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# SCO must dismantle ecosystem of terror financing, recruitment, radicalization, safe havens: India's PM

Must send strong message that terrorism can never be a "strategic asset" for anyone; calls for peace and stability in Afghanistan



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, in Bishkek on September 1, 2026. -Photo Credit: ANI

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026  
NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) "must dismantle" the ecosystem of terrorism and send a strong message to countries that practice terrorism as a state policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, September 1, 2026 in his remarks at the 26th SCO summit in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Prime Minister's sharp remarks came even as Pakistan took over the baton of SCO chair for 2026-27. India blames Pakistan for cross-border terrorism. Mr. Modi called for "peace and stability" in Afghanistan and highlighted the humanitarian assistance that India has been providing to Kabul

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## ISRO successfully launches Earth observation satellite EOS-05



EOS-05 Launch from Satish Dhawan Space Centre

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026  
CHENNAI (TIP)

ISRO launched a state-of-the-art Earth observation spacecraft on Friday, September 4 India's first ever imaging satellite from the Geosynchronous

orbit.

The 51.7-metre-tall rocket lifted off at the appointed time of 2.55 a.m. IST on Friday from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, about 135 km from Chennai. GSLV-F17 is the 19th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, ISRO said.

The Friday pre-dawn launch follows a gap of nearly 8 months. On January 12, 2026, ISRO's PSLV-C62 rocket carrying 16 satellites failed to place them in the intended orbit after encountering an "anomaly" in the critical third stage of the launch.

## Vance says Iran conflict is 'not a war', declines to offer timeline for end

HIS COMMENTS COME AS WASHINGTON AND TEHRAN EXCHANGED BACK-AND-FORTH ATTACKS THIS WEEK AFTER A PERIOD OF RELATIVE CALM, WITH NO DIPLOMATIC TALKS WITH THE IRANIANS UNDERWAY TO END THE CONFLICT

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026  
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance on Thursday, September 3, 2026, said the fighting between the United States and Iran was "not a war" and declined to provide a timeline for when the conflict would be over, underscoring the challenge the Trump administration faces as the hostilities enter their seventh month and midterm elections loom, reports Reuter.

His comments come as Washington and Tehran exchanged back-and-forth attacks this week after a period of relative calm, with no diplomatic talks with the Iranians underway to end the conflict.

The war has dragged down President ?



U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance speaks with reporters in the James Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House, in Washington, D.C., on September 3, 2026. | Photo Credit: AP

Donald Trump's approval ratings and driven up gas prices, raising the stakes for Republican candidates fighting to preserve their party's narrow congressional majorities in November.

CONTD ON PAGE 44

## NEW YORK MAYOR ZOHAN MAMDANI ANNOUNCES BAN ON AI USE FOR STUDENTS UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL



New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani announces one year moratorium on use of AI for students through 8th grade

ONLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, TYPICALLY AGED 14 AND ABOVE, WILL BE PERMITTED TO USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN LIMITED PILOT PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 03, 2026  
NEW YORK (TIP)

New York is banning student use of artificial intelligence until high school, the city's mayor announced Wednesday, September 2, in a move designed to protect children's education and mental health. The one-year restriction, which impacts nearly 600,000 public school pupils through eighth grade, will be closely

CONTD ON PAGE 44



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## COMMENT

9/11 @ 25

REMEMBER THE DEAD, DEFEAT  
TERROR-AND CHOOSE JUSTICEBY INDRAJIT  
SALUJA

Twenty-five years after September 11, America must never forget. But remembrance must summon not only grief and resolve; it must also summon the courage to ask how humanity can build a world in which terrorism finds less ground on which to grow.

September 11, 2001, remains engraved upon the American consciousness.

On an otherwise ordinary Tuesday morning, terrorists turned passenger aircraft into weapons. The World Trade Center towers fell. The Pentagon was struck. United Airlines Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers and crew resisted the hijackers. Nearly 3,000 innocent people were killed.

Families were shattered. Firefighters, police officers and emergency workers rushed toward danger while others fled from it. A nation accustomed to feeling secure within its borders suddenly discovered its vulnerability.

Twenty-five years later, The Indian Panorama remembers the dead, honors the heroes and shares the continuing sorrow of all who lost someone that terrible day.

There can be no qualification in our condemnation of terrorism. No political grievance, religious belief, historical injury or ideological cause gives anyone the right to deliberately murder innocent human beings.

Yet remembrance imposes another responsibility upon us.

If humanity wishes not merely to punish terrorists but to reduce terrorism, we must have the courage to ask a difficult question:

**WHERE DOES TERRORISM  
COME FROM?****CONDEMNATION IS  
NECESSARY. UNDERSTANDING IS ALSO  
NECESSARY.**

To ask why terrorism arises is not to excuse the terrorist.

There is an important distinction between an explanation and a justification. Physicians seek the cause of a disease without defending the disease. Societies, too, must examine the conditions in which violence grows if they genuinely wish to prevent it.

There is no single explanation for terrorism. Extremist ideology, religious fanaticism, nationalism, political ambition, sectarian hatred, propaganda, organized recruitment and the thirst for power have all played their part.

But history also teaches us that actual or perceived injustice, political exclusion, humiliation, discrimination, repression and unresolved conflicts can create grievances that extremists exploit.

Millions of people suffer injustice without becoming terrorists. That truth must always be remembered. Suffering does not automatically produce terrorism, nor does suffering absolve anyone who chooses to murder innocent people.

But another truth deserves equal attention: where anger and hopelessness are allowed to accumulate, those who preach hatred find easier recruits.

That is why military victories alone cannot permanently defeat terrorism.

Armies can destroy training camps. Intelligence agencies can uncover conspiracies. Police can arrest

terrorists. Governments have not merely the right but the solemn duty to protect their citizens.

But bombs cannot destroy an idea. And overwhelming force cannot by itself remove every grievance from which extremists manufacture hatred.

The lasting answer must therefore include something more difficult: Justice.

**THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEAK-AND OF THE  
STRONG**

There is a temptation when we have suffered injustice to believe that our suffering gives us permission to do anything in response. It does not.

And there is an equally dangerous temptation among the powerful to believe that superior military, political or economic strength gives them the right to impose their will upon others. It does not.

This is where we believe two principles should guide not merely America's response to terrorism, but relations among peoples and nations:



Photo: 9/11 Memorial and Museum

*Your weakness gives you no right to answer  
injustice with terrorism.*

*Your strength gives you no moral license to  
frighten or oppress others.*

The first principle speaks to the aggrieved. However genuine your grievance, innocent lives cannot become instruments of revenge.

The second speaks to the powerful. However formidable your armies, however dominant your economy, however great your influence, power does not place you above justice.

Between these two propositions lies the moral territory upon which a more peaceful world might be built.

**MEMORY MUST TEACH US**

Some wounds become part of a people's collective memory.

The Holocaust occupies an everlasting place in Jewish memory. Sikhs continue to carry the painful memories of the violence, humiliation and trauma of 1984 and the turbulent years surrounding it. Americans will carry September 11 in their national consciousness for generations.

These tragedies are historically different and should never be casually equated. Yet they remind us of something universal: communities remember profound suffering long after the immediate violence has ended.

The challenge is what we do with that memory.

Memory can become a teacher-or a jailer.

If memory teaches vigilance, compassion and determination that others should never suffer what we suffered, it serves humanity.

If memory becomes perpetual hatred, it can prepare the ground for tomorrow's tragedy.

America's answer to September 11, therefore, must ultimately be greater than vengeance.

**NEITHER INFLICT FEAR NOR ACCEPT IT**

More than three centuries ago, Guru Gobind Singh, the Tenth Master of the Sikhs and creator of the Khalsa, expressed a principle of extraordinary simplicity:

*"Bhai kahu ko det neh, neh bhai manat aan."*

Its essence may be rendered: Neither do I frighten others, nor do I accept fear from another.

**Consider the civilization contained within those few words.**

Do not terrorize. Do not submit to terror.

They impose responsibility upon both the strong and the weak. The oppressed is called upon not to become an oppressor. The powerful is warned not to misuse power. And neither is asked to surrender human dignity.

**Could there be a better principle for a world struggling against terrorism?**

**THE BEST MEMORIAL**

Twenty-five years after September 11, America remains powerful. The terrorists did not destroy American democracy. They did not extinguish its freedoms. They did not bring down the nation they sought to humiliate.

That itself is victory.

But America's greater victory will come when its power is accompanied by an equally commanding reputation for justice.

Let America remain strong enough that no terrorist imagines he can attack it with impunity.

But let America also be just enough that people across the world look upon its strength not with fear, but with respect.

The nearly 3,000 lives taken on September 11 deserve more than our tears. They deserve more than monuments, ceremonies and annual moments of silence. They deserve a world made wiser by their loss.

We cannot promise a world without hatred. We cannot eliminate every conflict, fanatic or violent ideology. Human history gives us no grounds for such easy optimism. But we can remove injustice where we find it. We can refuse to humiliate the weak. We can resolve grievances before demagogues weaponize them. We can defend ourselves without surrendering our humanity. And we can insist that justice restrain both desperation and power.

On this 25th anniversary, therefore, let us remember September 11 with sorrow-but without hatred; with vigilance-but without fear; with strength-but without arrogance.

And let us carry forward these two simple truths:

**Your weakness gives you no right to answer  
injustice with terrorism.**

**Your strength gives you no moral license to  
frighten or oppress others.**

Between them lies justice. And perhaps, someday, peace.



# 'I'll always be there' for Jewish New Yorkers, Hochul tells JNS ahead of High Holidays

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
NEW YORK (TIP)

Yesterday, Governor Kathy Hochul joined local elected officials and members of the Orthodox Jewish community for a food distribution event in Williamsburg sponsored by Met Council - marking the opening of Williamsburg's first food pantry and providing food for 250 local families.

Discussing her commitment to Jewish New Yorkers, the Governor spoke to JNS about increased security measures to secure locations like synagogues ahead of the High Holidays, as well as the need to combat food insecurity in the community.

"I will do everything I humanly can to protect these communities, our Jewish communities, to secure locations like synagogues where many will be gathering, to protect our yeshivas, directly on the streets," Hochul told JNS.

As Jews prepare for the High Holidays, the Met Council is distributing more than 2 million pounds of kosher food across the region, amid what its CEO, David Greenfield, said are more food requests than ever from families struggling with rising costs and unemployment.

"This is a bigger distribution than we've ever had before," Greenfield told JNS. "We definitely are seeing more demand."

"This is a special time to let the community know that we're there and we're fighting for them," Hochul told JNS. "We're trying to make life easier and more affordable for them."

"If we can help get more food out to families and help take some of the stress off of their lives, then to me, that's exactly why I should be doing as governor," she told JNS.

Met Council, a Jewish charity that



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (center) at a Met Council food distribution event ahead of the Jewish High Holidays alongside N.Y. Attorney General Letitia James and New York City comptroller Mark Levine at the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, in Brooklyn, Sept. 2, 2026.

-Photo by Rebecca Szlechter.

fights poverty, is distributing 2,016,982 pounds of kosher food to food-insecure individuals and families ahead of the Jewish High Holidays, it told JNS.

The campaign is reaching 162 partner agencies and 13 online food pantry system sites, called Market by Met Council. The charity is also expanding its reach into New Jersey, Connecticut, Long Island and Florida, it said.

Families will receive traditional holiday staples, including apples, honey, grape juice and challah, as well as chicken, fish, eggs, rice, pasta, beans and canned goods.

Greenfield said the additional distribution is particularly important for Jewish families who want to celebrate the holidays but struggle to afford holiday meals.

The organization is distributing 659,432 pounds of fresh produce, 55,026 bottles of grape juice and 48,384 bottles of honey, it said.

Beyond the immediate need for holiday food, Greenfield said the Met Council is seeing a broader economic challenge among Jewish families, particularly middle-aged workers who lose their jobs and have difficulty finding new employment.

"Those are the breadwinners for their entire family," Greenfield told JNS. "I think we're seeing this cascading effect."

Greenfield said older workers are being replaced by younger employees or artificial intelligence, which is "a real challenge that we're seeing now."

Hochul said that the need is especially visible in Williamsburg, where she said that there is a lot of poverty.

"The food insecurity levels are very high," she told JNS.

The governor said the state has supported the initiative alongside United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg, Met Council and other community organizations.

Hochul also addressed security concerns, as Jewish New Yorkers prepare to attend synagogues and other gatherings during the High Holidays.

"I understand there's a lot of anxiety about safety and security," Hochul told JNS.

She said the state will increase police presence and continue funding security measures at Jewish institutions and other houses of worship.

"I will do everything I humanly can to protect these communities, our Jewish communities, to secure locations like synagogues where many will be gathering, to protect our yeshivas, directly on the streets," Hochul told JNS.

She said New York has invested \$135 million in security for houses of worship and that her administration remains committed to combating hate crimes.

"I want Jewish New Yorkers to know that I will always be there for them," she told JNS.

Greenfield praised Hochul's support for Met Council, citing Nourish New York, which provides \$55 million to help move food from upstate farmers to downstate food pantries.

"The governor is our biggest supporter," Greenfield told JNS.

The event also included United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg executive director Rabbi David Niederman and elected officials, community leaders and volunteers.

Distribution began Aug. 19 and will continue until Sept. 24, with more than 500 volunteers, including elected officials and community leaders, taking part in the campaign.

Hochul wished Jewish New Yorkers a "Shana tova" as they enter the High Holiday season.

"Everyone's family, their families are my fight," she told JNS. (Source: JNS)

## India Home Launches Smart Food Pantry and Smart Bites NYC Vending Machine to Expand Food Access for Seniors in Queens

"Opening Doors to Food Access" Inauguration Set for Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at Jamaica Market

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
JAMAICA, N.Y. (TIP)

India Home, A Center for Senior Care, will celebrate the grand opening of its automated Smart Food Pantry and the launch of its first Smart Bites NYC vending machine at an inauguration event on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event, themed "Opening Doors to Food Access," will take place in the Harvest Room at Jamaica Market, 90-40 160th St, Jamaica, NY 11432.

The new Smart Food Pantry, powered by Zippin, and the Smart Bites NYC vending machine, mark a significant step forward in India Home's mission to advance food access, dignity, and care for older adults in the community. The automated systems are designed to make nutritious food available in a dignified, low-barrier format, helping seniors and community members access fresh and healthy options according to their schedules.

"This inauguration represents more than the opening of a pantry. It represents a new model for how we care for our communities," said Mukund Mehta, President of India Home. "By combining smart technology with our commitment to dignity and community care, we're making sure that access to healthy food is never a barrier for the people we serve."

"As a geriatric psychiatrist, I've seen firsthand how something as simple as reliable access to healthy food can



India Home website banner -Photo / India Home

be the difference between a senior thriving and a senior struggling in isolation," said Dr. Vasundhara Kalasapudi, Executive Director of India Home. "The Smart Food Pantry and Smart Bites NYC vending machine let us meet our seniors' needs on their own time, with the dignity they deserve."

The initiative is made possible with the support of GrowNYC, Met Council, F.Y. Eye, Next50 Foundation, and AstraZeneca, whose partnerships have helped bring this expanded model of food access to life.

Members of the media and community are invited to attend the inauguration to see the new Smart Food Pantry and Smart Bites NYC vending machine in action and to

learn more about India Home's ongoing work to support food security among seniors in Queens and across New York City.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Shaaranya Pillai, shaaranya@indiahome.org, (917) 834-7895

**ABOUT INDIA HOME :** India Home, A Center for Senior Care, is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for South Asian and other immigrant seniors in New York City through culturally sensitive programs, services, and advocacy. India Home's work spans healthy aging, food security, mental health, and community engagement initiatives designed to help seniors live with dignity and independence.



## IMMIGRATION

## US WARNS EB-1 GREEN CARDS MAY SHUT FOR INDIA

The warning is particularly significant for Indians because several other employment-based green-card queues are already severely constrained.



Image for representation only

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The United States has warned that employment-based first-preference green cards for Indians could become unavailable within weeks because of heavy demand, adding fresh pressure to an already severe backlog that has left another major category closed to Indian applicants.

The State Department, in its September Visa Bulletin, said high demand and use of EB-1 immigrant visa numbers by applicants chargeable to India could exhaust the country's allocation before the US fiscal year ends on September 30.

"High demand and number use by aliens chargeable to India in the EB-1

visa category may necessitate making the category unavailable in the coming weeks if India's pro-rated limit in the EB-1 category is reached before the fiscal year ends," the State Department said.

"This situation will be continually monitored, and any necessary adjustments will be made accordingly," it said.

EB-1 is the employment-based first-preference category, covering priority workers including people with extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers and certain multinational executives and managers.

The warning is particularly significant for Indians because several other employment-based green-card queues are already severely constrained.

For September, the EB-1 India final action date is October 15, 2022.

That means an Indian applicant generally must have a priority date earlier than the listed cutoff for a visa number to be available for final action, subject to other eligibility requirements.

India's EB-2 category, which covers professionals holding advanced degrees and people of exceptional ability, is listed as "U" -- unavailable -- in the September bulletin.

Read full story at  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)

## US WEIGHS ENDING 60-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR H-1B WORKERS

The elimination of the grace period could leave affected foreign workers with significantly less time to respond after losing employment

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026  
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has moved forward with a proposal that could eliminate the 60-day grace period accorded to certain nonimmigrants, including H-1B visa holders, after their employment ends.

A proposed rule to eliminate that grace period went to the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, a federal office within the United States Office of Management and Budget, for review on August 6.

It remains at the proposed-rule stage, and its details have not yet been made public.

If the proposed change is finalized, the elimination of the grace period could leave affected foreign workers with significantly less time to respond after losing employment. Their dependents could also be affected where their status is tied to that of the principal worker.

The 60-day grace period was created by regulation in 2016 and took effect in early 2017.

It currently covers several categories of nonimmigrant workers, including H-1B, L-1, O-1, E-1, E-2, E-3, H-1B1 and TN workers.

The maximum 60-day grace period provides time for a nonimmigrant worker to retain their nonimmigrant status, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Alternatively, the 60-day grace period provides time for the worker to request a



Image for representation only. Credit: AMC

change of status, which may allow the worker to continue their job search from within the United States, even if the grace period and the worker's current nonimmigrant status expire. This is because a worker may remain in an authorized period of stay based on a timely filed, nonfrivolous application to change to a new nonimmigrant status.

The grace period also provides time for certain spouses of nonimmigrant workers to continue their own employment if they have an Employment Authorization Document or are employment-authorized incident to status.

Within the grace period, eligible H-1B nonimmigrant workers may also begin employment again as soon as a new employer properly files a new H-1B petition, rather than waiting for the new petition to be approved. A worker filing for employment in another classification must wait to begin employment until the new petition is approved, but given the availability of premium processing, the wait for petition adjudication is often less than 15 business days.

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# India and US to deepen critical minerals ties

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026  
ASHVILLE, NC (TIP)

India and the United States have agreed to deepen cooperation on critical minerals as part of their long-standing economic relationship, following talks between Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

The two officials met on the sidelines of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, on August 31. The meeting placed critical minerals and secure supply chains at the center of the India-US economic dialogue. Both sides acknowledged the long-standing relationship between the two countries and committed themselves to expanding cooperation across several areas.

Sitharaman invited Bessent to visit New Delhi later this year for the India-US Economic and Financial Partnership meeting.

The proposed visit would provide the two governments another opportunity to review economic and financial cooperation and identify areas in which the partnership could be expanded.

According to India's Ministry of Finance, Bessent appreciated India's role in the G7 Plus framework. He also



The invitation to Bessent also signaled that the Economic and Financial Partnership would remain an important channel for engagement between New Delhi and Washington.  
Photo / courtesy X/@FinMinIndia

welcomed India's participation in G7-led dialogues on critical minerals.

Those discussions are aimed at securing supply chains and sharing research and technology, the ministry said.

Critical minerals have become an important part of economic and strategic discussions among major economies. The Asheville meeting provided India and the US an opportunity to connect that issue with their wider financial and economic

partnership.

The Sitharaman-Bessent meeting also underlined the importance both governments attach to maintaining regular high-level contact on economic matters.

Their discussions came as finance ministers and central bank governors gathered in Asheville to consider global economic challenges and ways to strengthen growth and financial cooperation.

For India, participation in critical

mineral dialogues offers an avenue to work with major economies on supply-chain security, research and technology. For the US, India's participation adds a major economy and a significant emerging market to efforts involving these strategically important resources.

The invitation to Bessent also signaled that the Economic and Financial Partnership would remain an important channel for engagement between New Delhi and Washington.

The mechanism allows the two countries to discuss a broad range of economic and financial issues at the ministerial level. The proposed meeting in New Delhi later this year would continue those consultations after the Asheville talks.

The Finance Ministry did not provide a date for the New Delhi meeting. It also did not disclose further details about the specific critical mineral initiatives that the two countries may pursue.

Critical minerals are used in a range of industries, including clean energy, electronics, telecommunications, defense manufacturing and advanced technologies. Governments have increasingly focused on diversifying their sources and reducing the risk of disruptions caused by concentrated supply chains.

## Piyush Goyal to visit US for G20 Trade Ministers' meet, India-US trade talks: Sergio Gor

**"OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER TO BUILD A TRADE RELATIONSHIP THAT IS FAIR, RECIPROCAL AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL," GOR SAID.**



Piyush Goyal to visit US for G20 Trade Ministers' meet, India-US trade talks: Sergio Gor  
-Image credit: X/USAmbIndia

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
NEW DELHI (TIP)

later this month to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting and hold discussions on the ongoing bilateral trade deal negotiations, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Sept. 2.

In his address at the 66th Annual Session of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Gor said India and the United States are working closely to strengthen their trade relationship and have made significant progress in negotiations.

The US envoy said Goyal would visit the US in the coming weeks as Washington hosts the G20 talks, adding that both governments are working towards a trade relationship that is fair, reciprocal and mutually beneficial.

The visit comes as India and the US seek to advance discussions on a bilateral trade agreement. NDTV Profit had earlier reported that Goyal was expected to travel to the US towards the end of September as both sides work towards finalizing the deal.

"It's great to be with my good friend, the Commerce Minister. The United States and India are working very closely together; a lot is happening," Gor said, adding that Washington looks forward to hosting Goyal for the G20 meetings.

Gor also referred to the progress made by the two countries, including a trade understanding reached by their governments. He said the cooperation between India and the US extends beyond trade in goods and covers a wide range of areas.

"Our two governments are working closely together to build a trade relationship that is fair, reciprocal and mutually beneficial," Gor said.

Highlighting broader cooperation, the ambassador said the two countries are partnering across several areas and pointed to the Pact Silica declaration signed earlier this year. According to Gor, the declaration is aimed at creating a pro-innovation regulatory framework and facilitating greater cross-border investment by American and Indian companies.

He said the initiative would also help empower the next generation of entrepreneurs and builders in both countries.

## Amb. Kwatra rings Nasdaq opening bell, highlights India-US partnership

**NASDAQ EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN EDWARD KNIGHT SAID INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH, SKILLED WORKFORCE AND ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM ARE DRAWING INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS AND GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES**



Ambassador Vinay Kwatra ringing the Nasdaq Stock Market Opening Bell. Seen to his right is the Acting Consul General of India in New York Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh. Nasdaq Executive Vice Chairman Edward Knightis to Ambassador's left. -Photo Credit: Nasdaq

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
NEW YORK (TIP)

Indian Ambassador to the United States Vinay Mohan Kwatra on Sept. 2 rang the opening bell at Nasdaq, to mark the growing strength of the India-US partnership.

"India is undergoing a significant economic and technological transformation, driven by a strong entrepreneurial spirit," Kwatra said while ringing the bell. "The companies listed here are one of the great pillars of that partnership."

Speaking at the event in New York, Kwatra said India's transformation was creating opportunities for deeper partnerships with US companies and investors.

"India is undergoing a significant

economic and technological transformation, driven by strong entrepreneurial ecosystem, expanding digital capabilities, and a young and talented workforce," he said.

He identified technology, technology-linked capital, infrastructure and the mobility of skilled professionals as important areas in the emerging economic relationship between the two countries.

"One of the greatest pillars of our current and the emerging partnership is the partnership with the companies in the community of the technology leadership companies in NASDAQ for technology, technology linked capital, technology infrastructure, and of course mobility of skilled professionals," Kwatra said.

(Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news))



# NYC's first racial equity plan sets new framework for future budget decisions

SEPTEMBER 1, 2026  
NEW YORK (TIP)

New York City plans to incorporate a racial equity review into future budget planning under its first citywide racial equity plan, released Tuesday, September 1 by Mayor Zohran Mamdani's administration.

According to the amNY, the final plan spans 45 city agencies and includes more than 200 agency goals and outcomes, more than 800 implementation strategies and more than 600 indicators used to track progress.

"For too long, government has been willing to acknowledge inequality without setting goals for ending it. This plan changes that," Mayor Mamdani said in a statement.

The Mayor's Office of Management and Budget and the Mayor's Office of Equity and Racial Justice are developing an "equity budget review" with the goal of applying it to the fiscal year 2028 preliminary budget.

Chief Equity Officer Afua Atta-Mensah said the process would examine where the city invests money, who benefits and whether spending is advancing the outcomes outlined in the plan.

"The objective is not to create a separate budget process," Atta-Mensah said during a briefing with reporters Tuesday.

The written plan says agencies have been asked to consider how their budgets could address past disinvestment and inequities. That could include reallocating funding to meet the needs of historically marginalized communities or expanding services in neighborhoods experiencing longstanding disparities.

The plan also establishes eight overarching citywide goals, including reducing racial disparities in unemployment, rent burden and homelessness; increasing school integration; improving broadband and transportation access; reducing the jail population; and improving pregnancy-related health outcomes for Black New Yorkers.

Unlike some individual agency commitments, those citywide goals do not yet have specific numerical targets.

Atta-Mensah described them Tuesday as "directional commitments for now"



Afua Atta-Mensah, newly appointed Chief Equity Officer, speaks alongside Mayor Mamdani in Harlem on Jan. 15, 2026 -Photo by Lloyd Mitchell/ amNY

and said the administration will attach specific targets as the plan becomes more closely aligned with the city's budget cycle.

"For now, our citywide goals do not have specific targets, but we will attach specific targets that will be backed by real investments as we align better with the budget cycle," she said.

Individual agency plans include short-, medium- and long-term goals, along with timelines and indicators, with some setting numerical benchmarks.

Asked during the briefing what goals and data the city would use to measure success, Atta-Mensah pointed to those agency-level measures.

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, for example, plans by the end of fiscal year 2028 to establish baselines and numerical reduction targets for at least three racial disparities at points in the criminal justice system, potentially including jail admissions, pretrial detention, diversion access and case-processing times.

## A PLAN YEARS IN THE MAKING

The final plan follows a 30-day public comment period on a preliminary version released in April. The administration said it received hundreds of survey responses and engaged hundreds of residents through 10 community conversations.

Among the changes were the addition of the eight citywide goals, greater use of data broken down by race, ethnicity, gender identity or neighborhood where

possible, and stronger links between agency goals and indicators.

The racial equity planning process stems from ballot measures approved by NYC voters in 2022 that amended the City Charter, created the Office of Racial Equity and required the city to regularly produce racial equity plans.

Tuesday's release came days after Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Phaedra Perry-Bond ruled that former Mayor Eric Adams and Mamdani failed to meet Charter deadlines governing the process.

Perry-Bond found that Adams' inaction thwarted the required planning process and said Mamdani's administration also missed a January deadline that fell days after Mamdani took office, though "to a lesser extent." Mamdani released the preliminary plan in April.

Asked Tuesday whether publication of the final plan fulfilled the city's requirements for the current cycle, Atta-Mensah said the Charter required a preliminary plan, a public comment period and a final plan.

"We've done all of those," she said, adding that the administration plans to return to the regular two-year schedule.

The Commission on Racial Equity, or CORE, which brought the lawsuit over the missed deadlines, had also criticized the preliminary plan as failing to meet "core requirements." Atta-Mensah on Tuesday called the commission an "accountability partner" and said the administration would continue working with it.

Mamdani released the preliminary racial equity plan in April alongside the city's first "true cost of living" measure, which found that 62% of New Yorkers, or about 5.04 million people, lacked sufficient resources to cover basic costs.

At the April rollout, Mamdani described the preliminary plan as the first step toward a "whole-of-government approach" to addressing those conditions. Public Advocate Jumaane Williams said at the time that city budgets would need to reflect the plan's findings.

## DEI QUESTIONS LINGER

The preliminary plan also drew scrutiny over its treatment of diversity, equity and inclusion language. City & State reported in April that internal documents showed the city Law Department had pushed to remove references to DEI and soften other language as officials considered potential legal exposure from the Trump administration.

Council Speaker Julie Menin responded that "diminishing or erasing equity-centered frameworks is not the path forward."

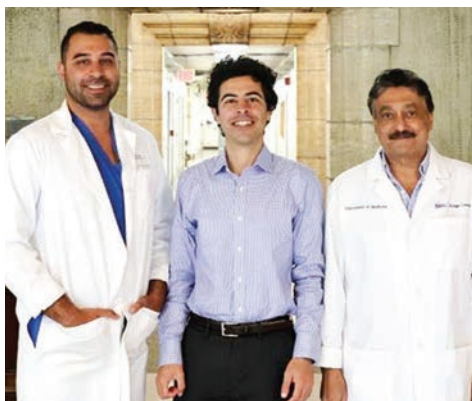
Asked Tuesday about changes to DEI and minority- and women-owned business language, Atta-Mensah did not directly explain the specific edits. She said the final plan explicitly identifies racial disparities and the communities affected by them and said the city remains committed to minority- and women-owned businesses.

Asked about the Trump administration's rollback of similar federal racial equity efforts, Deputy Mayor for Economic Justice Julie Su said New York intends to play a leadership role. She said other cities and states are watching the city and that New York can demonstrate what is possible when government is "full-throated behind a set of goals and outcomes" that include combating deep racial inequities.

City agencies will now begin implementing their plans and tracking results with support from MOERJ. The city will report on progress every two years, and Atta-Mensah said strategies can be changed if data shows they are not producing the intended results.

(Source: amny)

## NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/KINGS COUNTY EXPANDS SLEEP APNEA TREATMENT WITH NEW HYPOGLOSSAL NERVE IMPLANT PROCEDURE



Dr. Raul Gulati, Dr. Mahmoud Awad, and Dr. Samir Fahmy

**KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL IS THE FIRST IN THE NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS SYSTEM TO OFFER THE INNOVATIVE SURGICAL TREATMENT FOR ELIGIBLE PATIENTS WITH OBSTRUCTIVE SLEEP APNEA**

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2026  
BROOKLYN, NY(TIP)

NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County has expanded its sleep apnea treatment options with the introduction of a new procedure, the Hypoglossal Nerve Implant, providing eligible patients with

access to an advanced surgical alternative to traditional therapies. Led by Dr. Mahmoud I. Awad, the procedure marks the first time a Hypoglossal Nerve Implant is being offered at Kings County Hospital and within the NYC Health + Hospitals System.

The procedure utilizes the FDA-approved Genio System, an implantable device designed to help maintain an open airway during sleep. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the airway repeatedly becomes blocked during sleep, interrupting breathing and affecting the quality of a patient's sleep. For some patients, conventional treatments such as

continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) may be difficult to tolerate or may not provide the desired results. Patients undergo a drug-induced sleep endoscopy as part of the evaluation process to determine whether they are appropriate candidates for the procedure.

The Genio System works by stimulating the hypoglossal nerve, which controls muscles involved in tongue movement. During sleep, stimulation of the nerve helps move the tongue forward, supporting an open airway and allowing for more consistent breathing throughout the night.

Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



# Grammy-Winning V. Selvaganesh Unveils Whispers of the Soul: A Musical Journey Through Love, Memory and Renewal

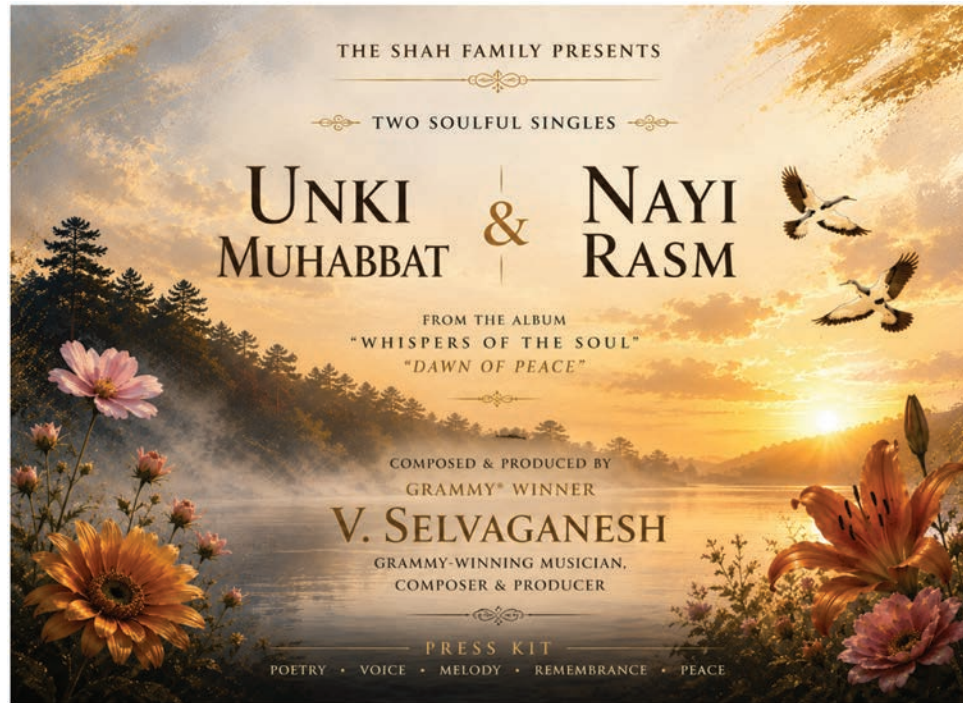
SEPTEMBER 4, 2026  
NEW YORK (TIP)

In an era where music increasingly serves as a bridge between cultures, traditions, and personal stories, Grammy-winning musician, composer, and producer V. Selvaganesh presents a deeply personal and emotionally resonant new project, *Whispers of the Soul*. Centered around the two debut singles, *Unki Muhabbat* and *Nayi Rasm*, the album combines Urdu poetry, spoken verse, classical Indian vocal traditions, and contemporary musical arrangements to explore themes of love, spiritual reflection, remembrance, and hope.

Selvaganesh is internationally recognized as one of the foremost masters of the *Kanjira* and an acclaimed artist in global fusion music. The Chennai-born artist has spent more than three decades collaborating with legendary musicians including John McLaughlin, Zakir Hussain, Mickey Hart, and L. Shankar. As a member of the acclaimed ensemble *Shakti*, he shared in the group's Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album for *This Moment*, further cementing his reputation as one of the leading innovators in contemporary world music.

At the heart of *Whispers of the Soul* lies a remarkable personal story. According to Selvaganesh, the project began after a dream involving his late friend Rishi Shah, who urged him to create music using poetry connected to his family. What initially appeared to be a simple message gradually evolved into a profound artistic collaboration that united poetry, family history, and music. Through conversations with New York physician and poetry enthusiast Dr. Shashi Shekhar Shah, Selvaganesh discovered the works of Shah's brother, the noted poet and author Pramod Shah 'Nafees'. That discovery became the foundation of the album's artistic vision.

The first single, *Unki Muhabbat*, is a reflective exploration of love, longing, and devotion. Written by Pramod Shah 'Nafees' and brought to life through spoken narration and vocals, the composition moves beyond traditional romantic expression to contemplate deeper spiritual questions. The song suggests that true understanding can emerge through surrender, introspection, and self-discovery. Featuring the vocals of acclaimed Hindustani classical singer Anirudh Srinivasraghavan, the piece blends



The project will be formally introduced during a press gathering on September 10, 2026, followed by an album release gala on September 11, 2026, at 89 Shore Road, Manhasset, New York, hosted by the Shah Family.

poetry and melody in a manner that keeps the emotional power of the words at its center.

Complementing this introspective work is *Nayi Rasm*, performed by Carnatic vocalist Jahnvi Murali. While *Unki Muhabbat* looks inward, *Nayi Rasm* looks forward. The poem envisions a renewed world characterized by acceptance, harmony, and fresh beginnings. Its themes of awakening and optimism resonate strongly in a time when societies worldwide continue to grapple with division and uncertainty. Through a gentle yet uplifting musical arrangement, the song encourages listeners to embrace change and imagine new possibilities.

Together, the two songs create a compelling emotional arc. According to the project's creators, *Unki Muhabbat* represents a journey toward inner discovery, while *Nayi Rasm* embodies renewal and hope. This progression forms the conceptual backbone of *Whispers of the Soul*, transforming it from a collection of songs into a cohesive artistic narrative about human connection, healing, and transformation.

A key strength of the project is its multidisciplinary collaboration. Beyond Selvaganesh's composition and production, the album features poetry by Pramod Shah 'Nafees' and recitations by Dr. Shashi Shekhar Shah. Additional musical contributions include performances by respected artists such

as sarangi maestro Sabir Khan, flutist Jay Gandhi, violinist Durai Srinivasan, tabla player Aditya Phatak, and guitarist and co-producer V. Ramanan, who also handled mixing and mastering. The album was recorded at East Egg Studios in New York, reflecting an international creative effort that bridges continents and artistic traditions.

Perhaps the most powerful dimension of *Whispers of the Soul* is its tribute to memory and family. Selvaganesh describes the album not merely as a musical undertaking but as a celebration of Rishi Shah's legacy and the enduring influence of artistic heritage. As he explains, "For me, *Whispers of the Soul* is more than an album. It is a tribute to Rishi and to the extraordinary way his memory brought people, poetry and music together." He further summarizes the project's essence with the poignant reflection: "The dream was the beginning. The poetry showed us the way. The music became the journey."

The project will be formally introduced during a press gathering on September 10, 2026, followed by an album release gala on September 11, 2026, at 89 Shore Road, Manhasset, New York, hosted by the Shah Family. As audiences seek artistic works that offer authenticity, emotional depth, and cultural richness, *Whispers of the Soul* stands out as a meaningful contribution to the contemporary global music landscape. By combining poetry, classical traditions, and personal storytelling, the album demonstrates the enduring power of music to connect individuals across generations, cultures, and experiences.

For more details, please visit:  
<https://selvaganeshacademy.com>

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# The road West is narrowing to a toll lane

NEW DELHI SHOULD STOP TREATING SKILLED MOBILITY AS AMERICA'S INTERNAL AFFAIR AND PUT IT ON THE TABLE AS A TRADE ISSUE

BY SUBIMAL  
BHATTACHARJEE



Two moves out of Washington this week have changed the arithmetic for India's software industry and the second one may hurt more than the first. On August 31, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed a rule that would charge \$103,265 for every H-1B petition, subject to the annual cap of 85,000 visas, including the 20,000 set aside for holders of US master's degrees.

A few days earlier, the DHS had quietly revived a plan, now sitting on its 2026 regulatory agenda, to end work authorization for certain spouses of H-1B holders. Neither is law yet. But the

**INDIAN NATIONALS TOOK 71% OF ALL H-1B APPROVALS IN FISCAL 2024, SOME 2,83,397 OF THEM. THE INDUSTRY THOSE WORKERS FEED IS WORTH ROUGHLY \$282.6 BILLION, WITH EXPORTS OF ABOUT \$224.4 BILLION, AND THE US ALONE BUYS MORE THAN HALF OF INDIA'S SOFTWARE SERVICES EXPORTS - AROUND \$117 BILLION A YEAR. REPRICE THE DOOR TO THAT MARKET AND THE SHOCK LANDS SQUARELY IN BENGALURU, PUNE AND HYDERABAD.**

Indian nationals took 71% of all H-1B approvals in fiscal 2024, some 2,83,397 of them. The industry those workers feed is worth roughly \$282.6 billion, with exports of about \$224.4 billion, and the US alone buys more than half of India's software services exports - around \$117

Indians are essentially the entire group affected. A Congressional Research Service study found that 93% of the 1,26,853 H-4 work permits approved through late 2017 went to spouses from India. The reason is a structural trap: because of a 7% per-

pattern is obvious. The road West is narrowing to a toll lane.

**SO WHAT SHOULD INDIA DO? TWO THINGS.**

Firstly, lean harder into the Global Capability Centre (GCC) model. Instead of shipping engineers and their families abroad, India can be where the work happens. It already holds about 58% of the global sourcing market, and the GCCs are among the fastest-growing parts of its tech economy. Steady tax rules, faster clearances and incentives to build in tier-2 cities could turn visa



The exorbitant H-1B visa fee hike is a barrier dressed up as a filing fee.

AI generated image

intent behind both is hard to miss.

Let us consider the fee first. H-1B visas used to cost somewhere between \$2,000 and \$5,000. Jumping to six figures isn't a price increase; it's a barrier dressed up as a filing fee. The DHS says the rule would raise about \$8.8 billion a year, but that figure assumes 85,000 employers keep paying. They probably won't. When the administration tried a similar \$1,00,000 charge earlier, filings reportedly fell by nearly 90% and the government actually lost \$28 million in revenue. Its own lawyers told a court the fee was "arguably prohibitive" and did not raise money.

That version was struck down by a federal judge in June last. The DHS claims the new one rests on firmer legal ground, but it still has to survive a 30-day comment period and, almost certainly, another lawsuit.

For India, the exposure is enormous.

billion a year. Reprice the door to that market and the shock lands squarely in Bengaluru, Pune and Hyderabad.

The spousal change is quieter, but cuts deeper because it targets whether families choose to go at all. The DHS wants to reverse a 2015 rule that let certain H-4 spouses, those whose H-1B partner is already deep in the green card process, apply for a work permit. It's worth being precise here: no formal rule has been published, the timing is listed as undetermined and existing permits stay valid for now. This is a stated intention, not a done deal.

But the drift is clear, and one related change has already taken effect. Last October, the DHS scrapped the automatic 540-day extension that used to protect spouses waiting on a renewal, which means a slow processing queue can now push someone out of a job they already hold.

country cap on green cards, Indians wait longer than anyone, often decades.

The H-4 permit was the pressure valve that let a spouse, usually a woman with her own degree and career, work through that wait. Take it away and a two-income household becomes one, and the whole proposition of moving to America gets meaningfully worse.

One caveat cushions the big names. India's marquee firms sponsor fewer visas than people assume. Nasscom argues that all Indian IT companies together account for under 20% of approved H-1B visas, having already shifted towards hiring Americans and delivering work from home.

The real casualties are the mid-tier staffing shops and the individual engineer whose spouse can no longer earn. Add a lottery now tilted towards higher salaries and a proposed end to the grace period for laid-off workers and the

friction into domestic jobs. A career built in Hyderabad needs no permit from anyone.

And secondly, spread the risk. Leaning on one market that buys more than half your exports is the vulnerability. Europe already takes roughly a third of India's software services exports and the Gulf, Japan and Southeast Asia are barely tapped. New Delhi should also stop treating skilled mobility as America's internal affair and put it on the table as a trade issue, spouses' work rights included.

None of this is settled law. But the message behind it is settled enough. The country that built a \$224-billion export machine on easy access to the American office now has to build one that doesn't depend on it.

(Subimal Bhattacharjee is a  
Cyber Security Expert)



# YOUTH POWER, AN ELECTORAL FORCE STILL IN THE MAKING

India's Gen Z is gaining political attention, but is yet to consolidate into a viable electoral bloc

BY AKSHAY  
ROUT



It is the season of youth in India, without any formal commemorative event to mark it. They are being courted like never before. Political parties across the aisle, Ministries, Departments, think tanks and media organizations of every kind are engaging with the theme of youth. Education and examination systems are being reassessed; skills and coaching processes are under scrutiny; unemployment is being scanned and nuanced.

The whole nation seems occupied with the subject. Political parties are ramping up their conversations on digital platforms, where young people are assumed to reside. Leaders are recasting their hitherto successful models of communication to capture the attention and gain the confidence of Generation Z - the 14-to-29-year-olds - while mimicking their candid vocabulary. College and school campuses are crowded by political personalities. The overstretch almost suggests a desperation to connect.

## THERE HAVE BEEN YOUTH INITIATIVES.

Not that the youth have never been cared for. Governments, past and present, have taken up initiatives for youth development. The last 12 years have witnessed a plethora of schemes directed at them, covering employment, entrepreneurship, skill enhancement, education, internships, sports and volunteering. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, while facing flak in certain respects, has managed to focus on quality learning geared towards innovation and the empowerment of young citizens. The proposed National Youth Policy 2026 seeks to prepare those in the 15-29 age group for the new digital age.

But beyond the good schemes, there is a lag in understanding Gen Z and Gen A (those born after 2010), who have begun to demand accountability. A NITI Aayog report speaks of 8.7 crore people in the 15-29 age group who are 'not in education, employment or training' (NEET). Despite clarifications from the government that NEET does not necessarily mean joblessness, a staggering amount of youthful energy still awaits an anchor. The yawning gap between formal degrees and job prospects remains a daunting problem. In the wake of the recent street protests, the Opposition has built a narrative that the ruling dispensation is hostile to younger generations. The question is: do they have a blueprint for the country's youth, or are they only making political capital out of the current ferment?

Not taking away from the goodwill of political entities towards the nation's future generations, the overwhelming context is the chorus orchestrated by the country's youth in Delhi and other places in recent weeks. While the youth furor and its consequences in India bear no comparison with the cataclysmic happenings in parts of the South Asian neighborhood, a wake-up call has been

**IN THE TEXT OF THE UNION GOVERNMENT'S VISION OF A DEVELOPED INDIA BY 2047, THE YOUTH ARE REGARDED AS THE AMRIT PEEDHI (THE GENERATION OF THE NECTAR). BUT IN REALPOLITIK, THE FORTHCOMING STATE ELECTIONS MAY SHOW WHICH SIDE THE NECTAR SWEETENS OR WHETHER IT DOES SO AT ALL. SWAMI VIVEKANANDA SPOKE OF THE POWER OF YOUTH, BUT IN AN ELECTORAL SENSE, THAT POWER MAY ONLY NOW BE CRYSTALLIZING IN INDIA.**



A viral photo of Gen Z protest in New Delhi -Photo / Facebook

sounded to those in power and those seeking to get there. The response, however exaggerated, is welcome. Parties and leaders now appear to be grappling with issues concerning the youth, regardless of whether they are motivated by electoral politics.

## MORE AN ELUSIVE VOTE

India has the largest youth population in the world; 65% of its nearly 1.5 billion people are below 35 years of age. About 23% of the country's electorate falls in the 18-29 age category. In elections in recent years, including the latest Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, Assam, West Bengal, Keralam and Puducherry, there was no discernible trend of young people voting in any political direction. The outcome in Tamil Nadu showed some hints of youth consolidation, but it was far from being based on any alternative youth agenda.

In last year's Bihar election, noticeable efforts by political groups to advance a youth agenda did not generate much appeal. Certain studies, however, suggest that young voters partly influenced the verdicts in the 2014 and 2019 general elections.

In the 75-year electoral history of India, while votes have been garnered under labels such as community, caste, class, farmers, industrial workers and even government employees, there has been no block identification of the youth as yet. There are steady references to the votes of Dalits, minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, as well as the Yadav vote in Uttar Pradesh and the so-called M-Y vote in Bihar - patterns that have held steady over decades.

To these has now been added, in good measure, the women's vote. A house for shelter, a toilet on the premises, gas in

the kitchen and electricity at home can capture the imagination of women across regions, besides cash delivered directly into their wallets. Gratitude is then expressed through the ballot.

For reasons yet to be overcome, caste and community continue to abide as assured aggregators in the electoral arena. These, along with gender identity, have considerably subsumed youth identity. Critical issues such as employment and education constitute only a loose overhang.

Youth participation in India's elections has remained low-key compared with other demographic categories, despite an improvement in recent years, and largely due to the mobilization efforts of the Election Commission of India (ECI). The ECI has recently galvanized its electoral literacy campaigns to orient students in schools and colleges to the electoral system, processes and practices, and to secure their informed participation.

The upcoming Assembly elections in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be the earliest test case to determine whether the noisy voice of the streets gets organized into a political preference, including the amount of youth candidature. A quarter of the Assembly seats in these States, especially in politically muscular Uttar Pradesh, were won roughly by margins of around 5% and could, hence, easily be swung by Gen Z voters. The comparison ends there. The youth of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab do not share a common predicament; neither do the Gen Z in Goa and Manipur, or, for that matter, the youth of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, which go to the polls later in 2027. Electorally speaking, the current political attention on the youth can be interpreted as an attempt to cut possible losses while making a moderate investment.

## OLD EQUATIONS DO MATTER.

Political parties cannot abandon time-tested voting blocs for an undependable, heterogeneous multitude that may or may not walk out of its Instagram residency. Old social calculations and booth management may still hold good in actual polls, while the youth awakening may remain a story on the side. Political parties and poll campaigners have a professional finger on the pulse of the people; they will carefully watch the emergence of a real Gen Z vote from the cradle, while they adjust their plans and campaigns just that bit for now.

In the text of the Union government's vision of a developed India by 2047, the youth are regarded as the Amrit Peedhi (the generation of the nectar). But in realpolitik, the forthcoming State elections may show which side the nectar sweetens or whether it does so at all. Swami Vivekananda spoke of the power of youth, but in an electoral sense, that power may only now be crystallizing in India.

(Akshay Rout is a former Director General, Election Commission of India, and a public policy commentator. The views expressed are personal)



# The Guardian view on Trump's immigration crackdown: who will have fewer rights next?

Is the Trump administration creating a group in the US with fewer protections against executive power owing to their immigration status? Its often openly racist actions suggest so. US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) claims to target "the worst of the worst" - undocumented migrants who commit violent crimes. Yet the Guardian reported that over half of those arrested in July had no criminal convictions or pending charges. That month, ICE made record arrests and deportations, apprehending 1,500 people and removing 1,100 daily.

When campaigning, Donald Trump falsely claimed that Haitians were "eating the pets". In office, his administration moved to end temporary protected status (TPS) for Haitians. In June, the supreme court let the protection expire, leaving about 350,000 people at risk of deportation to a country gripped by violence and instability. The court's decision means more than 1 million TPS holders from 13 nations previously considered too unsafe to return to are now at risk of deportation. Many have lived and worked legally in the US for years.

Although Barack Obama deported a record 430,000 people in 2013, his administration focused largely on border-crossers. Mr Trump's crackdown reaches deep into America, targeting



The president's deportation machine is creating a class of people inside the US who have fewer protections against the power of the state. -Screenshot/ ABC

those who call the country home. The Economist reports that Trumpian legal tactics have left 1.7 million more immigrants open to deportation.

Mr Trump's dehumanizing rhetoric does political work: it turns groups into threats, making harsh treatment easier to justify. By calling migration an "invasion", he sought to suspend habeas corpus - the ancient safeguard against arbitrary detention. When that proved too much even for Mr Trump, his administration attacked due process

instead. In July 2025, an ICE directive quietly rewrote detention policy, treating many migrants arrested inside the US as if they had just arrived at the border, denying them bond hearings. For many, the only recourse was to go to the federal courts. Judges repeatedly ruled the policy illegal yet thousands languish in detention for months awaiting relief.

The White House has sought to deport immigrants for protected political speech. Last week, a federal judge ruled visa cancellations for noncitizen

students' pro-Palestinian advocacy unconstitutional. Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia graduate and permanent resident whose arrest by ICE in 2025 after Gaza protests made global news, is still fighting a final deportation order - a stark threat to liberty.

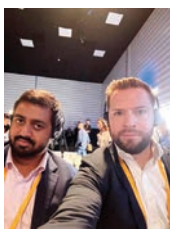
Mr Trump's immigration crackdown still fires up his Maga base, but is unpopular with many Americans. In one week in July, three ICE encounters ended in death. ICE's masked thuggishness is a disgrace. So is the president's cruelty. The Brookings Institution thinktank estimates that more than 100,000 children, three-quarters of whom are probably US citizens, have been separated from their parents during Mr Trump's second term.

The argument within the US right is moving beyond undocumented migrants and noncitizens. Some Republicans are pushing to restrict the rights of naturalized and dual citizens - including their right to run for office. They may be spooked by the success of the Ugandan-born New York mayor Zohran Mamdani, whose family has Indian roots. Mr Trump has long spoken about - and treated - people differently according to their race. He is still doing so. The US has been down this road before. Abraham Lincoln understood the danger: once equality admits exceptions, where do they stop? (Source: The Guardian)

## The USS Abraham Lincoln finally ends a 286-day deployment

BY RISHI  
IYENGAR  
AND  
JOHN  
HALTIWANGER

Photo / Instagram



The USS Abraham Lincoln has seen better days. The nuclear-powered aircraft carrier docked in Thailand on Wednesday after 286 grueling days at sea-the bulk of which were spent in the Middle East supporting the U.S. war against Iran-and it's covered in rust.

The Lincoln is now receiving repairs as its crew members enjoy some much-deserved R&R. The condition of the Lincoln, while not unexpected after a prolonged deployment, is an unsettling metaphor for both the state of the Iran war and the U.S. military more broadly at the moment.

The Iran war has left the U.S. military overextended, pulling vital resources and personnel away from other regions and priorities. And much like the war itself, the carrier's deployment lasted far longer than the Trump administration expected or planned.

The 5,000 sailors and Marines aboard reportedly faced a range of challenges, from food shortages to sewage issues. The indefinite timeline surrounding their deployment also apparently (and quite understandably) had a detrimental effect on the mental health of some

personnel aboard, leading family members to raise grave concerns. Multiple crew members reportedly attempted to jump overboard.

Their hardships can't be divorced from the fact that they're serving under an administration that has struggled to define its goals in the Iran war from the start. As retired Gen. Joseph Votel, the former Central Command chief, told John in July, "The military has done exactly what has been asked of them, and they've done that to the best of their ability," but it's been challenging "to appreciate what the long-term strategic objectives" are in the war.

Directionless. The Iran war reignited this week after a lull in fighting (for the umpteenth time), and this cycle appears to be poised to continue so long as the Trump administration refuses to change course in a significant way (or cut its losses).

This means that the U.S. military will keep using up already dwindled stockpiles of key munitions, and tens of thousands of U.S. troops will continue to be deployed in the region.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is extending Middle East troop deployments into 2027, despite reported warnings from top military leaders that the prolongment of large-scale operations is unsustainable.

Pentagon problems. Meanwhile, there's trouble on the home front as Hegseth's controversial approach to leadership-and his efforts to consolidate



The USS Abraham Lincoln is in need of repairs

power and ensure loyalty-continues to push key Pentagon figures out.

In one of the highest-profile departures under Hegseth's tenure to date, Army Secretary Dan Driscoll resigned on Monday. Driscoll met with Trump at the White House ahead of his resignation. A U.S. official briefed on the meeting, who requested anonymity to discuss internal conversations, told SitRep that Driscoll used that meeting to present his concerns to Trump about the Army's future and direction under Hegseth's leadership. Driscoll also told Trump that Hegseth's firing of several top generals made it difficult to implement the changes within the Army that Driscoll wanted, the official added.

Driscoll's wartime exit has led congressional Democrats and even some

Republicans to call for Hegseth's resignation. GOP Sen. Thom Tillis wrote in a post on X that he's "never witnessed more inept management" of the military, describing Hegseth as "intimidated by competence" while urging Trump to "find a new leader at the Pentagon who will retain and empower our military talent rather than diminish it."

Though many in Washington are convinced that Hegseth is no longer (or never was) the man for the job, Trump has apparently not given up on him just yet. But with Trump's polling numbers in the gutter amid the unpopular Iran war, it could become increasingly difficult for the president to overlook the dysfunction and negative press engulfing the Pentagon under Hegseth.

(Source: FP)



# AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET 9/11

## THE HUMAN TRAGEDY REMEMBERED ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

*25 years after the attacks, the smoke has long disappeared from Manhattan's skyline. But the memories, questions and consequences of September 11, 2001, continue to shape America and the world.*



Two hijacked airplanes struck the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City on the morning of September 11, 2001.

There are dates that belong to history, and there are dates that become part of people's personal memories. September 11, 2001, is both.

For those who lived through it, the morning remains unusually vivid.

People remember the television reports, the first photographs of smoke rising from the World Trade Center, the astonishing sight of a second aircraft striking the South Tower, the collapse of buildings that seemed almost



The 9/11 hijackers struck at the heart of the US military when they crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the world-famous Pentagon building.

indestructible, the streams of people fleeing Lower Manhattan and the sudden emptiness of American skies.

For those who came later, September 11 exists through images and stories: two skyscrapers burning against a clear blue sky, firefighters climbing stairs while others descended, a cloud of dust swallowing streets, passengers aboard Flight 93 deciding to fight back, and, years later, the American special forces operation that ended Osama bin Laden's life.

But 9/11 was more than one morning of spectacular destruction. It was the culmination of years of radicalization, terrorist planning, intelligence warnings and institutional failures. It triggered wars, transformed America's security system, altered international politics and changed how millions of people thought about travel, surveillance, terrorism and national identity.

The physical destruction was enormous. The psychological impact was even larger.

And the consequences did not end when the fires were extinguished.

### THE AMERICA BEFORE SEPTEMBER 11

To understand why September 11 shocked America so profoundly, it is important to understand the country that existed before it.

The United States entered the 21st century as the world's dominant superpower. The Cold War had ended. The Soviet Union had disappeared.

American military strength was unmatched, the economy was powerful and the country's cultural and technological influence reached almost every corner of the globe.

New York represented that confidence.

The World Trade Center's Twin Towers rose more than 1,300 feet above Lower Manhattan. They were not merely office buildings. They were symbols of international commerce and American economic power. Tens of thousands of people worked in and around the complex, while visitors from across the world came to see the towers and the city below them.

The towers were also familiar. They appeared in films, television programs, postcards and photographs. For New Yorkers, they were part of the daily landscape.

Every morning, people entered the complex with coffee cups and briefcases. Elevators carried workers towards offices hundreds of meters above the ground. Restaurants opened. Deliveries arrived. Meetings began.

Nobody looking at the skyline that morning could have imagined that before the day was over, the towers would no longer exist.

The United States had suffered terrorist attacks before. But terrorism was generally regarded as a serious security problem rather than an existential threat to the American homeland.

That perception was about to disappear.



# THE RISE OF OSAMA BIN LADEN AND AL-QAEDA

The story of 9/11 began years before the hijackers boarded their aircraft.

Osama bin Laden emerged from the militant networks created during the war against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. He eventually became the leader of al-Qaeda, an organisation that sought to build a transnational militant movement and increasingly identified the United States as its principal enemy.

The organization developed in stages. It built financial networks, recruited followers, established training infrastructure and created relationships with militant groups in different countries.

Afghanistan became particularly important after the Taliban rose to power. Al-Qaeda found a permissive environment in which it could train operatives and develop its international network.

Bin Laden's hostility towards the United States became increasingly explicit.

The first World Trade Center bombing in 1993 demonstrated that the towers could be targeted. The bombing killed six people and injured more than a thousand.

The threat grew.

In 1998, near-simultaneous bombings of U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killed 224 people and injured thousands. In 2000, al-Qaeda operatives attacked the USS Cole in Yemen, killing 17 American sailors.

These attacks were not isolated events. They were part of an evolving campaign.

The 9/11 Commission later documented this history in detail, describing the rise of bin Laden and al-Qaeda, their declaration of war against the United States and the development of the "planes operation."

America had warnings.

What it did not have was a sufficiently clear picture of what was coming.

## THE PLOT TAKES SHAPE

The eventual 9/11 operation was extraordinarily ambitious.

The terrorists planned to hijack several commercial aircraft simultaneously and use them as weapons.

The idea represented a fundamental change from conventional hijacking. Traditionally, hijackers might take control of an aircraft to demand money, release prisoners or obtain political concessions. The 9/11 attackers intended something different: the aircraft themselves would become missiles.

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was identified by U.S. authorities and the 9/11 Commission as the principal architect of the plot. Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda provided leadership, organizational support and resources.

The planning process took years.

The men selected for the operation travelled through different countries before eventually entering the United States. Some had studied aviation. The future pilots attended flight schools in America. Others were assigned supporting roles.

The plot required the terrorists to accomplish several things simultaneously: enter the United States



Osama bin Laden in a rare undated photo with his men and weapons in Afghanistan while fighting the Red Army. Photo credit: AAR/Sipa

without attracting enough attention to stop them, obtain flight training, identify appropriate targets, maintain communication with the organization, coordinate the teams and board the aircraft on the same morning.

The operation depended upon secrecy.

It also depended upon the attackers understanding the vulnerabilities of the American aviation system.

They succeeded.

The 9/11 Commission described the operation as a progression from the development of the "planes operation" to the arrival of the pilots in the United States, the assembling of the teams and the final strategies and tactics.

The most disturbing part was that the plot unfolded largely within the normal rhythms of American life.

The future hijackers were not invading soldiers. They were passengers.

## THE WARNINGS THAT DID NOT BECOME A WARNING

One of the most difficult questions surrounding 9/11 is whether the attacks could have been prevented.

The answer remains complicated.

American intelligence and law-enforcement agencies knew that al-Qaeda represented a serious threat. The organization had already attacked American interests overseas. Officials received warnings about terrorism and the possibility of an attack inside the



Al-Qaeda rose from a logistical support network for anti-Soviet fighters in Afghanistan into a centralized global terrorist organization during the late 1980s and 1990s. Photo credit: Getty Images

United States.

But information existed in fragments.

One agency might know something that another did not.

A piece of information might be treated as a minor clue rather than part of a larger pattern.

Foreign intelligence and domestic law enforcement operated within different institutional structures.

The 9/11 Commission later described the summer of 2001 as a period in which the threat was intensifying. Its report

examined failures across intelligence, law enforcement, aviation security, the White House and other parts of government.

The tragedy therefore was not simply that America lacked information.

It was that the information did not produce the right action quickly enough.

The system was looking at individual pieces. The terrorists were constructing a whole picture.

That gap would become one of the most important lessons of September 11.



# SEPTEMBER 11: AN ORDINARY MORNING

The morning of September 11 began with almost perfect weather over the northeastern United States.

The skies were clear.

People were commuting.

Children were going to school.

Workers were arriving at offices.

Tourists were taking photographs.

Four commercial aircraft prepared for long domestic flights.

American Airlines Flight 11 was bound for Los Angeles from Boston.

United Airlines Flight 175 was also travelling from Boston to Los Angeles.

American Airlines Flight 77 was scheduled to fly from Washington Dulles to Los Angeles.

United Airlines Flight 93 was headed from Newark to San Francisco.

The 19 hijackers were distributed among the four aircraft.

Passengers settled into their seats.

Flight attendants prepared for departure.

Pilots began their routines.

At that moment, nobody aboard the aircraft knew that they were part of a coordinated terrorist operation.

At 7:59 a.m., Flight 11 departed Boston.

At 8:14 a.m., Flight 175 left Boston.

At 8:20 a.m., Flight 77 departed Washington.

Flight 93 took off from Newark at 8:42 a.m.

The attacks had begun.

## 8:46 A.M.: THE FIRST PLANE

At 8:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

The impact was catastrophic.

The aircraft cut into the upper floors of the building. Jet fuel ignited, producing an enormous fireball.

People on the streets looked upward.

The first reports were confused.

Had a plane accidentally struck the building?

Was the pilot suffering from a medical emergency?

Was there some other explanation?

Nobody initially knew.

But inside the tower, thousands of people were suddenly facing a disaster.

Smoke spread.

Emergency alarms sounded.

People began moving towards stairways.

Firefighters rushed towards the building.

Police officers attempted to establish evacuation routes.

News organizations began broadcasting pictures of the burning tower.

America was watching.

But America still did not know what it was watching.

## 9:03 A.M.: THE SECOND IMPACT

Seventeen minutes later, everything changed.

United Airlines Flight 175 appeared on live television and crashed into the South Tower.

New York City firefighters work near the area known as Ground Zero after the collapse of the Twin Towers September 11, 2001 in New York City. Credit: Shutterstock



Streets of Lower Manhattan are filled with wreckage from the collapse of the WTC. Credit: Magnum Photos

The second impact was captured from multiple angles.

The message was unmistakable.

This was not an accident.

America was under attack.

The images were so shocking that they immediately became part of the historical memory of the 21st century.

The second aircraft struck the building and produced an explosion of fuel, metal, glass and fire.

The two towers were now burning.

People began running through Lower Manhattan.

Emergency vehicles converged on the

World Trade Center.

Firefighters entered the buildings.

People above the impact zones were trapped.

Those below began descending.

And television viewers across America watched in horror.

The morning had become a national emergency.

## THE PENTAGON IS HIT

At 9:37 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

The Pentagon was not merely another government building. It was

the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense and a central symbol of American military power.

Smoke rose from the building.

Emergency workers rushed to the scene. The attack demonstrated that the terrorists had selected targets representing different dimensions of American power.

The World Trade Center represented finance and global commerce.

The Pentagon represented military power. And another target was apparently being sought in Washington.



## FLIGHT 93'S LAST STAND &amp; GROUND ZERO'S UNTOLD TOLL



United Airlines Flight 93 was one of four commercial aircraft hijacked by al-Qaeda operatives on September 11, 2001. Credit: Getty

The passengers of United Flight 93 initially knew little about what was happening.

Then the calls began.

Passengers used telephones to contact family members.

They learned about the World Trade Center.

They learned about the Pentagon.

They realized that the hijacking of their aircraft was probably part of the same operation.

The passengers now faced a terrible choice.

They could remain passive.

Or they could attempt to take control of the aircraft.

They chose to fight.

The decision was made with incomplete information and enormous personal risk.

The passengers and crew members moved towards the cockpit.

A struggle began.

The hijackers attempted to maintain control.

The passengers attempted to break through. The aircraft changed course.

It never reached Washington.

At 10:03 a.m., Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

All 40 passengers and crew members died. But the aircraft did not hit the intended target.

The 9/11 Commission concluded that the plane was likely headed toward the U.S. Capitol or White House and that the passengers' resistance prevented the hijackers from completing their objective.

Flight 93 became one of the defining stories of courage on September 11.

#### THE TOWERS FALL

At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower collapsed. It had stood for decades.

It disappeared in seconds.

A gigantic dust cloud swept through Lower Manhattan.

People ran through streets covered in

Fire and rescue workers search through the rubble of the World Trade Center in the days after the 9/11 attacks as a plume of dust swirls in the air. Credit: AFP via Getty Images



ash.

Inside the disaster zone, emergency workers were trying to survive.

Others were still attempting to help.

The North Tower remained standing.

For another 29 minutes, it burned.

At 10:28 a.m., the North Tower collapsed.

The two structures that had defined the New York skyline were gone.

The destruction was so complete that photographs from Ground Zero were difficult to comprehend.

Steel beams were twisted.

Concrete was pulverized.

Cars were buried.

Roads disappeared beneath debris.

And the air itself was filled with dust.

The area would soon become known around the world as Ground Zero.



The falling Man: A person falls from the north tower of New York's World Trade Centre, after terrorists crashed two hijacked airliners into the buildings. Picture: Richard Drew/AP



Debris fall from one of the burning twin towers. Photo credit: AP



# THE HUMAN SCALE OF THE TRAGEDY

Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks. But even that number does not adequately communicate what happened.

Every victim represented a separate life.

There were people who had arrived at work minutes earlier.

There were people aboard the four aircraft.

There were firefighters who climbed into the burning towers.

There were police officers directing evacuations.

There were paramedics.

There were people who happened to be visiting.

There were people who were making telephone calls when the buildings collapsed.

There were families waiting at home.

The 9/11 Commission recorded more than 2,600 deaths at the World Trade Center, 125 at the Pentagon and 256 people aboard the four aircraft.

The statistics were overwhelming.

New York therefore began telling the story through faces.

## THE WALLS OF MISSING PEOPLE

In the days following the attacks, New York became covered in photographs.

The faces of the missing appeared on walls, street poles and shop windows.

Families hoped against hope.

Some believed their loved ones might still be alive.

Hospitals were checked.

Telephone calls were made.

Names were circulated.

The city became a gigantic search effort.

Eventually, the hope gave way to mourning.

The photographs remained.

They were a reminder that the people killed on September 11 were not simply a number.

They had birthdays.

They had favorite foods.

They had children.

They had friends.

They had unfinished plans.

Some had left home that morning without saying goodbye because they expected to return that evening.

They never did.

## THE FIREFIGHTERS WHO CLIMBED UP

Perhaps no image better captures the courage of September 11 than that of firefighters moving upward through the World Trade Center while thousands of civilians were moving downward.

The firefighters did not know how unstable the buildings had become.

They did not know whether the towers would remain standing.

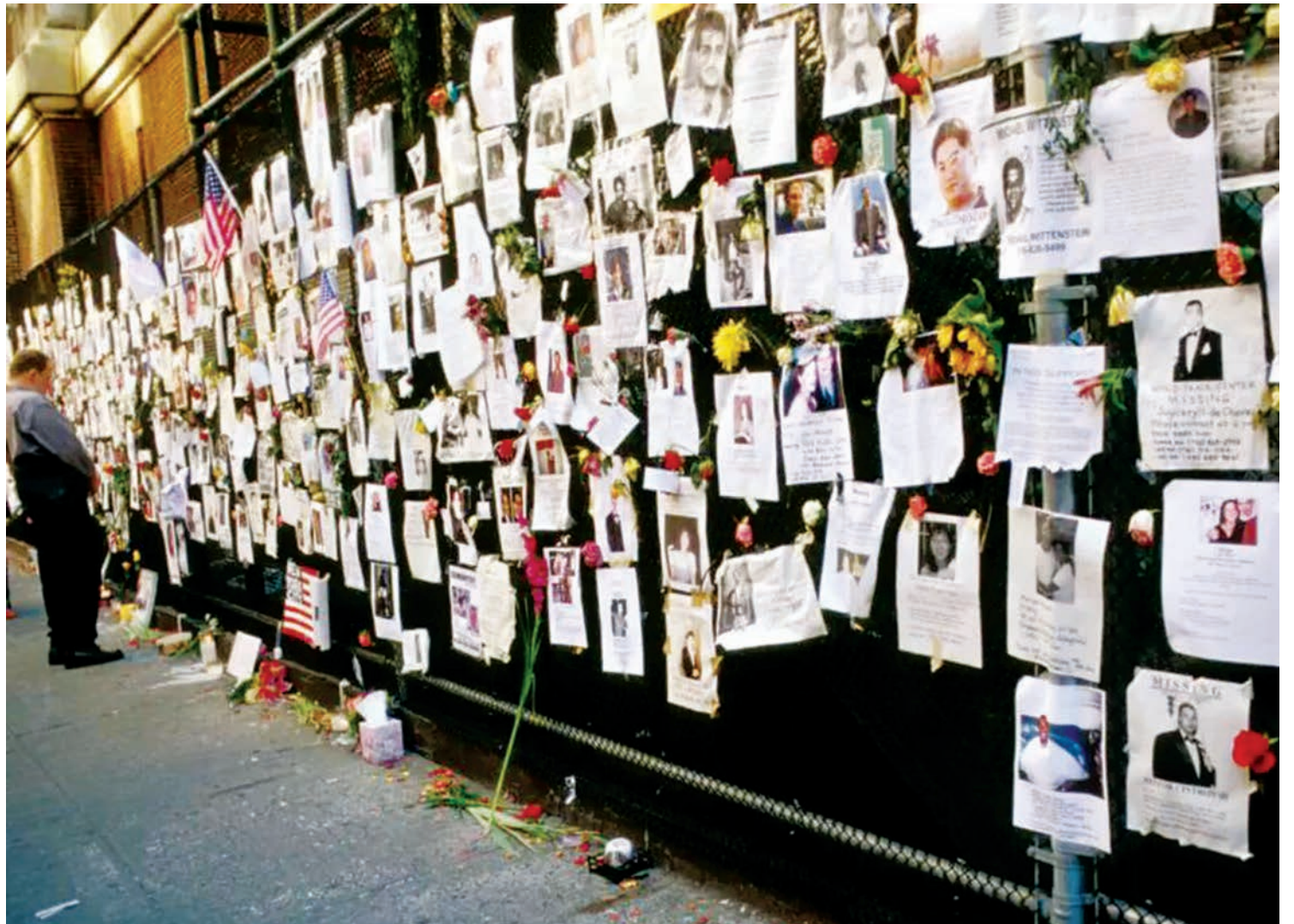
They knew only that people needed help.

Hundreds of emergency personnel died.

The losses were devastating for the New York Fire Department, police department and emergency services.

The heroes of 9/11 were not mythical figures.

They were ordinary workers who



Lexington Avenue: Missing Persons Following World Trade Center Attack. Photo: Getty Images

happened to face an extraordinary emergency.

Some made final telephone calls.

Some left voice messages for family members.

Some were last seen entering the towers. Their stories became part of New York's collective memory.

## THE SILENCE AFTER THE ATTACKS

The physical attacks ended that morning.

The psychological attack continued.

For days, commercial aircraft remained grounded.

The familiar sound of planes disappeared from American skies.

Airports became quiet.

Passengers were stranded.

Government buildings remained under heightened security.

Rumors circulated about possible additional attacks.

People wondered whether schools were safe.

Whether shopping centers were safe.

Whether public buildings were safe.

Whether another aircraft could be hijacked.

The country had entered a state of uncertainty.

In New York, smoke continued rising from Ground Zero.

In Washington, the Pentagon was damaged and partially burning.

Across the United States, television networks remained focused almost entirely on the attacks.

There was no ordinary news cycle.

There was only 9/11.



Raising the Flag at Ground Zero. Photo credit: North Jersey Media Group



# A COUNTRY COMES TOGETHER

In the immediate aftermath, something remarkable happened. America experienced an extraordinary wave of solidarity.

Flags appeared everywhere.

People lined up to donate blood.

Volunteers travelled to New York.

Restaurants prepared food for rescue workers. People offered rooms to strangers who could not return home.

Religious institutions opened their doors. Political differences seemed temporarily less important.

The phrase "United We Stand" appeared across the country.

New Yorkers, in particular, responded with extraordinary mutual support.

Strangers helped strangers.

People opened apartments to people who could not reach their homes.

Taxi drivers transported people away from Lower Manhattan.

Businesses donated supplies.

The tragedy produced fear, but it also produced a profound sense of community.

That unity would become one of the most remembered features of the first weeks after 9/11.

## AMERICA DECLARES WAR

The United States soon turned its attention towards al-Qaeda and Afghanistan.

The Taliban government had provided al-Qaeda with a sanctuary.

Washington demanded that the Taliban hand over bin Laden and dismantle the terrorist organization's infrastructure.

The demands were not accepted in the way Washington wanted.

The United States and its allies began military operations in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001.

The campaign involved air power, intelligence operations, special forces and cooperation with Afghan forces opposed to the Taliban. The Taliban regime fell rapidly from major Afghan cities.

But the war did not end.

Al-Qaeda fighters escaped into remote areas and across the border into Pakistan. The conflict evolved.

What began as a campaign to destroy al-Qaeda and its sanctuary became a long war involving counterinsurgency, nation-building and attempts to create a stable Afghan state.

The 9/11 Commission later described the initial campaign as involving several phases, from establishing regional bases and conducting air strikes to removing the Taliban from power and pursuing al-Qaeda.

The United States had entered a war without a clear end date.

## THE NEW AMERICAN SECURITY SYSTEM

One of the most visible consequences of 9/11 appeared at airports.

The old assumption that hijackers might want to negotiate disappeared.

The new assumption was that a hijacked aircraft could be used as a weapon.

Cockpit security was strengthened.

Passenger screening became much more extensive.

The Transportation Security



The United States created the Department of Homeland Security after the attacks.

Administration was established.

Airport queues grew.

Identification checks became routine.

Restrictions on liquids and other items became familiar.

For frequent travelers, the post-9/11 airport became a daily reminder of the attack.

But the transformation went far beyond airports.

The United States created the Department of Homeland Security.

Intelligence agencies increased counterterrorism cooperation.

Law enforcement agencies focused more heavily on preventing attacks.

Emergency response planning expanded.

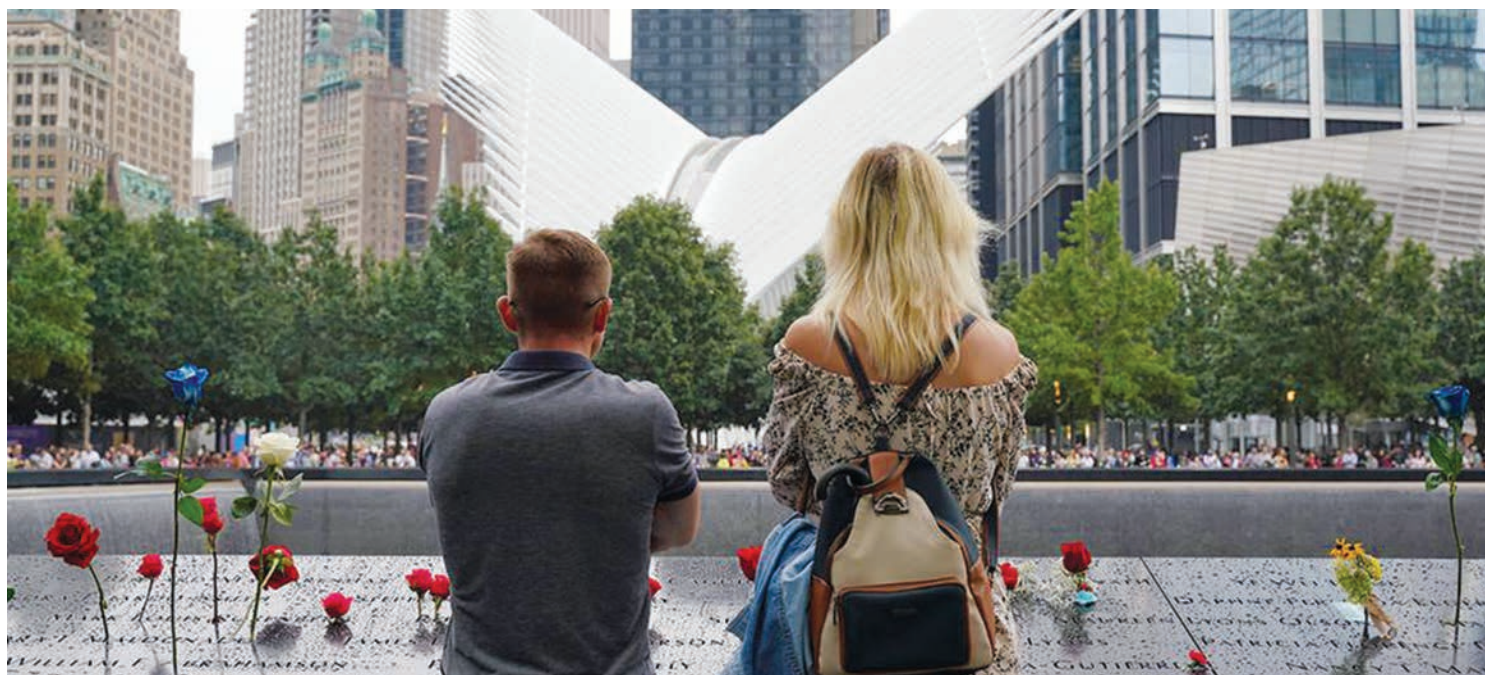
Critical infrastructure became a national-security concern.

The country began preparing for threats that previously seemed improbable.

America's definition of security had changed.



After 9/11, passenger screening became much more extensive.



A memorial service in New York City to commemorate the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Relatives of the victims mourned at the World Trade Center site.



# THE PATRIOT ACT AND THE DEBATE OVER FREEDOM

The response also created a difficult constitutional debate. After 9/11, the government sought greater powers to investigate suspected terrorists.

The USA PATRIOT Act expanded the ability of authorities to conduct surveillance and obtain certain forms of information.

Supporters argued that these powers were necessary to prevent another catastrophic attack.

Critics feared that the government was gaining powers that could be misused.

The debate was fundamental.

How much privacy should citizens surrender for security?

How much surveillance is acceptable in a democracy?

When does legitimate counterterrorism become excessive government power?

These questions became even more important as technology advanced.

The post-9/11 world therefore created a tension that remains unresolved:

The desire to feel safe versus the desire to remain free.

## WHEN FEAR TURNED TOWARDS COMMUNITIES

The attacks also produced social consequences that were painful and, in many cases, entirely unrelated to the perpetrators.

Muslim Americans faced suspicion.

Arab Americans experienced discrimination.

Sikhs were targeted in some cases because attackers mistakenly associated their appearance with Islam.

Mosques and Islamic institutions faced hostility.

The tragedy demonstrated how quickly fear could turn into prejudice.

Al-Qaeda claimed an extremist religious justification for its actions, but the overwhelming majority of Muslims around the world rejected its ideology.

The distinction between a terrorist organization and an entire religious or ethnic community became one of the most important social lessons of the post-9/11 period.



U.S. Pres. George W. Bush shaking hands with Sen. Arlen Specter after signing the USA PATRIOT Act Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, in the East Room of the White House, March 9, 2006.

America had to confront a difficult contradiction.

It wanted to protect itself from terrorism while also maintaining its identity as a diverse society.

## THE CULTURAL AFTERSHOCK

September 11 also changed American culture.

Films and television programs altered how they portrayed terrorism.

News organizations became more conscious of images of violence.

Writers and artists explored trauma, grief and memory.

New York itself became a symbol of resilience.

The image of the American flag became more prominent.

The language of patriotism changed.

Words such as "hero", "first responder"

and "homeland" became part of everyday conversation.

At the same time, the country became more conscious of the dangers of nationalism turning into intolerance.

The challenge was to remember the victims while avoiding hatred of entire populations.

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

A quarter of a century has passed since the morning that transformed America.

The people who were children in 2001 are now adults.

Some of the firefighters who responded that day have retired.

Some survivors have become grandparents.

Some children of the victims have grown older than their parents ever

were.

Some first responders who appeared healthy after the attacks later became seriously ill.

The World Trade Center has been rebuilt.

The Pentagon has been repaired.

The Flight 93 memorial stands in Pennsylvania.

And the names of the dead remain in New York.

The United States has changed enormously since September 11.

The wars have changed.

Technology has changed.

Politics has changed.

Security has changed.

The world has changed.

But one thing has remained remarkably constant: the need to remember.



The attacks also produced social consequences that were painful and, in many cases, entirely unrelated to the perpetrators. Muslim Americans faced suspicion.



President George W. Bush embraces a firefighter during a visit to New York on Sept. 14, 2001. Credit: Getty Images



# THE HUNT FOR BIN LADEN

Osama bin Laden disappeared into the shadows. For almost ten years, the man regarded as the principal symbol of 9/11 remained at large.

American intelligence agencies pursued him across Afghanistan and Pakistan. His whereabouts remained uncertain. The hunt became one of the longest intelligence operations in modern American history. The breakthrough came through the tracking of a courier.

The courier's identity and movements gradually led American intelligence analysts to an unusual compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The compound did not resemble an ordinary residence. It had high walls. The residents maintained unusual secrecy. Communication appeared limited. There were no obvious telephone or internet connections.

Rubbish was reportedly burned rather than collected.

Intelligence analysts increasingly believed that the compound might be hiding an important al-Qaeda figure.

Could it be bin Laden?

There was no absolute certainty.

But the possibility was strong enough to justify an extraordinary decision.

## OPERATION NEPTUNE SPEAR

The mission was designed to capture or kill bin Laden and obtain intelligence from the compound.

The United States could have used air power. But bombing the compound would have created a major problem: how could the target's identity be confirmed?

A ground raid offered a greater chance of certainty. It also created enormous risk.

Special operations forces would have to fly deep into Pakistani territory, enter the compound, locate the target and leave before the operation could become a larger confrontation. The mission was rehearsed repeatedly.

A replica of the compound was built.

The team trained for the assault. On the night of May 1, 2011, the helicopters took off. As they approached the compound, one helicopter experienced a serious problem and crash-landed inside the compound area. The mission could have collapsed. It did not. The assault continued. The operators moved through the compound. They encountered resistance. They searched the buildings. Eventually they reached bin Laden. He was killed. The mission was completed in minutes. The team collected documents and electronic material from the compound and withdrew. The operation had succeeded. After nearly ten years, Osama bin Laden was dead.

## THE NIGHT AMERICA CELEBRATED

When President Barack Obama announced bin Laden's death, crowds gathered outside the White House.

People celebrated in New York.

At Ground Zero, the location where thousands had died, people gathered again. The emotional response was complicated.

For some, it was a moment of triumph.

For others, it was a moment of justice.

For families, however, the emotions



Osama bin Laden.

were often more restrained.

Bin Laden was responsible for the organization behind the attacks.

His death mattered.

But it did not bring back the dead.

It could not erase the years of grief.

It could not restore the missing parent.

It could not undo the trauma experienced by survivors.

His death therefore closed one chapter.

It did not close the story.

## THE LONG SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

The legal consequences of 9/11 have been extraordinarily complicated.

Senior alleged conspirators were detained and prosecuted through a military-commission system.

The cases became entangled in disputes over evidence, classified information, interrogation practices and the treatment of detainees in U.S. custody.

The extraordinary length of the proceedings became part of the 9/11 story.

For families who had waited years for justice, the delays were frustrating.

For the government, the cases presented unprecedented legal and national-security challenges.

The result was a process that lasted decades.

The lesson was uncomfortable.

The American military could reach the other side of the world within hours.

But the American justice system could take decades to complete the legal consequences of a terrorist attack.



The house where U.S. Navy SEAL commandos ( below) reportedly killed al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, May 5, 2011.





# THE SECOND TRAGEDY: HEALTH EFFECTS

The destruction did not end when Ground Zero was cleared. The people who worked at the site were exposed to enormous quantities of dust and debris.

The dust contained numerous hazardous substances.

Firefighters, police officers, construction workers, volunteers, cleanup workers and Lower Manhattan residents were exposed.

Some became sick soon afterwards.

Others developed illnesses years later.

The World Trade Center Health Program now provides monitoring and treatment to responders and survivors affected by 9/11. The CDC says the program serves nearly 150,000 members, while more than 96,000 people have been diagnosed with physical or mental health conditions associated with exposure to the attacks, their aftermath and the traumatic events.

The health consequences have included respiratory and digestive disorders, cancers, musculoskeletal conditions and mental-health problems including post-traumatic stress disorder.

This is one of the least visible aspects of 9/11.

The television cameras showed the towers collapsing.

They did not show the illnesses that would emerge years later.

The attacks therefore produced two waves of victims.

The first died on September 11.

The second continued to emerge afterwards.

## THE SURVIVORS WHO CARRY THE MORNING

There are people who escaped the towers and still remember the descent.

Some remember the staircases.

Some remember the sound of alarms.

Some remember strangers helping them. Some remember the moment the building shook.

Some remember stepping outside and seeing the towers burning.

Others escaped the Pentagon.

Others survived Flight 93 only in the sense that the aircraft did not reach its intended target - their stories becoming part of the larger history of the attack.

Survivors have spent years living with memories that can be triggered



Firefighters, police officers, construction workers, volunteers, cleanup workers and Lower Manhattan residents were exposed to enormous quantities of dust and debris. The dust contained numerous hazardous substances.

unexpectedly.

A smell.

A siren.

A news photograph.

A plane flying overhead.

The anniversary itself.

Trauma does not necessarily disappear because the event becomes old.

For many survivors, September 11 remains psychologically close.

## FAMILIES WHO GREW UP WITHOUT THEM

For the families of the victims, the passage of time has produced another kind of pain.

Children who lost parents have grown up. Some have married.

Some have become parents themselves.

They have lived entire adult lives without the person who died.

A child who was five years old in 2001 may now be approaching 30.

A baby whose parent died that morning may have no personal memory of them at all.

They know the person through

photographs.

Through stories.

Through relatives.

Through objects left behind.

This creates a unique form of historical memory.

The event is both distant and intimate.

For the wider public, 9/11 is history.

For these families, it remains biography.

## CHILDREN WHO DIED ON 9/11



A family gathers at a memorial service at ground zero on October 28, 2001. Photo credit: Gus Powell



# THE REBUILDING OF NEW YORK



People gather around the National September 11th Memorial as the "Tribute in Light" illuminates the night sky, September 11, 2016 in New York City. Credit: Getty Images

Eventually, the physical landscape of Lower Manhattan began to change.

The rubble disappeared.

The streets reopened.

Businesses returned.

The rebuilding of the World Trade Center became a national conversation.

What should replace the towers?

How should the dead be remembered?

How should the site communicate grief without becoming a place defined only by destruction?

The final answer combined memory with renewal.

The memorial pools occupy the footprints of the Twin Towers.

Their enormous black surfaces are surrounded by waterfalls.

Bronze panels carry the names of the victims.

Nearby, One World Trade Center rises into the Manhattan skyline.

It is not a replica of the Twin Towers. It is a declaration that the city continued.

The rebuilt site therefore contains two messages simultaneously.

We remember.

And:

We continue.

## THE SKYLINE RETURNS

For years after the attacks, the missing towers remained visible through absence.

New Yorkers knew exactly where they had been.

The skyline seemed incomplete.

Eventually, the construction cranes became part of the landscape.

Buildings rose.

One World Trade Center became the tallest structure at the rebuilt site.

The skyline began to look familiar again.

But it was never identical.

The original towers had been part of a particular era.

The new buildings belonged to another. That difference is important.

Rebuilding was not about pretending nothing had happened.

It was about refusing to allow destruction to define the future.

## HOW 9/11 CHANGED AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

September 11 transformed America's relationship with the outside world.

The country shifted from a post-Cold War emphasis on conventional geopolitical competition towards an intense focus on terrorism.

Military operations were launched in Afghanistan.

Intelligence cooperation expanded.

Special operations forces became increasingly important.

Drone warfare expanded.

Counterterrorism partnerships multiplied.

Governments around the world cooperated more closely with American agencies.

But the consequences were controversial. The war in Afghanistan lasted for two decades.

American troops served multiple deployments.

Families experienced repeated separations.

Thousands of American and allied soldiers died.

Millions of Afghans were affected by the conflict.

The Taliban eventually returned to power after the United States withdrew in 2021.

This created one of the great historical ironies of the post-9/11 era: the war launched to destroy al-Qaeda's sanctuary and remove the Taliban eventually ended with the Taliban again controlling Afghanistan.

The original objective had been transformed by two decades of war.

## IRAQ AND THE EXPANSION OF THE WAR ON TERROR

The aftermath of 9/11 also influenced the decision to invade Iraq in 2003.

It is important to distinguish the Iraq War from the 9/11 attacks themselves: Saddam Hussein's government was not responsible for the September 11 attacks.

Yet the political atmosphere created by 9/11 contributed significantly to the broader American willingness to use military force against perceived threats.

Iraq became another major theatre of the post-9/11 era.

The consequences were immense.

The invasion removed Saddam Hussein.

But it also contributed to prolonged instability, sectarian violence and the emergence of militant organizations that

would later include the Islamic State.

The War on Terror therefore produced consequences that extended far beyond the original target, al-Qaeda.

The chain of events that began in Afghanistan eventually influenced politics across the Middle East.

## AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH SECURITY

Before 9/11, security was often something Americans noticed only occasionally.

After 9/11, it became part of daily life.

Airport security.

Building security.

Emergency drills.

Surveillance cameras.

Government alerts.

Security screenings.

Cybersecurity.

Counterterrorism operations.

The threat of terrorism became embedded in public consciousness.

A generation of Americans grew up accustomed to the idea that a terrorist attack was a possibility.

The country also became more conscious of emergency preparedness.

Hospitals and cities developed response plans. Government agencies conducted exercises.

Police departments expanded counterterrorism capabilities.

The concept of "homeland security" became institutionalized.

In this sense, 9/11 changed not only what America feared.



# THE MEMORIAL: NAMES INSTEAD OF NUMBERS

The 9/11 Memorial offers one of the clearest answers to the question of how such a vast tragedy can be remembered.

Instead of creating a giant monument celebrating power, the memorial focuses on people.

Names.

Thousands of them.

The effect is deliberate.

A name is personal.

A number is abstract.

A name forces the visitor to think about an individual.

Someone who had a family.

Someone who had a life.

Someone who had plans.

The memorial therefore turns the geography of destruction into a geography of memory.

Water falls into the enormous voids where the towers once stood.

The buildings are gone.

The names remain.

## THE LIGHTS THAT REPLACE THE TOWERS

Every year, the night sky over New York carries another reminder.

Two columns of light rise into the darkness.

The Tribute in Light recreates the visual presence of the Twin Towers without rebuilding them.

It is an image of absence made visible.

The towers are not there.

But their memory is.

For those who lived through 9/11, the lights are an annual reminder.

For younger generations, they are a way of visualizing what disappeared.

## WHAT AMERICA LEARNED

The lessons of September 11 remain debated.

One lesson was obvious: intelligence agencies and law enforcement needed to share information more effectively.

Another was that terrorist organizations could exploit technologies and systems designed for ordinary life.

A third was that national security could not be separated neatly into "foreign" and "domestic" categories.

The attacks also demonstrated the importance of emergency preparedness.

Firefighters and police officers need communication systems that work during catastrophic events.

Hospitals need plans for mass casualties.

Cities need evacuation strategies.

Governments need systems for communicating reliable information during crises.

But perhaps the deepest lesson was psychological.

No country, however powerful, is completely invulnerable.

Security can reduce risk.

It cannot eliminate it.

## THE QUESTIONS THAT REMAIN

A quarter-century later, difficult questions remain.

Could the attacks have been prevented? Were intelligence agencies sufficiently coordinated?



An officer pausing by a bronze inscribed panel at the National September 11 Memorial in New York City.

National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, where uniformed personnel and pipers honor the victims with an American flag.



Did the government respond appropriately to the threat?

Did the post-9/11 security measures go too far?

Were the wars that followed worth their cost?

Did America balance security and civil liberties correctly?

Did the country respond to Muslim communities fairly?

What should justice look like decades after the crime?

And how should future generations remember an event they did not personally experience?

There are no simple answers.

That is why 9/11 remains a subject of historical debate. The danger of treating it as a simple story is that important lessons disappear.



The Tribute in Light art installation shining into the night sky above Lower Manhattan in New York City.



# Ambassador of India Visits Iasi and Ungheni to Strengthen Economic, Technology and People-to-People Partnerships

SEPTEMBER 2, 2026  
BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Ambassador of India to Romania and the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, undertook an official visit to Iasi, Romania, and Ungheni, Republic of Moldova, on 28 August 2026, as part of India's continued engagement with Romania's North-East Region and the Republic of Moldova.

The visit focused on strengthening cooperation in trade, investment, technology, innovation, education, culture and people-to-people relations, while identifying opportunities for greater engagement between Indian and regional institutions, businesses and communities. The visit assumes particular significance in the context of the decision taken during the visit of the Hon'ble President of India to Romania to work towards doubling bilateral trade between India and Romania over the next three years. It also comes ahead of the 80th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Romania in 2028, which is being marked through a programme focused on innovation and the further expansion of the bilateral partnership.

## IASI: EXPANDING ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION



Ambassador's meeting with Mr. Mihai Chirica, Mayor of Iasi, Romania

During his third visit to Iasi, Ambassador Mohapatra met the Mayor of Iasi, Mr. Mihai Chirica, and discussed opportunities to further strengthen cooperation between India and the city and the wider North-East Region of Romania. The discussions covered trade and investment, renewable energy, infrastructure, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, higher education, research and innovation, and culture.

Iasi already has experience of cooperation with Indian business, including in sectors such as metallurgy and pharmaceuticals. The presence of HCLTech, a leading Indian IT company employing around 500 people in the city, provides a strong example of the potential for expanding India-Iasi cooperation in information technology and digital transformation. Ambassador Mohapatra highlighted India's growing capabilities in technology and innovation and expressed interest in connecting Indian companies and institutions with the technology and innovation ecosystem of Iasi and the wider North-East Region.

Mayor Mihai Chirica presented Iasi's strategic development initiatives, including its aerospace cluster, artificial intelligence initiatives undertaken with the academic community, and opportunities in energy production. As a concrete follow-up, the Ambassador and the Mayor agreed to facilitate contacts between the Iasi Chamber of Commerce and Indian chambers of commerce and business organisations, including the Indian Chamber of Commerce for Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Such engagement would seek to promote business delegations, B2B meetings, investment partnerships and technology cooperation.

The Ambassador also expressed interest in facilitating linkages between the technology cluster of Iasi and relevant Indian technology, startup and innovation ecosystems, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital technologies, aerospace and research and development.

The Ambassador invited Mayor Mihai Chirica to visit India during 2026, with a view to further strengthening institutional and economic links.

## INNOVATION AND THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

The engagement in Iasi forms part of the broader preparations for the 80th anniversary of India-Romania diplomatic relations in 2028. The milestone provides an opportunity not only to celebrate eight decades of friendship but also to shape the next phase of the partnership, with innovation, technology, entrepreneurship, investment and youth exchanges playing an increasingly important role.

Iasi's strong academic and technology ecosystem, combined with India's capabilities in information technology, artificial intelligence, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy and advanced technologies, offers considerable scope for mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Ambassador also welcomed the growing cultural engagement between India and Iasi, including the second edition of the Holi Festival held in the city in April 2026.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH UNGHENI, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



Ambassador's meeting with Mr. Vitalie Vrabie, Mayor of Ungheni, Republic of Moldova

Following his engagements in Iasi, Ambassador Mohapatra travelled to Ungheni, Republic of Moldova, where he met Mayor Mr. Vitalie Vrabie and representatives of the municipal administration. The discussions explored opportunities for direct cooperation between Indian and Moldovan institutions, businesses and communities in areas including economic engagement and investment, tourism, education, culture, digitalisation and local development.

The Ambassador emphasised that local-level engagement can complement government-to-government relations and create practical foundations for stronger India-Moldova cooperation. The geographical position of Ungheni, on the Prut River and close to the Romanian border, provides an additional regional dimension to this engagement.

The Ambassador highlighted the particular significance of 2026 in India-Moldova relations, as the year marks the first-ever visit of the President of India to the Republic of Moldova. He noted that high-level engagement should also be reflected through stronger connections between cities, institutions, businesses and communities.

## GUEST OF HONOUR AT DAYS OF UNGHENI MUNICIPALITY



Ambassador addresses the gathering during the Days of Ungheni Municipality

A significant highlight of the visit was Ambassador Mohapatra's participation as Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of the Days of Ungheni Municipality, held as part of celebrations marking the 564th anniversary of the first documented mention of Ungheni in 1462. Addressing the ceremony, the Ambassador conveyed his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Ungheni and highlighted the importance of friendship, mutual respect, cultural understanding and direct community connections in building lasting relations between countries.

The visit to Ungheni provided an opportunity to explore new avenues of economic, technological, educational, tourism and cultural cooperation, while bringing India-Moldova relations closer to the local community.

The engagements in Iasi and Ungheni underscored the considerable potential for India to deepen its engagement with Romania's North-East Region and the Republic of Moldova. India will continue to work with partners in both countries to develop practical partnerships in trade, investment, technology, innovation and people-to-people exchanges, contributing to a more dynamic and mutually beneficial India-Romania-Moldova regional partnership.

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



# Sikhism in French at the University of Montreal



The course, titled "Sikh Studies in French," is being offered as part of the university's master's and doctoral programs. Classes began on September 2 as part of the current academic session. - iStock image

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2026  
MONTREAL (TIP)**

University of Montreal in Quebec province of Canada becomes the first University in the World to launch a graduate-level course on Sikhism, taught in French, offered as part of its Doctoral and Master's-level curriculum.

Though several universities in North America have Chairs for Sikh studies, Montreal University has taken the lead to introduce courses on Sikhism in French, says Montreal-based businessman, Baljeet Singh Chadha, and his wife, Mandeep (Roshi) Kaur Chadha.

"The Sikh Studies in French will start from the current academic session starting this month. "It is a milestone representing an important step forward in the academic study of Sikhism and in making Sikh studies accessible to French-speaking students and scholars. Also, these courses create bridges for inter-religious and inter-cultural understandings," adds Baljeet Singh Chadha.

According to a communique from the University of Montreal, this graduate (Master's degree) course at the University of Montreal will offer an in-depth study of the Sikh tradition and its connections to the bhakti tradition. It will examine sacred texts as well as the rituals, doctrines, philosophy, and belief systems of Sikhism.

## WHAT WILL THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL SIKHISM COURSE COVER?

According to the university, the graduate-level course will provide an in-depth study of the Sikh tradition and its relationship with the bhakti tradition.

The curriculum will examine:

Sikh sacred texts

Sikh rituals and practices

Doctrines and philosophy

Sikh belief systems

The impact of colonialism on the Sikh tradition

Sikhism in the postcolonial period

Conflicts and nationalist movements

Contemporary Sikhism in India and the diaspora

Representations of Sikhism in popular cinema

The course is taught in French, while students will be allowed to complete their examinations and written assignments in either French or English.

## WHO IS TEACHING THE SIKHISM COURSE?



Prof. Diana Dimitrova  
Image / courtesy of University of Montreal

The course is being taught under the supervision of Professor Diana Dimitrova, a full professor specializing in South Asian traditions and cultures at the University of Montreal.

Dimitrova is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She holds a doctorate in South Asian Studies from Heidelberg University in Germany.

Her academic work covers areas including cultural identity, nationalism, discourses of otherness and South Asian perspectives on the body.

She has previously served as a visiting scholar at institutions including McGill University, the University of Miami, KU Leuven, the University of Liège, the Free University of Brussels, the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences in Paris and Heidelberg University.

Diana Dimitrova's research and academic work

BY  
PRABHJOT  
SINGH



Dimitrova is the author and editor of several works on South Asian culture and traditions.

Her recent publications include Cultural Identity in Hindi Plays: Poetics, Politics and Theatre in India, published by Oxford University Press in 2023, and the edited volume Mythologizing in South Asian Traditions: Myth, Gender, Power and Politics, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2025.

Her current research focuses on the Brahma Kumaris tradition in Canada and the United States.

Dimitrova has also served as president and past president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion. She was a member of the executive board of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion and co-editor of the "Matière à pensée" series published by the University of Montreal Press.

She currently serves as an editor of Routledge's Series on South Asian Culture and Society and as an editor of De Gruyter Brill's Culture, Religion and Society series.

Why is the French-language Sikhism course significant?

The launch gives French-speaking students and researchers an opportunity to study Sikhism at the graduate level in their primary academic language.

Supporters of the initiative say the course could broaden the academic study of Sikhism beyond English-language scholarship while encouraging greater understanding of Sikh history, beliefs and contemporary communities in India and the global diaspora.

The University of Montreal's initiative comes as Sikh communities continue to expand their presence across Canada, including in Quebec, making academic engagement with Sikh history, culture and religious traditions increasingly relevant to the country's multicultural landscape.

(With input from The Tribune)

# 2 Malayali women killed minutes apart in California, mutual friend arrested

**KERALA WOMAN ARRESTED IN CALIFORNIA OVER DEATHS OF 2 MALAYALI WOMEN, FAMILIES SEEK ANSWERS**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2026  
MILPITAS, CA (TIP)**

A 32-year-old woman from Kerala has been arrested in California in connection with the alleged deaths of two other women from the state, who were reportedly close friends of the suspect, according to their families and local authorities.

The two women, identified as Anjana Hari, 35, from Thrissur district, and Ann Mary Mathew, 40, from Thiruvananthapuram district, died within minutes of each other on August 28 (US time).

Their mutual friend, Anila, 32, from Kottayam district, was arrested by the Milpitas Police Department in San Jose, California. She is suspected of being involved in both deaths.

According to their families and local officials, Anjana died after sustaining serious injuries in an alleged hit-and-run collision in Milpitas, while Ann was found dead inside her San Jose home with a single stab wound.

## ANJANA KILLED IN MILPITAS HIT-AND-RUN

The Milpitas Police Department said officers responded on the afternoon of August 28 to a report of a hit-and-run collision in the parking lot of the Mill



Anjana Hari, 35, from Thrissur district, and Ann Mary Mathew, 40, from Thiruvananthapuram district, died within minutes of each other on August 28

Creek apartments.

"When officers arrived, they found a female victim who had sustained significant injuries as a result of the collision. Unfortunately, she was pronounced deceased at the scene. Officers quickly searched the surrounding area and found a blue SUV matching the description in a nearby parking lot. The driver, a 32-year-old Milpitas resident, was arrested in connection with the incident," police said in a statement.

Police said the circumstances surrounding the collision were still being investigated.

## ANN FOUND STABBED AT SAN JOSE HOME

The San Jose Police Department said a woman, identified by her family as Ann, was found inside her home on Linda Vista Street with a single stab wound shortly before 2 pm on August 28.

Her death was classified as a homicide. Police said the victim and the suspect knew each other.

The families of the two women are struggling to understand what led to the alleged killings.

Rajagopal, a relative of Anjana, said the families were waiting for investigators to establish the motive.

"We just cannot comprehend what may have motivated Anila to do such a thing. All three of them, Anjana, Ann and Anila, were close friends. We heard that they had celebrated Onam together and had gone for a movie too recently. Even their husbands don't know what transpired between them," he said.

Two victims lived in US with families

The three women had been living in the United States with their respective husbands and children and were employed in separate professions.

Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



## Bhagwat's US visit sparks debate over RSS's growing global outreach

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's recent visit to the United States has drawn attention in India, with supporters describing it as an important outreach to the Indian diaspora and critics questioning the organization's international messaging.

Bhagwat's visit came as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) marks its centenary and seeks to strengthen its engagement with overseas Indian communities. During his interactions in the US, he spoke about India's civilization heritage, unity in diversity and the importance of preserving cultural roots while contributing to the societies where Indians live. The visit was not an official diplomatic trip by the Government of India. However, it attracted political interest because of the RSS's ideological relationship with the BJP and its wider influence in Indian public life. Supporters said Bhagwat's engagement provided an opportunity to explain the RSS's philosophy directly to Indian-Americans and challenge what they consider misconceptions about the organization. They also welcomed his emphasis on India's cultural traditions and the idea of global harmony.

Critics, meanwhile, raised questions over the RSS's ideological positions and its role in Indian politics. Some advocacy groups in the US also protested against Bhagwat's public engagements, citing concerns about religious freedom and minority rights in India. The visit highlighted the growing importance of the Indian diaspora and the RSS's efforts to build an international presence. It also demonstrated how debates surrounding Indian nationalism, culture and politics are increasingly extending beyond the country's borders.

# Belgium, India boost ties; pacts on defense manufacturing inked

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** September 4, 2026

New Delhi (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever on Thursday, September 3, agreed to bolster cooperation in defence, advanced technology and law enforcement and set a target for doubling trade in five years, as defense firms of the two countries concluded co-production agreements for a wide range of military equipment.

Modi and De Wever, the first Belgian PM to visit India in two decades, reviewed bilateral ties and held focused discussions on collaboration in semiconductors, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, fintech, advanced manufacturing, ports and logistics, and clean energy.

The creation of resilient supply chains to reduce dependency on China and more predictable trade arrangements, including leveraging the proposed India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement, against the backdrop of geo-economic turmoil unleashed by US trade policies and tariffs also figured in the discussions between the two leaders.

Modi noted at a joint media interaction that food, fuel and supply chains have been impacted by uncertainty because of conflicts in different parts of the world, and said democratic values and the market economy make India and Belgium natural partners. He also highlighted new opportunities presented by India's economy in this challenging environment.

"Defence and security cooperation is a key pillar of our relationship. Today, we agreed to enhance military exchanges and training cooperation between the two countries," Modi said. "The agreements between our governments and defense industries will open up new opportunities for defense co-development and co-production. We will also strengthen intelligence-sharing and cooperation between our agencies in combating crime."

Besides establishing an Investment Fast-Track Mechanism for Belgian companies, making the India-Belgium Business Forum a regular mechanism and strengthening coordination among the financial, fintech and regulatory institutions of both countries, India and Belgium have set a target of doubling bilateral trade over the next five years, Modi said.

Two-way trade is currently worth about \$13 billion, with diamonds accounting for almost 30% of the total figure.

"Belgium's expertise in semiconductors and India's scale are complementary to each other. In this direction, we will work together to connect Belgium's IMEC Institute with India's semiconductor ecosystem," Modi said. The two sides will soon conclude a migration and mobility partnership agreement, he



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever in New Delhi on Thursday, September 3.

said. De Wever described India as an increasingly important partner in a turbulent world and said Belgium, one of the most internationally connected economies, can serve as India's gateway to European markets. "We live in a more fragmented and uncertain world, prosperity and security increasingly go hand-in-hand," he said.

The Letter of Intent on Defense Cooperation finalised by the two sides provides a new framework for everything ranging from military exchanges to research, co-development and co-production of defense hardware, De Wever said. India and Belgium can be partners for the security of economies and supply chains, energy security, cyber security and maritime security, even as they address the disruption and weaponization of supply chains and excessive dependencies, he said.

De Wever spoke more at length on dependencies created by China and the turmoil unleashed by the trade policies of the US administration at a subsequent business event organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

"These are turbulent times, our world seems ever more divided into great blocs, raising barriers between one another. For them, geopolitics seems like a zero sum game, tariffs can be imposed from one day to the next by anyone on anyone and anything, for reasons that have nothing to do with economics at all," he said, in an apparent reference to the US.

De Wever also noted that India had warned about dependencies long before Europe experienced a "rude awakening", its industrial base undermined and over-capacity dumped as low cost goods.

Source: HT

## Halting Russian oil buy won't stop war: India

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**KYIV (TIP):** The Russia-Ukraine war will not be resolved by determining who buys Russian oil, minerals, metals or fertilisers, but through dialogue, diplomacy and negotiations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said in Kyiv on Thursday, September 3, while making it clear that India was ready to help in any manner to bring the conflict to an end. Jaishankar's remarks came during his visit to Ukraine, where he held talks with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and later called on President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The visit comes as the war enters its fifth year and amid renewed calls for an end to the prolonged conflict. "India

has consistently maintained that this is not an era of war, and that solutions will not emerge from the battlefield," Jaishankar said after his talks with Sybiha. "Just two days ago in Bishkek, Prime Minister Modi declared that endless war must now give way to the end of war. Every passing day of conflict only means more deaths and more destruction," he added. The EAM underlined that India was prepared to contribute to efforts aimed at ending the conflict.

"Understandably, it is for the parties involved to find a way. But, if India can be of any help in any manner, we are ready, and this was the core of my discussion so far with Foreign Minister Sybiha," he said. Jaishankar also voiced concern over the

human cost of the war, referring to the killing of an Indian national in an attack in Kyiv two days ago.

"We join in mourning every life lost and convey our deepest sympathy to every affected family," he said.

The EAM said his discussions with Sybiha were "very free and very open", noting that the two foreign ministers had remained in regular contact and had met several times in recent months, including in Cyprus, France and Munich.

On the question of whether India would reduce its purchases of Russian oil if the United States approved legislation imposing sanctions on countries buying Russian oil, Jaishankar stressed the scale of India's energy challenge. Source: TNS



In this image posted on September 3, 2026, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during a meeting, in Kyiv, Ukraine. Photo:PTI



## Cockroach Janta Party faces first rebel as former volunteer launches breakaway platform CJP-D

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** : The Abhijeet Dipke-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) faced its first internal rebellion on Thursday, Sept 3, with former volunteer Manish Brahmhatt launching a breakaway platform called the Cockroach Janata Party-Democratic (CJP-D). Brahmhatt accused Dipke of sidelining protesters and volunteers and turning the youth-led movement into a hand-picked "Team Kejriwal".

He alleged that the CJP leadership was dominated by people with previous associations with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and was primarily focused on opposing the BJP.

Launching the CJP-D at its first press conference in Delhi, Brahmhatt said the CJP had initially been a "faceless" movement that attracted support because of anger over a Chief Justice's reported reference to young people, unemployed persons and RTI activists as "cockroaches".

Brahmhatt alleged that the movement began to be politicized after it gained momentum, comparing Dipke's alleged use of Sonam Wangchuk and volunteers to Arvind Kejriwal's use of activist Anna Hazare during the anti-corruption movement. "The movement succeeded because of the volunteers, protesters and Sonam ji. But after its success, they started politicising it," Brahmhatt said.

He alleged that Dipke was now creating a "selected team" at the behest of Kejriwal and said the CJP-D had been formed to oppose this approach and build a broader organization.

Brahmhatt also leveled allegations concerning the funding of the CJP, claiming that its hotel and flight expenses were sponsored by Kejriwal and alleging that transactions were routed through an "angadia" network. He said his group was collecting details of the alleged transactions. He further alleged that the CJP had reached an understanding under which it would not aggressively campaign in states not governed by the BJP, claiming that the arrangement was intended to facilitate political cooperation in future elections. He alleged that Kejriwal was using the CJP to pursue his political ambitions by "using students and protesters". CJP-D member Sushil Tiwari, who was present at the launch, accused the CJP leadership of betraying protesters who had participated in demonstrations at Jantar Mantar.

Meanwhile, CJP founder Dipke rejected suggestions that the organization was aligned with any political party. Responding to allegations that the CJP was either the Congress or AAP's "B-team", Dipke said the organization represented students.

# India-US trade deal to be finalized once 'preferential rate' is offered, says Piyush Goyal

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** The bilateral trade agreement between India and the United States will be finalized once Washington offers the preferential rate, said Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday, September 3. Speaking to reporters, the union minister added that the deal will be announced after the US offers India the proper terms, compared to other competitors.

"As soon as the US is able to give us the preferential rate, in comparison to our competition, we will finalise the BTA and announce the final details," Goyal was quoted as saying by news agency PTI at a workshop on free trade agreements. Goyal's remarks also come in light of India signing a series of historic trade pacts with the UK, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Australia and Mauritius.

### Where the India-US deal stands

India and the United States first



Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal.

announced their trade deal in February 2026. A tentative framework of the pact was announced by US President Donald Trump, and prime minister Narendra Modi.

Under this, the US would reduce its tariffs on India to a total of 18 per cent. This was done in view of the 50 per cent tariffs charged against India as a "counter tariff" and for "fueling the war in Ukraine" due to New Delhi's purchase of Russian oil and petroleum.

Earlier this year, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and Goyal stated that the last one per cent of the trade deal is

to be finalised, following which the documents will be signed.

However, with the deal yet to be formalised, the US announced an additional 10 per cent tariffs on countries, including India, from July 24 onwards.

### Goyal to visit US for G20, discussions on pact

Amid the negotiations between Washington and New Delhi, Piyush Goyal is set to visit the US in late September for the G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee.

"The United States and India are working very closely together; a lot is happening. The Minister will be travelling for the G20 meetings, just in a few weeks, in the United States. We look forward to having him in the United States," said Gor.

During this visit, Goyal will hold talks with his US counterpart, trade representative Jamieson Greer, to discuss the trade deal.

## Delhi Police assures arrest of Jantar Mantar assault accused Swatantra Bharadwaj within 72 hours

04 SEP 2026  
NEW DELHI (TIP):

Representatives of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Friday said Delhi Police had assured them that Swatantra Bharadwaj, accused of assaulting the father of student activist Nishu Azad during a protest at Jantar Mantar, would be arrested within 72 hours.

The assurance came a day after a video clip of Bharadwaj's interview circulated widely on social media. Bharadwaj, who describes himself as a 'Hindutva activist', appeared to claim that he had "cracked the skull" of Sanjay Kumar, father of Nishu Azad a protestor, during the CJP protests and had avoided jail despite the alleged seriousness of the offence. The CJP, which organised the protest at Jantar Mantar where the alleged assault took place, has been demanding Bharadwaj's arrest and accusing Delhi Police of failing to take adequate action against him.

The controversy intensified on Thursday after Delhi Police said Kumar, 38, had suffered a simple head injury during a scuffle and rejected claims that his skull had been fractured.

Police said Bharadwaj and another accused, Suraj Kumar, were detained at the spot, questioned and served notices. It also said a chargesheet would be filed in the case.

Friday, CJP co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, along with several supporters and MPs Chandrashekhar

Azad and Pappu Yadav, reached the Parliament Street police station seeking action against Bharadwaj.

Nishu Azad said police had assured the delegation that Bharadwaj would be arrested within 72 hours.

"Police said they will arrest Swatantra in 72 hours. We believe they will take action and not keep delaying it as they were doing," she told reporters.

Nishu also alleged that she had been subjected to verbal abuse and rape threats following the incident and said she had filed an FIR in connection with the threats.

"I was ashamed of even stepping out. For a few weeks I could not go to school, I feel everyone is judging me. I hope police will take action," she said.

Rishabh, who is associated with the AICC law department, said the delegation had demanded that charges of attempt to murder, provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and criminal intimidation be added to the FIR. "The demand was to add significant charges left out -- attempt to murder, SC/ST Act, criminal intimidation charges. They agreed and assured that in 72 hours he will be arrested," he said.

Rishabh said police had also assured the delegation that a separate FIR would be registered over alleged online abuse and objectionable images targeting Nishu.

CJP co-convenor Saurav Das said the

Additional DCP had committed to adding attempt-to-murder and SC/ST Act provisions to the FIR relating to the alleged attack on Sanjay Kumar.

"Goons like Swatantra Bharadwaj came to Jantar Mantar. Did Delhi Police not identify them? He committed attempt to murder. Delhi Police is saving him, no action was taken," Das said.

He also said police had assured them that an FIR would be registered over the alleged threats against Nishu and that provisions of the POCSO Act would be added.

"Delhi Police has assured action in 72 hours. We hope Delhi Police will not allow goons to have a free hand," Das said.

Das said the CJP delegation would return to the police station if the police failed to fulfil the commitments made to them.

"We came here, talked to Delhi Police. If they don't fulfil the commitment, we will have to come back. Delhi Police should fulfil its commitment. We are standing with the students," he said.

The CJP has also questioned how Bharadwaj was allowed to remain free following the Jantar Mantar incident.

In the video that triggered the controversy, Bharadwaj appeared to claim that political connections had helped him avoid jail. He named Delhi minister Kapil Mishra and Union minister Chirag Paswan in this context. (PTI)



# India in history this Week

## SEPTEMBER 4 TO SEPTEMBER 10

### SEPTEMBER 4

**1825 - Dadabhai Naoroji was born**



Dadabhai Naoroji, popularly remembered as the "Grand Old Man of India", was born on this day. A pioneering nationalist, economist and social reformer, he was among the earliest Indian leaders to articulate the economic exploitation of India under British rule through his famous Drain Theory. He also became one of the founders of the Indian National Congress and the first Indian elected to the British Parliament.

**1888 - Mahatma Gandhi left for England**

A young Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi embarked on his journey to England to study law. The experience of living abroad would play an important role in shaping the future leader of India's freedom movement.

**1665 - Treaty of Purandar and Maratha-Mughal conflict**

The Treaty of Purandar, negotiated between Shivaji and the Mughal Empire through Raja Jai Singh, marked an important phase in the complex relationship between the rising Maratha power and the Mughals.

1997 - Hindi literary giant Dharamvir Bharati died

Dharamvir Bharati, noted Hindi poet, novelist and playwright, passed away. He remains celebrated for works such as Gunahon Ka Devta and Andha Yug.

### SEPTEMBER 5

**1888 - Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born**



India's second President, philosopher and renowned educationist Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was born on this day. His birth anniversary is celebrated annually as Teachers' Day in India, honouring the contribution of teachers and educators to society.

**1997 - Mother Teresa died**

Mother Teresa, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning humanitarian and founder of the Missionaries of Charity, died in Kolkata. Her work among the poor and destitute made her one of the world's most recognised humanitarian figures.

### SEPTEMBER 6

**1965 - India launched a major offensive during the Indo-Pak War**



During the 1965 India-Pakistan War, Indian forces crossed the international border and opened a major front towards Lahore. The move significantly expanded the scale of the conflict and became one of the most important military developments of the war.

**1838 - Maharaja Duleep Singh was born**

Duleep Singh, the youngest son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, was born. His life later became closely associated with the British annexation of Punjab and the dramatic decline of the Sikh kingdom.

**1889 - Sarat Chandra Bose was born**

Freedom fighter and nationalist leader Sarat Chandra Bose, elder brother of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was born on this day. He played an important role in the Indian freedom struggle and later emerged as a prominent political figure.

**2018 - Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality**

In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court of India struck down the colonial-era provision that criminalised consensual same-sex relationships between adults, marking a historic moment for LGBTQ+ rights in India.

### SEPTEMBER 7

**1906 - Bank of India was established**

The Bank of India was founded in Mumbai. It would go on to become one of India's major public sector banking institutions.

**1882 - Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and "Vande Mataram"**

The patriotic song Vande Mataram, written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, became one of the most powerful cultural symbols of India's nationalist movement and later acquired the status of India's National Song.

**1907 - Filmmaker Mehboob Khan was born**

Mehboob Khan, one of the pioneers of Indian cinema and director of the iconic film Mother India, was born on this day.

**1915 - Revolutionary Bagha Jatin fought British forces**

Revolutionary leader Jatindranath Mukherjee, popularly known as Bagha Jatin, was involved in his final armed confrontation with British forces during this period. His courage made him one of the legendary figures of India's revolutionary freedom movement.

### SEPTEMBER 8

**1933 - Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was born**

One of India's most versatile and celebrated playback

singers, Asha Bhosle was born on this day. Her extraordinary career has spanned generations and thousands of songs in numerous Indian languages.

**1943 - World War II and the Indian connection**

During the Second World War, Indian soldiers continued to play a major role in Allied military campaigns across Asia, Africa and Europe. The war years would eventually have a profound impact on India's political future and the independence movement.

### SEPTEMBER 9

**1920 - The Ali Brothers and the Khilafat Movement era**

The early 1920s marked a period of intense political mobilization in India as the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements brought together large sections of Indians against British colonial rule.

**1948 - Operation Polo enters its final phase**

September 1948 was a decisive month in the integration of princely states into the Indian Union. The Hyderabad crisis and the subsequent military action became a major chapter in the political consolidation of independent India.

**1965 - Indo-Pakistan War continued**

Heavy fighting continued on both eastern and western fronts as India and Pakistan fought one of the most significant wars between the two countries.

### SEPTEMBER 10

1915 - Revolutionary Bagha Jatin died

Jatindranath Mukherjee, popularly known as Bagha Jatin, died from injuries sustained after his encounter with British forces near Balasore. He remains one of the most revered revolutionary figures of India's freedom struggle.

**1923 - Writer Sukumar Ray died**

Sukumar Ray, the celebrated Bengali poet, humourist and writer, passed away. He is remembered as one of the greatest writers of Bengali children's literature and was the father of acclaimed filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

**1966 - Parliament approved the reorganization of Punjab**

The Indian Parliament approved the creation of the new states of Punjab and Haryana, along with the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The reorganisation, implemented later, became a landmark development in the linguistic and political history of northern India.

**1887 - Govind Ballabh Pant was born**

Freedom fighter, senior Congress leader and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Govind Ballabh Pant was born. He later served as India's Union Home Minister and played an important role in post-Independence nation-building.





# WOMEN@NJPAC INTRODUCES THE JOHN SCHREIBER SOCIAL IMPACT FUND

BY MABEL PAIS

At this year's annual Spotlight Gala, in addition to celebrating all the ways the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) serves its community, Women@NJPAC will introduce the Founders Award. The Founders Award will be presented to John Schreiber, President and CEO of the Arts Center, the leader who has had an unprecedented impact on the Center's Arts programs with a 15-year legacy of building community through the arts. This is "The John Schreiber Social Impact Fund."

From the "TD James Moody Jazz Festival" and the Arts Center's Community Engagement department to the reimagining of the Center's campus and the establishment of the Lionsgate Newark film studio, John has dreamed up countless new ways for NJPAC to harness the arts to make positive change in Newark and across New Jersey. And he's made those dreams become realities.

The gala is always a night of exhilarating performances and joyful mingling. This year, Women@NJPAC aims to make it a night that supercharges NJPAC's ability to transform lives through the arts.

## THE JOHN SCHREIBER SOCIAL IMPACT FUND

Proceeds from the Gala will support the new "John Schreiber Social Impact Fund" — dedicated to ensuring the growth of NJPAC's Arts & Well-Being, Arts Education and Community Engagement initiatives. Gifts of \$25,000 and above will be permanently recognized on a commemorative plaque.

## 2026 FOUNDERS AWARD HONOREE

### JOHN SCHREIBER PRESIDENT AND CEO

"I fell in love with the theater and I thought, 'I don't know how, but I want to be part of that,'" says John Schreiber.

"I grew up in Queens, and I lived at the last stop on the subway. Starting at the age of nine, my parents let me take the subway into the city, and they gave me \$5, and I could buy a seat in the balcony at a Broadway show. I have memories of seeing Carol Channing in "Hello Dolly," Angela Lansbury in "Mame," Linda Lavin in "It's a Bird," "It's a Plane," "It's Superman." And I fell in love with the theater and with what it felt like to be transported into another world. I thought that was the greatest."

"And I thought, I don't know how, but I want to do that. I want to be part of that.. When I went to college, I ran a concert series, and I started a summer theater. And I just knew that I needed to be in this universe somehow. I went to work for George Wein, who was the founder of the Newport Jazz Festival. I've been doing this sort of thing in music and theater and television and festivals ever since. And it's been a glorious ride."

"I'm especially proud that Savion Glover has become such an engaged and active part of our family here. Savion has this amazing ability to connect and inspire young people, give them a sense of confidence in themselves, a feeling of



John Schreiber -Courtesy, <https://njpac.org>



John Pizzarelli. -Courtesy, <https://njpac.org>

ownership of the development of the work they're doing."

"A few summers ago, he directed and choreographed a new production of "The Tap Dance Kid," which he starred in when he was 11 on Broadway. To watch him recreate this work with a bunch of kids, three quarters of whom have never been on the stage before, it's just magical.

I can't imagine that any of the children who are in that cast will ever forget what it is like to spend six weeks with a genius who is as kind as Savion is. It's one thing to be a genius, another thing to be kind. To combine those two things in service of young people's growth is very moving to me. I don't care whether they become dentists or accountants or dancers or

actors or whatever, man, it's going to stick with them."

## 2026 GALA CO-CHAIRS

### MINDY A. COHEN

Co-chair

Mindy A. Cohen, NJPAC Executive Committee and Immediate Past President, Women@NJPAC

### CHARLES F. LOWREY

Co-chair

Senior Advisor, Prudential Financial and NJPAC Board Chair

## PROGRAM

**WHAT:** Women@NJPAC Spotlight Gala

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 3, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

**WHERE:** New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

**Attire:** Festive black tie

**5:30PM** – Cocktails & Networking

**6:45PM** – Gourmet Dinner

**8:00PM** – Founders Award Ceremony and Performance

**9:30PM** – Gala After-Party, Dancing, and Dessert

## THE ENCORE: NJPAC SPOTLIGHT GALA PERFORMANCE & AFTER-PARTY

**9:30PM - 11:30PM**

The celebration continues with The Encore! An evening featuring the Spotlight Gala Performance followed by a lively after party with live music, an open bar, and dessert.

Please note: The Encore ticket does not include the Gala dinner

## FEATURED PERFORMANCE

**John Pizzarelli** quartet will perform with guests Tony Award winner Lillias White and Sarah Vaughan Jazz Vocal Competition winner April May Webb. There will be a special performance by GRAMMY® Award-winning jazz pianist Bill Charlap.

John Pizzarelli — guitarist, singer, Garden State native and veteran FOS (friend of Schreiber) — will entertain with a set representing the best of the Great American Songbook. These two Johns have been pals for four decades and share a love of all things jazz and Jersey. If the odds are good "I Like Jersey Best" may be part of the show!

## TICKETS

For tickets to the Gala, visit <https://support.njpac.org/event/women-njpac-annual-spotlight-gala-2026/e810099/register/new/select-tickets>. Tickets are on a tiered basis.

For more information about sponsorships and tickets, contact Women@NJPAC or call Sarah Rosen, Managing Director at 973.297.5806.

## DONATIONS

Donations are accepted @ <https://support.njpac.org/give/810099#!/donation/checkout>

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



# CHARU SURI WALKS THE RED CARPET AT ISSA



Charu on the Red Carpet. -Credit : <https://charusuri.com>



Charu with award-winning student, Satya Lavana. -Credit : <https://charusuri.com>

BY MABEL PAIS

At the International Singer Songwriters Association (ISSA) Awards night held in August 2026 at Atlanta, Georgia, “compositional and pianistic genius” (Broadway World) Charu Suri was honored not only to walk the red carpet but also to present crystal trophies to deserving winners.

Charu’s new single debuted in early August with the legendary kanjira player, V. Selvaganesh (who was percussionist with John McLaughlin’s “Shakti” band for years), and Grammy nominee Max ZT on dulcimer. The track, called “Journey,” which debuted in early August is part of a broader album called “Raga Etudes” which treats Indian ragas in a virtuosic way (think of Liszt and Chopin’s etudes but using ragas).

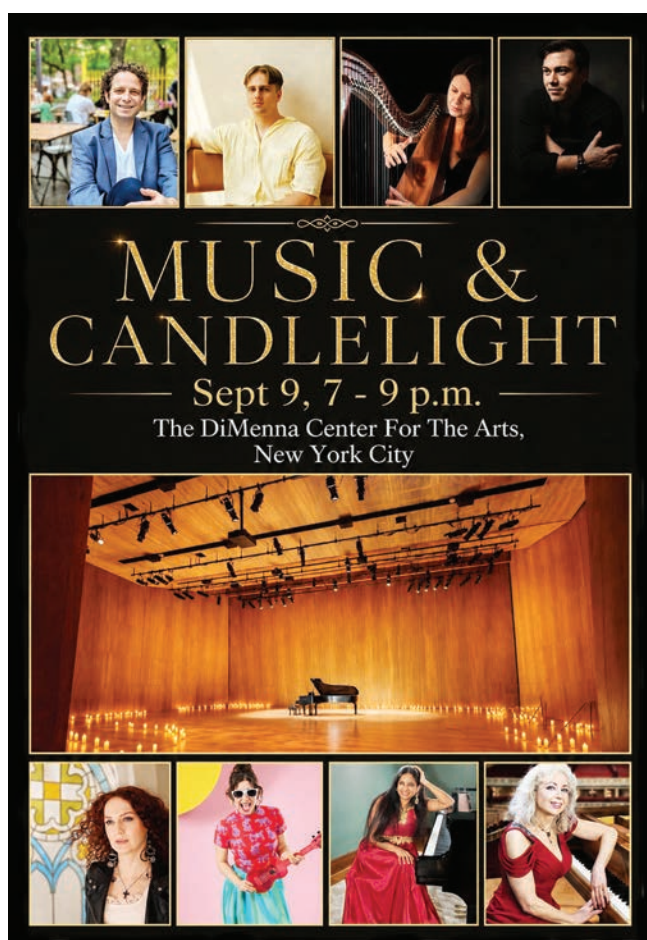
From “Journey” -

[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=vqhOHnm\\_tCU&si=COhPV84l-9iKIWXD](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=vqhOHnm_tCU&si=COhPV84l-9iKIWXD)

[https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=vqhOHnm\\_tCU&list=OLAK5uy\\_mqoEjFcxDL7CwrbtQNRh1mlfgZqxFoVt4](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=vqhOHnm_tCU&list=OLAK5uy_mqoEjFcxDL7CwrbtQNRh1mlfgZqxFoVt4)

## CHARU SURI’S FALL TOUR

Music & Candlelight Concert: Wednesday,



Music and Candlelight concert, poster.

-Credit : <https://charusuri.com>

## September 9, 7-9 p.m.

The DiMenna Center for Classical Music @ 450 West 37th Street, New York, NY 10018

“Music & Candlelight” features beautiful performances in a tranquil candlelight setting at a stunning space at The DiMenna Center for the Performing Arts at the Mary Flagler Cary Hall, New York City.

## TICKETS

For tickets for Music & Candlelight, The DiMenna Center for the Arts, September 9, visit

<https://eventbrite.com/e/music-candlelight-concert-sept-9-7-9-pm-tickets-1997045192931>

Clive Davis Theater at the GRAMMY MUSEUM, Los Angeles

October 2; Friday; 7-9 pm

Cliff Bells Residency, Detroit

November 5-8 / Tickets coming soon

CARNEGIE HALL, New York, NY

November 13; Friday; 7-9 pm

Dazzle Denver: Spirit of New Orleans Concert

Nov. 19 | Thursday | 7-9 pm

For tickets, visit

<https://tickets.venuepilot.com/e/charu-suri-2026-11-19-dazzle-the-arts-complex-denver-2eb461>

## CHARU SURI

Charu Suri is a Grammy®-nominated pianist and composer who treads fearlessly between genres, blending several styles and fusing Indian ragas with more traditional jazz.

Born in South India, she was a piano prodigy performing in various concert halls at an early age. Charu’s latest album, “Shayan”

(<https://linktree/charusuri>) was nominated for a Grammy® in the Best Contemporary Instrumental Album (Jazz) category in the 68th Grammy® Awards.

“Shayan” debuted in the Top 50 World Albums and blends evening ragas with classical and jazz, encouraging people to sleep better and healthier.

The album debuted August 22nd everywhere and had a sold-out premiere at Carnegie Hall in July. The album features the talents of Premik Russell Tubbs (flute), Anita Lerche (vocals), Mary Dawood-Catlin (vocals), Tess Remy-Schumacher (cello), Ron Korb (flute), Ravichandra Kulur (flute), Philip Vaiman (violin), Siyer (vocals), Haruna Fukazawa (flute), Venezuelan Strings Recording Ensemble under the baton of Raniero Palm, Peter Sterling (harp), Ramya Shankar (ukulele) and is mixed by Siddhant Bhatia, mastered by Lonnie Park.

One World Music

(<https://stevessheppardmusicreviews.blogspot.com/2025/08/shayan-by-charu-suri.html>) called SHAYAN a work of genius.

Her previous albums were focused on jazz, showcasing her unique and trailblazing style blending Indian ragas and jazz. “Rags & Ragas,” was recorded with John Patitucci on the double bass, Steve Gadd and Joe Lastie

on the drums, and debuted recently at #3 on the iTunes jazz charts, and reached #2 in Kenya. Her previous albums charted #1 in India in both the jazz and overall albums charts.

With mood-invoking ragas (to be played according to the time of day) for many of her compositions, she weaves techniques and sounds from several places including India, Europe, and Africa.

Her work has won numerous awards. She was named Entertainer of the Year (Gold) by ISSA at its annual awards ceremony in Atlanta. Her “Verona Waltz” (<https://youtube.com/watch?v=nT74c9rgI5M>) from her previous album, “Ragas & Waltzes” was awarded Best Jazz Song in North America at the Intercontinental Music Awards in 2023, and she received the Crossover Artist of the Year crystal trophy in 2025.

Charu also became the first Indian artist to collaborate with Preservation Hall Jazz Band in New Orleans on her album, “Ragas & Waltzes,” that features drummer Joe Lastie. Previously, she has released “The Book of Ragas” and “The New American Songbook” at Carnegie Hall. She performed at Carnegie Hall for the fifth time in July, 2025 and made history (<https://nj.com/hudson/1970/01/an-historic-first-for-indian-artist-from-weehawken.html>)

On May 13, 2023, the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performed her work for the very first time at NJPAC in the family-friendly “Hooray for Bollywood” (<https://njpac.org/event/new-jersey-symphony-hooray-for-bollywood-family-concert>) concert and will also perform arrangements of hers of popular Bollywood tunes.

She is a Governor of the Recording Academy New York Chapter.

## CHARU SURI PIANO ACADEMY

Charu started her piano academy several years ago with one purpose: to deliver uncompromising levels of instruction to her students and let them shine. Her students range from all ages: from four to forty. They have performed at world-renowned halls including Steinway Auditorium and Carnegie Hall. She is one of the few pianists chosen by Steinway as an Educational Partner, and she hosts several student recitals throughout the year in various auditoriums. Her students have won and/or received honorable mentions in the following:

- The American Protégé International Music
- Talent Competition;
- Saint-Saens Piano Competition;
- AADTG Competition;
- Chopin Piano Competition;
- Charleston Music Competition;
- Bach Piano Competition; and many more.

Learn more at <https://charu.suri.com>

Follow her @charusurimusic on Instagram, and @CharuSuriTrio on Facebook.

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





## Roadies REBIRTH: Rannvijay returns as host

MTV Roadies is set to return with its 21st season, titled Roadies REBIRTH, with Rannvijay Singha coming back as host. The new season has been introduced with the reveal of its logo on MTV and JioHotstar's social media handles, where a Phoenix, symbolising rebirth, marks the identity of the latest chapter of the adventure reality show.

The announcement has also put the spotlight on Rannvijay's return to the franchise. An original Roadie who has hosted multiple seasons over the years, Singha remains closely linked with the show, and his comeback adds to the build-up around a season that is being positioned as a fresh turn in the series.

The buzz around the season began with the unveiling of the Roadies REBIRTH logo. The Phoenix-led design points to a theme of transformation, setting the tone for what the makers are presenting as a new phase for the show.

That intrigue deepened further in a recent social media teaser featuring Rannvijay. In the clip, the camera closes in on him as three red and three yellow helmets appear in the reflection of his sunglasses. The visual has prompted fans to decode what the makers may be hinting at, with the helmets offering an early glimpse of what could be in store this season.

# HBO's new Harry Potter teaser trailer: Sorting hat, Quidditch and a Christmas premiere

HBO has released a new teaser trailer for its upcoming Harry Potter television series, offering the most extensive look at the reboot that is hyped as one of the biggest releases of 2026. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the first season of the planned seven-season series, will premiere on Christmas Day, December 25, 2026, on HBO and HBO Max.

The trailer, which dropped on Wednesday, runs through nearly every major set piece from JK Rowling's first novel. Janet McTeer's McGonagall is seen leading the first-year students to the Sorting Ceremony, calling out names alphabetically, as Harry silently pleads "not Slytherin" before the hat places him in Gryffindor.

John Lithgow's Dumbledore gets a warm, playful introduction, snapping his fingers to fill the Great Hall tables with food. Paapa Essiedu's Snape delivers his first line to Harry with cold precision: "Let's hope you show some talent on the Quidditch pitch, Potter. You've certainly not exhibited any in here." The trailer then moves through Harry's first Herbology classes, the discovery of the Cloak of Invisibility, the Mirror of Erised, Ron receiving his Hogwarts letter at the Burrow surrounded by his brothers, a Quidditch match between Gryffindor and Slytherin with Ron and Hermione cheering from the packed stands, Wizard's Chess with pieces that come alive and fight, and the bathroom troll sequence.



Brief flashback shots appear to show a young couple, presumably Lily and James Potter, running along a bridge that transforms into a glittering golden arc of light, suggesting the series will expand on Harry's parents' story beyond what the original films showed.

Notably, the trailer suggests the series will not be told strictly from Harry's point of view. A scene featuring the Weasley family at the Burrow receiving Hogwarts' letter, independent of Harry's presence, indicates the show is willing to expand beyond the single-perspective storytelling of the original films and explore moments from the books.

### The new Harry Potter cast

The series features a sprawling ensemble that covers both the student

and adult worlds of Hogwarts. The main cast includes newcomer Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter, the role that made Daniel Radcliffe a global star 25 years ago. Arabella Stanton plays Hermione Granger, taking over from Emma Watson, while Alastair Stout steps into Ron Weasley, previously played by Rupert Grint.

The Hogwarts student body is filled out with Rory Wilmot as Neville Longbottom, Lox Pratt as Draco Malfoy, Leo Earley as Seamus Finnigan, Elijah Oshin as Dean Thomas, Tristan Harland and Gabriel Harland as twins Fred and George Weasley, Ruari Spooner as Percy Weasley, Alessia Leoni as Parvati Patil, Sienna Moosah as Lavender Brown, Finn Stephens as Vincent Crabbe and William Nash as Gregory Goyle.

## Alix Earle takes a jab at Alex Cooper, continuing their long-running feud

Alix Earle has finally spoken about her ongoing feud with Alex Cooper. The influencer addressed the drama while promoting her new reality show in Los Angeles. She appeared to brush off the tension, but one comment still stood out. Earle made it clear that she would rather focus on her new show.

Earle and her sister, Ashtin Earle, spoke with Entertainment Tonight at the Los Angeles premiere of "Earle Meets World." During the interview, Alix said she felt unbothered, not unwell, by the feud. "I'm happier just to, like, focus on the premiere and having the show

out there," she told the outlet. However, she soon appeared to take a swipe at Cooper while discussing the situation.

"And, you know, hers are getting canceled, so, it is what it is," Alix added. Her comment came after years of subtle tension between the two women online. Earle and Cooper have appeared to take shots at each other through social media comments and reposts. Cooper finally spoke to the issue directly this year.

Cooper took a dig at Earle on TikTok in April. "Alix Earle, hey girl, the passive-aggressive reposts and the likes and commenting on things," Cooper

said. "I got to call you out here. You're going to need to get specific and just say what you got to say about me." Cooper also said, "There's no NDA, no one is stopping you," before telling Earle to stop hiding behind other people.

Earle has now hinted she may finally be able to talk more about the feud on her reality show. After months of staying relatively quiet, Earle may finally address the feud on "Earle Meets World." Cooper had previously challenged her to speak for herself about their issues. It seems the viewers will now hear more of Earle's side as the show plays out the drama.







## Pakeezah restored in 4K for Lyon, London Film Festivals

A 4K restored version of Meena Kumari-starrer 1972 classic Pakeezah is set to have its world premiere at Festival Lumiere in Lyon, France, before heading to the BFI London Film Festival. The restoration of the Kamal Amrohi-directed film was spearheaded by the not-for-profit Film Heritage Foundation, which spent two years working to bring the film back to its original glory.

The premiere in Lyon will be led by Cannes and Lumiere chief Thierry Frmaux. From France, the film will travel to London for a gala screening at the BFI IMAX, to be presented by Film Heritage Foundation director Shivendra Singh Dungarpur alongside Amrohi's children, Tajdar and Rukhsaar, and grandson Bilal Amrohi, as reported by Hindustan Times.

Praised by the late film critic Derek Malcolm as "one of the most extraordinary musical melodramas ever made", Pakeezah has long been associated with a production-plagued history that mirrors the high drama and heartbreak of its onscreen narrative.

# Mirzapur set for Rs 25-crore start, may beat Awarapan 2, Saiyaara

After three seasons spanning almost seven years, the phenomenon that is Mirzapur is coming to the big screen. The film adaptation of the popular web series is said to be an origin story that runs parallel to the show's first season, bringing back many beloved characters and introducing new ones. The buzz for the theatrical release is immense, particularly in India's non-metro centres, giving Mirzapur: The Movie a chance to register one of Bollywood's biggest openings of 2026.

Advance bookings for Mirzapur opened a few days before the scheduled release and have picked up pace as the release date draws closer. By 10 AM on Thursday, Sept 3, a day before the film's release, it had sold around 1.4 lakh tickets, grossing Rs 4 crore for its opening day. Almost all of these earnings are from the Hindi version. The film is also releasing with a Telugu dub, but that version has sold merely 372 tickets in 15 screens so far, according to Sacnilk. On the ticketing platform BookMyShow, Mirzapur is selling over 2.5K tickets per hour as of Sept 3 morning.

The figures are not groundbreaking but solid enough for a film with no stars, primarily catering to tier-2 and tier-3 centres. Such films, which appeal more to non-metro audiences, tend to see more growth in spot bookings than in advances. That is why the trade remains bullish on Mirzapur The Movie's opening-day prospects.

Mirzapur movie was expected to open well ever since its first teaser was released earlier this year. But the buzz has only been increasing. Last week, most trade experts were estimating an Rs

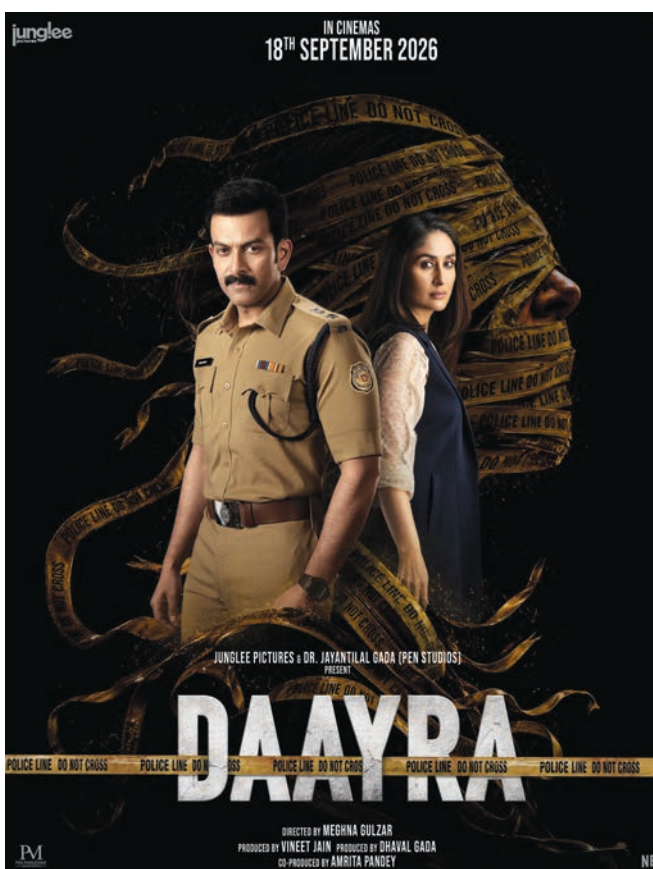


18-20 crore start for the film, but now most are revising their estimates upwards. Mirzapur The Movie is now expected to open north of Rs 22 crore, with many even predicting it to touch the Rs 25 crore net mark domestically on its first day. If it does manage that, it will be the biggest non-star-led release for a Hindi film ever.

Normally, a Rs 25+ crore opening in Hindi is the domain of the A-listers or

select pan-India stars. Very few actors, apart from the three Khans, Akshay Kumar, and Hrithik Roshan, have managed this consistently. Mirzapur will put the likes of Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, and Divyenndu in this league. If the film does manage to earn Rs 25 crore on its opening day, it will outgross recent sleeper hits such as Saiyaara (Rs 22 crore) and Awarapan 2 (Rs 21.50 crore).

Source: HT



## Daayra: Kareena, Prithviraj face off over juvenile crime in gritty thriller

The trailer of Daayra sets up a tense clash between Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran as two police officers who find themselves on opposite sides of a case involving juvenile crime. Directed by Meghna Gulzar, the thriller explores the conflict between law, justice and accountability as the investigation into a controversial police encounter unfolds.

The film is set to release in cinemas on September 18. Kareena plays DCP Ajooni Kohli, while Prithviraj plays DCP Raman Kumar. The trailer opens with the two officers taking different positions on a case involving a police encounter. As the investigation progresses, their approaches to duty and justice begin to clash.

The case takes a more serious turn when a family approaches the authorities for help in finding their missing daughter. During the investigation, details emerge about an accused person who had reportedly been active along the same route for two years.

The trailer also raises questions about the legal

framework surrounding juvenile offenders. One of the central debates is whether juvenile protection laws should apply in cases involving minors accused of serious crimes such as rape and murder.

The disagreement between the two officers goes beyond the immediate case. They question each other's understanding of procedure, accountability and the limits of their responsibilities as police officers.

Kareena said working with Meghna Gulzar pushed her to look at her character differently.

"What I loved about working with Meghna is that she makes you question everything you think you know about a character," Kareena said. She added that playing Ajooni was a new experience for her and that working opposite Prithviraj was "a pleasure".

Prithviraj said he was drawn to Raman because of the questions the character faces during the investigation. "What drew me to DCP Raman Kumar was the complexity beneath his composed exterior and the questions he finds himself grappling with during the investigation," he said.





## 'Avengers: Doomsday' shot without a finished script

**A**vengers: Doomsday going into production without a finished script did not faze directors Joe and Anthony Russo. As the former recently told the Associated Press: "We always view the script as a living organism."

"We're improvisation-based, rehearsal-based directors," Joe maintained. "We like to see what the actors bring to the characters, and sometimes you don't get the actors until a few days or few weeks before you shoot them. And a lot of the time, that's when the magic happens."

The Russo Brothers are making their grand return to Marvel with "Doomsday," which marks their first MCU tentpole since the record-breaking "Avengers: Endgame." The duo had not planned to come back for the next "Avengers" movie, which was originally going to be "The Kang Dynasty" and feature Jonathan Majors as the new Thanos-sized villain. But Majors got the boot from Marvel amid legal troubles, and the fifth "Avengers" movie had to be overhauled. That's when the Russo Brothers stepped in alongside Robert Downey Jr., who is rejoining the MCU after the end of his Iron Man tenure to debut as the villainous Doctor Doom.

"The thing that Joe and I have always appreciated about our collaboration with Marvel is: Our job isn't to answer for the entirety of the MCU," Anthony Russo told the AP about coming back. "We intersect it in a very specific way. It's that intersection which is where we can make sense of things."

Marvel has a grand reputation for starting production on its movies without finished scripts. When "Guardians of the Galaxy" trilogy director James Gunn took over DC Studios, he vowed not to fall down this rabbit hole and only move into production on DC movies with finalized screenplays.

"I do believe that the reason why the movie industry is dying is not because of people not wanting to see movies," Gunn told Rolling Stone last year. "It's not because of home screens getting so good. The number-one reason is because people are making movies without a finished screenplay."

# Tom Cruise announces Days of Thunder sequel with Anne Hathaway after 38 years

**A**ctor Tom Cruise has announced the sequel to Days of Thunder, revealing that Anne Hathaway will join him in the much-awaited follow-up to the 1990 racing drama. The sequel, which comes 38 years after the original film, is set to hit theatres in summer 2028.

Cruise shared the announcement on social media on August 29, posting a picture from Daytona International Speedway and confirming Hathaway's involvement in the film. The announcement also revealed the sequel's summer 2028 release window.

In the video, a pregnant Hathaway says, "I'm going to have this baby, and then we're going to make this movie."

Cruise is expected to reprise his role as NASCAR driver Cole Trickle, the character he played in the original Days of Thunder. Hathaway, meanwhile, will reportedly portray a team owner and engineer, marking her entry into the high-speed racing world of the franchise.

Jonathan Levine will direct the sequel, with Jerry Bruckheimer, Tommy Harper and Cruise attached as producers.

The announcement came fittingly on the day of the 2026 Coke Zero Sugar 400 at Daytona, a racetrack that holds a significant place in the Days of Thunder story and features prominently in the original film. The original Days of Thunder, released in 1990, starred Cruise as Cole Trickle and followed his journey as a talented but ambitious NASCAR driver. With Cruise returning and Hathaway joining the cast, the sequel marks the revival of the racing franchise nearly four decades after its first outing.



## Julianne Moore to be honored with Golden Icon Award at 22nd Zurich Film Festival



**T**he 22nd Zurich Film Festival will honor Julianne Moore with the Golden Icon Award for her "extraordinary career" and her performance in her new film, "The Debut."

She will be accompanied in Zurich by "The Debut" director Jesse Eisenberg. The film marks Moore's second collaboration with Eisenberg as a director following his directorial debut "When You Finish Saving the World" (2022). It is his third feature film as a director. When Mona Friedman (Moore) is cast in a bit part at a small community theater, she transforms from a shy, unassuming housewife into a zealous method actor willing to do anything to protect the artistic integrity of her marginal role – even if it means waging war against the show's domineering director.

"Julianne Moore is one of the outstanding character actresses of American cinema. She possesses remarkable versatility and, time and again, manages to captivate us with her intense portrayals of the characters she plays. No matter which film we see her in, we find ourselves rooting for her characters," Christian Jungen, CEO of the Zurich Film Festival, said. "In the wonderful film 'The Debut,' she delivers a brilliant performance as a woman who realizes it's not too late to fulfill her deeply personal dream: becoming an actress. It is Julianne Moore's love letter to her own profession – and thus the perfect film with which to thank her, with our Golden Icon Award, for so many wonderful cinematic experiences."



# 5 challenges Congo faces in containing its fast-moving Ebola outbreak

04 SEP 2026

ABUJA, NIGERIA (TIP):

Authorities in eastern Congo are shifting to a village-centered approach to fight the Ebola outbreak, Africa's top public health agency said Thursday, as the virus continues to spread faster than efforts to track and contain it.

The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the outbreak has likely not yet peaked. Since it was declared in mid-May, it has spread from three health zones to 60, with 6,250 cases, including 3,039 deaths, government data showed, mostly fueled by insecurity, displacement and intense population movements.

Compared with the outbreak of 2014 to 2016 across West Africa — the deadliest Ebola outbreak on record with more than 11,000 deaths — the current outbreak has recorded six times as many confirmed cases and five times as many deaths, the Africa CDC said.

Here are five areas where Congo's response to the outbreak is still falling short, according to a report this week from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

## LIMITED COMMUNITY-BASED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS

One major gap in the response is limited community-based surveillance to quickly investigate alerts to be able to detect, track and slow the spread of the virus, the U.S. health agency said.

Delays in detection, reluctance to report cases and inadequate community engagement are contributing to preventable deaths. At least 63% of deaths recorded in the past week occurred outside Ebola treatment centers, Africa CDC data showed.

Authorities are now using a "village-centered approach," working with community leaders to help build trust



and improve collaboration with residents, said Yap Boum, head of emergency preparedness and response at Africa CDC.

Ituri province, where the outbreak is concentrated, is also at the center of the rebel conflict in eastern Congo, complicating efforts to gain trust from residents. "Building that trust in the middle of an outbreak is quite complex," Boum said.

## CONTACT-TRACING NEEDS TO IMPROVE

Quickly identifying and tracing the contacts of those who had come in contact with Ebola patients remains challenging across the six provinces affected.

Although 81% of contacts have been followed up with by surveillance teams, that figure does not reflect the full reality as it only refers to the listed contacts and doesn't include those who have yet to be traced.

Africa CDC estimates that cases confirmed in the last three weeks should have generated 97,600 contacts, based on an average of 60 contacts per confirmed case. Only 19% of those total expected contacts have been traced.

## MORE TREATMENT AND ISOLATION CAPACITY IS NEEDED

Health data shows that treatment centers had expanded capacity to more than 1,300 beds in late August while their occupancy rate is currently at 67% with 869 patients.

However, experts have called for more treatment and isolation centers and beds in affected health zones to prepare for cases that have yet to be detected.

Many affected health zones are in areas where cases go undetected or unreported for several reasons, including distrust in health authorities.

Some health zones are also not accessible to surveillance teams or health workers trying to treat patients,

said Boum.

## LABORATORY TESTING CAPACITY REMAINS LIMITED

Experts also say that laboratory testing capacity needs to be expanded in order to promptly identify cases and treat patients.

The World Health Organization said last month that several treatment and transit centres in Ituri, the outbreak's epicenter, were "saturated" while North Kivu, the second-most affected province, lacked sufficient options to refer patients to specialized facilities.

Health workers at existing treatment centers are also exhausted, said Jeannot Krikeija, who works at an Ebola treatment center in Bunia, Ituri's capital. "Ebola is tiring us all the more because we don't know when this scourge will end. This ordeal is unbearable for me," Krikeija said.

## GAPS REMAIN IN HOW BURIALS ARE CARRIED OUT IN AFFECTED HEALTH ZONES

Authorities have deployed safe and dignified burial teams for the more than 3,000 people who have died from Ebola, but gaps remain in how the burials are carried out, according to the U.S. health agency. Ebola can spread between people through direct contact with the blood or other bodily fluids of someone who is sick with or has died from Ebola, and experts have warned that bodies of victims still carry large amounts of active virus.

In Ituri and other affected areas, burial teams have been attacked on multiple occasions, often by families seeking to protect loved ones who died of Ebola. It's also common to see people surrounding graves of Ebola victims during burials, sometimes within a few meters away from the coffins. (AP)

## Bosnia-Serbia war criminal Mladic's body returns to Belgrade with military honours

03 SEP 2026

BELGRADE (TIP)

Bosnian-Serb war criminal Ratko Mladic's body arrived in Serbia Thursday, where it was received with military honours.

The casket, draped in the Serbian flag, was carried from the plane by six soldiers after arriving from The Hague, accompanied by Mladic's son Darko and Serbia's Justice Minister Nenad Vujic.

The body was then driven from the airport under police escort, reportedly to a Belgrade military hospital.

Mladic died last week while serving a life sentence for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

Pro-government media broadcast images of dozens of people, mostly young men, gathered on footbridges over the motorway, displaying banners honouring Mladic and lighting flares as the convoy passed. The same outlets reported details of the funeral, including a public service at a church scheduled for Monday, but no

details have been officially confirmed.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said earlier Thursday that the state would provide "every kind of logistical and transport support" and he expected tens of thousands to gather for the funeral.

The court ordered a full inquiry into the circumstances surrounding Mladic's death, which had to be completed before his family could take possession of the body.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Marta Kos on Monday criticised plans to bury Mladic with state honours.

"Regarding Ratko Mladic, the glorification of war criminals is contrary to fundamental European values and has no place in the European Union or in countries that aspire to become members," Kos said in Slovenia.

Mladic, who had suffered several strokes in recent months, was convicted of atrocities committed during Bosnia's war, which killed around 100,000 people and forced 2.2 million from their homes. (AFP)

## Norway seizes Russian vessel to enforce USD 4.22 billion Ukrainian arbitration claim

03 SEP 2026

OSLO (TIP)

Norwegian authorities seized a Russian vessel in the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard on Wednesday at the request of Ukraine's Naftogaz as part of a global effort to enforce a USD 4.22 billion arbitration award.

Naftogaz is trying to recover the multibillion-dollar arbitration award stemming from Russia's 2014 illegal annexation of Crimea and its seizure of Ukrainian energy assets, including gas fields and pipelines.

In 2023, an arbitration tribunal in The Hague ordered Russia to pay the \$4.22 billion to the Ukrainian state-owned energy company for unlawfully seizing its assets in Crimea.

After Russia's refusal to pay the award, Naftogaz has been petitioning national courts seeking court orders to seize Russian commercial assets.

"This is another important step towards restoring justice for Russia's unlawful seizure of Naftogaz assets in

Crimea. Russia cannot evade responsibility simply by refusing to comply with an international arbitral award. We will continue to pursue Russian assets around the world," said Naftogaz CEO Sergii Fedorenko.

When asked on Thursday about Norway's action, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the seizure of civilian vessels and strikes on merchant shipping were "acts of state terrorism."

He also condemned recent warnings by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to foreign airlines that flying in Russia would no longer be safe because of Ukrainian long-range drone attacks.

Speaking at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, Putin linked the vessel seizure and Zelenskyy's warning, saying such incidents "complicated" the prospects for future peace talks. He added that Ukraine's allies were "complicit in international terrorism" by remaining silent on the issues. (AP)



# Italy weighs the results as Giorgia Meloni's government sets a longevity record

03 SEP 2026  
ROME (TIP)

In a country where governments are famously short-lived, the perceived success of Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni has often been attributed to her survival skills rather than her accomplishments.

On Thursday, after 1,413 days — nearly four years — Meloni's conservative administration became Italy's longest-serving uninterrupted government since World War II, surpassing the record set by the late Silvio Berlusconi between 2001 and 2005.

None of Italy's 68 governments in the country's 80 years as a republic has yet to complete a five-year term without interruption. Berlusconi came closest, but a government crisis forced him to resign briefly in 2005 before forming a new Cabinet.

Meloni and her party will celebrate their feat on Friday with a large preelection rally in the southern city of Bari.

Meloni, straightforward and pragmatic, has managed to stave off the crises and defections that have toppled past governments. The results — or lack of results — from this uncharacteristic period of stability may ultimately define



Meloni's legacy and her odds of winning another term.

"If you have five years in office and not much to show when you go back to voters, it can weigh against you," said Nathalie Tocci, an international relations expert and professor at Johns Hopkins University.

When Meloni took office in October 2022, she was Italy's first female prime

minister. Her government was also the first led by a party with neo-fascist roots, and European allies and financial markets viewed her with unease.

But Meloni has largely governed pragmatically. She maintained steadfast support for Ukraine following Russia's full-scale invasion, worked within European institutions and embraced fiscal discipline.

Her relationship with U.S. President Donald Trump became one of her most notable foreign policy assets — at least initially.

While political instability has reshaped governments elsewhere in Europe — including the United Kingdom and France — Meloni has kept the same coalition in place since taking office, a rarity in modern Italian politics and a central pillar of her reelection bid.

"Meloni has reaped a part of what she sowed, because I know few people so determined, so hardworking, so precise, so meticulous, who have sacrificed both their human and private spheres in order to serve the institutions," Defense Minister Guido Crosetto told The Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday.

"For this she is now reaping exactly what she deserves in terms of international credibility," he said, speaking in a room in the ministry filled with photos of his predecessors. "She is not reaping the same on the Italian level."

Heading toward the next election, due by the end of 2027, there is no longer any debate that Meloni can govern. The question is whether voters believe her government delivered enough to deserve another term. (AP)

# With his eye on reelection, Israel's Netanyahu turns his focus to his divided base

03 SEP 2026  
JERUSALEM (TIP)

As Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seeks reelection, his main concern these days isn't his political rivals. It's some of his biggest supporters.

A series of small, pro-Netanyahu parties are competing in the run-up to the Oct. 27 vote. But instead of strengthening the Israeli leader, these parties — including hard-line blocs led by polarizing Cabinet ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich — risk weakening his chances for reelection by splitting the vote among Netanyahu's base.

The election is largely a referendum on Netanyahu's nearly uninterrupted 17-year rule and his handling of a turbulent period marked by mass protests, Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attacks and nearly three years of war. A victory would mark a stirring comeback for the embattled leader, while a loss would likely end the reign of a man who has shaped Israeli politics for three decades.

With his legacy on the line, Netanyahu is imploring his erstwhile allies to unite into larger parties that have a better chance of entering parliament.

"When we unite, we win. When we split up, we lose," Netanyahu told Channel 14, a TV station that serves as an unofficial mouthpiece for the prime minister.

**HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT NETANYAHU'S SITUATION:**

**FORMING A GOVERNMENT IS TRICKY**

Israeli voters choose between political parties, not individual candidates.

Parties that receive the most votes secure the most seats in the 120-member parliament. But any party that can muster just 3.25% of the vote wins representation. That means that more than a dozen parties can be part



of any given parliament.

No single party has ever captured the parliamentary majority needed to form a government. Instead, a party leader — usually the head of the largest party — forms a coalition with smaller partners to secure a 61-seat majority.

Netanyahu currently heads a coalition of religious and ultranationalist parties.

Opinion polls have indicated that Netanyahu and members of his outgoing coalition are facing broad public unhappiness as they seek reelection.

The government's popularity has suffered following the Hamas attacks — the deadliest in Israel's history — and the subsequent, inconclusive wars in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran.

Now Netanyahu's prospects could be further weakened by divisions in his hard-line base.

Two parties that ran together in the 2022 elections — Smotrich's Religious Zionism and Ben-Gvir's Jewish Power — have so far rejected Netanyahu's calls to merge again due to rocky relations between the two men.

At the same time, smaller parties led by former members of Netanyahu's Likud party and another list formed by a hard-line retired military general find themselves competing for the same voters. These parties are differentiated more by the personalities of their leaders than their ideologies.

Falling short of the threshold could be devastating for Netanyahu

If any of these smaller parties fail to enter parliament, their votes would be lost and Netanyahu's reelection prospects dimmed. The failure of small parties to cross the threshold contributed to Netanyahu's defeat in a 2021 election, while rivalries among his opponents led to Netanyahu's return to power in 2022. (AP)

# Mexican musician Jonathan Meléndez, pregnant wife and child among victims in grisly shooting

03 SEP 2026

Mexican musician and composer Jonathan Meléndez, 38, a keyboardist for indie rock band Camilo Séptimo, was killed along with his pregnant wife, young daughter and nanny in a multiple homicide at the family's penthouse outside Mexico City, multiple reports quoting authorities said.

The killings occurred Tuesday evening, September 1, in the affluent municipality of Atizapán de Zaragoza in the State of Mexico. Neighbors reported hearing shouts and gunshots, and police discovered the bodies shortly before midnight.

Meléndez's wife, Ana Paola, 35, was about four months pregnant, while their 3-year-old daughter was among the victims. The family's nanny and domestic worker, 21-year-old Aleida Romero Victorio, was also killed. Authorities said the victims had been bound with duct tape. Three, including the toddler, suffered close-range gunshot wounds to the head, while another victim was shot in the back.

The family's dog was also found dead with its paws tied. The couple's 6-year-old son was discovered unharmed at the scene.

Authorities believe the killings took place between approximately 5:30 p.m. and 7:40 p.m.

Two men were arrested Wednesday in a joint operation involving federal, Mexico City and State of Mexico authorities. Prosecutors identified Diego Sebastián "N," an acquaintance of Meléndez, as the primary suspect. A second man, Gerardo "N," was also arrested and is being investigated for alleged involvement.

Security Secretary Omar García Harfuch said one suspect allegedly used a personal relationship with the family to gain entry to the penthouse. The motive remains under investigation.

Camilo Séptimo paid tribute to Meléndez, saying he would be remembered with "immense love and gratitude" for his music, light and friendship.



# Trading food for medicine and crossing the river by zip line are part of life in Nepal flood zone

04 SEP 2026  
KATHMANDU, NEPAL (TIP)

Some survivors sheltering in relief camps after deadly floods in Nepal struggled Thursday to obtain essential medicines and cash, even as authorities provided food and other basic supplies to thousands of displaced people.

The shortages are adding to the hardships of those living in temporary shelters after having lost homes and belongings.

Suresh Kumar Karanjit, who has been staying at a relief center in Devighat, a town in one of the worst-affected areas in Nuwakot district, lost his younger brother in the floods last week. He said the camp did not have the exact medicine prescribed for his heart condition.

Karanjit only managed to get the cash he needed to buy his regular medicine after selling a carton of noodles he received as relief for 400 rupees (\$2.60). "We have been living here for a week. The relief materials are being provided, which is good. But there is a lack of medicine," he said.

Nepal's disaster chief, Dharam Raj Uprety, said health centers staffed by doctors and stocked with medicine have been set up at each shelter. Uprety said



authorities were also focusing on hygiene and sanitation to reduce the risk of disease.

The Aug. 26 floods that were likely caused by a glacier collapse devastated towns and valleys in Nepal, destroying homes, roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure. At least 1,259 people were killed and more than 5,000 remain

missing, according to the country's disaster management agency. China, as of late Wednesday, said 21 people were killed and 541 were missing on the Tibet side of the border.

More than 4,500 people displaced in Nepal are staying in 38 relief centers.

In some of the worst-affected areas, residents were finding other ways to

navigate after floodwaters left communities cut off from regular routes.

In Bidur town, along the Trishuli River, residents used a temporary zip line to cross between the riverbanks. Army personnel helped people onto the makeshift crossing and assisted them as they reached the opposite bank, while others waited along the riverbank for their turn.

Meanwhile, rescue efforts have increasingly focused on tunnels at several hydroelectric projects where workers are believed to be trapped. About 900 workers remain missing, while specialized rescue teams from India, China and the United States are involved in efforts to reach those trapped in the tunnels.

It was unclear whether workers feared to be trapped in the tunnels were alive.

At the Trishuli-3A tunnel, workers began manually opening the upper section of the passage, according to lawmaker Ram Neupane. An access road was built over the past week to reach the excavation site, but more rock blasting and debris clearing will be needed before heavy machinery can reach the area, he said. (AP)

## Nine days after devastating floods, two trapped workers rescued alive from Nepal tunnel

04 SEP 2026

Nine days after devastating floods swept through parts of Nepal, two workers trapped inside the Trishuli 3A hydropower project tunnel were rescued alive on Friday, officials and ministers said, raising hopes that others may still be trapped but alive.

The two men, identified as a mechanical foreman and a mechanical supervisor, were pulled out during an ongoing rescue operation at the tunnel, which was buried under debris following the floods on August 26. Both were taken for medical observation, officials said.

Energy Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha confirmed that one worker had been safely rescued from the Trishuli 3A tunnel, followed shortly by a second rescue.

"We have just received news that another person...has also been rescued," Home Minister Sudan Gurung said in a statement.

Local television channels showed images of the first worker, covered in mud, being carried out of the site on a rescuer's shoulder.

At least 557 workers are missing from the Trishuli 3A hydropower project along the Trishuli River, with about 115 believed to be trapped inside the main tunnel, according to the Independent Power Producers Association of Nepal.

Officials at the rescue site said they believe some people may still be alive inside.

The August 26 floods, likely triggered by a glacier collapse, devastated towns and valleys across Nepal and left a massive trail of destruction. At least 1,259 people have been killed and more than 5,000 remain missing, according to the country's disaster management agency.

Around 900 workers are missing from 12 hydropower projects across Nepal, with roughly 500 believed to be trapped inside tunnels, according to local authorities.

(With inputs from AP, AFP)

## Taliban government defends ban on protest, citing Islamic law

02 SEP 2026  
KABUL (TIP)

The Taliban government defended on Wednesday its ban on protests that has drawn condemnation from rights groups, saying the order complies with Islamic law.

Demonstrations in Afghanistan have been rare since the Taliban returned to power just over five years ago, but the government last month introduced a rule holding that "all types of protests are banned".

International organisations have decried the law as "ruthless" and a move to suppress any dissent in the country.

Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP during a news conference that the "law fully complies with Islamic law", adding that "protests don't exist in Islamic law".

"Protests belong to societies where there are different laws established, for example a democracy or a republic," Mujahid said.

Under the Islamic system, he said, people can approach the government with concerns rather than hold demonstrations.

Mujahid argued the ban "will also protect people from wasting time" and prevent the destruction of private property.

Human Rights Watch late last month slammed the ban as "another step in the Taliban's ruthless effort to suppress all dissent".

Amnesty International described the Taliban's broader series of changes to law enforcement as "another sweeping assault on human rights in Afghanistan", calling the protest ban "among its most egregious provisions".

While demonstrations are rare, at least two people were killed in June when security forces reportedly opened fire on a women's rights protest in the western city of Herat, a group of UN experts said. (PTI)



## Pakistan urges India to restore Indus Waters Treaty, days after New Delhi rejects arbitration order

02 SEP 2026

Pakistan on Wednesday urged India to engage with it constructively within the framework of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), saying the decades-old pact must be upheld in "letter and spirit," reported PTI.

According to the report, Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi made the remarks days after India rejected an order by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) setting aside centre's decision to suspend the treaty with Pakistan.

Andrabi said the court had reaffirmed that the IWT remained "fully enforced and binding", adding that Pakistan would take all possible measures to ensure the decision was implemented.

"Pakistan is committed to implementing the treaty in letter and spirit in accordance with its language and provisions," he said.

He added that Islamabad would continue to urge India to reciprocate by upholding the treaty "in letter and spirit" and in accordance with its full legal and documented provisions.

India put the IWT in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack in April last year that killed 26 civilians, as part of a series of punitive diplomatic and economic measures against Pakistan.

Pakistan approached the PCA in The Hague in March this year seeking a determination on the status of the treaty, effectively challenging India's decision.

India, however, has never recognised the "existence in law of this illegally-constituted and so-called Court of Arbitration". New Delhi has maintained that the establishment of the arbitral body itself constitutes a "grave violation of the Indus Waters Treaty".

(With inputs from PTI)



# Sikh History This Week

## SEPTEMBER 4 TO SEPTEMBER 10

### SEPTEMBER 4

#### 1708 - Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Banda Singh Bahadur



At Nanded, Guru Gobind Singh Ji met Madho Das Bairagi, who subsequently became his disciple and was given the name Banda Singh Bahadur. Guru Sahib entrusted him with the mission of travelling to Punjab and confronting the oppressive Mughal administration. Banda Singh Bahadur later emerged as one of the most important military leaders in Sikh history.

#### 1946 - Sikh political developments before Partition

The final months before India's independence witnessed intense political negotiations over Punjab, Sikh representation and the future of the province. Sikh leaders were increasingly concerned about the consequences of Partition and the protection of Sikh religious and political interests.

### SEPTEMBER 5

#### 1914 - Violence in Vancouver Sikh community

The early Sikh diaspora in Canada experienced severe political and community tensions. The period around 1914 was marked by growing discrimination against South Asian immigrants and divisions within the Sikh community, forming part of the wider background to the Komagata Maru episode and the emergence of Sikh political activism in North America.

#### 1947 - Sikh refugees amid Partition



By September 1947, the Partition of Punjab had triggered one of the largest forced migrations in modern history. Sikh families from areas that became part of Pakistan travelled towards Indian Punjab amid widespread violence and uncertainty. Gurdwaras, community organisations and volunteers played important roles in providing shelter and assistance to displaced families.

### SEPTEMBER 6

#### 1966 - Punjab Reorganisation Bill

The Punjab Reorganisation Bill was introduced in Parliament on September 6, 1966. The legislation paved the way for the division of the existing Punjab state and the creation of Haryana, while certain areas were transferred to Himachal Pradesh. The reorganisation followed a prolonged political movement for a Punjabi-speaking state.

#### 1995 - Jaswant Singh Khaira disappears



Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira disappeared on September 6, 1995. He had been documenting cases of alleged disappearances and unidentified cremations during the period of militancy and counter-insurgency in Punjab. His disappearance became one of the most significant human-rights cases associated with Punjab in the 1990s.

### SEPTEMBER 7

#### 1966 - Parliament passes Punjab Reorganisation legislation



The Punjab Reorganisation Bill moved through Parliament in September 1966 as part of the process that would fundamentally redraw the political map of Punjab. The reorganisation eventually took effect on November 1, 1966, creating the present-day state of Punjab and Haryana.

#### 1708 - Final chapter of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's earthly life



The period around September 1708 was significant in the final months of Guru Gobind Singh Ji's life at

Nanded. His meeting with Banda Singh Bahadur and the subsequent Sikh mission to Punjab would have a profound impact on Sikh political history.

### SEPTEMBER 8

#### 1631 - Passing of Baba Buddha Ji



Baba Buddha Ji, one of the most revered figures of early Sikh history, passed away on September 8, 1631, according to traditional Sikh historical accounts.

Born as Bura, he became associated with Guru Nanak Dev Ji and subsequently served the early Sikh Gurus. He is traditionally remembered for his spiritual wisdom and for his association with the succession of the Gurus. Baba Buddha Ji's life is particularly remarkable because he witnessed the development of the Sikh community across the period of the first six Gurus. His passing therefore marked the end of the life of one of the most important living links to the earliest Sikh tradition.

### SEPTEMBER 9

#### 1961 - Sikh political representation and international advocacy

The early 1960s saw Sikh organisations increasingly take their political concerns beyond India's domestic political arena. The period was marked by efforts to draw international attention to questions concerning Sikh identity, political representation and the reorganisation of Punjab.

#### 1980s - Sikh political mobilisation

September 9 falls within a period of intense political mobilisation in Punjab during the 1980s. Questions concerning the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, greater state autonomy, river waters, Chandigarh and Sikh political identity increasingly dominated Punjab's public life.

### SEPTEMBER 10

#### 1930 - Death of Karam Singh Historian

September 10 marks the death anniversary of Karam Singh Historian, an important Sikh researcher and historian who died in 1930. Karam Singh devoted much of his life to collecting historical material relating to the Sikh Gurus, Sikh institutions and prominent Sikh personalities. He was particularly interested in separating historical evidence from later traditions and legends. His research on personalities such as Banda Singh Bahadur and Maharaja Ranjit Singh contributed to the development of modern Sikh historical scholarship. His importance lies not only in what he wrote but also in what he collected.



# Why your hair needs conditioner and how to use it right

For many people, a proper hair-care routine goes beyond simply washing the hair with shampoo. While shampoo removes dirt, excess oil and product build-up from the scalp and hair, conditioner plays an equally important role in maintaining softness, moisture and manageability.

Using conditioner after shampooing is considered a basic step in hair care. It helps restore moisture that may be lost during cleansing and leaves the hair feeling smoother and easier to manage. Skipping conditioner, especially for people with dry or long hair, can often result in strands that feel rough, frizzy and lifeless.

## Why Does Hair Need Conditioner?

Our scalp naturally produces oils that help protect and nourish the hair. However, frequent washing, exposure to pollution, heat styling and chemical treatments can strip away some of this natural moisture and oil.

Conditioner helps replenish moisture and creates a protective layer around the hair strands. It can improve the texture of the hair, reduce tangles and make combing easier. Regular use of a suitable conditioner can also help hair appear shinier and healthier.

## Benefits of Using Conditioner

**Reduces dryness:** Conditioner adds moisture to the hair and helps combat dryness caused by frequent shampooing, environmental exposure and heat styling.

**Makes hair smoother:** It helps soften the hair strands, making them easier to comb and manage.

- **Controls frizz:** Well-moisturised hair is generally less prone to frizz and flyaways.
- **Improves shine:** Conditioner smooths the outer layer of the hair, helping it look healthier and more lustrous.
- **Protects the hair:** Certain conditioning ingredients form a light protective coating that can reduce the effects of dryness and everyday damage.

## Why You Should Not Skip Conditioner

Shampoo is designed primarily to cleanse the scalp and hair. While this cleansing action is essential, it can sometimes leave the hair feeling dry, particularly when strong shampoos are used frequently.

Conditioner helps restore softness and moisture after washing. It also helps reduce friction between hair strands, which can minimize tangling and breakage during combing.



For people with dry, curly, chemically treated or damaged hair, conditioning can be particularly important for maintaining a healthy-looking texture.

## How to Apply Conditioner Correctly

Using conditioner properly can make a noticeable difference to its effectiveness.

- **Remove excess water:** After shampooing, gently squeeze excess water from your hair. Conditioner may not work as effectively if the hair is dripping wet.
- **Take the right amount:** Use an amount according to the length and thickness of your hair. Avoid using too much product, as it can make the hair feel heavy.
- **Apply mainly to the lengths and ends:** Spread the conditioner evenly through the mid-lengths and ends of your hair. Unless the product specifically says otherwise, avoid applying it directly to the scalp.
- **Step 4: Leave it on for a few minutes:** Allow the conditioner to sit for two to five minutes, depending on the instructions on the product.
- **Step 5: Rinse thoroughly.**

# Beyond the glow: What healthy skin really means

Perfectly smooth, clear and glowing skin has become one of the biggest beauty ideals of recent years. Popularly known as "glass skin," the trend, inspired by Korean beauty routines, promises a complexion that appears luminous, hydrated and almost poreless. But is glass skin really the same as healthy skin? Not necessarily.

Glass skin is mainly an aesthetic goal. It focuses on achieving a glossy, smooth and radiant appearance through hydration and multiple skincare products. Healthy skin, however, is about much more than how it looks. It is skin with a strong protective barrier, balanced moisture and the ability to defend itself against pollution, sunlight and other environmental factors.

Real skin is not naturally flawless. It has pores, texture, fine lines and sometimes blemishes. These are completely normal. The pressure to achieve a picture-perfect complexion can often lead people to use too many products, exfoliate excessively or experiment

with strong ingredients. Instead of improving the skin, this can damage its natural barrier and cause dryness, redness, irritation and breakouts.

The secret to healthy skin is not necessarily a complicated ten-step routine. A gentle cleanser, a suitable moisturiser and regular sun protection can form the foundation of effective skincare. Additional products should be chosen according to individual skin concerns rather than simply following beauty trends.

Lifestyle habits also matter. Adequate sleep, a balanced diet, hydration and stress management can influence the way the skin looks and feels.

The goal, therefore, should not be to achieve skin that looks like glass. Healthy skin can be dry, oily, textured or freckled and still be beautiful. Instead of chasing unrealistic perfection, focus on keeping your skin comfortable, balanced and well nourished.

After all, the most beautiful glow is not about being flawless—it is about having skin that is genuinely healthy and cared for.

## FOOD CORNER

### Jackfruit payasam



## INGREDIENTS

500 gm pureed jackfruit, 2 teaspoon cashews, 1 cup grated coconut, 2 cup coconut milk, 2 cup powdered jaggery, 1/2 teaspoon green cardamom, 2 teaspoon ghee

## Method

- To prepare this delicious payasam recipe, put a deep-bottomed pan on medium flame and melt ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, add the cashew nuts and roast them. Once done, transfer to a bowl and keep aside. Add the grated coconut in the same pan and lower the flame, dry roast till golden brown in colour.
- Now, add the pureed jackfruit in the pan along with jaggery powder and roasted cashews, and cook for about 10 minutes. Make sure that the mixture is thickened. (Note: You can also use the pulp of the jackfruit.)
- When the jackfruit mixture is thickened, add the coconut milk along with cardamom powder and stir continuously. Stop in between and bring the milk to a boil. Let the milk and jackfruit mixture simmer for another 10 minutes.
- Once cooked, turn off the flame and garnish with mixed dry fruits.

### Tomato rice

## INGREDIENTS

1 cup soaked basmati rice, 2 medium chopped onion, 2 teaspoon sambhar powder, 1 handful chopped coriander leaves, 2 tablespoon refined oil, 1/2 teaspoon garlic paste, 4 large chopped tomato, 3 medium green chilli, 1/4 teaspoon powdered turmeric, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon ginger paste, 2 pinches red chilli powder

## Method

- Wash and dry the basmati rice and soak for about 20 minutes. Take a deep pan, put it on medium flame and pour water in it. Bring it to a boil, and then add the soaked rice. Cover the pan with a lid and cook on medium flame till the rice becomes soft, but not mushy. Now remove from fire and keep it aside. Now put the chopped tomatoes in a blender and blend it properly. Transfer the puree in a bowl and keep it aside. Now heat 2 tbsp of oil in a pan and add the ingredients for seasoning (mustard, asafoetida, curry leaves, dried red chillies). Add onions and saute. Then add green chillies and ginger-garlic paste. Saute these ingredients for a minute.
- Now add the tomato puree, turmeric powder, red chilli powder, sambhar powder and salt. Cook until the oil separates. Add the cooked rice to the tomato and mix well. Once done, transfer the tomato rice in a serving bowl and garnish with coriander leaves. Serve hot with papads, potato chips or raita.





# Natural foods that may support blood sugar control

**D**iabetes is a chronic condition that requires proper medical care, regular monitoring and healthy lifestyle habits. While medicines or insulin may be necessary for many people, diet and physical activity also play a major role in managing blood sugar levels. Certain foods and traditional ingredients may support overall metabolic health, but they should never be considered a replacement for prescribed treatment.

## Cinnamon

Cinnamon is a popular spice that has been studied for its possible role in improving insulin sensitivity and supporting blood sugar management. It can be added to food or beverages in moderate amounts. However, excessive consumption is not advisable.

## Aloe Vera

Aloe vera is traditionally used for several health purposes. Some studies have explored its possible effect on blood glucose levels, but more research is needed. People taking diabetes medication should consult a doctor before consuming aloe vera preparations regularly.

## Jamun

Jamun, also known as Indian blackberry, has long been associated with traditional remedies for diabetes. The fruit contains antioxidants and other plant compounds that may support metabolic health. It can be enjoyed as part of a balanced diet.

## Bitter Gourd

Bitter gourd, or karela, is widely consumed by people



trying to manage blood sugar. It contains compounds that have been studied for their possible glucose-lowering effects. However, bitter gourd juice should not replace medication or be consumed excessively.

## Fenugreek

Fenugreek seeds are rich in fibre and have been linked to improved glucose metabolism in some studies. Soaked seeds or fenugreek can be included in meals in moderate quantities.

## The Healthy Approach

No single food can cure diabetes. The best approach includes eating a balanced diet, choosing high-fiber and low-GI foods, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly and following medical advice. Always consult a healthcare professional before adding any home remedy to a diabetes management plan.

## 5 foods that look healthy but could be adding hidden calories to your diet

**C**hoosing healthier foods is an important part of a balanced lifestyle. Many people swap biscuits for granola, chips for nuts and traditional sweets for homemade treats made with dates, jaggery and seeds. While these foods may offer better nutritional value, there is one important fact that is often overlooked: healthy does not always mean low in calories. Portion size matters, especially when eating foods that are rich in healthy fats, natural sugars or concentrated ingredients. Here are five foods that may appear healthy but can quietly add extra calories to your daily diet.

### GRANOLA

Granola is often marketed as a wholesome breakfast food because it contains oats, nuts and seeds. However, many packaged varieties also contain added sugar, syrups, honey and oils. A small serving can be calorie-dense, and people often pour much more than the recommended portion into their bowls. Always check the ingredient list and serving size before making it a daily habit.

### NUTS AND NUT BUTTERS

Nuts are packed with protein, fibre and healthy fats, but they are also high in calories. The same applies to peanut, almond and other nut butters. Eating directly from a packet or jar can make it easy to consume more than intended. A measured handful is usually a better approach than mindless snacking.

### SMOOTHIES

A fruit smoothie may sound like a light and healthy option, but the calorie count can rise quickly. Adding several fruits along with milk, yoghurt, dates, honey and nut butter can turn a drink into a calorie-heavy meal. Keep ingredients simple and choose combinations according to your nutritional needs.

### DRIED FRUITS

Raisins, dates and other dried fruits contain nutrients, but the removal of water makes their natural sugars and calories more concentrated. Because they are small and easy to eat, portions can quickly get out of hand. Enjoy them in moderation rather than treating them like unlimited snacks.

### HOMEMADE HEALTHY LADDOOS

Laddoos made with dates, jaggery, ghee, nuts and seeds may be nutritionally better than refined sweets, but they are still energy-dense. Natural ingredients can provide nutrients, yet they also contribute calories. The key is to enjoy these treats in sensible portions.

# Why is belly fat so hard to lose? Study finds the reason

**L**osing weight can be difficult, but keeping the weight off may be even harder. Many people notice that their face, arms and legs become slimmer during weight loss, while stubborn fat around the waist appears to take much longer to disappear. Now, a study published in Nature has offered a possible biological explanation for why the body can resist long-term weight loss.

Researchers found that fat tissue can retain an “obesity memory” even after significant weight loss. This memory appears to be linked to changes in gene activity and epigenetics, which can influence how cells behave without changing the DNA sequence itself.

The researchers studied fat tissue from people with obesity before and after substantial weight loss. They also carried out experiments in mice to understand what happens inside fat cells after weight is lost.

In the human samples, the researchers found that several changes in gene activity caused by obesity remained even after major weight loss. The changes were



particularly noticeable in fat cells, along with some other cells present in adipose tissue.

The team then looked more closely at the mice. They found that obesity caused lasting changes in the epigenome of fat cells. These changes affected pathways involved in metabolism, inflammation and fat cell function. Even after the mice lost weight, some of these changes remained.

## WHY WEIGHT CAN COME BACK

The researchers found that mice that had previously been obese regained weight more quickly when they were exposed to a high-fat diet again. This suggests that the changes left behind in fat cells may

make the body more prepared to store energy and regain weight.

Scientists describe this as an “obesogenic memory”. It does not mean that fat cells literally remember past events like the brain does. Instead, previous obesity may cause molecular changes that influence how fat cells respond later.

## DOES THIS EXPLAIN STUBBORN BELLY FAT?

Not completely. The study does not show that belly fat alone has a special memory or that abdominal fat cannot be lost.

Where the body stores and loses fat depends on several factors, including genetics, hormones, age, sex, diet and physical activity. Abdominal fat can also include different types of fat, including subcutaneous fat under the skin and visceral fat around internal organs.

The study does, however, provide an important clue about why maintaining weight loss can be difficult. It suggests that changes caused by obesity may persist inside fat tissue even after a person becomes significantly leaner.

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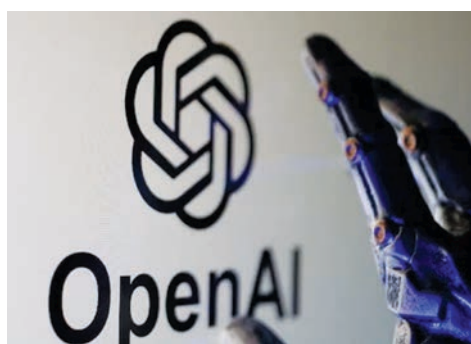
# OpenAI launches GPT-6 Astra, Sam Altman calls it best AI model in the world

After weeks of teasers around Astra and what it could do, OpenAI has finally released the AI model. GPT-6 Astra, OpenAI says, is its most powerful AI model yet, and could be the beginning of AGI. Going by benchmarks shared by OpenAI, Astra is the most advanced AI model currently available, surpassing Anthropic's Claude Fable 5.1.

Announcing the release, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman wrote on X that GPT-6 Astra was the "best model in the world for computer use, professional work, science, coding, cybersecurity, and more." Altman believes that the model will "enable a new generation of entrepreneurship, scientific discovery, and building."

In a media briefing, OpenAI president Greg Brockman said, "It's not unreasonable to feel that we are now in the AGI era." Brockman was confident that in the future, people may look back at Astra's release as a pivotal moment in the world of AI. "I think that if we fast-forward a couple of years, when we look back and say, 'When was it really that AGI was created?' I think it's going to be about this time, and I think it might be about this model," he explained.

AGI, or artificial general intelligence, refers to a state where AI can think like humans, if not surpass human intelligence.



Astra's release comes just weeks after GPT-5.6 Sol, which was launched in July.

Astra goes a step further when it comes to tasks like coding. In a blog post, OpenAI called GPT-6 Astra the "best model for software engineering to date." The startup pointed to benchmark results showing that Astra outperformed OpenAI's own GPT-5.6 Sol and Anthropic's Fable models on tasks such as finding bugs, executing terminal tasks and answering questions about codebases. In terms of benchmarks, Astra outperforms virtually every other AI model till date. It scores 98 per cent on FrontierMath Tier 4, 99.9 per cent on ARC-AGI 3. On Terminal-Bench 4.0, OpenAI said Astra scored 57.9 per cent, compared with 37.3 per cent for GPT-5.6 Sol and 55.8 per cent for Claude Fable 5.1.

In a launch video posted online, OpenAI focused on computer use

capabilities of Astra. In the clip, we can see Astra completing different tasks based on requests from users, including creating 3D models in Blender and making presentations all by itself.

OpenAI says that Astra can handle tasks such as filling online forms, organising calendars, conducting online research, or analysing scientific data. It can also create websites, install and test software. Astra can also be used to draft legal documents or prepare tax returns.

In the past few months, there has been growing discussion over AI use in cybersecurity. After the launch of Anthropic's Claude Mythos and OpenAI's GPT-5.6 Sol, we had seen AI models that were getting better at finding cybersecurity flaws. Astra goes a step further in this area too.

As per OpenAI, in cybersecurity testing without production safeguards, Astra scored 100 per cent on ExploitBench, compared with 78.5 per cent for GPT-5.6 Sol. OpenAI says that Astra's ability to identify and develop zero-day exploits could help defenders find and patch weaknesses, but also required stronger safeguards.

Though OpenAI is keeping safety as a key focus after a recent incident involving other OpenAI agents and Hugging Face's systems, which raised fresh concern about alignment and monitoring.



## Sent to survive 700 days on Mars, Curiosity completes 5,000 Martian days

When Nasa's Curiosity rover ticked over its 5,000th sol on August 30, 2026, nobody on Mars was around to see it happen.

It was just a rover, alone in the planet's Gale Crater, sending home another set of images like it does most days. A Sol runs about 40 minutes longer than an Earth day, so 5,000 of them adds up to something close to 14 years.

What's more significant is that Nasa's Curiosity was originally designed for a mere 2-year-long mission on Mars. It has been 14 years and it's going on strong.

The rover launched from Cape Canaveral on November 26, 2011, at around 8:32 pm IST, and spent roughly eight and a half months crossing space before landing inside Gale Crater on August 6, 2012, at close to 10:47 am IST.

That landing is still one of the wilder things Nasa has pulled off; a rocket-powered crane lowered the car-sized rover down on cables, then flew off and deliberately crashed itself a safe distance away so it wouldn't damage the rover.

On paper, it sounds like a bad idea, but it worked.

Curiosity was never built for speed or distance the way Nasa's Opportunity Rover was. Its job was to dig into Martian rock and read what the chemistry could tell scientists about the planet's past.

It didn't take long to find something.

Within its first year, the rover turned up mudstone in Gale Crater that pointed to an ancient lake, evidence that Mars could once have supported microbial life.

Ever since, it's been slowly working its way up Mount Sharp, the roughly five-kilometre mountain rising out of the crater floor, reading each layer of rock like pages of a very old book.

Just four days before hitting Sol 5,000, on August 26, 2026, Curiosity crossed another marker. It crosses one full kilometre of elevation gained since it started climbing Mount Sharp back in 2014.

As of May 2026, its total distance driven stood at just under 37 kilometres, a fraction of what Opportunity managed, but distance was never really Curiosity's game.

## Google takes on Anthropic and OpenAI with Gemini 3.8 Flash, says it can match performance at lower cost

Google is bouncing back in the AI race. After falling behind OpenAI and Anthropic, the company has now released Gemini 3.8 Flash, claiming that it is its most advanced AI model when it comes to coding performance. Google says that Gemini 3.8 Flash can match advanced models like Claude Opus 5 and GPT-5.6 Sol but at a much lower cost. Google CEO Sundar Pichai announced the release on X, stating that the model was the company's "3rd Flash release in just 6 weeks." Flash models are smaller models – usually trained on a few hundred billion parameters instead of trillions in case of larger models. They are also cheaper to run.

Pichai claimed that as per benchmarks, Gemini 3.8 Flash "outperforms most larger frontier models in autonomously solving complex engineering problems end to end, at a fraction of the cost." He added that the model brought significant improvements compared to Gemini 3.7 Flash in tasks like software engineering and multi-step reasoning.



Alongside the standard Flash model, Google also launched Gemini 3.8 Flash Cyber, calling it its most capable cybersecurity model.

The company is offering an introductory price of 75 (roughly Rs 70) cents per million input tokens and \$3.75 (roughly Rs 350) per million output tokens until December 31, 2026. Though Google says the model may use more tokens on harder tasks. After December 31, the rates will increase to \$1.5 (roughly Rs 140) per million input tokens and \$7.5 (roughly Rs

700) per million output tokens.

For context, Anthropic's Claude Opus 5 would cost you \$5 (roughly Rs 470) per million input tokens and \$25 (roughly Rs 2350) per million output tokens. OpenAI's GPT-5.6 Sol would set you back by \$4 (roughly Rs 375) per million input tokens and \$20 (roughly Rs 1890) per million output tokens.

The cost factor has become increasingly important in the AI race as companies rethink their AI bills. The lower costs may give Google an advantage in the enterprise market where coding remains one of the most important use cases. However, Chinese open-weight models like Kimi K3 have also gained traction recently for being even cheaper to run. On HLE-Verified, Google said Gemini 3.8 Flash scored 54.9 per cent, which it said shows its ability to handle multi-step reasoning across STEM, humanities and professional fields. Its knowledge cut-off is March 2026 for some domains, while in others users may find its knowledge limited to January 2025.



# Oil set for steepest weekly gain since mid-July, fuelled by US-Iran clashes

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** Oil prices rose on Friday, September 4, heading for their steepest weekly gain since mid-July, as rising tension and renewed U.S.-Iran hostilities heightened concerns over Middle East supply risks.

Brent crude futures rose 54 cents, or 0.6%, to \$96.06 a barrel by 0100 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures climbed 80 cents, or 0.9%, to \$92.10.

On a weekly basis, Brent rose 7.6% and WTI was 10.4% higher, set for the highest gains since the week ended July 20.

U.S. attacks this week that killed and wounded dozens, including Iranian civilians, marked the fiercest clashes between the two countries since July. The war, which began with U.S.-Israeli strikes in late February, is now in its seventh month.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz renewed warnings that Israel would "cripple" Iran's military and civilian infrastructure, including energy facilities.

ANZ analysts raised their Brent crude forecast on Friday to \$95 a barrel in the short term, with upside risk if the Middle East conflict intensifies.

"The market is entering a delicate adaptation phase. Elevated inventories helped absorb the initial supply crisis, but the challenge is now to keep the market balanced as those buffers



diminish," the analysts said.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance told reporters on Thursday that Washington does not plan to hold talks with Iran unless Tehran stops attacking commercial shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

Capping oil's advance, however, Russian President Vladimir Putin said there remained a path to a deal to end the war in Ukraine, adding that both the U.S. and China were prepared to support a peace settlement.

Meanwhile, Iran expanded its list of

vessels it deems non-compliant and subject to fines, confiscation or detention if they attempt to transit the strait. Iraqi ships remain among the few vessels Tehran has cleared to pass through Hormuz.

Iraq increased its oil exports to around 2.34 million barrels per day in August from about 1.35 million bpd in July, two Iraqi energy officials said on Wednesday, with September exports also expected to increase as heavy discounts and Iranian approvals for Iraqi tankers encouraged buyers.

## Volkswagen to cut 50,000 jobs, slash vehicle line-up in biggest ever overhaul

**V**olkswagen's supervisory board unanimously approved a transformation plan on Thursday that could include cutting another 50,000 jobs as the carmaker seeks to counter tariffs, overcapacity and competition from Asian rivals.

The plan marks the most extensive restructuring in Volkswagen's 89-year history. It includes exploring alternatives for four German plants that have no firm production plans for the next decade.

The transformation plan also calls for simplifying Volkswagen's conglomerate structure and limiting the supervisory board's influence over key decisions. Unions and shareholder Lower Saxony hold a majority on the supervisory board.

"This is a strong signal for the future of the Volkswagen Group. We are taking responsibility for our entire workforce, for our partners and for industrial jobs worldwide," CEO Oliver Blume said in a statement.

Volkswagen's management board presented the "Future Plan", which the supervisory board approved at a meeting. The plan comes as Europe's largest carmaker faces pressure from multiple sides, including US import tariffs and a weak Chinese market.

Volkswagen said it needed "a further fundamental adjustment of the global workforce capacity." The adjustment would include reducing around 50,000 positions worldwide, in addition to a 50,000-job reduction already under way.

The company did not provide further details about the timing of the workforce reduction or how it would distribute the cuts across its brands and regions.

The agreement follows weeks of tense negotiations between the board and majority owner Porsche SE on one side and unions and Lower Saxony on the other. Management had considered calling an extraordinary general meeting to push through its demands.

Volkswagen cited increasing global competitive pressure, changing demand patterns and technological change in the automotive industry as reasons for the planned measures.



# From BBB+ to A-: Why India's credit rating upgrade by Japan's JCR is a big deal

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**NEW DELHI (TIP):** India has received a major vote of confidence from Japan's Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR). The agency has raised India's long-term foreign and local currency issuer ratings by one notch, from BBB+ to A-, while keeping the outlook Stable.

The upgrade comes soon after India reported 7.8% real GDP growth in the first quarter of FY27, despite a challenging global environment. JCR said strong economic growth, better fiscal quality and a more stable financial system were behind its decision. But why does moving from BBB+ to A- matter so much? Let's know here. A sovereign credit rating is essentially an assessment of how safely a country can repay its debt.

Think of it like a credit score, but for an entire country. A higher rating generally tells investors that the country is seen as having a lower risk of default.

So, when JCR moves India from BBB+ to A-, it is saying that India's ability to



meet its financial obligations has strengthened.

The Stable outlook also matters. It means JCR does not currently expect a major change in India's rating in the near term.

JCR pointed to several factors behind the upgrade. First, India's economy has continued to grow strongly. The agency noted that growth has been supported by robust private consumption and public investment. It expects India's economy to maintain growth of more than 6% in FY27.

Second, the quality of government spending has improved. JCR highlighted the greater focus on capital expenditure, particularly infrastructure investment. It also noted

that the Central Government's fiscal deficit declined from 4.7% of GDP in FY25 to 4.4% in FY26.

Third, India's banking system has become stronger. JCR highlighted improvements in bank asset quality, capital levels and profitability. It also pointed to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, government capital support and stronger supervision by the RBI as factors that have helped strengthen the financial system.

The agency also noted that India's current account deficit remains contained, while its large foreign exchange reserves provide a cushion against external shocks.

A higher sovereign rating can strengthen India's standing among global investors because it signals greater confidence in the country's economic and financial stability.

It also matters because sovereign ratings can influence how investors assess risk when putting money into a country. A stronger rating can therefore support India's ability to attract capital and improve confidence in its economic fundamentals.





BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

**ARIES**

Ganesha says this week, your health can be better than usual. This can make you feel refreshed. This can be the time when you, too, can be seen laughing out loud with others with your cheerful attitude. You need to keep yourself alert to avoid any adverse situations. Otherwise, your carelessness in these matters can harm you a lot. This week, you may need to understand that you should spend some of your time with the children of the house. Even if you have to do something special for this, because only by doing this will you be able to understand what is going on in their mind, and improve your relationship with them. In your career, this week, you can get lucky in every situation. At this time, you can get proper appreciation and cooperation from your seniors. On the other hand, some of you may also get a desired promotion during this period. Meditation is the best mental medicine that can increase your reasoning power amazingly. You also have time this week, so meditate morning and evening.

**TAURUS**

Ganesha says health is the real wealth of life; this week, you can adopt it and implement it in your life. For this reason, to get better health at home as well as at your workplace, you can laugh and joke freely with people, bypassing every mental stress. Financially, there can be many improvements in your life this week. You may find yourself able to clear long-pending bills and loans with ease. However, during this time, avoid lending money to anyone. You may get some good news in your life this week. So that you can celebrate your happiness while having fun and partying with your friends. But during this time, your coming home after drinking alcohol can disturb the family members. So don't let your image get tarnished by having fun at home, and avoid doing anything that will cause you embarrassment in the family. This week, you may have to go on a career-related journey, but this journey can prove to be unfavorable for you. Because traveling during this time can not only cause you to lose money, but a waste of both your energy and time can become the main reason for the increase in your mental stress. This week, you can be successful in achieving success in various subjects.

**GEMINI**

Ganesha says, may this week be full of happiness and bring improvement in your health. In such a situation, the blessings of a saint can give you peace of mind during this time. So listen to the divine words of the gentleman,

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - SEP 7, 2026 TO SEP 12, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

for they can give you satisfaction. Also, these things can give you confidence. Some of your unwanted expenses may increase unnecessarily this week. However, due to the continuous increase in your income, the effect of these expenses may not be visible in your life, and you may be able to spend something on your comforts. Therefore, it is very important for you to maintain a balance between income and expenditure. This week, you may need to rectify your habit of arguing with others, having differences, or finding fault in others' actions. Only then will you be able to maintain family peace. Your mind may get confused about many things this week. But if you pay attention to your work despite all the difficulties, then definitely success and prestige can be yours. So control your mind and try to take yourself in the right direction. In short, this week is mainly for the students to overcome their weaknesses and move ahead. In such a situation, at this time you should determine both your strong and weak sides, and according to the time, you should give the right pace to your hard work.

**CANCER**

Ganesha says progress is possible with courage and efficiency. Some odd situations in the workplace can become an obstacle. New aspirations can become effective in the mind. The mind surrounded by doubts can be concentrated in the shelter of God. Students should not be negligent in education. Social work can increase your respect. There is a possibility of minor tension in the domestic environment. In spite of working hard on Sunday and Monday, there can be a concern if you do not get the desired results. Students should not be negligent in education. There can be an increase in happiness and enthusiasm in the mind on Thursday and Friday. You can make plans come true. You can be popular in the job.

**LEO**

Ganesha says there can be a possibility of solving any important work that has been pending for a long time. Maybe happy as some planned efforts fructify. Prove your ability by showing your talents in the workplace, by having faith in yourself. There can be efforts for auspicious work. On Monday and Tuesday, the mind thinking about morality and immorality may be unable to adjust to the physical environment. Be careful of enemies by being friends. New business relations can be intensified on Wednesday and Saturday. You can get the benefit of power from the government. You can become popular through creative works. You can get the cooperation of the best. A pleasant situation can be created on the job.

**VIRGO**

Ganesha says that while on the one hand, there can be a pleasant situation in the family, on the other hand, someone's unwellness can hurt the atmosphere. It can be a busy time for

government employees. Apart from being talented, if you also become a little expressive, then success can come soon. Hard work can be intense on Monday and Tuesday to get the results of any important work. A favorable situation in the workplace can make the mind happy. There can be a preoccupation related to the discharge of society. Your talent can improve in the professional field. On Thursday and Friday, you may feel unsatisfied because of not getting the desired success in your endeavors. This can be a time of slight upheaval for politicians.

**LIBRA**

Ganesha says that between struggle and meditation, new challenges of life are in front of you. If needed, just keep the morale up. Forget the past and try to live in the present. Today is a day full of struggles and worries. The mind can be worried about the health of the spouse. Don't be proud in important relationships. Focus on the timely completion of domestic obligations along with busy work. The family atmosphere can be pleasant on Sunday and Tuesday. There can be chances of fulfilling important family obligations. It is possible to have a rift with a colleague on the job on Thursday and Saturday. Don't decide in a rush. A focused mind can be emotionally vulnerable in romantic relationships.

**SCORPIO**

Ganesha says emotional expectations can cause trouble in a relationship. You can take full advantage of your cleverness. You can take full advantage of tact in the workplace. Efforts can be made to save the family and communicate love throughout the week. The current planetary compatibility is beneficial for you. Can be worried about the ill health of someone in the family. Government employees may find some changed conditions in the job pleasant. Any important stalled work of the house can be seen to be solved. Tension is possible due to attraction towards the opposite sex on Thursday and Friday. Laziness can deprive you of important benefits. Do not take the words of family members to heart.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Ganesha says any mistake, like criticizing others or talking here and there, can have a bad effect on the image. Pay attention to the health of the Spouse. Negligence towards moral duties is not right. Business may increase in some new tasks. Stay away from people of flattering nature. There can be a possibility of getting religious work done in the family on Sunday and Tuesday. Good feelings can serve a purpose. Can take advantage of intellectual abilities in the workplace. Do not be negligent in any kind of legal matter on Friday and Saturday. Difficulties are possible in a journey undertaken for an important purpose. Stay away from flattering people.

**CAPRICORN**

Ganesha says this is a good chance to rectify old mistakes. That's why leave the old grievances and make the relationship sweet. Maintain honesty in all situations. Completion of an important plan can make you popular. Do not let the social gathering dominate you. Good wishes can be awakened in the mind on Sunday and Monday. Haste and haste are your biggest shortcomings; rectify them. Proximity to politicians and activism with them may increase. Material pleasures can increase. Trouble is possible in the job environment on Friday and Saturday due to the behavior of a colleague or official. Emotional expectations can be painful in close relationships. Take care of your health to keep pace with the changing weather. The mind can be worried about the happiness and sorrow of the family members.

**AQUARIUS**

Ganesha says fear can prevail in the mind regarding the future. Difficulties are possible due to attraction to transgender relations. There is a sum of expenditure in the house. Forget the past and try to live in the present. There can be chances of profit in employment. An unstable mind may be unable to concentrate on the target. A strong man like you should not lose heart because the burden of the whole family is on you. On Wednesday and Thursday, the mind may be worried about the efficient fulfillment of an important responsibility. Progress is possible through action. You can try enthusiastically to implement new plans. Due to not getting respect from family members on Friday and Saturday, the mind can become depressed. Give up laziness.

**PISCES**

Ganesha says this week the mind can be filled with old, touching incidents. Taking care of decorum in the family brings sweetness to all relationships. The mind can experience peace through devotion to God. Your combative nature is capable of facing any problem. Emotional loneliness can be disturbing. Interest in creative and social work may increase on Monday and Wednesday. Suddenly, the mind can be happy with some good news. On Wednesday and Saturday, the mind can be worried due to an obstruction in some important work. Intensity can increase in old relationships, but avoid failure and infamy. Be careful of the activity of opponents in the workplace. Your serious nature reduces emotional exchanges in relationships.

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



**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : SEPTEMBER 7 TO SEPTEMBER 13  
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA****SEPTEMBER 7**

Ganesha says as the economy improves, you benefit from your day off. You may be better off financially if you start new projects and schemes. You can be proud of your children's achievements. You may be relieved to know that any pending legal issues can be resolved successfully. Patients who have any chronic disease may need to take special care of themselves. The benefits of yoga and meditation are immense. Your financial commitments may increase, and there may be good profits.

**SEPTEMBER 8**

Ganesha says your financial condition can improve by getting new sources of income. New agreements can be very beneficial. You may undertake frequent fruitful travels which may yield desired results. You would like to seek blessings from some spiritual being or visit some holy place. Getting the support and benefits of influential people can be the result of your extroverted personality. During this time, there is a possibility of

the transaction of real estate or the purchase of a vehicle.

**SEPTEMBER 9**

Ganesha says you are urged not to trust others too much at this time, especially in important matters. It would not be in your best interest to reveal private and confidential information. A sudden influence from a spiritual person can bring amazing changes in your life. In addition to giving you love and attention, your spouse and family may be sympathetic to your concerns. Long-distance travel may take some people abroad. A workplace environment may require you to handle critical tasks with a high degree of responsibility.

**SEPTEMBER 10**

Ganesha says, may today be a day to remember, filled with success and luck. Women can benefit from this time as new opportunities can be found to advance their job prospects. The elders and the younger ones of the family may require a lot of attention. Your spouse's health may cause you worry and anxiety. Students

should focus on their schoolwork and plan for the future. Romance and new relationships are possible for the unmarried.

**SEPTEMBER 11**

Ganesha says today success means being happy in whatever you do. You may get attractive returns on past investments, and long-pending legal issues may be resolved in your favor. You may receive unexpected financial and kind donations from your entire family and friends. There may be some minor health issues due to stress and tension. You can become more spiritually connected, and this can have a profound effect on the way you think and behave.

**SEPTEMBER 12**

Ganesha says it appears that the day can bring awards and accolades to women working in the advertising and marketing industries, as well as scientists, lawyers, and writers. As the day progresses, your financial gains may increase, due to which you can spend more on luxuries. Do not ignore medical



advice when necessary, as health issues can increase anxiety. If you and your family members can communicate better, your family can be happier, more peaceful, and more prosperous.

**13 SEPTEMBER**

Ganesha says this is the ideal time to implement important changes and make a decisive choice today. We can solve issues related to real estate, partnerships, and new businesses. Some positive news is expected from the child side. Highlights today may include remodeling, building, and socializing. Growth and success can come automatically if you focus your efforts. Opportunities for both business and leisure travel abroad may present themselves. Profits can be obtained through selective speculation.

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There are moments in the spiritual imagination of India when the boundary between heaven and earth seems to disappear. Janmashtami is one such moment. Celebrated as the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna, the eighth avatar of Lord Vishnu, the festival is not merely a commemoration of a divine birth. It is a celebration of hope over despair, righteousness over tyranny and divine wisdom over ignorance.

Observed on the eighth day, or Ashtami, of the dark fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada, Janmashtami is marked by fasting, prayer, devotional singing, temple rituals and dramatic retellings of Krishna's childhood. The most sacred moment comes around midnight, traditionally regarded as the hour when Krishna was born in the prison of Mathura.

From the decorated temples of Mathura and Vrindavan to the midnight prayers of homes across India, from the rhythmic chanting of devotees to the exuberant Dahi Handi celebrations of Maharashtra, Janmashtami combines profound spirituality with colour, music, theatre and community celebration.

At its heart lies a timeless message: when darkness becomes overwhelming, the divine appears to restore balance and rekindle hope.

### The Origin of Janmashtami

The roots of Janmashtami lie in the ancient Hindu tradition surrounding the life and teachings of Krishna. His story is primarily narrated in texts such as the Bhagavata Purana, Vishnu Purana, Harivamsa and the Mahabharata.

Krishna is revered in Vaishnavism as an incarnation of Vishnu, who descends to earth whenever righteousness declines and unrighteousness gains strength. The Bhagavad Gita expresses this principle through Krishna's famous declaration that the divine manifests itself whenever dharma declines and adharma rises.

Janmashtami therefore represents much more than the birth of a historical or mythological figure. Devotees regard it as the earthly manifestation of the Supreme Being and as the beginning of a divine mission to protect the righteous, destroy oppression and restore dharma.

The festival's central narrative begins in Mathura, where the tyrannical king Kamsa had seized power.

### The Prophecy That Terrified a King

Kamsa was the ruler of Mathura and the brother of Devaki. According to the traditional account, he was accompanying Devaki and her husband, Vasudeva, after their marriage when a divine voice announced a terrifying prophecy: Devaki's eighth son would be responsible for Kamsa's death.

The prophecy transformed Kamsa's joy into fear.

He immediately wanted to kill Devaki, but Vasudeva pleaded with him and promised to surrender every child born to them. Kamsa eventually imprisoned Devaki and Vasudeva. As the years passed, their children were born inside the prison, and the tyrant had them killed.

The prophecy, however, could not be defeated by violence.

When Devaki became pregnant for the

# Janmashtami: The night when Krishna came to earth



eighth time, the atmosphere of the story changed. The child who was to be born was not presented merely as another prince but as the divine answer to tyranny.

### The Birth at Midnight

Janmashtami reaches its spiritual climax at midnight. According to tradition, Krishna was born on the eighth day of the dark fortnight of Bhadrapada. The night was deep and silent. Devaki and Vasudeva were imprisoned, while Kamsa's guards watched over them.

At the moment of Krishna's birth, however, the chains binding Vasudeva fell away and the prison doors opened. The guards were overcome by sleep.

Krishna appeared before Devaki and Vasudeva in his divine form, revealing his celestial nature. He then instructed Vasudeva to carry him across the Yamuna to Gokul, where he was to exchange the newborn child with the daughter of Yashoda and Nanda.

Vasudeva placed the infant Krishna in a basket and began his journey through the stormy night.

The Yamuna was swollen, and the journey was filled with danger. Yet, according to the sacred narrative, divine protection accompanied him. The serpent Shesha, often identified with Ananta Shesha, spread its hood over Krishna to protect him from the rain.

Vasudeva eventually reached Gokul, where he exchanged Krishna with Yashoda's newborn daughter and returned to the prison.

When Kamsa arrived to kill the newborn child, the baby slipped from his hands and revealed herself as the goddess Yogamaya. She warned him that the one destined to destroy him was already alive elsewhere.

The prophecy had begun to unfold.

### Krishna's Childhood in Gokul

While the birth of Krishna is solemn

and miraculous, the stories of his childhood are filled with joy, mischief and tenderness.

Raised by Nanda and Yashoda in the pastoral world of Gokul and later Vrindavan, Krishna became beloved as the playful child who stole butter, teased the residents of the village and charmed everyone around him.

The image of Makhan Chor, the butter thief, became one of the most beloved representations of Krishna.

The stories of Krishna stealing butter from household pots are often interpreted spiritually. The butter represents the pure essence hidden within milk, just as divine love is said to lie hidden within the human heart. Krishna's playful theft therefore becomes a metaphor for the divine stealing away the ego and awakening love.

His flute, his peacock feather, his childhood companions and his bond with the people of Vrindavan have made Krishna one of the most recognizable and emotionally resonant figures in Indian spirituality.

### The Meaning of Krishna's Birth

The word Krishna is traditionally associated with meanings such as the one who attracts or draws all beings towards himself. In devotional traditions, Krishna is regarded as the embodiment of divine love, compassion, wisdom and bliss.

His birth at midnight carries symbolic significance. Midnight represents the deepest darkness, yet it is precisely at that moment that the divine appears. The symbolism is powerful: light does not need to wait for darkness to disappear before it is born.

Janmashtami thus becomes an inward festival as much as an outward celebration. The prison of Mathura can be understood metaphorically as the prison of fear, anger, ego and attachment. Kamsa represents tyranny and insecurity. Krishna's birth represents the arrival of

wisdom and consciousness capable of breaking those chains.

For devotees, celebrating Janmashtami means remembering that even in periods of personal or social darkness, transformation remains possible.

### The Sacred Midnight Vigil

One of the most important Janmashtami traditions is the midnight vigil. Devotees often observe a fast throughout the day and gather in temples or homes for prayers. As midnight approaches, devotional songs and chanting intensify.

At the appointed moment, Krishna's birth is announced with bells, conch shells, chants and celebrations. An image or idol of baby Krishna is placed in a small cradle, symbolising the infant born in Mathura.

The idol may be bathed ceremonially with milk, curd, honey, ghee and other sacred substances in a ritual known as abhisheka. After the ceremony, devotees offer flowers, sweets, fruits and other offerings before the deity.

The midnight celebration is particularly meaningful because it recreates, in devotional form, the sacred moment of Krishna's arrival.

### Fasting on Janmashtami

Fasting is one of the most widely observed practices of Janmashtami.

Many devotees refrain from food and water during the day and break their fast only after the midnight birth ceremony. Others follow a partial fast and consume fruits, milk, nuts or specially prepared fasting foods.

The purpose of fasting is not simply physical abstinence. In Hindu spiritual traditions, fasting is intended to discipline the senses and turn the mind towards prayer.

By reducing attention to ordinary physical needs, devotees seek to devote greater attention to remembrance of the divine. However, fasting practices vary considerably according to regional customs, family traditions and individual circumstances.

### Decorating the Cradle

The image of Bal Krishna, or infant Krishna, occupies a special place in Janmashtami celebrations.

Homes and temples are decorated with flowers, lights and colourful fabrics. A small cradle is prepared for the baby Krishna, often decorated with flowers and ornaments. At midnight, devotees gently rock the cradle while singing devotional songs.

The ceremony evokes the tenderness of Yashoda caring for Krishna and allows devotees to experience the divine not only as an all-powerful deity but as a beloved child. This intimate relationship with the divine is one of the distinctive features of Krishna devotion.



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**CONTD FROM PAGE 1**

## SCO must dismantle ecosystem of terror financing, recruitment, radicalization, safe havens: India's PM

over the years. The Bishkek Declaration, issued after the conclusion of the summit, also called for an "inclusive government" in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan and expressed "deep concern" over the ongoing war in the Persian Gulf region, calling for a diplomatic solution.

### 'NO PLACE FOR DOUBLE STANDARDS'

"We must dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorist financing, recruitment, radicalization, and safe havens. We must speak with one voice and make it clear that there can be no place for double standards on this serious issue. We must send a strong message to countries that use terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide safe haven and support to terrorists that terrorism can never be a strategic asset for anyone," the Prime Minister said. Emphasizing the need to ensure "peace and security" in the SCO member countries, he said that addressing terrorism could not be limited to an "action-reaction approach".

In the Bishkek Declaration as well, SCO member states stressed "the unacceptability of attempts to use terrorist, separatist and extremist groups for personal gain".

### SEEKING PEACE IN AFGHANISTAN

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, Mr. Modi described drug trafficking as a threat to regional security. "Our shared aspiration for a peaceful and secure Eurasia is also closely linked to peace and stability in Afghanistan. India has been contributing to the development and provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and will continue to do so," he said.

The Bishkek Declaration urged the Taliban administration in Kabul to create an "inclusive government with the participation of all ethnopolitical groups in Afghanistan" to ensure lasting peace in the country.

### SCO SUPPORTS IRAN'S SOVEREIGNTY

Reflecting the SCO's collective position on the situation in the Persian Gulf, Mr. Modi said the crisis in West Asia has affected "energy security, maritime security and supply chain[s]", noting that the nations of the Global South were "bearing the greatest brunt of such disruptions". The Bishkek Declaration also placed on record the SCO's "deep concern" over the events in West Asia, expressing "support for Iran's sovereignty" and calling for a diplomatic resolution of the conflict.

The Bishkek Declaration addressed both the U.S.-Iran conflict and the Ukraine-Russia war by saying that the actions of "certain countries" or groups of countries that unilaterally deploy global missile defense systems negatively impact international security. The Declaration insisted that the members of the grouping have asserted the "inalienable right to develop" and "use atomic energy for peaceful purposes and to pursue equal, sustainable and mutually beneficial international cooperation in this area without discrimination."

### SCO DEVELOPMENT BANK PLANS

The host Kyrgyz Republic's Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubaev said the Bishkek Declaration represents the "agreed positions" of the SCO on current international and regional issues. Mr. Kulubaev announced that the SCO member states have "welcomed" the ongoing work for the establishment of an SCO Development Bank and that they have agreed to complete consultations "as soon as possible" for the signing of a "founding document".

"The creation of such a financial institution will open up additional opportunities for the implementation of large-scale infrastructure, transport, and investment projects in the SCO region," Mr. Kulubaev said.

He welcomed Pakistan as the next Chair of the grouping even as the SCO designated Lahore as the 'tourism and cultural capital' of the SCO for 2026-2027. In honor of the summit meeting in Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic has named one of its mountain peaks as the "SCO peak". (Source: The Hindu)

## Vance says Iran conflict is 'not a war', declines to offer timeline for end

In a briefing at the White House, Mr. Vance touted U.S. efforts

to facilitate oil shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, where Iranians have disrupted maritime traffic since the war started, crediting Washington's actions with helping to avert a broader global energy crisis.

He pushed back on describing the conflict as a "war," saying the U.S. has ended major combat operations with Iran, despite renewed fighting this week. He said Washington's focus now was to ensure Tehran cannot keep disrupting commercial oil shipping.

"I wouldn't call it a war," Mr. Vance said. "Right now, there's no active shooting. I recognize there have been places where this has flared up."

The U.S. maintains more than 50,000 troops in West Asia. The Trump administration has surged assets into the region, including nearly 20 warships focused on a blockade. In some instances, troops have been deployed for longer than expected and have been pulled from Europe and the Indo-Pacific.

Asked repeatedly about the timeline on the war, Mr. Vance said an end would require a halt in Iranians shooting at commercial shipping.

"When will the Iranians stop shooting at ships? I think the reality is I don't know the answer to that question," he said.

He also ruled out any negotiations as long as Tehran continued to target commercial shipping.

While the most intense fighting has subsided, the recurring exchange of fire and the lack of a definitive end to the war have kept global oil prices elevated.

On Tuesday (September 1, 2026), the United States launched airstrikes on Iran, hitting what it said were military targets along the coast in retaliation for Iranian attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. The sudden escalation of the war has caused a surge in oil prices to levels unseen since July.

## New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani announces ban on AI use for students until high school

watched across the United States as the city's school board is by far the largest in the country.

Only high school students, typically aged 14 and above, will be permitted to use artificial intelligence in limited pilot programs, and they will be offered biannual AI literacy classes.

Companion chatbots, designed specifically for emotional support, will be banned across all grades.

"The tech industry wants us to believe that AI-powered early education is not only inevitable, but necessary. We do not see it that way," Mayor Zohran Mamdani said in a statement.

"Children need teachers and human connection in order to learn and grow. They need to develop skills alongside their peers, build relationships with educators and wrestle with tough problems on their own," he added.

Teachers will still be permitted to use AI for lesson planning and administrative tasks.

Throughout the 2026-2027 school year, a task force of students, teachers, parents, elected officials and industry experts will meet to assess the impact of the moratorium before publishing its findings.

"We have a responsibility to ensure that rapidly-changing technology supports our children and their learning, rather than getting in the way of it," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said Wednesday.

The new rules follow an initial framework published in March that allowed students to use AI for research, exploration and creative projects, sparking fury among many parents and teachers who considered it too lenient.

In response, the city's schools chancellor Kamar Samuels said that leaders had "missed the mark" in their communications, adding his office would review the feedback for incorporation into future rules.

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Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand is a land where snow-clad peaks, ancient forests, rushing rivers and sacred shrines come together to create one of India's most captivating landscapes. Located in northern India, the state is bordered by Tibet in the north, Nepal in the east, Himachal Pradesh in the west and Uttar Pradesh in the south.

Often called Dev Bhoomi, or the Land of Gods, Uttarakhand attracts every kind of traveller. Pilgrims come seeking spiritual solace, adventure enthusiasts arrive for trekking and skiing, wildlife lovers head into its dense forests, while nature seekers simply come to escape into the mountains.

A large part of the state is covered with forests that shelter a remarkable variety of flora and fauna. The region is also the birthplace of two of India's most important rivers—the Ganga and the Yamuna. Their glaciers, high in the Himalayas, hold immense geographical, cultural and spiritual significance.

From sacred towns and wildlife reserves to quiet hill stations and adventure destinations, Uttarakhand offers experiences that remain etched in the memory long after the journey ends.

### CHAKRATA: A QUIET ESCAPE INTO THE HILLS

For travellers tired of crowded hill stations, Chakrata offers a refreshing alternative. This small cantonment town in the Dehradun district sits at an elevation of around 7,000 feet and remains surrounded by forests of deodar, Himalayan oak and rhododendron.

The charm of Chakrata lies in its simplicity. Imagine waking up to views of distant snow-covered Himalayan peaks, enjoying a leisurely breakfast in the crisp mountain air and spending the day surrounded by forests and silence. It is the kind of destination where doing very little becomes part of the experience.

Chakrata also serves as a convenient base for exploring nearby attractions such as Deoban, Kanasar and Koti. Nature walks and short treks offer opportunities to discover the quieter side of the Himalayas.

The destination can be visited throughout the year. Winters bring the possibility of snowfall, summers remain pleasantly cool and the monsoon transforms the surrounding hills into a rich green landscape.

### AULI: INDIA'S WINTER WONDERLAND

Few destinations in India can match the dramatic winter beauty of Auli. Surrounded by some of the Himalayan region's most impressive peaks, Auli is known for its snow-covered slopes, oak forests and sweeping mountain views.

Located at an altitude of more than 2,500 metres, Auli has earned recognition as one of India's premier skiing destinations. During winter, its slopes attract skiing enthusiasts and beginners who come to experience the thrill of gliding across fresh snow.

The views are equally rewarding for those who have no interest in skiing. From Auli, visitors can admire magnificent Himalayan peaks, including Nanda Devi, one of India's highest mountains. The sight of the morning sun falling on snow-covered peaks creates a spectacular golden glow across the landscape.

Cable-car rides add another dimension to the experience, offering breathtaking aerial views of the mountains and valleys. Visitors can also enjoy snow activities, short walks and sledging.

The winter months, particularly from December to March, are considered ideal for those hoping to experience Auli at its snowy best.

### CORBETT: INTO THE WILD

For wildlife lovers, Jim Corbett National Park remains one of Uttarakhand's greatest attractions. Spread across the foothills of the Himalayas, the park is India's oldest national park and one of the country's best-known wildlife destinations.

Named after the legendary conservationist and

# The soul of the mountains: Exploring magical Uttarakhand



hunter Jim Corbett, the park is famous for its population of Bengal tigers. However, the forest offers far more than tiger sightings.

Its diverse landscape includes grasslands, riverbanks, marshes and dense forests. Leopards, elephants, deer, sloth bears, langurs and numerous other species inhabit the region. Corbett is also a paradise for birdwatchers, with a rich variety of resident and migratory birds.

The park's landscape itself is part of its attraction. Rivers wind through forests, while the backdrop of the Himalayan foothills gives the wilderness a distinctive character.

A visit to Corbett is not merely about spotting animals. It is about experiencing the sights and sounds of a living forest—the alarm calls of deer, the rustling of leaves and the possibility that somewhere beyond the trees, the king of the jungle may be watching.

### MUKTESHWAR: AMONG FORESTS AND ORCHARDS

High in the Kumaon Hills lies Mukteshwar, a peaceful hill destination known for its forests, orchards and panoramic Himalayan views. Situated at an altitude of around 7,500 feet, the town has become a favourite among travellers searching for a quieter alternative to commercial hill stations.

Mukteshwar is particularly charming for those who enjoy slow travel. Long walks through pine forests, views of distant Himalayan peaks and stays surrounded by fruit orchards define the experience here. During the harvesting season, the region produces a variety of fruits, including peaches, plums and apricots. The sight of fruit-laden trees along country roads adds another layer to the charm of this mountain destination.

Winter occasionally brings snowfall, transforming the landscape into a white wonderland. Summers, meanwhile, are pleasant and ideal for travellers escaping the heat of the plains.

Over the years, Mukteshwar has developed a range of accommodation options, from camps and homestays to boutique hotels, making it suitable for different kinds of travellers.

### KAUSANI: A WINDOW TO THE HIMALAYAS

Often described as one of the finest viewpoints in



Kumaon, Kausani is a small and peaceful hill town that offers spectacular views of the Himalayan range.

On a clear day, visitors can witness a breathtaking panorama of peaks, including Nanda Devi, Trishul, Panchchuli and Chaukhamba. Sunrise is among the most memorable experiences here. As the first rays of the sun touch the snow-covered mountains, the entire range slowly changes colour, creating a scene that feels almost unreal.

Kausani also has an important historical connection. Mahatma Gandhi stayed at the Anasakti Ashram, also known as Gandhi Ashram, and spent time reflecting and writing there. Today, the ashram remains an important attraction for visitors interested in history and spirituality.

The Kausani Tea Estate is another attraction worth exploring. The region's tea gardens provide a refreshing contrast to the dramatic Himalayan landscape.

Nearby attractions such as Rudradhari Falls and Caves and Baijnath offer opportunities for short excursions.

### A LAND FOR EVERY TRAVELLER

What makes Uttarakhand special is its remarkable diversity. In one journey, a traveller can visit an ancient temple, walk through a dense forest, raft down a Himalayan river and watch the sunrise over snow-covered peaks.

Adventure seekers can explore trekking trails such as the Valley of Flowers and Chopta-Chandrashila. Skiing enthusiasts can head to Auli, while river rafting attracts visitors to Rishikesh and Shivpuri.

Birdwatchers can explore destinations such as Pangot and Sattal, while wildlife enthusiasts can venture into Corbett and other protected forests.

For pilgrims, the state holds an unmatched spiritual significance. The sacred towns of Haridwar and Rishikesh, along with the revered Char Dham shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, attract millions of devotees.

Then there are destinations that simply invite visitors to pause—Chakrata, Mukteshwar, Dhanaulti and Kausani, where the mountains offer peace without demanding an itinerary.



# Labor Day: America's salute to the people who built a nation



For millions of Americans, the first Monday of September means a long weekend, family gatherings, barbecues, sporting events and perhaps one last summer holiday before the arrival of autumn. Highways fill with travelers, parks and beaches attract families, and stores announce special sales. Yet behind the relaxed atmosphere of Labor Day lies a powerful and often turbulent history. The holiday was born out of the struggles of ordinary workers who fought for fair wages, shorter working hours, safer workplaces and the right to be treated with dignity.

Labor Day is America's annual tribute to the working people whose efforts helped transform a young nation into one of the world's largest economies. From railway workers and miners to teachers and nurses, factory hands and construction workers, farmers and office employees, generations of Americans have contributed to building the country's economic and social foundations.

Observed on the first Monday of September every year, Labor Day is both a celebration and a reminder. It celebrates the achievements of workers while recalling an era when industrial progress often came at a terrible human cost.

## When America Was Becoming an Industrial Giant

The origins of Labor Day can be traced to the dramatic transformation of the United States during the nineteenth century. America was changing rapidly. Railways were spreading across the continent, factories were replacing traditional forms of production, cities were expanding and millions of immigrants were arriving from Europe and other parts of the world.

Industrialization brought unprecedented economic growth. Steel mills, textile factories, coal mines and manufacturing centers became symbols of a new and ambitious America. Great fortunes were created, and American industry began emerging as a major force in the global economy.

But the story of industrial progress had another side. The people who worked in the factories and mines often faced extremely difficult conditions. Long working days were common. Many laborers worked ten, twelve or even more hours a day, six days a week. There were few laws protecting employees from dangerous working conditions. Industrial accidents were frequent, and an injury could mean the loss of a family's only source of income.

Children were employed in factories and mines, often under harsh conditions. Women worked long hours and were generally paid less than men. Workers had little protection against sudden dismissal, wage cuts or unsafe workplaces.

For the growing industrial workforce, prosperity remained an uncertain dream. It was this world of long hours, low wages and dangerous workplaces that gave rise to one of the most important social movements in American history—the organized labor movement.

## The Rise of the American Worker

As industries grew larger, workers began to realize that they had greater strength when they acted together.

Trade unions started emerging across the United States, bringing workers from similar professions and industries under a common banner. Their demands were straightforward but revolutionary for the time: better wages, shorter working hours, safer workplaces and respect from employers.

Among the most important demands was the call for an eight-hour working day. The slogan associated with the movement expressed the aspiration clearly: eight hours for work, eight hours for rest and eight hours for what one wished.

The idea that workers should have time beyond their workplace was itself a major social demand. In an age when many laborers spent most of their waking hours at factories, mines and workshops, the struggle for leisure and family time became part of the larger struggle for human dignity.

Workers organized strikes and demonstrations. Employers often resisted. Police and government authorities were sometimes brought in to suppress labor protests. The relationship between workers and industrialists became one of the defining social tensions of nineteenth-century America.

Out of these struggles emerged the idea of dedicating a special day to the working people of the nation.

## The First Labor Day Parade

The first Labor Day celebration took place in New York City on September 5, 1882. The event was organized by the Central Labor Union, which brought together workers and labor organizations from different trades.

Thousands of workers participated in a public parade through the streets of the city. For the men and women who took part, the march was more than a festive occasion. It was a public declaration of solidarity.

Workers carried banners representing their professions and organizations. The parade demonstrated that labourers were not merely individuals employed in separate factories or businesses. Together, they represented a powerful social force.

After the march, workers and their families gathered for a picnic, speeches, music and entertainment.

The combination of public demonstration and social celebration became the foundation of Labor Day traditions. The workers wanted recognition, but they also wanted an opportunity to celebrate their collective identity. The idea quickly spread.

Other labor organizations and cities began organizing similar events. Within a few years, Labor Day celebrations were taking place in different parts of the country. What had begun as a gathering of workers in New York was slowly becoming a national movement.

## Who Was Behind the Idea?

The origins of Labor Day have long been associated with two prominent figures of the American labor movement. For many years, Peter J. McGuire, a leading labor activist and co-founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, was widely credited with proposing the idea of a holiday to honor workers. According to the traditional account, McGuire suggested that a special day should be dedicated to recognizing those who had contributed to the country's prosperity and development.

However, another name has also emerged in the debate over the holiday's

origins—Matthew Maguire.

Maguire was associated with the Central Labor Union in New York and played an important role in the labour movement. Some historians believe he was the person who originally proposed the celebration.

The historical debate continues, but the larger truth is clear: Labor Day was born from the labor movement itself.

It was not initially created by presidents or politicians. It emerged from workers who believed that their contribution to society deserved public recognition.

## From a Workers' Holiday to a National Celebration

The popularity of Labor Day continued to grow throughout the 1880s.

Trade unions and workers' organizations began demanding that governments officially recognize the holiday. Individual states gradually started passing laws to observe Labor Day. Oregon became the first American state to officially recognize Labor Day in 1887. Other states soon followed.

The movement gathered momentum at a time when labor issues were becoming increasingly important in American politics.

Industrial growth had created enormous wealth, but it had also created growing inequality. The gap between wealthy industrialists and ordinary workers was becoming increasingly visible. Strikes and labor disputes became common.

Workers demanded better treatment, while business owners often argued that labour activism threatened economic stability and industrial development.

The federal government could no longer ignore the growing importance of the labour movement. The decisive moment came in 1894.

In 1894, the United States was experiencing one of the most difficult periods of labour unrest in its history.

The Pullman Strike had erupted after workers employed by the Pullman Palace Car Company protested against wage cuts and harsh economic conditions.

The dispute soon spread beyond a single company.

Railway workers across the country became involved, disrupting transportation and affecting large sections of the American economy. The federal government intervened, and the strike turned into a major national crisis.

The confrontation reflected the deep tensions that existed between workers, corporations and the government.

It was against this backdrop that President Grover Cleveland and the US Congress moved to make Labor Day a national holiday.

On June 28, 1894, legislation was signed establishing the first Monday of September as a federal holiday.



# History This Week

SEP 04 - SEP 10

## 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.

## SEPTEMBER 5

September 5, 1774 - The First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates, representing every colony, except Georgia. Attendants included Patrick Henry, George Washington, Sam Adams and John Hancock.

September 5-6, 1972 - Eleven members of the Israeli Olympic Team were killed during an attack on the Olympic Village in Munich by members of the Black September faction of the Palestinian Liberation Army. Israeli jets then bombed Palestinian positions in Lebanon and Syria in retaliation on September 8, 1972.

September 5, 1975 - The first of two September assassination attempts on President Gerald Ford occurred as a woman pointed a gun at the President in Sacramento, California. Two weeks later, a second attempt occurred as another woman fired a shot at Ford in San Francisco. Ford was not harmed in either incident.



September 5, 1997 - Mother Teresa died in Calcutta at age 87, after a life of good works spent aiding the sick and poor in India through her Missionaries of Charity order.

Birthday - Wild West legend Jesse James (1847-1882) was born in Centerville, Missouri. Following the American Civil War, Jesse and his

brother Frank formed a group of outlaws, robbing banks, trains, stagecoaches and stores. In 1882, after the governor of Missouri offered a \$10,000 reward for their capture dead or alive, a member of the gang shot 34-year-old Jesse in the back of the head and claimed the reward.

Birthday - Film producer Darryl F. Zanuck (1902-1979) was born in Wahoo, Nebraska. He co-founded 20th Century Studios, which later merged with Fox. His films included the first sound picture The Jazz Singer, and also The Snake Pit and The Grapes of Wrath.

## SEPTEMBER 6

September 6, 1991 - Leningrad was renamed Saint Petersburg by Russian legislators following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Russia's second largest city had been known as Leningrad for 67 years in honor of Vladimir Lenin, founder of the Soviet Union.

Birthday - Marquis de Lafayette (1757-1834) was born in Chavaniac, France (as Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier). He came to America in 1777 to volunteer in the American Revolution, beginning a long friendship with George Washington. He later persuaded Louis XVI of France to send a 6,000-man force to assist the Americans. Lafayette was given command of an army in Virginia and was instrumental in forcing Cornwallis to surrender at Yorktown, leading to the American victory.



Birthday - Pioneering American social worker Jane Addams (1860-1935) was born in Cedarville, Illinois. In 1883, she toured the great European cities to study famous historic sites but was deeply moved by the hunger and misery she found among the common people. She then founded Hull House in Chicago to serve the sick and poor and managed the settlement for the next 46 years.

## SEPTEMBER 7

September 7, 1822 - Brazil declared its independence from Portugal after 322 years as a colony.

September 7, 1940 - The German Luftwaffe began its Blitz bombing campaign against London during World War II.

September 7, 1986 - Bishop Desmond Tutu became Archbishop of Cape Town, South Africa, the first black head of South Africa's Anglicans.

September 7, 1994 - The U.S. Army closed its headquarters in Berlin, ending the American military presence in the once-divided city after nearly half a

century.

September 7, 1999 - For the first time since World War II, Germany's parliament, the Bundestag, returned to Berlin, former capital of Imperial Germany as well as Hitler's Reich. The Bundestag held its first session in the fully restored Reichstag building, attended by parliamentarians from around the world. The session also marked the 50th anniversary of the Bundestag's first post-war session, held in Bonn, the former capital of West Germany.



Birthday - Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) was born in Greenwich Palace. She was the daughter of King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She ascended the throne in 1558 at age 25. During her reign, Britain became a world power by defeating the Spanish Armada. The Anglican Church was also fully established.

## SEPTEMBER 8

September 8, 1565 - The first Catholic settlement in America was founded by Spaniard Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles at St. Augustine, Florida.

September 8, 1883 - The Northern Pacific Railroad across the U.S. was completed.

September 8, 1900 - A hurricane with winds of 120 mph struck Galveston, Texas, killing over 8,000 persons, making it the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. The hurricane and tidal wave that followed destroyed over 2,500 buildings.



September 8, 1935 - Louisiana Senator Huey P. Long was shot and mortally wounded while attending a session of the state House of Representatives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He died two days later.

September 8, 1941 - The German Army began its blockade of Leningrad, lasting until January 1944, resulting in the deaths of almost one million Russian civilians.

September 8, 1974 - A month after resigning the presidency in disgrace as a result of the Watergate scandal, Richard Nixon was granted a full pardon by President Gerald R. Ford for all offenses committed while in office.

September 8, 2022 - Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, after a 70-year reign, the longest in British history. Upon her

death, her son Charles, age 73, became the new monarch as King Charles III. Born on April 21, 1926, Princess Elizabeth was third in line to the throne, and became Queen in 1952, at age 25, after her father King George VI died in his sleep. During her reign, the Queen met 13 U.S. presidents and visited over 100 countries.

## SEPTEMBER 9

September 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies.

September 9, 1943 - The invasion of Salerno began during World War II in Europe as Allied forces under General Mark Clark made amphibious landings along the western coast of Italy near Naples. Initial gains by the Allies met strong resistance from German forces.

September 9, 1948 - Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from North Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was proclaimed with Pyongyang as its capital.



September 9, 1976 - Longtime leader of Communist China, Chairman Mao Zedong, died. As a Chinese revolutionary soldier and statesman, he had proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949 in Beijing.

September 9, 1993 - Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) agreed to recognize each other, paving the way for a possible peaceful end to the hundred year old conflict between Arabs and Jews in the Mideast.

## SEPTEMBER 10



September 10, 1898 - Elizabeth, Empress of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

September 10, 1919 - Following the defeat of Germany in World War I, the victorious Allies signed the Treaty of Saint-Germain ceding parts of pre-war German-Austria to Italy and Czechoslovakia. Austria was also forbidden to unite with Germany.





BY  
PRABHJOT SINGH

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**WAVRE (TIP):** Set in the green hills of Walloon Brabant, the Belfius Hockey Arena is the new beating heart of Belgian hockey. Eight years in the planning and preparation, and built at an investment of more than 10 million, the state-of-the-art facility is a landmark for the sport in the country.

Commissioned in April this year after three years of construction, the Belfius Hockey Arena is Belgium's first fully fledged permanent hockey stadium. Much like the hockey complex commissioned by the Odisha government in Rourkela, it represents a significant investment in creating a dedicated home for the sport.

More importantly, it is now the home of the Red Lions and the Red Panthers, Belgium's national men's and women's teams. Set against a serene and picturesque backdrop of rolling green hills, the complex reflects the qualities that characterize Belgian hockey - ambition, quality and a clear vision for the future.

#### From football stadium to hockey arena

Interestingly, the arena has been built on the site of Wavre's former football stadium, Stade Justin Peeters. The project has given the old sporting site a new lease of life, transforming it into a stadium entirely dedicated to hockey.

The arena combines modern design with a sustainable approach by reusing the existing structure. Built to meet the highest standards prescribed by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), it has been designed to provide an international-standard venue for players and spectators alike.

# FIH World Cup 2026: Wavre is the beating heart of Belgian hockey



Belfius Hockey Arena is the new beating heart of Belgian hockey. Photo: FIH Hockey

The stadium has 4,000 permanent seats - 2,800 under cover in the main stand and another 1,200 in the opposite stand. For the FIH World Cup 2026, however, the capacity was temporarily increased to just under 10,000 spectators, creating a more imposing and atmospheric setting for the global tournament.

#### An intimate home for hockey

Therein lies an interesting difference between football and hockey. FIFA requires World Cup stadiums to have a minimum seating capacity of 40,000 for approved venues. Hockey, by comparison, can create a vibrant World Cup atmosphere with a temporarily expanded capacity of around 10,000.

Despite the new nerve centre failing to prove particularly lucky for Belgian

hockey at the 2026 World Cup - the Red Lions finished a disappointing seventh, while the Red Panthers secured the bronze medal - the arena is expected to play a central role in the future of Belgian hockey. It is set to host future FIH events, including Pro League matches, as well as international and national fixtures.

The facility will serve purposes beyond elite international hockey. It is also the new home of Hockey Wallonie Bruxelles, a training centre for Belgium's national youth teams and a meeting place for local clubs, making it a hub for the sport at multiple levels.

#### Built for players, supporters and the sport

Inside, the arena combines functionality with a high level of comfort. The national teams have access to personalized

changing rooms, modern fitness facilities and professional support services designed to meet the demands of top-level international sport.

The press, VIP guests and supporters have also been provided with high-quality facilities, while the pitch itself meets the highest international standards, ensuring optimal conditions for elite hockey.

The emphasis on bringing players, coaches, administrators, supporters and the wider hockey community under one roof makes the Belfius Hockey Arena much more than a stadium.

#### A new temple of Belgian hockey

With this impressive facility, Belgian hockey now has a dedicated home that can stand alongside the iconic hockey venues of other great hockey nations, including India.

The Belfius Hockey Arena may not have delivered the results Belgium hoped for during the 2026 World Cup, but its significance goes far beyond the tournament. It is an investment in the future - a place where international stars can play, young players can train, local clubs can come together and the next generation of Belgian hockey talent can emerge.

India and Belgium eventually met in the classification match for seventh and eighth places, with India losing in a penalty shootout. For the Indian team, the result brought mixed feelings as it departed Wavre. But for Belgian hockey, the new arena represents something much bigger: a permanent home and a long-term investment in the sport.

## FIH Hockey World Cup: Germany retains title in men's section

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**WAVRE (TIP):** Defending champions Germany overcame a fighting Spain by a solitary second-half goal to retain their FIH Hockey World Cup title and reassert European supremacy in world hockey.

The 2026 final brought two European giants face to face, with Germany's trademark tactical discipline and strategic approach once again proving decisive. The Germans patiently assessed their opponents before producing the moment that ultimately settled a fiercely contested final. The German victory also dashed Spain's hopes of becoming the first team to complete a hat-trick of Hockey World Cup titles.

Earlier, in the bronze-medal match, Argentina defeated co-hosts the Netherlands 2-1. For the South Americans, it was the icing on the cake after their women's team had won the World Cup title a day earlier, defeating the Netherlands in a penalty shootout.

With gold in the women's competition and bronze in the men's event, Argentina



Germany defeated Spain 1-0 to retain the men's Hockey World Cup title. (AP Photo)

enjoyed a remarkable tournament and could hardly have asked for more.

For the two co-hosts, Belgium and the Netherlands, the tournament ended in disappointment. While the Netherlands had the consolation of finishing runners-

up in the women's competition, where Belgium took bronze, neither host nation managed to win a medal in the men's event. The Netherlands finished fourth after losing 1-4 to Argentina, while Belgium ended seventh following a

penalty-shootout victory over India.

The gold-medal match was played on a bright, sunny afternoon, with expectations high and Spain determined to challenge the defending champions.

Germany made the early running, earning a penalty corner as early as the second minute. Spain responded with a series of counter-attacks and won its first penalty corner in the ninth minute.

Both sides spent much of the first half carefully testing each other, assessing strengths and weaknesses and looking for openings. The contest was intense and physical, at times bordering on rough play, but neither team was able to break the deadlock. The decisive moment arrived in the 44th minute when Michel Struthoff produced a superb field goal. Receiving the ball in the middle of the circle, he cut through the Spanish defense and finished brilliantly to put Germany ahead.

Three minutes later, German player Justus Warweg received a green card and was temporarily suspended. Spain, however, was unable to take advantage of Germany's numerical disadvantage.



# FIH World Cup: Argentina wrests back the women's World Cup title from the Netherlands in a penalty shootout



BY  
PRABHJOT SINGH

SEPTEMBER 4, 2026

**AMSTELVEEN (TIP):** Argentina are the new champions of the FIH Hockey World Cup for women, wresting the title back from the Netherlands in a dramatic penalty shootout.

In an exciting final played before a packed Wagener Stadium, amid intermittent showers and strong, chilly winds, the South Americans avenged their defeat to the Netherlands in the 2022 World Cup final.

Four years ago, the Netherlands had beaten Argentina 3-1 in the final to win the title for a third successive time. This time, however, Argentina held their nerve in a tense contest, forcing a 1-1 draw in regulation time before prevailing 3-1 in the shootout.

The result was also a disappointment for the co-hosts, the Netherlands and Belgium, who both ended the tournament without a title on home soil. The men's final, to be played on Sunday, will see Germany take on Spain as the two European giants battle for continued supremacy in men's hockey.

## Argentina fight back

The Netherlands made the stronger start and gradually began to exert pressure on the Argentine defense. After a goalless opening quarter, the pace picked up in the second period as the Dutch players, backed by a vociferous home crowd, repeatedly searched for a way through the South American defense.

The breakthrough finally came in the 30th minute, seconds before half-time. The Netherlands earned their first penalty corner of the match, and their dependable drag-flick specialist and leading scorer of the tournament, Yibbi Jansen, made no mistake, firing the ball into the net to give the hosts a 1-0 lead.

The Dutch were awarded another



Avenging previous defeats in the 2022 World Cup and Tokyo Olympics finals, Argentina triumphed in the shoot-out as Dutch misses sealed their historic victory. Photo: FIH Hockey

penalty corner immediately after the teams changed ends, but this time Jansen could not convert.

Argentina gradually found their rhythm. Their first penalty corner came in the 33rd minute, followed shortly afterwards by another, but neither opportunity produced a goal.

The South Americans continued to press and were eventually rewarded in the 54th minute when Maria Granatto found the equalizer, bringing Argentina level at 1-1 and sending the final into a penalty shootout.

## Battle of nerves

The shootout turned into a battle of nerves, but Argentina displayed greater composure. The South Americans converted three of their attempts to win the shootout 3-1 and lift the World Cup for the third time.

For the Netherlands, the defeat was particularly painful. It was their ninth successive appearance in a World Cup final, but they were unable to add another title to their remarkable record.

Argentina had last defeated the Netherlands in a World Cup final in 2010, winning 3-1. The Dutch subsequently dominated the competition, winning the

title in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

Argentina had also beaten the Netherlands in a shootout in the 2002 World Cup final after the two teams had played out a 1-1 draw in regulation time.

The final standings saw Argentina take gold, followed by the Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, India and Germany.

## Belgium claim bronze

Earlier, Belgium defeated Australia 1-0 to claim the bronze medal. Charlotte Englebert scored the decisive goal in the 18th minute in a closely fought contest in which both teams blended caution with aggression.

The bronze medal provided considerable relief for Belgium, who had entered the tournament among the pre-event favorites in both the men's and women's competitions.

The Belgian men defeated India 4-3 in a penalty shootout after the two teams had drawn 3-3 in regulation time to finish seventh. The women went a step further, reaching the semi-finals before losing 0-1 to the Netherlands.

Germany set up final with Spain

In the men's competition, defending champions Germany edged past Pan American champions Argentina 2-1 in a

semi-final that remained goalless during the first half.

Justus Weigand put Germany ahead in the 32nd minute with a fine field goal that left the Argentine defense scrambling. Argentina, however, responded quickly, with Tomas Domene restoring parity in the 43rd minute.

Germany regained the lead in the 53rd minute through Paul-Philipp Kaufmann, who found a way past the Argentine defense with a well-placed strike.

Argentina then threw players forward in search of another equalizer, and the match grew increasingly intense. Germany, however, defended their advantage resolutely to secure a second successive World Cup final appearance.

They will face Spain in the title clash as the two European powers compete for the men's crown.

## Indian sponsors add to World Cup presence

Among the special guests at the women's final was Pawan Munjal of the Hero Group, a long-time sponsor of FIH events, including the World Cup.

Two other major Indian groups, JSW and Amul, are also among the principal Indian sponsors associated with the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026.

Continued from Page 48

## FIH Hockey World Cup: Germany retains title in men's section...

As the final whistle approached, Spain threw everything into attack. With three minutes remaining, the Spanish withdrew their goalkeeper and introduced an additional outfield player in an attempt to force an equalizer.

Spain also earned two penalty corners during the closing stages, but neither produced the breakthrough it desperately needed. Germany held firm to secure another World Cup crown.

## Argentina complete memorable campaign

Earlier, Argentina produced another impressive performance to upset the Netherlands 2-1 in the bronze-medal

match. The South Americans took the lead in the 42nd minute when Domene Tomas, one of the tournament's most prolific scorers, intercepted a pass from the centre and finished clinically.

The Netherlands responded seven minutes later. Floris Middendorp converted a penalty corner in the 49th minute to bring the hosts level.

Interestingly, the Dutch equalised while playing with only 10 players after Jorrit Croon received a 10-minute suspension in the 46th minute following rough play.

Argentina, however, had the final say. A penalty corner in the 59th minute gave Matias Rey the opportunity to restore the South American lead, and he made no mistake, sending a neat flick into the net.

The Netherlands pushed hard for another equalizer, but Argentina held on as time ran out.

The victory capped a memorable tournament for the Pan American champions, who returned home with a women's World Cup title and a bronze medal in the men's competition.

## India finish eighth

For India, the tournament produced mixed results. The women's team finished fifth, their best World Cup position since 1974, while the men ended their campaign in eighth place. The tournament also provided an opportunity to honour the history of the sport. Hero Group chairman Pawan Munjal was among the dignitaries

who presented medals to the winners. The FIH also felicitated several heroes of previous World Cups, including former Pakistan captain Shahbaz Ahmed, recognizing their contribution to the history and legacy of international hockey. For Germany, the final represented another statement of their strength and consistency on the world stage. For Argentina, it was a tournament to remember. For the two host nations, however, the medals remained just out of reach.

*(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist who writes on Sports, politics and community.*

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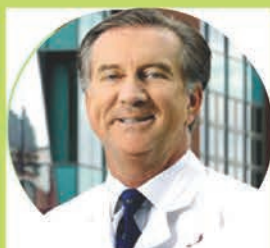




## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

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