon, Nisha Dev, Preethi Govindaraj, Sukesh Chopra, Uday Kamath, Vinita Tiwari, Vishakha Thaker, and Yusuf Rahat.

Presiding over the session was Yusuf Rahat, whose poetry exemplifies the unity and harmony of the Ganga-Jamuni tradition. Dr. Mohammad Akbar served as master of ceremonies, weaving poetic introductions and transitions throughout the evening.

The gathering also paid tribute to recently departed literary figures, including Dr. Raj Kumar Qais, Dr. Zaheer Parvez, Dr. Ayoub Yusufi, and Basheer Badr, honoring their contributions to literature and the community. Several individuals were recognized for their longstanding support and contributions, including Umesh and Pushpa Agnihotri, Pratap Singh, Alka Batra, Ashok Batra, and Shagufta Shah, as well as Shoaib Ali Hasan, Shamaila Agnihotri, Pushpa Dashottar, and Shana Madhur for their work in promoting art and literature.

Participants' reflections highlighted the event's significance. Dr. Mohammed Yunus, President of the Urdu Society of Baltimore, praised the soulful ghazals and the camaraderie fostered among Urdu and Hindi speakers. Dr. Astha Naval described the Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan as a cherished tradition and a vital platform for poets, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to share her work and connect with the community. Poet Madhu Maheshwari emphasized the event's embodiment of "Unity in Diversity," celebrating the resilience of the Ganga-Jamuni Tahzeeb across continents.

The 2026 Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan reaffirmed poetry's power to connect people, languages, and cultures, serving

as a meaningful celebration of India and South Asia's literary heritage. Through its sustained commitment to Urdu and Hindi literature, the event continues to foster cultural understanding and community among people of Indian origin and their friends, upholding the timeless truth that poetry transcends boundaries.

The author gratefully acknowledges Mr. Afzal Usmani for providing photographs of the event.



Umesh and Pushpa Agnihotri felicitated



Audience



Audience

SELECTED POETRY PRESENTED BY THE PARTICIPATING POETS

Adullah Abdullah

Gardishe waqt ye kis moR pe layi mujhko
Apni har saNs bhi lagti hai parayi mujhko
Rooh bechain hai itni ki dua karta hoon
UmR ki qaid se mil jaye rehaye mujhko

Astha Naval

Desh ka hokar kya karoge, Aao apni jebien bharlo,
Apna naam bada tum karlo, Aao party party
Khelo; Acha bura, sachcha jhoota kadwa Meetha,
In sabki chinta mat karna, Bas apni apni party chun lo,
Phir vipaksh se sangam tum karlo

Farah Kaamran

Is tasalsul se mujhe dhoop kaDi milti hai
Eik deewar giraati hoon, naee milti hai
Tum ne miTTi se kaaee baar ukhaDa tha jise
Kitni oonchae pe voh beyl chaDhi milti hai

Jameel Usman

Jo ghum ko kum na ker sakey lekin barha gae
aise bhi ghungusar milay aur bichhar gae
Chhora hai dil peh naqsh faqat chand aik ne
Waise to bay shumar milay aur bichhar gae

Madhu Maheshwari

NaujavanoN ka uTha hai karvaN jo desh main
So rahe jo peyT bhar, kiya vahaN toofaan aaya hai
AAj bachhe rastoN par haq ki khatir aa gaye
HukmaraanoN ke liye ab imtihaan aaya hai
Haath meiN chheni liyae chala voh vaqt ko trashne
Suna hai aaj phir voh ghar lahulahaN aaya hai

Yusuf Rahat

Hamein ji vaqt mila tha, gavan diya hum ne,
Tameez-e-rehbar-or-rehnuma na kar sake hum tum;
Voh taqatein jo panaptiN theiN hum ko laDwa kar,
UnheiN ki baat hameisha suna kiyae hum tum;
HameiN to jang jo laDni thi, mil ke laDni thi,
Huwa sitam yeh ki apne udoo huey hum tum



Dr. Abdullah



Mohammed Akbar



Farah Kamra



Mohammad Haziq



Renuka Misra



Jameel Usman



Zafar Iqbal



Yusuf Rahat

AMBASSADOR OF INDIA UNDERTAKES REGIONAL ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS ROMANIA

**AUGUST 17, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

The Ambassador of India to Romania, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, undertook a series of regional engagements in Hunedoara, Caras-Severin and Marghita, while also participating in celebrations marking India's 80th Independence Day in Braşov and Cluj-Napoca. The programme brought together meetings with county and municipal authorities, business leaders, cultural representatives and members of the Indian community. These engagements highlighted the significant potential for expanding India-Romania cooperation at the regional and local levels, while further strengthening longstanding people-to-people ties.

The celebrations in Brasov and Cluj-Napoca provided an opportunity for the Indian community, Friends of India and Romanian partners to commemorate India's Independence Day and celebrate the country's rich cultural heritage. The events also underscored the growing interest in India among Romanian communities and the important contribution of cultural exchanges in deepening mutual understanding. India's Independence Day was celebrated across Romania with enthusiastic participation from the Indian diaspora and Romanian friends of India.

ENGAGEMENTS IN HUNEDOARA

During his visit to Hunedoara County, Ambassador Mohapatra met Mr. Laurentiu Nistor, President of the Hunedoara County Council; Mr. Lőrincz Széll, Prefect of Hunedoara County; Mr. Dan Boboutanu, Mayor of Hunedoara; and Mr. Lucian Ioan Rus, Mayor of Deva. The discussions focused on ways to expand cooperation in investment, tourism, economic development, education and cultural exchange. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting greater interaction between businesses, local institutions and communities in Hunedoara and their potential counterparts in India.

The meetings also explored opportunities to showcase Hunedoara's industrial heritage, tourism assets and cultural traditions to Indian audiences, while facilitating enhanced engagement with Indian companies, investors and tourism stakeholders. The Ambassador highlighted the Embassy's readiness to



Ambassador's interaction with the dignitaries of Hunedoara

support contacts and exchanges that could lead to concrete partnerships in mutually beneficial areas.

ENGAGEMENTS IN CARAS-SEVERIN

In Caras-Severin County, the Ambassador met Mr. Silviu Hurduzeu, President of the County Council; Mr. Cristian Găfu, Prefect of Caras-Severin; and Mr. Daniel Calin, Deputy Mayor of

partnerships, tourism, culture, education, innovation, technology and sustainable development.

Ambassador Mohapatra noted that regional authorities and institutions can play a vital role in identifying new avenues of cooperation and connecting local stakeholders with Indian partners. The discussions also considered the scope for cooperation in skills



Ambassador's interaction with the dignitaries in Caras Severin

Resita. The discussions covered the county's economic, industrial and tourism potential, as well as possible areas of cooperation with India. These included investment promotion, business

development, research and innovation, sustainable industrial growth and the promotion of cultural and educational exchanges. The engagement in Resita was particularly significant in the context of strengthening links between India's expanding industrial and technological ecosystem and the economic priorities of Romanian regions. It also offered an opportunity to explore how local authorities, businesses and academic institutions could work together to develop practical and long-term partnerships.

VISIT TO MARGHITA

During his visit to Marghita, the Ambassador met Mr. Zsolt Demian, Mayor of Marghita; Mr. Cosmin Durnea, Deputy Mayor; and leading representatives of the local business community. The discussions are centered on strengthening business-to-business engagement and promoting new opportunities in investment, tourism and

cultural cooperation. The participants exchanged views on the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships between Marghita and India, including through greater interaction among entrepreneurs, local institutions and community organizations.

Ambassador Mohapatra encouraged local businesses to explore India's large and dynamic market, as well as opportunities for partnerships with Indian companies in areas of shared interest. He also emphasized the importance of sustained institutional dialogue and direct business contacts in translating common interests into concrete cooperation.

The visit further highlighted the value of engaging smaller cities and municipalities in the broader India-Romania partnership. Such engagement can help broaden the geographical scope of bilateral cooperation and ensure that opportunities are shared across regions and communities.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Across Hunedoara, Caras-Severin and Marghita, the Ambassador emphasized the important role of regional and local authorities, businesses, educational institutions and cultural organizations in complementing the broader India-Romania relationship. He underlined that bilateral cooperation is strengthened not only through national-level dialogue but also through sustained engagement among cities, counties, universities, enterprises and civil-society organizations. Local partnerships can create new opportunities in trade and investment, tourism, education, innovation, culture and sustainable development, while generating tangible benefits for communities on both sides.

The regional engagements also reflected the Embassy's continuing efforts to promote a more diversified and inclusive framework for India-Romania cooperation. Earlier engagements in Cluj-Napoca similarly focused on innovation, education, regional development and people-to-people relations, underscoring the growing importance of Romanian regions in bilateral exchanges.

REAFFIRMING SHARED COMMITMENT

The Ambassador's engagements in Hunedoara, Caras-Severin and Marghita, together with his participation in the 80th Independence Day celebrations in Brasov and Cluj-Napoca, reaffirmed the shared commitment of India and Romania to expanding regional, economic, educational and cultural cooperation. The programme provided an opportunity to strengthen existing partnerships, identify new areas of collaboration and encourage closer interaction among public institutions, businesses and communities. It also reaffirmed the enduring friendship between India and Romania and the central role of people-to-people contacts in giving further momentum to the bilateral relationship.

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



Ambassador's interaction with dignitaries in Marghita

India-Romania Business Connect: Embassy Hosts Hybrid B2B on Fashion & Textiles



The event commenced with special remarks by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania

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

The Embassy of India, Bucharest, organized an India-Romania Hybrid B2B Meeting on Fashion & Textiles on 24 August 2026, bringing together Indian textile and fashion companies and Romanian business representatives to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral trade, developing commercial partnerships and creating new business linkages in the sector.

The programme was organized in collaboration with local businessmen, with Indian companies participating virtually. The meeting provided a dedicated platform for Indian companies to present their products, manufacturing capabilities and areas of business interest directly to potential Romanian partners. GS Trading, Premier Textile, Aravali Silk Mills Pvt. Ltd., Sunny Enterprises and Amber Exports participated from India and made brief presentations highlighting their respective products and capabilities.

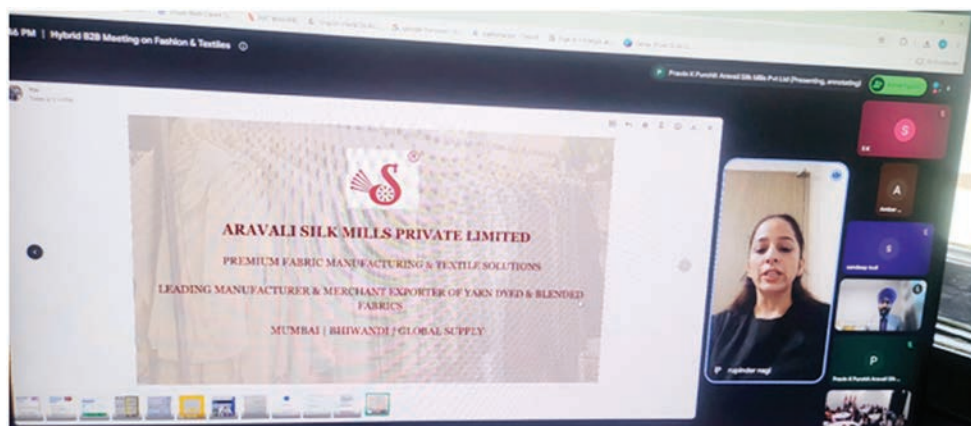
Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India, delivered the opening remarks and highlighted the importance of strengthening India-Romania economic and commercial

engagement through greater business-to-business interaction. He highlighted the considerable scope for cooperation in the fashion and textile sector, particularly by connecting capable Indian manufacturers and exporters with Romanian companies, buyers, distributors and other stakeholders. He emphasized that how such B2B platform, provides an opportunity to showcase the diversity and competitiveness of India's textile industry, ranging from silk and other textile products to finished garments and fashion-related products. He encouraged participating businesses to use the interaction to identify specific areas of cooperation and develop concrete commercial linkages.

The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Manpreet Singh, Chairman, ICIB, who also delivered opening remarks. The participating Indian companies subsequently made individual presentations, allowing Romanian counterparts to gain a better understanding of their product portfolios, capabilities and potential areas for collaboration. The format was designed to facilitate direct interaction and follow-up business discussions between interested companies.



Romanian companies actively participated and explored opportunities with Indian firms.



Indian companies joined virtually and showcased their products and expertise



Mr. Manpreet Singh, Chairman, ICIB, highlighted the immense potential for expanding India-Romania business collaboration



India-Romania Business Connect: Embassy Hosts Hybrid B2B on Fashion & Textiles held on 24 August 2026.

The programme also featured special briefing by Mr. B?nic? Ionel Cristian on the forthcoming Pasarela International Fashion Festival, scheduled to take place from 3-6 December 2026. The festival was highlighted as an additional platform for promoting interaction in the fashion and creative industries and for facilitating greater visibility and engagement between Indian and Romanian stakeholders.

The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session between Romanian and Indian companies, during which participants had the opportunity to discuss business interests and explore potential avenues for cooperation.

The Embassy has been actively facilitating sector-specific B2B engagements between Indian and Romanian businesses as part of its efforts to strengthen bilateral economic relations. The Embassy will continue to support such initiatives aimed at creating sustainable business partnerships and further expanding India-Romania trade and economic cooperation.

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

Embassy of India Hosts Interaction with Romanian Business Leaders; Highlights Opportunities for Stronger India-Romania Partnership



The event commenced with special remarks by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania

**AUGUST 26, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

The Embassy of India, Bucharest, hosted an interaction with a group comprising Romanian businessmen and public representatives with a keen interest in India, on 25 August 2026 at the Embassy premises. The interaction focused on the growing India-Romania partnership and opportunities for further strengthening bilateral cooperation in the context of a rapidly changing global order.

The programme featured a presentation on "India-Romania: Strengthening Partnership in a Changing Global Order", which highlighted the long-standing historical, intellectual and cultural links between the two countries, as well as emerging opportunities in trade, investment, technology, education, innovation, energy and healthcare. The presentation recalled the rich history of India-Romania relations, including the early scholarly connections of Alexander Csoma de Kőrös, Rabindranath Tagore's visit to Romania in 1926, and the

establishment of diplomatic relations in 1948. It also highlighted the contribution of intellectual bridges such as Mircea Eliade and Amita Bhowse in fostering greater understanding between the two societies.

In his remarks, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, emphasized that India-Romania relations have evolved from their strong historical and cultural foundations into a broad-based partnership encompassing political, economic, technological, educational and people-to-people cooperation. Ambassador highlighted the opportunities arising from the emerging multipolar global economy and India's rapid economic growth. He noted that India's expanding market, skilled human resources, manufacturing capabilities and innovation ecosystem, combined with Romania's strategic location within the EU, industrial strengths, skilled workforce and technological capabilities, offer significant complementarities between the two countries.

Ambassador Mohapatra particularly underlined the potential of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement to provide fresh momentum to India-Romania economic engagement. He noted that the agreement goes beyond tariffs and covers trade in services, digital trade, intellectual property, SMEs, regulatory cooperation, sustainability and professional mobility. This creates opportunities for greater integration of Indian and Romanian companies into European and global value chains. Ambassador Mohapatra encouraged Romanian companies to view India not only as a large and growing consumer market, but also as a destination



Romanian companies joined the event enthusiastically and interacted actively

for investment, manufacturing, innovation and joint participation in global value chains. He highlighted India's initiatives such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, which provide opportunities for international companies to establish manufacturing and technology partnerships in India.

Ambassador identified automotive and components, IT and artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, renewable energy and green hydrogen, digital technologies, defense technology, logistics and infrastructure as areas offering considerable scope for deeper bilateral cooperation. He stressed the need to move beyond traditional buyer-seller relationships towards joint ventures, co-development, research and development and technology partnerships. The Ambassador also highlighted the growing potential for cooperation in digital technologies and emerging areas such as AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, 6G and quantum technologies, noting that future cooperation should focus increasingly on joint innovation and co-creation.

On green growth, he highlighted India's ambitious renewable energy expansion and Green Hydrogen Mission, noting the



scope for India-Romania cooperation in clean energy, sustainable technologies and the wider energy transition. Ambassador Mohapatra further emphasized that the 2026 visit of the Hon'ble President of India to Romania and the shared objective of expanding bilateral trade have created strong momentum for the relationship. He called for closer engagement among businesses, universities, investors, research institutions and government agencies to translate the existing political goodwill into concrete partnerships.

Mr. Mihai Andritoiu, Coordinator of the Group, also addressed the gathering and underscored the importance of continued engagement with India. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session, during which participants exchanged views on India's economic transformation, bilateral trade and investment, technology, education and the broader strategic dimensions of India-Romania relations.

Embassy reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with such groups who have keen interest in India and other Romanian stakeholders to further deepen the multifaceted and forward-looking India-Romania partnership.

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



Mr. Shoaib, who participated in the Business Round Table during the visit of the Hon'ble President of India to Moldova in July 2026, brought the incident to Embassy of India's notice. His prompt communication enabled the Embassy to initiate the coordinated response that followed.

**AUGUST 26, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

A tragic incident at Vadul lui Voda, Chisinau, Moldova, on 31 July, resulting in the death of Indian student Nehal in a drowning accident, was followed by an urgent effort to ensure the safety and well-being of his companion, Angel.

Following Nehal's death, Angel was left in severe emotional distress and subsequently went missing after leaving a note indicating that she was unable to cope

Embassy of India's Prompt Intervention Helps Locate Indian Student Following Tragedy in Moldova

with the loss. The matter was brought to the attention of the Embassy of India on the morning of 1 August, when Mr. Shoaib, who had been approached by the families of Nehal and Angel, contacted the Embassy's emergency helpline and sought immediate assistance.

The Embassy places on record its appreciation for Mr. Shoaib's timely initiative in bringing the incident to notice. His prompt communication enabled the Embassy to initiate the coordinated response that followed.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra personally took up the matter and coordinated actively with the concerned Moldovan authorities. The Ambassador spoke directly with officials of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education, Moldovan Police and other authorities concerned, urging immediate action to locate Angel and ensure her safety. The Ambassador also personally spoke with Angel, her mother, and the family members of Nehal and Mr. Shoaib, providing reassurance and facilitating communication during an exceptionally difficult period for all concerned.

Despite it being a Saturday, the Moldovan authorities responded swiftly following the Embassy's intervention, and

Angel was located within approximately 15-20 minutes. She was subsequently provided urgent medical attention and placed under appropriate medical supervision.

The Embassy remained in contact with the relevant authorities and family members during the period that followed. It also facilitated arrangements for the repatriation of Nehal's mortal remains to India. With medical care and continued support, Angel's condition gradually improved, and she was eventually able to return to India and reunite with her family.

The episode demonstrated the importance of timely communication, close coordination and compassionate diplomatic intervention in times of crisis. The Embassy of India expresses its appreciation to the Moldovan authorities, police and medical professionals for their prompt action, as well as to the concerned families for their cooperation.

In particular, the Embassy acknowledges the efforts of Mr. Shoaib, who, after receiving information about the unfolding crisis from the families concerned, took the crucial step of contacting the Embassy through its emergency helpline. His intervention ensured that the matter received

immediate attention.

The personal involvement of Ambassador Manoj Mohapatra, including his direct engagement with the Moldovan authorities and the affected families, helped ensure that the situation was addressed with the urgency and sensitivity it required. The Embassy's simultaneous efforts to assist Nehal's family with the repatriation of his mortal remains and to work with the Moldovan authorities to safeguard Angel's well-being reflected its commitment to assisting Indian nationals and their families in times of distress.

The Vadul lui Voda incident remains a deeply painful tragedy for both families. While Nehal's untimely death has caused an irreparable loss, the collective efforts of the families, Mr. Shoaib, the Embassy of India, the Moldovan authorities, police and medical professionals helped ensure that Angel received timely medical attention and was eventually reunited with her family.

The Embassy considers the incident a reminder of the importance of reporting emergencies without delay and of maintaining close cooperation among individuals, diplomatic missions and local authorities whenever a person's safety and well-being may be at immediate risk.

Penguin drops Sonia Gandhi's memoir after she rejected 'changes, deletions'

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): PENGUIN Random House India (PRHI), expected to publish 'Belonging: a Journey of Love,' the much-anticipated memoirs of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, in India, will not do so, The Indian Express has learnt.

Sources said this was precipitated by certain "editorial changes and deletions" that Penguin Random House India wanted in "a part of the manuscript" which was turned down by the author.

With Penguin India out, several Indian publishers are now in the fray and HarperCollins is reported to be close to finalising the agreement to publish and distribute the book in India.

The release, scheduled for November 10, was first announced by US-based Alfred A Knopf, a division of Penguin Random House. Knopf had added that the first print run for the title would be 100,000 copies.

The Indian Express sent questions to Knopf and Gandhi's agent David Godwin who were not available for comment. Penguin Random House India CEO Gaurav Shrinagesh was asked about the requested "changes/deletions" in Gandhi's manuscript. He was unavailable for comment.

Sonia Gandhi has previously authored and edited other books but this, according to those who have worked on it, is her most personal and definitive account of her life. Knopf has called it a "riveting memoir by one of the world's most prominent women leaders that tells a richly engaging story of love, family, and an endlessly fascinating country: India." Knopf's release quoted Sonia Gandhi saying: "Much has been written about my family, but few narratives were able to reach into the truth of their motivations, their actions and even their human failings...My story also offers readers a unique perspective of the social and political changes I have witnessed for six decades." *Source: Indian Express*



AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a major relief to media baron Subhash Chandra, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has approved a repayment plan under which he will shell out just Rs 6.5 crore to settle admitted creditor claims

Minister reaches out to group seeking income-based quotas over caste reservations

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Union government on Thursday, Aug 27, reached out to a group demanding caste-based reservations in education and government jobs be replaced by income-based quotas, a week after the little-known group held a stir in Jantar Mantar that was attended by the group's members Harsh Dubey, Ran Bahadur Singh Chauhan and Mrityunjay Pathak.

The government was represented by Union minister JP Nadda, who earlier held negotiations with Cockroach Janata Party leaders whose protest against paper leaks in July eventually resulted in the resignation of then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Nadda posted on X referring to the meeting with the group that gathered for protest at Jantar Mantar on August 21. However, he did not mention the demands put forth by the group nor did he elaborate on what transpired at the meeting.

"Following the movement that took place at Jantar Mantar on 21 August, cordial discussions were held, as per the pre-determined schedule, with Shri Harsh Dubey, Shri Ran Bahadur Singh Chauhan, and Shri Mrityunjay Pathak, members of the team. In this connection, we will meet again soon," he wrote.

The government had not indicated earlier that a meeting with the group had been scheduled.

A senior BJP leader said the government is keen to prevent the repetition of the CJP protest that stretched on for over 30 days. The standoff between the CJP and the government escalated after police used force against the group as it tried to

RESERVATION HATAO ANDOLAN



march to Parliament on July 20.

Nadda's meeting with Reservation Hatao Andolan representatives drew questions from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which had led a "Gen Z" protest at Jantar Mantar last month over the alleged NEET paper leak.

Both sought clarity on the government's position on the protesters' demand for a review of caste-based reservation.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke asked Nadda to explain the Modi government's stand on the anti-reservation movement and questioned what Prime Minister Narendra Modi has to say about the August 21 protest.

"What does the Prime Minister have to

say about the movement of 21 August, whose name Mr Nadda is not taking? The country wants to know," he wrote in a post on X.

AAP Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj also sought clarity from Nadda on the government's position, referring to the demand for reconsideration of reservations.

"The main demand of the BJP Savarna Morcha movement was a reconsideration of reservations -- please shed light on that," Bharadwaj said in a post on X.

Nadda and Union minister Jitendra Singh had negotiated with the representatives of the CJP, who ended their protest after the resignation of the then education minister Dharmendra Pradhan last month.

National Company Law Tribunal gives 99.97% haircut to media baron Subhash Chandra

of over Rs 22,006 crore in his personal insolvency resolution process.

The settlement, translating into a haircut of nearly 99.97 per cent (nearly Rs 22,000 crore) for lenders, meant that various creditors can recover only 0.028% of their origin claims Chandra — founder of Essel Group — under a repayment plan backed by a majority of the NCLT.

Under the repayment plan approved by the NCLT, Rs 6.25 crore is proposed for creditors while Rs 25 lakh is meant for process costs. The amount of Rs 6.25 crore is based on his low personal asset

value and net worth.

In fact, the amount of Rs 22,006.57 crore represented claims admitted against Chandra as a personal guarantor for loans taken by Essel Group companies. However, Chandra said he was only a personal guarantor and the total claim against him as a personal guarantor in the personal insolvency proceedings was only Rs 3,992 crore by the objectors of the plan and not Rs 22,000 crore.

Chandra has been embroiled in insolvency proceedings filed by Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited —

now known as Sammaan Capital — since 2022. Chandra stood as personal guarantor for a Rs 170 crore loan given to Vivek Infracon. Indiabulls approached the NCLT in 2022 under Section 95 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) for proceedings against Chandra after the loan turned bad. Similarly, other banks and financial institutions had also moved the NCLT.

Section 95 of the IBC allows a creditor to move the NCLT to initiate an insolvency resolution process against a personal guarantor or an individual debtor.

Amid govt's delimitation push, Kharge asks PM Modi to freeze LS seats for 25 years

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday, Aug 27, urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to share with all political parties the government's proposals for delimitation and called for a 25-year freeze on the Lok Sabha's existing strength of 543, as well as the introduction of one-third reservation for women from the 2029 elections.

In a letter to the PM, the Rajya Sabha Leader of the Opposition renewed his demand for an all-party meeting on delimitation, urging him not to rush through any proposal in Parliament without giving political parties and state governments adequate time to examine its implications.

The Congress president's fresh letter comes amid indications from the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that a special session of Parliament could be convened, setting the stage for a potentially major political confrontation over the future composition of the Lok Sabha.

Kharge said he had earlier written to the PM on July 16, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss the government's proposed approach to delimitation.

"I am writing now to reiterate this request since the Parliamentary Affairs Minister publicly stated in a television interview last night that a special session of Parliament could well be convened," Kharge said. He also suggested that this could explain the continued delay in the prorogation of the monsoon session.

India, Canada aim to conclude trade talks by 2026-end in bid to boost bilateral trade

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a bid to deepen bilateral economic and financial cooperation, India and Canada have said they are looking to conclude negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of 2026 and initiate talks on a Bilateral Investment Treaty at the earliest.

At the inaugural Economic and Financial Dialogue in Toronto on Thursday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Minister of Finance and National Revenue, Francois-Philippe Champagne of Canada agreed to support engagement between relevant authorities and stakeholders to explore opportunities relating to cross-border remittances and merchant payments.

They welcomed opportunities to broaden the use of UPI in Canada through partnerships with payment service providers, recognising that such efforts could contribute to faster, and cost-effective payments and support bilateral trade, tourism, education, and the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in both countries, as per a joint statement issued after inaugural Economic and Financial Dialogue.

The dialogue builds on the commitment made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney during their meeting in New Delhi in March 2026 to strengthen bilateral economic and financial cooperation.



The two sides also reaffirmed their shared commitment to conclude negotiations for a Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of 2026.

During the dialogue, the ministers exchanged views on global macroeconomic developments and domestic policy priorities and discussed ways to strengthen economic and investment ties.

Discussions are aimed at supporting financial and commercial linkages between the two countries and advancing the leaders' shared goal of expanding bilateral trade to CAD 70 billion, or around Rs 4.65 lakh crore, by 2030. India also expressed its readiness to initiate negotiations on a Bilateral Investment Treaty at the earliest, the joint statement said.

The ministers welcomed the growing investment relationship between the two countries and recognised the role of long-term institutional capital in strengthening bilateral economic ties.

They noted the substantial presence of Canadian pension funds and other institutional investors in India and

discussed ways to facilitate greater engagement between Indian and Canadian financial institutions and institutional investors.

The two sides also explored opportunities for cooperation in payments modernisation, financial stability, fintech innovation, capital markets development and efforts to address financial crime.

On global economic and financial issues, the ministers agreed to explore greater cooperation in areas of shared interest, including critical minerals, with a focus on building resilient and diversified supply chains.

Following the dialogue, Sitharaman and Champagne held joint engagements with representatives from Canada's financial services, fintech, technology, artificial intelligence, infrastructure, and energy and natural resources sectors. The engagements highlighted opportunities for greater collaboration among businesses, financial institutions and other stakeholders in the two countries. The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to regular economic and financial dialogue and advancing concrete cooperation and tangible outcomes in areas of mutual interest.

The next India-Canada Economic and Financial Dialogue will be held in 2027.

Sitharaman also held interaction with leading Business Chambers and Professional Alumni Associations in India-Canada corridor to explore new avenues.

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): For years, the idea of a Prime Minister emerging from Tamil Nadu remained more a political aspiration than a realistic electoral conversation. Now, barely three months into his tenure as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C Joseph Vijay has found himself in a space occupied by leaders who have spent decades navigating Indian politics. The actor-turned-politician, who entered politics in 2024, has emerged as the third-most preferred choice for the next Prime Minister of India in the latest India Today-CVoter Mood of the Nation (MOTN) poll.

The finding of the opinion poll is striking not only because of Vijay's position, but because of the speed with which he has entered the national political imagination. The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder secured 9.2% of the respondents' preference for the next prime minister, placing him behind Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 48.7% and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at 27.1%.

It is interesting to note that the TVK government in Tamil Nadu has the support of the Congress, and Vijay's emergence as a PM choice might have come at the expense of Rahul Gandhi.

Vijay was ahead of TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee (2%), Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav (1.7%), Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder and convenor Abhijit Dipke (1.3%) and Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP)

Vijay among top three PM choices, right after Modi and Rahul Gandhi, finds MOTN survey



National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal (1.2%).

The Mood of the Nation is a bi-annual survey that's been commissioned by the India Today Group for around two decades now. The August 2026 edition was conducted by CVoter with a sample of 25,184 people directly surveyed between July 1 and August 25. Another set of 91,795 interviews conducted over the last six months as

part of CVoter's regular tracking were also used to formulate the findings of the August Mood of the Nation 2026. Vijay's rise in the survey does not stop at the question of who should become the next prime minister. When respondents were asked which current Opposition leader is best suited to lead the Opposition alliance, Vijay again found himself near the top, securing 12.2% of the vote. He stood just behind Rahul Gandhi, who led with 29%, and ahead of Mamata Banerjee (8.5%), Arvind Kejriwal (7.5%) and Akhilesh Yadav (6.9%).

The findings provide a glimpse into how a politician who is still in the first few months of his first stint in government has quickly expanded his political identity beyond Tamil Nadu.

Vijay's political journey has moved at a pace rarely seen in Indian politics.

The superstar formally entered politics with the launch of TVK in 2024. Within two years, the party contested its first election, won power in Tamil Nadu and installed Vijay as Chief Minister in 2026. Now, before his government has even completed its first year, his name is being placed alongside established national leaders in a survey measuring the country's political mood.

India in history this Week

AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3

AUGUST 28

1929 - Purushottama Lal was born



Poet, translator, publisher and academic Purushottama Lal, popularly known as P. Lal, was born on this day. He played an important role in the development of Indian writing in English and was especially known for his translations of classical Indian literature, including the Mahabharata.

1958: An Akali Conference at Baba Bakala passed a strong demand for the creation of a Punjabi Suba (a separate Punjabi-majority state).

1977: The General House of the Akali Dal officially approved the 1973 Anandpur Sahib Resolution, which sought greater autonomy for Punjab.]

1993: President's Rule in the state of Jammu and Kashmir was extended for another six months



2014: The Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, a massive national financial inclusion mission, was officially launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

AUGUST 29

1905 - Major Dhyhan Chand was born



India's legendary hockey player Major Dhyhan Chand was born on August 29, 1905. A central figure in India's golden era of hockey, he helped the country win Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932 and 1936. His birth anniversary is observed as National Sports Day, making the date one of the most significant in India's sporting

calendar.

1947 - Drafting Committee of the Constitution was appointed

Just two weeks after Independence, the Constituent Assembly passed a resolution appointing the Drafting Committee, with Dr B. R. Ambedkar as its Chairman. The committee played a historic role in preparing the draft of the Constitution that would eventually become the foundation of the Republic of India.

AUGUST 30

1559 - Jahangir was born

Prince Salim, who later ascended the Mughal throne as Emperor Jahangir, was born on this day. His reign is remembered for the flourishing of Mughal painting, architecture and imperial culture.

2013 - GSAT-7 was launched



India achieved an important milestone in space and strategic communications with the launch of GSAT-7, an advanced multi-band communication satellite. The satellite was launched aboard an Ariane-5 rocket from Kourou in French Guiana and was designed to provide communication capabilities over the Indian landmass and surrounding oceanic regions.

AUGUST 31

1956 - A major step towards linguistic reorganisation

The States Reorganisation Act, 1956, received presidential assent on August 31. The legislation paved the way for a sweeping reorganisation of India's states and territories, largely along linguistic lines, with the new arrangement coming into effect on November 1, 1956. It remains one of the most significant exercises in the political and administrative restructuring of independent India.

1919 - Amrita Pritam was born



Celebrated Punjabi poet, novelist and essayist Amrita Pritam was born on this day. She emerged as one of the most influential literary voices of the subcontinent, with her writing deeply shaped by themes of love, Partition, identity and the experiences of women.

SEPTEMBER 1

National Nutrition Week begins

The first week of September is observed in India as National Nutrition Week, highlighting the importance of balanced diets, food awareness and better nutrition. The observance has become an important annual campaign for promoting healthy eating and addressing malnutrition.

The month of September and India's freedom struggle

September occupies an important place in the closing chapters of colonial rule. In different years, the month witnessed intense debates over constitutional reform, representation, communal politics and self-government, issues that would eventually shape the political destiny of the subcontinent.

SEPTEMBER 2

2013 - National Food Security Bill cleared a key parliamentary hurdle

The National Food Security Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha on this day, marking a major step towards creating a legal framework for providing subsidised food grains to a large section of India's population. The legislation subsequently became the National Food Security Act.

World Coconut Day

September 2 is observed as World Coconut Day, a date of particular relevance to India, one of the world's major producers of coconuts. The coconut economy supports farmers and industries across several coastal states and Union Territories.

SEPTEMBER 3

1939 - India was drawn into the Second World War



When Britain declared war on Nazi Germany on September 3, 1939, British India was automatically committed to the conflict. The decision was taken by the colonial government without consulting Indian political leaders, triggering a major political controversy.

The Second World War would profoundly affect India. It intensified the freedom struggle, sharpened differences between the British government and Indian nationalists, and helped create the political conditions that eventually led to Independence in 1947.

2013 - GSAT-7 reached geosynchronous orbit

A few days after its launch, GSAT-7 successfully completed its orbit-raising manoeuvres and was placed in geosynchronous orbit. The achievement marked another important step in India's growing capabilities in space-based communications.



Country music legend Dolly Parton dies at 80 after six-decade career

Country music legend Dolly Parton died at the age of 80, her family confirmed in an official statement. Renowned for her powerful vocals, sharp business acumen, and enduring charm, Parton leaves behind a six-decade legacy that bridged country music with mainstream global pop culture.

According to Reuters, Parton is survived by her husband of nearly six decades, Carl Dean, whom she married in 1966.

Born on January 19, 1946, in a one-room cabin in Locust Ridge, Tennessee, Parton began her musical journey as a child. She wrote her first song, Little Tiny Tasseltop, which her mother treasured in a shoebox.

"I loved that little doll," Parton later reflected. "I expressed myself and my feelings through writing – I'm sure what I was thinking was, 'Well, Tasseltop has to have a song about her.'" At just six years old, she performing on local radio by age 11, and graced the stage of the iconic Grand Ole Opry at 13. Following high school, she relocated to Nashville, forming a landmark musical partnership with Porter Wagoner before embarking on a highly successful solo career. Over her career, Parton wrote an estimated 3,000 songs — including classics such as "Jolene, Coat of Many Colors, and I Will Always Love You — selling over 100 million records worldwide.



Netflix breaks silence on Gandhari plagiarism row, defends originality

The plagiarism controversy surrounding Taapsee Pannu's upcoming Netflix film Gandhari came up at the film's trailer launch in Mumbai on Tuesday, with Netflix Original Films director Ruchikaa Kapoor Sheikh and writer-producer Kanika Dhillon addressing the allegations for the first time publicly. Both maintained that the film is an original work and said a clearer picture would emerge once audiences watched the trailer and the film.

Writer Kalyan Bandi, an IIT Madras alumnus who works as an Inspector with Central GST and Customs, has alleged that Gandhari bears similarities to a story he wrote and registered in 2019, also titled Gandhari. He has claimed that he pitched the story to Monika Shergill, who was then with Voot and is now a Vice President at Netflix, and later sent a legal notice seeking compensation and credit. Dhillon's production house Kathha Pictures has previously rejected the allegations.

At the trailer launch, Ruchikaa Kapoor Sheikh said Netflix takes questions of originality and artistic attribution seriously.

"You know, at Netflix, we take originality and artistic attribution very seriously. I want to make it very clear here that we receive multiple pitches, and the pitch in question is very different from Kanika and Taapsee's Gandhari," she said.

She added that she did not want to make further assumptions about the matter and urged audiences to watch the film.

"I won't make any other assumptions or push this further. Please watch the film, watch the trailer, and as the film



comes out, you will see. But we are always committed to the originality of our storytellers, whether someone is on a streak of five or six things or if this is their first time," she said.

Dhillon, who has worked as a writer before turning producer, said she understood the sentiments of another writer but maintained that she had never met Bandi.

"You know, I'm a writer myself first and then a producer, so I totally respect somebody's sentiments. But in this particular case, I've never met the writer, and I don't know their journey," she said.

Dhillon added that she believed the similarities being alleged would be easier to assess once the story was seen in full. "I think once you hear the story,

once you understand what the story is about, then you'll have a much clearer picture. And like Ruchikaa said, as a platform, Netflix is committed to very stringent rules and parameters," she said.

"So I think there will be a clear picture once everything comes out. I have already mentioned that this is a completely original script, I just hope you all enjoy the film," Dhillon added.

The controversy began after Kalyan Bandi claimed that Taapsee's Gandhari shared similarities with a story he had written and registered in 2019. Bandi said his story centred on a mother who takes on the persona of a fierce goddess while attempting to rescue her child from a child-trafficking racket.

'I'm bold, not stupid': Mallika Sherawat hits back at trolls voer her 'The Traitors Journey'

The Traitors Season 2 is getting intense by the day and with every episode. The shifting alliances between contestants and plot twists are drawing a lot of attention online. Hitting back at trolls, Mallika Sherawat posted a video on social media and revealed how she used silence as her biggest weapon on the show.

"Hello, everyone, jab main The Traitors mein gayi toh wahan sabne socha ki Mallika toh yahan catwalk karne aayi hai, vacation manane aayi hai, ye kya traitor pakdegi? Sab logon ne mujhe underestimate kiya, jo ki log bahut waqt se mujhe underestimate karte aaye hain. (When I entered The Traitors, everyone thought Mallika had come to do a catwalk in the show; she is here for vacation. How will she catch the traitor? Everyone

underestimated me, which they have been doing for a long time)," Mallika shared. She continued, "Never mind, lekin jab main The Traitors mein thi toh mujhe laga ki yahan pe jo aapki sabse badi strength hai wo aapki voice nahi hai, woh hai aapka silence. Aur silently maine sab kuch observe kiya, aur us observation ke baad mujhe ek falaani bandi traitor lagi. Aur jo maine kaha ki ye falaani bandi traitor hai, aur wahi traitor nikli. Mallika bold hai, par bewakoof nahi. (When I was in The Traitors, I felt like inside the show your voice is not your strength but is your silence. And silently I started observing everything. After my observation, I realised this one girl was the traitor; and she turned out to be the traitor. Mallika is bold; she is not stupid)."

Sharing the video, she wrote, "I may

have been having fun, but I was watching everything #traitorsonprime #traitors."

Hosted by Karan Johar, the show divides the contestants into two groups: Innocents and Traitors. While the Innocents have to identify and eliminate the Traitors from the game, the Traitors have to ensure that they remain undetected and eliminate the Innocents one by one. Till now six episodes have been released. The Innocents have managed to unmask two traitors, including Harman Singha and Kullu. The other two traitors, Shahneel Gill and Krystle D'Souza, are still safe.

This week, Parul Gulati, Ranveer Brar, and Abhishek Malhan were eliminated from the show. New episodes of The Traitors Season 2 premiere every Thursday on Prime Video.

NYC Wine and Food Festival Welcomes “Flavors of Bollywood”

BY MABEL PAIS

“Flavors of Bollywood,” presenting Indian cuisine and culture, will be showcased at the New York City Wine and Food Festival (<https://nycwff.org>) this year. Award winning chefs Maneet Chauhan and Vijay Kumar will host the event at the Festival in partnership with Anu Sehgal’s The Culture Tree. This will take place on Friday, October 16, 2026, 8-10:30 pm @ Storied NYC | 547 W 26th Street, New York, NY 10001.

Some of New York City’s most talented Indian chefs, fine dining restaurants, and artisanal food brands will come together under one roof for a walk-around tasting celebrating the depth and diversity of Indian cuisine. In case food connoisseurs have not had a chance to get a reservation at one of these restaurants, or have had a few of them sitting on their wish list, this is their chance to experience so many Indian flavors in one night.

It is also a rare opportunity to meet, mingle with, and hear directly from some of the celebrated chefs and leaders shaping Indian cuisine today.

TICKETS

The ticket to this incredible experience includes much more than the food. All food and drinks are included, with innovative cocktails, wines and spirits throughout the evening, plus music, entertainment, performances, Bollywood energy, and cultural moments curated with The Culture Tree.

This event is open to Media, influencers or those interested in sponsoring or partnering with the organizers of Flavors of Bollywood? For more information, contact info@theculturetree.com

MANEET CHAUHAN

Food Network - BBQ Brawl Captain

Instagram - [@maneetchauhan](https://instagram.com/maneetchauhan)

Maneet Chauhan is a James Beard award-winning chef, author, restaurateur and Food Network personality. As a leading American-Indian chef, Chauhan is the co-



Maneet Chauhan and Vijay Kumar, hosts of 2026 NYCWFF's “Flavors of Bollywood.” Credit : <https://nycwff.org>

founder of Morph Hospitality Group in Nashville, TN, where she currently runs two restaurants, Chauhan Ale & Masala House and The Mockingbird, in addition to eet by Maneet Chauhan in Disney Springs near Orlando, Florida.

Chauhan’s two critically acclaimed cookbooks, “Flavors of My World” and “Chaat: The Best Recipes from the Kitchens, Markets, and Railways of India,” are reflections of her upbringing surrounded by the local markets & street vendors of India and have been featured in publications like the New York Times, Food & Wine and more.

On television, in addition to her role as a judge on “Chopped,” Chauhan also competes at the highest level on shows like Guy Fieri’s “Tournament of Champions,” where she brought home the championship title in both 2021 and 2024 as the first-ever, two-time champion; she is also a judge on the new Food Network series “Chopped Castaways” and serves as a team captain on the new



season of “BBQ Brawl.” When she’s not in the kitchen or traveling, chef Chauhan can be found at home in Franklin, Tennessee, with her husband, Vivek Deora, their daughter, Shagun, and their son, Karma.

Watch Maneet in the kitchen -

<https://www.instagram.com/reels/DcehnQopn64/>

<https://facebook.com/watch/?v=994117316664615>

VIJAY KUMAR

<https://www.instagram.com/chef.vijayakumar>

<https://Semma.nyc>

In 2021 Vijay Kumar packed up from San Francisco, where he was working as a chef, to travel cross country to New York City and work with restaurateurs Roni Mazumdar and Chef Chintan Pandya whose Unapologetic Foods group is known for presenting Indian food honestly and authentically. In October of that year the trio opened Semma, serving heritage Southern Indian cuisine inspired by Chef Vijay’s upbringing. To date Chef Vijay and Semma have received world-wide critical acclaim including Vijay being the winner of the prestigious James Beard Foundation award Best Chef New York State 2025 and placed as the #1 restaurant of the year on The New York Times Top 100 Restaurants in New York list. Upon its debut Semma was named a Top Ten Best New Restaurant in America by Bon Appetit; Esquire; and as one of the Top 50 Restaurants of the Year by The New York Times. In 2022 Semma was awarded a Michelin star, an honor it has held every year since, making it the only Indian restaurant in New York City with that recognition.

Vijay grew up in the humblest of settings on a family farm in a small town near Madurai, located in the Southern part of India. The eldest of three children, Vijay helped his mother and grandmother in farming and cooking. It was this childhood upbringing where his passion for fresh ingredients and cooking arose.

Semma.nyc

From the team behind Unapologetic Foods (Dhamaka, Adda), Semma (meaning “fantastic” in Tamil) is a bold, clear-eyed expression of South Indian cuisine, rooted in the traditions of Tamil Nadu and brought to life by Chef Vijay Kumar. This is food drawn from memory, from farm life and family kitchens, from rituals rarely seen outside South India. With uncompromising regional ingredients and powerful layered flavors, Semma continues to offer a singular, unapologetic experience, one flavor at a time.

THE CULTURE TREE

For The Culture Tree, this is a particularly meaningful milestone. Its work has always been about creating bold, contemporary platforms for South Asian culture, and it’s thrilled to help bring the traditions, spirit, and cultural elements of this celebration to one of New York City’s biggest food festivals. Learn about The Culture Tree @ <https://theculturetree.com>

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



Passerine



Pooja Bavishi
Malai



Akshay Bhardwaj
Junoon



Hakikat Dhawan
Kashi Indian Cuisine & Bar



Zahir Khan
GupShup



Jayesh Kumar
Lore



Regi Mathew
Chatti by Regi Mathew



Basu Ratnam
Inday



Vinu Raveendran
Kidilum



Aarthi Sampath
Dravida



SUJAN SARKAR
BUTTER CHICKEN SOCIAL



Anu Sehgal
The Culture Tree

Collage of Participating Chefs in 2026 NYCWFF's “Flavors of Bollywood.” Credit : <https://nycwff.org>



Daayra: Kareena Kapoor, Prithviraj hint at hidden connection in new poster

With the trailer of Daayra set to arrive on August 31, the makers have offered another glimpse into the film's world with a new poster featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The crime thriller, directed by Meghna Gulzar, keeps its central mystery under wraps while hinting at a connection between its two leads.

In the new poster, Kareena and Prithviraj are seen standing back-to-back, with layers of police tape separating them. An obscured face in the background adds another layer of intrigue to the visual, while the positioning of the two actors suggests that their characters may be looking at the same set of events from different perspectives.

The poster does not reveal much about the plot, but its imagery points towards a crime investigation at the heart of the story. The police tape, the hidden figure and the apparent divide between the two protagonists leave questions around what connects their characters and how their stories intersect.

6-months pregnant Kiara Advani shot for Toxic drenched in rain

Geetu Mohandas' Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups has been attracting criticism ever since the first teaser dropped. More recently, Kiara Advani found herself at the centre of a storm after the song Tabaahi, featuring her and Yash, was released. Amid mounting criticism, her co-star Huma Qureshi heaped praises on her for shooting the film even during her pregnancy and showing strength throughout.

At the pre-release event in Chennai, Huma said, "I have to say something about Kiara. It is not a spoiler. There was a scene in Toxic we were both part of, and there was so much rain involved. She was just about to have a baby and we were getting drenched in the rain and I had a terrible headache. Every single time I wanted to complain, I would look at Kiara. She was six months pregnant, and she was just standing there doing that scene. Standing like a rock. Looking at her I was like, 'Oh my god,' that is so inspiring. I know you are going to get a lot of love for this film. Love you loads."

Last year in July, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara took to Instagram to share the happy news of their baby girl's arrival. Their message read, "Our hearts are full and our world forever changed. We are blessed with a baby girl. - Kiara & Sidharth." Following the announcement, the couple requested photographers to avoid taking pictures of their newborn. Later in the year, Kiara and Sidharth took to Instagram to reveal the name of their newborn daughter: Saraayah Malhotra. The couple got married in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, in 2023. In 2021, they starred together in the war film Shershaah.

The period gangster drama is directed



by Geetu Mohandas, who is known for the National Award-winning film Liar's Dice. The film is backed by KVN Productions and Yash's Monster Mind Creations and is reportedly one of the most expensive Indian films shot in

Kannada and English. It stars Yash in a double role alongside Nayanthara, Tara Sutaria, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi and Rukmini Vasanth. The film has generated significant buzz ahead of its release.



The Vvaan: Sidharth Malhotra faces an unknown force in a folklore saga

The teaser of The Vvaan: Force of the Forest, starring actors Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia, has been released ahead of the film's theatrical debut on September 25. Directed by Deepak Kumar Misra and produced by Shobha Kapoor and Ektaa Kapoor, the fantasy film draws from folklore and places its central character in a forest with a supernatural presence.

The teaser gives a glimpse into the conflict at the centre of the story. Sidharth Malhotra's character is seen preparing to face an unknown force, while the forest appears to hold a connection to him that he is yet to understand. Earlier promotional material had described the character as being as ferocious as a tiger and as powerful as a cow.

As the footage progresses, Malhotra's character enters a plain that people appear to avoid. His journey leads him towards a secret connected to his identity, the forest's folklore and its supernatural elements. The teaser also hints at themes involving possession and the struggle for power.

Meanwhile, Tamannaah Bhatia's character appears to share a romantic connection with Malhotra and helps him understand the mysterious bond he feels with the forest, which he is determined to decode.

The Vvaan marks a foray into folklore-based fantasy for its lead cast, with the story combining elements of action, adventure and the supernatural. Before the teaser, the makers had released a motion poster and a brief comic-art reveal, offering limited details about the world of the film.

The film also features Manish Paul, Shweta Tiwari, Sunil Grover and Anup Soni in key roles. It is backed by Balaji Telefilms.

The teaser arrives after The Vvaan underwent several changes to its release schedule. The film was initially announced for a Chhath Puja release in 2025 before being pushed to May 2026 and subsequently August 28. It is now scheduled to release in theatres on September 25. The earlier postponements were attributed to extended post-production and visual effects work.



New James Bond Search Nears End, 007 Casting In Final Stage: Report

The search for the next James Bond appears to be in its final stage. Fans may not have to wait much longer to find out who will inherit the iconic 007 title. With Daniel Craig's tenure as the suave British spy having come to an end with *No Time To Die*, speculation around his successor has continued since the last film hit the cinemas. Now, fresh reports suggest that the casting process has reached its final stage.

Industry insider Daniel Richtman has shared an update on the much-discussed search for the next James Bond. In a post shared on X, he claimed that the casting process has reached its final round and suggested that the makers may have already found their new 007. "I hear they're in the final round of casting for James Bond and might have already found their guy," Daniel wrote.

The update comes amid reports that the Bond casting process has been steadily moving forward. Earlier this year, it was reported that director Denis Villeneuve, along with producers Amy Pascal and David Heyman, had started informing actors who had progressed to the next stage of auditions. Screen tests were also reportedly expected to take place in August.

The makers have not officially revealed the identities of the actors who have made it to the final stage. However, several names have continued to surface in connection with the coveted role, including Callum Turner, Jack Lowden, Jacob Elordi, Harris Dickinson and Aaron Taylor-Johnson.

Callum Turner and Jack Lowden have emerged as the frontrunners in recent speculation. While some reports have tipped the *Masters of the Air* actor as the likely choice, others believe Jack is a stronger contender. Both have also featured prominently among the leading names in betting markets for the role.

Originating from the 1953 espionage novels by Ian Fleming, the James Bond series spans 25 official films and has seen six legendary actors officially assume the mantle of MI6 agent 007. Sean Connery launched the franchise in 1962, followed by George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig.

'Spider-Man: Brand New Day' hits No. 2 on all-time domestic chart

Sony Pictures' superhero blockbuster has now soared to become the No. 2 highest-grossing film ever domestically with \$858.4 million, surpassing the \$858.3 million for 2019's *Avengers: Endgame*. The title to beat on the all-time North American chart remains 2015's *Star Wars: Episode VII — The Force Awakens*, standing strong at \$936.6 million. This follows the news last week that *Brand New Day* had become the fastest movie to hit \$800 million domestically, doing so in 19 days.

Over the weekend, the Tom Holland-led film that hails from Marvel Studios had surpassed 2021's *Spider-Man: No Way Home* to briefly occupy the No. 3 spot on the all-time domestic box office chart. This also placed *Brand New Day* as Sony's highest-grossing domestic film after it set the record over the previous weekend for the top global release in the studio's history.

As of Sunday, *Brand New Day* claimed the No. 6 spot on the all-time worldwide box office rankings with \$2.22 billion, moving past *The Force Awakens* with \$2.07 billion. Any day now, the latest Spidey movie is expected to overtake *Titanic*, which currently holds No. 5 with \$2.26 billion globally, while Chinese animated fantasy feature *Ne Zha 2* looms nearby at No. 4 with \$2.27 billion.

Zendaya, Sadie Sink and Jon Bernthal also star in *Spider-Man: Brand New Day*, with filmmaker Destin Daniel Cretton's movie approaching its fifth weekend of release after launching in theaters July 31. Its record-breaking run has included surpassing *Endgame* for the biggest domestic opening weekend ever with \$360 million. It went on to earn the



highest-grossing first week in domestic box office history and become the second-fastest film (after *Endgame*) to reach \$1 billion globally.

Among the new offerings hitting theaters this weekend are Ridley Scott's *The Dog Stars*, starring Jacob Elordi; the resurrected *Coyote vs. Acme*; and the horror-comedy flick *Buddy*.

Brand New Day has helped 2026's box office standing overall. As of Sunday, the 2026 domestic box office has crossed the \$7 billion mark, according to Rentrak, putting the year 20.4 percent above 2025's returns. Additionally, this summer's titles combine for an estimated \$4.444 billion domestically as of Sunday to come in 25.5 percent above last year's

tally to that point, with the all-time summer mark remaining 2013's \$4.75 billion.

When asked about the film succeeding amid apparent superhero fatigue for other recent titles, given that this summer's *Supergirl* was among those to have underperformed, Sony Pictures chief Tom Rothman told *The Hollywood Reporter* that he didn't see this as a concern. "The press talks a lot about that, but right now, on anything, the theatrical audience demands greatness," Rothman said. "If it's only OK, they can stay home and see 'only OK' all day long on television. If we're going to ask them make a trip out of it, it's got to be great. The answer is as simple as that."

Priyanka Chopra looks for a new co-star as Orlando Bloom exits *Reset*



Priyanka Chopra was all set to kick off her new Hollywood survival thriller *Reset*, before the title turned out to be the fate of the film. Her co-star and fellow executive producer Orlando Bloom has reportedly exited the film just days before it was scheduled to go on floors. The exact reason behind his departure is not known.

Written by Jordan Rawlins, *Reset* revolves around Priyanka's character, who wakes up in the middle of the wilderness with no memory of how she got there. Her only chance at survival is trusting a charming stranger; but he may not turn out to be who he claims he is. Bloom was signed to play this role, but has now backed out of the film. TMZ reports that the makers are now looking for Bloom's replacement, with three actors being eyed as the potential pick. Priyanka would also have a say in the same, but the fate of the film is uncertain now, given Bloom's international star presence, aided by Priyanka's, was being leveraged to secure the worldwide distribution rights of the indie project.

Even director Matt Smukler relied on what Priyanka and Orlando brought to the table together. "I was looking for a pairing where attraction and mistrust could effortlessly coexist. Priyanka and Orlando have this uncanny ability to make you believe both at once. Their chemistry is undeniable," the filmmaker told *Deadline* earlier this year.

US shifts Patriot missiles to Middle East, leaving Europe dangerously exposed

AUGUST 28, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): The US military is facing a "beyond critical" shortage of advanced missile interceptors in Europe, largely because stockpiles have been moved to the Middle East during President Donald Trump's war with Iran, a US defence official in Europe and a NATO official told The Associated Press. The shortfall has raised concerns about how well NATO countries could respond to a possible Russian missile attack.

The most serious gap involves Patriot missile interceptors, which can shoot down Russia's high-speed ballistic missiles. The US official said American forces in Europe "definitely" do not have enough Patriots to stop any possible sustained ballistic missile attack and would have only a "very limited" ability to defend against even a single ballistic missile strike or a stray Russian missile that goes off course.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were discussing sensitive military matters. The NATO official confirmed low Patriot inventories among American and NATO forces in Europe. The US official said that if Russia were to launch a ballistic missile assault on a military headquarters or power plant, NATO could find itself in a position similar to Ukraine and be forced "to take punch after punch in the mouth".

The shortage shows the wider impact of Trump's decision to go to war with Iran, a conflict that reaches the six-month mark on Friday.

AUGUST 28, 2026

BELGRADE (TIP): Ratko Mladic, the former Bosnian Serb military chief dubbed the "Butcher of Bosnia" for his role in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, has died, Serbian state broadcaster RTS reported on Thursday, Aug 27.

Mladic, who had suffered several strokes in recent months, was serving a life sentence in The Hague for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity after overseeing the Srebrenica slaughter, Europe's worst act of bloodshed since World War II.

Serbian state officials and Mladic's family had appealed for his release due to his failing health, but those calls were rejected by the Hague tribunal.

He was the military face of a brutal trio, led on the political side by ex-Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic and former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, as the former Yugoslavia descended into carnage after the fall of communism.

The 1992-1995 war left around 100,000 people dead and 2.2 million displaced.

The most infamous atrocity was committed in Srebrenica, where Serb forces under Mladic's command

Russia hits Ukrainian cities as Kyiv seeks more Patriot missile support

AUGUST 28, 2026

KYIV (TIP): Russia launched missiles and drones at cities across Ukraine in an overnight attack that continued into daylight on Thursday, with explosions heard around Kyiv through the morning. The strikes came as Ukraine remains short of US-made Patriot air defence missiles needed to counter Russian ballistic missiles, while fast-flying jet-powered drones have added to the pressure on its defences.

Ukrainian officials said Russia has been building up missile stocks and carrying out major attacks every few days in an effort to overwhelm air defences. The latest barrage killed a 78-year-old woman in the southern Zaporizhzhia region and another person in the northern Kharkiv region, while at least 14 other people were reported wounded. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said more air defence support was needed, even as Russia said the attack was aimed at military-related facilities.

The Russian Defence Ministry said its forces carried out a "massive" strike on targets in nine Ukrainian cities after nightfall on Wednesday. It said the targets included industrial facilities, oil refineries, logistics hubs and port infrastructure. Ukrainian officials, however, said civilian areas including apartment buildings were damaged.

Zelenskyy said on social media, "Russia continues to invest in missiles and in expanding its war, and that means more countermeasures are needed," while noting promises by European countries earlier this week to provide more air defence assistance. "It is important that these (measures) are also supplemented by additional ballistic missile defense packages" through European purchases of weapons from the United States, he said.

While Russia said it had struck only war-related targets, Ukrainian officials said businesses and infrastructure were also hit. Drones struck three major distribution centres, destroying depots belonging to a toy store chain and a confectionery company, and damaging another run by an electronics retailer, the companies said. In the south, four glide bombs destroyed generating equipment at the Kherson region's combined heat and power plant, forcing it to shut down, according to its operator Naftogaz. Zelenskyy was due to visit neighbouring



Moldova on Thursday to mark its national day commemorating its 1991 declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. Moldova's Defence Ministry said five drones breached its airspace overnight, though it did not say who launched them. Ukraine's air force said its defences shot down or suppressed seven Russian ballistic missiles, but did not say how this was done. In Kyiv, four districts were hit overnight, damaging residential buildings, a school and a medical facility, though city police said no casualties were reported. In the central Poltava region, Russian forces struck industrial sites as well as energy infrastructure, according to regional military administration head Vitalii Diakivnych. The southern Odesa region was also hit in an attack lasting more than seven hours, said regional military administration head Oleh Kiper. He said a 16-storey residential building, two educational facilities and a grain elevator were damaged. Ukraine's state rail company Ukrzaliznytsia said some trains were delayed by more than 17 hours after the attack.

Ukraine, meanwhile, continued its own long-range strikes on Russia. Ukraine's General Staff said plane-launched missiles hit Russia's main and backup command posts near the eastern city of Donetsk, where Ukrainian defenders are under pressure from a Russian push.

'Butcher of Bosnia' Ratko Mladic dies while serving life sentence for genocide



executed 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys who had sought shelter in what was meant to be a UN-protected enclave.

Footage from the time showed him handing out sweets to children before they and the women of Srebrenica were taken away by bus, while the men were marched into a forest and executed.

Their bodies were dumped in mass graves, many of which were dug back up and reburied in order to try to hide the evidence.

The few who escaped told harrowing stories of murder, torture and rape by the Bosnian Serb forces.

In November 1995, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) indicted Mladic, who was dismissed from his post but evaded capture for another 16 years.

At first he led a life of luxury, pampered by the military in Serbia where some to this day see him as a hero. But the pressure mounted on him after Milosevic fell from power in 2000. Mladic was finally arrested in May 2011 and transferred to The Hague.

Mladic insisted throughout his trial and later appeal process that he was not guilty of genocide or war crimes.

He harangued judges with multiple tirades, describing the court as a "child

of western powers" and depicting himself as the "target of the NATO alliance".

He was convicted in 2017, with the life sentence upheld on appeal in 2021.

Mladic was also found guilty of orchestrating a wider campaign of ethnic cleansing to drive Muslims and Bosnians out of key areas to create a so-called Greater Serbia.

The tribunal said at the time the crimes committed were "amongst the most heinous known to humankind". Former UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein described him as "the epitome of evil". But many Serbs continued to revere a military commander who painted himself as a "simple man" whom fate had chosen to protect his people.

Towards the end of his life, his defence team sought to persuade the court he should be released on humanitarian grounds.

Trump turns to sanctions as US-Israel war on Iran hits six months

AUGUST 28, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): President Donald Trump reaches the six-month mark of the US-Israel war against Iran on Friday, as his administration shifts from military action to sharper economic pressure on Tehran. The milestone comes after Trump had repeatedly told Americans the conflict would be a "little excursion" lasting only a few weeks.

The war is still continuing, even as Trump says Iran's leadership, military and economy have been badly hit by bombs and blockade. This week, the administration said it would now focus on increasing economic pressure, including threats to punish any country or entity that continues to do business with Tehran.

The move towards sanctions comes as the administration weighs reduced munitions stockpiles after months of war, raising concerns that the prolonged conflict could affect US military readiness in other parts of the world. Trump's language on ending the war quickly has also softened. He said this week that he is "not in a hurry" to bring Iran back to the negotiating table and continued to argue that the Islamic Republic's leadership is struggling. "They're not paying their troops. They're in deep trouble. They have very little capacity," Trump told reporters on Thursday. "We don't want to speak to them. We're not looking to meet or anything," he said.

It is unclear whether Trump will publicly mark the six-month point of a conflict that has cost the United States more than USD 37.5 billion and affected his popularity ahead of key November elections for his party. He is spending Friday in Houston, where he will honour the Artemis II NASA crew for their 10-day mission around the moon earlier this year.

The moment is difficult for a president who campaigned on keeping the military out of "endless wars" and criticised earlier administrations for spending American money and lives in conflicts in the Middle East. Trump, however, has pushed back against comparisons with Iraq and Afghanistan, noting that no American troops have been deployed into Iran. Even so, the conflict has lasted far longer than he had said. That did not stop him from sharing a social media post this week declaring "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED 2026". The AI-generated image showed Trump with US fighter jets, a warship and American flags, alongside smaller images of former president George W Bush and former Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in an Israeli strike at the start of the war.

Iran emerges stronger as failed US-Israel attack reshapes West Asia

AUGUST 28, 2026

DUBAI (TIP): Six months after the United States and Israel attacked Iran in an effort to topple its clerical leadership and reshape the Middle East, the region has changed in ways they had not hoped for. Iran survived the killing of senior leaders and weeks of heavy bombing, and has since used the Strait of Hormuz as a powerful source of leverage.

The fallout has spread across the region. Gulf Arab states have seen worrying gaps in the American security umbrella they have relied on for decades, while Israel, despite major military gains, faces growing isolation and the risk of a deeper break with the US. Prospects of normalising ties between Israel and Saudi Arabia have also receded further.

When the US and Israel launched their attack on February 28, they hoped to remove Iran's ruling system and replace it with a pro-Western government. Instead, they ended up with what Barbara Leaf, a former ambassador who served as assistant secretary of state for the Middle East in the Biden administration, called a "hardened and very radical regime". "That is going to be exceptionally difficult to deal with, to say the least," she said. Iran's "confidence has grown over the months that it cannot only survive, but it can prevail, it can reset the regional landscape," she added.

Before the attack, Iran appeared more vulnerable than at any time since Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded in 1980. Its currency had collapsed, triggering some of the biggest anti-government protests in its history. Those protests were brutally crushed in January, with thousands killed. Iran had also been hit hard in a 12-day war the previous summer, when Israel and the US struck its military and nuclear sites, while its militant allies were weakened in the wars that followed Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack from Gaza.

But the situation shifted soon after the first US and Israeli strikes. Iran's leaders were quickly replaced, and people sheltering from the war did not respond to calls from the attackers to rise up again. Iran then effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz, a major route for oil and gas trade, and attacked Gulf countries hosting US troops, unsettling the global economy. US President Donald Trump agreed to a ceasefire in April and signed a deal with Iran in June, but that agreement fell apart within weeks.

Iran is now seeking permanent control over the strait to deter future attacks and secure other concessions, while refusing to give ground on its disputed nuclear programme. Analysts say that carries risks, especially as the US tightens its blockade and threatens fresh sanctions on Iran's already battered economy. "Iran has demonstrated that Hormuz gives it significant leverage, but prolonged disruption also hurts its neighbours,



China, and the global economy, while encouraging alternatives to the strait," said Yoel Guzansky, an expert on Iran and the Gulf at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies. "Tehran's danger is confusing its ability to survive with victory and demanding more than its leverage can deliver," he said.

The war has also shaken Gulf confidence in US security guarantees. For decades, Washington has protected wealthy Gulf oil exporters through a large regional military presence, helping secure energy markets and deter threats from Iraq and later Iran. This time, however, Iran not only struck Israel but also targeted Gulf countries that had hoped to stay out of the conflict. It hit US bases and critical energy infrastructure, stretching air defences and using up American interceptor supplies.

Iran also responded to attacks on its civilian infrastructure by hitting neighbouring countries' desalination plants, raising fears that a war launched without consulting Gulf states could lead to devastating attacks on their water and electricity systems. "The fact that the war began without a clear political objective and against the advice of key regional partners, and that there has not been clear evidence of a Plan B once the initial attacks failed to dislodge the Iranian regime, is likely to undermine confidence in the US across the region and may take some time to repair," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a Gulf expert at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. Last month, Saudi Arabia entered a new defence pact with Pakistan and Türkiye, offering an early sign that long-standing US allies may look for other arrangements. Even so, Ulrichsen said, "The dilemma facing Gulf states is there is no viable alternative to the full range of defence and security networks with the US."

For Israel, the war has brought further battlefield gains but also higher political

costs. Lebanon's Iran-backed Hezbollah fired missiles into Israel days after the conflict began, prompting heavy Israeli airstrikes and another ground invasion. Israel has reoccupied large parts of southern Lebanon, adding to its broader territorial gains since the October 7 attack. But the military successes have come amid deepening international isolation. Israel has been widely accused of genocide in Gaza, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, which Israel strongly denies.

Israeli officials are particularly concerned by the scale of eroding support in the US. That trend gathered pace as some critics argued that Israel had helped draw the US into another Middle East war, a view that the Trump administration has at times appeared to echo. As the conflict settled into a stalemate over the summer, outspoken critics of Israel won key Democratic primaries in the US, while more than half of House Democrats voted to cut aid to Israel. Israel has also faced mounting criticism from the right.

The strain has also reduced the chances of stronger regional ties. Normalisation between Israel and Saudi Arabia now looks more distant. "The conflicts that have swept across the region since October 7 have led officials in Saudi Arabia to view the current Israeli leadership as contributing to regional instability and not therefore a viable diplomatic partner at the moment," Ulrichsen said.

Six months on, the attack on Iran has left a more entrenched leadership in Tehran, fresh doubts in the Gulf about American protection, and a more isolated Israel with weaker prospects of closer ties with Saudi Arabia. The military campaign changed the region, but it did not bring the outcome the US and Israel had sought.

Sri Lankan Navy commander holds talks with Indian Navy chief, Defense Secretary

AUGUST 28 2026

COLOMBO (TIP): The Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, Vice Admiral Damian Fernando, held talks with Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, aiming to bolster maritime security cooperation and enhance training synergy between the two navies, officials said on Thursday, Aug 27.

Vice Admiral Fernando is on an official visit to India from August 26-29, and the visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral maritime cooperation and enhancing navy-to-navy engagements between India and Sri Lanka.

V Adm Fernando assumed office as the 27th Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy on July 1. This is his first official visit abroad, they said. He was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour at the South Block lawn. He also paid homage to the fallen soldiers by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial on Thursday.

"He also held discussions with Navy Chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan on furthering bilateral maritime cooperation, including joint operations, capacity building, training and measures related to maritime security," a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said. As part of the visit, V Adm Fernando will travel to Kochi to visit Indian naval training establishments and headquarters of the Southern Naval Command, with a focus on enhancing training linkages and professional exchanges between the two navies, the official said.

The Sri Lanka Navy is an important and longstanding maritime partner of the Indian Navy. "The visit of V Adm Damian Fernando is expected to further consolidate the longstanding and multifaceted navy-to-navy relationship between India and Sri Lanka, contributing to enhanced maritime cooperation and greater stability in the Indian Ocean Region," he added.

In a post on X, the defence ministry here said, V Adm Fernando paid a courtesy call on Defence Secretary Singh in New Delhi on Thursday. "The two sides reviewed activities and projects under the Bilateral Defence Cooperation Plan and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation in areas of mutual interest. Vice Admiral Damian Fernando is on a three-day official visit to India," it said.

The Indian Navy, in a post on X on Thursday, shared some photos of his visit and the ceremonial welcome accorded to him.

Bangladesh to buy China's J-10CE jets, PM's aide gives Op Sindoor, Rafale example

AUGUST 28, 2026

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh is moving closer to buying 20 Chinese J-10CE multirole fighter jets for \$2.3 billion, in what could become one of Dhaka's biggest defence purchases in years. An aide of Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman said that the claimed performance of the J-10 aircraft during May 2025 Operation Sindoor helped tilt the decision in the favour of the Chinese planes.

The government of Tarique Rahman is looking to modernise Bangladesh's air force. The proposed package would put the effective cost at nearly \$115 million per aircraft, far above the fighter's base price of \$62.7 million. The additional expenditure includes training, operational equipment, technical and logistical support, freight, insurance, VAT and construction work. The Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh has estimated the total cost at Taka (Tk) 28,314 crore, using an exchange rate of Tk123 to the dollar, Dhaka-based The Business Standard newspaper reported.

The development was confirmed by Bangladesh PM's Information and Broadcasting Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman, who said on August 25 that an inter-ministerial committee had prepared a draft agreement for negotiations on the purchase.

It was his reference to Operation Sindoor and the France-made Rafale's that drew particular attention.



Zahed Ur Rahman said Bangladesh was seriously considering the J-10 because, "It is now established that an Indian Rafale fighter jet was shot down by a Chinese-made J-10 fighter aircraft during the India-Pakistan war." He added that the "Rafale is regarded as a modern 4.5-generation fighter" and claimed the "J-10CE had performed very well against it".

Pakistan had claimed that its Chinese-made J-10s shot down Indian aircraft, including Rafales, during the May 2025 conflict. India has rejected Pakistan's account. Dassault Aviation CEO Eric Trappier called the claim that three Indian Rafales had been shot down inaccurate. Indian officials have also disputed Pakistan's version of events.

In August 2025, Indian Air Force chief, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said Indian forces had downed at least five Pakistani

fighter jets and one large military aircraft during Operation Sindoor.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) floated a tender in June this year seeking bridge support for all 36 Rafale fighter jets India bought from France. This too contradicts Pakistan's claims.

WHY BANGLADESH WANTS THE CHINESE J-10CE

The J-10CE is the export version of China's J-10C, a single-engine, single-seat multirole fighter operated by the People's Liberation Army Air Force. Pakistan is currently the only confirmed foreign operator of the export variant, making Bangladesh's proposed purchase potentially significant for China's fighter-jet export ambitions.

For Dhaka, the purchase is part of a broader effort to upgrade its ageing air force and strengthen national air defence. Bangladesh currently operates a large number of Chinese-origin aircraft, including F-7 fighter jets, and China remains its biggest defence supplier.

The procurement process began under the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus in 2025. The initial estimate was around \$60 million per aircraft, with Bangladesh's Ministry of Finance later giving in-principle approval to a \$2.2-billion proposal for 20 jets. The latest proposal has raised the aircraft price to \$62.7 million each, while the overall package has climbed to \$2.302 billion.

Pak slams interview with Imran's sons during cricket match

AUGUST 28, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) made a formal complaint to Sky Sports after it aired an interview with the sons of former Prime Minister and World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan during the lunch interval of the second Test against England at Lord's.

As per Cricinfo, PCB is considering the option of Pakistan players not taking to the field after the break as a mark of protest. Former England cricketer and Sky broadcaster Michael Atherton did the interview. During the interview, Imran's sons, Suleiman and Kasim Khan, expressed their fears and concerns over their father's health and life, as he has been in prison for three years.

The PCB is understood to have got in touch with Sky ahead of the lunch break to protest and threatened that players would not return to the field post-lunch if the interview was aired. While Sky initially delayed the interview, it ran the 18-minute footage anyway. By the time it ended, Pakistan



players were preparing to make it to the field for the post-lunch session at 2:40 PM local time.

Atherton conducted the interview on Wednesday at the Lord's Writers' Room, with the broadcaster running a teaser ahead of the Test match. In Pakistan, the match's broadcaster, PTV, did not show the interview.

Imran's health has been a topic of massive scrutiny in Pakistan over the last few weeks, with his sons demanding proper health care for the legendary cricketer and former PM. Last week, the country's Supreme Court ordered that he be shifted to Islamabad's Shifa Hospital. But he was

taken to state-run PIMS and returned to prison just after his check-up. His sisters and sons have made serious allegations about the court order violation, demanding that Imran be allowed to see his personal doctor.

Twenty-two former international cricket captains have written another letter to Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, renewing their appeal for medical treatment of former ODI World Cup-winning captain Imran Khan following recent developments that they say fall short of a Supreme Court directive, according to Cricinfo.

The letter was signed by Michael Atherton, Alex Blackwell, Allan Border, Michael Brearley, Greg Chappell, Ian Chappell, Belinda Clark, Alastair Cook, Michael Gattling, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Lee Germon, Adam Gilchrist, David Gower, Kim Hughes, Nasser Hussain, Clive Lloyd, Arjuna Ranatunga, Andrew Strauss, Dilip Vengsarkar, Steve Waugh and John Wright. It was a follow-up to a previous letter 14 captains had written back in February, which received no reply from the Pakistan government.

Fresh-faced again: Gentle home remedies for removing heavy makeup

A glamorous evening may end with compliments, photographs and memories—but it should also end with one essential ritual: taking off your makeup. While foundation and blush may disappear with an ordinary face wash, waterproof mascara, long-stay lipstick, matte foundation and transfer-proof eyeliner can be far more difficult to remove. From natural oils and milk to soothing aloe vera, these simple remedies can turn makeup removal into a calming skincare ritual.

The Golden Rule: Don't Scrub

Before reaching for any remedy, remember one basic rule: stubborn makeup needs to be dissolved or softened before it is wiped away.

Aggressively rubbing waterproof mascara or long-lasting lipstick can cause redness, dryness and irritation. Instead, apply your chosen cleanser or natural ingredient, allow it to sit briefly, and gently wipe away the makeup with a soft cotton pad or clean cloth.

The goal is to be gentle—especially around the eyes and lips.

Coconut Oil: A Natural Makeup Melter

Coconut oil is one of the most popular natural options for removing heavy makeup. Its oily texture can help break down oil-based and long-wearing cosmetic products, making it particularly useful for stubborn lipstick, foundation and eye makeup.

Take a small amount of coconut oil and warm it lightly between your fingertips. Massage it gently over dry skin, paying attention to areas where makeup has built up. Use a soft cotton pad or damp cloth to wipe away the loosened makeup, and then cleanse your face with a



mild face wash.

Those with acne-prone or easily congested skin may prefer to use coconut oil cautiously, as heavier oils may not suit every skin type.

Olive Oil for Long-Wear Makeup

Olive oil can also be used as a simple makeup remover, particularly when dealing with dry or mature skin. Its rich texture helps loosen foundation, lipstick and other products that cling to the skin. Apply a few drops to your palms and massage gently across the face. For eye makeup, use only a small amount and avoid getting the oil directly into the eyes. Wipe gently with a soft cotton pad and follow with a mild cleanser.

The double-cleansing step is important because it helps remove both the makeup and any oily residue left behind.

Milk: An Old-Fashioned Cleansing Trick

Milk has long been used in traditional beauty routines as a gentle cleansing ingredient. Cold milk can be applied to a cotton pad and used to wipe away light to medium makeup. For heavier makeup, milk alone may not be

enough, but it can still be used as a soothing first step after removing most cosmetics with a suitable cleanser. Dip a clean cotton pad in cool milk, squeeze out the excess and gently wipe the skin. Rinse afterwards with lukewarm water.

If you are sensitive to dairy products or experience irritation, it is best to avoid this remedy.

Aloe Vera and Oil: A Soothing Combination

Aloe vera is known for its refreshing, soothing texture, but it may work better for makeup removal when combined with a small amount of a skin-compatible oil.

Mix a little pure aloe vera gel with a few drops of a gentle oil. Apply the mixture to the face and massage lightly to loosen makeup. Wipe away with a soft cloth or cotton pad and rinse.

This method can feel particularly comforting after wearing makeup for long hours, especially when the skin feels dry or tired.

Choose a simple, fragrance-free aloe vera gel whenever possible, particularly if you have sensitive skin.

FOOD CORNER

Chilli Garlic Noodles



Ingredients

Noodles - 1/2 cup, cooked, Onions - 1/2 cup, chopped, Carrot - 1/2 cup, grated, Ginger Garlic Paste - 1 tbsp, Chilli Paste - 1/2 tbsp, Coriander Leaves - handful, chopped, Oil - 2 tbsp, Salt - as per taste

Method

- Heat oil in a pan over moderate flame.
- Add the onions, carrot, ginger garlic paste, salt and chilli paste.
- Stir to mix well.
- Add the noodles and mix well to combine all ingredients.
- Garnish with coriander leaves.
- Serve warm.

Kale Pakoda Chaat

Ingredients

Kale leaf 400gms, Mint chutney 50gms, Saunth chutney 50gms, Yoghurt 50gms, Sugar syrup 20 ml, Red chili powder 5 gms, Chat masala 5gms, Besan (Chickpea flour) 100gms, Rice flour 50gms, Corn flour 25gms, Salt to taste, Pomegranate seeds 20gms, Sev 10gms, Green coriander to garnish, Ajwain 5gms, Turmeric powder 5gms, Refined oil for fry

Method

- Batter - Add besan, rice flour and corn flour in a bowl and mix well. After mixing, add salt, turmeric powder, red chilli powder and ajwain. Add water and make a smooth batter of the mixture.
- Blanch the kale leaves, cool it in ice water and then dry with paper towel. Heat oil in a frying pan. Fry the leaves with batter till it become crispy and golden brown. Mix yogurt with sugar syrup, to make the yogurt sweet.
- Chaat - Keep the fried kale leaves in a serving plate. Pour mint chutney, tamarind chutney and sweet yoghurt on top. Sprinkle chaat masala.



Too good to be true? How to recognise a catfish online

The digital world has made it easier than ever to meet new people, build friendships and even find love. Here are some warning signs that suggest it may be time to take a closer look at the person behind the screen.

They Always Avoid Video or Phone Calls

You may have been chatting for weeks or even months, but whenever you suggest a phone conversation or video call, there is always an excuse.

Their camera is supposedly broken. They may claim they are too busy, surrounded by family members or experiencing technical problems. While occasional difficulties can happen to anyone, repeated excuses and a complete refusal to verify their identity should raise concerns.

They Ask You for Money

One of the biggest red flags is a request for money from someone you have never met in person. The

request may come suddenly, or it may be carefully woven into an emotional story. They may claim to be facing a medical emergency, a financial crisis, a travel problem or some other unexpected difficulty.

Their Life Story Sounds Too Perfect—or Too Dramatic

Catfishers often create an idealised version of themselves. They may appear extraordinarily successful, attractive, romantic or emotionally perfect. Everything they say may seem designed to make you admire them or become emotionally attached.

Their Photos Look Suspiciously Professional

A profile filled only with flawless, studio-quality photographs can also be a warning sign, particularly if the person is unable or unwilling to share a casual, spontaneous picture when asked.

The images may have been taken from another person's social media account or elsewhere online.

Everyday habits that may be affecting your gut health

The gut is influenced by far more than what a person eats. Everyday behaviours, including how they eat, when they drink water, how often they snack and whether they respond to the body's natural signals, may also shape digestive health. Some of these habits can seem harmless because their effects aren't always immediate, making it hard to know when they may be contributing to digestive problems.

Dr Saurabh Sethi, a California-based gastroenterologist, recently highlighted eight habits he believes people should watch. In an Instagram post, he discussed behaviours ranging from eating while scrolling and skipping breakfast to frequently snacking, delaying bowel movements, and eating close to bedtime.

On breakfast and intermittent fasting, Dr Sethi said, "Random skipping spikes cortisol and kills gut motility by noon. That's not fasting. That's stress," while on ending meals with something sweet, he warned, "You're literally feeding the wrong gut bacteria. They grow. They win. They demand more sugar tomorrow."

He also cautioned against casually taking ibuprofen and other NSAIDs, stating, "NSAIDs (nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) silently erode your gut lining. No pain. No warning. Just damage – until there is." On hydration, he said, "Your gut and kidneys need it all day. Night-loading does almost nothing." He further warned that repeatedly ignoring the urge to use the toilet could have consequences: "Every time you delay, your gut learns to stop signalling. Do this enough, and chronic constipation is the result."

According to Dr Sethi, constant snacking may also interfere with normal digestive processes because "Your gut has a self-cleaning cycle. It only runs when you're not eating. You're cancelling it every day." He similarly cautioned against eating within an hour of going to bed, saying, "Food in the way shuts the whole process down." Another habit he highlighted was eating while scrolling, which he said could cause people to miss their body's fullness signals and "end up eating 30 percent more food every single time."



While these claims may sound concerning, the effects of individual habits can vary from person to person, and some may require more nuance than social-media advice suggests. An expert can help separate established evidence from oversimplifications and explain which behaviours genuinely matter for gut health.

Kanikka Malhotra, Consultant Dietician & Diabetes Educator, tells indianexpress.com, "Among the eight habits, frequent NSAID use, delaying bowel movements, and eating close to bedtime have the strongest scientific backing. Regular use of painkillers like ibuprofen is well documented to damage the stomach lining and disrupt gut bacteria. Repeatedly ignoring the urge to pass stool can weaken the natural signalling between the bowel and brain over time, contributing to chronic constipation. Eating right before lying down encourages acid reflux by giving the stomach less time to empty."

She adds that habits like distracted eating, sweet cravings after meals and constant snacking do affect digestion, but their impact is more gradual and adds up over time rather than causing immediate harm. "Drinking most water at night is often overstated as a major gut issue. It is more relevant to sleep quality due to frequent urination than to gut health itself."

Source: Indian Express

H1N1 rise: Children, elderly people at most risk, warn doctors

As H1N1 cases rise in the national capital, doctors and health experts have pointed out that children, elderly people, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses are the most vulnerable to severe infection.

Delhi has recorded over 2,300 Influenza-A cases this year, including more than 1,777 H1N1 cases till Friday, with 114 H1N1 cases reported on Thursday alone, according to health department data.

"The rise in H1N1 cases has brought preventive vaccination back into the conversation," said Dr Bharat Gopal, senior director, respiratory and sleep medicine, Medanta Mediclinic, Defence Colony and Medanta-The Medicity.

More people have been enquiring about seasonal influenza vaccination, particularly high-risk individuals and families with children or elderly members, he said.



Dr Bibhu Anand, physician at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "The swine flu test is easily available in almost all hospitals and diagnostic centres."

Dr Anand also said that multiplex PCR testing can be done only at restricted laboratories and the decision to test should be based on the patient's symptoms, clinical presentation and the treating physician's assessment.

The increase in cases is being reflected in the number of patients seeking medical consultation at

hospitals across Delhi-NCR.

The latest figures show a sharp year-on-year rise in H1N1 infections. Delhi recorded 1,777 cases till August 20, against 229 during the corresponding period last year, representing an increase of more than six times, Dr Gopal said. Commonly reported symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, headache, body ache, chills, fatigue, runny nose and nasal congestion. Some patients, particularly children, may also experience nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.

Doctors said most patients with uncomplicated influenza can be treated on an outpatient basis and do not require hospitalisation. Admission is generally considered when patients develop pneumonia, breathing difficulties, reduced oxygen saturation, persistent high fever or worsening of an existing medical condition.

Clean, sanitise or disinfect? Know what your home actually needs

You have wiped the kitchen counter, cleaned the dining table and sprayed something on the bathroom tap. But was the surface cleaned, sanitised or disinfected? They may sound like three ways of saying the same thing, but they are not.

Here's the thing: for most healthy households, routine cleaning is enough for day-to-day home care. Disinfection becomes more important when someone in the household is sick, when there has been a specific contamination event, or when someone at home has a weakened immune system and faces a higher risk of infection. According to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), cleaning with soap, detergent, and water removes most germs and impurities from household surfaces. In most situations, that is enough, and sanitising and disinfecting are additional steps used for different purposes. So, what is the actual difference? Think of it this way: you have just chopped raw chicken on the kitchen counter, and before reaching for a sanitising or disinfecting spray, the visible residue needs to go. Cleaning physically removes dirt, food particles and many germs from a surface. You scrub, wash or wipe them away using soap, detergent and water. It does not necessarily kill every germ, but it reduces the number of germs that can potentially spread, and that is exactly why cleaning comes first.

The CDC says dirt and other impurities can make it more difficult for sanitise or disinfect chemicals to reach and kill germs. So spraying a disinfectant directly onto a greasy or visibly dirty counter and immediately wiping it off may not do what you think it does. Clean first, and then decide what the surface actually needs.

Here is where the confusion begins. Sanitising reduces bacteria on surfaces to levels that are generally considered safe under public health standards, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Surface sanitisers are not intended to kill viruses. Disinfectants, on the other hand, are tested to kill both bacteria and viruses on hard surfaces, and are subject to more rigorous effectiveness testing than sanitisers.

Now, that does not mean disinfecting is automatically better, since it depends on the situation. For example, the CDC says sanitising may be useful for food-contact surfaces after they have been cleaned, especially if they have been contaminated by raw meat, poultry or their juices. Certain objects that go into a baby's mouth, such as infant feeding items, may also need to be sanitised using an appropriate method. Disinfecting becomes more relevant when someone at home is sick or when a person in the household has a weakened immune system and is at a higher risk of infection. For example, if your kitchen counter is dirty after dinner, clean it first. On the other hand, if someone in the house has been sick and has touched the bathroom tap and flushed the handle repeatedly, clean the surfaces first, then disinfect the high-touch areas using a product suitable for that purpose. That's the main difference.

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Nasa prepares for post-ISS era as commercial space stations reshape astronaut training

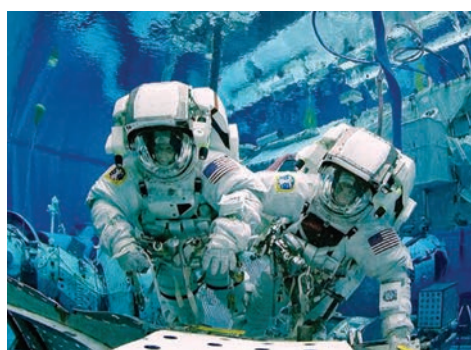
Nasa's Johnson Space Center is preparing to shift from supporting a largely government-led space station programme to working alongside private operators as the International Space Station (ISS) approaches retirement.

The ISS is expected to remain in operation until around 2030, although Nasa officials have said the station could continue flying longer if directed by Congress. At the same time, Nasa is working with private companies to develop commercial destinations in low Earth orbit, which requires the agency to rethink how it will use its astronaut training facilities and operational expertise in the future.

Nasa's Commercial LEO Destinations (CLD) programme intends to have private space stations ready around the time the ISS retires. In 2021, the agency awarded early-stage contracts worth about \$415 million to three teams led by Nanoracks, Blue Origin, and Northrop Grumman. Northrop Grumman later joined Voyager Space's Starlab effort rather than continuing as an independent CLD station developer.

Companies such as Vast Space are also developing their own station modules, while other commercial groups are working on future orbital destinations.

The transition to commercial stations does not mean the American space



agency will step away from human spaceflight operations. Instead, it expects to provide expertise and support to companies that operate future orbital facilities.

Nasa's Mission Control at Johnson Space Center remains a key example of this expertise. The facility contains dedicated control rooms for different missions, including operations linked to the ISS, Artemis, and Boeing's Starliner. The ISS control room continues to monitor astronauts, spacecraft systems, and communications as crews work aboard the station.

Flight director Diane Dailey said future mission control centres will require specialists responsible for areas such as propulsion, communications, and computers. Nasa already has experience across these disciplines, which could help shape how responsibilities are divided between the

agency and private operators.

The Space Vehicle Mockup Facility, known as Building 9, is another important part of this transition. The facility is increasingly being used not only for Nasa missions but also by commercial spaceflight companies. Astronauts train for emergencies such as fires and medical situations, including performing procedures in microgravity where even something as basic as CPR becomes more difficult.

The facility has also housed hardware from companies including SpaceX and Blue Origin, along with a mock-up associated with the Starlab Space consortium. As Nasa plans to become a customer of future commercial stations, officials expect more private-sector hardware and training activities to move into facilities such as Building 9.

One of JSC's most recognisable facilities is the Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory (NBL), where astronauts practise spacewalks underwater while wearing specially adapted spacesuits.

The facility contains mock-ups of ISS modules and spacecraft, allowing astronauts and support teams to rehearse operations and emergencies. Training can include scenarios such as spacecraft landing in different positions in the water, helping crews learn how to enter and exit vehicles safely during recovery operations.



Need to be an absolute success: Why China postponed Chang'e-7 Moon launch by a year

China's ambitious Chang'e-7 mission was ready for launch. The spacecraft had been rolled out to the launch pad atop a powerful Long March 5 rocket, with liftoff planned for Monday morning. Yet, just before launch, China postponed the mission by an entire year.

The reason highlights one of the most difficult realities of lunar exploration: being ready to launch is not enough. You also need the Moon, the weather and orbital mechanics to cooperate.

Chang'e-7 is headed for one of the most extreme locations in the Solar System, the Moon's south pole.

Its primary objective is to investigate permanently shadowed regions where water ice may have survived for billions of years. But reaching and landing near these regions requires an extremely precise trajectory.

The immediate problem was weather around the Wenchang Space Launch Site in southern China. Unfavourable atmospheric conditions can pose risks during the ascent of a heavy-lift Long March 5 rocket.

Strong winds, thunderstorms and other adverse conditions can force a launch scrub even when the rocket and spacecraft are technically ready.

However, the bigger challenge was the launch window.

Unlike missions heading into Earth orbit, Chang'e-7 cannot simply launch on any convenient day after the weather improves. The spacecraft's journey to the Moon and its eventual landing must be timed to ensure the correct lighting conditions at its intended landing site.

The lunar south pole is particularly challenging because sunlight arrives at extremely low angles. The mission must ensure that its lander has sufficient illumination for solar power while also allowing instruments to investigate nearby permanently shadowed areas believed to contain water ice.

A delay of even a few days can therefore disrupt the carefully planned sequence of Earth departure, lunar arrival and landing conditions. Missing the optimum window may mean waiting for another suitable combination of orbital geometry and illumination.

WhatsApp now lets you set a stronger password to stop others from stealing your account

WhatsApp is bringing upgrades to its account security. The messaging app is replacing the familiar six-digit two-step verification PIN with a full alphanumeric or special-character password, giving users another layer of protection against account takeovers.

In a blog post, the company announced the change, where it revealed three new security features. Alongside the new account password, WhatsApp is also expanding passkey support and adding more information about unknown callers on Android.

Until now, WhatsApp's two-step verification has relied on a six-digit PIN. The new system lets users create a longer password instead, with support for letters and numbers. WhatsApp says the change is designed to make the extra security layer harder to guess.

Users can find the option by heading to Settings and then to Account. If the feature has reached their account, they



can set up the new password from the dedicated two-step verification settings.

The password requirement is also more flexible than the old PIN. According to the information currently available, users need to create a password with at least eight characters, including at least one letter and one number.

The idea is pretty simple: a six-digit numeric PIN has a relatively small

number of possible combinations, and users can sometimes pick predictable numbers. A longer password gives attackers a much harder target.

However, the new password does not replace WhatsApp's SMS verification code. Users will still need to verify their phone number using the one-time code sent by WhatsApp, with the account password providing an additional layer of protection.

WhatsApp is rolling out the account password feature gradually on Android and iOS, so it may not appear for everyone immediately. If you don't see the option yet, you'll likely have to wait for the rollout to reach your account.

Meanwhile, WhatsApp says more than 1 billion people now use passkeys to secure their accounts. The company is also adding extra context for calls from unknown numbers on Android, including information such as whether the caller is from another country or shares a group with you.

Piyush Goyal pitches for India growth opportunities to Japanese firms

AUGUST 28, 2026

TOKYO (TIP): Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said that he highlighted India's growing investment and business opportunities across trade, mobility, industrial, banking and insurance sectors during discussions with top Japanese business and financial leaders.

On the third day of his Japan visit, Goyal met senior executives from Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) Group, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) and Nippon Life Insurance, according to posts by the minister on X.

In his meeting with Toshimitsu Imai, President and CEO of Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Goyal discussed opportunities for the company to deepen its engagement in India across trade, mobility and industrial sectors.

The discussions focused on leveraging India's cost competitiveness and strengthening the country's role as a global export hub, particularly for emerging markets, Goyal said.

In addition, the minister met with Yoshihiro Hyakutome, Deputy President Executive Officer at SMBC Group and discussed opportunities to deepen India-Japan financial ties, including greater investment and cooperation in the banking sector.

Goyal also discussed with Yasushi Itagaki, Deputy Chairman of MUFG, along with other senior officials, strengthening India-Japan cooperation in banking, commercial finance and



investment.

"India's dynamic financial sector continues to offer significant scope for deeper partnerships with Japan's leading financial institutions," the minister said on X.

Additionally, in his meeting with Minoru Kimura, Managing Executive Officer and Head of Global Business at Nippon Life Insurance, the minister discussed opportunities for greater India-

Japan cooperation in insurance and financial services.

Goyal said India's expanding insurance market presents significant potential for greater collaboration.

The discussions with the Japanese companies come as India seeks to deepen economic and investment ties with Japan and attract greater participation from the firms and financial institutions across key sectors for Indian economy.

Air India turns to Tata, Singapore Airlines for \$1.5 billion as losses mount: Report

Air India is seeking about \$1.5 billion in fresh equity from its owners Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, months after the second-largest Indian airline posted a record annual loss, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters.

It would be one of Air India's largest publicly reported requests for shareholder funding since Tata took control of the former state-owned carrier in 2022. It highlights the challenges facing the airline as it undergoes a multi-billion-dollar revamp, including the refurbishment of its existing fleet.

The carrier and its budget unit Air India Express posted combined losses of \$2.33 billion in the fiscal year ended March, more than double the prior year's losses. The losses have also weighed on Singapore Airlines' profits.

"Air India wants the funds immediately, though the infusion is likely to happen in tranches. Singapore Airlines would need to contribute its share of the proposed infusion for the investment to go through," one of the sources said.

It is seeking the funding in the form of fresh equity, the two people said. Discussions are ongoing and no decision has been taken on the request, they added, declining to be named as they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

Air India and Tata Sons did not respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Singapore Airlines, which owns around 25 per cent of Air India, said it was working closely with Tata Sons to support Air India's transformation programme, but declined to comment on the airline's finances.

Air India has also been hit by Pakistan's airspace ban on Indian carriers, disruptions to its international network from the US-Israeli war with Iran and the fallout from a deadly crash last year that killed 260 people.

Its funding request comes as Tata Sons Chair N. Chandrasekaran prepares to step down in February following months of disagreements with the group's controlling charitable trust, partly over Air India's losses.

Chandrasekaran has said Air India's turnaround could take up to a decade, citing persistent supply-chain disruptions and the need to overhaul the airline's legacy systems, culture and fleet.



We made a chip and it is fast, Sam Altman says after OpenAI takes on Nvidia with first AI chip

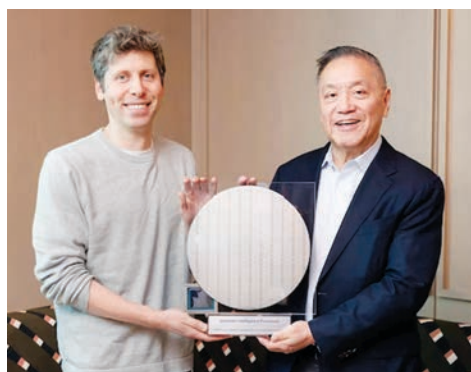
AUGUST 27, 2026

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): OpenAI is moving beyond building AI models. The company is now designing and manufacturing the hardware that runs them too, and its latest effort is called Jalapeo, a custom chip built specifically for running AI models in collaboration with Broadcom.

In a blog post, OpenAI said the chip is designed to deliver more AI work while using less power and reducing response times. The company tested it with models including GPT-OSS 120B, DeepSeek R1 and Kimi K2.5 1T.

OpenAI said the chip addresses a common challenge in AI hardware: achieving high performance without increasing latency. "Jalapeo is designed to deliver high performance and low latency at the same time," the company said.

The keyword here is inference. In simple terms, inference is what happens when a trained AI model processes a request and generates an answer. Every



time you ask ChatGPT a question or use an AI coding agent, inference is taking place.

Jalapeo is designed specifically for this task. OpenAI developed it with Broadcom, while Celestica worked on the boards, rack systems and production hardware. OpenAI said the chip was designed around the way its AI models operate.

"By co-designing the chip, software, memory, networking and serving systems around our models, we can improve

performance and efficiency across the entire stack," the company said.

OpenAI said Jalapeo delivered 1.5 to 1.9 times more AI work per watt than the comparison systems across the three tested models. It also recorded 1.7 to 3.6 times lower end-to-end latency. For highly interactive workloads, the company said performance was up to 4.1 times higher.

In practical terms, OpenAI wants Jalapeo to process more requests without using as much electricity, while also reducing the time users wait for responses. For AI systems handling millions of requests, even modest efficiency improvements can lead to significant savings.

Jalapeo is part of OpenAI's broader push to control more of the technology stack behind its AI. Instead of designing models and then simply relying on third-party hardware to run them, OpenAI wants to optimise the chip, software, memory, networking and serving systems together.

Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 3

AUGUST 28

Bhai Daya Singh Ji was born



August 28 is observed as the birth anniversary of Bhai Daya Singh Ji, remembered as the first of the Panj Pyare. Born as Daya Ram in Lahore, he answered Guru Gobind Singh Ji's historic call for a devoted Sikh at Anandpur Sahib in 1699 and became one of the Five Beloved Ones who were initiated into the Khalsa.

The Anandpur Sahib Resolution

The date is also associated with the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, a landmark document in modern Sikh political history. The resolution was adopted by the Shiromani Akali Dal in 1973 and was subsequently endorsed by the party's General House in 1977. It articulated demands relating to greater autonomy for states, Punjab's interests and Sikh political aspirations.

Jor Mela at Baba Bakala

In the 2026 Nanakshahi calendar, August 28 is also marked for the Jor Mela at Baba Bakala, associated with the historic traditions of the town and its enduring place in Sikh religious memory.

AUGUST 29

Completion of Sri Guru Granth Sahib commemorated



According to the SGPC's historical calendar for the corresponding traditional dates, this period is associated with the completion of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, one of the defining milestones in Sikh history. The compilation undertaken under Guru Arjan Dev Ji gave the Sikh community its central sacred scripture, preserving the hymns of the Sikh Gurus alongside the spiritual compositions of Bhagats and saints.

The Jaito episode of 1923

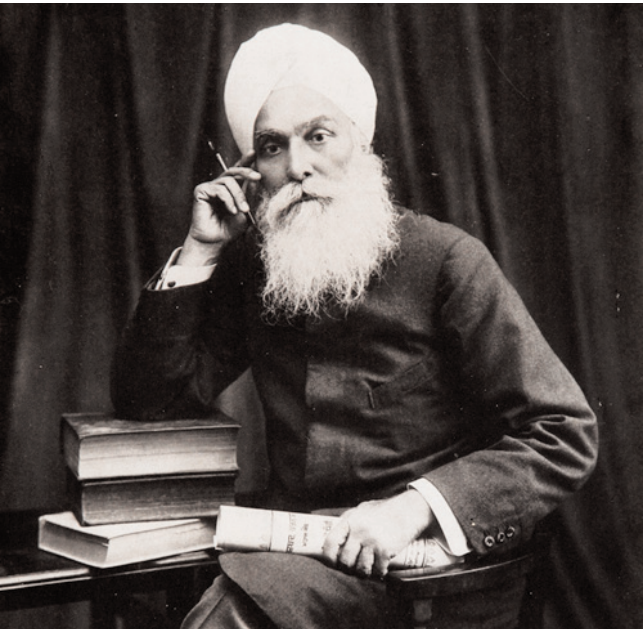
August 29 is also remembered in accounts of the Jaito Morcha, one of the major struggles of the Gurdwara Reform Movement. The events surrounding the interruption of an Akhand Path at Gurdwara Gangsar became a powerful symbol of Sikh resistance and helped turn Jaito into an important centre of the Akali

movement.

AUGUST 30

Sampurnata Divas of Sri Guru Granth Sahib

August 30 is marked in the 2026 Sikh calendar as Sampurnata Divas, commemorating the completion of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The compilation of the Adi Granth under Guru Arjan Dev Ji was a monumental achievement, providing Sikhism with a carefully preserved spiritual and theological foundation.



Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha was born

The renowned Sikh scholar Bhai Kahn Singh Nabha was born on August 30, 1861. He is best remembered for his monumental encyclopaedic work, Mahan Kosh, which remains one of the most important reference works on Sikh history, language, literature and tradition.

The death of Kanwar Peshaura Singh



August 30, 1845, is associated with the murder of Kanwar Peshaura Singh, a son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. His death came during a period of political instability in the Sikh Empire following the Maharaja's death and reflected the intense succession struggles that weakened the Lahore Darbar in the years preceding the Anglo-Sikh Wars.

AUGUST 31

The Babbar Akali encounter at Babeli

On August 31, 1923, an encounter took place between the Babbar Akalis and the police at Babeli village. The Babbar Akali movement emerged during the turbulent years of the Gurdwara Reform Movement and

represented a militant response to British colonial rule. Several Babbar Akalis were killed in the encounter.

Baba Kharak Singh and Sikh political assertion

August 31, 1930, is associated with an important episode involving Baba Kharak Singh, one of the leading figures of the Akali movement. During an SGPC meeting, he strongly asserted the need to safeguard Sikh political identity and interests during the wider nationalist movement.

SEPTEMBER 1

The first Jatha for the Jaito Morcha

On September 1, 1923, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee sent a special Jatha of 25 Sikhs to Gurdwara Gangsar at Jaito to begin an Akhand Path. The action formed part of the wider Jaito Morcha and became an important chapter in the Sikh struggle for control and management of gurdwaras and religious institutions.

SEPTEMBER 2

The 1984 World Sikh Convention

On September 2, 1984, a major Sikh gathering was held in Amritsar in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star. The convention reflected the deep anger, grief and political turmoil within the Sikh community following the military operation at the Golden Temple complex earlier that year.

SEPTEMBER 3

Bhai Dharam Singh Ji of the Panj Pyare

September 3 is associated in Sikh historical calendars with the birth of Bhai Dharam Singh Ji, one of the Panj Pyare. He answered Guru Gobind Singh Ji's call at the Vaisakhi gathering of 1699 and became part of the historic group through whom the Khalsa was inaugurated.

Banda Singh Bahadur begins his mission towards Punjab

The date is also associated with Banda Singh Bahadur's journey towards Punjab in 1708, following his meeting with Guru Gobind Singh Ji at Nanded. Banda Singh Bahadur went on to lead a remarkable military and political campaign against Mughal authority, capturing territories and establishing Sikh rule in parts of Punjab. His campaigns marked a major turning point in the emergence of Sikh political power



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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, you will not be able to make any necessary decisions. So you have to remember that a lot rests on your shoulders and you need to make the right and clear decision on time, thinking about it. In the middle of this week, with the transit of the Moon through the tenth house, you can plan to take some kind of loan or loan to expand your business. Although at this time you will also be able to get a loan from a bank or any other institution, while doing money-related transactions, you are going to need to be very careful from the beginning. This week, the sudden arrival of guests at home will bring positivity to the family environment. Due to this, you will get the opportunity to spend more time than usual at home and have fun with the members. As a result, you will also get success in getting over many situations in the house, and together with the members, you will be able to solve many problems related to the house. Will be seen taking the right decisions to overcome. This week, as Saturn is transiting in the tenth, things in your field of work will indeed seem to be moving for the better. In such a situation, the small people and workers whose hard work is involved in this success will need to pray and salute them at this time. Because this will give them positive encouragement, as well as you, at this time. Those people of this zodiac who were willing to go abroad for studies will have to make more efforts this week. Because it is possible that, due to the lack of any document, you may be disappointed. In such a situation, try not to let him go from your hand, making continuous efforts, till the next opportunity.

TAURUS



Ganesha says you will feel mental turmoil and trouble this week as work pressure increases at the workplace. This week, the elders of the house will try to convince you that if you feel that your money is being spent in vain, then you need to make a right and effective budget plan. But being in the second position on Mars, you can ignore their words in front of your ego, which will harm you in the future. You are likely to meet many big people in society this week. In such a situation, take proper advantage of this opportunity; you will have to make efforts for it yourself. Because in the middle of time, the moon will be in the tenth house. In such a situation, this meeting will work to get you to respect the family, along with the position and prestige in society. Those who are doing business in the partnership are advised that they may need to keep things clear or plan an exit strategy in case something goes wrong

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 31, 2026 TO SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

during this period, as this week will be more fruitful for the partnership. It will be proved when you yourself are seen making efforts for expansion in business. This week, you will have to maintain good relations with your teachers because there is a possibility that they will be happy with you and their influence will work in your interest in the field of education. Many students are also getting chances to get scholarships from their school or college during this period.

GEMINI



Ganesha says due to the sight of the Moon on the Ascendant this week, negative thoughts will dominate your mind in the initial period. Because of this, even if something good happens to you, you will still be seen looking at it negatively. As a result, you may deprive yourself of many good and profitable opportunities. To improve your nature. For this, you can also take the help of yoga and meditation. In the middle of this week, as soon as the Moon transits into the house of fortune, you will continue to gain money through many mediums. In such a situation, at the beginning of this week itself, you are advised to make a good plan and plan in your financial life. By doing this, you will be able to save your money to a great extent, as well as save it. The sudden arrival of guests is possible at home this week. Due to this, there will be peace in the family environment. During this time, you will get a chance to eat delicious food at home, as well as spend most of your evening with the guests. On the other hand, by entering the tenth house of the Moon in the last quarter, you will get full praise and support from your superiors and higher officials. Apart from this, the journeys made by you make will also bring you a lot of benefits during this period. Because the effect of many auspicious planets in your horoscope is visible in your interests. This week, many students may have the desire to go abroad and pursue further studies. However, before talking to your family members about your wish, you will first need to make sure of yourself in every way. Trying towards this, gather all kinds of information about this.

CANCER



Ganesha says in terms of health, during this time period, you can overcome many of your problems by doing pranayama. In such a situation, instead of spending your energy on many things this week, focus only on those things that are necessary. This week, you will achieve success in whatever efforts you make to save money. Because Mars will be in the twelfth house. This may make you a little nervous, but you also need to understand that adversity is not permanent. In the middle of this week, your knowledge of the full sight of the Moon on the Ascendant will affect the people around you. Especially this week, you will also be able to attract a person of the opposite sex near your house due to your good nature. In terms of travel related to work, this week will prove to bring

auspicious results for you. Because these trips will give you new opportunities. Apart from this, for those people who belong to the field of import and export, the end of the week will also increase the chances of getting money from a trip. Because during this time the moon will be in your luck, i.e. ninth house. Due to the normalization of situations in your personal life this week, your mind will be engaged in studies and studies. This will also help you to keep your focus from getting confused, and as a result, you will be seen moving towards success in your examination.

LEO



Ganesha says you can make exercise or yoga a part of your life during this time. Because the favorable movement of many planets and constellations at this time will encourage you to pay special attention to your health. So take good and proper advantage of it. Due to the seventh aspect of Saturn on the twelfth house this week, it will be very important for you that you do not have to spend so much on the people close to you by getting carried away by emotions, due to which you will have to face financial problems later. Therefore, it will be better for you to do your smallest expenditure this week, only and only with proper budget adherence. Because only by this will you be able to save your money to a great extent. At the end of the week in family life, people of this zodiac are expected to get very good results. Because during this period, due to the full vision of the Moon in the second house, there is a possibility that a new or a new guest will arrive in the family, which will bring happiness to the family environment. During this, brotherhood and mutual love will also be clearly visible among the people of the house. In this entire week, you will be able to make great achievements in your professional life. Apart from this, the presence of Mars in your tenth house also shows that you will emerge as hardworking, more productive, and efficient at your workplace, and this diplomatic and tactful behavior of yours will help you to deal with difficult situations easily, as well as get you accolades from senior management. This week is going to be positive for many students who were preparing for government exams. Because during this time, the change of location of many planets will favor the students with luck, and they will achieve full success in every field.

VIRGO



Ganesha says, according to the health horoscope, the first part of this week is going to be a little better from the health point of view. However, as soon as the moon transits into the sixth house in the second part, you will have to pay special attention to some things, such as exercise or yoga in the park when you get the time, and walk regularly for about 30 minutes in the morning and evening. This week, you will most likely need to keep all your investments and all

the plans related to them a secret. Otherwise, someone close to you can cost you money by taking advantage of these schemes of yours. If you are eligible for marriage and your relationship was related somewhere, then due to the retrograde transit of Mars, it is possible that due for some reason, the relationship may either break, or some problems may arise in it. This will also create an atmosphere of anxiety in the family, the biggest effect of which will increase your mental stress. In your professional field, you will have to deal with many obstacles, which will not be an easy task for you to overcome. So, from the beginning of this week, keep yourself calm and face every situation. Only then will you be able to solve something or the other. This week Mercury will be in the second house. In such a situation, you will need that take advantage of the knowledge of your gurus, and not hesitate at all to take their help and cooperation. Because during this time, only their knowledge and experience will help you to understand the subjects, so that you will be able to give a better performance in every future exam.

LIBRA



Ganesha says apart from minor health problems, the chances of getting any major disease will be negligible due to the Moon being in the third house at the beginning of this week. However, in case of any seasonal illness, without self-treatment at home, you are advised not to take medicines without a doctor's advice. The speed with which your income will increase this week, the faster that money will also be visible in your fists easily. However, in the middle of this, as soon as the Moon transits into the fourth house, you will feel happiness throughout this time, so you will not have to face any kind of financial crisis. Family members will have special importance in your life this week. Due to this, you will be seen taking advice from him in many important decisions in his life. Along with this, some of you may also buy jewelry or household items. With Mars in the ninth house this week, you will not get the support of your gurus and elders to advance in your career, but there is a possibility that you may have a difference of opinion with them. This can cause you a lot of trouble this week. Just as education is necessary for a student, sleep is also necessary for a better body. But sleeping too much this week can be detrimental to the health of many students. Because Mercury will be in your ascendant. So keep this in mind from the very beginning.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week, you are advised to take out some time to improve your health along with work. Because this time seems better for your health. Along with this, being in the third house of Saturn this week can increase the workload on you. But you will not allow the pressure of this

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 31 TO SEPTEMBER 6

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

AUGUST 31

Ganesha says that you may have to take out time for yoga, meditation, and especially music or any of your hobbies. Try to vent your anger in the best possible way by acting or communicating better. Today can be beneficial for you. Students' interest in this zodiac sign may increase. Some new responsibilities may come upon you, which you will be able to complete successfully.

SEPTEMBER 1

Ganesha says that today is a very good day for you because, despite being busy with work, you can feel very calm and happy today. Everything in your life today will help you achieve everything you want. If you try to move forward slowly, take care of your health.

SEPTEMBER 2

Ganesha says the day looks wonderful.

You may feel energetic throughout the day, and the flow of positivity may allow you to do some serious work. Your creative ideas can inspire people around you. Have a nice day today. Today, you may learn something new in the office. Today you can plan to visit some beautiful places with your partner.

SEPTEMBER 3

Ganesha says the day is bringing wonderful travel opportunities for you. Today you may meet an old friend who can make you happy; You may get emotional while talking to your friends. You can soon plan to visit some beautiful places with your partner. You may spend some money on holidays, trips, or hobbies, as this can help improve your mental health. Your work life can be great. It is advised to take precautions, eat healthy food, and change your lifestyle.

SEPTEMBER 4

Ganesha says that today you can feel good by having the support of your family and spouse at every step of life. You may plan to buy a new house. You may plan a reunion of all your friends, which may take you back down memory lane. This could be a good day to be successful in your endeavors. You can make every possible effort to move ahead in life. Your strong commitment to getting things done perfectly can work to your advantage.

SEPTEMBER 5

Ganesha says it is a good day. Positive energy can keep you active throughout the day and make you feel good in the first part of the day. If you want to resolve your love or marital issues, this is a good day. Positive developments in your lifestyle can prove beneficial for you. You may find yourself more confident on the professional front after



achieving career or educational goals. You may get some good marriage proposals.

SEPTEMBER 6

Ganesha says you will have a wonderful day. Some wonderful career opportunities may knock at your door, and it may take you some time to make the best decision of your life on the professional front. It's a wonderful day, so you should try to make the most of it. You can expect a great day, as all your business or job issues may get resolved today with the help of a mediator or third party. Your parents may appreciate your presence and shower you with love.

CONTD FROM PAGE 34

field to dominate your mind. If you work wisely, then you can earn extra money this week when the Moon is in the second house. However, for this, you will need to make the right strategy and act accordingly. On the other hand, Mars in the eighth house will cause disturbance in the family environment due to your nature. In such a situation, you may have to try to solve your family issues, taking some time out from your busy work. However, despite this, you will look very worried mentally this whole week due to the tension going on in the family. This week will also prove to bring auspicious results for you in terms of travel related to work. Because Mercury will be in your twelfth house during this time. In such a situation, these trips will give you new opportunities. Apart from this, for those people who belong to the field of import and export, there is also a possibility of getting money from any travel. This week, many students will be under additional pressure from family and relatives regarding their careers. So that they will not be able to devote their mind to education. In such a situation, you will need to understand that if the choice of your career is to be made by you, then you should not make any decision under any kind of pressure. Therefore, understand this thing yourself, and if needed, sit with your family members and talk to them about it.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week, with the full sight of Mercury and Venus together in your sixth house, you may have some problems due to health problems. In such a situation, as always, avoid treating every disease at home and do not waste time by adopting home remedies by mistake. Otherwise, your problem may increase due to delays in getting the right treatment. Then, during the middle of the week, when the Moon will enter the second house from your ascendant, you will need to keep all your investments and all plans related to it secret. Otherwise, someone close to you, taking advantage of you from these

schemes of yours, can cause you to lose money. Due to differences with a very special or close person this week, you may get into trouble. During this time, you will feel completely incapable of expressing your words openly in front of them. Because after the middle of the time, the moon will enter the third house, due to which you will have to deal with an increase in your mental stress. It is not our cleverness to always consider ourselves better, but our ego, due to which we often make mistakes in many important decisions. Due to this, we have to face many fatal consequences, and the same is going to happen to you in your career this week. So being careful will be your only option. All the previous problems in education will be overcome by looking at the sixth house of Mercury this week. With which you will get a good position in the field of your education, and you will get good results from it. Because at this time, your mind will naturally feel inclined towards your education. Seeing this, your family members will also feel proud of you. However, at this time, keep a distance from all those people who can waste most of your time on useless things.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says you may find it difficult to maintain concentration on your work this week. Especially in the initial period when the Moon will enter your own zodiac sign, i.e., your Ascendant. Because during this time, your health will not be completely fine. Due to this, you may also have to take medicine, and due to this, your taste and nature will be more likely to be worse than normal. All property-related transactions done by you in the past are likely to be completed by the end of this week. Because during this period, the moon will transit in your money, i.e., second house, which will benefit you, as well as you will be successful in securing your future to a great extent. You will not get the support of your siblings in the family this week. This can give you a lot of trouble in making many important decisions. Since the Moon will be in your third house at the end, it will be better for

you to keep making efforts to improve your relationship with them. This week, you will need to understand that, if you are absolutely unwilling to reveal your plans to everyone, you are ruining your project. Because it is possible that your opponents also take advantage of your weakness to harm you. The students of your zodiac will get favorable results in every subject due to Mercury being in the karmic house during this period. Especially the time of the middle part is going to prove to be very lucky in the areas of your education. Because at this time your mind will be more engaged in your studies, you will be able to win the hearts of your teachers by doing well.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week, Saturn being in the twelfth house and putting your full vision in the sixth house can make you feel ill. For the last few weeks, the increasing work pressure and cumbersome work at the workplace have made you tired, which will cause you problems now. At the same time, due to the Moon being in the eleventh house at the very beginning, your unnecessary expenses can make your financial condition very bad this whole week. Therefore, while spending money as much as possible, buy only those things that are very necessary. Otherwise, you will have to face adverse results in the future. As soon as the Moon enters the Ascendant in the middle of time, you will be seen doubting the members of the house unnecessarily and taking hasty decisions about their intentions. But you have to refrain from doing so. Because it is possible that they are under some kind of pressure, and they need your sympathy and trust. Any issues going on in the family this week can hamper your career. Because it will see a decrease in your energy, which you are advised to improve by keeping control of time. This week is going to be the best for the students. Because at this time, you will get the fruits of your hard work, and with the grace of many planets, you will get success in every examination.



PISCES

Ganesha says those who go to the gym should avoid lifting excessive weight this week; otherwise, being in the fourth house of Mars can cause strain in your muscles. Apart from this, in terms of your health, time seems to be especially good. At the beginning of this week, the Moon will enter the eleventh house through the tenth house, due to which, whether it is an office or your business at the workplace, any of your carelessness can cause you financial loss. Therefore, avoid doing anything in a hurry and do every task properly. Your participation in social festivals will allow you to come into contact with many influential people in society. In such a situation, try not to let all these opportunities pass by your hands, try to take the best advantage of them. Often, we become egoistic about our ability, due to which we take responsibility for actions more than our capacity on ourselves. You will also be seen doing the same thing at the end of this week, as soon as the Moon enters the Ascendant. With this, instead of doing any one task, you can get yourself stuck badly in every task. This week, students will not need to underestimate their abilities by being influenced by the criticism of others. Because you also understand this thing very well, that it is better to take admission in a professional course than to create unnecessary doubts in your mind and give a good performance, and shut everyone's mouth. So don't bother yourself with the useless talk of others and take the right decision, focusing only on education.

Author Bio

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Raksha Bandhan: The sacred thread that celebrates love, trust and protection

Every year, as the full moon of the Hindu month of Shravan rises in the sky, homes across India come alive with color, sweets, laughter and family gatherings. At the heart of the celebration is a simple yet deeply meaningful ritual: a sister tying a rakhi, or sacred thread, around her brother's wrist. Known as Raksha Bandhan, the festival is among India's most cherished celebrations of familial affection. The words themselves carry a powerful meaning—raksha, or protection, and bandhan, or bond. Together, they represent a relationship built on love, care, trust and the promise of standing by one another.

Yet Raksha Bandhan is much more than a festival between brothers and sisters. Its history, legends and cultural traditions reveal a much wider idea: the sacred bond between people, the responsibility to protect those we love and the enduring belief that a simple thread can carry emotions stronger than words.

A Thread with Ancient Roots

The practice of tying a sacred thread is deeply rooted in the religious and cultural traditions of the Indian subcontinent. In ancient times, threads were tied during rituals as symbols of protection, blessings and good fortune.

The idea of a protective thread appears in several Hindu traditions. Sacred threads were tied around the wrist during religious ceremonies, prayers and important occasions. Such threads were believed to invoke divine protection and strengthen the bond between the person who tied the thread and the person who received it.

Over time, these traditions evolved into the Raksha Bandhan celebration recognised today.

The festival has therefore travelled through centuries, absorbing different legends, customs and regional practices. What began as a ritual associated with protection and sacred bonds gradually became closely identified with the affectionate relationship between brothers and sisters.

The Legend of Krishna and Draupadi

One of the most popular stories associated with Raksha Bandhan comes from the Mahabharata and tells of the bond between Lord Krishna and Draupadi. According to a widely told tradition, Krishna once injured his finger, causing it to bleed. Draupadi immediately tore a piece of cloth from her garment and tied it around his finger to stop the bleeding.

Krishna was deeply touched by her gesture of concern and affection. He is said to have promised that he would always protect her.

The story is often remembered in connection with the episode of



Draupadi's humiliation in the Kaurava court, when Krishna came to her aid.

Although versions of the story vary across traditions and later retellings, the tale has become a powerful symbol of the spirit associated with Raksha Bandhan: an act of love and care creating a lifelong bond of protection.

Yama and Yamuna: A Bond Beyond Time

Another ancient legend associated with the festival tells the story of Yama, the god of death, and his sister Yamuna.

According to the legend, Yamuna repeatedly invited her brother to visit her, but Yama did not come for many years. When he finally visited, Yamuna welcomed him warmly and tied a sacred thread around his wrist.

Touched by her affection, Yama offered her a blessing. Yamuna wished that any brother who received a rakhi from his sister and promised to protect her would be blessed with a long and prosperous life. The story emphasises the affection between siblings and the belief that the sacred thread represents wishes for well-being, happiness and longevity.

Indra and Indrani: The Protective Thread

Another story traces the symbolism of a protective thread to ancient Hindu mythology. According to a tradition mentioned in religious accounts, when

the gods faced a difficult battle against powerful forces, Indrani, the wife of Lord Indra, prepared a sacred thread after performing prayers and tied it around Indra's wrist for protection and victory.

The story reflects an older understanding of the sacred thread as a symbol of spiritual strength and divine protection. It also shows that the concept behind Raksha Bandhan was not originally limited to the relationship between a brother and sister. The protective thread could represent a blessing, a prayer and a promise shared between different individuals.

From Ritual to Family Celebration

Today, Raksha Bandhan is primarily celebrated as a festival honouring the relationship between siblings.

The preparations often begin with the purchase of colourful rakhis, sweets and gifts. Markets are decorated with threads of every possible design—from traditional silk and cotton rakhis to elaborate creations decorated with beads, stones and personalised messages.

On the day of the festival, families gather for the ceremony. A sister prepares a thali, usually containing a rakhi, a small lamp or diya, rice grains, sweets and other items used according to family tradition. She performs an aarti, applies a tilak on her brother's forehead

and ties the rakhi around his wrist.

The brother then offers a gift and traditionally makes a promise to care for and support his sister.

Sweets are shared, photographs are taken and families gather for festive meals. But the most meaningful part of the ceremony is often the simplest: siblings pausing, even briefly, to acknowledge a bond that may otherwise remain unspoken in the rush of everyday life.

A Festival That Has Evolved with Time

Like every living tradition, Raksha Bandhan has changed with society.

The festival is no longer understood only as a promise by a brother to protect a sister. Increasingly, it is celebrated as a relationship of mutual care and responsibility.

Sisters tie rakhis to sisters. Brothers exchange rakhis. Friends celebrate the occasion by tying friendship bands, while children participate in school celebrations that promote affection and unity. The festival has also expanded beyond biological relationships. Cousins, close friends, mentors and even neighbours may participate in the tradition. In some communities, people tie rakhis to soldiers, police personnel and others serving the country as a gesture of gratitude and respect.

Environmental awareness has also influenced modern celebrations, with some people tying symbolic rakhis to trees and using the occasion to promote the protection of nature.

The thread, therefore, continues to acquire new meanings while remaining connected to its central message.

Celebrations Across India

Raksha Bandhan is celebrated in different forms across India, often blending with regional traditions.

In many parts of northern and western India, the brother-sister ritual remains the centre of the celebration. Families travel long distances to be together, while those living abroad send rakhis and gifts across countries.

In Maharashtra and several coastal regions, the day coincides with Narali Purnima, when fishing communities offer coconuts to the sea and mark the beginning of a new season of activity.

In parts of South India, the Shravan full moon is associated with sacred thread ceremonies and religious observances. Brahmins may observe Upakarma, a ritual involving the changing of the sacred thread.

In some regions, the festival also overlaps with local traditions connected to worship, harvest cycles and seasonal changes.

This diversity reflects the richness of Indian festivals: one date on the calendar can hold different meanings for different communities.

History This Week

AUG 29 - SEP 04

AUGUST 29

August 29, 1792 - In one of the worst maritime disasters, 900 men drowned on the British battleship Royal George. As the ship was being repaired, a gust of wind allowed water to flood into open gun ports. The ship sank within minutes.

August 29, 1991 - Following the unsuccessful coup of August 19-21, the Soviet Communist Party was suspended, thus ending the institution that ruled Soviet Russia for nearly 75 years.



Birthday - Physician and author Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894) was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He once wrote, "A moment's insight is sometimes worth a life's experience." His poem Old Ironsides aroused popular sentiment in the 1830's which helped to save the historic frigate USS Constitution from destruction.

Birthday - British philosopher and pioneer in modern political thinking, John Locke (1632-1704) was born in Wrington, England. His ideas greatly influenced American colonists, namely that rulers derive their power only from the consent of the governed - and the doctrine that men naturally possess certain rights, the chief being life, liberty, and property.

AUGUST 30



Birthday - Frankenstein author Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was born in London.

Birthday - Civil rights leader Roy Wilkins (1901-1981) was born in St. Louis, Missouri. The grandson of a Mississippi slave, he was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

AUGUST 31

August 31, 1786 - Shays' Rebellion began in Massachusetts as ex-Revolutionary War Captain Daniel Shays led an armed mob. The rebellion

prevented the Northampton Court from holding a session in which debtors, mostly poor ex-soldier farmers, were to be tried and likely put in prison. Following this, in September, Shays' troops prevented Supreme Court sessions at Springfield, Massachusetts. Early in 1787, they attacked the Federal arsenal at Springfield, but were soon routed and fled. Shays was sentenced to death but was pardoned in 1788.

August 31, 1980 - Solidarity, the Polish trade union, was formed at Gdansk, Poland. Led by Lech Walesa, Solidarity opposed Communist rule and was outlawed in 1981. Seven years later, the re-legalization of Solidarity occurred and the government agreed to hold partially free parliamentary elections. Solidarity candidates scored stunning victories in the elections that followed, gaining power in Poland and paving the way for the downfall of Communism there.



August 31, 1997 - Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River at the Pont de l'Alma bridge, less than a half mile north of the Eiffel Tower. Also killed in the crash were Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul. A fourth person in the car, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, was seriously injured. Time & Calendars

SEPTEMBER 1

September 1, 1715 - The "Sun King" (King Louis XIV of France) died. He had ruled since the age of five and was succeeded by his 5-year-old great-grandson Louis XV.

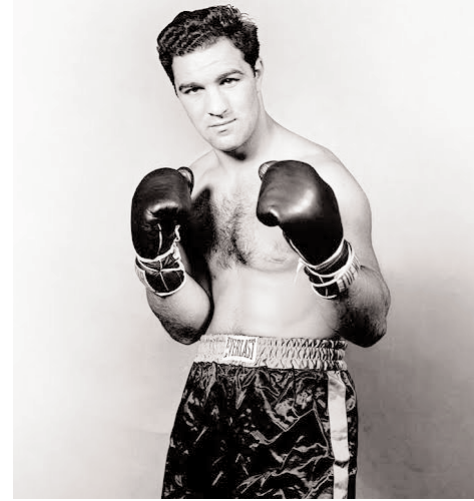
September 1, 1939 - At 5.30 a.m., Hitler's armies invaded Poland starting World War II in Europe.

September 1, 1969 - Military officers overthrew the Libyan government. The Libyan Arab Republic was then proclaimed under Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

September 1, 1983 - Korean Air Lines Flight 007 was shot down by a Russian fighter jet while on route from New York to Seoul, killing all 269 persons on board. The Boeing 747 reportedly strayed 100 miles off course over secret Soviet Russian military installations on the Kamchatka Peninsula and Sakhalin Island. It crashed in the Sea of Japan.

Birthday - Tarzan of the Apes creator Edgar Rice Burroughs (1875-1950) was

born in Chicago. Before becoming a novelist, he was as a correspondent for the Los Angeles Times.



Birthday - Boxing champ Rocky Marciano (1923-1969) was born in Brockton, Massachusetts (as Rocco Francis Marchegiano). He fought Jersey Joe Walcott for the heavyweight title on September 23, 1952, and knocked him out. In 1956, he retired as the only undefeated heavyweight champion. He died in a plane crash in 1969.

SEPTEMBER 2

September 2, 1752 - The British ended their use of the Julian calendar, switching instead to the Gregorian calendar, resulting in a major adjustment as Wednesday, September 2, was followed by Thursday, September 14. The correction resulted in rioting by people who felt cheated and demanded the missing eleven days back.

September 2, 1789 - The third Presidential cabinet department, the U.S. Treasury, was established by Congress.

September 2, 1864 - During the American Civil War, Atlanta was captured by Sherman's Army. "Atlanta is ours, and fairly won," General William T. Sherman telegraphed President Lincoln.

September 2, 1870 - Napoleon III surrendered to the Prussians during the Battle of Sedan, resulting in the fall of the Second French Empire.

September 2, 1923 - The first elections were held in the Irish Free State after achieving independence from Britain.

September 2, 1930 - French aviators Dieudonne Coste and Maurice Bellonte made the first non-stop flight from Europe to the USA.

September 2, 1945 - President Harry Truman declared V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) commemorating the formal Japanese surrender to the Allies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

September 2, 1945 - Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

September 2, 1962 - Soviet Russia agreed to send arms to Cuba, leading to the October Missile Crisis after the shipments were discovered by the U.S.

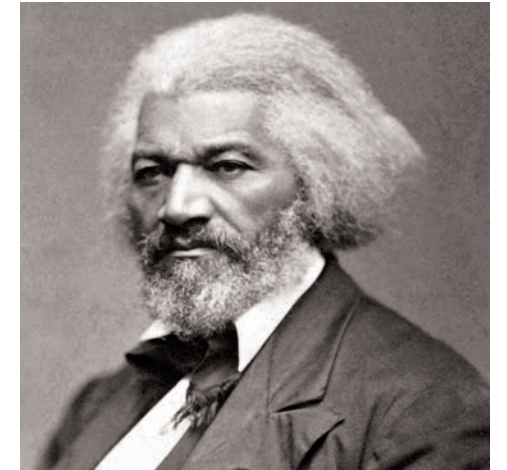
September 2, 1963 - Alabama Governor George Wallace forcibly halted public school integration by encircling Tuskegee High School with state troopers.

Birthday - Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986) was born in Boston (as Sharon Christa Corrigan). On January 28, 1986, the 37-year-old high-school teacher, the first "ordinary citizen" in space, died with six crew members in the Space Shuttle Challenger explosion.

SEPTEMBER 3

September 3, 1783 - The Treaty of Paris was signed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and John Jay, formally ending the American Revolutionary War between Britain and the United States.

September 3, 1833 - The New York Sun newspaper first appeared, marking the beginning of the 'penny press,' inexpensive newspapers sold on sidewalks by newspaper boys. The paper focused on human interest stories and sensationalism and by 1836 was the largest seller in America with a circulation of 30,000.



September 3, 1838 - Anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass began his escape from slavery by boarding a train in Baltimore dressed as a sailor. He rode to Wilmington, Delaware, where he caught a steamboat to the free city of Philadelphia, then took a train to New York City where he came under the protection of the Underground Railway network.

September 3, 1939 - Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany after its invasion of Poland two days earlier.

September 3, 1943 - Italy signed an armistice with the Allies during World War II in Europe as the British Eighth Army, commanded by General Bernard Montgomery, invaded the Italian mainland from Sicily.

SEPTEMBER 4

September 4, 1609 - The island of Manhattan was discovered by navigator Henry Hudson.

September 4, 1781 - Los Angeles was founded by the Spanish Governor of California, Felipe de Neve, near the site of the Native American village of Yang-na. The original name was El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles (The Town of the Queen of the Angels).

September 4, 1886 - The last major U.S.-Indian war came to an end as Geronimo was captured. He died of natural causes in 1909 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.



Birthday - Austrian composer Anton Bruckner (1824-1896) was born in Ansfelden, Austria. Best known for his monumental ten symphonies.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Flash Floods Cause Havoc in Nepal...

glacier and fell into Nepal's Bhotekoshi River, triggering heavy flooding. The landslide was so strong that seismologists first recorded it as an earthquake.

Scientists are unsure why the glacial collapse occurred, but many suspect that global warming could be to blame. Nepal's mountain ranges lost nearly one-third of their ice in just the past three decades due to climate change, the United Nations reported in 2023. The tiny South Asian country sits wedged between two of the world's largest carbon emitters: China and India.

Now, it's a race against time to rescue as many people as possible before monsoon-fueled storms potentially hit the flood zone in the coming days. Beijing has also warned that Wednesday's catastrophe created a large lake in Tibet that risks breaking through dammed streams and causing even more destruction.

Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet, a Nepali Army spokesperson, confirmed on Thursday that the country's military has rescued more than 100 people via helicopter operations. Chinese authorities have similarly deployed large military transport aircraft in Tibet to aid evacuation and relief efforts.

Yet search-and-rescue operations must also contend with several hurdles to reach survivors. Wednesday's flood decimated many key bridges and roads, making access to some of the region's more rural areas difficult. Scarce resources and a lack of electricity due to damaged hydropower infrastructure have further hampered these efforts, as locals are finding it near impossible to check on their loved ones.

Chinese authorities have also begun censoring video content of the flood on the country's social media, making it difficult to know the scale of destruction in Tibet—a place already under extremely strict Chinese government restrictions under normal circumstances.

Videos of the disaster showed people running before the floodwaters swallowed them up and washed out buildings and bridges. More than 390 people were killed, according to authorities in Nepal and China, and more than 1,400 were missing, including hundreds of foreigners and pilgrims. Hundreds of others have been displaced across the Himalayan region.

The steep slopes and lush valleys below the Himalayan mountain range - home to many of the world's highest peaks and remaining glaciers - are especially vulnerable to flooding and landslides. Melting glaciers have become more common because of human-caused climate change.

Images showed what appeared to be the second floors of buildings in Nepal's hard-hit Nuwakot district slathered in mud after the torrent rushed by. Riverbanks and village streets were covered in mud. Debris hung from tree branches and wires. Vehicles were buried, and some stunned survivors were caked in mud.

Before-and-after images aired by state broadcaster China Central Television showed a multistory building and more than a dozen vehicles covered in mud. A two-lane road running along a river in a valley in Tibet's Shigatse prefecture was completely buried. Aerial footage also showed that a lake had formed and expanded on the China-Nepal border, with authorities warning of a possible dam break.

U.S. President Donald Trump said the flooding was terrible to see, describing how "strong, well-built buildings were wiped out like they were toothpicks."

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said the U.S. spoke with Nepalese leaders and offered to provide "anything they want."

The torrential floods that ran miles through mountains left at least 390 people dead and more than 460 injured in Nepal, according to police. Another 1400 people are reported to be missing in Nepal. Authorities in Tibet, an autonomous region of China, reported at least three dead and 558 missing.

Lila Pieters Yahia, the U.N. resident coordinator in Nepal, said Nepal's government had mobilized over 30,000 security personnel for a massive search and rescue operation and "they're working day and night."

She told U.N. reporters in a video press conference from Kathmandu on Thursday that over 35 bridges have been destroyed and about 40 kilometers (25 miles) of road have been damaged, making access to the flooded

area difficult.

"The government has established a relief fund and already the World Bank, India, China and the U.S. have committed to pledge \$229 million to support," Pieters Yahia said. The U.N. has given \$2 million from its humanitarian relief fund for immediate assistance and Switzerland has given the U.N. \$1 million, she said. The Nepalese army has rescued more than 100 people by helicopter, army spokesperson Brig. Gen. Raja Ram Basnet said. Army teams also evacuated people trapped inside facilities linked to the Trishuli hydropower project, he added.

Bishal Kumar Bhandari, chairman of the Nepal Red Cross Society, said the agency has shifted its focus from rescue to large-scale relief operations in the flood-hit districts. He said that around 1,200 people were displaced from at least three villages.

In Tibet, the roaring mudslide that struck Wednesday engulfed a multistory port building and swallowed a bus parking lot at the land border crossing of Gyirong Port. Mud left in the surrounding areas was more than 1½ meters (5 feet) deep on average, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported. Roads leading to the crossing were all damaged, while secondary collapses or landslides might occur as rain continued in the area, it added.

China's premier, Li Qiang, arrived Thursday in Gyirong to direct rescue efforts, alongside 500 military and paramilitary personnel. Military helicopters circled overhead, searching for survivors, assessing the disaster and mapping out possible rescue and evacuation routes.

Chinese authorities also warned that the newly formed lake at the confluence of the Tsogyal and the Purupqiangzangbu rivers is overflowing and may burst. The lake contained 2 million cubic meters (70 million cubic feet) of water as of Thursday morning and was expected to receive another 3 million cubic meters (106 million cubic feet) in the next three days, China's Ministry of Water Resources said.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US panel opposes RSS chief Mohan...

The commission also criticized aspects of India's anti-conversion laws, the handling of communal violence and restrictions affecting civil society organizations under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). The Indian government has previously rejected USCIRF assessments, questioning its methodology and describing its reports as biased and lacking an objective understanding of India's pluralistic society. (Source: TNS)

Judge again blocks Trump mail ballot...

officials to use the USPS portal and upload citizen data to the portal, all before the midterms."

The latest ruling came in advance of a Sept. 3 hearing after Democrats and voting rights groups refiled their lawsuits to comply with the recent Supreme Court decision. The high court's conservative majority did not rule on the legality of Trump's executive order. Still, it said the legal challenges against it that led Talwani to initially freeze it were filed too soon.

Now the administration has issued a formal rule governing whether the U.S. Postal Service will deliver states' mail ballots, effectively restarting the legal fight.

The whipsawing legal battle has major ramifications for the midterms. Nearly one-third of Americans vote by mail, and election officials contend there isn't enough time to revise their systems to comply with the new Postal Service directives.

The Postal Service says it won't deliver mail ballots unless states provide a list of voters who should receive them and format the envelopes in a certain way.

Democrats and voting rights groups contend the demand is unconstitutional. The Constitution, they note, grants states and, in some cases, Congress the power to make election rules - not the president or Postal Service. That reasoning led courts to block Trump's first executive order, issued last year, that sought to change election procedures, such as requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register.

The president has long targeted mail voting, which he falsely blames for his 2020 election loss even though he

himself uses it to cast his ballot.

A report by the Brookings Institution published in 2025 found that mail voting fraud occurred in only about four cases out of every 10 million mail ballots cast.

Trump issued the executive order targeting mail voting, his second one related to elections since he returned from office, in March.

Opponents quickly sued, but the administration argued the claims were premature because it hadn't issued rules outlining how it would implement the order. The administration won an initial case in Washington, D.C., with that reasoning, but Talwani placed injunctions against implementing the order for the November midterms in two separate cases she heard in Boston.

The Supreme Court's conservative majority on Monday struck down one of those holds, finding it was premature.

Talwani, nominated to the bench by President Barack Obama, removed the second injunction Wednesday. The plaintiffs then moved to refile their cases, citing the Postal Service's publishing of its final rule, in hopes of winning a more durable victory. It's likely the case will again end up in front of the high court.

Indians top UK's settlement, citizenship...

"In the YE [year ending] June 2026, Indian nationals remained the largest nationality group granted settlement, with grants (35,384) increasing by 51 per cent compared with the previous year," the Home Office said.

"This mainly reflected the growing number of Indian nationals who entered the UK on work routes in recent years and have since completed the qualifying period of continuous residence required for settlement," it noted.

Indians at 24,851 and Pakistanis at 18,489 were also logged as the two largest nationality groups granted British citizenship in the 2025 to 2026 period.

"Indian and Pakistani nationals continued to account for the highest numbers of British citizenship grants, mainly through naturalization, and consistent with longstanding settlement trends," a Home Office summary concluded.

Among other migration categories covered in this week's data, Indian nationals also accounted for the highest number of Visitor Visas granted at 514,398 a figure 9 per cent lower compared to the previous year.

While Indians were granted the highest numbers of Graduate route extensions to stay and work in the UK over the past year at 64,495, the data reflected a decline compared with the previous year on this visa category open to overseas students at the end of their university degrees. The decline in extensions has been largely attributable to an 81 per cent decrease in visa grants to dependent family members after rules were tightened for all student visa routes.

This was also reflected in a continuing downward trend of Indian student visas, with 82,523 grants in the YE June 2026 reflecting a 16 per cent decline over the past year. Indians have also been pushed to second place after Chinese nationals, who were granted 86,368 student visas in the past year.

"Chinese (10,716), Indian (5,218), and Nigerian (3,820) nationals were the most common nationalities extending their stay on the student route in the latest year," the Home Office added.

The statistics come ahead of changes tabled in Parliament by Shabana Mahmood, which will see low-paid workers subject to a 15-year wait for ILR and migrants accessing taxpayer-funded benefits having to wait for as long as 20 years to be able to access settlement rights. Mahmood said: "A little over two years into office and the asylum backlog is down, the number of asylum seekers in hotels is falling, illegal working arrests are at record levels, and deportations and returns are up markedly.

"This government is restoring control at our border and fairness to the migration system."

She is expected to confirm the details of the tighter norms for an estimated 1.6 million migrants already in the UK who are set to qualify for ILR between 2026 and 2030 in the coming months. The South Asian heritage Cabinet minister has indicated that "transitional arrangements" will be in place for "borderline cases" of foreigners based in the UK for nearly five years.

(Source: PTI)

Beyond the beaten track: Discovering Chambal and Northern Madhya Pradesh

For decades, central India's travel identity has been shaped by familiar names—Khajuraho, Gwalior, Sanchi, Ujjain, Kanha and Bandhavgarh. Yet beyond these celebrated destinations lies another world, one that is still waiting to be fully discovered. In the rugged ravines of the Chambal, along the quiet banks of ancient rivers, amid forgotten temples and imposing forts, Northern Madhya Pradesh reveals a landscape where wilderness, history and folklore meet.

This is a region that does not always announce itself with polished tourist boulevards or crowded sightseeing circuits. Its appeal lies elsewhere: in the silence of the river at dawn, in the deep gullies carved by centuries of erosion, in stories of rebels and dacoits, and in towns whose monuments carry memories of Rajput kingdoms, Mughal campaigns, Maratha ambitions and British rule.

For travelers looking beyond the conventional map of Madhya Pradesh, the Chambal and northern region offer an unusual journey into one of India's most dramatic and culturally layered landscapes.

The Chambal: Beyond the Legends of Dacoits

For generations, the very mention of Chambal evoked images of ravines, guns, outlaws and police pursuits. Popular cinema and folklore transformed the region into a symbol of rebellion and lawlessness. The notorious beehads, or labyrinth-like ravines, became the setting for countless stories of dacoits who challenged authority and disappeared into the difficult terrain. But Chambal today tells a very different story.

The river, one of the cleanest major rivers in India, flows through a landscape that has gradually emerged as an important ecological destination. The rugged ravines remain, but they are now as much a part of the region's natural beauty as its legendary past. The once-feared landscape has become a place where travelers can encounter rare wildlife, riverine ecosystems and a quieter side of central India.

A boat ride on the Chambal is perhaps the best introduction to the region. The journey unfolds slowly. Sandy banks stretch along the river; birds rise from the water and the silence is broken only by the sound of the boat or the calls of wildlife.

The National Chambal Sanctuary is known for protecting several endangered and threatened species, including the gharial, the Gangetic river dolphin and the Indian skimmer. Marsh crocodiles can also be spotted along the riverbanks, while the surrounding landscape attracts a remarkable variety of migratory and resident birds. Unlike the more familiar experience of a jeep safari in a tiger reserve, wildlife tourism here has a different rhythm. The Chambal is about watching rather than chasing. A traveller waits for movement along a sandbank, scans the river for the long snout of a gharial or watches flocks of birds glide across the water.

At sunrise and sunset, the landscape can feel almost untouched by modern life.

Morena: Where History Rises from the Ravines

Morena is often treated merely as a point on the way to other destinations, but the district has enough history and architecture to reward a longer stay.

One of its most remarkable treasures is the group of temples at Bateshwar. Spread across a wide area, the complex contains hundreds of small temples, creating an extraordinary archaeological landscape. The temples, many dedicated to Shiva and Vishnu, belong largely to the medieval period and reflect the architectural traditions that flourished in central India centuries ago. Walking through Bateshwar is like



entering a stone city that has slowly re-emerged from the past. Temples of different sizes stand close together; their shikharas rising above the surrounding landscape. Some appear carefully restored, while others retain the weathered character of ruins.

The sheer scale of the complex makes it one of the most striking yet relatively underexplored heritage sites in the region. Morena also offers access to the ancient temple of Chausath Yogini at Mitawali, a circular shrine perched on a hill. The temple is associated with the Yogini tradition and is notable for its distinctive circular design. The structure, with a central courtyard surrounded by a ring of small shrines, creates a powerful architectural impression.

Standing there, it is easy to understand why the monument has attracted so much curiosity. The open circular form and elevated setting give the site a sense of both symmetry and mystery.

Nearby heritage sites, including Padavali and other temple complexes, make this part of northern Madhya Pradesh an ideal destination for travellers interested in archaeology and early Indian architecture.

Gwalior: The Familiar Gateway to an Unfamiliar Region

Gwalior may be better known than many other destinations in northern Madhya Pradesh, but it remains the perfect gateway to the wider region.

Dominated by its magnificent fort, Gwalior carries the grandeur of a city that has repeatedly occupied a central place in Indian history. The fort rises dramatically above the city, its walls and palaces representing centuries of political and cultural change.

The sandstone fort complex includes palaces, temples and other structures that reflect different periods of rule. The Man Singh Palace, with its striking decorative

facade, remains one of the architectural highlights.

But Gwalior is more than its fort. The city has deep connections with Indian classical music and is associated with the Gwalior gharana, one of the most influential traditions of Hindustani classical music. It is also remembered as the birthplace of Tansen, the legendary musician who became one of the celebrated Navratnas in Emperor Akbar's court. A journey through Gwalior can therefore move easily between military history, architecture and music. The city's old neighbourhoods, palaces and monuments provide a dramatic introduction before travellers head towards the quieter landscapes of Morena, Shivpuri and the Chambal basin.

Shivpuri: A Royal Retreat in the Forest

Further south-east, Shivpuri offers a different face of northern Madhya Pradesh. Once associated with the Scindia rulers of Gwalior, the town served as a summer retreat because of its relatively pleasant climate and surrounding forests. The royal connection is visible in the elegant chhatris and other monuments that continue to define its heritage landscape.

The Shivpuri cenotaphs, built in honour of the Scindia rulers, are among the town's architectural highlights. Set amid landscaped surroundings, the structures combine Rajput, Mughal and regional influences. But Shivpuri's greater surprise may be its natural setting.

The surrounding forests, lakes and wildlife areas make the destination suitable for travellers who want to combine heritage with nature. The landscape provides a sharp contrast to the harsh ravines of Chambal. Here, the terrain is greener and more open, with forests offering refuge to wildlife.

FIH HOCKEY WORLD CUP



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

AUGUST 28, 2026

WAVRE / AMSTELVEEN (TIP): Wrapping up their World Cup campaign on a victorious note, Indian girls must have warmed the cockles of hearts with an impressive 3-1 win over Germany to finish fifth in the FIH World Cup 2026.

It has been the best performing Indian women hockey team in the World Cup since the inaugural edition in 1974 where it had taken the fourth position.

Two goals by Navneet and one by Ishika besides some excellent defense by the two goalkeepers - Bichu Devi and Savita - helped India to end its campaign on a bright, cheerful and victorious note. Now, India heads for Japan to play in the Asian Games from which finishing at top India can hope for a direct qualification to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

India's run in this World Cup has been impressive. India won two games - 6-1 against South Africa and 3-1 against Germany - and lost only one - 0-2 against the hosts, the Netherlands - and drew the remaining, including 2-2 against Olympic silver medalist China. India also held England and Australia to draws.

A good chance for India in the fourth minute when Navneet built a good move and centered, but Salima Tete could not intercept a free ball across the open goalmouth. Sluggish clearance attempt cost India the first penalty corner of the game, seconds before the end of first quarter.

India's plea for VR was not productive. Another penalty corner followed for Germany. Wasted. It was a goalless first quarter.

In the 18th minute, another good chance for India to forge ahead but a shot from the top of the circle was miles off the target. A minute later, India conceded its third penalty corner with an attempted clumsy clearance. German player fumbled with the push in.

Golden chance came for India in the 22nd minute when four attempts were made in quick succession, but none could beat Finja Starck in the goal.

The first half remained goalless with either of the teams trying its best. India had slight territorial advantage.

Germany came close to scoring in the 34th minute when Lena Micheel had a chance in the striking circle. Bichu Devi, however, executed a good clearance.

India scored in the 43rd minute when Ishika made no mistake in getting past the German goalkeeper.

A penalty corner followed for India in the 43rd minute. India gets another one as a strike by Navneet catches a defender, Ines Wanner, on the foot. This time Navneet makes no mistake with her low grounded shot to make it 2-0.

Elated at her success with a penalty corner, Navneet had yet another goal under her name. This time from a

Indian women defeat Germany 3-1 for their best ever finish in World Cup since 1974



Indian women's hockey players celebrate a goal during their 3-1 classification win over Germany at the 2026 World Cup.

goalmouth scramble, she lifts the ball over the goalkeeper and a defender to make it 3-0.

Germany gets a penalty corner in the 48th minute. Indian girls defend it well.

Another penalty corner for Germany in the 53rd minute. India defends again.

Germany ultimately succeeded in reducing the margin in the 59th minute when Savita's attempts to thwart German forwards failed and Lyn Krings found the target to make it 1-3. Germany had a penalty corner in the last minute. Indian defense, however, stood its ground well. India completed a splendid close of the tournament win to finish fifth.

Indian women have every reason to feel satisfied, if not pleased, with their performance in the FIH World Cup 2026. Though it could not repeat the performance of the first ever Indian women's team that participated in the inaugural World Cup held in France in 1974, yet it has outshone performances of all other teams that left the shores of the country to play in the elite FIH tournament for women.

In 1974, India was the only team that had beaten the ultimate champions, the Netherlands, in the group matches. Though India was beaten 0-2 by Belgium, it won the rest of its pool games. India defeated Mexico 3-0, Spain 4-1 and the Netherlands 1-0 to finish at the top of the table. In the semifinals, it lost to Argentina 0-1 and then went down fighting to Germany 0-2 in the bronze medal game.

No Indian team has since then repeated or improved upon the 1974

performance. Even trying foreign coaches did not help.

India did win the Asian Games gold in 1982 and a couple of other continental tournaments. In the truncated Moscow Olympic Games, Indian team led by Rupa Saini, just missed winning a bronze medal as it finished fourth. The next best performance for women's team came in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games where they also missed winning the country's first ever Olympic medal.

Indian teams, both men and women, came to the Netherlands with high hopes. Men have been a much bigger disappointment than the women. Indian women Irrespective of the result, Sjoerd Marijne's side assured itself of its best-ever finish at the World Cup since 1974.

A win would go a long way in instilling belief in the side as it closes its World Cup chapter and turns its attention to the Asian Games in September, where a gold medal would bring direct qualification for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. India had finished third at the last edition of the Asiad but a 2-2 draw against Asian champion China could inspire it to target the first place.

Despite losing just one game in Amstelveen, and holding higher-ranked China, England and Australia to draws, India's inability to make use of opportunities coming its way has been the bane of this team. Failure to score goals needs careful introspection.

After Gurjeet Kaur left, Indian women have been struggling to find a trusty substitute for her. The team has been earning penalty corners and depending

upon strikers Deepika and Navneet Kaur to score from penalty corners. They had some success as each one of them scored two goals each from penalty corners.

The poor conversion rates from short corners cost the team eventually.

India's defense has given a better and reliable account of itself in this tournament. Mainly managed single handedly by S. Chanu, it stood its ground well. Even the vaunted Netherlands attack had to really dig in to score two goals. Today, in the classification game for the fifth and six place, Indian defense was expected to emulate the same defiant effort against the World No. 5 Germany. India's win in the last game may have come as a pleasant surprise for many ardent hockey fans, including those from India and overseas. But Indian girls did it.

The German team in this World Cup was coached by Janneke Schopman, who had been India's head coach in the past and was also the assistant to Marijne when India finished fourth at the Tokyo Olympics.

The team will have little time for introspection as the Asian Games start in the middle of next month. Instead of wasting time and energies on the post-mortem of the World Cup, the team management, including players, would do well to put their heads together to find solutions to the problems that were apparently on forefront during the World Cup matches.

Finding solutions in time before the start of the Asian Games campaign would be helpful.

FIH WORLD CUP



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

AUGUST 28, 2026

AMSTELVEEN (TIP): The FIH Hockey World Cup has caught the co-hosts - the Netherlands and Belgium - in varying and contrasting moods. While the Netherlands has every reason to feel cheerful about the performance of its teams, both men and women, the Belgians are heartbroken.

In the first semifinal in the women's section, the Netherlands playing before a packed Wagener Stadium, set aside the challenge of Belgium by a solitary first half goal in a game of exciting and pulsating hockey. Though the Belgians who travelled to Amsterdam to play their first game - a semifinal on Dutch soil - had disappointment writ large on their faces.

The game could have gone either way. But the Dutch knowing their opponents inside out played a strategy of taking the lead and then defended it stoutly.

Belgian hopes of glory, both in men and women sections, already stood shattered. The men's team will be playing India for the seventh and eighth position on Friday. The women lost the battle for a place in the gold medal match.

The Netherlands have an impressive record in women's World Cup winning the coveted trophy nine times (1974, 1978, 1983,

The Netherlands shatters Belgium hopes of a maiden title



1986, 1990, 2006, 2014, 2028 and 2022) besides finishing runners-up four times (1981, 1998, 2002 and 2010). Today when the Dutch beat Belgians, it was their eighth successive entry in the gold medal round.

Belgium, on the other hand, has never won the Women's World Cup. Earlier in the day, India upset the appellation of former World Cup champions (1976 and 1981) Germany 3-1 to take the fifth spot,

the best it ever got since finishing fourth in the inaugural World Cup in 1974.

Australia (1994 and 1998) and Argentina (2002 and 2010) are the only other winners of the Women's World Cup Hockey titles in the past. Now the Netherlands awaits the winner of the other semifinal featuring Argentina and Australia, both former champions.

The all-important goal for the

Netherlands was scored by Frederique Malta in the 28th minute. It followed an excellent move by skipper Marijin Veen that saw Malta getting past the Belgian defense for the match decisive goal.

Though the Belgians had many opportunities coming their way, including four penalty corners, two in each half, they could not get the better of the solid Dutch defense. In the 55th minute, Belgians found the target. Their goal, however, was disallowed because of an infringement inside the circle by the video referee. It came as a big heartbreak for the Belgian players.

For the last three minutes, Belgium withdrew its goalkeeper and brought in an extra striker, but the move failed to yield the desired results.

The Netherlands now awaits the winner of the Argentina-Australia tie for the summit clash on August 29 at Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen while the men's final will be played in Werve in Belgium on August 30.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist who writes on Sports, politics and community. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

AUGUST 28, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): R Praggnanandhaa scripted history on Thursday, Aug 27, by becoming the first Indian to win the Grand Chess Tour. The Chennai Grandmaster produced a stunning comeback against defending champion Fabiano Caruana in the final to cap a remarkable run in 2026.

Praggnanandhaa went into the final day six points behind Caruana after the Classical games, trailing 3-9. Speaking after completing the comeback in Saint Louis, the Indian admitted he had not expected to have much of a chance at the start of the day.

"Honestly, I didn't think I had much of a chance today. A six-point deficit is a lot. You basically need to do what I did," Praggnanandhaa said with a laugh.

"It's difficult. It's not every day you can get one win against Fabi, but to get two that was crucial in the Rapid. Mainly, what changed from last year is my Rapid and Blitz game. It's much better now, I think, and that's a massive improvement in this format."

The Indian turned the contest around by winning both Rapid games to move 11-9 ahead. Caruana responded by taking the second Blitz game after the first ended in a draw, bringing the score level at 12-12, but Praggnanandhaa immediately restored his advantage by winning the third Blitz game.

Needing only a draw in the final encounter, he secured the required result through a threefold repetition despite having a winning position. Across the six

Praggnanandhaa scripts history as first Indian to win Grand Chess Tour



games between the two finalists, Praggnanandhaa won three, drew two and lost one.

The Grand Chess Tour title adds another landmark to a year in which Praggnanandhaa has repeatedly delivered against elite opposition. He had endured a disappointing second appearance at the

2026 Candidates earlier in the year, but responded by winning Norway Chess, where he defeated Magnus Carlsen twice.

He followed that with a title-winning campaign at the Saint Louis Rapid and Blitz before sharing first place in the Sinquefeld Cup. His latest triumph also underlined the improvement he has made

in the faster formats.

"Yeah, it would have been nice to win the Candidates," Praggnanandhaa joked. "But winning a tournament like this is still a great achievement. You have to show a lot of character to come out on top in such an event, and I'm happy that I managed to do that and fight till the very end."

The Grand Chess Tour has also become one of the most significant titles on his resumé.

"Winning this is certainly second only to the World Championship, given the tradition and the stature of the event. The World Championship is obviously at the top, and the Grand Chess Tour is right up there as well," he said.

Praggnanandhaa leaves Saint Louis with the \$200,000 winner's prize and a guaranteed place on the 2027 tour. He also finished the 2026 circuit with \$404,354 in prize money after his wins in Saint Louis and his strong Sinquefeld Cup showing.

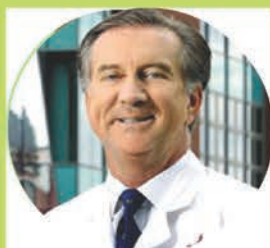
After almost a month of continuous chess in Saint Louis, his next assignment is already on the horizon. Praggnanandhaa is part of India's squad for the Chess Olympiad in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, from September 16 to 27, where the defending champions will begin their title defence.



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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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