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Trump waives Russia-related US sanctions that threatened 100% tariffs on India, China

Waiver comes ahead of Rubio's India visit as Iran war disrupts oil supplies; Jaishankar had flagged concerns over the Graham Act



US President Donald Trump with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

File photo / Reuters

**OCTOBER 16, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

US President Donald Trump has issued a waiver from sanctions, restrictions and duties under the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, citing national interest, says a PTI report.

In an executive order on Friday, October 16, 2026 night, Trump said that it is in the US "national interests" to withhold some of the sanctions.

"I am hereby waiving the application of such sanctions, restrictions, and duties provided for in the Graham Act," Trump said.

Trump said he had submitted to Congress a certification that issuing such a waiver at this time is in the national interest of the United States. The Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act empowered Trump

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Tricolor, flash protests, detentions mark CJP's 'Lehra Do Tiranga' march in Delhi



AISA president Neha Bora leading the protest in New Delhi's Connaught Place, October 16, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Tricolors in hand and raising slogans of 'Jai Hind', hundreds of supporters of the Cockroach Janta Party and members of student organizations held a series of flash protests in central Delhi on Friday, October 16 evening after police denied permission for the party's 'Lehra Do Tiranga' march at

Connaught Place.

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and AISA president Neha Bora were among the around 150 protesters detained by Delhi Police. The detentions drew sharp attacks from the Opposition, while the BJP-led central government called the protest an attempt to bring about a regime change by "using" young people to spread "anarchy".

Security arrangements were stepped up across Connaught Place ahead of the proposed march. Police cordoned off Central Park, forming a human chain along its metal railings. Central Park was closed to the public on Friday, October 16 and Saturday, October 17, with police citing prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, which bars mass gatherings in Connaught Place and adjoining areas. **(Source: The Hindu)**

Over 500 Indian Americans Unite in Support of Congressman Tom Suozzi

**OCTOBER 16, 2026
UNIONDALE, NY (TIP)**

More than 500 Indian Americans, including prominent community leaders representing a broad cross-section of the Indian American diaspora, gathered Tuesday evening, October 13, at the Long Island Marriott in Uniondale in a show of support for Congressman Tom Suozzi's re-election campaign.

The gathering brought together Punjabi, Gujarati, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi and other regional communities, along with Hindu, Sikh and Christian Americans, women's organizations, and civic and cultural leaders.

The evening featured live musical performances, the American and Indian national anthems, and remarks by



Congressman Tom Suozzi pledged to focus on finding solutions rather than engaging in partisan attacks

community leaders, including Naveen Shah, Girish Patel, Dr. Purna Atluri, Gary Sikka, Satnam Prahar, Koshy Thomas, Dilip Nath, Dr. Neeta Jain and others.

CONTD ON PAGE 7

White House press secretary Zacharia fired in less than a week, and with just one press briefing



White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia holds her first press briefing at the White House in Washington, DC, October 13, 2026.

**OCTOBER 16, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

White House press secretary Katie Zacharia was fired after less than a week on the job, two US officials said on Friday, October 16, after a rocky start as President Donald Trump's top spokesperson, reports Reuter.

Zacharia was "let go" and is "transitioning out" of the press secretary position, according to two separate White House officials. She faced days of questions about her legal credentials and criticism of her

CONTD ON PAGE 46

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COMMENT

Winning Elections is Not Enough. Governing must Justify the People's Trust

BY INDRAJIT
SALUJA



The Constitution of the United States begins with three immortal words: "We the People." They are neither a ceremonial flourish nor a historical ornament. They constitute a declaration of sovereignty. Governments derive their authority from the people, exercise it on their behalf, and remain answerable to them. As Americans approach the November 3 midterm elections, those three words deserve renewed attention.

The elections will determine the composition of Congress and influence the remaining years of President Donald Trump's administration. But their significance extends beyond the fortunes of Republicans and Democrats. They provide an opportunity to examine whether government is fulfilling its fundamental obligation: improving the lives of the governed while safeguarding the institutions that protect their liberties.

Winning an election confers authority. Governing responsibly earns the people's trust.

That distinction is particularly important in a country where political campaigns increasingly resemble contests of personalities, accusations and promises, while the practical concerns of ordinary citizens struggle for sustained attention.

THE PEOPLE HAVE THEIR OWN AGENDA

Americans are concerned about matters considerably more immediate than partisan triumphs.

A Pew Research Center survey released October 8 found that 84 percent of registered voters considered the economy very important to their congressional vote. The future of democracy concerned 73 percent, healthcare 68 percent, education 62 percent, and immigration 59 percent.

An AP-NORC survey released October 15 presented an equally revealing picture. Eight in ten voters wanted substantial or fundamental change in how the country is governed.

These findings should command the attention of every candidate seeking public office.

The American household is not an abstraction. It is a family calculating grocery expenses, a senior citizen worrying about medical bills, a young graduate struggling with educational debt, and a small business owner confronting rising costs.

Economic statistics may indicate growth, but growth acquires meaning for ordinary Americans when wages, opportunities and purchasing power permit them to live with security and dignity.

The Trump administration emphasizes economic growth, tax policy, deregulation, domestic production and energy development. Its critics question whether tariffs, fiscal decisions and other policies have adequately addressed household costs.

The responsibility of government is to examine such competing claims against measurable outcomes, acknowledge difficulties and adjust policies when necessary.

The responsibility of the opposition is equally demanding. Criticism, however justified, cannot substitute for workable alternatives.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

President Trump entered his second term with a mandate to pursue the policies on which he campaigned. That mandate deserves recognition within the constitutional framework.

But no electoral mandate is unlimited.

The presidency carries enormous responsibilities, particularly in economic management, immigration enforcement, foreign affairs and national security. Its authority must operate alongside Congress, the judiciary and the constitutional rights of citizens.

On immigration, Americans can reasonably expect secure borders, enforcement of lawful procedures and an orderly system. They can also expect that enforcement will respect due process, human dignity and the distinction between criminal conduct and immigration



status.

On healthcare, the challenge is to reconcile affordability, access and fiscal sustainability. Americans should be able to examine not merely promises of reform but credible explanations of how proposed changes would affect patients, providers and taxpayers.

On energy, increased domestic production may contribute to supply security, but international conflicts, refinery capacity and global markets also influence prices. Government must distinguish what it can control from what it cannot.

On the economy, promises of prosperity must be accompanied by an accounting of costs, benefits and consequences.

The true measure of government is not the grandeur of its announcements but the difference its decisions make in people's lives.

AMERICA AND ITS RESPONSIBILITIES ABROAD

Foreign policy has acquired unusual importance in these midterms.

The continuing conflict involving Iran has raised questions about military objectives, expenditure, regional stability and the economic consequences of prolonged hostilities. The war between Russia and Ukraine presents another difficult challenge: how to encourage negotiations without disregarding sovereignty and durable security arrangements.

Americans have legitimate reasons to question the costs of foreign engagements. They also have legitimate interests in international stability, reliable alliances and the prevention of wider conflicts.

The administration must explain what American involvement is intended to achieve, what resources it requires, and how success or failure should be evaluated.

Congress, entrusted with significant constitutional responsibilities concerning war, appropriations and oversight, cannot remain a spectator.

A great nation's influence is measured not only by military strength but also by the credibility of its commitments and the prudence with which it exercises power.

THE OPPOSITION MUST OFFER MORE THAN OPPOSITION

The Democratic Party has an important responsibility in the approaching elections.

It must examine the administration's record, identify policies it considers harmful, and propose alternatives that voters can assess.

But opposition becomes constructive only when it offers a credible program of governance.

If Democrats criticize rising living costs, they must explain how their proposals would address them. If they oppose particular immigration measures, they must articulate an enforceable and humane alternative. If they challenge foreign policy decisions, they must explain how their approach would protect American interests.

The same standards apply to Republican candidates. Defending the administration cannot replace independent judgment, and party loyalty cannot relieve a legislator of responsibility to constituents.

A healthy democracy requires more than two parties competing for office. It requires representatives capable of

examining evidence, questioning their own leadership and cooperating when the public interest demands it.

People before politics must be more than a pleasing expression. It must become a governing discipline.

DEMOCRACY DOES NOT END ON ELECTION NIGHT

The Constitution establishes a system of limited and divided powers precisely because its framers understood the dangers of concentrated authority.

The president does not own the executive branch as a personal possession. Congress does not exist merely to approve presidential decisions. Courts are not instruments of political convenience.

Each institution has responsibilities, and each must remain accountable within the constitutional order.

Elections are essential to that accountability, but they are not its only expression.

A free press, independent courts, transparent administration, legislative scrutiny and the right of peaceful dissent all contribute to the continuing relationship between government and governed.

Citizens must be free to question those in authority without being regarded as enemies of the nation. Equally, public disagreement must not become an excuse to deny the legitimacy or dignity of fellow Americans.

The people who vote for a losing candidate do not lose their citizenship, their rights or their claim upon government.

A president governs an entire nation, not merely the constituency that elected him.

This principle applies equally to every political party and every administration.

THE FUTURE BEYOND NOVEMBER

Whatever the composition of Congress after November 3, America will continue to face challenges that cannot be resolved through electoral victories alone.

Public debt, educational opportunity, technological disruption, healthcare costs, infrastructure, climate risks and international competition will demand sustained attention.

The country will also need to confront a deeper problem: declining confidence in political institutions and the growing difficulty of finding common ground.

Compromise is not necessarily surrender. It can be the means through which a diverse democracy reconciles legitimate differences while preserving shared institutions.

Nor does accountability require perpetual confrontation. It requires that elected officials explain their decisions, accept scrutiny and remain willing to correct mistakes.

As America commemorates 250 years of independence, its greatest responsibility is not simply to celebrate the ideals proclaimed in 1776 and embodied in its constitutional tradition. It is to ensure that those ideals continue to guide public life.

The American experiment was never founded upon the infallibility of rulers. It was founded upon the conviction that legitimate government rests upon the consent of the governed.

That conviction remains as relevant today as it was at the nation's founding.

The midterms will produce winners and losers. They will redistribute political authority and influence the course of legislation. But they will not alter the fundamental ownership of the Republic.

ELECTIONS BELONG TO POLITICAL PARTIES FOR A SEASON. THE REPUBLIC BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE FOREVER.

And when the celebrations and disappointments of November have passed, the responsibility of governing will remain.

For the future of America will not be secured merely by winning elections, but by governing in a manner that justifies the people's trust.

Congressman Suozzi raises alarm to Indian Ambassador over murder of Punjab anti-drug activist Parvinder Jhota

OCTOBER 16, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

US Congressman Thomas R Suozzi had sent an official letter to the Indian Ambassador to the US, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, raising deep concerns over the murder of Jhota and requesting transparency in the ongoing investigation.

Jhota was shot dead in broad daylight on Tuesday, October 13 morning after confronting a local chemist, Ashwani Kumar, over the alleged illegal sale of habit-forming pharmaceutical drugs to an elderly addict. Jhota was broadcasting live on Facebook during the confrontation, demanding the chemist cease selling addictive medicines. During an ensuing argument, Kumar allegedly pulled out his licensed weapon and opened fire, fatally wounding Jhota and injuring a bystander.

"Jhota's work uplifted countless Punjabi families, and many of my constituents have spoken of his life-changing efforts to raise awareness and support those affected by substance abuse," Congressman Suozzi wrote in his letter to Ambassador Kwatra.

Highlighting the scale of the crisis,



US Congressman Tom Suozzi

Suozzi noted that official data indicates nearly 2.8 per cent of Punjab's population—close to 9,50,000 individuals—struggle with substance dependency, including an estimated 2,30,000 heroin users.

"I respectfully hope that the circumstances surrounding his death are examined with the utmost transparency, so that no chilling effect is



cast over those who dedicate their lives to combating addiction," the letter added, requesting updates on the status of the investigation to ensure accountability and justice.

The information was shared by Pritpal Singh, founder of the American Sikh Caucus Committee, who publicly thanked Suozzi for seeking answers from the

Government of India.

In a post on Facebook Dr Swaiman Singh said, "You may not agree with the way he fought but almost everyone in Punjab knows one hard truth: the illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs is out of control. Doctors, pharmacists, and the entire medical community must stand firmly against the unchecked sale of: Benzodiazepines (alprazolam, clonazepam, nitrazepam, diazepam), Opioid analgesics (tramadol), Pregabalin and similar agents."

"Large quantities continue to flow from Baddi and other parts of Himachal Pradesh into Punjab.

Stronger regulations, strict enforcement, and accountability from chemists, doctors, and regulators are urgently needed," said Swaiman Singh.

The killing of popular Sikh social activist and anti-drug crusader Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa has escalated into an international issue, drawing formal concern from US political leadership.

The information is shared by Pritpal Singh, founder of American Sikh Caucus Committee, who publicly thanked Suozzi for seeking answers from Government of India

IOCUSA Strongly Condemns Foiled Attack on Hindu Temple in Illinois, Calls for Zero Tolerance Toward Racism and Religious Hatred

OCTOBER 15, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

The Indian Overseas Congress USA (IOCUSA) strongly condemns the alleged attempt to carry out a mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, and calls upon law enforcement authorities to thoroughly investigate the incident and bring those responsible to justice.

According to media reports, a 19-year-old suspect was arrested after allegedly planning an attack on Hindu worshippers. Investigators reportedly discovered weapons, ammunition, and a disturbing manifesto expressing white supremacist views and describing Indians and other minority communities in degrading and racist terms.

"This is not merely an attack on a Hindu temple or the Indian American community. It is an attack on the very principles of religious liberty, human dignity, and freedom of conscience upon which the United States was founded," said George Abraham, Vice Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress USA.

Indian Americans are a hardworking, peaceful, law-abiding community that has contributed enormously to the economic, scientific, educational, and cultural advancement of the United States. Religious freedom and respect for diverse faiths are integral parts of their heritage. No community should ever have to live in fear simply because of its ethnicity, religious beliefs, or place of worship.

These unprovoked threats, driven by



George Abraham

racism, religious intolerance, and hatred, have absolutely no place in American society. The United States has long stood as a beacon of freedom where people of different religions and backgrounds can live together and practice their faith without fear or intimidation.

"We urge federal and local law enforcement authorities to investigate this incident thoroughly, examine its possible hate-crime dimensions, and ensure that justice is served in accordance with the law. Such acts of hatred and intimidation must never be tolerated or allowed to become normalized in our society," Abraham added.

IOCUSA also commends the alert citizens and law enforcement officials whose timely actions helped prevent a possible tragedy.

As two great democracies, the United States and India have a special responsibility to safeguard religious freedom and freedom of conscience, particularly for minority communities. These freedoms cannot be selective. The right to worship freely must be protected equally, whether one is a Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jew, or follower of any other faith.

IOCUSA reaffirms its solidarity with the Hindu community in Illinois and across the United States and calls upon all Americans to reject racism, religious hatred, and extremism in every form.

(Based on a press release issued by George Abraham, Vice Chairman, Indian Overseas Congress USA (IOCUSA))

World Human Alliance Launched in New York



Dr Addanki Dayakar (Centre), Member of the Legislative Council and Chief Whip, Telangana Legislative Assembly, and founder of World Human Alliance at the inaugural ceremony in New York City, October 16, 2026 -Photo: Jay Mandal/On Assignment

OCTOBER 16, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

The World Human Alliance (WHA) held its official inaugural ceremony on Friday, October 16, 2026, in New York City.

Founded by Dr. Addanki Dayakar, the World Human Alliance is an independent, nonpartisan global civic, educational, and research organization. The alliance's stated mission is to connect researchers, civic leaders, and communities to examine complex global challenges affecting humanity and develop evidence-based, voluntary solutions that advance human dignity, equality, justice, and shared progress.

The organization explicitly states that it is not a government agency, a treaty body, or an arm of the United Nations. Instead, it functions as a borderless, independent civic framework.

Following its launch, the WHA has announced that its inaugural cycle will

focus explicitly on the theme of "Human Dignity, Equality and Justice in the Age of AI". The program will explore how advancements in artificial intelligence affect work, education, and civic institutions without deepening societal exclusion.

Over the coming year, the alliance plans to roll out peer-reviewed public research briefs, structured community dialogues, a Civic Architects Fellowship cohort, and a hybrid Global Civic Forum to publish collective recommendations for public benefit.

ABOUT DR. ADDANKI DAYAKAR

Dr. Addanki Dayakar is an Indian politician, prominent activist, and actor from Telangana. A senior member of the Indian National Congress (INC), he currently serves as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) and as a Government Whip for the Telangana Legislative Council.

Ranjeev Puri eyes to be Michigan's first Indian-American House Speaker



Born to Punjabi immigrants, Puri was appointed Democratic Party leader in the Republican-controlled 110-member House of Representatives in 2025.
Image credit/Instagram/@Ranjeev Puri

OCTOBER 13, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Indian-origin Michigan lawmaker Ranjeev Puri is eyeing the Speaker of the state house post in the November 3 elections.

The 42-year-old Puri became the first Sikh American elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2020, a first in the state's history.

Born to Punjabi immigrants, Puri was appointed Democratic Party leader in the Republican-controlled 110-member House of Representatives in 2025.

Michigan has a Democratic Governor in Gretchen Whitmer, but a Republican-controlled House with Matt Hall as the Speaker.

Democrats hope to flip the House in the November 3 elections and pave the way for Puri to become the first-ever Indian-American Speaker.

THE 42-YEAR-OLD PURI BECAME THE FIRST SIKH AMERICAN ELECTED TO THE MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 2020, A FIRST IN THE STATE'S HISTORY. THE 42-YEAR-OLD PURI BECAME THE FIRST SIKH AMERICAN ELECTED TO THE MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 2020, A FIRST IN THE STATE'S HISTORY

"Michigan Dems are on the move. We are about to flip the state house and make Ranjeev Puri THE FIRST Indian American State House Speaker in the country," said Haley Stevens, the US Congresswoman from the state, while campaigning for the elections.

Stevens, who is set to retire from the US Congress this year after an unsuccessful bid to win the Democratic nomination for US Senate elections.

Puri has worked on President Barack Obama's campaigns in 2008 and 2012.

He later earned his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and returned to Michigan, where he worked in the automotive industry.

In his third term as member of the state House, Puri was appointed as the leader of the democratic party in the House in 2025.

In the November 3 elections, Puri is pitted against Allison Kay Fuller of the Republican party.

According to the Indian American Voter Atlas, developed by Republican strategist Anang Mittal, Michigan is home to 1.27 lakh people of Indian-origin, accounting for 1.27 per cent of the state's population.

Rachna Shroff, Indian-American oncologist, dies at 47

SHE HAD BEEN LIVING WITH A LIFE-LIMITING CANCER, THOUGH THE UNIVERSITY DID NOT DISCLOSE THE SPECIFIC CAUSE OF HER DEATH

OCTOBER 14, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

Indian-American oncologist Rachna Shroff, an internationally recognized expert in bile duct cancer and a senior physician-scientist at the University of Arizona Cancer Center, has died at the age of 47, the university has announced. She died on Sunday, October 11. She had been living with a life-limiting cancer, though the university did not disclose the specific cause of her death.

Dr Shroff served as associate director of clinical investigations at the cancer center and chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson. She was also the inaugural John F. and Valli S. Duval Endowed Professor for Gastrointestinal Oncology and associate dean for clinical and translational research.

Widely respected for her work on cholangiocarcinoma, a rare cancer of the bile ducts, Dr Shroff helped advance treatment options for a disease that historically had few effective therapies. She authored more than 80 scientific publications and delivered over 130 professional presentations during her career. Even while battling cancer herself, Dr Shroff continued to champion research into the disease. In September, she launched the Conquer Cancer-Rachna Shroff FASCO Endowed Young Investigator Award in Biliary Cancers and helped raise more than \$1.35 million within weeks to support future



Rachna Shroff

research and innovation.

The University of Arizona Cancer Center described her as "an internationally revered clinician-scientist, mentor and leader whose work reshaped the field of gastrointestinal oncology."

Raised in Tucson by a biochemist father and a nephrologist mother, Dr Shroff developed an early interest in cancer research. As a high school student, she received the 1993 Osler Fellowship, which enabled her to work in a laboratory at the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

After completing her undergraduate studies at Brown University and earning her medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University, she undertook a fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in 2010. She remained on the MD Anderson faculty until 2018, when she returned to Tucson to join the University of Arizona.

Read full story at
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Any Democrat, any Republican that has been pushing wars from Ukraine to Palestine, Lebanon to Yemen — **VOTE THEM OUT!**

Because if we don't, and we the people don't have our voice guiding this reckless ship that could blow up the whole world, **IT IS UP TO EVERY AMERICAN TO STAND UP!**

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This also applies to any candidate accepting money from Billionaires that has diminished the value of individual voter.

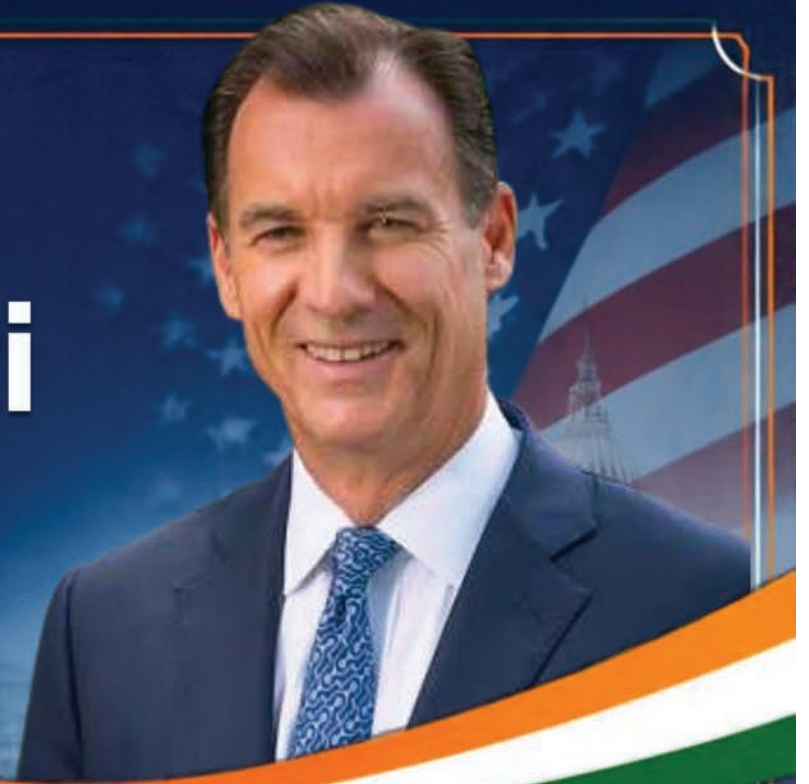
NOW IS THE TIME!

Do not hold back — it is our conscious hour now to wake up and speak out!

Dave Makkar
(Community Activist)
davemakkar@yahoo.com

Indian Americans For Tom Suozzi

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‘ Paid for by Suozzi for Congress ‘

Mamdani Administration Announces Debt Demolisher: Relief Program for Small Businesses and Homeowners

- ◆ Eligible New Yorkers can clear interest and outstanding debt at reduced cost during 90-day window beginning October 13
- ◆ New Yorkers should visit nyc.gov/debtdemolisher or call 311 for more information and to see if they qualify



Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani announced "Debt Demolisher, a fine relief program for small businesses and homeowners across the five boroughs".

**OCTOBER 13, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)**

Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani and New York City Department of Finance (DOF) Commissioner Richard Lee announced Debt Demolisher, a fine relief program for small businesses and homeowners across the five boroughs. Beginning today and running for the next 90 days, the program will allow eligible New Yorkers to resolve debt accrued from City fines at a reduced cost and avoid future penalties. Debt Demolisher will also help the City collect outstanding fines that may have otherwise gone unpaid.

"City government shouldn't saddle New Yorkers with endless fines and interest," said Mayor Mamdani. "When the city issues a fine, the goal is to incentivize compliance with the rules that keep all of us safe and healthy, not make it impossible to grow your business or repair your home. Debt Demolisher makes it more affordable for small business owners and homeowners to get back into good standing, move forward and avoid future penalties. Building a city every New Yorker can afford means tackling not just the major expenses, but the small fines and fees that make it harder to call the five boroughs home."

"This program gives New Yorkers a more affordable way to clear longstanding city debt and move forward, while helping businesses put old fines behind them and focus on serving their communities," said Commissioner Lee. "Our city is better off when outstanding fines are resolved, New Yorkers and businesses come into compliance, and revenue that might otherwise go uncollected is recovered. By removing financial barriers to compliance, we are bolstering local businesses, strengthening neighborhoods and supporting our essential city services."

"As we continue to confront affordability challenges, we must explore every available option to help small businesses remain operational, and homeowners remain in their homes," said Council Member Linda Lee, Chair of the

Committee on Finance. "The passage of Local Law 147 offers New Yorkers a pathway to address outstanding fines and manage accumulated debt, while generating much-needed revenue for the City. By providing practical avenues for individuals to resolve violations and come into compliance with agency regulations, this program helps ease financial burdens and supports a more affordable New York City."

Debt Demolisher provides New Yorkers with an opportunity to address Environmental Control Board (ECB) judgments, which stem from unpaid violations issued by a number of city agencies, including the Department of Sanitation, Department of Buildings and Department of Transportation. Infractions can range from building code violations to failure to properly dispose of a mattress.

Under Debt Demolisher, New Yorkers with eligible outstanding debt can have accrued interest waived and resolve their debt at a discounted rate. Program participants will be required to come into compliance with outstanding agency violations associated with their judgments. Debt Demolisher is projected to bring in \$25 million that would have likely gone otherwise uncollected by the city.

ALL OUTSTANDING ECB JUDGMENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR DEBT DEMOLISHER EXCEPT THOSE WHERE ANY OF THE BELOW APPLY:

- It was entered in court (docketed) after July 15, 2026.
- It was included in an agreement with the Sheriff's Office or a New York City Marshal, the corporation counsel or a contractor of the corporation counsel.
- It is for a violation that was issued pursuant to a citizen's complaint, such as for idling or noise violations, served upon a city agency.
- An execution has been issued for enforcement to the Sheriff's Office or a New York City Marshal.
- The violation has been converted to a tax lien.
- The violation is the subject of a criminal investigation.

DEBT DEMOLISHER WILL RUN FROM OCTOBER 13 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027.

New Yorkers can visit nyc.gov/debtdemolisher to confirm eligibility, review frequently asked questions and resolve eligible judgments. Customers who need assistance can also call 311, visit a Department of Finance Business Center, contact Department of Finance Collections through eServices or call the Collections Call Center.

"This administration promised to be a true partner to New York City's entrepreneurs, and that's why Mayor Mamdani's Executive Order 11 directed DOF, OMB and SBS to work together to deliver fine reductions for small businesses," said SBS Commissioner Kenny Minaya. "Today's launch of the Debt Demolisher makes that promise real,

wiping away interest and penalties for thousands of small businesses that come into compliance. Thank you, Mayor Mamdani, for your commitment to our small business community. Our expanded NYC Business Express Service Team (NYC BEST) stands ready to help every interested business get into compliance and take advantage of this program."

"Resolving open violations helps property owners protect the safety of their tenants and other occupants while bringing their buildings into compliance," said Buildings Commissioner Ahmed Tigani. "Through the Debt Demolisher program, the Department of Finance is helping property owners take meaningful steps toward resolving outstanding DOB violations by providing incentives that can make it easier to address these issues, reduce outstanding debt and improve the safety and condition of their properties. By supporting owners in taking action, we're helping create safer buildings and stronger communities for all New Yorkers."

"New York City's sanitation rules help to keep our streets clean and our neighborhoods vibrant. We always seek to achieve compliance by balancing engagement and education with fair, effective enforcement," said Sanitation Commissioner Gregory Anderson. "This new amnesty and compliance program strikes an important balance - giving small businesses and others a much-needed break, while ensuring incentives remain for stores and property owners to follow the law and keep their spaces clean. DSNY is proud to join this effort as we work to keep New York City clean, safe and healthy."

"Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and compliance with fire safety regulations is essential to protecting the lives of New Yorkers and the buildings where they live and work," said Fire Commissioner Lillian Bonsignore. "We encourage eligible New Yorkers to take advantage of this program, resolve outstanding obligations and take the necessary steps toward compliance and safer communities."

"This program reflects Mayor Mamdani's commitment to creating a city where small businesses can thrive and working New Yorkers have a fair shot at getting ahead," said New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) President and CEO Anthony Shorris. "For too many business and property owners, outstanding fines and mounting interest can create barriers to growth and stability. Debt Demolisher offers a practical path to resolve old debt, positioning New Yorkers to better serve their communities, grow their businesses and live in this city with dignity."

"DEP understands the importance of helping New Yorkers meet their financial obligations while ensuring compliance with the rules that protect our neighborhoods, our environment, and our shared quality of life," said Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Lisa F. Garcia. "Debt Demolisher offers eligible New Yorkers a meaningful

opportunity to pay their outstanding fines, resolve any violations, and move forward, while helping the City recover debt that might otherwise go unpaid."

"A healthy city depends on thriving communities that put the health and safety of New Yorkers first," said New York City Health First Deputy Commissioner Nellie Afshar. "The Debt Demolisher program offers businesses an opportunity to reduce financial burdens and move forward with renewed commitment to compliance. By making it easier for businesses to get back on track, we can support a healthier, safer, and more economically vibrant city for everyone."

"We know that outstanding ECB debt and accumulating interest can create real challenges for New Yorkers and businesses," said DOF Deputy Commissioner for Customer Operations Annette Hill. "This program offers an opportunity to resolve longstanding judgments at a more affordable rate, and I encourage interested participants to visit a Department of Finance Business Center or contact DOF Collections through eServices to learn more. Our customer service teams stand ready to help New Yorkers understand their eligibility, navigate the process and get the relief available to them."

"For a small business, an old judgment doesn't just sit there," said Jessica Walker, President & CEO, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. "Interest piles on year after year, and an unpaid judgment can hold up a permit, block a license renewal or sink a loan application, so a fine from years ago ends up holding a business back from its next step. Debt Demolisher gives New Yorkers a real, time-limited chance to clear that debt at an affordable cost and get back into compliance. We thank the Department of Finance and the Mayor's Office for making it simple to use, and we encourage every business owner with an outstanding judgment to take advantage of it before the window closes."

"On behalf of the HUB Third Avenue BID in the South Bronx, I commend the DOF and the Mayor's Office for implementing programs that help small businesses reduce or eliminate outstanding debts," said Pedro Suarez, Executive Director of HUB Third Avenue BID. "Freeing up cashflow allows our local mom and pops to make investments in their staff, inventory, technology and storefronts. Let's make it easier for small businesses to operate and thrive in the five boroughs."

"Small business owners work hard every day to serve our neighborhoods, and outstanding fines and interest can make it harder to move forward," said Nina Flores, Executive Director of the Forest Avenue Business Improvement District. "Debt Demolisher offers eligible businesses an affordable path to resolve debt, get into compliance and focus on their future. The Forest Avenue BID welcomes this initiative and thanks the Department of Finance and the Mayor's Office for supporting the local businesses that keep our commercial corridors vibrant."

OVER 500 INDIAN AMERICANS UNITE IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN TOM SUOZZI



An extremely popular and friendly Tom Suozzi went round meeting the gathered supporters.

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Varinder Bhalla, Chairman of the Indian American Voters Forum, served as Master of Ceremonies and drew a historical parallel between Congressman Suozzi and the late Congressman Stephen J. Solarz, an influential advocate of strong India-U.S. relations.

Bhalla recalled that Solarz served nine terms in Congress, visited India numerous times, and was affectionately known as the "Congressman from Bombay" for his extraordinary commitment to India and Indian Americans. Despite his distinguished career, Solarz lost his 1992 Democratic primary.

"It took us 24 years to find another Congressman who shared Steve Solarz's passion for India and the Indian American community," Bhalla observed, referring to Suozzi's election to Congress in 2016.

The remark drew thunderous applause, prompting Suozzi to rise from his seat and wave to the enthusiastic audience.

Bhalla also cited examples of congressional elections decided by remarkably narrow margins, including a 1984 U.S. House race in Indiana decided

by just four votes, and emphasized that every vote matters and warned against complacency in the November 3 election.

Speakers praised Suozzi's longstanding relationship with the Indian American community, extending back more than three decades, and his continuing efforts to strengthen ties between India and the United States.

Girish Patel, a prominent community leader, praised Suozzi's efforts to unite Indian Americans and amplify their voices. "He is a strong advocate for our community, a bridgebuilder, and someone who believes that when our community comes together, we can make a real difference," Patel said.

As Vice Chair of the Congressional India Caucus, Suozzi has advocated closer diplomatic, economic and cultural relations between the two democracies. Speakers highlighted his congressional engagement with India, support for Hindu temples and Sikh gurdwaras, assistance to religious workers facing immigration challenges, and advocacy for physicians and technology professionals.

Gary Sikka, President of the American Punjabi Society, highlighted Suozzi's longstanding support for the Sikh community, recalling his role in helping



The Sikh community representatives honored Tom Suozzi with a Siropao

establish a Sikh gurdwara in Glen Cove and his willingness to speak out against discrimination targeting Sikh Americans.

"Tom Suozzi is the kind of Congressman who remembers that politics is about people, not just policies. He listens, he shows up, and he doesn't forget where he comes from", said Shaker Nelanuthala.

Addressing the gathering, Suozzi expressed appreciation for the community's friendship and support and reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening India-U.S. relations and addressing issues important to Indian Americans.

The evening concluded with supporters surrounding Suozzi for photographs and personal greetings, reflecting the warmth of his decades-long relationship with the community.

The rally demonstrated the growing political participation of Indian Americans and their ability to come together across regional, religious and linguistic differences around shared civic interests.

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(Based on a press release issued by Varinder Bhalla)

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TRUMP HAS BROKEN HIS PROMISES TO SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

BY
JAMES KWON



Nearly two years into Donald Trump's presidency, South Asian Americans are still waiting for him to deliver on his promises of lower costs and greater economic opportunities. Instead, the Trump administration - aided by Congressional Republicans - have broken promise after promise, leaving families to pay more and putting their safety at risk. Notably, 74% of surveyed Indian American voters view President Trump unfavorably in a recent poll conducted of likely Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters ahead of the upcoming midterm elections.

When asked about the most important problems facing the country today, Indian Americans' top 5 are the cost of living and inflation (58%), war and U.S. foreign policy (50%), jobs and the economy (36%), healthcare (33%), and immigration (26%). Instead of addressing South Asian Americans' pressing needs, the Trump administration has continued to put the safety of our communities at risk.

The Trump administration has perpetuated a disturbing rise in racism, xenophobia and religious bigotry against South Asian communities. They appointed a man who said to "never trust a chinaman or indian [sic]." Trump shared a post that referred to India as a "hellhole" and called Indian immigrants "gangsters with laptops." Online hate speech against South Asians on X has increased by 240% in the past two years. Congressional Republicans have been silent in the face of this hate.

Furthermore, the Department of Education tacitly endorsed posts by a Texas Republican candidate demonizing South Asian American University of Texas at Austin students for celebrating at a football game. Days after the Department of Homeland Security shared a bigoted anti-Sikh post urging drivers named "Mr. Singh" to self-deport, a Sikh truck driver was stabbed 17 times at a Wyoming rest stop. Anti-Sikh hate crime incidents increased by 24.6% from 2024 to 2025.

The "triple othering" of racism, xenophobia and religious discrimination towards people of South Asian descent has reached a fever pitch, with nearly half of South Asian adults experiencing a hate act in 2025. How can we trust what Trump and his allies say now?

TRUMP PROMISED LOWER COSTS, BUT MADE YOUR LIFE MORE EXPENSIVE:

PROMISE: "When I win, I will immediately bring prices down, starting on Day One."

Tariffs on everyday goods and groceries have added additional costs for families, increasing household expenses by more than \$1,700 last year and are projected to reach \$2,500 this year.

Tariffs have had a disproportionate impact on Asian Americans, who own 11% of small businesses in the U.S. and nearly 20% of restaurants across the country. The Trump administration's initial 50% tariff on all imports from



India and 10% tariff on all imports from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka caused prices to skyrocket.

Indian American restaurant and grocery store owners have been squeezed from all sides, with tariffs on spices, basmati rice and chutneys from India, high gas and transportation prices because of the war in Iran and labor shortages because of farmworker fears about ICE raids causing them to operate their businesses at a loss.

PROMISE: "12 months from January 20 [2025], your electric bill will be 50 percent less."

Monthly residential electricity rates have increased by over 15% since January 2025. In fact, families have paid \$110 more for electricity in 2025 under President Trump than they did in 2024. Asian American ratepayers carry some of the highest overdue utility balances, approaching \$900, compared to \$750 for white ratepayers.

PROMISE: "Starting on day one, we will end inflation and make America affordable again..."

The pace of inflation is getting quicker by the month, with costs jumping 0.4% from July to August. The average American household has had to spend \$4,200 more on goods and services under the Trump administration.

Americans paid \$310 more for groceries in President Trump's first year than in 2024, and grocery prices are now more than 4% higher than when Trump took office. The average price of ground beef has risen almost every month to a record high of more than \$7 per pound. Coffee prices also spiked and are now more than \$9 per pound.

TRUMP STARTS CONFLICTS ABROAD THAT MAKE YOUR LIFE HARDER AT HOME:

PROMISE: "Under Trump, we will have no more wars... we will have prosperity and peace for all."

The President launched a reckless and costly war of choice with Iran that has lasted seven months without any comprehensive strategy or endgame. Trump's war cost taxpayers roughly \$40

billion through August 1 and another \$2-3 billion per month since then.

PROMISE: "Energy is going to bring us back. That means we're ... getting gasoline below \$2 per gallon."

Regular gas prices are over \$4 per gallon nationwide-a 37% increase since the start of the war-while diesel prices are over \$6 per gallon for the first time in history. Since the start of Trump's war in Iran, Americans have paid \$71.5 billion more, or \$604 more per household, on the gas they need to commute to work, run errands, pick up their kids, and live their daily lives.

TRUMP IS MAKING SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS SICKER

PROMISE: "We're not cutting Medicaid; we're not cutting Medicare."

Last year, Trump and Congressional Republicans passed their Big Ugly Bill, which included the largest cut to Medicaid in history and \$536 billion in Medicare cuts over a decade. They also refused to extend Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits that help millions afford health care coverage.

As a result, eight million Americans have now lost health care coverage and private health insurance premiums are set to increase by 136% per year. 4.5 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders rely on Medicaid; nearly 3 million rely on Medicare; and 1.5 million rely on the Affordable Care Act for health care coverage.

The ACA eliminated the health care coverage gap between white adults and Asian American adults overall, with Indian Americans becoming the most likely Asian American subgroup to be insured in 2018. Similarly, only 5% of Sri Lankan, 7% of Bangladeshi, 8% of Bhutanese, 9% of Pakistani and 10% of Nepalese Americans were uninsured in 2023. Weakening the ACA could bring back racial inequities in healthcare for South Asian Americans.

55% of Indian Americans are not confident that the federal government will act in the best interest of the public's health, and 71% of Indian Americans

think the government is spending too little on health care.

TRUMP IS MAKING SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LESS SAFE

PROMISE: "ICE is going after the worst of the worst."

The majority of South Asians (53%) now carry proof of immigration or citizenship status due to the Trump administration's indiscriminate immigration enforcement tactics.

68% of Indian Americans think the United States used to be a great place for immigrants but is not anymore.

55% of South Asian adults said they or a family member, friend or coworker from their AAPI community have been impacted by changing immigration policies or anti-immigrant sentiment. Because of anti-Indian and anti-Hindu sentiment in Texas, some families are deciding not to publicly celebrate religious holidays for their safety.

Trump has attacked law-abiding residents, legal immigrants, refugees, asylees, skilled workers, students, and people born in the United States. 77% of people ICE tried to deport last year had never been convicted of any crime.

Among Asians, South Asians have the highest number of ICE arrests, detentions and deportations under Trump's second term. 29%, which is the plurality, of Asian arrests, detentions, and deportations involved Indian immigrants.

Harjit Kaur, a 73-year-old Sikh grandmother who has lived in the United States for three decades, was detained by ICE during a routine check-in. Kaur, a strict vegetarian, did not receive an appropriate vegetarian meal until six days after she arrived in the ICE facility, and was later deported to India.

Aliya Rahman, a Bangladeshi American and U.S. citizen, was driving to a doctor's appointment when ICE agents shattered her car windows, forcibly removed her from the vehicle, and made her walk without her cane. She was detained without being asked to provide an ID, informed that she was under arrest, or read her rights. She was later released without being charged with a crime.

The Trump administration imposed a \$100,000 fee on new H-1B visa applications, which was blocked and found unconstitutional by a judge, and proposed ending the 60-day H-1B visa grace period after job loss. Indian nationals are the largest recipient group of H-1B visas by far, comprising of 71% of approved H-1B petitions in 2024. Total H-1B visa issuance has fallen by about 25%.

The Trump administration indefinitely suspended all U.S. immigrant visa appointments, which included canceling existing green card interviews. This disproportionately impacts Indian immigrants, for whom the U.S. is the top immigration destination. Indian Americans are the second-largest immigrant group in the U.S., with over 3.2 million people accounting for 6% of all immigrant residents.

Ukraine, Trump and the Emerging World Order: Is Peace Becoming a Contest for Power?

BY PROF.
INDRAJIT S
SALUJA



An announced energy ceasefire, an American president's call for new leadership in Ukraine, and a controversial opening to Russian fuel supplies raise questions about sovereignty, transatlantic unity and the future of global energy politics.

The world has grown accustomed to President Donald Trump's unconventional diplomacy. Yet two developments within twenty-four hours have introduced a new dimension into the war between Russia and Ukraine and perhaps into the future of international relations.

On October 10, Trump publicly suggested that Ukraine should replace President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with someone capable of reaching a peace agreement with Russia. The following day, he announced on Truth Social that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to an immediate ceasefire covering attacks on energy infrastructure.

The second announcement offered the prospect of relief to civilians, energy markets and governments struggling with rising fuel costs. The first raised a more fundamental question: Is Washington merely attempting to accelerate peace negotiations, or is it beginning to regard a change of political leadership in Kyiv as an instrument of diplomacy?

Both developments are documented. Their meaning, however, requires careful examination.

Trump told reporters that Ukraine should find a leader capable of making an agreement, arguing that Zelenskyy had missed earlier opportunities. On October 11, Trump announced an energy ceasefire, but Ukrainian officials said they had no knowledge of a concluded agreement. Zelenskyy expressed willingness to suspend attacks on Russian refineries if Moscow reciprocated.

This distinction is essential. A ceasefire announced is not necessarily a ceasefire implemented. And criticism of a foreign president, however forceful, is not by itself proof of an organized effort to remove him.

Nevertheless, the implications of both statements deserve serious consideration.

IS WASHINGTON CONTEMPLATING REGIME CHANGE IN UKRAINE?

The expression regime change carries a particular historical meaning in American foreign policy. It suggests an attempt by an external power to replace another country's government, through political, economic, covert or military means.

Trump's demand for new Ukrainian leadership does not establish that such an operation exists. No verified evidence in the reporting reviewed demonstrates an American plan to overthrow Zelenskyy or install a successor.

What his statement does establish is a willingness to place Ukraine's leadership directly into the public discussion about ending the war.

That is consequential.

Ukraine is not simply a party refusing an American peace proposal. It is a sovereign country defending itself against Russia's full-scale invasion, launched in February 2022. Its government must weigh the human cost of continuing the conflict against the territorial, political and security consequences of accepting a settlement.

From Washington's perspective, a negotiated agreement could end bloodshed, reduce military expenditure, stabilize markets and permit renewed engagement with Moscow. From Kyiv's perspective, an agreement that leaves Ukraine exposed to another invasion could produce a pause in hostilities without providing lasting peace.

Both considerations are relevant. But neither eliminates the central democratic principle: Ukraine's political leadership must ultimately be determined by Ukrainians.

There is also the question of elections. Ukraine has



US President Donald J Trump. / Official portrait

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S RECENT STATEMENTS HAVE PLACED SEVERAL ISSUES ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA SIMULTANEOUSLY: THE LEADERSHIP OF UKRAINE, THE TERMS OF PEACE WITH RUSSIA, THE COHESION OF NATO AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL ENERGY PRICES.

not held a presidential election during the continuing period of martial law, under which such elections are prohibited. Zelenskyy has indicated that a sufficiently sustained ceasefire could create conditions for voting.

The challenge is not merely to organize polling stations. Millions of Ukrainians have been displaced, soldiers remain deployed, territories are occupied, and the country faces continuing attacks. An election must be credible, inclusive and secure if it is to confer legitimacy.

Thus, calls for elections can reflect a legitimate concern for democratic renewal. But using the demand for elections as leverage to secure a particular peace agreement introduces a different issue: whether the electorate is being offered a free political choice or being subjected to external pressure.

HOW MIGHT NATO RESPOND?

A deliberate American attempt to determine Ukraine's leadership would create a serious disagreement within the transatlantic alliance.

Ukraine is not a NATO member, and the alliance is not legally obliged under Article 5 to defend it. Nevertheless, NATO countries have invested substantial political, financial and military resources in Ukraine's defense.

For European governments, the war concerns more than Ukrainian territory. It raises the question of whether borders can be changed by force and whether military aggression can be rewarded with political

concessions.

European responses would not necessarily be uniform.

Poland and the Baltic states, geographically close to Russia and particularly concerned about their own security, would have strong reasons to resist any settlement perceived as leaving Moscow strategically strengthened.

France, Germany and Britain would have to reconcile continued support for Ukraine with their dependence on American intelligence, military capabilities and the wider NATO security structure.

Other European governments might place greater emphasis on an early ceasefire, reduced energy costs and renewed economic engagement.

Recent reporting already indicates that European allies intend to maintain pressure on Moscow despite Trump's energy initiative.

A major disagreement would not automatically destroy NATO. The alliance has survived substantial disputes before.

But it could accelerate a process already underway: Europe's search for greater strategic autonomy.

European governments may increasingly ask whether their continent's security can remain so dependent on political decisions made in Washington, particularly when American and European assessments of Russia diverge.

That question could shape defense spending, arms production, intelligence cooperation and the future organization of European security.

A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW?

The energy ceasefire announcement must also be viewed alongside Trump's October 9 agreement with President Vladimir Putin concerning Russian diesel supplies and the relaxation of restrictions affecting Russian fuel exports.

The administration has presented renewed access to Russian diesel as a means of addressing high fuel prices. Ukraine and several European allies have objected that increased Russian energy revenues could strengthen Moscow's capacity to continue the war.

These are two different calculations of national interest.

For Washington, at least as reflected in the administration's stated position, affordable fuel is an immediate economic concern. For Kyiv, constraining Russian energy revenue is part of its wartime strategy. For many European governments, sanctions are instruments intended to alter Moscow's incentives.

An American-Russian energy arrangement therefore affects more than commercial trade. It changes the bargaining environment surrounding the war.

COULD CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN TRUMP AND PUTIN EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A BROADER AMERICAN-RUSSIAN RAPPROCHEMENT?

It is possible to identify the conditions under which that might occur: sustained negotiations, a credible settlement in Ukraine, agreed sanctions arrangements, and progress on wider security disputes.

Yet cooperation over diesel does not erase profound disagreements concerning European security, nuclear weapons, territorial claims or relations with China.

Nor should diplomatic contact be mistaken for a

CONTD FROM PAGE 9

comprehensive alliance.

The more important question is whether Washington might gradually move from a strategy centered on isolating Russia toward one that seeks to manage relations with Moscow through selective agreements.

Such a change would carry consequences well beyond Europe.

Would this produce a new world order?

The phrase "new world order" is frequently employed when major powers reconsider their relationships. But international orders seldom change because of a single diplomatic agreement. They evolve through cumulative changes in military power, economic influence, technology, institutions and political alliances.

The existing international system already faces pressures that extend far beyond Ukraine.

China has become a formidable economic and technological competitor to the United States. India has expanded its international influence while maintaining relationships across competing blocs. Russia has deepened its connections with China and several non-Western economies. Middle powers increasingly pursue policies based on their own interests rather than automatic alignment with Washington or Beijing.

A sustained American-Russian rapprochement would interact with all these developments.

One possible American calculation would be to reduce Moscow's dependence on Beijing, thereby altering the strategic relationship between Russia and China. But this would face substantial obstacles. Their cooperation encompasses energy, trade, security and a shared interest in limiting Western influence.

China would have reasons to watch any American Russian accommodation carefully. It could welcome reduced international tensions while remaining concerned about arrangements that diminish Beijing's strategic leverage.

INDIA'S POSITION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING.

New Delhi maintains longstanding defense and energy ties with Moscow while expanding its strategic, technological and commercial partnership with Washington. An easing of American-Russian tensions could reduce some of the diplomatic pressures India faces when balancing those relationships.

Yet India, like other countries, would have to consider the principles established by any settlement concerning Ukraine's sovereignty.

For the Global South, the broader issue would be whether a renewed understanding among major powers creates a more stable international environment or merely returns the world to a system in which powerful nations negotiate the futures of smaller ones.

That distinction would determine much of the political legitimacy of any emerging arrangement.

The energy question: Could American diesel prices fall?

Here lies the most immediate economic connection between the developments in Ukraine and the daily lives of Americans.

Diesel is not simply another transportation fuel. It powers trucks, agricultural machinery, construction equipment and significant parts of global commerce. Rising diesel prices increase the cost of moving food, manufactured goods and essential supplies.

Trump has connected Ukraine's strikes on Russian refineries to American diesel prices. Those strikes can affect global refined-product availability, but they are only one factor in a much larger market.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration explains that diesel prices are influenced by international refining capacity, sanctions, product inventories and global trade flows. A shortage in one region can increase prices elsewhere because refiners and traders respond to international market opportunities.

There is an additional complication in October

2026: the conflict involving Iran and severe disruption to Middle Eastern oil transportation.

According to the EIA's October 6 outlook, Brent crude averaged approximately \$114 a barrel in September, with attacks on regional energy infrastructure contributing to higher prices. The agency projected continued constraints on Middle Eastern oil flows.

CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN A SUCCESSFUL RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN ENERGY CEASEFIRE WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY RETURN AMERICAN DIESEL PRICES TO EARLIER LEVELS.

A sustained halt to refinery attacks could help stabilize refined-product supply. Easing Russian diesel restrictions could permit additional volumes to enter international markets. But the eventual price effect would depend on shipping costs, insurance, refinery output, sanctions implementation and conditions in the Middle East.

In short, an energy ceasefire could remove one source of pressure without resolving the wider energy crisis.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER OIL PRODUCERS?

The consequences for major petroleum exporters would depend on how much Russian crude oil and diesel returned to the market, how quickly, and under what restrictions.

For Saudi Arabia and other OPEC producers, additional Russian supply could complicate efforts to balance production against demand. Lower prices would benefit importing economies but could reduce export revenue for producers.

However, Russia is itself a major participant in the OPEC+ framework. Any substantial normalization of its energy trade would also affect the group's internal coordination.

For Iran, the implications would be especially complex. Tehran's relationship with Moscow includes strategic and economic cooperation, while the conflict involving Iran has become a major independent source of energy-market instability.

A closer relationship between Washington and Moscow would not necessarily weaken Russian-Iranian cooperation. That would depend on the scope of American-Russian negotiations and whether broader security questions entered the discussion.

Qatar and other major natural-gas exporters would face a different calculation.

Europe has spent years diversifying away from Russian pipeline gas, increasing its reliance on liquefied natural gas and alternative suppliers. A political opening to Moscow might revive discussions about Russian gas, but damaged infrastructure, existing contracts, regulatory restrictions and European security concerns would limit any immediate reversal.

The United States, meanwhile, has become a major LNG exporter. American energy producers could find themselves navigating a changing competitive landscape if Russian gas regained access to markets from which it had been excluded.

For oil-importing countries such as India, lower global prices could ease inflationary pressures, reduce import bills and improve trade balances.

Yet the benefits would depend on actual supply conditions, not simply diplomatic announcements.

THE BROADER LESSON IS THAT ENERGY DIPLOMACY HAS BECOME INSEPARABLE FROM NATIONAL SECURITY.

A refinery can be a commercial installation, a source of military revenue, an instrument of economic pressure and a target of wartime operations—all at once.

The human question behind the geopolitical calculations

Amid the discussions of NATO, oil markets, sanctions and diplomatic leverage, one consideration must not disappear: the people living through the war.

For Ukrainian families enduring damaged power

stations, interrupted heating and repeated air attacks, an effective energy ceasefire could mean something much more immediate than a change in global prices.

It could mean electricity in a hospital, heat in an apartment, functioning water pumps and a safer winter.

For Russian civilians affected by attacks on energy infrastructure, reciprocal restraint could also provide relief.

That is why an energy ceasefire deserves serious diplomatic attention even if it falls short of a comprehensive peace settlement.

But its effectiveness must be measured by verifiable results: whether attacks actually stop, whether both parties observe the terms, whether independent monitoring is possible and whether violations carry consequences.

As of October 11, those arrangements have not been publicly established. The Associated Press and Reuters report that Kyiv has sought clarification and emphasized reciprocity.

A humanitarian agreement should be assessed first by the protection it provides to human beings, rather than by the political credit claimed for announcing it.

The question that will shape the future

President Trump's recent statements have placed several issues on the international agenda simultaneously: the leadership of Ukraine, the terms of peace with Russia, the cohesion of NATO and the relationship between diplomacy and global energy prices.

There are legitimate reasons for governments to pursue negotiations. Wars impose enormous human and economic costs, and a diplomatic opening can be valuable even between deeply antagonistic powers.

There are equally legitimate concerns about the conditions attached to such negotiations, particularly when the sovereignty of a country at war is involved.

A ceasefire that protects civilians may create opportunities for wider negotiations. An agreement that addresses territorial disputes, security guarantees and economic reconstruction could provide the foundation for a more durable settlement.

But those outcomes require the participation and consent of the countries directly affected.

Europe's role cannot be disregarded when its security is at stake. Ukraine's political future cannot be settled solely through negotiations between Washington and Moscow. And energy-market stabilization cannot be separated from the conflicts and infrastructure disruptions affecting the Middle East.

The emerging international order will be shaped not merely by which powers reach agreements, but by the principles on which those agreements rest.

For now, the evidence supports a narrower conclusion than the most alarming interpretation of Trump's remarks: the American president has publicly advocated a change in Ukrainian leadership, but an organized American regime-change operation has not been established.

The coming days will show whether the announced energy ceasefire becomes an operational agreement, whether American-Russian energy cooperation expands, and whether European and Ukrainian participation remains central to peace negotiations.

History offers many examples of great powers attempting to reconcile their interests. It also demonstrates the difficulties that arise when the security and political rights of smaller nations are treated as secondary considerations.

Ultimately, the test of any settlement will extend beyond lower fuel prices or a diplomatic announcement. It will include the durability of peace, the security of borders, the credibility of international commitments and the protection of civilian life.

Peace is not merely the absence of gunfire. Its endurance depends on whether those who must live with it can regard it as secure, legitimate and their own.

(Prof. Indrajit S Saluja is the chief editor of The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at salujaindra@gmail.com)



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Marco Rubio to visit Indian billionaire Ambani's refinery in Gujarat as U.S. diesel prices surge

OCTOBER 16, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to visit the world's largest oil refinery in Jamnagar, India, owned by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, as diesel prices surge ahead of U.S. midterm polls, says a CNBC report.

The International Energy Agency has warned that constraints on the diesel market will likely keep prices elevated into the next year. To ease diesel prices, which affect American truckers, farmers, and shippers, U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month paused sanctions on Russia to allow supplies from Moscow in the global market.

The Trump administration is using this trip to focus on business deals rather than policy and politics as Americans remain focused on the economy ahead of the midterm polls, experts told CNBC.

Not only is Ambani's flagship company Reliance investing in a U.S. refinery and is a key buyer of Venezuelan oil, but its strong ability to supply diesel has put Jamnagar on the map during Rubio's visit, they added.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Department of State announced that Rubio will be traveling to Samarkand in Uzbekistan and from there to Mumbai and Jamnagar in India, with no mention of a stop in New Delhi, between Oct. 17 and 22.

Rubio, who is on his second trip to India this year, will meet with some senior Indian officials and with business leaders "to promote opportunities for



Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State

commercial investment and economic cooperation," according to the release.

U.S.-AMBANI TIES

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said Rubio will travel to Jamnagar to visit Reliance's refining complex and hinted that Ambani would meet the U.S. official, according to Bloomberg. Given Ambani runs Reliance, "I'd imagine he'd be there," Gor said, according to the report.

Later in an interview with Indian media outlet NDTV, Gor said that the

visit to Jamnagar was scheduled given Reliance's "incredible" investment in the U.S. refinery project. Reliance did not respond to emails sent by CNBC seeking details on the visit. The State Department did not respond to CNBC's queries sent outside of working hours.

The U.S. is facing exceptionally high diesel prices ahead of its November midterm elections, and the Trump administration has been looking for ways to increase fuel availability, Arpit Chaturvedi, South Asia Advisor at strategic advisory firm Teneo, told

CNBC.

Jamnagar has "considerable export-oriented refining capacity," making a strong case for the U.S. to explore refined-product supplies, including diesel, he added.

Ambani, who SpaceX founder Elon Musk referred to as the real boss of India last week, has been developing ties with the Trump administration. In March, U.S. President Donald Trump thanked Reliance for its "tremendous investment" in the first new refinery project in the U.S. in the last 50 years.

Reliance, which is majority-owned by the Ambani family, has also emerged as the second-largest buyer of Venezuelan crude outside of the U.S., even as Indian state-owned firms remain largely unmoved by Trump's appeal to buy more of it.

Rubio will also use the visit to highlight "Reliance's plans for a large, new refinery in Texas, which is the site of heated midterm U.S. election races drawing national attention," said Atman Trivedi, a partner at Washington-based DGA Albright Stonebridge Group.

Reliance's is also "well-positioned to sell diesel," and other refined petroleum products to the U.S., he added.

The Jamnagar refinery is the world's "largest and most complex single-site refinery" with crude processing capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day, according to Reliance.

(Source: CNBC)

HinduVote 2026 Launches American Hindu Agenda to Mobilize a Decisive Civic Voice on Safety, Representation, and Religious Freedom

OCTOBER 16, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

HinduVote, an initiative of HinduPACT, today announced the launch of the American Hindu Agenda 2026 and the HinduVote 2026 platform at elections2026.hinduvoice.org, marking the fourth edition of its biennial civic engagement campaign following 2020, 2022, and 2024.

Washington, DC, 2026 - HinduVote 2026 begins from a simple democratic premise: American Hindus are not a symbolic constituency, but a serious civic community whose votes can shape close elections and whose concerns deserve explicit recognition from candidates at every level of public life. Through the American Hindu Agenda 2026 and the HinduVote 2026 candidate engagement platform, HinduPACT invites voters and public officials alike to engage with a clear set of issues central to Hindu Americans, including temple security, equal treatment under civil-rights norms, religious liberty, and fair representation in public institutions.

This year's launch carries added urgency. In light of the recently failed mass shooting threat connected to Sri Venkateswara Swami Balaji Temple in Palatine, IL, and an attack on the Shree Swaminarayan Vadtal Dham Hindu Mandir in Richmond Heights, Ohio,

questions of safety and security are no longer abstract. They are immediate civic concerns. Across the United States, Hindu temples are not merely places of worship. They are religious, cultural, and educational anchors for families, seniors, youth, and small-business communities. When those institutions face threats, the issue is not only public safety, but the full and equal exercise of First Amendment freedom.

In the past three weeks, HinduPACT representatives have visited temples and Hindu communities in more than 15 key states, and additional grassroots outreach is underway to support voter registration, civic education, and wider awareness of the American Hindu Agenda 2026. The purpose is practical and constitutional: to ensure that both voters and candidates understand the issues that matter to Hindus, and that candidates are prepared to commit to them publicly. In closely contested districts and states, that conversation can prove decisive.

The broader national context makes this effort timely. The FBI's hate crime reporting has repeatedly shown that anti-Hindu bias remains a real feature of American public life, and Hindu institutions have increasingly had to think in terms once reserved for more visibly targeted communities: security

planning, community vigilance, and direct engagement with elected officials. An unprecedented exhibition of Hindu hate has compounded the fear that has gripped the Hindu community. A mature democracy does not ask a faith community to remain civically passive while its concerns are minimized. It asks candidates to listen, respond, and lead.

Surinder Dhar, Vice President of HinduPACT, and lead of the HinduVote initiative said,

"HinduVote 2026 is about translating the presence of American Hindus into effective democratic participation. Our community contributes deeply to this country, yet too often our concerns, especially temple security, anti-Hindu hatred, and equal respect in public policy, are treated as peripheral. They are not peripheral. In many close races, Hindu voters can make the difference, and this year voters will rightly ask which candidates understand the safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of our community."

Ajay Shah, Founder and Executive Chair of HinduPACT, added,

"The American Hindu Agenda 2026 is a civic instrument, not a sectarian one. It asks candidates to engage with real issues affecting Hindu Americans with seriousness, clarity, and accountability. HinduVote has grown with each cycle



because our community understands that representation follows organization. When Hindu voters are informed, registered, and united around core concerns, they become impossible to ignore."

The American Hindu Agenda 2026 asks the candidates to:

- Support legislation to condemn Hinduphobia and anti-Hindu bigotry.
- Support an FBI investigation to determine systemic causes and culprits who have vandalized Hindu temples and Mahatma Gandhi statues across the US

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

An Evening of Faith, Feast, and Fire

FROM VEDIC MANTRAS TO QAWWALI: A NIGHT WHEN DEVOTION WORE DANCING SHOES

\$170,000 RAISED IN COMMUNITY LOVE FOR HARI OM MANDIR'S 2026 FUNDRAISING GALA

**OCTOBER 12, 2026
CHICAGO, IL (TIP)**

On a crisp Saturday evening, October 10, 2026, as the clock edged past 6:00 p.m., the elegant halls of Pearl Banquets at 1490 W Lake Street, Roselle, IL, transformed not merely into a dining venue but into a living temple of community spirit. Hari Om Mandir's Annual Fundraising Dinner unfolded under soft lights and the scent of spice, drawing hundreds of devotees who came ready to eat, dance, donate, and repeat the cycle of generosity that has defined this sacred institution for decades.

The night opened with the gentle insistence of MC Mona Sharma, urging guests to settle with their snacks and begin the program - an evening with a divine purpose and full of entertainment. Acharya Ram Naresh Vajpayee then filled the room with Vedic mantras, his voice carrying the ancient cadence that grounds every Hari Om gathering. "This is not merely a temple event," he reminded the assembly. "It is the grace of the Divine that has brought us together." His blessings set a tone of quiet reverence before the evening's energy rose.

Brij Sharma, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, took the stage next, his words warm and direct. He welcomed everyone to the Annual Fundraising Dinner, offered prayers for those who could not attend due to health or personal reasons, and thanked both the Board of Trustees and the Executive Board for their tireless year-round service. Special recognition went to President Vipin Wadhwa and Sangeeta Wadhwa. "The world cannot move without Shri Ram, Ram cannot move without Hanuman, and Hari Om Mandir cannot move without Vipin and Sangeeta," Brij Sharma declared, drawing sustained applause. He spoke of completed projects the installation of the Hanuman Murti and the protective cover around it funded entirely by community donations without external borrowing.



Chairman Fund Raising - Mr. Anil Saxena

Looking ahead, he highlighted the immediate need for parking-lot lighting, estimated at around \$100,000, and the longer-term goal of bringing city water to the temple for safer drinking water; another \$500,000. Quoting Kabir "The bird takes a beachful, yet the river does not diminish," he opened the donation doors with an appeal to donate generously.

The MC, Mona Sharma continued to maintain the flow of the evening with her couplets emphasizing the importance of Donations to run any Institution - the

purpose of us coming together today.

Anil Saxena, Fundraising Chairman, followed with characteristic brevity and humor. He celebrated last year's \$150,000 raised and set a higher bar for 2026, praising the Hanuman murti project that cost nearly half a million, yet was completed under budget, through collective will & contribution. He singled out Vipin Wadhwa and Sangeeta



Fashion Walk Group



Deepak & Mona receiving Award

Wadhwa for shouldering much of the organizational load during a personally difficult year for himself.

Then the stage bloomed with art. Falguni Rana offered a graceful Ganesha Vandana, her movements flowing like prayer made visible. Pratibha Jairath and Raju Bankapur affectionately known as the Kishore Kumar of Chicago took over with nearly an hour of melodious classics. Their set included romantic numbers that pulled couples onto the floor; Tabla & Bansuri Vaadan by Raju, and a Mukesh medley that left the audience swaying. Pratibha's playful banter about Raju's "superstar" days and Vandana Bankapur's sharp wit kept laughter bubbling between songs. The Fashion Walk that followed, choreographed with patience and precision by Priya Raheja and supported by Vijay Raheja, featured devotees of all ages gliding across the stage to beloved film songs, turning the Stage Ramp Walk into a runway of cultural pride.

President Vipin Wadhwa returned to give a detailed donation update that left the room electric. GRAND Donors who had given \$10,000 and above included Brij Sharma, Dr. Manav Salwan, Kalsi Builders, Saurabh and Ruchi Srivastava, Nalin Shah, Dr. Arun Verma, Usha Singla, and Archana & Sudhir Agrawal. PLATINUM Donors at \$5,000 and above were also acknowledged - Anup Saxena, Anil Saxena, Navin Paul, Ashish Shukla, Anil Gulati, Vipin Wadhwa. He read a long list of additional contributors who pitched in \$s ranging from \$250 to \$1100. Collection boxes and pledges pushed the evening's total

near \$100,000 at that point; by night's end the figure approached \$170,000, prompting Vipin to raise the target to \$200,000 on the spot. "Every penny is used for a cause and the devotees," he said. "We think only of how to provide better facilities and help our community grow."

Special mention went to Hari Om Gurukul, led by Anurag Awasthi and Perna Awasthi, whose young students had memorized all six stanzas of Vande Mataram in just fifteen days and performed at the Consulate General's office to high acclaim. Youth Night, planned and executed entirely by the next generation, was another point of pride.

Asha Mehta then lit the stage with a vibrant Bollywood dance to "Ghoomar," her energy was infectious. Raffle drawings followed, with Amazon and Visa gift cards claimed by lucky ticket holders including moments of good-natured chaos when Vipin himself forgot to drop tickets into the box.

Mona Sharma then changed the flavor of the evening with her singing of Punjabi TAPPE!

Her message was loud & clear - Donations and Fun together...

Recognition awards section was hosted by Sangeeta Wadhwa with assistance from Ex-Secretaries Sneha Chaudhary and Anita Rawal. Honored guests including Anil Loomba, Yogi Bhardwaj, Anu Malhotra, Om Dhingra, the Agrawals, Asha Oraskar, and Rakesh Malhotra were invited to the Stage to present Awards to those whose Service runs deeper than any Check - Ashok and Shma Sharma, Ramesh and Indu Bhardwaj, Deepak and Mona Sharma, Dinesh and Varsha Patel, Raju Bankapur, Anurag and Perna Awasthi, and Acharya Ram Naresh Vajpayee were the deserving Recipients of these Awards.

The evening closed with a high-spirited Qawwali featuring Pratibha Jairath, Om Dhingra, Raju Bankapur, Dr. Bhupendra Berry, Ashwini Mahajan, Vipin Wadhwa, Vandana Bankapur, Poonam Mahajan, Anita Berry, Kanan Dhingra & Sangeeta Wadhwa. Songs of love, devotion, and playful intensity filled the hall until the last note faded into grateful applause.

Throughout the night, the message remained clear: Hari Om Mandir is not a Building or an Institution, but a Family. From parking lights to pure water; from children's Sanskrit to elders' aarti, every contribution sustains a living tradition. Guests left with full hearts, fuller stomachs, and the quiet knowledge that their generosity had already begun to return multiplied.

"In an age when communities too often fracture under the weight of distance and distraction, the Hari Om Mandir family reminds us what collective faith can still achieve. Their October 10 gathering was more than a fundraiser; it was living proof that devotion, when paired with disciplined service and open-hearted giving, builds institutions that outlast any single generation. May their example continue to light the path for every temple, every diaspora, and every heart that still believes culture is worth preserving - One shared meal, One song, One generous act at a time" said Mr. Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman and Founder of Asian Media USA.



The Qawali Group

(Photographs and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Embassy of India Celebrates 11th Ayurveda Day in Romania

Releases IV Volume of AYUSH Cell Romania

**OCTOBER 2, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)**

The Embassy of India in Bucharest celebrated the 11th Ayurveda Day on 2 October 2026 at 9:00 AM, with the support of the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. The event witnessed the participation of a large number of Romanian attendees and highlighted the importance of Ayurveda, India's traditional system of medicine, and its holistic approach to health and well-being.

A major highlight of the celebration was the release of the fourth volume of the publication of the AYUSH Cell Romania - AYUSH Information Centre, Bucharest. The book was jointly released by H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania and Moldova, and Mr. Andrei Gamulea, Head of the AYUSH Cell Romania. The Mayor of Suceava H.E. Mr. Vasile Rîmbu also attended the event as a Chief Guest, reflecting the importance of engagement with Romanian institutions in promoting awareness of Ayurveda and India's traditional systems of medicine.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra highlighted the importance of Ayurveda as an integral part of India's traditional knowledge and healthcare heritage. He emphasised its holistic approach to health and well-being and the importance of promoting greater awareness of Ayurveda among the Romanian public. He also underscored the role of cultural and knowledge-sharing initiatives in strengthening mutual understanding between India and Romania.

Mr. Andrei Gamulea, Head of the AYUSH Cell Romania, also spoke on the occasion, highlighting the importance of Ayurveda and the role of the AYUSH Cell Romania - AYUSH Information Centre, Bucharest, in



Remarks by H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India on the 11th Ayurveda Day



Remarks by H.E. Mr. Vasile Rîmbu, Mayor of Suceava on the 11th Ayurveda Day



Remarks by Mr. Andrei Gamulea, Head of the AYUSH Cell Romania on the 11th Ayurveda Day



Dignitaries release the IV Volume of AYUSH Cell Romania



Group photograph of the participants

disseminating information about India's traditional systems of medicine. He emphasised the value of continued efforts to promote awareness of Ayurveda and its principles and practices among Romanian audiences.

The Mayor of Suceava, who attended as a Chief Guest, also remarked on the importance of Ayurveda and the promotion of traditional approaches to health and well-being. His participation underscored the value of engagement with Romanian local authorities and institutions in fostering cultural exchange and increasing public awareness of India's traditional knowledge systems.

The release of the fourth volume marked another step in the ongoing efforts of the AYUSH Cell Romania - AYUSH Information Centre, Bucharest, to share

information about AYUSH systems and deepen understanding of India's traditional healthcare heritage in Romania. The publication serves as part of the continuing initiative to disseminate knowledge about Ayurveda and other traditional systems of medicine and to encourage greater engagement with India's wellness traditions.

The celebration also provided a platform to highlight Ayurveda's holistic perspective on health, which places importance on balance, preventive care and healthy living. Through such initiatives, the Embassy seeks to promote informed awareness of Ayurveda and encourage dialogue on traditional approaches to health and well-being.

The participation of a large number of Romanian attendees reflected public interest in learning more about Ayurveda and India's traditional systems of

medicine. The presence of Romanian dignitaries and representatives further contributed to the significance of the event, providing an opportunity to strengthen cultural understanding and people-to-people ties between India and Romania.

The celebration of the 11th Ayurveda Day formed part of the Embassy's continuing efforts, in coordination with the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, to promote India's traditional systems of medicine and wellness in Romania. Through public outreach, publications and engagement with Romanian audiences, the Embassy aims to deepen awareness of India's rich traditional knowledge and further strengthen India-Romania cooperation in the field of traditional health and holistic well-being.

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

Embassy Organizes Business Event to Promote Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027 in Romania

OCTOBER 12, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

Embassy organized a business event on 7 October 2026 to promote Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027, two important platforms for showcasing business opportunities in India and facilitating greater engagement between Indian and Romanian enterprises. The event aimed to encourage Romanian companies to explore the Indian market, establish business partnerships with Indian counterparts and participate in upcoming trade exhibitions in India.

The event was addressed by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, and Mr. Iuliu Stocklosa, President of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIB). The participation of CCIB underscored the importance of institutional collaboration in strengthening commercial ties and facilitating direct engagement between businesses of the two countries.

In his remarks, Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra emphasized the importance of strengthening India-Romania economic and commercial relations by translating the strong bilateral partnership into concrete business opportunities. He encouraged Romanian companies to explore India's rapidly expanding market, leverage the opportunities offered by its dynamic industrial and consumer sectors, and establish mutually beneficial partnerships with Indian enterprises. Highlighting the role of trade exhibitions in facilitating business networking, market access and investment linkages, the Ambassador underscored the Embassy's commitment to supporting Romanian businesses in identifying reliable Indian partners and expanding their commercial engagement with India. He expressed confidence that greater participation in platforms such as Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027 would contribute to diversifying bilateral trade, promoting business-to-business cooperation and further strengthening economic ties between the two countries.

During the event, Mr. Vishal Acharya delivered presentations on Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027, outlining the opportunities available to Romanian businesses through these exhibitions. The presentations highlighted the potential of the exhibitions to serve as platforms for business networking, exploring new markets, identifying prospective partners and developing mutually beneficial commercial relationships.

Bharat Buildcon offers opportunities for engagement in India's construction, infrastructure and building-related sectors. With India offering a wide range of business opportunities in infrastructure development, construction materials, building technologies and



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



Mr. Iuliu Stocklosa, President of the Bucharest Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIB) presented his special remarks



Romanian companies actively participated and explored opportunities with Indian firms.



Mr. Vishal Acharya gave presentation on Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027



The Award Ceremony

associated industries, the exhibition provides a potential platform for Romanian companies to showcase their expertise, explore commercial partnerships and connect with Indian businesses.

Global Food Pro 2027 provides a platform for businesses to explore opportunities in the food processing and related industries. The exhibition is



expected to facilitate interaction among industry stakeholders, encourage the exchange of business information and help identify potential areas of cooperation in food products, processing technologies, equipment and allied sectors.

The presentations were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants had the opportunity to seek further information about the exhibitions and explore avenues for participation. The interaction also highlighted the importance of sustained engagement between trade promotion institutions, chambers of commerce and the private sector in converting market opportunities into concrete business outcomes.

The Embassy of India continues to actively engage with Romanian business associations, chambers of commerce and industry stakeholders to promote bilateral trade, investment and commercial partnerships. Through business events, B2B interactions and the promotion of Indian trade fairs and exhibitions, the Embassy seeks to facilitate greater access to the Indian market for Romanian enterprises while encouraging Indian companies to explore opportunities in Romania. The initiative forms part of the Embassy's broader efforts to strengthen India-Romania economic cooperation and translate the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries into tangible commercial outcomes. By encouraging business-to-business engagement and participation in trade exhibitions, the Embassy aims to foster new partnerships, diversify areas of cooperation and create opportunities for sustained growth in bilateral trade and investment.

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



Group photo : Business Event to Promote Bharat Buildcon and Global Food Pro 2027

Anita Anand to visit India and the United Arab Emirates

OCTOBER 12, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

When Canada's biggest trade mission led by International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu arrives in India this week, External Affairs Minister Anita Indira Anand, shall not be far behind. She is all set for her third visit to India since September last year.

She, too, is travelling to India and the United Arab Emirates from October 13 to 16 to deepen bilateral relations and cooperation with these countries.

Both Anita Anand and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar have been meeting on the sidelines of the General Assembly of the United Nations besides at all other forums that bring foreign ministers together.

During her third visit to India since September last year, she will meet the Minister of External Affairs, Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, to advance collaboration on roadmap priorities, including trade, energy, people-to-people ties and security and defense cooperation.

Incidentally, this will be the 11th meeting between Anita Indira Anand and Jaishankar since September 2025, reflecting sustained high-level engagement and a growing bilateral relationship.



Canadian External Affairs Minister Anita Indira Anand and India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. / TIP File photo

BY
PRABHJOT
SINGH



In New Delhi, Anita Indira Anand will participate in the Bloomberg New Economy Forum for a panel discussion on middle powers and the changing global order. She will reinforce the importance of multilateral and plurilateral cooperation at a time of geopolitical uncertainty and highlight Canada as a reliable partner for India and the broader Indo-Pacific.

In the UAE, she will meet Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, to strengthen the Canada-UAE relationship and advance shared prosperity and security. She will also meet senior leaders and government officials, as well as business leaders to expand commercial partnerships, promote collaboration in defense and security, artificial intelligence and innovation, and strengthen people-to-people ties.

These meetings will build on the significant commitments made during Prime Minister Carney's visit to the UAE in November 2025, to elevate the bilateral relationship and reaffirm Canada's role as a constructive partner amid regional crises and global economic uncertainty.

Trade: Canada is eyeing India as a major partner



Canada Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in India.

OCTOBER 10, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

After a thaw in trade talks with its biggest business and trade partner and neighbor, the United States, Canada's endeavor to hunt for new partners is attracting India in a big way.

Putting aside the bitterness created between the two long time business and people to people partners during the previous Liberal government led by Justin Trudeau, the present Liberal regime led by Mark Carney has been out to repair damaged relations and restore cordiality.

While there is no immediate indication of negotiations to restore trade ties with the US resuming, Canada has launched a massive initiative to scout new trade partners around the globe to facilitate its trade, industry, science, technology and other sectors to grow.

After a series of exchanges of ministerial and business delegations, time has come for the leaders of two nations to sit across the table and give final touches to various free trade initiatives. As a part of this initiative, Canada's Minister for International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, is leading Team Canada Trade Mission to India next week to unlock new bilateral trade opportunities.

Maninder Sidhu announced on Saturday that he will lead Canada's largest commercial engagement in India

in recent years, with stops in Mumbai and Bengaluru.

Between October 12 and 17, nearly 300 Canadian delegates will connect with Indian decision makers, key industry players and potential clients to expand commercial relations and build new partnerships that create good-paying jobs at home. This is the largest trade delegation Canada has sent to India in over 30 years.

The trade mission will include businesses from Canada's aerospace and space, clean technologies and energy transition, information and communication technologies, life sciences and agri-food sectors.

The trade mission will also build on Maninder Sidhu's work to deepen Canada's trade relationship with India, including ongoing efforts to conclude a comprehensive economic partnership agreement by the end of the year.

"Nearly 300 Canadian business delegates are joining the Team Canada Trade Mission I am leading to India next week to secure new opportunities for our businesses and workers in one of the world's fastest-growing markets. By matching Canadian expertise in sectors like aerospace, agri-food and clean technology with India's growing demand, we will diversify our trade and attract new investment. This is how we will more than double our trade with India to \$70 billion by 2030," said Maninder Sidhu, in his message on eve of departure for India.

Statistically speaking, Canada is aiming to double exports to markets beyond the United States over the next decade, including doubling two-way trade with India to \$70 billion annually by 2030.

In 2025, two-way goods and services trade between Canada and India totaled \$30.4 billion, of which \$11.0 billion was in goods.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

Municipal Elections in Canada: Allegations of Foreign (India) interference hawking media headlines

OCTOBER 12, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

It is not Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is a common social media handle - Face Book - that has been cornering attention in the Municipal Elections being held in some provinces of Canada this month.

While posting news content on Facebook is prohibited in Canada, yet allegations are going wild over some Facebook pages - "I Love Surrey," "I Love Delta," and "Delta Speaks" - that have been the talking point in Surrey, Delta and Vancouver in British Columbia.

THE REASON: ALLEGATIONS OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE.

Interestingly, while India as a nation is witnessing a fierce campaign to seek ouster of the Chief Election Commissioner on allegations of "managing voters' lists through SIRs and malpractices. The agitation has been spreading as hundreds of preventive detentions were made.

The eruption of violent protests may have nothing to do with the Municipal elections in several Canadian provinces, including British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Islands, and parts of Saskatchewan and North Western Territories. Yet accusations supported by the India-based social media handles have given credence to the allegations.

The alleged foreign interference in political affairs of a friendly sovereign nation has been a major irritant that led to bitterness and even snapping of diplomatic ties between India and Canada less than two years ago. And the Canadian Municipal elections have been alluring a substantial number of candidates of Indian descent in the fray.

The month of October will keep people in these provinces busy to elect their Mayors, Councilors and School Board Trustees. Each province has chosen a



special day like first Monday or second Monday or fourth Saturday to hold the elections.

Members of the Indian Diaspora have been evincing keen interest in municipal elections. A former Member of Parliament and legislature Jinny Sims is in the run for Mayoral post. In one municipal zone in Manitoba, there are four Petals in the run from different wards. Candidates of Indian origin are contesting for Mayoral and Councilor positions.

In Ontario, Brampton, Mississauga, Toronto, Etobicoke, Milton, and many other areas have several candidates in the fray.

In fact, the number of candidates of Indian origin in all six provinces where all or some areas are in the severe grip of electioneering. Interestingly, polling in these civic elections have been dripping over the years.

This time these civic elections have assumed special significance for more than one reason. The foremost is the ongoing conflict over tariffs with the oldest trading partner and neighbor the USA.

The "tariffs" war apart, another disturbing trend that has shaken the municipal elections in British Columbia is the allegation of foreign interference with fingers pointed out at India.

I am reproducing verbatim a social media post that has been hawking media attention in parts of British Columbia.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

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10/20, 10/21, 10/27, 10/30, 11/10, 11/13, 11/17, 11/18, 12/2, 12/4	1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

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PM Modi to visit Canada on 11-12 December for trade and security talks

OCTOBER 16, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Canada on December 11 and 12, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa said, according to news agency Press Trust of India.

During the visit, Modi and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney are expected to work towards outcomes in trade, energy, technology, security and people-to-people ties.

Carney confirmed the dates while speaking with visitors at a restaurant in Calgary on Thursday morning. He said he had just spoken to Modi and that the visit would include Toronto and Ottawa. "We'll see if we can broaden it out," he added.

The Indian High Commission also announced the visit in a social media post on Thursday. "In the recent conversation with Rt. Hon. PM Mark Carney, both the leaders agreed to build on the positive momentum in ties and work towards concrete outcomes in trade, energy, technology, security and people-to-people ties," it said, as reported by Press Trust of India.

On Tuesday, Modi said he had a "warm and productive" conversation with Carney, with both leaders agreeing to build on the "positive momentum" in bilateral ties.

In a post on X, Modi said India and Canada were together contributing towards a "more stable and prosperous world". "Had a warm and productive conversation with Prime Minister Mark Carney. We agreed to build on the positive momentum in India-Canada ties and work towards concrete outcomes across key areas of our Strategic Partnership, including trade, energy, technology, security and people-to-people ties," he said.

CJP's Dipke under preventive arrest for breach of peace bond, Neha Bora released

OCTOBER 17, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke was arrested by Delhi Police on October 16 under preventive provisions ahead of planned protests in the capital. AISA president Neha Bora, who was also detained that evening, was released after the completion of formalities under Section 65 of the Delhi Police Act, according to police.

Police said action was taken against Dipke under Sections 126 and 170 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). He will be produced before a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) today.

According to police, Dipke had been served two notices directing him not to visit Central Park in Connaught Place, but he allegedly failed to comply. Police said his detention was linked to concerns over a breach of peace.

Police are also expected to tell the magistrate that Dipke violated the conditions of a peace bond furnished during an earlier preventive arrest. He had reportedly furnished a bond of Rs 50,000 and been directed not to disturb public peace for one year.

The detentions came ahead of planned 'Tiranga' and anti-Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) protests in New Delhi.

CJP had alleged that Dipke was taken to an undisclosed location and that the party had lost contact with him. It also claimed he was not being allowed to speak to lawyers.

"The Delhi Police has taken Abhijeet Dipke to an undisclosed location. We have lost contact with him. He is not being allowed to talk to lawyers," the party said in a post on X.

"Why does this government treat



youth like terrorists? We are equal citizens of India and we deserve all the protections and rights of the Constitution!" it added.

The party also questioned the grounds for his detention, saying Dipke had been carrying the national flag when he left his residence.

"Abhijeet was just walking out of his home with a Tiranga in his hand! How can walking with a tiranga be a crime?" CJP asked, adding that the detentions would not deter people from joining the protests.

CJP had also written to the station house officer of Delhi's Mandir Marg police station, seeking information about its founder's whereabouts and the legal grounds for his detention.

In the letter, party leader Rohan Deshpande said the organisation had received no information about the police station or facility where Dipke was being held.

"This lack of information is deeply concerning," Deshpande wrote.

He urged the police to disclose Dipke's location, the legal provisions invoked against him and the grounds for his preventive detention. He also sought details of the authority under whose directions the detention was ordered and the officer responsible for his custody.

Deshpande further called on the police to ensure that Dipke could contact his colleagues and access legal counsel.

The All India Students' Association (AISA) earlier said its president, Neha Bora, had been traced to the RK Puram police station after hours of uncertainty over her whereabouts, but alleged that she had been moved between locations across Delhi for nearly five hours.

The student organisation said lawyers who reached the police station around midnight were denied access to Bora. It also alleged that police had not clarified the grounds for her detention or when she would be released.

OCTOBER 17, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): A major political row has erupted between the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party over calls for regime change.

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram defended the term, asserting that regime change is entirely normal in a democracy and explaining that the role of an opposition is to oppose in politics, expose in Parliament, and depose through elections. The Congress maintained that seeking government change through democratic processes and elections aligns fully with democratic principles.

In contrast, the BJP, including Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Rajnath Singh, accused the opposition of using the youth as pawns to destabilise the government, drawing comparisons to violent protests and regime changes witnessed in Bangladesh and Nepal. Demonstrators have also sought the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar,

while opposition leaders like Pawan Khera and P. Chidambaram insisted that the protests remain rooted in legitimate, democratic methods to hold the incumbent regime accountable. The BJP strongly criticised opposition parties over their call for a regime change, accusing them of attempting to mislead the youth and using them as pawns. The remarks follow statements alleging that attempts to trigger unrest similar to recent youth-led regime changes in neighbouring countries like Bangladesh and Nepal have completely failed. Pointing to vibrant celebrations during Navratri, leaders asserted that India's youth energy remains focused on constructive national progress rather than negativity.

Regime change row: Cong counters BJP, protests over CEC & Bangladesh analogy escalate



BJP Leader LK Advani, 98, Admitted To Delhi Hospital With Chest Infection

OCTOBER 16, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani was admitted to Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in Delhi with a chest infection.

His condition is stable, hospital officials said.

The 98-year-old leader was brought to the hospital at around 7.30 pm on Friday and admitted to the pulmonary department. He is currently under observation by a team of doctors, while medical tests are underway.

Advani is undergoing treatment at the hospital, and his condition remains stable, according to the officials.

This is not the first time the veteran leader has been hospitalised in recent months. He was last admitted to Apollo Hospital in May this year due to age-related health complications. He remained under medical care for a few days before being discharged.

Earlier, in December 2024, Advani was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital for medical management and investigations. He was treated under the supervision of a neurologist. The hospital then stated that his condition was stable.

Born on November 8, 1927, in Karachi (present-day Pakistan), Advani is one of the most prominent leaders in the history of the BJP. He played a key role in the party's growth from a relatively small political force into a major national political organisation.

OCTOBER 16, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre on Friday, Oct 16, sought a detailed report from the Punjab government in two cases of drug-linked killings and a "suicide" by an addict's father, igniting a verbal duel between Union home minister Amit Shah and chief minister Bhagwant Mann.

The ministry of home affairs (MHA), in three separate letters to the Punjab chief secretary, demanded a response over October 13 daylight killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh, alias Jhota, in Mansa, and murder of 40-year-old Bikramjit Singh in Batala by alleged drug peddlers on October 15. The state government has also been told to furnish details in connection with Dalit man's alleged suicide after his "public spat" with state finance minister Harpal Singh Cheema during a government event in Dirba (Sangrur) on September 8.

The drug issue has taken centrestage in Punjab in the run-up to the assembly elections due early next year, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) even promising to make state "drug-free by December 2029" if voted to power.

The Centre's move comes on a day when the Punjab government, during a high-

India rejects UN criticism, defends assembly freedom citing youth protests

OCTOBER 17, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India has rejected criticism from a United Nations special rapporteur over the alleged stigmatization and retaliation faced by young people discussing mental health and gender justice, questioning the credibility of claims based on anonymous and unverified submissions.

Speaking during an interactive dialogue with UN Special Rapporteur Gina Romero at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee, India's First Secretary Anuj Swarup challenged the evidence cited in her report on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. "A sweeping charge against the world's largest youth population resting on anonymous and unverified claims is not evidence. It is hearsay, dressed up as a UN report, and my delegation rejects it outright," Swarup said, according to a report by The Times of India published on Saturday.

India argued that the country's Constitution guarantees freedom of peaceful assembly, association, speech and expression under Article 19. Swarup also cited the role of an independent judiciary, a free press and the National Human Rights Commission in protecting these rights. He questioned Romero's assertion that young Indians faced retaliation or stigma for raising issues such as mental health and gender justice, saying the report relied on unnamed submissions rather than adequately substantiated evidence. The Indian representative also pointed to youth-led political mobilization and engagement with senior government leaders as



First secretary, Anuj Swarup at UN.

examples of civic participation in the country.

"In which repressive state does a satirical youth party question the government, march on the capital, and then sit across the table with senior national leaders?" he asked, referring to the youth-led Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) movement discussed in the report. He further cited the government's response to student protests over irregularities in public examinations, saying Parliament had amended the Public Examinations Act, strengthened measures against paper leaks, undertaken examination reforms and established fast-track courts to deal with exam fraud.

Swarup also highlighted the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue, saying more than five million young people had participated in discussions on national priorities. He argued that engagement between young people and senior political leaders demonstrated that youth voices had avenues for influencing public policy.

UN criticism amid protests in Delhi

The exchange comes amid a wave of youth-led demonstrations in New Delhi,

including protests organized by the CJP and other groups demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the revision of electoral rolls.

The Election Commission has denied allegations of political bias. The protests have also led to detentions of activists and journalists, drawing separate criticism from the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR). On October 10, the OHCHR expressed concern over reports of mass detentions involving demonstrators, protest leaders, civil society members, lawyers and journalists. It urged Indian authorities to respect the right to peaceful assembly, exercise restraint and ensure that restrictions on protests met tests of necessity and proportionality.

India rejected those concerns in a separate response, describing them as "unwarranted" interference in its internal affairs. It maintained that peaceful assembly was constitutionally protected, subject to reasonable restrictions in the interest of public order, and urged the UN body to apply its mandate consistently across countries.

The latest exchange highlights the disagreement between New Delhi and UN human rights representatives over the assessment of civic freedoms and the treatment of young activists. While India has questioned the evidence underlying Romero's allegations and cited constitutional protections and government engagement with youth, the UN has called for safeguards for peaceful protest and the rights of those participating in demonstrations.

Row erupts as Centre seeks report from Punjab on drug-linked killings, 'suicide'

level meeting chaired by Mann, unveiled a 60-day anti-drug strategy to target 435 hotspots with coordinated policing, infrastructure upgrades, and specialised rehab programmes.

In the letter pertaining to Jhota's killing, the MHA, taking note of the protests, has sought a comprehensive report and steps taken by the state government.

The Centre has also drawn Punjab's attention to the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-29), shared by Shah with Mann on August 10. The document lays down strategic priorities and action points towards the national objective of a drug-free India by 2029.

In another communication, the MHA referred to the allegations that the Dalit man in Dirba who questioned minister Cheema over "rampant drug problem in Punjab" was subjected to systematic harassment and pressure by the village panchayat, for which allegedly drove him to take his own life. Citing public distress

and potential law-and-order ramifications, the ministry has asked Punjab to furnish a detailed report on the incident.

The third letter pertains to the fatal attack, allegedly by those involved in narcotics trade, on Bikramjit at Mari Panwan village under Sri Hargobindpur police station in Batala. His two aides, Nishan Singh and Gurmukh Singh, sustained critical injuries in the assault.

Earlier, targeting the AAP government, Shah posted on X: "Punjab is today grappling with a rising threat of drugs, gangsterism, and organised crime. Addressing Mann directly, Shah declared: "Bhagwant Mann ji, the people of Punjab do not want promises, they want answers; not announcements, but results; decisive strikes against drug networks; and an impartial investigation into any political patronage received by criminals."

Soon after Shah's remarks, Mann accused the BJP-led Centre of defaming Punjab over drugs instead of checking the

supply through Gujarat's ports, asking the Union home minister to take responsibility for the seizure of 3,000 kg of synthetic drugs at Kandla port.

"Amit Shah ji, you should have consulted your advisers before speaking about me. The 50-km range (from the international border) is with the Border Security Force (BSF). 3,000 kilos of 'chitta' (heroin) is being seized from Kandla port in Gujarat," Mann wrote on X. He added, "Before blaming Bhagwant Mann, handle your own responsibility. Don't copy-paste pre-written tweets through your sycophants."

Joining the issue, AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal turned the focus onto drug smuggling pipelines operating through BJP-governed states and maritime infrastructure. "If you care even a tiny bit about Punjab, then stop the drugs coming into the country through Gujarat's Mundra and Adani ports," he said.

Source: HT

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 22

OCTOBER 16

1905: Partition of Bengal takes effect



Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal triggered widespread opposition across India. Nationalist leaders called for boycotts of British goods, the promotion of Indian industries and the expansion of national education. The movement helped bring students, merchants, writers and ordinary citizens into political action. It also encouraged indigenous enterprise and gave new impetus to the wider struggle for self-government. The British government annulled the partition in 1911, although Bengal was reorganized again in a different form.

1868 - British acquisition of the Nicobar Islands

Denmark relinquished its claims over the Nicobar Islands to Britain. The islands subsequently became part of the British-administered Andaman and Nicobar territory, whose colonial history was closely connected with maritime strategy in the Bay of Bengal.

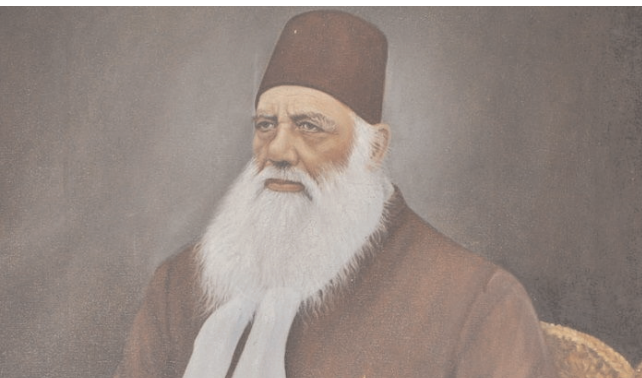
1978 - Kapil Dev's Test debut



India's future World Cup-winning captain made his Test debut against Pakistan at Faisalabad. The fast-bowling all-rounder would go on to captain India to the 1983 Cricket World Cup title, one of the defining moments in the country's sporting history.

OCTOBER 17

1817: Birth of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was a major Muslim reformer

and educationist who championed modern scientific learning during the 19th century. He believed that access to contemporary education was essential for social advancement and engagement with a changing world.

His most enduring contribution was the establishment of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875. The institution developed into Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. The educational movement associated with Sir Syed helped create a new generation of professionals, scholars and public figures.

OCTOBER 19

1910: Birth of Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

Born in Lahore, Chandrasekhar became an internationally acclaimed astrophysicist. His research explored the mathematical and physical principles governing stars, including their structure, stability and evolution.

His work established the mass limit now known as the Chandrasekhar limit, which explains why a white dwarf cannot remain stable beyond a particular mass. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983, sharing it with William A. Fowler, whose work focused on nuclear reactions and the formation of chemical elements in stars.

OCTOBER 20

1962: Sino-Indian War begins



Chinese forces launched a major offensive against Indian positions along the disputed Himalayan frontier on October 20, 1962. The conflict followed years of tension over the boundary, including disputes concerning Aksai Chin and the eastern sector. India's military faced severe challenges from difficult terrain, harsh weather, logistical shortcomings and inadequate preparedness. China announced a unilateral ceasefire on November 21, 1962. The war had a lasting impact on India's defense planning, military modernization and relations with China.

1963: Bhakra Dam dedicated to the nation



The Bhakra Dam was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on October 22, 1963, rather than October 20. The correction is important for a date-wise historical calendar. The dam, built across the Sutlej River in Himachal Pradesh, became a major symbol of independent India's ambition to combine engineering, irrigation, electricity generation and agricultural

development.

The Bhakra project helped support irrigation in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and contributed to the expansion of electricity generation in northern India. It became closely associated with the large multipurpose river-valley projects that shaped India's development strategy after independence.

OCTOBER 21

1943: Provisional Government of Free India established

Subhas Chandra Bose announced the formation of the Provisional Government of Free India in Singapore on October 21, 1943. Bose headed the government and sought to organize the struggle for independence outside British-controlled India. The administration worked to mobilize Indian communities in Southeast Asia, collect resources and strengthen the Indian National Army. Its establishment gave the movement a provisional political structure as well as a military objective.

1959: The Hot Springs incident

Ten Indian police personnel were killed in an ambush by Chinese forces at Hot Springs in Ladakh on October 21, 1959. A patrol had gone in search of a missing reconnaissance party when it encountered the heavily armed force. The deaths became the basis for the annual observance of Police Commemoration Day, which honors police personnel who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. The National Police Memorial in New Delhi, dedicated to the nation in 2018, commemorates these personnel and police martyrs from across India.

OCTOBER 22

1900: Birth of Ashfaqulla Khan

Born in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Ashfaqulla Khan became a revolutionary in the Indian independence movement and a member of the Hindustan Republican Association. He was associated with the Kakori train action of August 1925, in which revolutionaries seized government treasury money being transported by train to finance their activities.

Arrested and tried by the British, he was executed on December 19, 1927. His friendship with fellow revolutionary Ram Prasad Bismil is remembered as an example of solidarity across religious communities in the struggle against colonial rule.

2008: Chandrayaan-1 launches India's lunar exploration programme

India launched Chandrayaan-1 on October 22, 2008, using the PSLV-C11 rocket from Sriharikota. The country's first lunar mission carried 11 scientific instruments developed by India and international partners. It mapped the Moon's surface and studied its chemical and mineral composition.





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GOV CHRIS CHRISTIE CHATS WITH NJPAC'S JOHN SCHREIBER ON WIDE RANGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS



Governor Chris Christie Credit <https://njpac.org>

BY MABEL PAIS

Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey's 55th governor and two-time Republican presidential candidate, sits down with NJPAC's John Schreiber for a wide-ranging conversation on the state of New Jersey and the state of the nation at this season's first Business Partners Roundtable of the season, at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) on October 29, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. at the Chase Room of the Arts Center.

In addition to his two terms leading the Garden State, Christie has served as

U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey, as the Chairman of the Republican Governors Association, and as a Fellow at both Yale and Princeton. His work has had an enormous impact on everything from the regulation of sports betting to the struggle to end the nation's opioid crisis, and he has always excelled at translating complex concerns into plainspoken language, delivered with his trademark Jersey candor.

Attendees are encouraged to attend the conversation to get the straight story on where we are now, and where we're headed, from one of the country's most

engaging leaders at this season's first Business Partners Roundtable.

EVENT DETAILS

What: Business Partners Roundtable: A Conversation with Governor Chris Christie and NJPAC's President & CEO John Schreiber

When: October 29, 2026; 8:30AM-10:15AM

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

Cost: Free

For updates, visit <https://njpac.org>

IMMIGRATION: CROSSING BORDERS, NAVIGATING IDENTITIES - THEME OF NJPAC SEASON'S FIRST SIS EVENT



Immigration Credit <https://njpac.org>

Registration is required to attend online. Register @ <https://njpac.org/event/immigration-crossing-borders-navigating-identities/#register>

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Standing in Solidarity (SIS): Immigration - Crossing Borders, Navigating Identities

WHEN: October 19, 2026 @ 5PM

WHERE: Online

COST: Free

FILM

Currently, few topics are more controversial than immigration. But how do the kids of immigrants feel? Filmmaker Devani Gayadin redefines what it means to be American in "A Bigger World," as she recounts her parents' Guyanese and Nigerian roots. In "Not Aliens," filmmaker Mridul Govind tells the often-overlooked story of legal immigrants who find themselves in limbo as they create new lives in the U.S.

Watch the PBS special "Immigration: A Bigger World and Not Aliens," (<https://pbsocial.org/shows/our-time/episodes/immigration-sourpatch-journey-y-is-for>

yellow) about creating new lives in the U.S., at home.

PANEL MODERATOR

Ingrid Echeverria, Attorney and former Chair of the Asylum Committee for the American Immigration Lawyers Association, will moderate the panel.

PANELISTS

Serges Demefack, Caribbean Community Correspondent at "Documented," the only news organization in New York focused on immigration

Ralph Thomassaint Joseph, Editor in Chief at AyiboPost, one of Haiti's most competitive digital news outlets

Viri Martinez, Legislative and Political Action Manager, Make the Road New Jersey

Amber Reed, Co-Executive Director, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders of New Jersey (AAPI NJ)

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

Visit <https://njpac.org> for more information.

BY MABEL PAIS

For the first Standing in Solidarity (SIS) Series of the 2026-2027 season, the New Jersey Performing Arts Center goes beyond the headlines about U.S. immigrants and immigration policies and meets people who have come in search of greater opportunities for themselves and their families. How do new arrivals navigate the tension between who they are and what others ask them to become? What is lost — and what is gained — in a new country?

REGISTRATION

WORLD FOOD MOVEMENT CELEBRATES ONE YEAR OF CAMPUS FEEDING

BY MABEL PAIS

The World Food Movement (WFM - <https://wfmamerica.org>), the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) organization's Akshaya Patra initiative in America celebrated one year of campus feeding at its annual gala held at Princeton Farms' Preserves in Skillman, New Jersey on October 10, 2026.

The organization marked a milestone of nourishing college students, having served 70,000 meals across the United States. World Food Movement (WFM) marked the first anniversary of its campus feeding initiative at its annual gala, bringing together college presidents, business leaders, philanthropists, donors, and students at Princeton Farms' Preserves in Skillman, New Jersey on October 10, 2026.

Launched in September 2025, WFM works to address food insecurity among college students across the United States, providing access to nutritious meals.

Welcoming guests, Sri Shuklambhara Dasa, President of World Food Movement New Jersey, reflected on the organization's founding in 2025 and its inspiration in Srila Prabhupada's vision of a world where no one goes hungry.

Dr Timothy G. Lynch, President of the College of Staten Island (CSI), City University of New York



Carnatic artist Hrishi with distinguished guests.

Credit: <https://wfm.org>

(CUNY), shared the initiative's impact on his campus, emphasising the importance of providing meals that are "free, yet with dignity." He noted that food pantry use at CSI has grown from a few hundred students to approximately 2,500 over three years.

Smt. Bhavani Parameswar, President of Indivate (ITC group), spoke on compassion having no prescribed direction, noting that an initiative rooted in India is now nourishing students in America.

Providing a broader perspective on the initiative's

approach and future, Sri Naveena Neerada Dasa, Executive Director of World Food Movement USA, described how the model draws on the leaders' 25 years of experience serving 2.35 million meals a day in India through Akshaya Patra. He also outlined the movement's plans to expand its campus partnerships and extend its reach to more students in need.

Keynote speaker, Sri Deepak Raj, Chair of the India Philanthropy Alliance and Pratham USA, encouraged guests to deepen their philanthropic engagement and urged guests to give to their Karma Bhoomi alongside their Matru Bhoomi.

A fireside chat moderated by Pradnya Haldipur, Strategic Advisor to World Food Movement, brought the initiative's impact to life through the personal story of Ms. Leanne Maldonado, a recent (CSI) graduate, who shared how the WFM program supported her throughout her studies as a working mother of two.

The celebration concluded with dinner and a performance by Carnatic fusion artist Hrishi, bringing together an evening of reflection, gratitude, and renewed commitment to the cause of food security.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

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

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY WILL OPEN THE NEW SEASON WITH BEETHOVEN & SCHUBERT

BY MABEL PAIS

New Jersey Symphony opens its 2026-27 season, October 23-25, 2026 with Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor," and Schubert's Symphony No. 9, "The Great" at several locations in New Jersey (see below for concert details).

Music Director Xian Zhang conducts the Opening Weekend

(<https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/beethovens-emperor-schuberts-great>) performances, which launch her 11th season with the orchestra. Pianist George Li, silver medalist at the 2015 International Tchaikovsky Competition, returns as soloist.

Beethoven breaks with convention from the first bars, giving the soloist a cadenza at the outset instead of near the end. The slow movement, which Hector Berlioz called "the very image of grace," flows without pause into a jubilant finale. The "Emperor" nickname wasn't Beethoven's; it came later, inspired by the music's grandeur.

Schubert modeled the "Great" on the vast scale of Beethoven's Ninth, which had premiered in Vienna the year before he began it. Bold choices, including trombones in all four movements and a scherzo expanded well beyond the usual compact dance, give Schubert's "Great" an unmistakable voice.

EVENT DETAILS

Xian Zhang conductor

George Li piano

New Jersey Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor"

Franz Schubert Symphony No. 9 in C Major, "The Great"



Xian Zhang, music director-conductor
-Credit: <https://njsymphony.org>

Princeton: Friday, October 23, 7:30 pm, Richardson Auditorium

Newark: **Saturday, October 24, 7:30 pm, NJPAC

New Brunswick: Sunday, October 25, 2 pm, State Theatre New Jersey

**On Saturday, Oct 24, Symphony musicians host an Instrument Discovery Zone in the lobby of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) at 6:30 pm. Concertgoers can try playing instruments themselves before the performance.

For Program notes and Artist Bios, visit https://njsymphony.org/program_notes/detail/program-notes---opening-weekend-beethovens-emperor-schuberts-great

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of



George Li, pianist. -Credit: <https://njsymphony.org>

Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 concerts each season at mainstage venues, as well as in schools and public spaces.

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

The Symphony is embarking on an expansion into Jersey City, with a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space called Symphony Center. For more information about New Jersey Symphony, visit the website at njsymphony.org

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NJYS BRINGS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER BY OFFERING SIX FREE CONCERTS TO CELEBRATE AMERICA250

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Symphony - (NJYS - <https://whartonarts.org/programs/new-jersey-youth-symphony>), a program of Wharton Arts, will present a series of six free concerts this fall at the Union County Performing Arts Center (UCPAC) in Rahway, offering audiences inspiring musical experiences that celebrate America's 250th anniversary, cultural diversity, and the joy of live performance. The concert series is designed to bring residents and visitors together while supporting arts-driven economic activity in downtown Rahway.

Spanning four event dates in October and December, the series features performances by the acclaimed New Jersey Youth Symphony (NJYS), nationally recognized guest artists, community partners, and distinguished ensembles performing repertoire that ranges from orchestral masterworks and gospel music to jazz, holiday favorites, and multicultural celebrations. All performances are free and open to the public.

"When we invest in the arts, everyone benefits," said Helen H. Cha-Pyo, Music Director and Conductor of the New Jersey Youth Symphony. "Thanks to the support of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, we're able to make these concerts free and accessible to everyone while inviting people from across cities, cultures, and generations to share one of our most universal human experiences: music. I invite audiences to experience the beautiful Union County Performing Arts Center, enjoy all that Rahway has to offer, and hear world-renowned guest artists perform alongside the extraordinary young musicians of the New Jersey Youth Symphony. I hope everyone leaves with greater joy, hope, and a deeper understanding of one another."

The series opens on Sunday, October 25, with two



NJ Youth Symphony performing. Credit: <https://whartonarts.org>

performances celebrating America250. At 3 p.m., "America 250: Harmony Across Cultures" features the NJYS Youth Symphony under the direction of Music Director & Conductor Helen H. Cha-Pyo alongside internationally acclaimed harpist Edmar Castañeda, mezzo-soprano Ema Mitrovic, Paterson's Inner City Dance Ensemble, and the Korean Traditional Music and Dance Center. Together, these artists explore the many cultural traditions that have shaped America's musical landscape through works by Leonard Bernstein, Reena Esmail, Charles Ives, Raúl Abbad, John Chance Barnes, and Edmar Castaneda.

Later that evening at 7 p.m., the NJYS Youth Orchestra, Oliver Hagen, Conductor, joins the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra, Charles Prince, Music Director and Conductor, for a festive celebration of America's musical heritage featuring beloved works by Morton Gould, John Philip Sousa, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Edwin Franko Goldman, and other celebrated American composers.

The celebration continues on Wednesday, October 28, with a free education concert performed by the NJYS

Youth Symphony designed for students in grades 3-8. Through live performances, storytelling, audience participation, and demonstrations by professional musicians and dancers, Union County students will discover how music from many cultures has helped shape America's history and continues to build understanding across communities.

On Saturday, December 12, audiences are invited to experience the uplifting Gospel Music Festival, featuring Elevation, Delaware's only professional vocal ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Arreon A. Harley-Emerson. The second half of the program brings together the NJYS Youth Symphony, Elevation, and outstanding high school choruses from across New Jersey to perform André J. Thomas's "Mass: A Celebration of Love and Joy," conducted by Helen H. Cha-Pyo. This Gospel style mass is an inspiring work celebrating faith, hope, unity, and the transformative power of music.

The series concludes on Sunday, December 13, with two holiday concerts. At 2 p.m., "Two Nutcrackers" pairs Tchaikovsky's beloved "Nutcracker Suite" with Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's celebrated jazz interpretation, performed by the NJYS Youth Symphony, Youth Orchestra, and Jazz Orchestra, Shamie Royston, Director. The final concert of the series, "Season of Joy!," begins at 7 p.m. and features the NJYS Philharmonia, Mark Gunderman, Conductor, and the Plainfield Symphony Orchestra performing seasonal favorites for audiences of all ages.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

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

ITZHAK PERLMAN, REIGNING VIOLIN VIRTUOSO, WILL SHARE HIS JOY OF MUSIC WITH NEW JERSEY

BY MABEL PAIS

"An Afternoon with Itzhak Perlman" is a multimedia program hosted by Perlman that will lead the audience through his life with personal photos, clips, and music. Accompanied by longtime friend and collaborator, pianist Rohan De Silva, Perlman shines as he shares the compelling story of a young boy who became a household name. The event takes place on Sunday, October 25, 2026 at 3 pm.

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, Itzhak Perlman enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to the irrepressible joy of making music, which he communicates.

Watch Itzhak play - <https://youtu.be/RSMxdPzKX>

Itzhak Perlman has established himself as a cultural icon and world's reigning violin virtuoso, a status rarely offered to a classical musician. A household name in classical music, his performances include everything from 'Schindler's List' to 'Sesame Street,' and to even the inauguration of President Obama.

EARLY LIFE

Born in Israel in 1945, Mr. Perlman completed his initial training at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv. An early recipient of an America-Israel Cultural Foundation scholarship, he came to New York and soon was propelled to national recognition with an appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1958. Following his studies at the Juilliard School with Ivan Galamian and Dorothy DeLay, he won the prestigious Leventritt Competition in 1964, which led to a burgeoning worldwide career. Since then, Itzhak Perlman has established himself as a cultural icon and household name in classical music.

"One of the most important elements of teaching, conducting and performing, all three, is listening," Perlman believes.

TEACHER

Perlman launched an exclusive series of classes with Masterclass.com, the premier online education company that enables access to the world's most brilliant minds including Gordon Ramsay, Wolfgang Puck, Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Helen Mirren, Jodie Foster and Serena Williams, as the company's only classical-music presentation. Available exclusively at masterclass.com/ip, Perlman's class offers students an intimate and inspirational approach to the world of violin where he covers fundamental techniques, practice strategies, and ways to build a richer sound.

CONDUCTOR

Mr. Perlman has further delighted audiences through his frequent appearances on the conductor's podium. He has performed as conductor with the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, National Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Dallas, Houston, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Montreal, and Toronto, as well as at the Ravinia and Tanglewood festivals.

Internationally, Mr. Perlman has conducted the Berlin Philharmonic, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, London Philharmonic, English Chamber Orchestra, and the Israel Philharmonic.

SPEAKER

Further to his engagements as violinist and conductor, Mr. Perlman is increasingly making more



Itzhak Perlman

Credit : <https://itzhakperlman.com>

appearances as a speaker. Speaking engagements include appearances in Texas at Lamar University, South Dakota with the John Vucurevich Foundation, and in Washington D.C. for the Marriott Foundation. In November 2018, he joined Alan Alda for a conversation on the stage of New York's 92nd Street Y.

"Just imagine yourself in a wheelchair. Go through the building. If there's a place you can't go in, it's not accessible," he says.

FILM

An award-winning documentary on Mr. Perlman, titled "Itzhak", premiered in October 2017 as the opening film of the 25th Annual Hamptons International Film Festival. It was released theatrically in over 100 cinemas nationwide in March 2018, with international releases that followed in Summer 2018. Directed by filmmaker Alison Chernick, the enchanting documentary details the virtuoso's own struggles as a polio survivor and Jewish émigré and is a reminder why art is vital to life. For more information, visit itzhakthefilm.com. In 2018, the film made its debut on PBS' American Masters in a broadcast throughout the United States.

MENTOR

Over the past two decades, Mr. Perlman has become actively involved in music education, using this opportunity to encourage gifted young string players. Alongside his wife Toby, his close involvement in the Perlman Music Program has been a particularly rewarding experience, and he has taught full-time at the Program each summer since its founding in 1993. Mr. Perlman currently holds the Dorothy Richard Starling Foundation Chair at the Juilliard School.

AWARDS & HONORS

Numerous publications and institutions have paid tribute to Itzhak Perlman for the unique place he occupies in the artistic and humanitarian fabric of our times. Harvard, Yale, Brandeis, Roosevelt, Yeshiva and Hebrew universities are among the institutions that have awarded him honorary degrees. He was awarded an honorary doctorate and a centennial medal on the occasion of Juilliard's 100th commencement ceremony in 2005. Itzhak Perlman's presence on stage, on camera, and in personal appearances of all kinds speaks eloquently on behalf of the disabled, and his devotion to their cause is an integral part of his life.

From 1964 to 2021, Perlman has received numerous distinguished awards including GRAMMYS, EMMYS, the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President



Itzhak Perlman playing the violin.

Credit : <https://itzhakperlman.com>

Obama, the National Medal of Arts from President Clinton and many more.

Iconic violinist Itzhak Perlman celebrated his 80th birthday with "In the Fiddler's House" at the Beacon Theatre on Monday, September 29 at 7:30PM. Widely celebrated as one of the greatest living virtuosos, Mr. Perlman took the stage with an extraordinary ensemble of the world's top klezmer musicians — including Hankus Netsky, Andy Statman, and members of the Klezmatics, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and Brave Old World. Together, they delivered a joyful, spirited performance that bridges tradition and celebration—a once-in-a-lifetime musical event that promises to be nothing short of unforgettable.

Learn more about Perlman at itzhakperlman.com.

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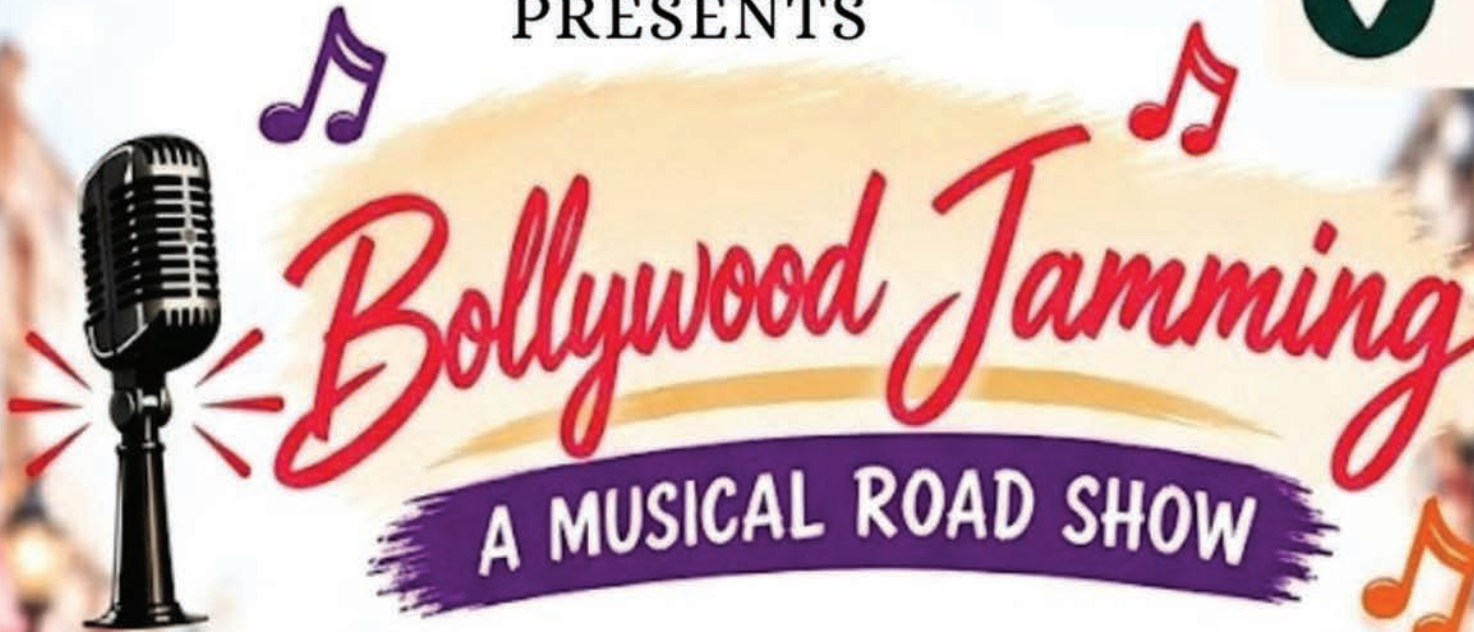
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From Lord Rama's epic battle against Ravana to Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura, Dussehra brings together powerful stories of courage, sacrifice and righteousness. Celebrated in different ways across India, Vijayadashami is not merely a festival marking the defeat of evil but a reminder of the importance of conquering the weaknesses within ourselves.

Every year, as autumn settles over India, the country prepares for one of its most evocative festivals. Markets fill with festive decorations, artisans construct towering effigies of Ravana, theatre groups rehearse episodes from the Ramayana, and temples welcome devotees for special prayers. In eastern India, the farewell to Goddess Durga brings together devotion, music and elaborate processions. In Mysuru, royal traditions and spectacular displays lend Dasara an unmistakable grandeur, while the Kullu valley celebrates its presiding deities in a distinctive week-long festival.

These celebrations may differ in appearance, but they share a common message: the ultimate victory of righteousness over wrongdoing.

Dussehra, also known as Vijayadashami or Dasara, falls on the tenth day of the bright fortnight of the Hindu lunar month of Ashvin. It marks the culmination of Navratri, the nine-night festival dedicated to the divine feminine in many Hindu traditions. In 2026, Dussehra falls on October 20.

The festival is associated with two major mythological narratives: Lord Rama's victory over Ravana, described in the Ramayana, and Goddess Durga's defeat of Mahishasura, celebrated particularly during Durga Puja. Together, these stories give Dussehra its enduring spiritual significance.

Meaning of Dussehra and Vijayadashami

The name Vijayadashami is derived from two Sanskrit words: vijaya, meaning victory, and dashami, referring to the tenth lunar day. The name captures the central theme of the festival—the triumph of good over evil.

Dussehra is commonly associated in popular interpretation with the defeat of the ten-headed Ravana. The name is also linked to the idea of destroying or overcoming ten forms of evil. These interpretations have helped the festival acquire a wider moral significance beyond the events of a particular mythological battle.

The ten heads of Ravana are frequently understood symbolically as representing human weaknesses. Popular explanations include anger, pride, greed, attachment, jealousy, selfishness, injustice, cruelty, ego and uncontrolled desire. Such lists vary, and they should be understood as moral interpretations rather than a single authoritative scriptural enumeration.

The symbolism nevertheless offers an important lesson. Evil is not always an external force represented by a villain. It can also appear in everyday conduct—in dishonesty, intolerance, exploitation, arrogance and the misuse of power.

Vijayadashami thus becomes an occasion for introspection. The festival

Vijayadashami: When dharma triumphs over adharma



invites people to examine their actions, acknowledge their shortcomings and make a conscious effort to live with greater integrity.

Rama and Ravana: The epic battle that defines Dussehra

The most widely recognised Dussehra narrative comes from the Ramayana, one of the great epics of Hindu tradition.

Prince Rama, the eldest son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya, is sent into exile along with his wife, Sita, and brother

Lakshmana. During their stay in the forest, Sita is abducted by Ravana, the powerful ruler of Lanka. Determined to rescue her, Rama begins a search that eventually brings him into an alliance with Sugriva, the vanara king, and Hanuman, whose devotion and extraordinary courage become central to the story.

Hanuman travels to Lanka, finds Sita and carries Rama's message to her. The search culminates in a military campaign against Ravana's kingdom.

Rama's forces cross the sea to Lanka, where a fierce battle unfolds between the two sides.

Ravana is a formidable adversary. He is portrayed in the epic tradition as a learned ruler, a devotee of Shiva and a man possessing extraordinary abilities. His downfall is therefore not presented simply as the defeat of an ordinary villain. It illustrates how knowledge, power and achievement can become destructive when accompanied by arrogance and the violation of moral boundaries.

Rama eventually defeats Ravana and rescues Sita. His victory restores order and fulfils the central purpose of the campaign.

The story's moral complexity is one reason for its enduring relevance. Ravana's abilities do not erase the consequences of his actions, while Rama's victory represents the restoration of dharma—the moral and cosmic order that sustains life and society.

Why Ravana has ten heads

Ravana's ten heads are among the most recognisable images in Indian religious and cultural traditions. They are depicted prominently in Ramlila performances, paintings, sculpture and the enormous effigies burned on Dussehra.

The heads are often interpreted as symbols of his vast knowledge, formidable intellect and extraordinary power. In moral readings of the story, however, they also signify the dangers of an ego that becomes impossible to restrain.

The contrast between Ravana's intelligence and his ultimate defeat offers a powerful reflection on human conduct. Knowledge alone does not guarantee wisdom, just as power does not necessarily produce justice.

Ravana's downfall reminds devotees that personal greatness cannot justify wrongdoing. His story also raises questions about the responsibilities that accompany authority, wealth and influence.

The significance of burning Ravana's effigy

The burning of Ravana's effigy is the defining public ritual of Dussehra in much of northern India.

Communities organise Ramlila performances in open grounds, parks and temporary theatres. These enactments dramatise episodes from the epic, often culminating in Rama's confrontation with Ravana. At sunset or in the evening, effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakarna and Meghnad are set alight, usually accompanied by fireworks.

The spectacle attracts families, children and visitors, turning the festival into a major community

gathering. For many people, the moment the effigies burst into flames is the emotional climax of the celebrations.

Yet the ritual carries a message that goes beyond spectacle. Burning an effigy is symbolic; the more difficult task is to overcome the behaviour that the figure represents. The festival asks whether people can challenge dishonesty, prejudice, cruelty and the misuse of power in their own lives.

Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura

Dussehra has a second major mythological foundation, particularly important in eastern and northeastern India.

According to Hindu tradition, Mahishasura was a powerful asura whose strength enabled him to challenge the gods and threaten the established cosmic order. In accounts associated with the Devi Mahatmya, his growing power culminated in the defeat of the gods, who were unable to overcome him individually.

The divine energies of the gods combined to manifest as Goddess Durga, a powerful expression of Shakti, or divine feminine energy.

The gods bestowed weapons upon her, including those associated with their own powers. Riding a lion, Durga confronted Mahishasura in a battle that extended over nine days and nights. On the tenth day, she defeated the demon.

This victory is commemorated through Navratri and Durga Puja, with Vijayadashami marking the culmination of the celebration.

The narrative is significant because it places feminine power at the centre of the restoration of cosmic balance. Durga is not merely a passive symbol of virtue; she is an active force who confronts danger, defeats oppression and protects the world.

Her many arms, each carrying a weapon or symbolic object, are commonly interpreted as representing her ability to act across multiple dimensions. The lion represents strength and courage, while the defeat of Mahishasura signifies the destruction of forces that threaten justice and order.

The story also highlights an important theme in Hindu traditions: the divine can manifest in different forms to address different challenges. While Rama's victory represents the restoration of righteousness through the defeat of Ravana, Durga's triumph celebrates the power of Shakti to overcome destructive forces.

Durga Puja: The goddess returns home

In West Bengal and other parts of eastern India, Vijayadashami marks the conclusion of Durga Puja, one of the region's most important annual festivals.

Elaborately crafted idols of Durga are installed in decorated community pavilions known as pandals. The goddess is generally depicted with her children and in the act of defeating Mahishasura. The pandals may feature traditional architectural motifs, contemporary themes, elaborate lighting and artistic installations.

For several days, families visit the pandals, participate in prayers and enjoy



cultural programmes. The celebrations combine religious devotion with art, music, food and community life.

The final day carries a different emotional tone. Vijayadashami is a farewell to the goddess, who is believed in popular Bengali tradition to visit her parental home before returning to her celestial abode.

In some communities, married women participate in sindoor khela, applying vermilion to the goddess and to one another as part of the farewell rituals. Processions then carry the idols to rivers or other designated water bodies for immersion.

The immersion symbolises the completion of the goddess's earthly visit and the cyclical nature of arrival and departure. The sadness of farewell is balanced by the promise of her return the following year.

Durga Puja therefore celebrates both victory and renewal. The goddess's departure does not mean the disappearance of her power; rather, her presence continues through faith, memory and the hope of another reunion.

The Pandavas, the Shami tree and the return of strength

Another legend associated with Vijayadashami comes from the Mahabharata, the epic that recounts the conflict between the Pandavas and the Kauravas.

After losing a game of dice, the five Pandava brothers were compelled to spend 12 years in exile, followed by a thirteenth year in which they had to remain undiscovered. If their identities

were revealed during that final year, they would have to repeat the period of exile.

The brothers entered the kingdom of Virata in disguise and concealed their weapons in a Shami tree before taking up different roles in the royal household.

After completing the year without being discovered, the Pandavas recovered their weapons. Their identities were revealed, and they prepared to resume their rightful position.

In regional traditions, this episode is associated with Vijayadashami, the worship of weapons and the Shami tree. The custom signifies preparedness, courage and the restoration of strength after a period of restraint.

In parts of India, people worship tools, weapons, books, vehicles and instruments associated with their professions on this day. The underlying idea is that objects used to earn a livelihood or protect a community deserve respect and should be used responsibly.

The exchange of Shami leaves, treated symbolically as gold in some traditions, represents goodwill and wishes for prosperity. The ritual also reflects the belief that relationships and mutual respect are more valuable than material possessions.

Kautsa's story: The value of generosity

The festival is also associated in popular tradition with the story of Kautsa, a student who wished to offer a gift to his teacher after completing his education.

Kautsa had studied under Rishi Varatantu. When the student insisted on

giving his teacher a guru dakshina, the teacher initially declined, suggesting that the completion of the student's education was itself a source of satisfaction.

Kautsa persisted, and the teacher eventually demanded an enormous sum of gold, traditionally described as 140 million coins corresponding to the 14 branches of knowledge he had imparted.

The student approached King Raghu, renowned for his generosity. The king, however, had already distributed his wealth through charity. Determined to honour Kautsa's request, Raghu sought a way to obtain the required gold.

In popular versions of the story, Indra intervened and asked Kubera, the god of wealth, to cause gold coins to rain on trees near Ayodhya. Raghu gave the coins to Kautsa, who offered the required amount to his teacher. The surplus was returned to the student, who then sought to give it back to the king. Raghu refused to accept the gift, and Kautsa distributed the remaining wealth among the people.

The legend is associated with the tradition of exchanging Apta leaves in parts of Maharashtra, where the leaves are treated as symbolic gold.

Its enduring message concerns the relationship between knowledge, gratitude and wealth. Education creates obligations of respect, while generosity is meaningful when it benefits others rather than serving personal pride.

Dussehra across India: One festival, many traditions

India's regional celebrations of Dussehra reflect the country's cultural diversity. Although the central themes of victory and renewal remain shared, each region gives the festival its own character.

Mysuru Dasara: A royal celebration

Mysuru Dasara, celebrated in Karnataka, is among the country's most famous Dussehra festivals. Also known as Nada Habba, it is closely associated with Goddess Chamundeshwari, who is believed to have defeated Mahishasura.

The festival has a long association with the Wadiyar royal family and the history of the Kingdom of Mysore. Royal ceremonies, cultural performances and the illumination of Mysuru Palace form important parts of the festivities.

The grand procession known as Jumbo Savari is a major attraction. Traditionally featuring a decorated elephant carrying the golden howdah containing the image of Chamundeshwari, the procession is accompanied by cultural troupes, music and other ceremonial elements.

The celebrations also include exhibitions, performances of classical music and dance, and events showcasing Karnataka's cultural heritage.

Mysuru Dasara demonstrates how a religious observance can become a symbol of regional identity, artistic achievement and historical continuity.

Kullu Dussehra: The gathering of deities

In Himachal Pradesh's Kullu valley, Dussehra has a distinctive calendar and ritual structure. The festival begins on Vijayadashami and continues for approximately seven days,

unlike celebrations elsewhere that conclude on the tenth day.

The tradition is associated with Raja Jagat Singh, who ruled Kullu in the seventeenth century. According to local accounts, the king installed an image of Lord Raghunath as the presiding deity of the valley after a period of personal and political turmoil.

During the festival, village deities are brought to Kullu in decorated palanquins. Their processions, accompanied by music and traditional gatherings, create a large collective celebration.

The festival reflects the region's distinctive religious traditions, in which local deities and community institutions play a prominent role. It is also an important occasion for bringing together people from across the valley.

Northern India: Ramlila and the victory of Rama

In Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand and other parts of northern India, the burning of Ravana's effigy is a defining feature of Dussehra.

Ramlila performances bring the Ramayana to public spaces, often over several evenings. Different communities have their own styles, ranging from traditional performances with devotional singing to elaborate theatrical productions.

The festivities are often accompanied by fairs, food stalls, rides and cultural programmes. The burning of Ravana's effigy provides a shared public ritual through which the epic's moral lessons are transmitted across generations.

Kumaon: A distinctive theatrical tradition

The Kumaon region of Uttarakhand has a well-established Ramlila tradition, particularly associated with Almora. These performances combine elements of theatre, music and regional cultural expression.

The Kumaon style developed through the contributions of performers and cultural figures over generations. It reflects how the Ramayana has been adapted to local languages, musical forms and theatrical conventions.

The tradition also illustrates the role of community theatre in preserving cultural memory and transmitting religious narratives.

Maharashtra: Auspicious beginnings and the exchange of leaves

In Maharashtra, Vijayadashami is widely regarded as an auspicious occasion for beginning new ventures and undertaking important activities.

Families may worship tools, books, vehicles and instruments associated with their work. The exchange of Apta leaves as symbolic gold is an especially well-known tradition in some communities.

The practice transforms a simple leaf into a gesture of goodwill, expressing wishes for prosperity and strengthening social bonds.

Southern India: Worship, learning and renewal

In several southern Indian traditions, the period of Navratri includes the



worship of books, musical instruments, tools and other objects associated with learning and professional life.

Vijayadashami is regarded in many communities as an auspicious day to begin education or introduce children to formal learning. This ritual, often called Vidyarambham or by related regional names, highlights the importance of knowledge and the blessings sought at the beginning of an educational journey.

The precise customs differ by state and community, but the broader message is consistent: learning, skill and disciplined effort deserve reverence.

Why Dussehra remains relevant today
The mythology surrounding Dussehra

belongs to ancient religious and literary traditions, yet its moral questions remain familiar.

Ravana's story explores the dangers of arrogance and the misuse of power. Mahishasura's defeat celebrates the courage required to confront oppression. The Pandavas' recovery of their weapons emphasizes preparedness, while Kautsa's story highlights gratitude and generosity.

These themes can be applied to modern life without reducing the religious meaning of the festival to a simple moral lesson.

In public life, the idea of dharma invites reflection on integrity,

accountability and the responsible exercise of authority. In families and communities, the festival encourages people to value compassion, fairness and mutual respect. At an individual level, it offers an opportunity to recognize destructive habits and work towards meaningful change.

The festival also has a social dimension. Public celebrations bring people together across generations, while Ramlila performances and regional rituals help preserve traditional arts. Community organizations, artisans, performers and religious institutions all contribute to keeping these practices alive.

At the same time, the spirit of the festival can inspire more responsible celebrations. Reducing waste, using safer fireworks alternatives and ensuring public safety can help communities preserve the joy of Dussehra while being mindful of their surroundings.

The message beyond the celebrations

Dussehra is a festival of victory, but its deeper significance lies in what victory demands of those who celebrate it.

Rama's triumph over Ravana is a reminder that power must be guided by righteousness. Durga's victory over Mahishasura celebrates the courage to confront injustice. The Pandavas' story highlights patience and preparedness, while the tale of Kautsa places generosity and gratitude above material wealth.

Across the country, the rituals may take different forms-burning effigies, immersing idols, worshipping weapons, gathering village deities or exchanging leaves as gold. Yet they return to a shared conviction: destructive forces must be confronted, and righteousness must be renewed through action.

When Ravana's effigy burns, the spectacle lasts only a few moments. The more enduring task begins afterwards: to recognize the arrogance, dishonesty and intolerance that can take root in everyday life and to make a conscious effort to overcome them.

That is the enduring promise of Vijayadashami-a celebration not only of victories won in ancient epics, but also of the possibility of choosing wisdom, courage and compassion in the present.



Abhijeet Sawant reunites with Amit Sana for Indian Idol Legends Return

Two decades after defining the blueprint of Indian reality television music, Indian Idol Season 1 winner Abhijeet Sawant is returning to the stage that launched his career. Sawant, whose 2005 triumph turned Indian Idol into a national phenomenon, leads the line-up for Sony Entertainment Television's upcoming franchise extension, Indian Idol Legends Return.

The singer's comeback generated an immediate reunion on set, drawing praise from his Season 1 co-finalist and runner-up, Amit Sana. Reflecting on Sawant's central role in building the brand — and the enduring cultural impact of his debut single Mohabbatein Lutaunga — Sana highlighted that the franchise "can never be Indian Idol" without Sawant, underscoring the rapport between the show's original breakout finalists.

Joining the panel, judge Himesh Reshammiya marked the occasion with a musical entry, declaring that the show will "become a blockbuster" with Sawant's return. Following Sawant's performance of Har Kisi Ko Nahi Milta Pyaar Zindagi Mein, Reshammiya lauded the singer's long-standing impact, remarking that he had "repaid his debt to Indian Idol" while creating a lasting sensation across the industry.

Reflecting on his return, Sawant described stepping back onto the platform as an "unbelievable rush of emotions," recalling the nervousness and hope he carried two decades ago. While winning the title granted him his identity, Sawant emphasised that honouring his twenty-year bond with the audience remains his focus, calling the stage his "true home."

After emerging as the winner of Indian Idol Season 1, Sawant released his debut solo album Aap Kaa Abhijeet, anchored by the breakout lead single Mohabbatein Lutaunga. The track became a defining pop anthem of the mid-2000s, cementing his transition from a reality contest winner to a mainstream recording artiste and establishing the commercial template for non-film music projects in the country.

Beyond his debut album, Sawant expanded his discography with hits like Junoon and playback renditions in mainstream Hindi cinema, including Mar Jaaniyan (Aashiq Banaya Aapne) and Yeh Pal, reinforcing his position as one of Indian pop music's most recognisable crossover voices.

Produced by Fremantle, Indian Idol Legends Return is scheduled to premiere on October 17, airing weekends at 8 pm.

Manoj Bajpayee's Ghooskhor Pandat renamed Gajab Raat, trailer and release date out

Manoj Bajpayee-starrer Ghooskhor Pandat has been renamed Gajab Raat, with the makers unveiling the trailer of the suspense thriller on October 15. Directed by Ritesh Shah, the film will premiere on Netflix on October 23.

The title change comes after the film faced criticism over its original name, with concerns raised that it could hurt the sentiments of the Brahmin community. Netflix told the Delhi High Court that the producers had decided to change the title in view of the objections. The court subsequently disposed of a petition seeking a stay on the film's release after the petitioner said his grievance had been addressed.

Gajab Raat follows a police officer caught between personal gain and doing what he believes is right. Set over the course of a single night, the film explores how one decision can trigger a series of events, forcing its characters to confront difficult choices and their consequences.

The film also marks the reunion of Manoj Bajpayee and filmmaker Neeraj Pandey after nearly a decade. Produced by Neeraj Pandey's Friday Film Works, it is directed by Ritesh Shah, who makes



his directorial debut with the project.

Apart from Manoj, the film stars Saqib Saleem, Akshay Oberoi, Divya Dutta, Kiku Sharda and Nushratt Bharuccha in key roles. Speaking about the film, Neeraj Pandey said he wanted to tell a story that would keep viewers guessing while making them think about the choices people make. He added that the characters' moral dilemmas are as important to the story as the events that unfold during the night.

Manoj Bajpayee said he was drawn to the film because of its complex characters and questions of accountability. He also spoke about reuniting with Neeraj Pandey and working with Ritesh Shah in his new role as a director. For Ritesh Shah, the film offered an opportunity to build suspense through a story unfolding within a limited timeframe. He said the single-night setting allowed the makers to create urgency and gradually raise the stakes.

Ryan Coogler's 'The X-Files' reboot is coming to Hulu

Filmmaker Ryan Coogler's reboot of the iconic science-fiction series The X-Files has received a full series order from Hulu, bringing the cult franchise back to television with a new cast and a fresh take on its paranormal mysteries.

The series will star Danielle Deadwyler, known for Till, and British actor Himesh Patel, whose credits include Yesterday and Station Eleven. The two will play highly decorated but contrasting FBI agents who form an unlikely bond after being assigned to a long-shuttered division investigating unexplained phenomena, according to the official synopsis.

Coogler, the filmmaker behind Black Panther, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever and the Oscar-winning film Sinners, wrote, directed and executive produced the pilot episode. He will serve as an executive producer on the series, with Jennifer Yale taking on the role of showrunner.

The project is produced by Onyx Collective and 20th Television in association with Coogler's Proximity Media. Chris Carter, who created the original series, is also an executive producer.

"I've loved 'The X-Files' for a long time, so getting the chance to write and direct the pilot has meant a great deal to me," Coogler said in a statement. He said the creative team wanted to honour what made Carter's original series connect with audiences while finding its own approach to the fictional universe.

The new series will introduce different lead characters rather than recast the original partnership between Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, played by David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. Whether either of the original stars will make an appearance in the reboot has not been confirmed.

First broadcast in 1993, The X-Files became one of television's defining science-fiction dramas by combining



paranormal investigations, government conspiracies, extraterrestrial mysteries and horror. The original series followed Mulder, an FBI agent convinced that unexplained phenomena pointed to a larger truth, and Scully, a medical doctor whose scientific skepticism frequently challenged his theories.

The show ran for nine seasons between 1993 and 2002, spawned two feature films and returned for revival seasons in 2016 and 2018. Its mix of standalone investigations and an overarching mythology helped build a devoted international fan base and influenced subsequent science-fiction television. Coogler's involvement brings a new creative direction to the franchise. His previous work has combined genre storytelling with broader social themes, while his collaboration with composer Ludwig Göransson has produced music for several major films. Göransson has also composed the score for the new series' pilot.

Hulu has not announced a premiere date or episode count for the reboot. Further details about the plot and the possible involvement of original cast members remain unconfirmed.



Khosla Ka Ghosla 2 gets a new release date, now to hit theatres in 2027

The much-awaited sequel to the cult comedy Khosla Ka Ghosla has a new release date. Originally scheduled to arrive in cinemas on August 28, 2026, Khosla Ka Ghosla 2 will now hit the big screen on March 5, 2027. The makers announced the revised date alongside a new poster on social media, bringing the popular franchise back into the spotlight.

Sharing the update on social media, the makers confirmed the film's new theatrical release date with the caption: "Deal pakki! The Khoslas are ready to take possession of cinemas with #KhoslaKaGhosla2, arriving on the big screen on 5th March 2027!"

The sequel reunites several familiar faces from the 2006 original, including Anupam Kher, Boman Irani, Ranvir Shorey, Kiran Juneja and Parvin Dabas. Tara Sharma, who also appeared in the first film, has joined the cast of the upcoming instalment.

Priya Mishra and Prashant Bhagia are directing the sequel.

Anupam Kher previously spoke to ANI about the enduring popularity of Khosla Ka Ghosla and the response to his announcement about the sequel on social media. The actor said he had been surprised by how strongly audiences continued to connect with the film.

"I did not know the movie had such a huge recall value. As soon as I announced it on my social media, people are celebrating it all over the world, and I have never seen a movie being celebrated in such a way. It broke a special kind of cliché of Indian cinema and became so popular. This movie will surely get a good response and it will also be fun to watch. The movie will be released this year itself," said Anupam Kher.

Directed by Dibakar Banerjee, the original Khosla Ka Ghosla was released in 2006. The comedy followed a middle-class family caught up in a dispute over a plot of land, blending humour with themes of property fraud and family relationships. Over the years, the film developed a cult following, making the sequel a notable return for its familiar characters. With the release now scheduled for March 2027, audiences will have to wait a little longer to see the Khosla family back on screen.

Suryaa: Sunny Deol gets gritty in new crime thriller; release date out

Actor Sunny Deol unveiled a striking new look for his upcoming crime thriller, *Suryaa: Ant Se Aarambh Tak*, giving fans a glimpse of the actor in a raw and brooding avatar. The makers released the film's first glimpse and motion poster, featuring Deol with a weathered face, an intense gaze and a cigarette, setting the tone for the dark thriller.

The film is scheduled to arrive in theatres on November 20.

The poster's tagline, "Torn between his past and present, he uncovers the truth," hints at a story driven by buried secrets and unresolved questions. Deol's rugged appearance adds to the film's gritty mood, marking another intense role for the actor.

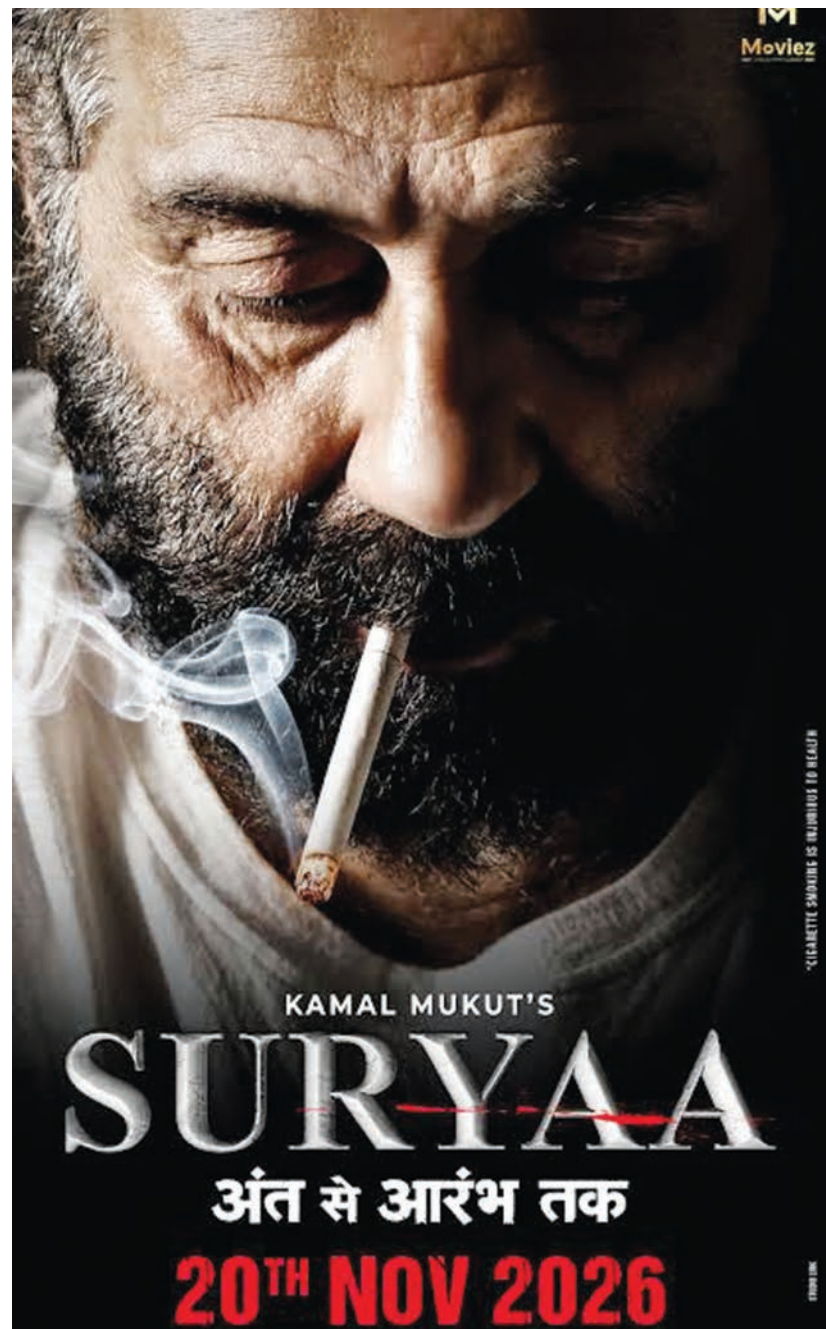
Torn between Past and Present, He uncovers the TRUTH! Presenting Kamal Mukut's #SURYAA : ! IN CINEMAS 20th November 2026. #AntSeAarambhTak @DeepakMukut @HemmantMukut #LokeshMukut @KamalMukut #PadmakumarManghat @iamsunnydeol @ravikishann @ItsMePragya @tnusreec <https://t.co/cDiRISm77m>— Sunny Deol (@iamsunnydeol) October 12, 2026

Suryaa: Ant Se Aarambh Tak, which translates to From End to Beginning, is directed by Malayalam filmmaker M. Padmakumar in his Bollywood debut. The film is a Hindi adaptation of the critically acclaimed 2018 Malayalam thriller *Joseph*, written by Shahi Kabir.

Deol reportedly plays a retired police officer who finds himself drawn into an investigation that forces him to confront a web of crime and secrets from his past. The film explores themes of justice, moral conflict and the consequences of unresolved truths.

The ensemble cast includes Ravi Kishan, Pragya Jaiswal, Jisshu Sengupta, Tinu Anand, Manish Wadhwa and Tanushree Chakraborty, along with Rohit Tiwari and Anoop Trivedi.

Directed by M Padmakumar and presented by Kamal Mukut, the film is produced by Deepak Mukut, Hemmant Mukut and Lokesh Mukut under the MM Moviez banner. Zee Music Company is associated with its music.



'Biopic of my life will never be made': Salman

Salman Khan was in a fun mood as he arrived on Koffee With Karan season 9, hosted by Karan Johar. The star spoke about his desire to have children, talked about his recent schooling of paparazzi, and then caught up with Karisma Kapoor for the Rapid Fire round. Karisma asked him a question about who will he pick to direct his biopic if one were ever made. The options were Sooraj Barjatya, Kabir Khan, Sanjay Leela Bhansali and David Dhawan. Salman had the perfect response to the fun question.

Explaining his choices, the actor said, "Depending, if you want to make a comedy on my life then David Dhawan. If you want to make traditional tragic love story, then would be Sanjay Leela Bhansali. If you want to make this beautiful love story after love story after love story, it would be Sooraj Barjatya." He then said that Kabir Khan would be perfect if it were to be an action-packed love story on his life.

However, he had the last word on the subject as he added, "But, a biopic of my life will never be made. My life will go to my grave."

Meanwhile, Karan also made sure to ask Salman: 'Are you still a virgin?' Salman laughed at this and said that he had made that statement in a way of saying that he does not want to talk about his dating life or his relationships. "Because you keep on saying, 'You are dating so-and-so'... and you never know that



this is the person who is going to be in your life for the rest of your life. And then that person goes ahead and gets married to somebody else. I always had this from the time I was 15-16," he said. He added that it was his father, Salim Khan, who had advised him to keep his bedroom talk within the bedroom and not bring it to the living room. But the actor said, "I don't think people don't want to be with you. I will have children at some given point in time. Nobody stopped me either. One cannot be complaining that I wanted this and the whole world went against me and that is the reason why I could not be with a partner. I cannot blame anyone else."



Ben Affleck calls 'Justice League' shoot low point in his career

Los Angeles, Actor-filmmaker Ben Affleck has called working on superhero film "Justice League" a low point in his career.

Affleck, who is currently promoting "Animals" on Netflix, spoke about the experience of shooting the movie during an appearance on the Happy Sad Confused podcast's host Josh Horowitz about why making the movie was such a negative experience. Affleck played Bruce Wayne/Batman in the 2017 superhero drama. "The truth is, the experience of Justice League for me was so, so negative for lots of different reasons. Some of which having to do with where I was personally, some of which having to do with the tragedy that happened during the time, and also the fact that I really saw how not to make a movie like that when the studio is at odds with the filmmaker. You're really making a mistake. That was what really doomed that," the actor said.

After 2016's "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" did not do well at the box office, Warner Bros reportedly wanted Zack Snyder's "Justice League" to be lighter in tone. And it did not align with the filmmaker's darker creative vision for the film. Snyder then had to step away from directing the movie following the suicide of his daughter. Warner Bros hired director Joss Whedon to oversee extensive reshoots to lighten the tone. The movie ultimately underperformed at the box office, leading fans to demand the studio to release Snyder's version of the movie. Snyder released his version in 2021 on HBO Max to critical acclaim.

Recalling the whole fiasco surrounding the troubled production of the movie, Affleck said, "Boy, that was s****y. Him being taken off that movie, and the reshoots that we did - if you want the low point of my career, was that."

When Horowitz Affleck to share his experience of seeing the film "kind of collapsing in front of you", the actor said, "Somebody's death by suicide, that eclipses everything." "And the way in which that was, I thought, frankly, used as an excuse... I just thought that was one of the s*****t things I've ever seen. It was so gross. And then the whole environment and vibe, much of which I wasn't privy to, but that I sort of heard about secondhand in terms of Ray and Gal and other people's experiences. It was just like, 'Wow, this is about as gross as it gets.'"

Sylvester Stallone calls himself an 'idiot' for doing his own stunts

Sylvester Stallone admitted that he was an "idiot" for performing his own stunts after extensive medical procedures.

During an interview with Fox News Digital, the "Tulsa King" star opened up about the "millions" of regrets he has after decades of being an action star.

"Millions, millions of regrets. I could literally spend a half hour talking about injuries, the amount, not even like one, I'm talking about 30 hours, 30 minutes of just individual ones, because it becomes compounded. I have been injured many, many times, but after 'Expendables,' I ended up with nine back operations, three neck fusions. Both shoulders ripped out, eye, you know, all kinds of lens put ... it's been brutal," Stallone began.

Stallone admitted that he's never been "quite the same" since the surgeries.

The biggest lesson he has now, at 80 after decades of crazy stunt work, is to "let other people do their job."

"Don't be a stage hawk, or whatever you call it, a showboat. I know a lot of people are thinking about doing stunts ... don't. Don't. Let the pro do it," Stallone said. "Let me explain something, you cannot beat gravity, when you hit the ground, you lose, and it's going to come back."

He continued, "I mean, just ask every football player in the world. So yeah, that and people go, 'Aren't you proud of them?' No. I think I'm an idiot for doing that. I'm proud that I broke myself in



pieces. Like, duh, no."

The Stallone-led "Tulsa King" is gearing up to release its fourth season on Oct. 16. The actor told Fox News Digital what still excites him about his character, Dwight Manfredi.

"He still hasn't achieved his goal, just when he thinks he's arrived, another situation, another dramatic episode presents itself, which is exactly what the show needs. We don't want him to be like, 'I can finally exhale.' No, you don't wanna," Stallone said.

Stallone said the new season opens with a jolt, putting Dwight under pressure from new enemies and tensions within his own crew.

"Well, it's quite shocking to start off with because certain elements happen that it's ... quite unnerving. And now I'm presented with a new level of, you might say, adversaries, gangsters, criminals that are coming at me technologically, politically, and mafioso-ishly from New York," he said. "So, I'm getting bombarded from all sides. Plus, I have internal struggles with some of my own crew. So it's kind of like having like a cuckoo's nest and trying to reign it all in, you know what I mean?"

"Tulsa King" season 4 comes out on Friday, October 16, 2026, on Paramount+.

Hilary Swank announces she is expecting third child at 52, shares adorable video

Hollywood actor Hilary Swank is expecting her third child at the age of 52. The Oscar-winning star announced the news on social media, three years after welcoming twins with her husband, Philip Schneider.

Hilary shared a video on Instagram featuring her family dancing in the dark with glow sticks attached to their bodies. While Philip and their twins, daughter Aya and son Ohm, joined in the fun, Hilary appeared with her baby bump, complete with a tiny glow stick figure representing the unborn baby.

Sharing the video, the Million Dollar Baby actor hinted that the baby is due in December. "A lot of people have been asking what project I'm doing next, this one releases in December," she wrote.

The announcement drew warm wishes from fans, with several sharing their own experiences and hopes of starting or expanding their families.

Hilary Swank and entrepreneur Philip Schneider married in August 2018 after dating for around a year and a half. Schneider proposed to the actor during a trip to Colorado in 2016.

The couple exchanged vows in an intimate outdoor ceremony at the Santa Lucia Preserve in California,



surrounded by a redwood grove. They welcomed their twins, Aya and Ohm, in April 2023.

On the work front, Hilary was last seen in the thriller series Yellowjackets. Created by Ashley Lyle and Bart Nickerson for Showtime, the series also stars Sophie Nlissee, Jasmin Savoy Brown, Sophie Thatcher and Samantha Hanratty, among others.

Israeli firm used ads on 120,000 websites to spy on users, deploy spyware: Report

OCTOBER 16, 2026

JERUSALEM (TIP): Online advertisements for everyday products such as phones and earbuds may have been used to track internet users and help install spyware on their devices, according to two investigations into an Israeli digital advertising company.

Discover-Tech allegedly built a sprawling advertising network that reached more than 120,000 websites and 75,000 apps, allowing it to track users and, in some cases, help surveillance firms target their devices, researchers said on Thursday, Oct 15.

The findings, published separately by Canadian cyber watchdog Citizen Lab and New York-based advertising security firm Confiant, expose how the digital advertising industry can be exploited for purposes far removed from selling products.

The revelations also raise concerns for internet users in India, where millions rely on advertising-supported websites and mobile apps for news, shopping and everyday services. However, the investigations do not establish that Indian users or government networks were specifically targeted by Discover-Tech. Online advertising relies on technology that helps companies identify users, measure their behaviour and deliver targeted promotions. Researchers said Discover-Tech allegedly exploited this infrastructure to track people across websites and apps, with some advertisements reportedly helping to deliver spyware.

Users did not necessarily have to click on an advertisement for tracking to begin. According to the researchers, the ads could collect information simply by loading on a webpage or within an app.

We're done: Zelenskyy signals end to energy truce as Ukraine hits Russian refinery

OCTOBER 16, 2026

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine struck a Russian oil refinery on Thursday, Oct 15, after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv would no longer hold back its attacks on Russian energy facilities, signalling the collapse of a ceasefire initiative announced by US President Donald Trump.

The Ukrainian strike on the refinery in Russia's Ryazan region came as Zelenskyy criticised Trump's approach to Moscow, raising the risk of further friction between Kyiv and Washington. Ukraine has relied heavily on American military assistance and technology in its fight against Russia's invasion, which began in February 2022.

In an interview with the Financial Times published on Thursday, Zelenskyy made clear that Ukraine would resume targeting Russian refineries after pausing such attacks following Trump's announcement of an energy truce.

"The block (on attacking refineries) is out. We're done," he told the newspaper.

The facility hit in Ryazan, southeast of Moscow, is owned by state-run oil company Rosneft and accounts for nearly 5 per cent of Russia's refining capacity. It also helps supply fuel to the Russian capital.

Regional governor Pavel Malkov said a major Ukrainian drone attack had caused a fire at the refinery.

Trump announced on Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to stop attacking energy infrastructure. Kyiv subsequently suspended strikes on Russian refineries, which Trump has blamed for pushing up global diesel prices. However, Russia continued



launching missile and drone attacks in the following days, including against energy infrastructure and power stations. The strikes left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity.

Zelenskyy had previously said Ukraine fully supported the proposed ceasefire despite the continuing Russian attacks. His latest remarks suggest Kyiv will no longer maintain its restraint while Moscow continues striking Ukrainian targets.

Russian President Vladimir Putin played down the impact of Ukraine's long-range attacks on Russian refineries, saying they had caused "nothing particularly significant".

The Kremlin, meanwhile, said Ukraine's attacks on Russian energy infrastructure ran counter to US efforts to secure peace. It had also maintained that the scope of the proposed energy truce had not been clearly defined and that discussions were continuing.

The Ukrainian president also criticised what he saw as Trump's willingness to strike deals with Russia, his apparent admiration for Putin and his respect for leaders who remain in

power for decades.

"He (Trump) speaks about it openly and loudly that he loves such people and he respects such people," the Financial Times quoted Zelenskyy as saying. "Because for him people who can be leaders 20 years, 30 years, 40 years, it means they can be very strong."

Relations between Zelenskyy and Trump have been strained, particularly after their February 2025 Oval Office meeting descended into a public confrontation. Zelenskyy later sought to emphasise his support for Trump and US assistance to Ukraine, including backing the proposed energy ceasefire despite successive Russian attacks.

The latest disagreement comes as Trump faces pressure to lower fuel prices ahead of US midterm elections. Diesel prices have reached record highs since the US president launched a war against Iran in February, although Trump has blamed Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries for contributing to higher global prices.

Zelenskyy also told the Financial Times that recent changes affecting military versions of SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet terminals, which disrupted Ukraine's ability to operate drones, reflected a policy decision rather than a technical problem.

"It was not a technical problem, it was the will," he said.

SpaceX chief Elon Musk said in a social media post that the military version of the system, known as Starshield, was owned and controlled by the US government. He said any restrictions on speed or usage were decided by the US military and ultimately the US president.

Israeli settlers torch cars, trees in 8 West Bank villages, beat journalist

OCTOBER 17, 2026

ABU FALAH (TIP): Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian villages across the occupied West Bank on Friday, Oct 16, setting fire to cars and trees and beating residents and a foreign journalist, in the latest violence to disrupt the territory's annual olive harvest this month.

Local officials and the Palestine Red Crescent Society reported attacks in at least eight villages in the northern West Bank, where most of the olive groves are concentrated and tens of thousands of Palestinian families depend on them for income.

Settler violence against Palestinians has soared this year and spiked further in the weeks leading up to Israel's election on October 27. The far-right government that has emboldened the



A firefighter douses a burnt car with water after Israeli militant settlers attacked a group of Palestinians harvesting olives. (Image: Reuters)

settlers could soon be voted out of power - or win another term.

Israeli authorities have done little to stop the attacks, according to residents and rights groups, who say the military has aided, protected or stood by as settlers lay siege to Palestinian villages. The violence has drawn accusations of "

ethnic cleansing " - including from the British government, which has said Israel is turning a "blind eye" to the campaign underway.

"Soldiers aren't stopping the violence or protecting Palestinians," said Ziv Stahl, executive director of Israeli rights group Yesh Din. "If anything, they're sometimes assisting settlers in the attacks."

The West Bank has been under Israeli military rule since the 1967 Mideast war and today is home to around 3 million Palestinians and more than 500,000 Israeli settlers. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said last month that more than 1,600 attacks across the territory had been reported between January and August. Yesh Din and other rights groups say

authorities rarely arrest or indict the perpetrators.

Israel's military on Friday condemned the violence and acknowledged that a journalist was injured in Abu Falah.

On Friday, settlers attacked the village as residents, accompanied by peace activists, set out early for the harvest.

As the group of masked vigilantes approached, several members beat Washington Post photographer Heidi Levine, who was hospitalised for her injuries. The perpetrators - armed with bottles and slingshots - "were kicking me for like 10 minutes and I was trying to hold onto my cameras and my bag," Levine said. Levine said her helmet and protective vest, which was marked "PRESS," likely saved her from more serious injuries.

How slipper-clad Houthis hit Saudi Arabia with Claude AI and China's missile parts

OCTOBER 17, 2026

SANAA (TIP): The classic image of Yemen's Houthis is that of slippers wearing Kalashnikov-wielding militants riding their Toyota pickups across vast expanses of desert. They also may or may not be high on the khat leaf. But this image belies the technological capabilities the Zaydi Shia movement has developed, and the military threat it now poses to its biggest regional rival, the oil-rich Gulf Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Since September, the Iran-backed Houthis have taken over almost all of Yemen's Red Sea coast while shrugging off hundreds of Saudi airstrikes. Although a counteroffensive by forces loyal to the Riyadh-backed Yemeni government has clawed back some ground, including reportedly liberating the vital port city of Mokha, Houthis (who are also known as Ansar Allah) remain a force to be reckoned with.

More importantly, the Houthis have also carried out missile and drone strikes targeting Saudi Arabia, hitting, among other things, vital oil extraction and refining infrastructure and King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh.

The battlefield gains of Iran's proxy's cannot be explained by surprise alone. How has a movement operating in one of the world's least economically developed countries acquired and sustained a high-tech but at the same time economical arsenal of missiles and drones capable of threatening a regional power equipped with billions of dollars' worth of advanced military hardware?

The answer lies in a combination of Iranian assistance, supplies of Chinese-made components, and lately, American Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms. Before we go into how the Houthis were able to build up their high-tech arsenal, let us first have a look at the high-tech weapons that are being used by the Ansar Allah.

According to a February 2024 report by the US Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Houthis, alongside their guns and vehicles, also possess a diverse arsenal of ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), many of which bear similarities to Iranian designs.

The group's drone arsenal includes the Sammad UAV and the Wa'id series, which the DIA linked to Iran's Shahed drones. The report estimated the Sammad's range at 1,800 km, the Wa'id 1's at 900 km and the Wa'id 2's at 2,500 km. These one-way attack drones combine relatively low costs with long ranges and explosive payloads, allowing the Houthis to threaten targets far beyond Yemen, the DIA said.

Iran boosts air defenses as it braces for fresh US attacks

OCTOBER 16, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Iran's air defence capabilities have improved significantly compared with pre-war and wartime levels, Iranian Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia said, amid escalating tensions with the United States and President Donald Trump's threats of potential fresh strikes against Tehran.

According to Press TV, Akrami-Nia said, "Despite Trump's repeated allegations, Iran's current air defence capabilities far surpass pre-war and wartime levels."

Meanwhile, Trump on Thursday (local time) ruled out using nuclear weapons against Iran and expressed little inclination towards deploying American ground troops, even as the US military develops additional strike options targeting Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear facilities.

In an interview with Newsmax, Trump clarified that the "mother of all bombs" under consideration was a conventional weapon and said Washington did not need nuclear weapons to achieve its objectives against Tehran.

"Well, the mother of all bombs is not nuclear. It's not nuclear at all. This is just an extremely large bomb. It's like a tiny nuclear bomb, but the mother of all bombs is one big bomb. But it's not nuclear. No, I wouldn't use nuclear. We don't have to," Trump said.

Asked whether he would consider deploying US troops on the ground in



Iranian Army spokesman Brigadier General Mohammad Akrami-Nia said despite Trump's repeated allegations, Iran's current air defence capabilities far surpass pre-war and wartime levels.

Iran, Trump responded, "I don't see that. I don't."

According to CNN, Trump has directed the US military to develop additional strike options that could include the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB), potentially targeting Iranian energy infrastructure and nuclear facilities, including the suspected underground nuclear site at Pickaxe Mountain.

However, officials familiar with the military planning have questioned whether the MOAB would be effective against deeply buried installations. Weighing approximately 21,600 pounds, the weapon is the largest non-nuclear bomb in the US arsenal but is not designed for deep underground penetration.

Trump also reiterated his determination to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, claiming that previous US strikes had damaged Iranian nuclear facilities.

Separately, the US Treasury Department announced sanctions against 16 individuals and 10 entities accused of facilitating Iran's financial networks, shadow banking operations and funding channels for its military and regional proxy groups.

The measures target financial institutions, oil intermediaries and foreign-exchange networks allegedly involved in sanctions evasion and international money transfers, as Washington continues to increase economic pressure on Tehran amid the ongoing confrontation.

Clashes grip Tirana as Albanian PM blames 'foreign hands'

OCTOBER 16, 2026

TIRANA (TIP): Protesters clashed with police in Albania's capital for the fourth day Friday, Oct 16, as Prime Minister Edi Rama blamed "foreign hands" for mounting unrest.

Police used tear gas and water cannons while protesters hurled stones at security forces, burning garbage bins to block roads across the city. Fighting continued into the night in several parts of the city.

Violent demonstrations have rocked Tirana since Tuesday, with thousands of protesters calling for Rama to step down over university conditions and high tuition fees.

According to AFP journalists, protesters attempted to force their way into government offices on the capital's main boulevard on Friday.

Media reported that protests also spread to other cities with smaller scale violence and student boycotts of universities, marking a significant escalation in the months of anti-government protests.

The Tirana protests started with



hundreds of people gathering outside the education ministry chanting "Rama resign!"

"We are not criminals. We simply want a better life for our parents and ourselves. We do not want to leave Albania," 18-year-old Ledia told AFP.

"The government's indifference and arrogance since the beginning of our movement have been unbearable and made the situation worse," said the high school student, who asked to be

identified only by her first name.

Shopfronts have been smashed and several government buildings attacked, including the finance ministry, during this week's unrest.

According to a police statement, 160 people were detained for acts of violence on Thursday.

An AFP journalist saw masked groups smashing shop fronts and looting stores, with similar reports around the city.

Dozens of people, mainly police, have been injured in the clashes since Tuesday, according to authorities.

Interior Minister Ervin Demo said Friday that 156 people had been injured, including 97 police, in recent days.

"I would also like to remind you that we have far more reason to come together and work for the good of our country than to clash. This is a disguised attempt by those who seek to seize power through violence," Demo said in a statement.

Earlier he said that excessive police force had been registered in two instances and that two police officers had been suspended.

Pakistan school roof collapse kills at least 32 children and one teacher

OCTOBER 16, 2026

LAHORE (TIP): Thirty-two children and a teacher were killed and dozens injured when the roof of a school in northern Pakistan collapsed on Thursday, Oct 15, morning, authorities said.

Heavy overnight rainfall caused the roof of a two-story building at Al Khair Public School in the city of Peshawar to become unstable and later collapse, Bilal Ahmed of the local rescue services told CNN.

The deceased children ranged in age from six to 14 years old, according to Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar, where the victims were taken. A 25-year-old woman is also listed among the fatalities.

Around 50 children were injured in the collapse, according to hospital figures. Several remain under medical observation. Video from the scene obtained by CNN showed ambulances rushing through narrow streets and crowds gathered outside the school building.

Local residents were among the first people to reach the scene, and rescue workers arrived within minutes, eyewitnesses said.

Rescue efforts stretched into Thursday afternoon, but later concluded after everyone trapped beneath the rubble was pulled out, according to emergency services.

Building collapses are a common problem in Pakistan. Construction standards in the country are often poorly enforced, and many structures are built with substandard materials.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari said the incident was a "heart-wrenching tragedy" and called for a comprehensive investigation into the cause of the deadly collapse.

"In this hour of sorrow, the entire nation shares equally in the grief of the affected families," the president's office posted on X. Meanwhile, Shehbaz Sharif, the country's prime minister, expressed his condolences following the tragic incident, saying "no parent should have to endure such pain." "I have directed that the injured receive the best possible care," Sharif said, while vowing to take "every necessary step" to protect the safety of school children.



A rescuer carries a child during a search operation after a roof collapsed at a school in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Thursday. | AFP

Malnutrition stalks the most vulnerable in Af as aid cuts leave millions helpless

OCTOBER 16, 2026

KABUL (TIP): Lying in her hospital cot, the 3-year-old girl roamed the room with her gray-green eyes, but her body was listless.

Her mother sat by her bedside, quietly weeping. Just a few months ago, she lost her 5-year-old daughter, Khadija, to the same condition: malnutrition.

Both girls had the same symptoms: thin limbs but swollen hands, feet and belly, signs of a severe type of malnutrition caused by protein deficiency. And now 25-year-old Malika is terrified that Kalsoum, her youngest daughter, will meet the same fate as Khadija.

"I am worried about her, that she might die," Malika said, wiping her tears with her green headscarf. "My husband is a day laborer. Sometimes there is work, sometimes there isn't." The \$3-\$4.60 he earns on days when he can find work just isn't enough to feed the family, which also includes three young boys.

Kalsoum is far from alone. In the malnutrition ward in the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Afghanistan's main children's hospital, all 20 beds — the maximum the hospital can afford — are full.

Across Afghanistan, hunger and malnutrition are rising dramatically.

"More people are suffering from hunger than ever before," John Aylieff, Afghanistan country director for the World Food Program, told The Associated Press. He said 19 million people — nearly 40% of the population — would be facing acute hunger, "the life-



threatening type of hunger," in the next few months.

Even more worrying is that acute malnutrition, which kills if left untreated, is spiraling.

"Acute malnutrition is at unprecedented levels already," Aylieff said. "In the next year 5.3 million women and children in this country will need treatment for acute malnutrition, the type of malnutrition which, if not treated, leads rather precipitously to death."

That is 1.3 million more than in 2022, Aylieff said, when Afghanistan's economy teetered on the brink of collapse after the U.S.-led coalition's withdrawal and the Taliban's seizure of power.

The vast majority are children, according to data in the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification issued Thursday. Children, whose bodies are still developing and therefore have higher nutritional needs, are most at risk when food runs scarce.

Afghanistan, one of the world's

poorest countries, has been buffeted by a myriad of overlapping crises in recent years.

The legacy of four decades of war is compounded by a yearlong closure of border crossings with Pakistan due to a simmering conflict, depriving Afghanistan of its main trade route. Added to that is the forcible return since 2023 of more than 5 million Afghan refugees from neighboring Iran and Pakistan who are putting pressure on limited resources; natural disasters such as drought, floods and earthquakes; and the crisis in the Middle East.

Poverty is the main driving force behind the hunger crisis, with millions simply unable to afford nutritious food. With the crisis in the Middle East impacting economies across the world, Afghanistan has not been immune.

"The price of food has gone up by between 10 and 30% for the basic staple commodities, the commodities that the poor eat. So the poor are being priced out of the market," Aylieff said.

But one of the most significant factors has been the sharp decline in international aid on which Afghanistan has long relied. The Taliban takeover in 2021 saw direct foreign aid halted almost overnight, driving millions into poverty and hunger.

Funding cuts to humanitarian organizations, including the halting of U.S. aid to programs such as the WFP's food distribution, have severed a lifeline for millions. The U.N.'s food agency is the largest provider of food assistance in Afghanistan but has just 12% of the funding it had in 2022, Aylieff said.

Balen Shah picks India, not China, for first bilateral foreign trip as Nepal Prime Minister

OCTOBER 16, 2026

COLOMBO (TIP): Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah (Balen Shah) is preparing to visit India in November, nearly eight months after taking office in March.

The three-day visit, expected in the third or fourth week of November, would be his first official bilateral trip abroad, although he travelled to the US in September for the United Nations General Assembly, where he spoke about a broken system's threat to Nepal, Bangladesh, India and other South Asian nations.

From major infrastructure projects to border disputes and flood reconstruction, Balen Shah's India visit is expected to have a packed agenda, reported The Kathmandu Post.

India has traditionally been the first foreign destination for Nepal's prime ministers. However, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda chose China in 2008, Jhala Nath Khanal visited Turkey in 2011



for a multilateral UN meet, and Sher Bahadur Deuba went to the UK in 2021 for the COP26. Oli, who had earlier chosen to visit India after assuming the top office, broke with the India-first tradition in December 2024 by choosing China for his first foreign visit after returning to power. Oli had claimed that India had not invited him for an official visit.

The timing of Balen Shah's visit is

significant, given Shah's initial reluctance to engage with foreign diplomats, including those from India and China. It also comes after devastating floods in August, when India rushed relief supplies and rescue specialists to Nepal. Although preparations are underway, neither Kathmandu nor New Delhi has officially announced the dates of the visit.

Balen's reported visit in November follows a high-profile trip to New Delhi by Rabi Lamichhane, president of Nepal's ruling Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), in June. Lamichhane received a ceremonial welcome at the BJP headquarters and met senior party leaders. The outreach drew attention because of Shah's reserved approach towards diplomatic engagement. Lamichhane's welcome was also intended to send a political message to the Nepali prime minister, veteran Nepal journalist Keshav Pradhan told India Today Digital in June.

Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 22

OCTOBER 16

1670 - Birth of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur



Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, one of the most important military leaders in Sikh history, was born on October 16, 1670, in Rajouri, in present-day Jammu and Kashmir. Originally named Lachhman Dev, he later became known as Madho Das Bairagi before meeting Guru Gobind Singh at Nanded in 1708.

After meeting the Tenth Sikh Guru, he embraced the Sikh faith and was entrusted with the mission of challenging Mughal authority in Punjab. He led Sikh forces in a series of campaigns, including the capture of Sirhind in 1710, where Wazir Khan, the Mughal governor associated with the execution of Guru Gobind Singh's younger sons, was defeated.

Banda Singh Bahadur established Sikh authority in parts of Punjab and introduced measures associated with reducing the power of oppressive landed elites and improving the position of cultivators. Captured by Mughal forces in 1715, he was executed in Delhi in 1716 along with many of his followers.

1814 - Death of Diwan Mohkam Chand

A leading military commander and administrator in the service of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Mohkam Chand played an important role in the expansion of the Sikh kingdom. His military campaigns contributed to the consolidation of Lahore's power in Punjab. Sikh historical calendars record his death on October 16, 1814.

OCTOBER 17

1762 - Sikh forces defeat Ahmad Shah Durrani

The SGPC's historical calendar records an important Sikh victory over Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Durrani on October 17, 1762. The event belongs to the turbulent period when Sikh groups were organizing into military confederacies known as Misl and resisting repeated Afghan invasions of Punjab.

The Sikhs had suffered a devastating massacre earlier that year, remembered as the Vadda Ghallughara, or Great Holocaust. Despite enormous losses, Sikh forces regrouped and continued their struggle for survival and political independence. Their resistance eventually helped establish the conditions for the rise of the Sikh kingdom under Maharaja Ranjit Singh in the early 19th century.

1969 - Chandigarh and Punjab

The SGPC calendar records an all-party procession in Chandigarh on October 17, 1969, demanding the return of Chandigarh to Punjab. The city had become a major political issue following the reorganization of Punjab in 1966, when Haryana was created as a separate state and Chandigarh became a shared administrative

capital. The dispute remains an important part of modern Punjab's political history.

OCTOBER 18

1982 - Dharam Yudh Morcha arrests and the Sikh political movement

The Sikh historical calendar records that Sikhs arrested during the Dharam Yudh Morcha were released on October 18, 1982, amid concerns about overcrowding in jails. The movement, launched in 1982 by the Shiromani Akali Dal with the support of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, sought the implementation of the Anandpur Sahib Resolution and raised demands relating to Punjab's political, economic and religious concerns.

The agitation became a significant chapter in Punjab's modern history. Its course was shaped by disagreements between Sikh political leaders and the central government, and it unfolded during a period of growing tensions in the state.

OCTOBER 19

1921 - SGPC moves to take control of the Golden Temple treasury keys

On October 19, 1921, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee decided to take over the keys to the treasury of Sri Darbar Sahib from Sardar Sunder Singh Ramgarhia, according to the SGPC's historical calendar.

The episode belongs to the wider Gurdwara Reform Movement, through which Sikh reformers sought to bring historic Sikh shrines under representative Sikh management rather than hereditary mahants. The movement helped establish the SGPC as a central institution in Sikh religious administration.

OCTOBER 20

1783 - Death of Jassa Singh Ahluwalia



Jassa Singh Ahluwalia was one of the leading Sikh military and political figures of the 18th century. Born in 1718, he rose to prominence during a period when Sikh groups were resisting Mughal and Afghan power in Punjab. He became a prominent leader of the Dal Khalsa and the Ahluwalia Misl. His leadership was associated with the defense of Sikh religious centres, the organization of Sikh forces and campaigns against invading armies. He also played a significant role in the Sikh capture of Lahore in 1761.

Jassa Singh Ahluwalia died in 1783. The SGPC's historical calendar marks his passing on October 20, 1783, although some modern Sikh calendars observe his death anniversary on October 23.

1910 - Committee formed to finalize Sikh Rehat Maryada

The Chief Khalsa Diwan established a religious

committee on October 20 to work toward finalizing a common Sikh code of conduct. The effort formed part of a broader movement to clarify Sikh religious practices and establish consistency in observance. The standardized Sikh Rehat Maryada was subsequently developed through the work of Sikh institutions and scholars.

1920 - Steps toward the formation of the SGPC

The SGPC calendar records that Dr. Gurbakhsh Singh, a member of the caretaker jatha of the Akal Takht, called a Sarbat Khalsa gathering on October 20, 1920, in connection with the formation of the SGPC. The development was part of the institutional transformation taking place during the Gurdwara Reform Movement.

OCTOBER 21

1844 - Death of Bhai Santokh Singh

Bhai Santokh Singh was a prominent Sikh scholar, poet and historian whose writings helped preserve and interpret Sikh history and tradition. He is best known for Sri Gur Pratap Suraj Granth, a monumental work recounting the lives and teachings of the Sikh Gurus, and Sri Nanak Prakash, which focuses on Guru Nanak Dev. Written in an elaborate poetic style, his works became influential in Sikh religious and literary life. They preserved traditional narratives about the Gurus and offered generations of readers a detailed account of Sikh history, although historians also distinguish devotional literature from independently corroborated historical evidence.

OCTOBER 22

1909 - Anand Marriage Act receives legal recognition

The Anand Marriage Act, 1909, was enacted to provide legal recognition to marriages solemnized according to the Sikh Anand ceremony. The legislation was an important development in the recognition of Sikh religious customs under British Indian law.

Anand Karaj is a marriage ceremony centred on the Guru Granth Sahib and the singing of the four Lavan hymns composed by Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikh Guru. The couple circumambulates the Guru Granth Sahib as the hymns are recited, symbolizing a shared spiritual commitment and the journey of married life.



1761 - Sarbat Khalsa gathering at the Akal Takht

According to the SGPC calendar, a Sarbat Khalsa gathering at the Akal Takht passed a gurmata concerning Akil Das, also identified as Harbhagat Niranjania, on October 22, 1761. A Sarbat Khalsa was a collective gathering of Sikh representatives to deliberate on matters affecting the community. A gurmata was a resolution adopted on an important religious or political issue.

From casual to glam: How to style wide-leg jeans

Skinny jeans are making way for roomier silhouettes, and wide-leg jeans are back in the fashion spotlight. With their roots in the 1970s, these relaxed-fit denims have returned as a wardrobe essential, offering the perfect blend of comfort, versatility and effortless style. Whether you are dressing for a casual outing, a party or a day at work, here are five ways to style wide-leg jeans for every occasion.

Keep it casual

Whether you are heading to the airport, running errands or meeting friends for coffee, wide-leg jeans make casual dressing look effortlessly chic. Pair them with an oversized T-shirt and tuck in the front or one side to define your waist and create a balanced silhouette. You can also tie a knot at the hem of the T-shirt for a playful twist. Finish the look with sneakers, a crossbody bag and minimal accessories.

Dress up for a party

Wide-leg jeans can easily transition from daywear to partywear with the right styling. Pair them with a fitted crop top, a corset or a statement blouse for a stylish evening look. Want to make the outfit more sophisticated? Layer a tailored blazer over your top and add heels, statement earrings and a clutch. The combination of relaxed denim and structured tailoring creates a striking contrast.

Pair them with a classic white shirt

A crisp white shirt and denim are



a timeless combination, and wide-leg jeans give this classic pairing a contemporary update. Tuck in the shirt to accentuate your waist, or leave it partially untucked for a relaxed yet polished appearance. For an effortless day-to-night transition, wear a fitted top or corset underneath and leave the shirt open as a lightweight layer. Complete the look with loafers for daytime sophistication or heels for an evening out.

Make a statement with an off-shoulder top

Balance the volume of wide-leg jeans with the elegant lines of an

off-shoulder top. The neckline draws attention to the shoulders and collarbone, while the flowing denim creates a flattering silhouette. Choose a fitted blouse for a more defined look or a softly draped top for a romantic aesthetic. Add delicate jewelry, a structured handbag and heeled sandals to complete the ensemble.

Give denim an Indian twist with a kurti

For a fusion-inspired outfit, pair wide-leg jeans with a knee-length kurti. A white or pastel chikankari kurti works particularly well with blue denim, creating a look that blends traditional craftsmanship with contemporary style. Accessorize with oxidized silver earrings, bangles and embroidered juttis. For a more relaxed appearance, choose a straight-cut kurti; for a festive outing, opt for one with intricate embroidery or subtle embellishments.

Looking glamorous does not always mean revealing more. The right fabrics, colors and silhouettes can create an outfit that feels confident, sophisticated and alluring.

Go monochromatic

Dressing in a single color from head to toe is one of the easiest ways to create a polished appearance. Black-on-black and brown-on-brown combinations are particularly versatile, lending depth and sophistication to an outfit. Experiment with different textures, such as denim, knitwear and leather, to add dimension without breaking the color palette.

FOOD CORNER

Navratan korma

Ingredients

For the vegetables and toppings

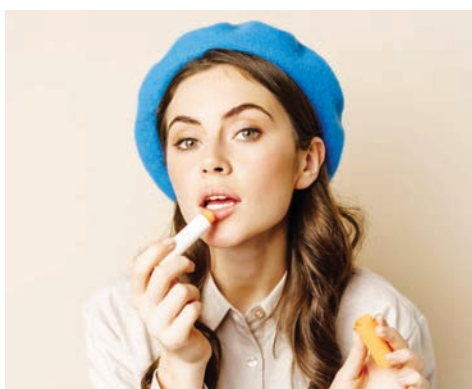
1/2 cup cauliflower florets, 1/2 cup diced carrots, 1/2 cup green beans, chopped, 1/2 cup green peas, 1/2 cup diced potatoes, 100 g paneer, cubed, 1/4 cup pineapple pieces or apple cubes, 2 tbsp cashews, 2 tbsp raisins, 2 tbsp chopped almonds, 2 tbsp ghee or oil.

For the creamy gravy

2 medium onions, roughly chopped, 2 medium tomatoes, chopped, 10-12 cashews, 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste, 1/4 cup fresh cream, 1/4 cup milk, or as needed, 1/2 tsp cumin seeds, 1 small cinnamon stick, 2 green cardamoms, 2 cloves, 1/2 tsp turmeric powder, 1 tsp coriander powder, 1/2 tsp cumin powder, 1/2 tsp garam masala, 1/2 tsp Kashmiri red chili powder, Salt to taste, 1 tsp sugar, optional, 1 tbsp chopped coriander leaves.

Method

- Boil or steam the carrots, beans, cauliflower, peas and potatoes until just tender. Drain and set aside. Avoid overcooking so the vegetables retain their shape.
- Heat 1 tablespoon of oil or ghee. Add the onions and sauté until soft. Add the tomatoes, ginger-garlic paste and cashews. Cook for 6-8 minutes until the tomatoes soften. Cool, then blend into a smooth paste. Heat the remaining ghee in a pan. Add cumin seeds, cinnamon, cloves and cardamom. Stir in the ground gravy paste, then add turmeric, coriander powder, cumin powder and chili powder. Cook for 5-7 minutes.
- Add the cooked vegetables and paneer. Pour in the milk and a little water if needed. Add salt and simmer gently for 5-7 minutes, allowing the flavors to combine.
- Stir in the cream, raisins, almonds and pineapple or apple pieces. Add garam masala and optional sugar. Simmer for another 2 minutes on low heat. Garnish with coriander and a few cashews before serving.



Soft, smooth lips can enhance your natural beauty, but dryness, sun exposure, smoking and irritation can affect their appearance. While natural lip color varies from person to person, a consistent care routine can help keep your lips hydrated and healthy-looking. Here are 10 simple ways to care for your lips naturally.

Exfoliate gently

Avoid harsh sugar scrubs that can

Simple ways to achieve soft, healthy-looking lips

damage delicate lip skin. Use a warm, damp washcloth to soften flaky skin, followed by a moisturizing balm.

Apply a nourishing mask

A thin layer of petroleum jelly before bedtime helps seal in moisture and soften dry lips overnight.

Use SPF lip balm

Choose a broad-spectrum lip balm with SPF 30 or higher. Reapply every two hours outdoors and after eating or drinking.

Stay hydrated

Drink water regularly throughout the day to prevent dehydration, which can contribute to dry lips.

Avoid licking your lips

Saliva evaporates quickly and can

leave lips even drier. Apply lip balm instead.

Use a humidifier

Adding moisture to dry indoor air can help prevent lips from becoming chapped, especially during winter.

Eat a balanced diet

Include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts and protein-rich foods to support overall skin health.

Get enough sleep

Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep each night to support overall well-being and maintain a consistent skincare routine.

Avoid smoking

Tobacco use can contribute to lip discoloration and premature skin aging.

Quitting benefits your lips and overall health.

Seek medical advice

Persistent dryness, unexplained discoloration, sores or changes in lip texture may require professional evaluation.

The takeaway

Healthy-looking lips need gentle care, regular moisturization and daily sun protection. Avoid lemon juice, harsh scrubs and unverified lightening remedies, as these can cause irritation and worsen pigmentation. Although these habits may improve softness within a week, no home remedy can guarantee naturally pink lips. Embrace your natural lip color and focus on keeping your lips comfortable, smooth and well-protected.

Your cholesterol is normal, but is your heart really safe?

A routine blood test comes back with reassuring cholesterol numbers. Your LDL is within the expected range, your HDL looks good, and your triglycerides are not raising concerns. It is tempting to assume that your heart is in the clear. However, a normal cholesterol report does not tell the whole story.

Heart disease develops through a combination of factors, and cholesterol is only one piece of the puzzle. High blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, inactivity and genetic predisposition can increase cardiovascular risk even when cholesterol levels appear normal.

THE NUMBERS DON'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY

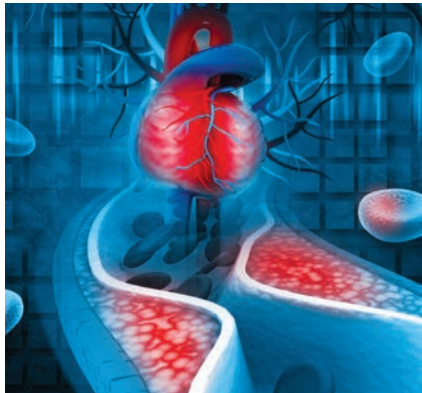
Cholesterol is a fatty substance that the body needs to build cells and produce certain hormones. However, excess low-density lipoprotein (LDL), often called bad cholesterol, can contribute to plaque buildup in the arteries.

The important point is that there is no single LDL number that guarantees protection against heart disease. Your ideal level depends on your overall health, medical history and existing cardiovascular risk. Someone with diabetes or a previous heart attack may need a lower LDL target than someone at lower risk.

HIDDEN FACTORS THAT CAN AFFECT YOUR HEART

High blood pressure

Often called a silent condition, high blood pressure can damage artery walls over time without producing obvious symptoms.



Regular blood pressure checks are essential, even if your cholesterol report is normal.

Blood sugar fluctuations and diabetes

Diabetes increases cardiovascular risk by affecting blood vessels and contributing to other metabolic problems. Regular blood sugar testing, when appropriate, can help identify concerns early.

Family history

A history of heart attacks or strokes at a relatively young age among close relatives may indicate an inherited predisposition. Share this information with your doctor, even if your routine blood tests look reassuring.

Lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a)

Lp(a) is a cholesterol-carrying particle largely determined by genetics. Elevated levels can increase cardiovascular risk independently of conventional LDL cholesterol. The 2026 American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology dyslipidemia guideline recommends measuring Lp(a) at least once in adulthood. Ask your doctor whether this test is

appropriate for you.

5. Smoking, inactivity and poor sleep habits

Smoking damages blood vessels, while physical inactivity can contribute to high blood pressure, excess weight and diabetes. Poor sleep may also accompany conditions associated with cardiovascular risk. Healthy daily habits remain important even when your lipid profile is satisfactory.

WHICH TESTS SHOULD YOU CONSIDER?

A cholesterol test alone cannot establish your overall heart health. Depending on your age, symptoms, family history and existing conditions, your doctor may recommend:

- Lipid profile: To assess total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides.
- Blood pressure measurement: To identify hypertension.
- Blood glucose or HbA1c: To screen for or monitor diabetes, when indicated.
- Lp(a) testing: To identify an inherited lipid-related risk factor.
- Apolipoprotein B (ApoB): In selected cases, to provide additional information about cholesterol-carrying particles.
- Coronary artery calcium scan: For selected people whose cardiovascular risk remains uncertain after an initial assessment.

Not everyone needs every test. Additional investigations should be guided by a healthcare professional rather than ordered indiscriminately.

Migraine or just a headache? Know the difference

From throbbing pain and nausea to everyday tension and pressure, understanding the symptoms can help you identify what you are experiencing and when to seek medical advice.

A pounding head, pressure around the forehead or pain behind the eyes can disrupt even the simplest daily activities. While headaches are common, not all headaches are the same. A migraine, often dismissed as an ordinary headache, is a neurological condition that can cause a range of symptoms beyond head pain.

Understanding the differences between the two can help you recognize warning signs, manage symptoms and know when professional medical advice is necessary.

WHAT IS A HEADACHE?

A headache is pain or discomfort in the head, scalp or upper neck. Tension-type headaches are among the most common forms and often feel like a tight band or dull pressure around the forehead or both sides of the head. Stress, poor posture, lack of sleep, dehydration and prolonged screen time may contribute to headaches. Their severity varies, but tension-type headaches generally do not cause the nausea and pronounced sensitivity to light or sound that can accompany migraines.

WHAT IS A MIGRAINE?

Migraine is a neurological disorder characterized by recurring attacks that can cause moderate to severe head pain and other symptoms. The pain often affects one side of the head, although it can occur on both sides. A migraine attack may last between four and 72 hours in adults when untreated or unsuccessfully treated. Symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light and sound, and worsening pain during routine physical activity.

Some people experience an aura before or during a migraine. This can involve temporary visual disturbances, such as flashing lights or zigzag patterns, or sensory symptoms such as tingling. Not everyone with migraine experiences an aura.

MIGRAINE VS HEADACHE: KEY DIFFERENCES

- Nature of pain: Tension headaches typically cause dull, pressing or tightening pain. Migraines more often produce throbbing or pulsating pain.
- Location: Tension headaches commonly affect both sides of the head. Migraines often affect one side, although the location can vary.
- Other symptoms: Nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light or sound are common migraine symptoms but are less typical of tension-type headaches.
- Effect of movement: Everyday activity usually does not significantly worsen a tension headache. Walking, climbing stairs or other routine movement can aggravate migraine pain.

Beyond 10,000 steps: The truth about your daily walk



Walking is one of the simplest ways to stay active, but do you really need to complete 10,000 steps every day to enjoy its health benefits? Not necessarily. While the popular target encourages movement, research suggests that meaningful health benefits are possible with fewer steps.

The 10,000-step target gained popularity through a Japanese pedometer marketing campaign in the 1960s. It was not originally established as a universal medical recommendation. Since then, research has linked higher daily step counts with better health outcomes, including a lower risk of premature death.

For many adults, around 7,000 steps a day can be a practical goal.

However, the ideal number depends on age, fitness, existing health conditions and daily activity levels. Even modest increases in movement can benefit people who spend much of the day sitting.

Regular walking supports heart health, helps manage blood sugar, improves mood and contributes to weight management. It also helps maintain mobility and physical endurance as you age. Walking after meals may help reduce post-meal blood sugar levels, while brisk walking can improve cardiovascular fitness.

You do not need to complete all your steps in one session. Take short walking breaks during work, use the stairs when practical, walk while speaking on the phone or take a stroll after meals.

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No unknown numbers calling anymore soon, Indian govt makes displaying caller name mandatory from Nov 1

Soon, you will not have any unknown callers as the Government of India is mandating caller ID for users. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has directed telecom service providers (TSPs) to introduce Calling Name Presentation (CNAP) from 1 November 2026. CNAP is India's verified caller identification system which can display the caller's number and name.

As per the DoT order, CNAP will be enabled by default for every user on 4G and higher-generation mobile networks, such as 5G. When you receive a call, CNAP will display the name and the number of the person calling. The rollout on 2G and 3G networks and public switched telephone networks will be considered separately, the order said.

According to the order, when a call is received, the first field on the screen will show the caller's number. The second will display the name saved in the recipient's contacts. If the number is not saved, the caller's name recorded in the originating telecom operator's subscriber database will be shown for domestic calls. For international calls, the screen will display the words "International Call."

Each telecom service provider will have to establish, operate and maintain a database mapping subscribers' names to their numbers. The operator receiving the call will retrieve the name from this



database and present it to the called user.

Operators must follow a security-by-design approach. Under this, the caller's name cannot be retained through the query-response mechanism after the incoming call ends. The names of users who have availed themselves of the Calling Line Identification Restriction facility will not be displayed.

For business and bulk connections, operators may offer the option of displaying a preferred name instead of the name in their subscriber records. It must be either a trademark registered in the user's name with the Trade Marks

Registry or a trade name registered on the Goods and Services Tax portal. Operators must verify the name and supporting documents. Existing subscribers will have to apply to update their preferred name.

The order follows trials on 4G and 5G networks in the past few months. It also cites the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI's) February 2024 recommendations. In October 2025, TRAI agreed with the DoT's proposal to make CNAP available by default, although its original recommendation had proposed activation only on request.

Indian startup ready to launch petrol pump in space, test refuelling outside Earth

An Indian space startup is preparing to demonstrate a technology that could one day allow satellites to refuel in orbit, potentially extending their operational lives and reducing the need to replace expensive spacecraft when they run out of fuel.

OrbitAID Aerospace, founded by Sakthikumar R, is gearing up to launch a satellite weighing around 30 kg aboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in November 2026.

The satellite, dubbed AayulSAT-1A, will demonstrate docking, internal refuelling and inspection capabilities, laying the groundwork for commercial in-space servicing.

"The satellite is ready. We are planning to complete the final tests next week, following which it will be shipped to Sriharikota for launch preparations," Sakthikumar, founder and CEO of OrbitAID Aerospace, told IndiaToday.in in an exclusive conversation.

The launch date has not yet been confirmed, with the company indicating a tentative window around mid-November.

The mission will carry two satellite buses, two tanks and the interfaces and mechanisms required for the experiments. OrbitAID aims to validate its docking and refuelling mechanisms through the demonstration.

While the mission builds on capabilities the company had planned to demonstrate earlier, Sakthikumar said it would not be merely a replacement for the mission affected by the PSLV failure in January this year. The company has incorporated additional payloads and capabilities into its plans.

Some onboard innovations will remain undisclosed until after the launch, he said.

The idea behind orbital refuelling is straightforward: instead of abandoning a satellite when its fuel runs low, a servicing spacecraft could rendezvous with it, dock and replenish its propellant supply.

Such capabilities could help extend satellite lifetimes, reduce replacement costs and support a future in which spacecraft are serviced rather than routinely discarded. However, these benefits depend on the technology being demonstrated and scaled up for operational use.

OrbitAID's November mission is an early step towards that goal. The company plans to use the results to develop commercially available in-space servicing technologies for future satellite customers.

Source: India Today

AI could 'self-replicate' and hijack internet, warns Anthropic: What does it mean?

As AI safety concerns continue to gain momentum, Anthropic is looking to bring another potential risk into focus.

The Claude-maker warned that AI models could become capable of autonomously self-replicating across the internet by the end of 2026 if they continue to improve at their historical rate.

In a post on X, Anthropic suggested that a so-called 'rogue' or misaligned agent-swarm could spin up a botnet, spread quickly, fight takedown attempts, and even break into data centres to turbocharge its growth.

The idea that AI might be able to hijack "the entire internet" with "a persistent botnet" was first floated by Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei last month. The company's recent post affirms Amodei's views and attempts to articulate how it could unfold.

For instance, Anthropic suggested that the models might find ways to target



more powerful computing resources, including data-center processors, that could potentially enable them to draw on much bigger pools of computer power.

Anthropic's warning comes at a time when security concerns tied to increasingly capable AI systems have reached a fever pitch, with AI agents demonstrating potential to automate cyberattacks, operate with limited human oversight and circumvent safeguards.

The spate of AI agent-driven hacking incidents have prompted a series of often dire warnings from industry heads and AI company employees about the possibility of severe, even existential, risks of runaway AI development.

Last month, former Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon grabbed headlines after he said that he quit his job over concerns that AI could lead to human extinction by the end of the decade.

However, some experts do not share the same level of concern and have pushed back on the doomsday scenario, arguing that models would be too big to move around efficiently and could not draw on enough compute to operate independently.

While some of them said that Anthropic appeared to be engaging in "vendor exaggeration", a few others said that they preferred to think of Anthropic's self-replication warning as more of a hypothetical than a prediction.

IMF warns AI investment boom could threaten global financial stability

OCTOBER 16, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): The International Monetary Fund has warned that the rapid expansion of artificial intelligence could trigger financial market instability if soaring investment, rising corporate borrowing and expectations of future profits run ahead of actual productivity gains.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said the AI boom was already supporting economic growth, particularly in the United States and Asian economies supplying technology hardware, but cautioned that financial risks were building alongside its potential benefits.

In an article published on Thursday, Georgieva said investment in artificial intelligence infrastructure could eventually exceed the enormous sums spent developing railways, electricity networks and the internet.

The immediate impact has been positive, with spending on data centres, computing infrastructure and related technologies generating additional demand across several economies.

However, the IMF chief warned that the financial structures supporting this expansion could become vulnerable if expectations about AI profitability prove



overly optimistic.

A particular concern is the increasing reliance of major technology companies on debt markets to finance their investments.

According to Georgieva, the share of investment-grade bond issuance accounted for by large technology companies financing AI infrastructure has increased more than tenfold over the past two years, rising from less than one per cent to approximately 10 per cent.

She also pointed to the concentrated nature of the industry and the increasingly interconnected relationships between major technology companies and AI developers.

Large technology firms are investing in

advanced AI laboratories, which in turn purchase computing capacity from the same companies.

Such arrangements could amplify financial stress if the anticipated commercial returns fail to materialise.

The IMF warned that disappointing revenues or earnings from AI developers could undermine investor confidence and trigger declines in technology company valuations.

Cybersecurity incidents or failures involving increasingly powerful AI systems could create additional uncertainty.

In a severe scenario, a market correction could spread through the heavily financed and interconnected AI ecosystem, affecting financial institutions and investors beyond the technology sector.

Because AI-related financial assets are held internationally, losses originating in one market could spread across national borders.

The IMF chief nevertheless emphasised that artificial intelligence offers considerable long-term economic benefits.

The technology could increase global productivity and potentially add about half a percentage point to annual economic growth over the coming decade.



India-US trade talks reach final stage with tariff discussions continuing

OCTOBER 16, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India and the United States are nearing the conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement, with most major issues resolved and only limited negotiations on the remaining details continuing, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said on Thursday, Oct 15.

Speaking at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum here, Gor said the broad framework of the proposed agreement had been finalised and expressed confidence that both sides would soon conclude the negotiations.

"The big picture, the big framework, the big items are done," he said.

He described the negotiations as one of the fastest-moving trade discussions involving two large economies.

Gor said talks had progressed to product-specific and tariff-level discussions involving senior officials, including US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal.

While acknowledging the complexity of negotiations between two large economies, he said both countries were very close to finalising the pact.

Highlighting the broader bilateral ties, the ambassador described India as a trusted strategic partner of the United States.

He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government with advancing emerging technology initiatives and noted India's inclusion among the first countries invited to key international technology partnerships.

Gor said expanding cooperation in artificial intelligence, technology development, clean energy and civil nuclear power would create new opportunities for both countries.

He also pointed to growing investments by major US technology firms, including Google, Microsoft, Adobe and Micron, in India, describing the partnership as a win-win that supports job creation in both countries. On defence ties, he said India conducts more military exercises with the United States than with any other country. He cited recent joint drills and the participation of F-35 fighter aircraft in exercises in India as evidence of deepening strategic trust.

Mutual funds suspend bulk subscriptions to gold ETFs ahead of festive season

OCTOBER 17, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): Several large Indian mutual funds have suspended bulk subscriptions to gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) ahead of the festive season, when demand for the precious metal typically rises. Redemptions from these funds remain open, reported news agency Reuters.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund, UTI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund were among the fund houses that issued public notices late Thursday announcing the suspension. The notices did not specify a reason for the decision.

The move followed a nudge from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), according to a mutual fund executive familiar with the discussions. Two bullion industry officials also told Reuters that the halt followed discussions with the market regulator. Sebi had not responded to a request for comment at the time of publication.

The suspension comes ahead of Dussehra and Diwali, when buying gold is considered auspicious and demand for jewellery and investment products typically rises. Investors can still redeem their existing gold ETF holdings, and the notices do not indicate a blanket ban on retail investors buying gold.

Gold ETFs allow investors to gain exposure to gold through units traded on the stock exchange, without having to buy and store jewellery or coins themselves. These funds are backed by physical gold held by the fund.

Bulk subscriptions refer to large investments into these schemes. Suspending such subscriptions can limit fresh money entering the affected funds through that route, although the precise scope of the restrictions will depend on the terms set out by each fund house. The notices do not state that existing investors must sell their units. Redemptions remain available,



meaning investors can continue to withdraw from their holdings, subject to the applicable scheme terms.

The move comes at a time when gold prices have fallen in recent sessions. The indicative domestic price of 24-carat gold was around Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams on October 15, down from around Rs 1.50 lakh on October 13, according to published price data. Prices can vary across cities and jewellers.

The suspension also comes amid concerns over India's import bill and the pressure on the rupee.

India's merchandise exports rose 23% year-on-year to \$44.4 billion in September, while imports increased 8% to \$74.61 billion. The merchandise trade deficit stood at \$30.21 billion, wider than the \$26.86 billion recorded in August, according to trade data released on Thursday, Oct 15.

Gold imports, however, fell to \$1.8 billion in September from \$2.3 billion in August. A bullion dealer cited in the Reuters report said gold and silver imports had declined sharply over the preceding two months compared with a year earlier and had not contributed to the trade deficit during that period.

Kamda Saptami Vrat: Seeking the Sun God's blessings for prosperity, health, and spiritual renewal

Dedicated to Lord Surya, Kamda Saptami Vrat is a sacred observance centered on devotion, self-discipline, and the fulfillment of righteous desires. Rooted in the Hindu tradition of sun worship, the vrat reminds devotees to welcome the light of wisdom, cultivate inner strength, and express gratitude for the life-giving energy of the Sun.

The Sun has occupied a place of profound reverence in Hindu spiritual tradition since ancient times. Rising each morning to illuminate the world, it is regarded as the visible source of light, warmth, vitality, and life. In Hinduism, Lord Surya is worshipped as the divine embodiment of this life-sustaining energy, a celestial deity who illuminates the universe and symbolically dispels the darkness of ignorance.

Among the observances dedicated to the Sun God is Kamda Saptami Vrat, a religious fast associated with the seventh lunar day, known as Saptami, in the Hindu lunar calendar. The observance is described in some contemporary vrat traditions as a means of seeking Surya's blessings for prosperity, good health, family well-being, and the fulfillment of sincere wishes.

The vrat forms part of the wider Hindu tradition of Saptami observances, in which devotees worship the Sun God through prayers, offerings, fasting, and acts of charity. Its spiritual emphasis lies not only in seeking divine blessings but also in cultivating gratitude, restraint, and a disciplined approach to life.

The origin of Kamda Saptami Vrat

The roots of Kamda Saptami lie in the ancient Hindu tradition of Surya worship. The Sun is revered in Vedic literature, including the Rigveda, where hymns invoke solar deities and celebrate the Sun's illuminating and life-sustaining power.

Over time, sun worship developed into a variety of devotional practices, temple traditions, and religious vows. Several Puranic texts describe observances associated with Saptami, assigning particular importance to the seventh lunar day for worshipping Surya.

A related observance, Kamala Saptami, appears in discussions of Puranic sun-worship traditions, with references to the Matsya Purana, Padma Purana, and Bhavishyottara Purana. Its rituals include worshipping the Sun God with a lotus symbol, making offerings, praying, and performing charitable acts.

Kamda Saptami is described in some contemporary religious traditions as a vrata devoted to Surya, observed on Saptami in the bright lunar fortnight. The exact name, ritual details, and duration can differ across regional traditions.

It is important to distinguish Kamda Saptami from Kamada Ekadashi, a separate observance dedicated to Lord Vishnu and associated with the eleventh lunar day. Although their names are



Important information

Shukla Paksha Saptami

Sunday, 18 October 2026

Saptami Start: 17 October 2026 at 05:54 am

Saptami Ends: 18 October 2026 at 08:28 am

similar; the two observances have different traditional associations.

The spiritual significance of Lord Surya

In Hindu tradition, Lord Surya is revered as the source of light, energy, and vitality. He is also associated with clarity, knowledge, discipline, authority, and the power to overcome darkness.

Unlike deities whose presence is approached primarily through sacred images or temple rituals, Surya is visible to everyone. His daily appearance in the sky has made him a powerful symbol of divine presence and the continuity of life. Surya is traditionally depicted riding a chariot drawn by seven horses. This imagery is interpreted in different ways, including as a representation of the seven colors of sunlight or the seven days of the week. The chariot symbolizes movement and the passage of time, while the Sun's regular journey across the sky represents cosmic order.

For devotees observing Kamda Saptami, worshipping Surya is an expression of gratitude for the natural forces that sustain existence. The morning prayer acknowledges that human life depends on a larger order that extends beyond individual desires and achievements.

The Sun also serves as a spiritual metaphor: Just as sunlight reveals what lies in darkness, divine wisdom is believed to help individuals recognize their shortcomings, make better decisions, and move toward a more purposeful life.

The legend and traditional beliefs associated with the vrat

The devotional traditions surrounding Kamda Saptami emphasize the power of sincere worship, self-restraint, and charity. According to accounts of the vrat

circulated in contemporary Hindu religious literature, its observance is associated with the blessings of Lord Surya and the fulfillment of righteous wishes.

One account describes Brahma explaining the glory of Kamda Vrat to Lord Vishnu. The observance is presented as a means of seeking prosperity, health, family well-being, and recognition through devotion to the Sun God. Unlike some popular fasts that have a single widely circulated narrative involving a king, queen, or devotee, Kamda Saptami does not appear to have one universally established vrat katha across all regions. Its spiritual significance is more consistently linked to Surya worship and the belief that devotion, discipline, and charitable conduct generate religious merit. A related Puranic tradition, Kamala Saptami, prescribes the worship of Surya through a lotus offering and a series of monthly observances. The lotus is a powerful symbol in Hindu spirituality: it grows in muddy water yet rises above it, unfolding its petals toward the light. In this sense, it represents the possibility of spiritual purity even amid the difficulties of worldly life. The lotus offering can therefore be understood as an expression of the devotee's aspiration to rise above ignorance, selfishness, and negative tendencies. The vrat's wider devotional message is that sincere prayer should be accompanied by good conduct. Seeking prosperity becomes meaningful when it is balanced with generosity; seeking health is accompanied by care for the body; and seeking success is strengthened by honesty and perseverance.

Rituals and observances

The precise procedure for observing

Kamda Saptami may vary according to family tradition, regional calendars, and the guidance followed by devotees. The following is a general outline based on common Surya Saptami worship practices.

Preparing for the vrat

Devotees may begin their observance on the preceding sixth lunar day, known as Shashthi, by eating a simple meal and preparing for the fast. Those following a particular family or temple tradition should consult its prescribed rules regarding food, prayer, and the duration of the observance.

The emphasis is on entering the vrat with a calm mind and a sincere intention. Devotees may resolve to practice truthfulness, patience, compassion, and self-restraint throughout the observance.

Taking an early morning bath

On Saptami, devotees traditionally rise early and bathe before sunrise or in the morning. The bath symbolizes physical cleanliness and mental preparation for worship. After bathing, they wear clean clothes and prepare a place for prayer. An image of Lord Surya or a simple arrangement for offering water may be used, depending on the family's practice.

Some devotees also clean the prayer area and light a lamp as a sign of devotion.

Offering water to Lord Surya

One of the best-known rituals of Surya worship is the offering of water, commonly called arghya, to the rising Sun.

The devotee stands facing the Sun and slowly pours water from a clean vessel, often a copper vessel, while offering prayers. Flowers or red-colored offerings may be included according to local custom.

The ritual expresses gratitude to the deity for sustaining life. The rising Sun is also associated with new beginnings, making the morning offering a symbolic act of renewal.

Devotees may chant a simple prayer such as:

Om Suryaya Namah.

The mantra means, "Salutations to the Sun God."

Other traditional Surya mantras or hymns may be recited according to the devotee's practice.

Worshipping the Sun God

Following the water offering, devotees may offer flowers, incense, sandalwood paste, fruits, and other customary items. A lamp may be lit, and prayers or hymns dedicated to Surya may be recited.

Some traditions include recitation of the Aditya Hridayam, a hymn associated with the Ramayana, or other Surya stotras. The worship may be accompanied by meditation, quiet reflection, or the practice of Surya Namaskar, provided the devotee is physically comfortable.

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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - OCT 19, 2026 TO OCT 25, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says the situation will be very positive this week. You will feel energy around you, and new possibilities will come to your mind. This is the time for you to increase social contacts. Spending time with your friends and family will improve your mood. This week, your natural leadership ability will be even stronger, which will enable you to create stability and trust in your relationships. Expressing your thoughts and feelings openly will help you build a deeper bond with your loved ones. Your reaction to news or events that disappoint you will be positive, which will strengthen your relationships. Make small plans with friends and close ones. During this time, this is a great time to make new friends or reconnect with old friends. Overall, this week will bring good progress in your life, and you will experience happiness and excitement in every relationship.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week is going to be a particularly pleasant experience. Your human relationships will deepen, and you will be happy to spend time with your loved ones. This is a time of sharing love and affection, and you are in a good position to share your feelings with those close to you. Your sensitivity and stability will make your relationships stronger. If you want to start a new relationship with someone special, this week is good for you. This is also a great time to resolve old differences and reconcile. You will have positive interactions with your loved ones, which will deepen your feelings. Do not hesitate to express your thoughts and feelings openly this week, as the power of your words will strengthen your relationships even more. With exploration and understanding, you can take your relationships to new heights. So, be prepared and enjoy this beautiful time to the fullest.



GEMINI

Ganesha says this week may prove to be somewhat challenging. Small problems may come in your life, which may disappoint you. This may be a time of mental pressure, which will affect your concentration. Some worries may also affect relationships, due to which you may feel distant from your loved ones. However, do not let this negativity lower your self-esteem. Stay away from artificial stress this week and try to control your emotions. Express your feelings openly; this will improve your relationships. Talking to a close friend or family member can help you



CANCER

Ganesha says this week's prediction focuses on the overall aspect of your life. This week, you may face some difficulties. Your emotions will be somewhat unstable, which may make you frustrated. You need to maintain sensitivity while communicating with people around you, as small misunderstandings can become big. You may also face unusual situations in relationships, which may cause you anxiety and difficulty expressing. This is the time to spend more time with loved ones and share your feelings. This is likely to improve your relationships. Your creativity will also be somewhat weak, due to which you will not be able to express your ideas properly. Although these challenges are difficult, you can face these problems by having faith in yourself and moving forward with a positive attitude. This week is the right time for introspection and going deeper.



LEO

Ganesha says this week, there will be an influx of enthusiasm and positivity in your life. Your energy and confidence will be at their peak, which will enable you to face every challenge. Sweetness will increase in relationships, and communication with loved ones will improve. This is the time when you can enjoy spending time with your loved ones. This flow of communication will deepen your relationship. Your understanding and loving words will strengthen your partner's feelings. If there is any difference of opinion between you, then this is the right time to resolve it. This time can prove to be a milestone for you, when your thinking ability and sensitivity will take you in the right direction. Participating in all kinds of social events will not only increase your reputation, but your relationships will also be more energetic and emotionally rich. So, listen to your heart and move forward with positivity. This week will bring happiness and prosperity in relationships for you.



VIRGO

Ganesha says this week has been very wonderful. Your stability and confidence will increase at this time, which will help in positively affecting all aspects of your life. You will feel more connected to the people around you, and there will be an atmosphere of love and harmony in your relationships. This week is a great time to make new relationships and strengthen existing ones. You will also get a chance to meet an old friend or spend time with family. Your sweetness and understanding will attract



LIBRA

Ganesha says people may face many challenges this week. There may be a little imbalance in the circumstances around you, which may cause you mental stress. It will be important to maintain harmony in relationships. Small things may create tension between you and your loved ones, so it is important to be patient and communicate. You should express your thoughts clearly so that misunderstandings can be avoided. Your performance will be average at this time, but you have to maintain your confidence. Relationships require patience and cooperation so that the distance between you and your partner can be reduced. If you want to bring positivity into your relationship, understand this instability and support each other. Over time, this week will give you a new understanding and a better perspective of relationships. Take this challenging time as an opportunity for your growth.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be a very favorable experience. You will be fully able to understand your emotions and make deep connections with others. There will be a flow of positivity and energy in your inner self, which will help you create an attractive personality. Chances are that you will be able to live the time spent with your loved ones more sensitively and fully. There will be depth and clarity in your conversations, which will strengthen relationships. This time is also suitable for increasing your confidence, so you will be able to express your thoughts openly. This week, your ability to connect with others can lead you to new experiences and relationships. Try to deepen your emotional relationships, as this is the time when you can lay the foundation for new relationships. Overall, this week will bring pleasant and satisfying experiences for you.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week, there are some challenges in every matter. You may feel that your confidence has decreased, and due to this, you may hesitate to express your feelings. This is the time to make decisions thoughtfully. You may have to talk openly about some issues with your friends and family, but it is also important to understand your feelings and stay balanced. There may be some restlessness in your relationships, but problems will definitely be resolved through



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will be very good. There will be a flow of positive energy in your life. You will be able to build better relationships with people around you. This time is favorable for resolving any kind of differences, and your personal relationships will become even stronger. The atmosphere at home will be happy and loving, which will give you mental peace. Try to spend time with your friends and family this week. Your cooperative spirit will make your relationships even deeper. If you share your thoughts and feelings honestly, you can lay the foundation of deep understanding and mutual respect. Relationships built with your generous heart and empathy will bring you closer to more people. Enjoy small joys with your loved ones this week and make them feel that you are with them. Overall, this week will provide you with a positive and golden opportunity in terms of relationships.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week, some challenges may come in life. There may be obstacles in your social and personal relationships, which will cause mental pressure. It is important to maintain restraint at such times, as small things can create dissatisfaction in your mind. This week, your sensitivity may increase, which may increase your anxiety on some subjects. Be careful while communicating with friends and family. However, there is scope for some positive aspects even amidst the worries. With the support of friends and family, you can make this time a little easier. Your creativity may be affected at this time, due to which will prevent you from expressing your thoughts properly. Use this time to focus on meditation and positive thinking. In short, it will be very important for you to maintain restraint and patience this week. Have faith in yourself and remember that this is also a passing phase.



PISCES

Ganesha says this week may bring some difficulties in the overall experience for people. During this time, you will need to keep your thoughts and emotions balanced. Some situations

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : OCTOBER 19 TO OCTOBER 25 BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

OCTOBER 19

Ganesha says on this day, the universe will reveal some of its deepest, most profound mysteries to you. You'll notice that as the day progresses, you're more drawn to periods of self-reflection than usual. This is not daydreaming; rather, it is an opportunity to grasp the deepest needs and concerns that lie within you. While the rest of the world goes about its business as normal, a chance encounter could completely alter the way you look at things. You should put your faith in the feelings that come up since they serve as an internal compass that will lead you in the proper route.

OCTOBER 20

Ganesha says the presence of a burst of dynamic energy throughout the day makes today an especially fortunate day for starting fresh and new endeavors. The universe is encouraging you to take that leap of faith, whether you're thinking of making a change in your professional life or healing a personal relationship. Even though it can be frightening, change is the universe's way of telling us something better is on the horizon.

CONTD FROM PAGE 42

may arise that may put you under stress and anxiety. You have to be careful while communicating with people around you, as you can easily fall prey to misunderstandings. There may also be instability in your personal relationships. At this time, you should try to understand your partner's feelings and respond more

Confront the difficulties head-on, and keep in mind that a good outlook can transform any barrier into an opportunity.

OCTOBER 21

Ganesha says the cosmos surrounds you with a warm and reassuring hug on this day. You are given a momentary reprieve as the mayhem of the world recedes into the background. Indulge in some form of self-care today, whether that takes the form of meditation, digging into a book, or simply going for a leisurely walk surrounded by nature. These stretches of peace are more than just breaks; they are necessary for the revitalization and lucidity of your spirit.

OCTOBER 22

Ganesha says in our modern world, words still have a great deal of power. Conversations that are held from the heart will generate strong vibrations, which will in turn build connections that may last a lifetime. Your words have the power to transform any situation, whether it's a long-overdue conversation with a friend or an expression of

patience. Keep in mind that disputes and tensions can increase troubles. Trust your inner strength this week and try to maintain your emotional balance. Instead of expressing your feelings openly, maintain some distance so that you can think better. Try to overcome this difficulty by maintaining a positive attitude. This time is also suitable for your introspection and inner growth.

gratitude to a coworker. But keep in mind that communication is a process that goes in both directions. It's possible to uncover hidden truths and broaden one another's perspectives simply by listening with an open heart.

OCTOBER 23

Ganesha says there is a sense of daring and exploration in the air! Today is not simply another day; rather, it is a blank canvas ready to be painted with your strokes of color. Discover unexplored territory, whether that's through travel, acquiring new talent, or simply interacting with people who look different from you. When you dare to step into the unknown, life's secrets begin to reveal. Allow the wonder in your heart to direct your actions.

OCTOBER 24

Ganesha says today is all about maintaining a balance. You are being nudged by the cosmos in every facet of your life to find that place that is just right for you. If your job has been keeping you from spending time with the people you care about, now is the moment



to change that. Find refuge in activities that help you feel more rooted in the present moment if your feelings have been running high. Keep in mind that life is a delicate dance of opposites, and right now you are the choreographer designing a harmonious pattern for the dance.

OCTOBER 25

Ganesha says the day brings with it an opportunity for introspection. Your life has been a unique tapestry that has been woven from the experiences and feelings that you've had along the way. Take a minute to be thankful, not just for the milestones that have been reached, but also for the life lessons that have come in the form of obstacles. You may always count on the support and encouragement of the universe. Take with you into the next week the lessons you've learned and the hope you've gained from the days that have passed.

Author Bio

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

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Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Alwar: Rajasthan's hidden gem of forts, forests and royal heritage

Nestled in the Aravalli hills, Alwar blends centuries-old forts, mysterious ruins, tranquil lakes, wildlife adventures and royal culinary traditions, making it an appealing getaway from Delhi and a gateway to Rajasthan's rich cultural landscape.

Rajasthan is known for its magnificent palaces, colorful bazaars and formidable forts, but beyond the celebrated destinations of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur lies Alwar, a historic city that offers a different perspective on the state's royal legacy. Located in northeastern Rajasthan, Alwar combines the charm of an old princely town with the natural beauty of the Aravalli hills, making it an attractive destination for history enthusiasts, wildlife lovers and weekend travelers.

Situated approximately 150-170 km from Delhi and around 150 km from Jaipur by road, Alwar is among the convenient gateways to Rajasthan for travellers from northern India. Its landscape is dotted with ancient fortifications, heritage buildings, lakes and forested hills, while nearby attractions include the renowned Sariska Tiger Reserve and the atmospheric ruins of Bhangarh Fort.

The city's appeal extends beyond sightseeing. Alwar is known for its traditional markets, local crafts, regional cuisine and the much-loved Alwar ka mawa, a rich milk-based sweet. Its annual trade fair and cultural festivities add to its lively character, offering visitors a glimpse of the traditions that continue to shape everyday life in the region.

Whether exploring a centuries-old fort, watching wildlife in a protected forest or enjoying the quiet beauty of a lakeside palace, Alwar offers an experience that brings together Rajasthan's natural and cultural heritage.

Sariska Tiger Reserve: Into the wilderness

One of Alwar's most celebrated attractions is Sariska Tiger Reserve, a vast protected landscape in the Aravalli hills. Its terrain encompasses dry deciduous forests, grasslands, rocky outcrops and valleys, creating a varied habitat for wildlife.

Once a hunting ground associated with the former rulers of Alwar, the area gradually evolved into an important conservation landscape. Sariska became a wildlife sanctuary in 1955, was brought under Project Tiger in 1978 and was declared a national park in 1982.

The reserve is particularly known for its Royal Bengal tigers. Its conservation history has also drawn national attention: after the local tiger population disappeared in the early 2000s, a tiger reintroduction programme began in 2008, with animals translocated from Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Sariska became a landmark in India's efforts to



restore a locally extinct tiger population through relocation.

Apart from tigers, the reserve supports leopards, striped hyenas, jungle cats, jackals, sambar deer, chital, nilgai and wild boar. Its birdlife includes several species of raptors and other resident and migratory birds, making it attractive to wildlife photographers and birdwatchers.

A safari through Sariska offers the chance to experience the rugged beauty of the Aravallis, where rocky hills meet stretches of woodland and open grassland. Sightings of elusive predators are never guaranteed, but the landscape itself is a major part of the experience.

The reserve also contains historical

and religious attractions, including the ancient Neelkanth Mahadev Temple complex, which reflects the region's architectural and spiritual heritage.

Travel tip: Plan a safari in advance, check the latest entry arrangements and follow the reserve's wildlife regulations. The forest is a protected ecosystem, and sightings depend on natural conditions.

Bhangarh Fort: History wrapped in mystery

Few places in Rajasthan have acquired a reputation as intriguing as Bhangarh Fort. Located in the Alwar district, this 17th-century fortified settlement is famous for its ruined palaces, temples and legends of supernatural activity.

The fort is generally associated with

Madho Singh, the son of Amber ruler Bhagwant Das. Its name is sometimes linked to his grandfather Man Singh, although accounts of the name's origin vary. The complex includes the remains of residential buildings, temples, marketplaces and gateways that once formed part of a thriving settlement.

Visitors enter through one of the historic gates before encountering the atmospheric ruins of the old town. The Lahori Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Phulbari Gate and Delhi Gate are among the entrances traditionally associated with the complex.

Within the fortified area, temples dedicated to Hindu deities stand among crumbling structures and remnants of former palaces. The contrast between the surviving stone architecture and the surrounding hills gives Bhangarh a distinctive character.

The legend behind the haunted fort

Bhangarh is popularly described as one of India's most haunted places. Local folklore includes stories of a curse associated with a holy man and a tale involving a princess and a sorcerer. Different versions of these legends circulate, adding to the site's mystique.

These accounts, however, are folklore rather than established historical evidence. The fort's abandoned condition and evocative ruins have helped sustain its reputation, but there is no verified evidence that the site is haunted.

For travellers, Bhangarh's real fascination lies in the combination of history, architecture, landscape and storytelling. The ruins offer a glimpse into a past settlement while demonstrating how legends become embedded in the identity of a place.

Bala Quila: Mighty fort overlooking Alwar

Rising above the city, Bala Quila, also known as Alwar Fort, is one of the most striking landmarks in the region. Perched on a high ridge of the Aravalli range, it offers sweeping views of Alwar and the surrounding countryside.

The fort's origins predate the establishment of the modern Alwar state, and its history reflects the changing powers that controlled this strategically important region. It is associated with Hasan Khan Mewati and subsequently came under different ruling houses and political powers.

In 1775, Pratap Singh, regarded as the founder of the Alwar princely state, captured the fort and established the foundations of the state. His rise marked an important chapter in the region's political history.

The massive fortification stretches along the hilltop, with long defensive walls, watchtowers and a series of historic gates. These include Jai Pol, Suraj Pol, Laxman Pol, Chand Pol, Krishen Pol and Andheri Gate.

History This Week OCT 16 - OCT 22

OCTOBER 16

October 16, 1701 - Yale University was founded in Killingworth, Connecticut (as the Collegiate School of Connecticut). The school moved to New Haven in 1716. Two years later, the name was changed to Yale College to honor Elihu Yale, a philanthropist. In 1886, it became Yale University.

October 16, 1793 - Queen Marie Antoinette was beheaded during the Reign of Terror following the French Revolution. She was the wife of King Louis XVI and had become the symbol of the people's hatred for the old regime due to her extravagance and frivolity. According to legend, she responded, "Let them eat cake," when told poor people had no bread. OrderCalendars

October 16, 1853 - The Crimean War began after the Turkish Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia, Britain, France and portions of Italy allied with the Turks against Russia. It became the first war observed up close by newspaper reporters and photographers. One of the battles was immortalized in Tennyson's poem, The Charge of the Light Brigade. Amid poor sanitary conditions, disease killed many wounded French and British troops. British nurse Florence Nightingale then pioneered modern-style sanitation methods, saving many lives.

October 16, 1859 - Fanatical abolitionist John Brown seized the Federal Arsenal at Harpers Ferry with about 20 followers. Three days later, Brown was captured and the insurrection was put down by U.S. Marines under the command of Col. Robert E. Lee. Brown was convicted by the Commonwealth of Virginia of treason, murder, and inciting slaves to rebellion, and was hanged on December 2, 1859.

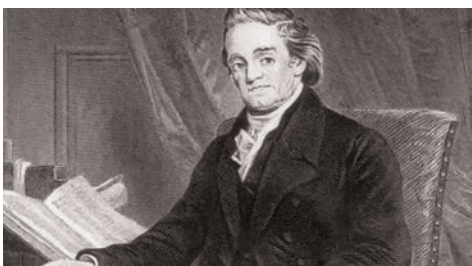
October 16, 1916 - The first birth control clinic in America was opened in Brooklyn, New York, by Margaret Sanger, a nurse who worked among the poor on the Lower East Side of New York City.

October 16, 1946 - Ten former Nazi leaders were hanged by the Allies following their conviction for war crimes at Nuremberg, Germany.

October 16, 1964 - China detonated its first nuclear bomb at the Lop Nor test site in Sinkiang.

October 16, 1978 - Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland was elected Pope. He was the first non-Italian Pope chosen in 456 years and took the name John Paul II.

October 16, 1995 - The Million Man March took place in Washington, D.C., under the direction of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, who delivered the main address to the gathering of African American males.



Birthday - American teacher and journalist Noah Webster (1758-1843) was born in West Hartford, Connecticut. His name became synonymous with "dictionary" after he compiled the first

American dictionaries of the English language.

Birthday - Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) was born in Dublin, Ireland. Best known for his comedies including; The Importance of Being Earnest. And his novel The Picture of Dorian Gray in which he wrote, "There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about and that is not being talked about."

Birthday - David Ben-Gurion (1886-1973) was born in Plonsk, Poland. He was largely responsible for founding the modern state of Israel in 1948 and is revered as "Father of the Nation."

Birthday - American playwright Eugene O'Neill (1888-1953) was born in New York City. He wrote more than 35 plays and was the first American dramatist awarded a Nobel Prize for literature. He also received four Pulitzers. His dramas, which dealt realistically with psychological and social problems, included; Beyond the Horizon, The Iceman Cometh, The Emperor Jones and Long Day's Journey into Night.

Birthday - American jurist William O. Douglas (1898-1980) was born in Maine, Minnesota. He served as an associate justice on the Supreme Court for 36 years and was also a world traveler, conservationist, outdoorsman and author.

OCTOBER 17

October 17, 1777 - During the American Revolutionary War, British General John Burgoyne and his entire army of 5,700 men surrendered to American General Horatio Gates after the Battle of Saratoga, the first big American victory.

October 17-25, 1944 - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history, took place off the Philippine Islands, during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese Battleship Musashi, one of the largest ever built.



Birthday - Pope John Paul I (1912-1978) was born in Forno di Canale, Italy (as Albino Luciani). He was elected the 263rd Pope of the Roman Catholic Church on September 28, 1978, but died in Rome just 34 days later.

OCTOBER 18

October 18, 1685 - The Edict of Nantes was revoked by King Louis XIV of France thus depriving Protestant Huguenots of all religious and civil

liberties previously granted to them by Henry IV in 1598.

October 18, 1945 - The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial began with indictments against 24 former Nazi leaders including Hermann Göring and Albert Speer. The trial lasted 10 months, with delivery of the judgment completed on October 1, 1946. Twelve Nazis were sentenced to death by hanging, three to life imprisonment, four to lesser prison terms, and three were acquitted.

OCTOBER 19

October 19, 1781 - As their band played The World Turned Upside Down, the British Army marched out in formation and surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown. More than 7,000 British and Hessian troops, led by British General Lord Cornwallis, surrendered to General George Washington. The war between Britain and its American colonies was effectively ended. The final peace treaty was signed in Paris on September 3, 1783.

October 19, 1960 - The U.S. embargo of Cuba began as the State Department prohibited shipment of all goods except medicine and food.

October 19, 1987 - "Black Monday" occurred on Wall Street as stocks plunged a record 508 points or 22.6 per cent, the largest one-day drop in stock market history.

October 19, 1990 - Beset by a seriously eroding economy, Soviet Russia's President Mikhail Gorbachev won parliamentary approval to switch to a market economy.

OCTOBER 20

October 20, 1818 - The U.S. and Britain agreed to set the U.S.- Canadian border at the 49th parallel.

October 20, 1935 - Mao Zedong's 6,000 mile "Long March" ended as his Communist forces arrived at Yanan, in northwest China, almost a year after fleeing Chiang Kai-shek's armies in the south.

October 20, 1944 - During World War II in the Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur set foot on Philippine soil for the first time since his escape in 1942, fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."



October 20, 1968 - Jacqueline Kennedy married multi-millionaire Greek businessman Aristotle Onassis, ending nearly five years of widowhood following the assassination of her first husband, President John F. Kennedy.

October 20, 1973 - The 'Saturday Night Massacre' occurred during the Watergate scandal as President Richard M. Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox and Deputy Attorney General William Ruckelshaus. Attorney General Elliot Richardson resigned. A firestorm of

political protest erupted over the firings leading to widespread demands for Nixon's impeachment.

Birthday - British architect Christopher Wren (1632-1723) was born in Wiltshire, in southwestern England. Considered one of the greatest minds of his time, he designed St. Paul's Cathedral and 52 churches for the City of London. His secular buildings included the "new" wing of Hampton Court near London and Greenwich Hospital, now the Royal Naval College.

OCTOBER 21

October 21, 1915 - The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris.

October 21, 1944 - During World War II in Europe, American troops captured Aachen in western Germany after a week of hard fighting. It was the first large German city taken by the Allies.

October 21, 1967 - Thousands of anti-war protesters stormed the Pentagon during a rally against the Vietnam War in Washington, D.C. About 250 were arrested. No shots were fired, but demonstrators were struck with nightsticks and rifle butts. OrderCalendars



Birthday - Jazz great Dizzy Gillespie (1917-1993) was born in Cheraw, South Carolina (as John Birks Gillespie). He was a trumpet player, composer, band leader and one of the founding fathers of modern jazz, known for his trademark puffed cheeks and bent trumpet.

OCTOBER 22

October 22, 1962 - President John F. Kennedy appeared on television to inform Americans of the existence of Russian missiles in Cuba. The President demanded their removal and announced a naval "quarantine" of Cuba. Six days later, the Russians announced they would remove the weapons. In return, the U.S. later removed missiles from Turkey.

October 22, 1979 - The exiled Shah of Iran arrived in the United States for medical treatment. A few weeks later, Iranian militants seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans hostage. They demanded the return of the Shah for trial. The U.S. refused. The Shah died of cancer in July of 1980. The hostages were freed in January of 1981.

Birthday - Hungarian composer Franz Liszt (1811-1886) was born in Raiding, Hungary. He was a brilliant pianist best known for Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, Liebestraum No. 3, and his Faust and Dante symphonies.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Trump waives Russia-related US sanctions that threatened 100% tariffs on India, China

to impose sweeping sanctions on Moscow and slap steep tariffs against the world's largest purchasers of Russian oil and gas, including China and India.

The Graham Act, as it is now called, was passed by the US Congress on September 16 and signed into law by Trump two days later.

The law authorized Trump to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent within 30 days of its enactment on all goods brought into the US from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil or gas.

The law also has a provision in Section 115 that allows the President to grant waiver from the application of sanctions, restrictions and duties if such a step is in the national interest of the US.

"Pursuant to section 115(a) of the Graham Act, I hereby waive the application of any duties provided for in sections 112 and 113 of the Graham Act or this order," Trump said.

Section 113 of the Graham Act deals with imposition of tariffs up to 100 per cent on countries that purchase Russian origin crude oil or natural gas or facilitate sanctions evasion.

The waiver from application of the act comes days after President Trump struck a deal with Russia for supply of diesel to the US and global markets.

It also comes days ahead of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had raised concerns about the Graham Act during a meeting with Rubio on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York last month.

Jaishankar is understood to have conveyed to Rubio that oil refineries in India were configured largely for handling medium sour crude, which is supplied by Middle East countries and Russia.

He also told Rubio that Venezuela supplies heavier grade crude and the US has light grade crude which would require blending before being used by refineries in India.

With oil supplies from Middle East countries hit due to the Iran war, India has to depend on Russian crude to keep its economy running. (Source: PTI)

White House press secretary Zacharia fired in less than a week, and with just one press briefing

performance in a news briefing and interviews.

The departure leaves Trump without a key public messenger just over two weeks before November's midterm elections, a critical period when the president is seeking to tout his administration's accomplishments and help his fellow Republicans retain control of Congress.

Trump told reporters earlier on Friday that he had asked Zacharia to reconsider whether to continue in her role after facing tough press coverage during her first days on the job.

"I told her: 'I think you're better off being happy, and I'm not sure you can ever be happy in this stuff.' There's nothing easy about this stuff," Trump told reporters as he departed the White House for a weekend trip.

He added: "I said to her honestly, 'If I were you, I'd reconsider... think about it. But I would reconsider.'" Trump said he intended to revisit the conversation with Zacharia later.

Zacharia started on Monday, October 12, and held her debut White House briefing on Tuesday, October 13. She said she received a call about the press secretary role on October 7 and was offered the job to succeed Karoline Leavitt a week ago.

She soon faced questions about her career, which she said included a tenure practicing law. Trump had also described her as an attorney.

"I practiced international transaction law, with all the appropriate credentials," Zacharia said in an emailed statement on Wednesday.

Reuters could not find records showing the Pepperdine University law school graduate was registered as an attorney or member of the bar in any US state or the District of Columbia.



During a Fox News interview on Thursday, Zacharia said she did not pass the bar exam. Law school graduates cannot legally practice law in the US without first being admitted to a state bar.

Zacharia and the White House did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about her firing, Reuter says.

Earlier on Friday, she told reporters at the White House that she was looking forward to working with the press.

Trump hired Zacharia after expressing concerns about the media coverage of his administration, feeling he needed a new spokesperson who could amplify his achievements, according to two people familiar with the conversations.

In a phone interview with Fox on Friday, Trump said he was in no rush to name a new press secretary.

Zacharia's quick exit meant she had what is believed to be the shortest tenure of any press secretary in the role's history.

"Records are made to be broken," Anthony Scaramucci, who served as director of communications for 10 days during Trump's first administration, said on X. "But I take no pleasure in other people's pain."

CONTD FROM PAGE 08

This worsens the backlog already faced by nearly 1.5 million Asian immigrants who are on family waiting lists for green cards. India, Bangladesh and Pakistan are among the top Asian countries with long waiting lists. Asians have constituted the largest share of new green card holders in the last decade, averaging 390,000 over the most recent ten-year period.

India sends the largest number of international students to study in the U.S., making up close to a third of all foreign students in America. Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan are among the top 15 places of origin for international students in the U.S., sending 24,890 students, 20,156 students and 13,165 students in the 2024/2025 school year respectively. 90% of Asian international students are fearful about their student visa status and 78% report negative physical or mental health impacts.

Bhutanese immigrants are overrepresented in ICE detention relative to their population. Since 2025, the U.S. has been deporting Nepali-speaking Bhutanese refugees back to the country they fled from due to ethnic cleansing.

Trump administration officials indefinitely halted asylum decisions, froze all refugee processing (later restarting the program to exclusively admit white Afrikaners from South Africa), and are fast-tracking deportations of asylum seekers.

Asians comprised the largest share of refugees and asylees admitted over the last 10 years, with about 22,500 refugees and 7,400 asylees admitted annually, respectively. Pakistan was among the top 3 Asian origin countries for both refugees and asylees in 2023.

The Trump administration terminated Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nepal. TPS is a

humanitarian designation that allows eligible immigrants coming from countries deemed unsafe to remain and work in the U.S. In August 2026, DHS ordered these 7,160 Nepali TPS holders to leave the country or face deportation.

President Trump signed an executive order to end birthright citizenship—a core principle affirmed in the case United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)—that was later found unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. He has since signed two new executive orders restricting birthright citizenship and blocking entry to foreigners who travel to the U.S. expressly to give birth that are being challenged in court.

(The views of the author are their own, and not necessarily The Indian Panorama's)

(James Kwon is Communications Director | Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus & ASPIRE PAC. He can be reached at (202) 909-7311)

Bhuvneshwar set for T20I return after 4 yrs as Arshdeep faces shoulder injury

OCTOBER 16, 2026

BENGALURU (TIP): Veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar was on Friday, Oct 16, added to India's squad for the series-deciding fifth and final T20I against the West Indies as cover for Arshdeep Singh, who has sustained a shoulder injury.

The final match of the series, which is currently locked at 2-2, will be played at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar was added to the squad after Arshdeep Singh sustained a blow to his bowling shoulder during the fourth T20I of the series against West Indies on Wednesday in Hyderabad," the BCCI said in a release.

The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar was earlier picked for the T20 series against New Zealand, starting October 22 in Christchurch.

"A decision on his (Arshdeep) participation in the final T20I will be taken prior to the game based on his recovery," it added.

But it is tough to see the left-arm pacer playing here as shoulder injury generally takes a minimum of three weeks to settle down.

Hence, the stage has now been set for Bhuvneshwar's T20I comeback after four years, as the Uttar Pradesh pacer is



almost certain to play the final match against the West Indies here.

His previous appearance in a T20I was against New Zealand at Napier on November 22, 2022.

It is quite apt that Bhuvneshwar's comeback will take place at the same venue where he made his debut in 2012

against Pakistan.

On that occasion, the pacer walked away with splendid figures of 4-0-9-3 and his first wicket was Pakistan opener Nasir Jamshed.

After an extended time away from the team, Bhuvneshwar later reinvented himself as a T20I bowler during the 2025 and 2026 editions of the IPL.

He bagged 45 wickets across 30 matches for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in that period.

RCB assistant coach Omkar Salvi underlined the growth of Bhuvneshwar as a crafty operator in the shortest format.

"One of his biggest strengths is the clarity he has about his game. He knows what works for him and keeps things simple.

"He has continued to adapt to the demands of T20 cricket, whether it's creating chances with the new ball or using his variations in the later stages of an innings," Salvi had said.

Bhuvneshwar's skill with the new ball and the familiarity with the Chinnaswamy Stadium will be useful for India in stopping the marauding West Indian captain Shai Hope.

Hope is the leading run-getter in this series with 261 runs from four matches, including two hundreds.

Smriti Mandhana calls captaincy a huge honour, stresses responsibility

OCTOBER 16, 2026

RAIPUR (TIP): Newly appointed Indian women's cricket team captain Smriti Mandhana has described the six T20I matches scheduled to be played this year as crucial for the team ahead of the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy in 2027.

Mandhana has taken over as captain across formats from Harmanpreet Kaur as Indian women's cricket enters a new era. Her first assignment as full-time skipper will be to lead the Women in Blue in a three-match T20I series that begins on Friday. With India scheduled to play three more T20Is against South Africa before the Women's Premier League (WPL) in January-February 2027, Mandhana considers these limited opportunities crucial for the team to identify the style of cricket it wants to play. "In the T20 format, we have six matches before the Champions Trophy. Of course, the WPL will take place before that, but as an Indian team, we have three matches here and three against South Africa to take things forward. "So, it's going to be extremely important to see what style of cricket we want to play, what brand of cricket we want to play, and who's fitting where, she said.

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OCTOBER 13, 2026

CHANDIGARH (TIP): The Pakistan Hockey Federation's (PHF) decision not to send its Asian Games bronze-medalist team to Mohali and Jalandhar for the inaugural Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament is not surprising.

Instead, the Asian Hockey Federation has invited Bangladesh to take the slot Pakistan vacated in the tournament originally designed for the continent's top six teams. The selection criteria were the just-concluded Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026.

Absence of Pakistan will deprive this first-ever FIH-sponsored international tournament on the Punjab soil of much of its glory and sheen, while the AAP government has been excited to jump on the hockey bandwagon to boost its electoral chances in the ensuing Assembly elections early next year.

Punjab has taken a leaf from several other states, including Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu, which claimed to have drawn favorable feedback from followers of sports in their respective territories.

Since the elections to the State Assembly must be completed before the end of March next year, the possibility of

Hockey: Has the Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament for men lost some of its pre-event sheen?



rescheduling this major hockey mega event in Punjab does not arise.

Organizing the state's first-ever international hockey event at the end of the hockey calendar has not met with the approval of hockey experts. After the 2026 FIH World Cups, both for men and women, in Amsterdam (the Netherlands) and Wavre (Belgium) in August, closely followed by the Aichi Asian Games 2026 in September, have satiated the appetite of hockey lovers of the subcontinent.

The holding of such a mega event is

welcome. Welcome, yet it would have been better if it were scheduled at the beginning of a new hockey calendar year, say, for many of the hockey Olympians and international hockey players of the state.

"Why spend so much when the top hockey events have concluded in the just recent past? Those who competed in the FIH World Cup and the Asian Games must have been at different stages of fatigue. No one can, and no one should expect them to give out their best after a hectic and tiring year in competitive hockey.

Players have no choice, as they must appease their political masters, and hence their consent matters the least.

The first phase of the tournament-round robin group matches with each of the six teams playing against the rest of the five teams-will be at Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar.

The classification games to decide the first to sixth positions will be played at the Mohali Hockey Stadium after a day's break.

The participating teams-India, Malaysia, China, Japan, Korea, and Bangladesh-will enjoy Punjab's warm and cordial hospitality. It will also boost Punjab's sports goods industry in Jalandhar.

Before the synthetic surface was introduced in the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games, the leather balls used on the grassy playfields used to be from Jalandhar or Sialkot in Pakistan. But once the playing surface changed, the leather balls went out of competitive international hockey as they were replaced by dimpled balls that initially came from Australia.

With the inaugural Asian Champions Trophy coming to Punjab, the sports goods industry, especially the hockey stick manufacturers of Jalandhar and Meerut, must be excited to get endorsements from Asian stars during their week-long sojourn in Jalandhar.

The allied sports industry associated with hockey, including protective wear, has also changed significantly and will also get a chance to renew its stakes in the international arena.

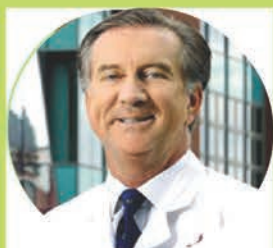
(Prabhjot Singh is a senior Toronto-based, award-winning independent journalist, who worked with The Tribune, Reuters, and several media groups in a career spanning nearly five decades. He has written extensively about Diaspora, Politics, Business, Aviation, Health, Public and Private Sectors and Sports. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



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