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NETANYAHU ACCUSED OF SMEARING ARAB VOTERS TO HOLD ON TO POWER

**PRIME MINISTER CLAIMS ARAB ISRAELI PARTIES USED FOREIGN BACKING TO STEAL
ELECTIONS, IN WHICH HIS COALITION LOST ITS MAJORITY**



**OCTOBER 29, 2026
JERUSALEM (TIP)**

Benjamin Netanyahu has been accused of using smear tactics to cling to power, after he claimed that Arab Israeli parties had used foreign backing to "steal" Tuesday's election, in which the prime minister's coalition lost its parliamentary majority.

Netanyahu and his allies called on the internal security service, Shin Bet, to investigate alleged vote buying and other irregularities in Palestinian communities in Israel, supposedly funded by foreign money.

Gadi Eisenkot, the leader of the main opposition bloc, accused the prime minister and his Likud party of trying to derail the election results.

"It's already clear that Likud and Netanyahu have embarked on a coordinated, organized campaign

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Benjamin Netanyahu claimed without evidence that Arab Israeli parties had 'stolen the election', while Gadi Eisenkot appeared to rule out a coalition with Palestinian parties.

JD Vance letter may offer last chance to avert fresh conflict between US and Iran



US vice-president writes to top Iranian security official signaling Washington has not abandoned diplomacy

File photo

**OCTOBER 29, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

Hopes of averting a major new conflagration between Iran and the US soon after Tuesday's midterm elections could rest on Iran's response to a personal letter from the US vice-president, JD Vance, offering to restart diplomacy.

The letter, written after predominantly Qatari mediation, was sent to the secretary of Iran's supreme national security council, Mohsen Rezaei on Sunday. It requires Tehran to agree to make commitments on its nuclear program at the start of a process that would lead to the opening of the strait of Hormuz within seven days in return for US sanctions relief.

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India votes in favor of UNGA resolution calling for end to US embargo on Cuba

**THE 193-MEMBER GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE RESOLUTION ON OCTOBER 28,
WITH 130 COUNTRIES VOTING IN FAVOR, 17 AGAINST AND 25 ABSTAINING**

**OCTOBER 29, 2026
UNITED NATIONS (TIP)**

India voted in favor of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the U.S. against Cuba, reiterating that the restrictions should be lifted to help the Caribbean nation pursue its development aspirations.

The 193-member General Assembly adopted the resolution on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, with 130 countries voting in favor, 17 against and 25 abstaining.

CONTD ON PAGE 44



Soumya Nair, counsellor at India's permanent mission to the UN delivering India's statement at the United Nations General Assembly, October 28, 2026.

(Screenshot from a video shared via X/
@IndiaUNNewYork)

Hegseth fires high-ranking army strategist over alleged leaks: Reports



War Secretary Pete Hegseth reportedly dismissed Lt Gen Brett Sylvia following allegations that he disclosed classified information to the public

**OCTOBER 29, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)**

The US defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, has reportedly dismissed Lt Gen Brett Sylvia, a high-ranking army strategist serving on the Pentagon's joint staff, following allegations that he disclosed classified information to the public.

The Pentagon announced on Thursday, October 29, that it had referred an alleged information leak case for criminal investigation, maintaining that the removal of the senior general was essential "to protect sensitive

CONTD ON PAGE 44



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COMMENT

America at 250: A time to recognize those who have helped build the nation

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja



America is celebrating 250 years of independence in 2026. It is an occasion for national pride, historical reflection, and renewed commitment to the ideals upon which the Republic was founded. But as we celebrate America's greatness, we must remember the millions of people whose labor, courage, enterprise, and sacrifice have contributed to its achievements.

America has been shaped and strengthened by successive generations of immigrants who arrived from distant lands in search of freedom, opportunity, security, and dignity. They spoke different languages, practiced different faiths, and carried different traditions. Yet they shared a common aspiration: to build a better life and contribute to the country they had chosen as their home.

A NATION THAT HAS DRAWN ITS STRENGTH FROM THE LABOR, LOYALTY, AND DREAMS OF IMMIGRANTS MUST NOT DENY THEM THE DIGNITY OF BELONGING.

This conviction brings us to a question of immediate moral importance. What should America do about the millions of undocumented immigrants who have lived here for years, sometimes decades, working, raising families, paying taxes, and contributing to the country's prosperity, yet remaining perpetually vulnerable to detention and deportation?

OUR ANSWER IS SIMPLE: STOP HOUNDING THEM. GIVE THEM THEIR DUE.

This is not a plea for abandoning immigration laws or disregarding national security. Every sovereign nation has the right and responsibility to regulate immigration. But enforcing the law should never become an excuse for abandoning humanity. Nor should immigration status erase decades of honest contribution to American society.

America's history is inseparable from migration. Its Indigenous peoples inhabited this land long before the United States existed. The nation's development was also profoundly shaped by the forced labor of enslaved Africans, an injustice whose consequences remain part of America's unfinished struggle for equality.

Alongside these histories came successive waves of immigrants who helped transform a young Republic into an industrial, agricultural, scientific, and economic powerhouse.

Irish immigrants built canals and railroads. German immigrants contributed to agriculture, manufacturing, and education. Chinese workers helped construct the transcontinental railroad, even while enduring discrimination. Italians, Jews, Poles, Greeks, and numerous other communities strengthened American industry and commerce.

More recently, immigrants from Asia, Latin America, Africa, and elsewhere have enriched America's universities, hospitals, laboratories, technology companies, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Immigration has never been without controversy. Americans have repeatedly debated who should be admitted and who belongs. Too often, yesterday's immigrants, once accepted, have forgotten the prejudice they encountered and directed similar suspicions toward newcomers.

Yet history demonstrates that America's diversity, far from diminishing the nation, has been among its greatest strengths.

LIVING IN THE SHADOWS

Today, millions of immigrants live in the United States without permanent legal status. Their circumstances vary. Some entered without authorization; others overstayed visas. Some arrived recently; others have lived here for most of their adult lives.

These distinctions matter. Immigration policy should recognize them rather than treating everyone alike.

Consider someone who arrived twenty-five years



We the people -AI illustration / ChatGPT

ago, found employment, married, raised children, purchased a home, and became part of a community.

Consider the farmworker whose labor puts food on American tables, the construction worker who builds American homes, the restaurant employee who keeps a business operating, or the caregiver who looks after the elderly.

Many perform essential work without enjoying the security others take for granted.

For them, deportation is not an abstract political argument. It is a fear accompanying an ordinary journey to work or a knock at the door.

Their children may be American citizens. Their families, livelihoods, and memories are rooted in this country. Yet their future remains uncertain.

MUST AMERICA CONTINUE TO REGARD PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPENT DECADES CONTRIBUTING TO ITS PROSPERITY AS STRANGERS?

Surely, years of honest work and peaceful residence should count for something.

ENFORCEMENT MUST NOT BECOME PERSECUTION

There is a legitimate national interest in maintaining secure borders, enforcing immigration laws, and removing individuals who pose serious threats to public safety.

But immigration enforcement should not become a campaign of intimidation that spreads fear among families, treats ordinary workers as dangerous criminals, or sacrifices due process to political expediency.

A distinction must be drawn between someone who threatens public safety and someone whose principal immigration violation is remaining in the country without authorization while otherwise living peacefully and productively.

Both are subject to immigration law. But fairness demands that their circumstances not be treated as morally identical.

THE MEASURE OF A NATION'S STRENGTH IS NOT HOW HARSHLY IT CAN EXERCISE POWER OVER THE VULNERABLE. IT IS HOW RESPONSIBLY AND HUMANELY IT EXERCISES THAT POWER.

An immigration policy driven primarily by fear may produce impressive enforcement statistics. But it can also separate families, frighten communities, and leave children suffering for decisions they did not make.

AMERICA SHOULD ASK WHETHER SUCH OUTCOMES SERVE ITS INTERESTS-OR ITS IDEALS.

A FAIR PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

WHAT, THEN, SHOULD BE DONE?

Congress should establish a carefully designed pathway to lawful permanent residence and eventual citizenship for long-settled undocumented immigrants who meet reasonable requirements.

Such a process could include identity verification, background checks, substantial residence, compliance with tax obligations, and demonstrated respect for the law. It should also address immigration backlogs and the legitimate interests of those who have followed

lawful procedures.

Citizenship need not be immediate or unconditional. But the opportunity to earn it should be genuine and attainable.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INDISCRIMINATE AMNESTY AND RESPONSIBLE REGULARIZATION.

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 provided legal status to millions of qualifying undocumented immigrants while introducing employer sanctions. Its achievements and limitations offer valuable lessons.

A contemporary solution must combine credible enforcement, orderly immigration procedures, protection against exploitation, and a realistic means of addressing the status of people already deeply rooted in American life.

ABOVE ALL, IT REQUIRES POLITICAL COURAGE.

For too long, immigration has been an instrument of electoral mobilization. Politicians promise sweeping solutions, blame opponents, and appeal to public anxieties. Meanwhile, the people whose lives are at stake continue waiting.

A great nation should be capable of something better.

THE MEANING OF "WE THE PEOPLE"

The opening words of the Constitution-"We the People"-remain among the most powerful expressions of democratic self-government.

At the founding, they did not guarantee equal political rights to everyone living in America. The nation's history has been a long struggle to extend the practical meaning of liberty and equality.

THAT STRUGGLE CONTINUES.

Americans can reasonably disagree about immigration levels, border policies, eligibility requirements, and the pace of reform. But disagreement need not become hostility, and enforcement need not become cruelty.

A person does not cease to possess human dignity because of immigration status. Nor does love for America belong exclusively to those fortunate enough to have been born within its borders. America must not forget the hands that built it while deciding who deserves to belong to it.

LET THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY MEAN SOMETHING

America's 250th anniversary should be more than patriotic speeches, fireworks, and tributes to the nation's founders.

It should also be an occasion to examine how faithfully the Republic honors its ideals.

WHAT BETTER TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S HISTORY THAN TO OFFER A FAIR AND HUMANE RESOLUTION TO THE PREDICAMENT OF LONG-SETTLED UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS?

What better demonstration of national confidence than to acknowledge that compassion and the rule of law can coexist?

We do not suggest automatic citizenship for everyone without legal status. We ask that America recognize individual circumstances and provide a fair opportunity to those who have established deep roots and demonstrated responsible conduct.

Let America offer more than a commemoration of its glorious past. Let it offer hope to those who have spent years contributing to its prosperity while living in the shadows of uncertainty.

Let us stop hounding people whose hands have helped build America and whose hearts have long called it home.

Let us give them a fair opportunity to earn citizenship and stand openly, proudly, and securely among their fellow Americans.

THAT WOULD BE A CELEBRATION OF DEMOCRACY. A CELEBRATION OF AMERICA. ABOVE ALL, A CELEBRATION OF WE THE PEOPLE.

DOZENS OF SINGHS, KIMS, CHENS, PATELS, AND RODRIGUEZES RALLY WITH SENATOR LIU IN SUPPORT OF THE MISTAKEN IDENTITY PREVENTION ACT

OCTOBER 28, 2026
FLUSHING, NY (TIP)

Flanked by New Yorkers representing some of the most popular names in the city, State Senator John Liu rallied outside the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in College Point in support of the Mistaken Identity Prevention Act (S10729), legislation establishing new procedures for the DMV to verify an individual's identity before suspending or revoking their driver's license.

Senator Liu was joined by dozens of Singhs, Kims, Chens, Patels, and Rodriguezes, common surnames of New Yorkers who too often are wrongfully blamed for the infractions caused by someone else with a similar name. Liu introduced the bill after constituents suffered cases of mistaken identity in which the DMV attempted to suspend the driver's licenses of individuals with common last names without verifying their identity using readily available information.

The Mistaken Identity Prevention Act would require the DMV to match an individual's full legal name with at least two additional independent identifiers, such as date of birth or height, before imposing an adverse administrative action such as suspension or revocation. The bill would also allow the individual to submit an affidavit asserting mistaken identity, which would immediately stay the adverse action until the case is resolved.

State Senator John Liu stated, "Nobody should have their driver's license suspended due to a case of mistaken identity, yet we've seen multiple cases of this at the DMV. Driver's licenses are



Community with NY State Senator John Liu rallied outside the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in College Point in support of the Mistaken Identity Prevention Act (S10729)

among the most important documents in modern life, critical for everything from getting to and from work to accessing basic services. The responsibility for keeping track of its records should be on the DMV to ensure its procedures are correct, not on New Yorkers to prove they are someone they're not. Moreover, the DMV must exercise greater diligence when its enforcement actions are appealed."

Assembly Member Ron Kim stated, "No New Yorker deserves to be punished or negatively impacted because of their last name and shoddy bureaucratic practices. I look forward to working with Senator Liu and our colleagues to pass the Mistaken Identity Prevention Act, which will help avoid future cases like

these by ensuring the DMV follows a thorough and methodical protocol for confirming a person's identity. If we minimize the chances for human error, we can make the system fairer for all."

Assembly Member Nily Rozic stated, "Every New Yorker deserves the assurance that their identity is properly protected and that their data is handled accurately and responsibly. I support Senator Liu's Mistaken Identity Prevention Act, which strengthens accountability and helps ensure that no one is unfairly penalized because of a shared name. Our government has a responsibility to get it right, and this legislation is an important step toward protecting New Yorkers' rights."

Assembly Member Larinda C. Hooks

stated, "My office has been helping a constituent whose health coverage lapsed because her identity got tangled up with a stranger's in another state. She did everything right and is still paying for someone else's mistake. No one should lose their license, or their health care, over a mix-up they didn't create. The Mistaken Identity Prevention Act is common sense: verify first, suspend second."

Javier Crespo, a Queens resident who nearly had his license taken away due to a ticket issued hours away to a different person on a day he was working in Manhattan, stated, "The DMV unfairly punished me for something I did not do, and even when I provided evidence that they have the wrong guy, they still came after me. Thankfully, Senator Liu is introducing this legislation to make sure it doesn't happen again."

After the DMV mistook another Queens resident for an individual with the same name and threatened to suspend his driver's license over tickets issued to him while he was outside the country, the resident reached out to Senator Liu's office for assistance.

The individual, who wishes to remain anonymous, stated, "The DMV tried to suspend my driver's license for tickets that weren't even mine and were somehow issued to me when I was in another country, even after I provided evidence that I wasn't even here. I reached out to Senator Liu's office for help, and they were able to resolve the matter with the DMV, but no one should need to go through this just to prove their identity. We need to pass the Mistaken Identity Prevention Act to prevent this from happening to others."

METROPLUSHEALTH ACHIEVES MAJOR QUALITY MILESTONES ACROSS MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SPECIALIZED CARE PROGRAMS

FROM A 4-STAR MEDICARE RATING TO NEW YORK STATE'S NUMBER ONE-RANKED HIV SPECIAL NEEDS PLAN, METROPLUSHEALTH CONTINUES TO DELIVER OUTSTANDING OUTCOMES FOR NEW YORKERS

OCTOBER 29, 2026
NEW YORK, NY (TIP)

MetroPlusHealth, New York City's high-quality, affordable health plan, today announced a series of major quality achievements across its Medicare, Medicaid, HIV Special Needs Plan (HIV SNP), and Health and Recovery Plan (HARP) programs, underscoring its commitment to delivering high-quality, equitable care for New Yorkers. Together, these accomplishments highlight MetroPlusHealth's continued success in improving member health outcomes, enhancing the member experience, and advancing health equity through its integrated partnership with NYC Health + Hospitals.

"These remarkable achievements reflect the extraordinary dedication of our teams, providers, and community partners who work every day to help New Yorkers live healthier lives," said Dr. Talya Schwartz, President and Chief Executive Officer of MetroPlusHealth. "Whether serving older adults, individuals living with HIV, members with behavioral health needs, or families enrolled in Medicaid and the Essential Plan, our mission remains the same: to deliver high-quality, member-centered care that helps our communities thrive."



DELIVERING RESULTS ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION

- **Medicare:** For the second consecutive year, MetroPlusHealth earned an overall 4-Star Medicare Rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, including 4 Stars for Part C and 4.5 Stars for Part D prescription drug coverage. The rating

reflects strong performance across 45 measures evaluating clinical quality, member experience, pharmacy services, and operations.

- **HIV Special Needs Plan:** MetroPlusHealth ranked number one among New York State HIV Special Needs Plans for the fourth consecutive year in the HIV SNP Quality Incentive Program. The plan earned the highest overall score among participating plans, achieving a quality score of 91.76 and a total score of 80.4. It also earned all 45 points available for viral load suppression—the program's most heavily weighted measure and a critical indicator of effective HIV treatment and long-term health outcomes for people living with HIV. This achievement reinforces MetroPlusHealth's longstanding leadership in HIV care and its commitment to connecting members with specialized care management, community outreach, and treatment services.
- **Medicaid:** MetroPlusHealth achieved Tier 1, the highest performance tier available, in New York's Medicaid Quality Incentive Award program for Measurement Year 2024. The plan earned credit on 32 of 36 quality measures, achieving 90th-percentile

CONTD ON PAGE 6

Punjabi-origin truck driver charged in Canada with smuggling cocaine, heroin



Khushwinder Gill was arrested by the FPPR Drugs and Organized Crime Group 6, under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA).

OCTOBER 29, 2026
SURREY (TIP)

A truck driver of Punjabi origin has been charged in Canada for allegedly trying to smuggle 52 bricks of cocaine and heroin across the Canada-US border last year, according to authorities.

Following an RCMP investigation, 47-year-old Khushwinder Gill of Canada was charged with importing and possessing cocaine and heroin for trafficking.

On October 22, 2025, the Canada Border Services Agency pulled the commercial vehicle over at the Abbotsford-Huntingdon Port of Entry, a news release from the RCMP's Federal Policing Pacific Region said, adding that the suspected drugs were found "inside two duffel bags".

Gill was subsequently arrested by the FPPR Drugs and Organized Crime Group 6, under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act (CDSA).

An investigation was initiated and on

October 19, 2026, charges were approved in BC Provincial Court against Gill.

"Stopping illicit drugs at the border takes constant vigilance, and our border officers at the Abbotsford-Huntingdon Port of Entry delivered," said a statement from David Lee, CBSA's director of the Pacific highway district.

"This significant seizure reflects the strong partnership between the CBSA and the RCMP. Together, we are helping protect communities in Canada from drug trafficking," Lee stated.

"This investigation and its result demonstrate the positive impact of our coordinated efforts with the CBSA to stop the flow of drugs into Canada through our land borders," said Staff Sergeant Eric Kimura of the RCMP FPPR Drugs and Organized Crime unit.

Earlier this month, the CBSA said its agents had found nearly 128 kg of cocaine in a truck crossing the Ambassador Bridge from the US into Windsor.

15 Punjabi-origin candidates in Canada win British Columbia polls as Conservatives sweep Surrey

MANDEEP DHALIWAL RETAINS SURREY NORTH, A SEAT HE WON IN 2024 BY DEFEATING NDP MINISTER RACHNA SINGH

OCTOBER 27, 2026
SURREY (TIP)

Fifteen candidates of Punjabi origin have won seats in British Columbia's provincial election, 12 of them Conservatives and three NDP, according to Canadian media reports.

The wins came on the back of a Conservative sweep of Surrey, which has one of the largest Punjabi communities outside India. "A blue wave has officially engulfed Surrey and White Rock," the Surrey Now-Leader reported, noting that all 10 of Surrey's ridings went Conservative.

Mandeep Dhaliwal retained Surrey North, a seat he won in 2024 by defeating NDP minister Rachna Singh. Harj Dhaliwal won Surrey-Newton, defeating NDP incumbent Jessie Sunner. According to the Surrey Now-Leader, his victory ended "many years of NDP control of the riding".

Garry Purewal won Surrey-Fleetwood, unseating NDP incumbent Jagrup Brar, who was born in Bathinda district and had held the seat since 2004. Garry Thind won Surrey-Guildford defeating NDP incumbent Garry Begg, a week after also winning a school trustee seat in Surrey's civic election. Zeeshan Wahla took Surrey City Centre from the NDP's Amna Shah in a close contest, and Jessie Sahota won Surrey-Serpentine River.

Media reports also list Harman Bhangu, Jody Toor, Steve Kooner, Monica Mohan, Pavneet Singh and Deep Sandhu among the Conservative winners. They name Raj Chouhan, Niki Sharma and Rohini Arora as the three NDP winners.

This was the provincial general election for the 93-seat BC Legislative Assembly, held on October 24. NDP Premier David Eby called it more than two years earlier. The Globe and Mail reported that with over 99 per cent of polls counted, the Conservatives had won 64 seats, the NDP 27 and the Greens two.



Mandeep Dhaliwal, Garry Thind, and Harman Bhangu

According to CBC News, it is the Conservatives' first majority government since 1928, and Premier-designate Lorne Doerksen said, "BC is definitely blue." Eby resigned as NDP leader, and CTV News reported him saying, "I accept full responsibility."

Final counts are expected in early November, and the seat tally and the Punjabi-origin figure could change.

LIST OF 15 PUNJABI-ORIGIN WINNERS

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA - 12

1. Mandeep Singh Dhaliwal - Surrey North
2. Dr Harjit Taliwal - Surrey-Newton
3. Jessie Sahota - Delta
4. Garry Thind - Surrey-Guildford
5. Zeeshan Wahla - Surrey City Centre
6. Harman Bhangu - Langley-Abbotsford
7. Jody Toor - Langley-Willowbrook
8. Steve Kooner - Richmond-Queensborough
9. Garry Purewal - Surrey-Fleetwood
10. Monica Mohan - Delta North
11. Pavneet Singh - Kelowna-Lake Country-Coldstream
12. Deep Sandhu - Vancouver-Fraserview

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) - 3

13. Raj Chouhan - Burnaby-New Westminster
14. Niki Sharma - Vancouver-Hastings
15. Rohini "Reah" Arora - Burnaby East

Punjab gangster Amritpal Bath detained in Canada, extradition process underway

OCTOBER 26, 2026
TORONTO / TARN TARAN (TIP)

Amritpal Singh, alias Harpreet Singh, a Category A gangster wanted by the Punjab Police in nearly 20 criminal cases in the state, has been detained by Canadian police.

Surendra Lamba, SSP, Tarn Taran, confirmed his detention and said the Punjab Police had initiated the documentation process to bring him back to India. He said a Red Corner Notice had already been issued against Amritpal with the assistance of central agencies, which led to his arrest.

Lamba said Canadian authorities had handed him over to their central agencies for further proceedings. The state police are coordinating with central agencies to expedite the extradition process and bring him to India to face trial, he added.

Amritpal, 33, a resident of Mianpur village in Tarn Taran district, is facing nearly 20 criminal cases, including those



Amritpal Singh, alias Harpreet Singh, 33, a resident of Mianpur village in Tarn Taran district, is facing nearly 20 criminal cases

related to murder, attempt to murder, and offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Arms Act.

He is allegedly the mastermind behind the January 2024 murder of Avan Kumar, alias Sonu Cheema, a village sarpanch. He was subsequently declared a proclaimed offender and is suspected to have fled abroad illegally. He is also suspected of having links with the Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), with his associates allegedly providing logistical support.

Lamba said Amritpal's detention in Canada was a significant step in the Punjab Police's campaign against gangsters operating from abroad and allegedly directing criminal activities in the state.

The police are now working to complete the legal formalities required for his extradition to India, he added.

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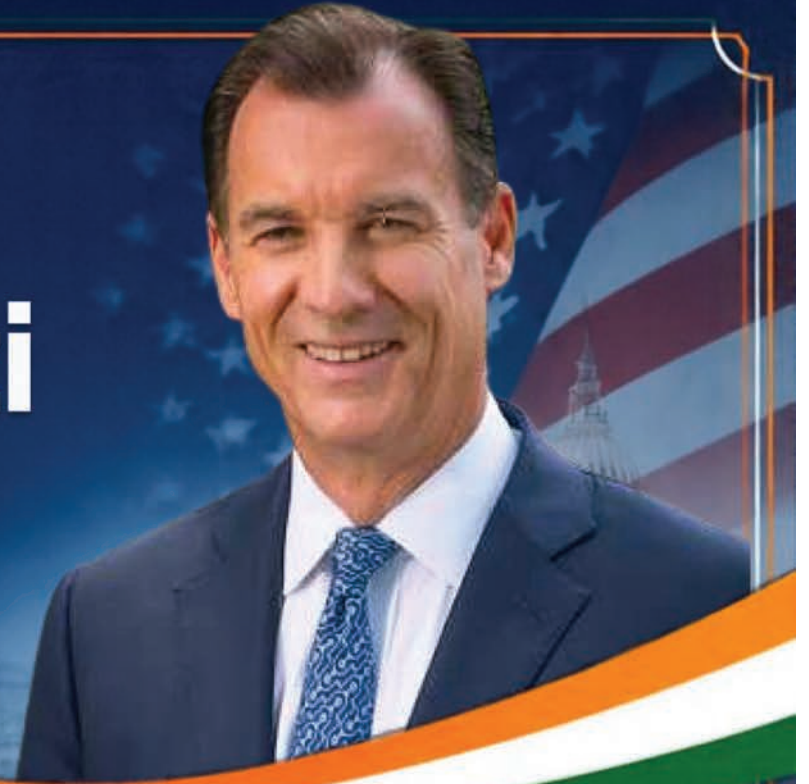
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CONTD FROM PAGE 3

METROPLUSHEALTH ACHIEVES MAJOR QUALITY MILESTONES ACROSS MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND SPECIALIZED CARE PROGRAMS

performance on 11 measures spanning preventive care, behavioral health, maternal health, and chronic disease management. These results reflect broad-based improvements in delivering high-quality care for MetroPlusHealth's Medicaid and Child Health Plus members.

- Health and Recovery Plan (HARP): MetroPlusHealth earned back 100% of the available quality withhold under

New York's Health and Recovery Plan quality program for Measurement Year 2024, following similarly strong performance in Measurement Year 2023. This accomplishment reflects the program's success in supporting members with significant behavioral health needs, integrating physical, mental health, and substance use services, and highlights MetroPlusHealth's care management, care coordination, and member support.

Together, these outcomes demonstrate MetroPlusHealth's ability to deliver exceptional results across multiple lines of business while serving one of the nation's most diverse member populations. Through ongoing partnerships with NYC Health + Hospitals and community provider partners, MetroPlusHealth continues to improve member outcomes, strengthen the member experience, advance health equity, and create value for the communities it serves.

"Quality is at the center of everything we do," said Dr. Schwartz. "These achievements show what's possible when we invest in coordinated, equitable, and evidence-based care. Most importantly, they represent better health, better experiences, and better outcomes for the members and communities we serve."

For more information, please visit metroplus.org

South Brunswick Public Library Celebrates Expanded and Renovated Christopher J. Killmurray Building with Ribbon Cutting and Family Carnival



**OCTOBER 21, 2026
SOUTH BRUNSWICK, NJ (TIP)**

The South Brunswick Public Library (SBPL) celebrated the grand opening of its expanded and renovated Christopher J. Killmurray Building on Saturday, October 17, 2026, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and Family Carnival. The project, part of the library's Building the Next Chapter: Constructing Community Spaces initiative, was supported by public funding, community donors, and a three-year capital fundraising campaign led by the South Brunswick Public Library Foundation (SBPL Foundation).

Karen Naughton Killmurray cut the ribbon for the building named in honor of her late husband, Christopher J. Killmurray, former Deputy Mayor of South Brunswick. The Speakers included South Brunswick Mayor Charlie Carley; Muhammad Ashraf, President of the Library Board of Trustees; Ruth Ruddick, representing the Friends of the South Brunswick Public Library; Bina Mehta, SBPL Foundation President and Capital Campaign Chair; and New Jersey State Senator Andrew Zwicker of Legislative District 16. Following the ceremony, families enjoyed carnival attractions, a bounce house, refreshments, and musical entertainment in the library's new Friends Theatre.

The expansion introduces expanded Teen Rooms, four reservable workspaces, a Quiet Room, an Innovation Lab, family and caregiver restrooms, the SBPL Foundation Meeting Room, and the

Friends Theatre. These new and improved spaces offer additional opportunities for studying, collaboration, creative learning, performances, cultural programming, and community gatherings.

The SBPL Foundation led a three-year capital campaign and pledged \$350,000 and additional support toward the project. Mehta thanked the donors, public officials, community organizations, and library staff whose contributions helped make the expansion possible.

"On behalf of my fellow Foundation members, we are deeply thankful to our supporters and donors who believed in this vision and chose to invest in improving the library's spaces and services for everyone. I am incredibly proud of our community for coming together to make this possible," Mehta said. She also acknowledged the challenges of advancing the project during the COVID-19 pandemic and thanked Library Director Chris Carbone and his staff for their dedication and support.

The expansion and renovation project was supported by a combination of public funding and private philanthropy. A major source of public support was funding through the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, administered by the New Jersey State Library. Additional grants and funding support came from Middlesex County, the New Jersey State Library, and the State of New Jersey. The South Brunswick Public Library Foundation worked with New Jersey



State Senator Andrew Zwicker to secure additional state funding beyond the amount previously approved for the project. The Foundation also contributed through its three-year capital campaign, pledging \$350,000 and additional support, with donations from individuals and organizations helping advance the project. Together, these public and private investments made the expansion and renovation possible.

The expanded Christopher J. Killmurray Building strengthens the library's role as a community hub, providing residents of all ages with

enhanced spaces for learning, creativity, collaboration, and cultural engagement.

ABOUT THE SOUTH BRUNSWICK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Founded in 1996, the South Brunswick Public Library Foundation supports the preservation and advancement of the South Brunswick Public Library through fundraising, philanthropy, and community partnerships. Current Foundation members include Bina Mehta, MZ Patel, Rajesh Mehta, Jonathan Pitt, Martin Hernandez, and Library Director Chris Carbone.



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Elections test global Right-wing surge

Is public support shifting from the far Right towards the centre or the Socialist Left in democratic nations globally?

BY KC SINGH



"The larger question is whether public support is shifting from the far Right towards the center or the Socialist Left in democratic nations globally. A Democratic win in the US would signal that the right-wing Trumpian disruption of global trade and geopolitics has been rejected by the American people. With some shift already visible in Europe, the focus would then turn to India."

The October 25 Brazilian polls, won by left-leaning President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, set off what The Guardian called "10 pivotal days of elections". The Israeli parliamentary elections were held on October 27, while the US midterms are scheduled for November 3. Meanwhile, the nine-year rule of Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic has ended after he lost a snap election triggered by a youth movement against corruption. In India, the "cockroaches" are spearheading student protests.

Historically, in the post-World War II period, the US and most of its NATO allies set the global standard for liberal democratic governance. The rise of the radical right wing globally is more of a 21st-century phenomenon, which the current elections are putting to the test.

During his first term, US President Donald Trump's nationalist-xenophobic politics was contained by sensible advisers and the Covid pandemic. In Europe, right-wing political parties started capitalizing on the economic slowdown and rising xenophobia.

The Syrian civil war, resulting from the Arab Spring's popular uprisings starting in 2011, led to an exodus of Arabs. German Chancellor Angela Merkel opened her country's borders in 2015 to more than 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers, many fleeing the Syrian war. This development led to the consolidation of the ultra-right AfD (Alternative für Deutschland).

Coincidentally, a similar nationalist-majoritarian churn began in India with the victory of the Narendra Modi-led BJP in 2014, with xenophobia against illegal immigrants from Bangladesh or Myanmar being used as a pretext to target Indian minorities.

In Israel, Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fashioned, for the first time, a more drastically right-wing coalition, having aligned with two far-right parties. Itamar Ben-Gvir of Jewish Power became the Security Minister, while the finance ministry went to Bezalel Smotrich of Religious Zionism. These two leaders have openly sought the deportation of all Palestinians.

President Trump's second term,



Challenges : Israeli PM Netanyahu's fate hinges on post-poll negotiations, while US President Trump is campaigning aggressively for the midterm elections.

Photo / PTI

beginning in January 2025, brought a cruder and more brazen version of nationalist xenophobia. The 1823 Monroe Doctrine was invoked, proclaiming total US control over Latin America.

On the pretext of countering drug trafficking and illegal immigration, the southern border with Mexico was tightened, besides launching air attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Mexico. The regime change in Venezuela, with President Nicolas Maduro and his wife captured and flown to the US, and the subservience of interim President Delcy Rodriguez reflect expanding control over Latin America of pro-US, right-leaning regimes.

The Israeli election results indicate continued support for PM Netanyahu and his radical Zionism. Gadi Eisenkot, a former chief of the Israeli Defense Forces who lost his son and two nephews in the Gaza war, endorses moderate Zionism, though he is strongly critical of Netanyahu.

The Arab parties have gained seats, thanks to their voters' higher turnout. The polarization is reflected in the verdict due to Israel's proportional representation. The current threshold is 3.25%, with a party's seats in the Knesset being proportional to its votes.

Coalition governments are inevitable in Israel's multiparty system. The formation of the next government depends on the Opposition's unity and alignment with winners from Arab parties. Alternatively, Netanyahu can dump his far-right supporters and woo centrist Opposition factions.

While coalition talks are underway,

Netanyahu shall continue to hold office. Multiple factors will influence the negotiations. One of them is a divide even among pro-Netanyahu right-wing parties over exemption for ultra-religious youth from conscription or compulsory military service. This remains unsettled despite the Israeli Supreme Court ruling against it.

Another factor is the reluctance of even centrist parties to openly align with Arab parties, though a deal to make them abstain is possible. Bringing Arab Palestinians into the governing alliance can drastically alter Israeli politics, while creating an ethos for reverting to a negotiated settlement of the Palestinian issue.

That could also allow gradual stabilization of the region. But the ideal path often varies from the actual choices that politicians make. The region might face greater instability if Netanyahu continues to be in power, in an interim or formal capacity.

The US midterm elections have global significance. Opinion polls indicating that the Republicans are trailing bring into play the resumption of hostilities against Iran. Reportedly the chief of the Israeli Defense Forces defied PM Netanyahu's order to launch fresh strikes on Iran. That may now be enforced if Trump decides that the attacks can help the Republicans regain popularity.

Post-midterms, if the Democrats capture the House, and more significantly also the Senate, Israel's radical Zionism and anti-Iran crusade may be constrained. A March 2026 poll in

the US found that 60% of Americans viewed Israel unfavorably, with 59% having little or no confidence in PM Netanyahu.

The larger question is whether public support is shifting from the far Right towards the center or the Socialist Left in democratic nations globally. A Democratic win in the US would signal that the right-wing Trumpian disruption of global trade and geopolitics has been rejected by the American people. With some shift already visible in Europe, the focus would then turn to India.

The upcoming Assembly elections, especially in Uttar Pradesh, would indicate whether the youth have abandoned the politics of caste and religion, favoring instead secular politics and equitable development. Prashant Kishor's byelection win in Bihar from a seat vacated by the current BJP president reflected that shift.

However, the Israeli electoral outcome shows that politics polarized by religion or ethnicity cannot instantly return to principles enunciated by a nation's founding fathers. Domestically, it would need statesmanship and renewed focus on economic issues, social stability and constitutionalism.

Internationally, there is no reverting to the old post-WWII global order. Its destruction was caused by just one misled major power. Devising a new order requires statesmanship across multiple power centers spanning continents.

(KC Singh is former Ambassador to Iran and UAE. His X handle is @ambkcsingh)

The SIR verdict, serious constitutional questions

THE TOP COURT MUST ENSURE FAIRNESS IN ELECTORAL ROLL REVISIONS

BY BISHWAJIT
BHATTACHARYYA



Did the Supreme Court of India err in its verdict dated May 27, 2026, on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by empowering the Election Commission of India (ECI) to undertake a "limited" inquiry into citizenship for the inclusion of names in, or their exclusion from, the electoral rolls?

Second, can crystallized electoral rolls be unsettled in subsequent elections by deleting names on suspicion?

These questions arise in the context of the electoral rolls in Bihar, published on January 6, 2025, following the ECI's Special Summary Revision (SSR).

On June 24, 2025, the ECI decided to undertake a fresh SIR, beginning with Bihar. Thus, every electoral roll in Bihar between January 1, 2003 (the date of the last SIR in Bihar), and January 6, 2025 (the date of the last SSR, in Bihar), was, in effect, called into question by the ECI. This was unnecessary, as the ECI, in any case, periodically updates the electoral rolls efficiently.

This unusual exercise effectively called into question the electoral rolls used in every election held in Bihar between 2003 and 2025.

Consequently, in Bihar, the SSR dated January 6, 2025, was superseded by the SIR ordered on June 24, 2025.

The ECI's notification dated June 24, 2025, was challenged before the Court. However, the challenge was unsuccessful, with the Court endorsing the ECI's stand in its verdict dated May 27, 2026.

Even before the Court delivered its verdict on May 27, 2026, Assembly elections were held in Bihar in November 2025 and West Bengal in April 2026, following the ECI's SIR exercise, which entailed mass deletions and surprising inclusions of voters. Widespread dissatisfaction prevailed.

The SIR is now being implemented in other States amid protests.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS ARE PART OF THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF INDIA'S CONSTITUTION. INDIA'S POTENTIAL TO EMERGE AS A WORLD POWER CANNOT BE REALIZED IF THIS FOUNDATION AND STRUCTURE IS WEAKENED. IF AN INDIAN CITIZEN REMAINS ON TENTERHOOKS ABOUT THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE, HOW CAN WE EXPECT THE BEST FROM SUCH A CITIZEN?

THE ECI'S POWERS

The Court's verdict clarified that the ECI has not been empowered to determine citizenship in the "strict sense". The Court held that the power of the ECI affects an "individual's entitlement to be included in the electoral roll". It also held: "It does not, however, operate to divest the individual of claims of citizenship, nor does it foreclose a determination of that question by the competent authority under the Citizenship Act."

With respect, the words "limited" and "strict sense", in the context of an inquiry into citizenship, carry no legal significance, even as obiter dicta of the Court.

And the statement that the "power of ECI" "affects" an "individual's entitlement" to be "included in the electoral roll" is not capable of any interpretation other than that the ECI has the power to disenfranchise an existing voter.

This seems to give carte blanche to the ECI. Little wonder, then, that the ECI has been proceeding to alter the existing electoral rolls nonchalantly.

Enquiry means enquiry, no less; citizenship means citizenship, no less. The ECI's constitutional authority to inquire into citizenship remains contentious. Even a limited inquiry risks exceeding the ECI's electoral mandate. The Court seems to have erred.

While preparing the electoral roll, the ECI's function is limited only to ensuring that every person included is an adult Indian citizen.

The minimum age (18 years) and Indian citizenship



Although the right to vote has generally been characterised as a statutory right, its exercise is central to representative democracy and the constitutional commitment to free and fair elections' Photo Credit: Shashi Shekhar Kashyap

are required to be ensured through documents. The ECI's role is strictly ministerial; it has no authority to conduct any inquiry - limited or otherwise - into citizenship. The problem, however, arises because no single document conclusively proves citizenship.

In other words, the Court vested the ECI with unguided discretion to remove a name from an existing electoral roll on the grounds of suspicious Indian citizenship. This amounts to a citizen, whose name was already on the electoral roll as of January 6, 2025, and who was presumed to be an Indian citizen, being disenfranchised by the ECI through the SIR process with effect from July 1, 2025.

DOCUMENTS, CITIZENSHIP, DELETION

The Court's verdict did not even specify any document that could serve as proof of Indian citizenship.

Significantly, however, paragraph 158 of the Court's verdict reads, inter alia: "... it may not be out of place to note that a Ration Card, unlike a Passport or Birth Certificate, is certainly not a conclusive proof of citizenship..." Thus, the Court has ruled that a passport or birth certificate is conclusive proof of citizenship.

Is this why the Ministry of External Affairs, during a press briefing marking Passport Seva Divas on June 24, 2026, made the controversial statement that a passport was merely a travel document and not proof of Indian citizenship?

Could the Court not have, in the exercise of its jurisdiction, specified the documents that prove Indian citizenship? Or, could the Court not have issued a writ of mandamus directing the government to specify the documents that prove Indian citizenship?

The Court did neither, belying the hopes of every Indian citizen whose citizenship is questioned by the ECI.

How does one prove one's Indian citizenship? This question still cannot be answered clearly, yet the ECI can disenfranchise a person who has already voted in the last election merely on the grounds of doubts about their Indian citizenship.

On what basis have electoral rolls in India been prepared since January 26, 1950? How can an electoral roll used in a concluded election be altered on the grounds of suspicion? How can a person be disenfranchised after having voted in the previous election? What is the constitutional benchmark for disenfranchising an existing voter? These are questions that the Court could have considered.

The Supreme Court's powers are extensive under Article 32 (the right to constitutional remedies and the Court's power to issue writs for the enforcement of fundamental rights), Article 141 (the binding nature of

the law declared by the Court on all courts in India), Article 142 (the power to pass orders necessary to do complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it), and Article 144 (the obligation of all civil and judicial authorities in India to act in aid of the Court). The Court can surely still set right this legal vacuum by clearly laying down a yardstick for establishing Indian citizenship.

Adulthood and Indian citizenship are the only two - repeat, only two - qualifications required for inclusion in the electoral roll. The Constitution does not prescribe any third mandatory qualification.

The question of disqualification arises only after identifying qualified voters. Only a person who is otherwise qualified can be disqualified.

Article 326 specifies the grounds for disqualification: "non-residence", "unsoundness of mind", "crime", or "corrupt or illegal practice".

The Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, must comply with Article 326 of the Constitution. The overriding principles of natural justice must also be followed when disqualifying a qualified voter.

The name of a qualified voter simply cannot be removed from the electoral roll without a pre-decisional hearing.

PROTECTING FRANCHISE

Free and fair elections are part of the basic structure of India's Constitution. India's potential to emerge as a world power cannot be realized if this foundation and structure is weakened. If an Indian citizen remains on tenterhooks about their right to vote, how can we expect the best from such a citizen?

Although the right to vote has generally been characterised as a statutory right, its exercise is central to representative democracy and the constitutional commitment to free and fair elections. This was metamorphosed from the Court's judgments in I.C. Golaknath vs State of Punjab (1967), Kesavananda Bharati vs State of Kerala (1973) and Indira Nehru Gandhi vs Raj Narain (1975), and continues to hold the field. In the interpretation of this writer, the three judgments, read together, surely elevate the voting right to a basic feature of India's Constitution.

The Kesavananda Bharati judgment established that even Parliament's power to amend the Constitution cannot be exercised to destroy or damage its basic structure. The principle continues to safeguard essential constitutional features, including democracy.

My Lords, uphold the right to vote freely, fairly and on time.

(Bishwajit Bhattacharyya is Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and a former Additional Solicitor General of India)

Oil politics reeks of hypocrisy

Oil is both a strategic instrument and a commercial commodity, with rules increasingly set by political expediency

BY AJAI
MALHOTRA



"RUBIO'S VISIT COVERED A WIDER CANVAS. WASHINGTON WANTS MORE US ENERGY EXPORTS, MARKETS FOR VENEZUELAN CRUDE, GREATER INDIAN INVESTMENT IN THE US AND SEVERED INDIAN OIL TIES WITH RUSSIA. THESE OBJECTIVES MISALIGN WITH INDIA'S INTERESTS. NEW DELHI WELCOMES OPPORTUNITIES THAT IMPROVE SUPPLY SECURITY, EXPAND TECHNOLOGY AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS, AND MAKE ENERGY MARKETS MORE COMPETITIVE. YET NO SUPPLIER CAN BE ABANDONED WITHOUT CONSEQUENCES FOR PRICES AND REFINERY ECONOMICS. ALTERING INDIA'S IMPORT COMPOSITION MUST BE COMMERCIALLY ATTRACTIVE, NOT MERELY DIPLOMATICALLY CONVENIENT."

In March 2000, US President Bill Clinton thanked Dhirubhai Ambani in Mumbai for contracting Bechtel to build Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery, creating thousands of US jobs.

Twenty-six years later, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio flew from Mumbai to Jamnagar to have darshan of Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani on October 21, underscoring the intersection of energy, geopolitics and electoral calculations in Washington. Even as the US continues to welcome Indian capital, it now also seeks to dictate India's energy choices.

While pressing India to cut Russian oil imports, the US is encouraging Indian refiners to process more Venezuelan crude and courting Indian investment in a new American refinery. Oil is both a strategic instrument and a commercial commodity, with rules increasingly set by political expediency.

The Rubio visit brings three distinct oil streams into focus: Russian Urals crude, Venezuelan heavy blends and American light shale. Jamnagar, with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day, is the world's largest single-site refinery. Its ability to process diverse



Strategic : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Jamnagar visit underscored the intersection of energy, geopolitics and electoral calculations in Washington. -Photo / PTI

crude grades economically makes it central to India's fuel supply and exports. For Washington, it is a potential market for heavy, sulphur-rich Venezuelan crude and a source of diesel.

With high domestic diesel prices and the November 3 US congressional midterm elections approaching, President Donald Trump eased restrictions on US imports of Russian diesel to relieve pressure on fuel markets. The Rubio visit followed the Trump-Putin agreement of October 9 to import 4.8 million tons of Russian diesel into the US under a waiver valid till April 7, 2027. Republicans face narrow congressional majorities, and diesel affordability remains central to voters. Washington's strategic objections to Russian energy appear far less absolute when domestic political costs rise.

The double standard is unmistakable: Russian energy purchases are condemned when serving India's economic interests, yet become acceptable when US consumers face price shocks. Washington may distinguish between crude oil, refined products, licenses and legal structures, but the hypocrisy is clear.

This is not an argument for India and the US, whose strategic assessments differ, to adopt identical policies towards Russia. It is an argument against applying a selective standard to a universal commodity. If energy security legitimately concerns American households, it cannot be dismissed for Indian ones.

The sharpest contradiction concerns Russia. Washington has long criticized India's discounted Russian crude purchases, arguing that oil revenues finance Moscow's conflict with Ukraine, while carving out waivers for itself to import Russian uranium and now diesel to meet domestic energy needs. India's crude procurement must be guided by national interest, affordability and refining requirements, not foreign political pressures.

After bringing Venezuela's oil under a US-controlled framework following the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife from Caracas in January, the Trump administration is seeking investors and markets for Venezuelan crude. Reliance is well placed to help: its refineries have handled Venezuelan heavy grades before and are doing so now.

Technical compatibility alone does not determine commercial viability. Freight charges, refining costs, payment terms, supply reliability and price differentials matter. Restoring Venezuelan exports requires investment, infrastructure and time. India cannot replace Russian supplies with Venezuelan oil merely because Washington prefers that outcome. Diversification makes sense to reduce concentration risk and widen refiners' options. However, it should serve India's energy security, not exchange dependence on one supplier for another beholden to US licenses.

India's vulnerability to US licensing is not theoretical. US restrictions against state-owned PDVSA since 2014, escalated to sector-wide sanctions in 2019, left over \$500 million in dividends due to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), plus interest, stranded in Venezuela. These funds related to OVL's investments in the San Cristobal and Carabobo-1 oilfields. In July 2026, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control granted OVL a license to resume full operations and manage its finances in Venezuela. OVL is exploring shifting from passive investor to sole owner-operator, despite limited experience in running technically demanding heavy-oil fields.

Reliance's backing for the America First Refining project at Brownsville, Texas, the first new US Gulf Coast refinery in half a century, adds another facet. Announcing it in March, Trump thanked Reliance for participating in this landmark US energy investment. The widely cited \$300 billion, however, refers to Reliance's projected 20-year off-take value of processed crude and

refined products, not construction cost or Reliance's investment. The refinery is geared to export US light shale oil products to international markets, while also serving local demand.

The project allows Trump to present foreign capital as supporting American jobs and gives Reliance a foothold in the world's largest oil-consuming economy. Meanwhile, Essar, which sold its Vadinar refinery and port to a consortium including Russia's Rosneft in 2017, is backing an \$18-billion integrated steel venture in the US. The contrast is striking: Indian capital is creating US jobs and manufacturing capacity even as Washington threatens tariff action against Indian goods.

If Indian investment creating US jobs is welcome, India's interest in affordable energy, secure supplies and independent commercial choices should be equally recognized. A relationship cannot be mutually beneficial when investment from India is celebrated but its independent energy choices are a problem.

Rubio's visit covered a wider canvas. Washington wants more US energy exports, markets for Venezuelan crude, greater Indian investment in the US and severed Indian oil ties with Russia. These objectives misalign with India's interests. New Delhi welcomes opportunities that improve supply security, expand technology and investment partnerships, and make energy markets more competitive. Yet no supplier can be abandoned without consequences for prices and refinery economics. Altering India's import composition must be commercially attractive, not merely diplomatically convenient.

India should resist its energy procurement being made an instrument of forced trade or a test of geopolitical alignment. Strategic autonomy means having the ability to choose among energy suppliers according to national requirements, while complying with applicable laws and managing disruption risks.

The US must provide Indian refiners with clear, durable exemptions under the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act (SRIA) for handling Russian crude. Washington itself buys some of the downstream products, exploiting the loophole that crude transformed in a third country changes its origin. Explicit, written exemptions are needed to end market uncertainty. Similar clarity is needed on the Chabahar port and the application of secondary tariffs.

Washington is entitled to pursue its interests, as is India. If the US wants India as a comprehensive global strategic partner, it must treat India as one: respecting its sovereign choices and legitimate interests. Strategic partnership must never mean strategic subordination.

(Ajai Malhotra is Distinguished Fellow, TERI and former Ambassador of India to Russia, Kuwait, UN/New York and Romania)

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25% of South Asian Americans who voted for Trump in 2024 to back Democrats in midterms: Survey

Among 800 South Asian registered voters surveyed, 87 per cent were Indian-Americans

OCTOBER 27, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

At least 25 per cent of South Asian Americans who voted for US President Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election plan to support Democratic candidates in the November 3 midterm elections, according to a survey.

The survey, conducted by advocacy group Indian American Impact, lists cost of living (65 per cent), healthcare (53 per cent), jobs and wages (33 per cent) and education (28 per cent) as key issues for the midterm polls.

Among 800 South Asian registered voters surveyed, 87 per cent were Indian-Americans and the remaining 13 per cent were Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, Bhutanese, Maldivian, Afghani, Khmer, and Burmese people.

Among those who voted for Kamala Harris in the 2024 presidential election, 96 per cent plan to cast their ballots in favor of a Democratic candidate in the upcoming polls.

The survey found that 67 per cent of South Asian Americans who voted for Trump still backed the Republicans, but 25 per cent said they would support Democrats.

The survey findings come as early voting has begun in several states, including Texas, where Democratic nominee James Talarico is in a tight race against



President Donald Trump arrives at a campaign rally at Crossroads Arena, in Corinth, Miss., Monday, Oct. 26, 2026. -Photo : Jacquelyn Martin/AP

Republican Ken Paxton, who is supported by Trump.

Vasant Bhatt, a 21-year-old second-generation Indian American who had interned on Senator Ted Cruz's election campaign in 2024, said in a social media post that he had voted for Talarico.

"I just cast my ballot for James Talarico. As a second-generation Indian American, I am thoroughly disgusted by the xenophobia, racial resentment, and increasingly brazen attacks on my identity,"

Bhatt wrote.

The survey also highlighted concerns over discrimination, with 90 per cent of registered voters saying they had experienced discrimination or knew someone who had, including 48 per cent, said they had personally faced it.

"It comes as no surprise that a quarter of Trump's 2024 voters in our community plan to vote Democratic. This community can make the margin, and we are working to reach every voter who can," Chintan Patel,

executive director of Indian American Impact, said in a statement.

The survey also found that 16 per cent of respondents had not voted in any general election since 2020.

Overall, 78 per cent of those surveyed said their vote could bring about change, while 79 per cent felt elected officials quickly lost touch with ordinary people. Another 67 per cent said public officials did not care about the views of people like them, and 43 per cent felt they had no say in government decisions.

The survey highlighted the potential significance of South Asian American voters in closely contested states.

Michigan is home to roughly 187,000 South Asian residents, and nearly 30,000 registered South Asian voters did not vote in 2022, more than the roughly 19,000 votes that decided the state's 2024 Senate race.

Texas is home to more than 7,00,000 South Asian residents, and nearly 100,000 registered South Asian voters did not vote in 2022.

The Indian-American community has a strong presence in states such as California, Texas, New Jersey, New York, Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Georgia.

In battleground states such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and North Carolina, even one or two per cent vote matters to swing an election in favor of a particular candidate. (Source: PTI)

Indian inventions, hospitality, to thousands of years of culture: Washington State mayors share their experiences from Indian visit

OCTOBER 29, 2026
SEATTLE, WA (TIP)

Various mayors from the US state of Washington recently expressed their appreciation about the opportunity, history, and culture that India has to offer, highlighting how one of the core Indian values is helping the people of the world.

Tina Orwall, Washington State Senator who was part of the Mayors' delegation, mentioned the strong partnership India has with various countries.

"It was a trip of a lifetime for me. You know, I think about the partnerships of our country, but going there and hearing about your history, the thousands of years that you've invented things, technologies, and it always really coming to the core of helping the people of India and the world, and it comes from a place of compassion," Orwall mentioned, as shared by the Indian consulate in Seattle on X.

For Dana Ralph, the mayor of Kent, it was the contrast seen in diversities of multiple cultures existing for thousands of years together. "I learned so much about the thousands of years of history and the things that were invented in India that I had no idea and then going to Mumbai and the cultural center, absolutely incredible. So, the contrast between there being villages where there's children that don't have a written language that for preserving their spoken language and their heritage and their culture all the way to the amazing



Mayors from the state of Washington recently expressed their appreciation about the opportunity, history, and culture that India has to offer, highlighting how one of the core Indian values is helping the people of the world

technology and advancement and beautiful spaces that are being created today," she said. Undervaluing the Indian community before, the Mayor of Tukwila, Thomas McLeod mentioned that he was able to finally see the world "through Indian glasses", which had him appreciate the

various contributions of Indian society, including his visit to the Akshardham Temple.

I got to see your recognition of humanity, your value of humanity, your contributions to humanity. Then we went to the Akshardham Temple. I got to see all

the contributions uh that have come from the Indian community uh and the way you just offered them to the world to make it a better place and to bring healing and to bring understanding," he said.

Issaquah Mayor Mark Mullet mentioned that his own city has a large Indian-born population, making Indians the largest foreign-born population in the city. "They were the most welcoming people I've ever experienced in my entire life and you could see the smile on their face to actually have that bond with the mayor had been to their hometown and this is the largest foreign-born population in the city of Issaquah is from India," Mayor Mullet said.

Mukilteo Mayor Joseph Marine and Ronald J Fredrick, DuPont mayor also highlighted how India has a thousand-year-old history, much older than many of the towns in US have. With such rich culture being offered in India, there comes ample opportunities for both the countries to build bridges for people-to-people connectivity, businesses and to bring ties closer to each other.

The Washington State Mayors' delegation started their visit to India on October 11, and covered New Delhi, Bhubaneswar, and Mumbai till October 18. With the aim to foster stronger ties, meaningful exchanges and lasting partnerships between India and Washington State. (Source: ANI)

THE 1ST STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI UNVEILED IN NORTH DAKOTA AT PEACE PARK



Participants at the unveiling ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi Monument in North Dakota, October 29, 2026

**OCTOBER 29, 2026
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA (TIP)**

In a historic first, a life size statue of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled today at Peace Park in downtown Bismarck (capital of North Dakota). Installed with the assistance of the Consulate General of India in Seattle, and technical support from the Indian American community of North Dakota and North Dakota Trade Office, the monument was unveiled at a ceremony attended by First Lady of North Dakota Kjersti Armstrong, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and Consul General of India in Seattle.

The unveiling ceremony commenced with National Anthems of USA and India, which was followed up with musical renditions of Gandhi ji's favorite hymns by school students from North Dakota. The ceremony was also attended by officials of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District and members of the Indian American community in North Dakota. Coming in the month of Gandhi Jayanti, observed worldwide on 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, the unveiling marked the 157th birth anniversary year of the Mahatma.

Addressing the gathering, North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring highlighted the growing

friendship between India and North Dakota, noting that Mahatma Gandhi's message resonated not only with India and the world, but also with the people of North Dakota. He described the statue as a symbol of peace and non-violence and recalled Gandhi's timeless words for the world to embrace. First Lady of North Dakota Kjersti Armstrong expressed her admiration for Mahatma Gandhi and said that it was an honor to celebrate his legacy, which she described as being more important today than it has been in a very long time.

Located at 400 East Front Avenue in the heart of downtown Bismarck, the Peace Park was developed shortly after the attacks of 11 September 2001. The park is also home to a Peace Pole installed by the Gandhi Peace Network of North Dakota, along with other bronze sculptural artefacts. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi, whose life and message remain universal symbols of peace and non-violence, now joins these other installations at the Peace Park, adding to the public art heritage of North Dakota's capital city.

It may be noted that since the establishment of the first Consulate General of India in Seattle, engagement between India and North Dakota has grown steadily. Consul General's visits to the State in 2024 and 2026 included meetings with the Governor, the Mayor of



First Lady Kjersti Armstrong and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring offering floral tributes.



First Lady of North Dakota Kjersti Armstrong being felicitated by Consul General of India



Indian-American community members along with Consul General at the unveiling ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi Monument in North Dakota



Participants at the unveiling ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi Monument in North Dakota

Bismarck and leaders in agriculture, business and education, while the Consulate has also organized consular and cultural outreach in Fargo, including the International Day of Yoga 2026 and consular camp in Fargo in February 2026. Senior Delegates from North Dakota Trade Office have also visited India earlier this year as part of ongoing delegation level exchanges with North Dakota. The installation of the first Gandhi statue in North Dakota, therefore, adds further momentum to India-North Dakota cultural and people-to-people ties.

The statue unveiled today is the latest addition under the Consulate's initiative in the US Pacific North and Midwest, following those at the base of the Space Needle in Seattle (October 2024), at the State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska (December 2024) and at the Mansfield Center, University of Montana, Missoula (March 2026). Together with the earlier statue at the Bellevue Public Library (October 2009), it is the 5th Mahatma Gandhi Monument within the jurisdiction of the Consulate General of India in Seattle.

Link to video coverage of event by American media (KFYR TV) :

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PnyBSuwsOlrFiyWuPx0V5TAf9u4w1Ga/view?usp=sharing>



Participants at the unveiling ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi Monument in North Dakota

Air India Inaugurates New Direct Toronto-Mumbai Service, Bringing Upgraded Cabins And More Choice For Travelers

AIR INDIA ONLY CARRIER TO OPERATE DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN TORONTO AND MUMBAI

**BY NAVRATTAN PAUL SINGH
OCTOBER 26, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)**

Air India has yet another first to its credit. After introducing Boeing 787-9 aircraft on the popular Toronto-Delhi sector in August, Air India has now inaugurated its new service between Toronto and Mumbai, creating the only direct air link between Canada's largest city and India's financial capital.

Of late, both India and Canada have come closer to each other by stepping up bilateral trade to reach closer to signing free trade agreements by the turn of the year.

Fresh initiatives of Air India have been hailed by the strong Indian Diaspora in Canada as it had been demanding for a long-time better air connectivity between

Air India and Toronto Pearson marked the launch of the service in the presence of government officials including Mr Mahaveer Singhvi, Consul General of India in Toronto, alongside industry stakeholders, travel trade partners, and Air India and Toronto Pearson employees.

Air India's new Mumbai-Toronto service adds nearly 2,000 seats each week between Canada and India, providing travelers in the Greater Toronto Area direct access to India's financial capital and convenient onward connections via Mumbai across Air India's domestic and international network.

Industry data attributed to OAG Traffic Analyzer indicates that approximately 128,000 round-trip passengers travelled between Mumbai and Toronto between

daily Toronto-Delhi route, bringing its latest cabin product to Canada and introducing Premium Economy on the route for the first time. Together with the upgraded Boeing 777-300ER operating to Mumbai, these product upgrades will increase Air India's premium seat capacity between Toronto and India by 71% this winter.

From January 2027, all Air India flights from Toronto Pearson will feature new or significantly upgraded cabin interiors.

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India, said: "Canada has long been a cornerstone of Air India's international network and remains one of our largest overseas markets. As we transform Air India, it is only fitting that our guests from Canada are among the first to experience many of the

leading international gateway."

With the addition of Mumbai-Toronto flights, Air India will operate 20 weekly flights between India and Canada during the Northern Winter 2026-27 season, covering Mumbai-Toronto, Delhi-Toronto and Delhi-Vancouver.

The Air India Group - comprising full-service global airline, Air India, and value carrier, Air India Express - is spearheading a new era of Indian aviation. The Air India story began in 1932 when JRD Tata piloted the airline's inaugural flight and opened the skies for aviation in India. Today, Air India Group employs more than 30,000 people, operates over 300 aircraft and carries travellers to 60 domestic and 51 international destinations across five continents.



the two long time friendly nations that have strong people-to-people linkages.

The new route boosts connectivity on one of the world's largest diaspora corridors while supporting growing business, trade, tourism, and investment ties between India and Canada.

The inaugural flight (AI192) departed Toronto Pearson at 1230 hrs on Sunday, October 25, with a scheduled arrival in Mumbai at 1410 hrs (local time) on Monday, October 26.

New direct service between Toronto and Mumbai has been introduced when exchange of Prime Ministerial visits are on the cards. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected on an official visit to Canada next month while his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney is expected in the Indian capital around India's biggest festival, the Republic Day.

June 2025 and May 2026.

The launch comes at a time when India and Canada are also actively seeking to deepen economic engagement, with the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) expected to support efforts to double bilateral trade by 2030, creating new opportunities for businesses, investors, and entrepreneurs across both countries.

Air India's new Toronto-Mumbai service is operated with impressive interiors, offering eight First Class suites with privacy doors, 40 fully flat beds in Business Class, and 280 Economy Class seats. Guests travelling on this route can also enjoy Wi-Fi connectivity throughout their journey, helping them stay connected while flying across continents.

Air India recently introduced its brand-new Boeing 787-9 aircraft on the

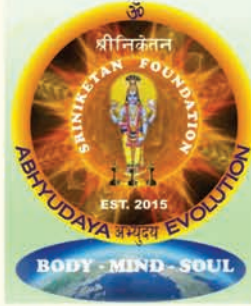
improvements we are making across our airline. The launch of our new Toronto-Mumbai route, the deployment of our newest aircraft to Delhi, and the significant increase in premium seating capacity together represent our confidence in the market and our commitment to offering a world-class travel experience between Canada and India."

"This new route is an important addition to Toronto Pearson's growing global network, providing the only direct connection between Toronto and Mumbai, India's financial capital," said Kurush Minocher, Chief Commercial Officer, Toronto Pearson. "The service will strengthen connectivity for travellers, support business and trade between Canada and India, and further enhance Toronto Pearson's role as a

Returning to Tata Sons in 2022 following 70 years under Government ownership, Air India Group is in the midst of a five-year transformation programme, Vihaan.AI. As part of the transformation, Air India has placed orders for 600 new aircraft. In addition to taking new aircraft deliveries, Air India is progressively retrofitting all its legacy aircraft.

The Air India Group operates South Asia's largest aviation training academy in Gurugram, India. The construction of a new flying school and a greenfield maintenance base is in progress.

With transformation underway across all facets of the business and India's rich legacy of hospitality, Air India is committed to being a world class global airline with an Indian heart.



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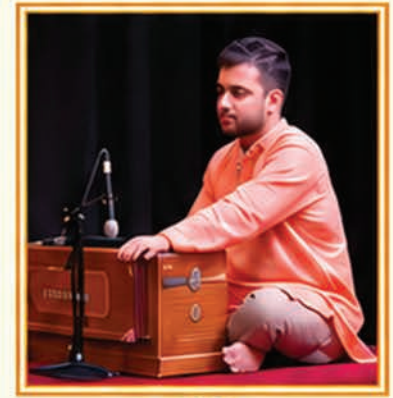
VIDUSHI PURNIMA A. DESAI FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

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**RENOWNED ARTISTS VOCALIST:
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TIME: 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

ADMISSION: FREE DONATIONS WELCOME

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MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EVENT
“SHYAM SHYAM SHISHTRIYA SUGAM SANGEET SAMMELAN”

Naturopathy - Homeopathy - Basic Yoga - Mantra Therapy - Music Therapy

Laughing Therapy - Kriya Yoga - Ayurveda - Meditation - Reflexology

Reiki Therapy - Listening Therapy

FOR CHAITANYA - JAGRUTI (AWARENESS & PURE CONSCIOUSNESS)

HEALTH IS WEALTH

Embassy of India Organizes Business Event to Promote India-Romania Cooperation in Agri-Food Sector: Showcases Global Food Pro 2027



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

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

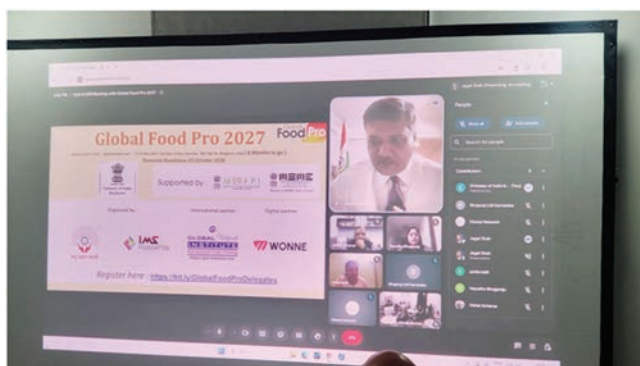
The Embassy of India in Bucharest organized a business interaction on the agri-food sector on 23 October 2026, bringing together representatives of Romania's agricultural and food-processing industry and Indian businesses to explore opportunities for expanding bilateral trade, strengthening business partnerships and promoting investment cooperation.

The interaction underscored the significant potential for India and Romania to deepen their economic engagement in agriculture, food products and food processing. India's diverse agricultural base, extensive food-processing capabilities and growing consumer market offer promising opportunities for Romanian businesses, while Romania's position within the European Union provides an important gateway for Indian companies seeking to expand their presence in European markets. The meeting provided a valuable platform for connecting industry stakeholders, exchanging market insights and identifying avenues for business-to-business collaboration, technology exchange and investment. It also highlighted the importance of sustained engagement between businesses and industry associations in translating the complementarities between the two economies into concrete commercial partnerships.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, Ambassador of India to Romania, delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the considerable potential for expanding India-Romania commercial relations through enhanced cooperation in the agri-food sector. He emphasized the importance of strengthening business-to-business linkages, facilitating greater market access and encouraging partnerships between Indian and Romanian enterprises. He noted that India's strong agricultural base, diverse food products and expanding food-processing capabilities offer promising



Representative of the Forum of Professional Farmers and Processors from Romania also shared perspectives on the Romanian agricultural and food-processing industry



Dr. Jagat Shah of Global Food Pro made presentations highlighting the event and the opportunities it offers for international business engagement

opportunities for collaboration with Romanian businesses. He also underscored the scope for exploring new avenues of trade, investment, technology exchange and value-chain integration, and encouraged industry stakeholders from both countries to make use of such business interactions to identify concrete opportunities and develop mutually beneficial commercial partnerships.

A representative of the Forum of Professional Farmers and Processors from Romania also shared perspectives on the Romanian agricultural and food-processing industry, setting the stage for an exchange of views on potential areas of cooperation.



Romanian companies actively participated and explored opportunities with Indian firms

An important component of the programme was the promotion of Global Food Pro 2027, an international event dedicated to the global food industry, which will be held from 13 to 15 May 2027 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), Bengaluru, India. The event aims to bring together stakeholders from across the global food value chain, with a focus on



Hybrid B2B event on Global Food Pro 2027

food and food processing, agri-food, trade and investment.

Mr. Vishal Acharya, Director of Global Food Pro 2027, and Dr. Jagat Shah made presentations highlighting the event and the opportunities it offers for international business engagement. The presentations outlined the potential for the exhibition to facilitate connections among food producers, processors, exporters, importers and investors, while enabling participants to explore new markets, establish commercial partnerships and identify investment opportunities. Romanian companies were encouraged to explore participation in Global Food Pro 2027 and engage with Indian counterparts to develop mutually beneficial business relationships.

The programme also featured presentations by Ms. Vasudha Bhogaraju, Managing Director of Bhogaraju Food, and Ms. Smita Katti, Managing Director of Honnigaa Eats, contributing to the discussion on business opportunities and engagement in the food sector. A question-and-answer session enabled participants to exchange views and discuss potential avenues for future collaboration.

The Embassy of India in Bucharest remains committed to strengthening India-Romania economic relations by facilitating industry engagement, promoting trade and investment opportunities, and encouraging greater participation of Romanian businesses in India's growing agri-food sector. The Embassy looks forward to further engagement with Romanian industry stakeholders in the lead-up to Global Food Pro 2027, with a view to fostering sustainable and mutually beneficial commercial partnerships between the two countries.

(Based on a Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



Group photo : Business Event to Promote Global Food Pro 2027

Ambassador Visits Neamt County to Strengthen India-Romania Cooperation in Investment, Industry and Regional Development



Ambassador alongside Prefect Maria Apostol and MP Adrian Ciobanu meeting Ms. Elena Chiritescu, Mayor of Dumbrava Rosie and Savinesti Mayor, Ms. Elena-Brindusa Dumitrachi

OCTOBER 23, 2026 BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Ambassador of India to Romania, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, visited Neamt County and held a series of meetings with regional and local authorities and representatives of the business community to explore opportunities to strengthen India-Romania cooperation in investment, industry, tourism and connectivity. The visit highlighted the county's economic potential, industrial capabilities and opportunities for Indian businesses and investors. It also reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation in strengthening bilateral economic relations and promoting mutually beneficial partnerships.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION IN NEAMT COUNTY

The Ambassador met with Ms. Maria Apostol, Prefect of Neamt County, and representatives of the Neamt County Council and the Municipality of Piatra Neamt to discuss ways to strengthen economic and business ties between India and the region. Discussions focused on trade and investment, cooperation between Indian and Romanian businesses, and opportunities

arising from the recently concluded EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The participants exchanged views on the county's economic potential and ways to attract Indian investment, expand commercial exchanges and develop mutually beneficial business partnerships. The Ambassador highlighted the importance of engagement with regional authorities and local businesses in translating new trade opportunities into concrete economic outcomes.

EXPLORING INDUSTRIAL AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Ambassador also met with Ms. Maria Apostol, Prefect of Neamt County, and Mr. Adrian Ciobanu, Member of the Chamber of Deputies, to discuss the county's industrial potential and prospects for attracting Indian investment. The discussions covered opportunities to revitalize industrial activity, encourage new investments and strengthen links between Indian companies and local businesses. The participants also highlighted the role of infrastructure development and improved connectivity in supporting economic growth and attracting investors. The meeting provided an

opportunity to explore how closer institutional cooperation could help identify investment prospects and promote Neamt County as a destination for Indian businesses.

DUMBRAVA ROSIE AND SAVINESTI: PROMOTING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

The Ambassador met with Ms. Elena Chiritescu, Mayor of Dumbrava Rosie, and Ms. Elena-Brindusa Dumitrachi, Mayor of Savinesti, in the presence of Prefect Maria Apostol and Member of Parliament Adrian Ciobanu, to discuss opportunities to strengthen cooperation between India and the Neamt region. Discussions focused on economic cooperation, investment opportunities, cultural exchanges and people-to-people

CORDUN: EXPLORING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIAN BUSINESSES

The Ambassador visited the Municipality of Cordun in Neamt County, where he met with Mayor Adrian Ciobanu, alongside Prefect Maria Apostol and Member of Parliament Adrian Ciobanu, to discuss opportunities to strengthen economic and business ties between India and the region, including in the context of the EU-India Free Trade Agreement. The Ambassador invited the Mayor to visit India to meet potential Indian business partners and explore opportunities for future cooperation and investment.

DEEPENING INDIA-ROMANIA REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS



Ambassador alongside Prefect Maria Apostol and MP Adrian Ciobanu visited COMES Factory where they met the General Manager Mr. Victor Marin

contacts, with an emphasis on promoting local development and creating opportunities for mutual growth.

As part of the visit, the Ambassador toured the COMES factory in Savinesti and met with Mr. Victor Marin, General Manager of COMES, in the presence of Prefect Maria Apostol, Member of Parliament Adrian Ciobanu and Mayor Elena-Brindusa Dumitrachi. The visit provided an opportunity to learn more about Romania's industrial engineering and manufacturing capabilities and explore prospects for closer industrial cooperation between India and Romania. The Ambassador appreciated COMES' existing partnerships with Indian companies and highlighted the potential to expand these ties by drawing on the complementary strengths, technologies and manufacturing capabilities of both countries.

Discussions also explored opportunities for technological exchange, expanded industrial cooperation and new manufacturing partnerships. The Embassy of India stands ready to facilitate further engagement between COMES and Indian companies to support new partnerships and mutually beneficial business opportunities.

The Ambassador's engagements in Neamt County reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening cooperation with Romania at the regional and local levels, alongside its engagement with national authorities. The meetings highlighted opportunities for cooperation in industrial development, investment promotion, tourism and infrastructure, while underscoring the importance of improved connectivity in unlocking the economic potential of Romania's regions.

Continued engagement with regional administrations, municipalities and business communities can help India and Romania identify new investment opportunities, promote business-to-business partnerships and support employment, innovation and sustainable regional development.

The visit reflected the shared interest of India and Romania in translating their strong bilateral relations into concrete economic opportunities and mutually beneficial outcomes for both countries.

(Based on a Press Release issued by the Embassy of India in Bucharest)



Ambassador alongside Prefect Maria Apostol and MP Adrian Ciobanu met the Mayor of Codrun Mr. Adrian Ciobanu. They went to the new Highway Project A8

INDIA bloc's 'public impeachment' of CEC postponed due to rain in Delhi

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): INDIA bloc's 'public impeachment' of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, which was scheduled to be held here on Friday, Oct 30, has been postponed in view of the weather situation in the city, sources said.

The 'public impeachment' is now likely to be held on October 31, a day before the opposition bloc's rally in Ramlila Ground against the CEC and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, sources said.

Sources said the event was postponed due to the rains in Delhi.

INDIA bloc leaders had met on Thursday to give the final shape to the proceedings, which were to be held at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence as a symbolic protest over the "vote chori" issue.

The venue was picked after the opposition bloc failed to get other venues like Constitution Club and Talkatora Stadium.

Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and K C Venugopal, senior Congress leader Meira Kumar, TMC's Derek O'Brien, Samajwadi Party's Harendra Malik, JMM's Mahua Maji and CPI(M)'s John Brittas, among others, had participated in the preparatory meeting on Thursday.

The Congress on Tuesday claimed it was denied permission to hold the "public impeachment" of the CEC and accused the government of trying to silence the voice of common people after "destroying" the electoral system.

The Congress and other opposition parties have been demanding the resignation of Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR.

Murder case: SC directs expelled JD(U) MLA Anant Singh to surrender by Dec 1

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): In a setback to expelled JD(U) MLA Anant Singh, the Supreme Court on Friday directed him to surrender by December 1 in connection with the Dular Chand Yadav murder case.

Singh, who was earlier arrested in the case for allegedly orchestrating the killing in October last year, was granted bail by the Patna High Court in March this year.

A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and Prasanna B Varale passed the order while hearing a plea seeking cancellation of bail granted to Singh.

The bench directed the Bihar Police to complete the investigation in the case within four months.

Country's crisis gives them joy: PM Modi takes dig at Opposition in Gujarat

OCTOBER 30, 2026

BANASKANTHA (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, Oct 30, took a swipe at the Opposition without naming any party, accusing it of trying to create panic and spread misinformation during the ongoing Iran war to damage his government's image.

Addressing a gathering in Gujarat's Banaskantha, PM Modi said some people appeared to take pleasure when the country faced a crisis and attempted to create an atmosphere of uncertainty.

PM Modi said India was dealing with the impact of the Iran war through collective efforts, but accused the Opposition of trying to frighten farmers and women by spreading concerns over the availability of fertilisers and cooking gas.

"When the country is facing a crisis, these people enjoy it. While India is collectively dealing with the impact of the Iran war, they tried to scare farmers by saying fertilisers would not be available and women by claiming that cooking gas would run out," he said.

The Prime Minister claimed that such attempts were aimed at creating unrest in the country and tarnishing his government's reputation.

He said the country had continued to ensure that farmers did not face difficulties despite the war, adding that fertiliser was still being made available at around Rs 300.

PM Modi also said India's rapid economic growth was drawing global attention despite uncertainty across the world. He accused previous governments of making promises to farmers, including on the Minimum Support Price (MSP), without fulfilling them, and said his government had delivered on those commitments.

MODI HIGHLIGHTS MSP, PM-KISAN SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

Citing figures to highlight the government's support for farmers, PM Modi said around Rs 24 lakh crore had been transferred to wheat and paddy farmers as MSP payments over the past 12 years.

He also said nearly Rs 4.5 lakh crore had been transferred directly into the bank accounts of small farmers under the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme.

The Prime Minister said small farmers, who account for more than 85% of the country's farming community, had been overlooked for decades. He said his government had prioritised their welfare through direct financial assistance and other measures.



PM Modi claimed that the attempts were aimed at creating unrest in the country and tarnishing government's reputation. (Photo: X/@narendramodi)

PM Modi's remarks came during his two-day visit to Gujarat, which began with a roadshow in Banaskantha on Friday. During the visit, he is scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for development projects worth more than Rs 14,000 crore in the district.

The Prime Minister is also scheduled to dedicate the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre at Bhildi in Banaskantha.

Spread across 127 acres, the facility will focus on bovine breeding, genetic improvement and advanced reproductive technologies.

It is the country's first facility of its kind dedicated to the Kankrej cattle breed.

PM Modi will also lay the foundation stones for two Bio-CNG plants of Banas Dairy at Tharad and Radhanpur, which will process 75 metric tonnes and 100 metric tonnes of cattle dung per day, respectively.

Other projects include the expansion of Ahmedabad Metro Phase 2, covering the airport and GIFT City extensions, and the widening of the Ahmedabad-Mehsana Road from four lanes to eight lanes at an estimated cost of Rs 2,600 crore.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate 361 completed child-friendly Anganwadi centres and lay the foundation stones for 4,030 new centres. The initiative involves an investment of Rs 800 crore and is expected to benefit more than four lakh people.

Situation normal along China border, but transgressions do happen, says Arunachal CM

OCTOBER 30, 2026

TAWANG (TIP): The situation in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh is normal and the Indian armed forces are guarding the frontier effectively, Chief Minister Pema Khandu said on Thursday, asserting that there is "no matter of tension" at present.

Khandu made the remarks in response to a query on recent comments suggesting that confrontations with Chinese troops continue at several locations along the Arunachal Pradesh border.

Without going into details, the CM said, "The Chinese do not recognise the McMahon Line bordering Arunachal... Arunachal shares a very long border with Tibet-China, nearly 1,200 km. So, patrolling



Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu addresses the public during an election campaign in Sonapur.

parties from their side sometimes cross over to our side. It's a transgression, not an intrusion."

"Transgression do occur; it is not a new thing. Since the border is not demarcated on

the ground, such incidents happen from time to time," Khandu said, without specifying any particular incident.

Last week, the Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Shatruejt Kapur, said confrontations with Chinese troops continue to take place at many sites along the borders in Arunachal Pradesh, triggering a row.

Khandu was interacting with the media shortly before the inauguration of the 14th International Tourism Mart here, in the presence of Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and other dignitaries.

Asked about the row, Khandu said he had come across the issue through news reports and discussions.

Gujarat court gives life term to 3 for cow slaughter, cites Manusmriti

OCTOBER 30, 2026

AHMEDABAD: A Kalol court in Gandhinagar district of Gujarat has sentenced three men to rigorous life imprisonment for cow slaughter, citing the Manusmriti and other epics and observing that cows could become extinct if those responsible were not punished in accordance with the law.

The state amended the Gujarat Animal Preservation Act, 1954, in 2011, imposing a complete ban on cow slaughter and prohibiting the sale, purchase and transportation of beef. The law was tightened in 2017, when Gujarat became the first state in India to make cow slaughter punishable with life imprisonment.

Additional sessions judge, BR Rajput, in his verdict delivered on Monday, said: "If those who have acted with such extreme cruelty by cutting up the cows' body parts are not punished as prescribed by law, Gau Mata will eventually become extinct from the earth. It is therefore necessary to sentence the accused in accordance with the law."

SC seeks bank liability for digital arrest fraud losses

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, Oct 29, said any mechanism to curb digital arrest frauds must provide for the prosecution of bank officials found to have colluded with fraudsters, and must require financial institutions to compensate victims if a fraud resulted from the bank's failure.

Digital arrest frauds, in which callers posing as police or central agency officers hold victims on video calls and coerce them into transferring money, drew 21,928 complaints involving more than Rs 647 crore on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal in the first eight months of this year, according to a status report filed in the court by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The RBI's new compensation rules for electronic banking fraud, which take effect in January, pay victims at most Rs 25,000, and only for losses of up to Rs 50,000.

"The regulatory measures proposed by RBI must mandate for financial institutions to indemnify digital arrest or cyber fraud victims for providing suitable compensation not less than the amount lost by the customer on being found that the fraud has taken place as a result of failure of the financial institution in the commission of the act or incident," said a bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, and comprising justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

BJP dominates MLC elections but loses Modi, RSS turfs to SP, Congress

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The BJP won six of the 11 seats in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council elections while the Samajwadi Party emerged victorious in five, including two seats in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

The elections to 28 seats in Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh were held on October 23. NDA partners won 16 seats, the SP five, NCP (SP) two, and the Congress, RJD and the Jan Suraj Party one each. Two Independent candidates were elected in Bihar. In Uttar Pradesh, SP candidates Ashutosh Sinha and Lal Bihari Yadav defeated the BJP's Kedarnath Singh and Pramod Mishra in the Varanasi Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies, respectively. The BJP had lost both seats to the SP in 2020 as well.

The defeat has revived questions within the BJP over candidate selection, internal dissent and its outreach to the specialised electorates of graduates and teachers. Sources said Kedarnath Singh remained uncertain about his candidature until the final day of filing nominations.

In BJP's stronghold of Nagpur, the Congress pulled off a surprise as its sitting MLC Abhijit Wanjari defeated the saffron party's Sudhakar Kohale by 3,271 votes to retain the Graduates' seat for a second consecutive term. The result came after a marathon counting process that lasted more than 40 hours.

Nagpur houses the RSS headquarters, is the home city of Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and the Lok



Sabha constituency of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

The BJP had faced internal dissent over Kohale's candidature, with former MLA Anil Sole threatening to contest as an Independent before eventually withdrawing from the race.

Bihar delivered another mixed verdict. The NDA won four of the eight seats, with the BJP securing three and ally JD(U) one. However, the BJP suffered a setback in the Patna Teachers' constituency where its five-term MLC Nawal Kishore Yadav lost to RJD's Dr Sanjeev Kumar.

Jan Suraj also opened its account in the Legislative Council, with its candidate defeating former Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha in the Darbhanga Teachers' constituency.

The Patna Graduates' constituency also exposed internal friction within the NDA. JD(U)'s Neeraj Kumar retained the seat despite open opposition from Mokama MLA Anant Singh, who backed Jan Suraj's Anuj Singh. Anant was subsequently expelled from the party for six months over "anti-party" activities.

Congress-ruled Karnataka offered the

BJP a significant boost, with the BJP-JD(S) alliance sweeping all four seats. The BJP won three seats, while the JD(S) secured the fourth.

An analyst said the results showed that the NDA government's incumbency and organisational strength alone could not guarantee victories for it. For the Opposition, the immediate takeaway was that the BJP remained vulnerable in constituencies carrying strong political symbolism, including Varanasi and Nagpur, the analyst said.

The BJP, meanwhile, has initiated an internal review in Uttar Pradesh. State BJP president Pankaj Chaudhary said the party would analyse the results, while stressing that it had won six seats and increased its vote share. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to attend the party's state executive meeting in Lucknow on Friday, where organisational matters and electoral preparations for the 2027 Assembly elections are expected to be discussed.

SP chief Akhilesh Yadav claimed his party's performance in Uttar Pradesh had triggered an existential crisis within the BJP.

The Congress, which managed to win just one seat, hit back at PM Modi over his taunt at the opposition party's showing, saying he must stop trolling and sermonising others and focus on dealing with "back-breaking" inflation and private investment deficit. Modi had on Wednesday mocked the Congress after its dismal show despite the use of paper ballots, a key demand of opposition parties in their campaign against EVMs.

SC: NCLT completely hijacked by ministry

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, Oct 29, said the Union ministry of corporate affairs (MoCA) had "completely hijacked" the administration of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), warning that the ministry's bid to exercise control over the tribunal was undermining its autonomy and functioning.

The court stressed that the NCLT president must be allowed to administer the institution independently, without the ministry seeking a "complete grip" over its functioning. "We are compelled to observe this has been completely hijacked by Ministry of Corporate Affairs. That is the problem. And that is impinging on the autonomy of the institution... We feel there should be complete autonomy with the NCLT. The president must be allowed to work with autonomy," said a bench, led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The bench, also comprising justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, was hearing a suo motu case on infrastructure



deficiencies, staff shortages and administrative difficulties affecting the NCLT and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

The court's remarks came amid concerns over the ministry's decision to outsource recruitment of administrative personnel at the NCLT to a private company, raising questions about who should exercise control over appointments in a judicial institution. A lawyer appearing for contractual employees told the bench that the ministry had awarded a contract on October 6 to a foreign company operating in India to deploy administrative staff, including deputy registrars, assistant

registrars and stenographers. The arrangement could displace existing contractual employees from November 1 or 2, the court was informed.

The bench, however, made it clear that it was not inclined to protect contractual employees merely because they had served for years, or to allow private contractors to determine the tribunal's staffing arrangements. Instead, it indicated that the authority to appoint personnel should rest with the NCLT president.

"We will not allow you people to continue, we will not allow these private contractors to continue. Let the reference come from the NCLT president. The entire power of appointment must be with the president only," the bench remarked.

Questioning whether employees appointed without a competitive recruitment process could claim a right to regularisation or continued service, the court also referred to allegations of misconduct by some contractual staff, including instances in which judicial records were allegedly removed and criminal cases registered.

India in history this Week

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 5

OCTOBER 30

1883 - Swami Dayananda Saraswati passes away

The founder of the Arya Samaj died on this date. His reform movement challenged several prevailing social and religious practices and advocated a return to the authority of the Vedas.

1887 - Sukumar Ray is born

The Bengali writer, poet and illustrator became famous for his imaginative nonsense verse and literary works for children.

1909 - Homi Jehangir Bhabha is born



Born in Bombay, Bhabha became one of India's most influential nuclear physicists. He founded the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in 1945 and helped lay the institutional foundations of India's atomic energy program.

2008 - Serial bomb blasts strike Assam

A series of coordinated explosions struck Guwahati and other locations in Assam, killing and injuring civilians. The attacks remain a significant episode in the history of security challenges in Northeast India.

OCTOBER 31

1875 - Birth of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Born in Nadiad, Gujarat, Patel became a prominent leader of the independence movement and independent India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister. His efforts to integrate hundreds of princely states into the Indian Union earned him the title Iron Man of India. His birth anniversary is observed as National Unity Day.

1966 - Mihir Sen's Panama Canal achievement

Indian long-distance swimmer Mihir Sen completed a celebrated swim across the Panama Canal, adding to his reputation for extraordinary endurance.

1984 - Assassination of Indira Gandhi



India's first woman Prime Minister was assassinated in New Delhi by two of her bodyguards. Her death was followed by widespread anti-Sikh violence, one of the darkest episodes in modern Indian history. Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as Prime Minister later that day.

NOVEMBER 1

November 1 is especially significant for India's federal history. It marks the formation or reorganisation of several states and territories.

1956 - States Reorganization

The States Reorganization Act came into effect, substantially redrawing state boundaries, largely along linguistic lines. Kerala was formed, Mysore State was enlarged, and Madhya Pradesh was reorganized.

1956 - Formation of Andhra Pradesh

Telugu-speaking regions were brought together to form Andhra Pradesh in its reorganized form.

1966 - Haryana becomes a separate state

Haryana was carved out of Punjab following the Punjab Reorganization Act. Chandigarh became a Union Territory and the shared capital of Punjab and Haryana.

2000 - Chhattisgarh's formation

Chhattisgarh became a separate state after being carved out of Madhya Pradesh.

The date is also celebrated as Karnataka Rajyotsava, Kerala Piravi and Madhya Pradesh Foundation Day.

NOVEMBER 2

1834 - Indian migration to Mauritius

The ship Atlas reached Mauritius carrying Indian indentured laborers. Their arrival is commemorated in Mauritius as part of the history of the Indian diaspora. It represents the beginning of a major chapter in the movement of Indian workers across the British Empire.

2022 - Successful missile defense test

India conducted a test of its AD-1 interceptor missile, an important step in the development of its ballistic missile defense capabilities.

NOVEMBER 3

1947 - Major Somnath Sharma's supreme sacrifice

During the first India-Pakistan war, Major Somnath Sharma led his company in the Battle of Badgam in Jammu and Kashmir. Despite being heavily outnumbered, his men held their position against advancing forces threatening Srinagar and its airfield. Sharma was killed in action on November 3, 1947, and became the first recipient of India's Param Vir Chakra, awarded posthumously.

1933 - Birth of Amartya Sen

The economist was born in Santiniketan, Bengal. His research on welfare economics, poverty and famines earned him the 1998 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

1605 - Accession of Jahangir

Prince Salim succeeded Akbar as Mughal emperor and took the regnal name Jahangir, beginning a new phase in Mughal history. The precise date of accession is reported differently in some historical chronologies.

NOVEMBER 4

1845 - Birth of Vasudeo Balwant Phadke

Phadke became an early revolutionary opponent of

British rule. He organised armed resistance in western India and is remembered as an important figure in the development of militant anti-colonial nationalism.

1889 - Birth of Jammalal Bajaj

Industrialist and philanthropist Bajaj became a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. He supported the freedom movement and contributed to social reform and rural development.

1929 - Birth of Shakuntala Devi

Born in Bengaluru, she became internationally famous for performing complex mathematical calculations mentally. Known as the "Human Computer," she also wrote books on mathematics and puzzles.

1954 - Himalayan Mountaineering Institute inaugurated

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated the institute in Darjeeling. Established after the 1953 Everest expedition, it became a major centre for mountaineering education and Himalayan exploration.

NOVEMBER 5

1556 - The Second Battle of Panipat

Mughal forces commanded by Bairam Khan, acting on behalf of the young Akbar, defeated the army led by Hemu near Panipat. The victory strengthened Mughal control over northern India and helped establish the foundations for Akbar's expanding empire.

1905 - Birth of Sajjad Zaheer

The Urdu writer and political activist became an influential figure in the Progressive Writers' Movement, which sought to bring social concerns into literature.

1988 - Birth of Virat Kohli



The Indian cricketer was born in Delhi. He went on to become one of the country's most prominent international batters and captains.

2011 - Death of Bhupen Hazarika

The celebrated Assamese singer, composer, lyricist and filmmaker died in Mumbai. His music explored themes of humanity, social justice and cultural identity across Assam and Northeast India.

2013 - India's Mars Orbiter Mission launches

ISRO launched Mangalyaan aboard the PSLV-C25 rocket from Sriharikota. India subsequently placed the spacecraft into Mars orbit on September 24, 2014, on its first attempt. The mission demonstrated India's growing capabilities in planetary exploration and became a landmark in the country's space program.

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10/16, 10/19, 10/26, 10/28, 11/20, 11/23, 11/24, 11/30, 12/1	11 a.m.-3 p.m.
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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SITAR MAESTRO NILADRI KUMAAR PERFORMS NOSTALGIC TUNES FOR LONG-TIME FRIEND AND COLLABORATOR USTAD ZAKIR HUSSAIN

BY MABEL PAIS

NILADRI KUMAAR, sitar maestro, maverick musician and composer, will perform on Thursday, November 5, 2026 in Manhattan, New York. This performance is presented by the World Music Institute (WMI - <https://worldmusicinstitute.org>).

Sitar maestro Niladri Kumaar is hailed as a maverick musician and composer, a celebrated ambassador, and an iconic figure in Indian music, renowned for his compelling and innovative style.

Central to his impressive portfolio is his long-running creative partnership with the late Zakir Hussain, a sitar-tabla dialogue that became one of the most beloved and significant collaborations in contemporary Indian music, including their sold-out WMI appearance at the Skirball Center in 2022.

"The Space Between the Notes," an extraordinary live recording from Mumbai, India, captures the only documented full performance of Kumaar and Hussain together. This concert draws from that profound musical and personal bond, with a repertoire shaped by the spirit, spontaneity, and depth of their collaborations.

Watch Niladri & Zakir play together at a concert in 2022 @ <https://worldmusicinstitute.org/niladri-kumar-at-adler-hall>

Under the guidance and numerous years of training from the age of 4, under his father and guru, Niladri has gained an in-depth understanding, technique and unmatched mastery over the sitar and developed his own distinct style. His music is greatly admired and he has earned a large following of ardent listeners across countries.

Being "sympathetic to pick up" new trends, Niladri decided to push the boundaries and go beyond his comfort zone to invent his own instrument - an electric sitar that he coined as the "Zitar".

Hailed as one of the serious exponents of Indian classical music on the one hand and reinventing the contemporary modern space on the other, the Zitar culturally redefined the way audiences viewed Indian



Niladri Kumaar. Credit: <https://worldmusicinstitute.org>

classical music.

Sound has waves, but his Zitar created ripples. Each endeavor he undertook was molded towards infusing interest and respect for the traditional art forms in the hearts and minds of the younger generation. The Zitar allowed him to express to a much more widespread audience, bridging the "age un-gap" as he calls it – where individuals from all walks of life can tune in and find a place in his music that they can call their own.

By amalgamating an equipoise between essence & trance sense, going beyond just the string, and striking the right chords of harmony between the golden scientific tradition & ever changing modern music, Niladri emerged as one of the finest and undisputed sitar & zitar masters.

Headlining this music metamorphosis and igniting a new route in the musical scene, he gained admiration for being able to stay true to his roots along with being able to create awareness and make his Indian heritage connect with many at a global scale.

CONCERT DETAILS

What: Niladri Kumaar with Collaborators
When: Thursday, November 5, 2026 @ 8 PM;
Doors open @ 7 PM

Where: New York Society for Ethical Culture, Adler Hall
2 West 64th Street, Manhattan, New York

PERFORMERS

Niladri and his electric sitar (zitar) will be joined on stage by Agnelo Fernandes (keys), Sambit Chatterjee (drums), and Satyajit Talwalkar (tabla) for a program of original compositions and selections closely connected to his work with Zakir Hussain, bringing their shared repertoire and musical conversation into the present.

TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased in advance. Member benefits apply. At the door, prices are higher. To purchase tickets, visit <https://ci.ovationtix.com/35721/production/1280542?performanceId=11829387>

For Group, Student, and Senior discounts, contact us at 212-545-7536 Ext. 1 or at info@worldmusicinstitute.org.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE'S COUNTERPOINT SERIES

The Counterpoint series focuses on contemporary artists who push the boundaries of what "world music" can mean in the 21st Century.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE (WMI)

Founded in 1985, World Music Institute (WMI) has served as one of the leading presenters of world music and dance within the United States. WMI is committed to presenting the best in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world to enrich lives through the arts, promote awareness and appreciation of the world's rich cultural traditions, and encourage cross-cultural dialogue and exchange. WMI presents virtually and at venues throughout the city of New York and depends on public and private funding to accomplish its mission. Learn more at <https://worldmusicinstitute.org>

ANU SEHGAL PRESENTS HER AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL CHILDREN'S BOOK ON DIWALI

BY MABEL PAIS

Anu Sehgal, founder of The Culture Tree (<https://theculturetree.com>), in time for Diwali, and celebrating The Culture Tree's tenth anniversary, presents her tenth children's book - "My Diwali Story: A Story of Two Childhoods, One Light."

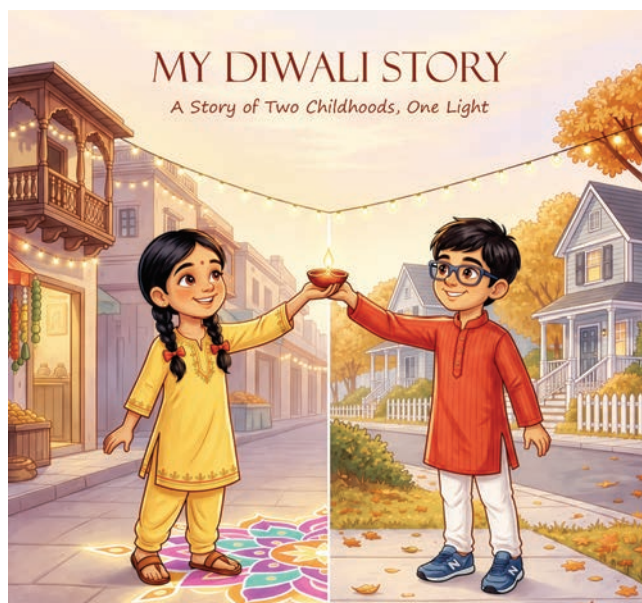
The festival of Diwali is celebrated by Indians and the diaspora around the planet. It symbolizes emotions of love, light, and togetherness!

Sehgal's "My Diwali Story" is a story close to her heart. As someone who grew up celebrating Diwali in India and is now raising two boys in New York City, Anu has often thought about how different her sons' childhood celebrations are from hers.

Growing up in India, Diwali for her meant lighting diyas, decorating her home, visiting family, sharing sweets, and being surrounded by the excitement of the festival. Her boys are growing up with their own Diwali memories here in America, celebrating with friends, attending community gatherings, and finding their own connections to their traditions.

The celebrations may look different, but the spirit of Diwali remains the same. That's what inspired her to write "My Diwali Story."

The book is a celebration of two childhoods, two cultures, and the traditions that connect us across



My Diwali Story, book: page 1. Credit: <https://theculturetree.org>

generations. It's about sharing the magic of our own childhoods with our children while embracing the new memories they're creating. She suggests that the book can be personalized for one's own child. She wishes that

the idea of children seeing themselves in a story about their heritage can inspire them to feel that these traditions belong to them, too. As The Culture Tree celebrates its 10th anniversary, Sehgal feels that releasing her 10th children's book feels especially meaningful. Her hope has always been to help children connect with their heritage through stories, language, and shared cultural experiences.

Story Heroes (<https://storyheroes.io>), publisher of the book, helped bring this vision to life. The book can be an interesting read for one's own children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or friends, and can perhaps become part of one's family's Diwali traditions.

BOOK LAUNCH SCHEDULE

"My Diwali Story" will have its official launch as follows:

Nov 6: NYPL
Nov 7: Asia Society Family Diwali
Nov 8: Diwali Puja for kids
Nov 8: CMOM Diwali
Nov 10: Seaport Diwali
Nov 12: BCM Diwali

To get a copy of the book, visit <https://diwali.storyheroes.io>

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

WORLD RENOWNED JAZZ VOICES COME TO NEWARK, NJ TO CELEBRATE 15TH JAZZ FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

The TD James Moody Jazz Festival, for its 15th annual edition, will take place at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and other locations, November 6-22, 2026. The festival brings world-renowned jazz artists and rising voices to Newark for a celebration of musical legacy, innovation and community. This year's Festival features world premiere concerts, debut collaborations and free performances, alongside tributes to some of music's most influential artists.

For 15 years, the Festival has brought audiences together through performances that honor jazz's roots while exploring its possibilities. This landmark edition continues that tradition with salutes to Miles Davis, Zakir Hussain and Festival namesake James Moody, plus a special 80th birthday celebration starring Tony Award winner Ben Vereen.

"What we deliver every year at the TD James Moody Festival is the music you love, performed in new ways; the artists you cherish in surprising and unexpected combinations; as well as new faces and new sounds you'll want to hear more of," said John Schreiber, NJPAC President and CEO.

The 2026 lineup connects generations and musical traditions. Jon Faddis leads "Miles at 100," honoring Miles Davis's centennial, while the Moody All-Star Band celebrates the enduring influence of James Moody. Sitar virtuoso Niladri Kumar pays tribute to tabla master Zakir Hussain, a beloved NJPAC guest artist who died in 2024.

"This year at the TD James Moody Jazz Festival, we'll be remembering and celebrating some of the world's best musicians," said Christian McBride, the Festival's Advisor and an 11-time GRAMMY Award-winning bassist. "We'll all help blow out the candles when Ben Vereen celebrates his 80th birthday the best way he knows how -- on stage!"

Audiences can also look forward to performances by Gregory Porter and Charles Lloyd, along with McBride's appearances with Bruce Hornsby and the New Jersey Symphony. Together, these



Niladri Kumar with Zakir Hussain.

Credit: Susana Millman / <https://worldmusicinstitute.org>

concerts reflect the Festival's spirit of discovery, pairing celebrated performers with fresh collaborations.

2026 TD JAMES MOODY JAZZ FESTIVAL LINE-UP (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

When: November 6 – 22, 2026

Where: Multiple venues in Newark, New Jersey, including NJPAC (One Center Street), Clement's Place (15 Washington Street), and Bethany's Baptist Church (275 West Market Street)

Tickets: Free-\$79. To purchase, contact NJPAC at 1.888.GO.NJPAC /1.888.466.5722 or visit NJPAC.org/jazz.

Fri 11.06 at 7:30 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC

NILADRI KUMAR: "THE SPACE BETWEEN THE NOTES" HONORING ZAKIR HUSSAIN

A must-see for Indian classical music fans: The sitar star pays tribute to the late tabla player Zakir Hussain. Sitar star Niladri Kumar is a musical maverick, redefining the classical Indian sound for the next generation. In this concert, he pays tribute to his friend, mentor and frequent collaborator, maestro Zakir

Hussain. Before Hussain's passing, the sitar-tabla duo was captured in the remarkable 2017 documentary "The Space Between the Notes." Kumar will perform original compositions and revisit some of his favorite collaborations with Hussain.

Niladri Kumar, sitar

Satyajit Talwalkar, tabla

Agnelo Fernandes, keys

Sambit Chatterjee, drums

Sat 11.07 at 6:00 p.m. | Bethany Baptist Church free

BETHANY BAPTIST JAZZ VESPERS: DIZZY GILLESPIE ALL-STARS TRIBUTE TO JAMES MOODY

Co-presented by the Bethany Baptist Church Jazz Vespers, NJPAC begins its season-long free concert series at Newark's Bethany Baptist Church. Since 2000, Newark's historic Bethany Baptist Church has hosted free concerts that combine jazz and worship. This special performance by the Dizzy Gillespie All-Stars ensemble pays tribute to the Festival's namesake: jazz legend James Moody (1925-2010).

Thu 11.12 at 7:30 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC

MILES @ 100 | JON FADDIS &

FRIENDS

CELEBRATING BIRTH OF THE COOL AND KIND OF BLUE

This one-night-only jazz supergroup honors the legendary Miles Davis (1926-2026) whose Centennial is currently being celebrated worldwide.

Jon Faddis, trumpet

Erena Terakubo, saxophones/flute

Gary Smulyan, baritone saxophone

Steve Turre, trombone

John Clark, French horn

Bob Stewart, tuba

Mike LeDonne, piano

Todd Coolman, bass

John Riley, drums

Fri 11.13 at 7:00 p.m. | Chase Room, NJPAC

NJMEA ALL-STATE JAZZ BAND AND NJMEA ALL-STATE JAZZ CHOIR

The next generation of great jazz artists from New Jersey perform. This annual concert event, co-presented by NJPAC's Arts Education Department and the New Jersey Music Educators Association, brings together some of the very best young musicians and vocalists from across the state for a dynamic group performance. Performers include NJMEA All-State Jazz Band and NJMEA All-State Jazz Choir

Fri 11.13 at 8:00 p.m. | Prudential Hall, NJPAC

GREGORY PORTER WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MADELEINE PEYROUX & CATHERINE RUSSELL

Gregory Porter – vocals

Madeleine Peyroux – vocals/guitar

Catherine Russell – vocals

Hilliard Greene – bass

Andy Ezrin – piano

The two-time GRAMMY®-winning singer returns to NJPAC with his deep, warm, soulful jazzy voice. Experience "a jazz singer of thrilling presence, a booming baritone with a gift for earthy refinement and soaring uplift" (The New York Times). Gregory Porter sings with passion — and compassion — on studio albums including "Liquid Spirit," "Nat King Cole & Me" and "All Rise." This year, he's celebrating a decade of his album "Take Me to the Alley." It was an instant classic in 2016, jammed with gems like "Holding On," "Don't Lose Your Steam" and the indelible title track.

For over three decades, jazz virtuoso Madeleine Peyroux has traveled the world and graced the grandest concert halls to "share the magic of music with audiences, connect with people and uplift their spirits." Like Porter, Peyroux is celebrating ten years of a pivotal album: "Secular Hymns," her self-produced collaboration with guitarist Jon Herington and bassist Barak Mori.

GRAMMY®-winning vocalist Catherine Russell is best known for her stunning vocal approach and interpretive works in blues and early jazz. According to NPR, she has "a voice that wails like a horn and whispers like a snake in the garden of Eden." Since her debut solo album in 2006, Russell has captivated audiences with her rich, soulful voice. Her nine albums have garnered critical acclaim.

Sat 11.14 at 8:00 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC



Ben Vereen's 80th Birthday: Karrin Allyson, Shoshana Bean, Melba Moore, Stephanie Pope, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Ben Vereen and Lillias White -Credit : <https://njpac.org>

CONTD FROM PAGE 23

NJMEA Mixed Chorus & Band. Credit : <https://njpac.org>**JESSE COOK**

A global artist in every sense of the term, Jesse Cook redefines music's power to connect people across cultures and continents. The Paris-born, Toronto-raised master of the Spanish guitar weaves together flamenco, samba, jazz and world folk traditions into something spellbinding and uniquely his own. On stage, Cook radiates infectious energy — collaborating with his band to craft immersive experiences celebrated for their warmth, precision and emotional depth. With over a billion streams and views across platforms, his sound remains as relevant as it is revered.

Sun 11.15 at 3:00 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC

BRUCE HORNSBY WITH CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE ONE ON ONE

The GRAMMY®-winning artists jam together and talk about life, music and collaboration. Singer-songwriter/pianist Bruce Hornsby and NJPAC Jazz Advisor/bassist Christian McBride will jam and chat on the intimate Victoria Theater stage, in celebration of Hornsby's 2026 album, "Indigo Park." The two artists share plenty in common: Musical adventurousness that transcends genre. Constant collaboration with the biggest names on the scene. And many well-earned GRAMMY® Awards between them. Pitchfork hails Hornsby as "a solitary spirit drifting through time, bringing people together and bringing out their best, finding the strange resolution in all the dissonance."

Wed 11.18 at 7:30 p.m. | Clement's

Place free**JAZZ JAMS**

Co-presented by NJPAC's Jazz Advisory Committee and Rutgers Institute for Jazz Studies, Jazz Jams at Clement's Place is a free Jazz Jams Session concert series featuring top-flight New Jersey musicians directed by pianist and bandleader, James Austin, Jr. Audience members immerse themselves in the relaxing sounds of jazz music that stimulate the players' and listeners' minds. All novice and seasoned jazz musicians and singers are welcomed to jam and improv with the professional band throughout the night. Co-producers: Wayne Winborne, Executive Director, IFJS and Eyesha Marable, AVP, Comm Engagement, NJPAC.

Thu 11.19 at 1:30 p.m. | Prudential Hall, NJPAC

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE, bass
ERIC JACOBSEN, conductor**

Jazz and classical meet in this genre-defying program full of color, rhythm, and fun. Montclair's own jazz legend Christian McBride debuts with the New Jersey Symphony in a concerto tailor-made for his unique groove and virtuosity. Program includes McBride soloing in George Duke's "Dark Wood: Bass Concerto for Christian McBride" (2015) and McBride's first work for symphony orchestra, "Fried Bacon" (2022). Eric Jacobsen, hailed by The New York Times as "an interpretive dynamo," returns with the perfumed hues of Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" and Rachmaninoff's final orchestral work, written in New York City

and full of longing for his Russian home

Sat 11.21 at 8:00 p.m. | Prudential Hall, NJPAC

BEN VEREEN'S 80TH BIRTHDAY CONCERT

A birthday bash for the Broadway icon! The illustrious Ben Vereen has appeared in some of the most groundbreaking works in musical theater and film. He originated Judas in "Jesus Christ Superstar," won a Tony Award for "Pippin" and dazzled in everything from "Hair" to "Fosse" to "Wicked." In addition, there have been his unforgettable roles in the Bob Fosse film "All That Jazz," the landmark TV series "Roots" and the 2026 hit series "The Gray House." On stage or screen, Ben Vereen has been at the center of American cultural history. He'll be joined by an all-star lineup of special guests and the Andy Farber Orchestra, performing songs from Vereen's career on Broadway, film and TV.

Ben Vereen, vocals ("Pippin," "Hair," "Fosse," "Wicked")

Karrin Allyson, vocals (5-time Grammy nominee)

Shoshana Bean, vocals ("Wicked," "Mr. Saturday Night," "The Lost Boys")

Melba Moore, vocals ("Hair," "Purlie," "Les Miserables")

Stephanie Pope, vocals ("Chicago," "Fosse," "Kiss of the Spider Woman")

Brian Stokes Mitchell, vocals ("Man of La Mancha," "Kiss Me Kate," "Ragtime")

Lillias White, vocals ("The Life," "Dreamgirls," "Fela!," "Hadestown")

Andy Farber Orchestra and more TBA...

Sat 11.21 at 3:00 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC

**CHARLES LLOYD QUARTET
FEATURING BILL FRISELL, LARRY
GRENADIER & KWEKU SUMBRY**

The pioneering NEA Jazz Master Charles Lloyd is at the top of his game. On sax and flute, "he has no peer save himself" (Jazzwise). At 88, Lloyd has a lifetime of achievements to look back on — but looking back isn't his style. He's forever moving forward, earning his crown again and again as "one of America's most influential, experimental and spiritual musicians" (Memphis Music Hall of Fame). Over his career, he has played everything (free jazz, rock 'n' roll, world music, psychedelia) with everyone (B.B. King, Cannonball Adderley, Jimi Hendrix and Brian Wilson, just to name a few). Among his many accolades, he won DownBeat's 2024 quadruple crown: Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Tenor Saxophonist of the Year and Hall of Fame.

Charles Lloyd, saxophone/flute

Bill Frisell, guitar

Larry Grenadier, bass

Kweku Sumbry, drums

Sun 11.22 at 2:00 p.m. | Prudential Hall, NJPAC

**NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY /
CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE / ERIC
JACOBSEN**

See Nov 19 for event description.

Sun 11.22 at 11:00 a.m. + 1:00 p.m. | NICO Kitchen + Bar, NJPAC

**DORTHAAN'S PLACE / WALLACE
RONEY JR. QUARTET**

NJPAC continues Dorthaan's Place, its popular Sunday jazz brunch series at NICO Kitchen + Bar curated by Newark's First Lady of Jazz, Dorthaan Kirk. The series made its debut during NJPAC's 2012-13 season and has grown ever since. This edition presents the bold, forward-looking sound of electrifying young trumpeter Wallace Roney Jr., leading his Quartet. He comes from a renowned jazz family — his parents are late jazz luminaries Wallace Roney and Geri Allen. His quartet explores the music of Miles Davis, with fearlessly fresh improvisational talent.

"The finest in jazz is on the menu... anticipation runs high at Dorthaan's Place, whether you're there for the music, the food, the scene, Dorthaan, or all of the above." (All About Jazz)

There are two brunch seatings: 11:00 a.m. (music begins at 11:30 a.m.) and 1:00 p.m. (music begins at 1:30 p.m.).

Sun 11.22 at 3:00 p.m. | Victoria Theater, NJPAC

**15th ANNUAL SARAH VAUGHAN
INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VOCAL
COMPETITION**

The divine Sarah Vaughan — Newark's greatest musical gift to the world — got her start as the winner of a talent contest. NJPAC honors her legacy every year with the Sarah Vaughan International Jazz Vocal Competition, the only global jazz vocal contest of its kind, open to all genders and nationalities.

This event offers outstanding jazz singers a one-of-a-kind platform for embarking on a career in the music business — and offers audience members a chance to discover the jazz stars of tomorrow.

For this 15th annual "The SASSY Awards" event, WBGO Radio's Gary Walker will host and 2024 SVVC winner April May Webb will perform. A panel of all-star judges — Jose James, Gretchen Parlato, Jason Olaine, Lillias White, and T.S. Monk — will select the winner.

THE 2026 FINALISTS ARE:

Alyssa Allgood — Chicago, Illinois

Vahn Black — Detroit, Michigan

Nathan Farrell — New York City, New York

Angélique Nicolas — Paris, France

Jackie Ribas — New York City, New York

The above-mentioned gifted young five finalists contestants will be evaluated on vocal quality, musicality, technique, performance, individuality, artistic interpretation, and ability to swing. The winner receives a \$5,000 cash prize. Past winners include Samara Joy, Cyrille Aimée, Jazzmeia Horn, Quiana Lynell, Laurin Talese, and more. For more information, visit (<https://njpac.org/sarah-vaughan-international-jazz-vocal-competition>).

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

"Sassy" Awards finalists. Credit : <https://njpac.org>

As October approaches its end, the world gets ready to embrace a night filled with mystery, magic and a little mischief. Streets are decorated with spooky pumpkins, houses are transformed into haunted spaces, and people begin searching for the perfect costumes. Children eagerly wait to fill their bags with candies, while adults look forward to themed parties, horror movies and festive gatherings. Yes, it is Halloween-the festival that turns ordinary nights into extraordinary adventures!

Celebrated annually on October 31, Halloween has become one of the most recognizable cultural celebrations around the world. Although it is traditionally associated with ghosts, witches, skeletons and supernatural creatures, the festival today is equally about creativity, entertainment, community spirit and having fun.

The Fascinating History of Halloween

Halloween has a history that dates back more than 2,000 years to an ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. Celebrated in regions that are now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on this night, the boundary between the living and the dead became thinner, allowing spirits to enter the human world.

People lit large bonfires and wore costumes made from animal skins to protect themselves from wandering spirits. Over time, Christian traditions influenced the celebration, and November 1 became known as All Saints' Day, with October 31 being observed as All Hallows' Eve. Eventually, the name evolved into Halloween.

As Irish and Scottish immigrants carried their traditions to North America, Halloween gradually developed into the modern celebration we recognise today.

The Magic of Halloween Traditions

One of the most exciting aspects of Halloween is its colorful collection of traditions. Each activity adds a unique charm to the celebration.

Trick-or-Treating: Perhaps the most popular Halloween tradition, trick-or-treating sees children dressed as superheroes, witches, vampires, princesses and other imaginative characters. They visit neighbouring houses, knock on doors and ask the familiar question, "Trick or treat?" In return, they receive chocolates, candies and other delicious goodies.

- **Jack-o'-Lanterns:** Pumpkins are the unofficial symbols of Halloween. People carve frightening or funny faces into pumpkins, remove their insides and place candles or lights inside them. These glowing decorations, known as jack-o'-lanterns, create a mysterious atmosphere outside homes and along streets. The tradition originated from the Irish practice of carving turnips before pumpkins became popular in North America.
- **Costume Parties:** Halloween offers

Halloween: A celebration of spooks, spirits and spooky surprises



everyone an opportunity to unleash their imagination. From spooky vampires and terrifying zombies to fairytale princesses and famous movie characters, costume parties are a major attraction. Some people even organize competitions to reward the most creative and original outfits.

- **Haunted Houses:** For thrill-seekers, haunted houses are among the biggest attractions. Decorated with cobwebs, skeletons, artificial blood and frightening sound effects, these spaces recreate spooky experiences that leave visitors screaming with excitement.

A Deliciously Spooky Celebration

Halloween is also a treat for food lovers. Bakeries, cafés and households prepare special delicacies inspired by the festival. Pumpkin pies, caramel apples, chocolate cupcakes, ghost-shaped cookies and spooky-themed doughnuts are among the popular favorites.

Creative food decorations add to the festive atmosphere. Cupcakes are designed like monsters, cookies are shaped like bats and spiders, and drinks are served in colorful Halloween-themed glasses. These delightful treats make Halloween gatherings even more enjoyable.

Halloween Around the World

Although Halloween is especially popular in the United States, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom, its influence has spread to several other countries.

In the United States, neighborhoods organize elaborate decorations, costume parades and trick-or-treating activities. In Ireland, where many of the festival's ancient traditions originated, bonfires and community celebrations remain part of Halloween festivities.

In Mexico, Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, is celebrated on November 1 and 2. It honors deceased

loved ones through colorful altars, flowers, food and family gatherings. Although distinct from Halloween, the two celebrations share historical connections with remembrance of the dead.

In India, Halloween has gradually gained popularity, particularly among younger generations. Schools, colleges, restaurants, shopping malls and entertainment venues organize costume competitions, themed parties and creative activities. Major cities witness Halloween-inspired events, while social media has helped spread the festival's visual appeal and traditions.

Halloween in the Age of Social Media

In today's digital world, Halloween has become more than just a one-night celebration. Social media platforms are filled with creative costume transformations, elaborate pumpkin carvings, spooky makeup tutorials and themed photography.

Influencers, celebrities and content creators participate in the celebrations by sharing imaginative looks and decorating ideas. Brands and businesses also embrace the occasion through special campaigns, themed products and festive offers.

The popularity of Halloween-themed entertainment, particularly horror films and television series, further adds to its appeal among younger audiences.

More Than Just Fright and Fun

Beyond the ghosts, costumes and spooky decorations, Halloween represents creativity, togetherness and self-expression. It gives people an opportunity to step away from their daily routines and experience something different. Children develop their imagination, friends create unforgettable memories, and communities come together through neighborhood celebrations.

The festival also reminds us that traditions can evolve over time while retaining their cultural significance. What once began as an ancient seasonal observance has transformed into a celebration enjoyed by millions across different cultures.

Let the Spooky Celebrations Begin

As October 31 arrives, the excitement reaches its peak. Glowing pumpkins illuminate doorsteps, spooky music fills the air, and streets become lively with people dressed in imaginative costumes. Whether it is a grand costume party, a thrilling visit to a haunted house, a horror movie marathon or a simple evening spent enjoying Halloween treats, everyone can find their own way to celebrate.

Halloween is ultimately about embracing imagination, sharing happiness and enjoying the mysterious side of life. After all, who says being a little spooky cannot be fun?

As autumn deepens and the first lamps begin to flicker outside Indian homes, a special festive energy fills the air. Markets sparkle with gold jewellery, silver coins and gleaming utensils. Shopkeepers prepare for auspicious purchases, families clean and decorate their homes, and the fragrance of incense mingles with fresh marigolds. Across India, the five-day festival of Diwali begins with a day dedicated to prosperity, good fortune and well-being: Dhanteras.

Also known as Dhantrayodashi or Dhanvantari Trayodashi, Dhanteras falls on the thirteenth lunar day, or Trayodashi, of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartika. It generally occurs two days before Diwali, although the exact Gregorian date varies according to the Hindu lunar calendar. The word combines dhan, meaning wealth, with teras, referring to the thirteenth lunar day.

At first glance, Dhanteras may appear to be a celebration of material abundance. Jewellery stores brim with customers, households purchase new utensils, and gold and silver are considered auspicious acquisitions. Yet beneath the glitter lies a deeper cultural and spiritual message. Dhanteras honours wealth in its many forms: health, knowledge, meaningful relationships and the resources that enable us to live with dignity.

It is a festival that invites people to welcome prosperity while remembering that true abundance begins with gratitude, good health and a generous heart.

The Ancient Origins of Dhanteras

The roots of Dhanteras are closely connected with Hindu mythology, Ayurveda and the ancient Indian understanding of prosperity. Its most important religious association is with Lord Dhanvantari, revered as the divine physician and a manifestation of Lord Vishnu. According to Hindu tradition, Dhanvantari emerged from the cosmic ocean during Samudra Manthan, the celebrated churning of the ocean of milk. Described in Hindu scriptures including the Bhagavata Purana, the Vishnu Purana and the Mahabharata, this event represents a monumental undertaking by the devas, or celestial beings, and the asuras, their powerful counterparts.

Seeking amrita, the nectar of immortality, the two groups joined forces to churn the ocean. Mount Mandara served as the churning rod, while the serpent Vasuki became the rope. Lord Vishnu guided the undertaking, assuming different forms to support the cosmic effort.

As the ocean was churned, extraordinary treasures emerged from its depths. Among them were the divine cow Kamadhenu, the celestial horse Uchchaisravas, Goddess Lakshmi and, ultimately, Dhanvantari, carrying a vessel of amrita.

His appearance came to symbolize divine healing, medical knowledge and the possibility of overcoming suffering. In traditional depictions, Dhanvantari is shown holding a pot of nectar,

Dhanteras: The festival of wealth, wellness and new beginnings



sometimes accompanied by medicinal herbs and other symbols associated with healing.

This story gives Dhanteras a distinctive place among India's festivals. While Lakshmi represents prosperity and abundance, Dhanvantari represents health and the knowledge needed to preserve life. Their associations complement one another, suggesting that wealth without well-being is incomplete.

The festival's connection with Dhanvantari is especially meaningful in Ayurveda, India's traditional system of medicine. Dhanteras is observed in many communities as Dhanvantari Jayanti, honouring the divine source of Ayurvedic healing and encouraging respect for physicians, medicinal knowledge and healthy living.

Although the historical development of Dhanteras cannot be traced to a single origin story, its religious associations convey a powerful principle: prosperity is most valuable when it supports life itself.

The Legend of King Hima and the Lamp That Defied Death

Among the most beloved stories associated with Dhanteras is the tale of King Hima's son, a young prince whose destiny appeared to be sealed by a prophecy.

According to the traditional legend, astrologers foretold that the prince would die from a snakebite on the fourth day after his marriage. When the young man married, his bride learned of the prediction. Rather than surrender to fear, she decided to challenge fate with courage, ingenuity and an extraordinary display of light.

On the fateful night, she gathered gold and silver ornaments, precious objects and coins, arranging them near the entrance of their chamber. She illuminated the surroundings with rows of lamps, filling the darkness with their radiant glow. She then kept her husband awake throughout the night with songs, stories and conversation.

As the story goes, Yama, the god of

death, arrived in the guise of a serpent to claim the prince's life. However, the brilliance of the lamps and the glitter of the precious metals dazzled him. Unable to proceed as intended, Yama lingered at the entrance, listening to the bride's songs. By morning, the destined hour had passed, and the prince was spared.

This tale is traditionally associated with Yama Deepam or Yama Deepdaan, the custom of lighting a lamp in honour of Yama on Dhanteras.

The legend is not merely about escaping death. It celebrates courage in the face of uncertainty, devotion and the determination to protect those we love. The bride becomes the central figure because she refuses to surrender hope.

The lamp becomes a symbol of resilience. Darkness may represent fear, uncertainty or mortality, but even a small flame can transform the atmosphere around it. In a world marked by uncertainty, Dhanteras reminds us that hope, care and courage remain invaluable forms of wealth.

Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Kubera and the Promise of Prosperity

Although Dhanvantari represents health, Dhanteras is equally associated with Goddess Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth, fortune, beauty and abundance.

Lakshmi occupies a central place in Diwali celebrations, and many families begin worshipping her on Dhanteras. Her presence is believed to bring prosperity, harmony and auspicious beginnings to homes and businesses.

Another deity frequently worshipped on this occasion is Lord Kubera, regarded as the treasurer of the gods and custodian of wealth. Together, Lakshmi and Kubera represent complementary aspects of prosperity: the blessing of abundance and the responsible stewardship of material resources.

Traditional folk narratives also tell of Lakshmi visiting humble households where she is welcomed with sincerity and devotion. Such stories inspire the custom of cleaning homes and lighting lamps in anticipation of her arrival.

These traditions help explain why Dhanteras is not simply a day for acquiring valuable possessions. Its deeper promise is that prosperity should be accompanied by humility, hospitality and responsible living. Wealth is not merely something to accumulate; it is something to honor, nurture and use wisely.

Why Buying Gold and Silver Is Considered Auspicious

Perhaps no custom captures the public imagination of Dhanteras quite like the purchase of gold, silver or new household utensils. Jewelry stores and markets across India often experience a surge in activity as families shop

for ornaments, coins, utensils and gifts.

The practice is rooted in the belief that purchasing something valuable on an auspicious day symbolizes welcoming prosperity into the home. Gold is associated with enduring value, silver with auspiciousness and purity, and metal utensils with nourishment and domestic well-being.

For generations, families have used Dhanteras to purchase items they consider meaningful investments. A gold coin may mark a family's savings tradition; a silver bowl may become a treasured wedding gift; a new cooking vessel may be used during the festive season.

In this way, a purchase can become more than a financial transaction. It can mark a milestone, express hope for the future or connect younger generations with family customs.

The tradition also has an economic dimension. Jewelers, artisans, metalworkers, traders and small businesses participate in the festive season, supporting livelihoods and strengthening the relationship between religious celebrations and local commerce.

Yet the essence of Dhanteras does not depend on the size or price of a purchase. For some households, it may mean buying a small silver coin; for others, a modest steel utensil or another useful item. Many people choose books, tools or appliances according to their needs and family traditions.

There is no need for extravagance to make the day meaningful. A thoughtful purchase made within one's means can carry the same spirit of hope and renewal as a more expensive acquisition.

Ultimately, Dhanteras celebrates the intention behind welcoming prosperity, not a competition over who can spend the most.

Rituals and Traditions: Preparing to Welcome Good Fortune

The observance of Dhanteras begins well before sunset. Homes are cleaned, courtyards are decorated and families prepare for worship, creating an atmosphere of anticipation ahead of Diwali.

Although customs differ across regions and communities, several practices are widely recognised.

- **Cleaning and decorating the home:** Families clean rooms, polish utensils and organize their homes as a symbolic gesture of renewal. Doorways may be decorated with mango leaves, flowers and colorful rangoli designs. Footprints associated with Goddess Lakshmi are sometimes drawn towards the entrance, symbolising the welcoming of prosperity.
- **Worshipping Dhanvantari:** Devotees offer prayers to Lord Dhanvantari, seeking health, healing and longevity. Flowers, incense, lamps, fruits and other customary offerings may be placed before the deity. The occasion also provides an opportunity to express gratitude for medical practitioners and the knowledge that helps



preserve life.

- **Lakshmi-Kubera Puja:** Many households worship Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Kubera, offering flowers, sweets, incense and prayers for prosperity. Businesses may also worship their account books, cash boxes or tools of their trade, expressing hopes for an honest and successful year ahead.
- **Lighting the Yama Deepam:** A traditional lamp is lit in honor of Yama, often outside the home in the evening. In some traditions, it is placed facing south. The ritual expresses a prayer for protection from untimely death and for the well-being of family members. The precise method varies according to regional and household customs.
- **Sharing sweets and festive gifts:** Families exchange sweets, greet neighbors and distribute gifts to relatives and friends. These gestures strengthen bonds and turn the festival into a collective celebration of goodwill, gratitude and togetherness.

For many families, the rituals conclude with prayers and aarti. The precise sequence depends on regional customs and household traditions. The common thread is the intention to welcome the festive season with a clean home, a peaceful mind and a spirit of gratitude.

Dhanteras Across India: One Festival, Many Expressions

Dhanteras is celebrated throughout India, but its expression varies with regional traditions, local customs and family beliefs.

In northern India, the day is often marked by shopping for precious metals,

performing Lakshmi puja and lighting lamps outside homes. Markets are decorated with colorful lights, and families begin preparations for the main Diwali festivities.

In Gujarat, Dhanteras forms part of the vibrant festive period surrounding Diwali and the Gujarati New Year. Business communities may place particular emphasis on prosperity, financial well-being and auspicious beginnings.

In Maharashtra and other parts of western India, families observe traditional prayers and purchase utensils, jewelry or other useful household items. In many communities, the religious association with Dhanvantari also receives special attention.

Across southern India, customs vary considerably between states and households, with Dhanvantari worship observed alongside wider Deepavali preparations. In some places, the festival is particularly significant to practitioners of Ayurveda and those who honour traditional healing.

Among business families, Dhanteras can be an occasion to worship account books, cash registers, machinery and other instruments of livelihood. These rituals acknowledge the work, skill and enterprise through which prosperity is created.

Such differences demonstrate the richness of Indian festival traditions. There is no single way in which every household must celebrate Dhanteras. The rituals may change, but the central aspiration remains the same: a life enriched by good health, material security, meaningful relationships and spiritual well-being.

The Modern Meaning of Dhanteras

In contemporary India, Dhanteras occupies an interesting space where faith, family, commerce and modern aspirations intersect. Shopping malls and online marketplaces join traditional bazaars in promoting festive purchases. Digital payments make transactions easier, while families continue to follow customs passed down through generations.

This modern celebration also invites a more thoughtful interpretation of wealth.

Financial security is important. Savings, investments, a stable livelihood and the ability to provide for loved ones can bring peace of mind. However, Dhanteras offers an opportunity to consider how wealth is acquired, how it is used and whether it contributes to a meaningful life.

The festival's association with Dhanvantari places health at the heart of this reflection. A person may possess valuable jewelry and substantial savings, yet find little joy in them without physical and emotional well-being. Similarly, material comfort can feel incomplete when relationships are strained or when success comes at the cost of peace of mind.

Dhanteras can therefore be a reminder to invest in preventive healthcare, care for ageing family members, cultivate healthy habits and appreciate the professionals who help us recover from illness.

It can also inspire responsible financial choices. Rather than treating auspicious shopping as an obligation, families can use the occasion to review their savings, set realistic goals, support local artisans and purchase what they genuinely need.

The festival's spiritual message is not that wealth should be rejected, but that it should be balanced with wisdom and compassion.

A Festival That Lights the Way to Diwali

Dhanteras marks the opening of the familiar sequence of Diwali celebrations, followed in many traditions by Naraka Chaturdashi, the main Lakshmi puja day, Govardhan Puja and Bhai Dooj. The precise sequence and names vary by region.

As the first lamps are lit, the festival sets the tone for the days ahead. Homes begin to glow, kitchens fill with festive preparations, relatives arrive, and the anticipation of Diwali grows.

The small earthen lamp is perhaps the most enduring symbol of this transformation. Its light represents more than decoration: it evokes hope in uncertain times, gratitude for life's blessings and the possibility of renewal.

The story of Dhanvantari reminds us to cherish health. The legend of the courageous bride teaches us to meet fear with determination. The worship of Lakshmi and Kubera reflects our hopes for abundance and stability. The custom of buying something new gives physical expression to the desire for a fresh beginning.

Together, these traditions form a rich cultural tapestry in which material and spiritual prosperity are understood as dimensions of a fuller life.



CID, Aahat creator BP Singh dies in Mumbai

Producer-director BP Singh, best known for creating the popular crime shows CID and Aahat, died on Tuesday, October 27. He was reportedly unwell for some time due to age-related complications.

Singh died in his sleep at his home and was rushed to Surya Hospital in Santacruz, Mumbai, where he was declared dead.

Actor Dayanand Shetty, who played Daya in CID, confirmed the news to India Today. He said Singh's death had come as a shock to the entire team.

Shetty also said that the family was making arrangements for the last rites, which are expected to take place either on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning.

Speaking to Hindustan Times, Dayanand Shetty remembered Singh as a filmmaker deeply devoted to his work. "BP Singh ji had no other life, other than making content. He was dedicated to his work, was very passionate about it. He was also one of the best cameramen we had," he said.

Following the news of his death, filmmaker Ashoke Pandit, who had worked closely with Singh, paid tribute to him, remembering him as a brilliant filmmaker whose work would continue to inspire future generations.

In a social media post, the filmmaker wrote, "Sad to know about the demise of an ace Producer Director BP Singh ji due to massive heart attack today early morning. A brilliant filmmaker who captivated the nation with his crime shows CID and Aahat. His work is still & will continue to be an inspiration to generations to come."

The filmmaker also recalled being a close associate of Singh during his tenure as president of an organisation. The post offered a glimpse into the respect Singh commanded among his colleagues and fellow television professionals.

Singh was a prominent name in Indian television, particularly for his work in crime dramas. He created CID, one of India's longest-running crime shows, which became widely popular for its investigations, memorable characters and the team's signature style of solving cases.

He was also associated with Aahat, a horror television series that became popular among viewers for its supernatural stories.

His work on both shows helped establish him as a key figure in Indian television, with CID continuing to hold a special place among audiences even years after its original run.

Shahid Kapoor, Ishaan Khatter, Mira Rajput bring family banter to 'The Great Indian Kapil Show'

Shahid Kapoor, Mira Rajput and Ishaan Khatter will appear together in the upcoming episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show. Netflix India released a promo on Wednesday, offering a glimpse of their conversation with host Kapil Sharma.

The promo features Shahid and Ishaan dancing to Zingaat, while Mira speaks about Shahid as a father and the habit of his that annoys her. The episode will stream on Netflix at 8 pm on October 31.

Shahid and Ishaan entered the set dancing together to the hit song Zingaat. Mira then joined Shahid on the couch and said this was her first television appearance.

During the conversation, Shahid recalled Mira's reaction to Udta Punjab, in which he played a rock star struggling with a severe crisis caused by drug addiction. Mira had been sitting beside Shahid before the film began, but had moved far away from him by the time it ended. Kapil joked that she would have run away if Shahid had shown her Kabir Singh instead.

Mira described Shahid as an indulgent father who spoils their children, Misha and Zain, though not in a bad way. Kapil then asked if Shahid had any habit that irritated her. Making a straight face, Mira replied, "One?" Shahid looked surprised but remained silent as the audience laughed.

Shahid and Mira met through an arranged set-up after their families introduced them through a religious community. They married in an intimate ceremony in Delhi on 7 July 2015. Mira is also set to appear on Kareena Kapoor's chat show, What Women Want. Shahid and Kareena dated for nearly four years before he married Mira in 2015.



Mira shared photographs from the set but did not reveal details of her conversation with Kareena. She wrote, "What women want is to be themselves. Thanks @kareenakapoorkhan for having me and for being the and the woman you are." Kareena shared a photograph with Mira on Instagram Stories and wrote, "The absolutely warm and lovely Mira on the show." Mira reposted it and replied, "Couldn't have had better company. With the gorgeous @kareenakapoorkhan." Kareena also commented on Mira's original post, writing, "So happy you came gorgeous." The launch date for the new season of What Women Want has not been disclosed. Shahid was last seen in Vishal Bhardwaj's O Romeo, which also starred Triptii Dimri, Avinash Tiwary and Nana Patekar in lead roles. Ishaan was last seen in the critically acclaimed film Homebound, which was shortlisted for the Oscars but did not make the final five.

Lupin Season 4 review: Omar Sy charms his way through rather familiar con-drama

Imagine being so good at your job that even when you are sitting in prison, people still think you are out there robbing museums. Must be quite the reputation, no? Welcome to the world of Assane Diop, the gentleman thief who has made a career out of fooling the police, charming his way out of impossible situations and reminding us that sometimes, the smartest person in the room is the one nobody is looking at. Only this time, the joke is on him.

Netflix's Lupin returns with Part 4, and Omar Sy's ridiculously charming thief is in trouble. Someone is stealing in his name, borrowing his tricks and turning his carefully cultivated reputation into a weapon against him. Imagine working so hard to build a brand, only for someone else to hijack it. The audacity!

The French crime thriller has always understood the joy of a good con. The disguises, the elaborate escapes and the satisfaction of watching Assane pull off something everyone else considers impossible are central to its appeal. Part 4 introduces an opponent who knows his playbook and raises the stakes. The premise is a clever reversal of the show's familiar formula, even if the execution occasionally gets carried away.

The story picks up four years after Assane surrendered to the authorities at the end of the previous season. Having behaved himself in prison, he is finally close to freedom. His ambitions are refreshingly simple: reunite with Claire (Ludivine Sagnier), reconnect with his son Raoul (Tho Christine) and finally take him to Senegal, as promised. No more robberies, elaborate disguises or run-ins with the police. Just a father trying to get his life



together. Surely, that cannot be too much to ask? Apparently, it can.

Days before his release, a series of museum robberies rocks Paris, with the criminal claiming the identity of Lupin. The real Assane is behind bars, but the crimes are convincing enough to put him under suspicion. His reputation, which has helped him get away with almost everything, has suddenly become his biggest liability. For once, the man who usually controls the narrative must figure out who is exploiting his methods and why.

The heists remain a major attraction, with inventive disguises and ambitious set pieces. A sequence involving the Eiffel Tower and a ruby delivers the kind of big-screen spectacle the show clearly wants to be known for. However, some plans demand an extraordinary amount of luck, precision and conveniently timed interventions. The spectacle is entertaining, but the plotting occasionally stretches credibility a little too far.



Kartik Aaryan to star in Vivek Agnihotri's Operation Sindoor

Actor Kartik Aaryan is set to play the lead role in filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri's upcoming film *Operation Sindoor*, which is inspired by real events. The project is based on Lieutenant General KJS 'Tiny' Dhillon's book, *Operation Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan*.

According to Variety India, Kartik will begin work on the film after completing his current project, *Captain India*, directed by Shimit Amin. Set against the backdrop of the Houthi conflict in Yemen, the film is currently in production.

Operation Sindoor marks the first collaboration between Kartik and Agnihotri, known for directing films such as *The Tashkent Files*, *The Kashmir Files*, *The Vaccine War* and *The Bengal Files*. The upcoming film will be backed by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series and Agnihotri's production banner, I Am Buddha Productions.

Agnihotri announced the project on social media in March, describing it as a story rooted in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. The filmmaker said the film was being developed through extensive research conducted on the ground in collaboration with different wings of the Indian Armed Forces.

"Rooted in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and backed by extensive, ground-level research in collaboration with multiple wings of the Indian Armed Forces, this is a story drawn from reality not to create noise, but to confront it: with facts, with clarity, and the magic of cinema," he wrote while announcing the project.

The film takes its name from India's military operation, which followed the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. Further details about the film, including its release date and the rest of its cast, are yet to be announced.

Kartik has several projects lined up. He will next be seen in *Naagzilla*, which is scheduled to release in theatres on February 12, 2027. The creature feature is produced by Karan Johar and Mahaveer Jain and directed by Mrighdeep Singh Lamba, best known for the *Fukrey* franchise. The film will also mark Preity Mukhundhan's Hindi debut.

Mirzapur: The Movie arrives on Prime Video with a special extended cut

The world of *Mirzapur* is back on screens, and this time, fans have a little more to look forward to. After its theatrical release, *Mirzapur: The Movie* has arrived on Prime Video on October 30, bringing back the familiar faces, power struggles and rivalries that have kept audiences hooked to the franchise. There is an added treat for fans too, with the streaming version featuring an extended cut that includes scenes not seen in the theatrical release.

Set during the timeline of Season 1, *Mirzapur: The Movie* explores an untold chapter, with the fight for the throne taking the characters beyond Purvanchal and into the desert. While the familiar power games remain at the heart of the story, the film takes the franchise into a new setting. The extended version on Prime Video also gives viewers a few more reasons to tune in. It features never-before-seen scenes that did not make it into the theatrical cut, offering additional footage from the world of *Mirzapur*. The film was A-rated in cinemas and the runtime was 3 hours 17 minutes. Meanwhile, the runtime of the extended cut is 3 hours and 31 minutes on Prime Video.

Director Gurmmeet Singh spoke about the excitement of bringing the film to a much wider audience through its streaming premiere. He said, "With *Mirzapur: The Movie*, the idea was to take a world that audiences know so well and explore how it could unfold on a larger canvas. As a director, it was exciting to approach these characters in a new way while staying true to the grit



and intensity that define *Mirzapur*. The world of *Mirzapur* has always received immense love from audiences, and as the film premieres on Prime Video, I'm excited for even more viewers to experience it. As a surprise for fans, the film also features an extended cut with never-before-seen scenes, giving audiences more to discover in a world they have always loved."

For Excel Entertainment producers Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, the film marked a new experience for a franchise that had built a loyal following through streaming. They also

acknowledged the response to its theatrical release and hope its arrival on Prime Video brings more viewers into the *Mirzapur* universe.

They said in a statement, "The love that audiences have shown *Mirzapur* over the years, and the connection they have with its characters, has been incredibly special to us. Taking the franchise to the big screen was a new experience for us, and we're happy to see the film receive so much love. As it now makes its way to OTT, we hope it reaches even more people and gives fans another chance to revisit the world of *Mirzapur*."

Saif Ali Khan, Vidya Balan to star in Ritesh Batra's Long Years Ago, filming begins

Filmmaker Ritesh Batra, best known for directing *The Lunchbox*, is bringing together Saif Ali Khan, Vidya Balan and French actor Mlanie Laurent for his upcoming film, *Long Years Ago*. Set in 1991, the film is a family comedy-drama that will be shot largely in Mumbai.

The project will be backed by Jio Studios, led by Jyoti Deshpande, who was also associated with the production of *Dhurandhar*. According to Deadline, *Long Years Ago* centres on a family that has spent years avoiding important conversations. The story explores what happens when its members are finally forced to express feelings they have kept to themselves.

Speaking about the project, Batra said he was delighted to work with the three actors and see them bring his characters to life. "I am tremendously honored to be working with Saif, Vidya and Melanie, and to see these great actors bring characters that are so close to my heart to life," the filmmaker said. Saif Ali Khan also expressed his excitement about the film, saying he connected with its story from the beginning.

"Collaborating with Melanie, Vidya, and this exceptional team is exciting, and I can't wait for audiences around the world to experience this deeply moving story," the actor said in a statement. Vidya Balan revealed that she had wanted to work with Batra ever since watching his critically acclaimed 2013 film *The Lunchbox*, which starred Irrfan Khan and



Nimrat Kaur. The casting of Laurent adds an international dimension to the project. The French actor said she had known Batra for nearly 15 years, having first met him at the Marrakech Film Festival. The two had discussed the possibility of working together in Mumbai during their first meeting.



The Pitt star Noah Wyle named 2026's Sexiest Man Alive

Actor Noah Wyle, the Emmy-winning star of the TV medical drama *The Pitt*, was named this year's "sexiest man alive" by *People* magazine.

The 55-year-old said it "sounded like a prank" when he heard the news, adding: "Not in a million years did I think that this would be an honor bestowed on me."

"I hope this changes everything. I hope it's just wine and roses, milk and honey from here on out," he told *People* magazine with a laugh. "No, I don't, but I am going to take a lot of ribbing from friends and family for sure."

Wyle has won two Emmys for best actor in drama for his portrayal of Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch in HBO's *The Pitt*, the story of life in a Pittsburgh trauma center. He also starred as Dr. John Carter in the long-running medical drama *ER*, which debuted in 1994. His *ER* co-star George Clooney has received *People*'s honor twice.

Other actors who have received the title from *People* magazine include Michael B Jordan, Idris Elba, John Krasinski, and Paul Rudd.

Dune 3: Timothee Chalamet's Paul faces fallout of his rule as dictator

The final trailer for *Dune: Part Three* has been released by Warner Bros., revealing Timothee Chalamet's Paul Atreides as a tyrannical dictator facing the catastrophic fallout of his empire. Directed by Denis Villeneuve and adapted from Frank Herbert's 1969 novel *Dune Messiah*, the sci-fi trilogy closer is scheduled to hit cinemas worldwide on December 18.

Picking up nearly two decades after Paul seized control of the Imperium, the final trailer establishes his complete transformation into an iron-fisted emperor known as Muad'Dib. Rather than a heroic ruler, the footage portrays a dictator confronting the devastating consequences of his holy war, navigating a web of political conspiracies, and facing a growing list of deadly enemies.

Crucially, the trailer highlights the emotional and political rift between Paul and his former love, Chani, played by Zendaya, who now stands among those opposing his rule.

As the third instalment unfolds, the narrative follows the emperor's desperate struggle to maintain his grip on power amid rising rebellions across the cosmos. Paul's calculated decisions will ultimately shape the fate of the desert planet Arrakis and the billions of lives caught in the escalating conflict.

Alongside Chalamet and Zendaya, the ensemble cast of *Dune: Part Three* features returning stars Rebecca Ferguson as Lady Jessica, Florence Pugh as Princess Irulan, Javier Bardem as Stilgar, Anya Taylor-Joy as Alia Atreides, and Jason Momoa returning as Duncan Idaho. Joining the franchise for the final chapter is Robert Pattinson, who makes his debut as the primary antagonist, the Face Dancer Scytale.

Dune: Part Three is produced by Mary Parent, Cale Boyter, Patrick McCormick, Tanya Lapointe, and Denis Villeneuve, alongside executive producers Joshua Grode, Herbert W Gains, Thomas Tull, Brian Herbert, Kim Herbert, and Byron Merritt.

Backed by Legendary Pictures and Warner Bros Pictures, Warner Bros will handle worldwide theatrical distribution for the film.



Patrick Stewart, legendary Hollywood actor known for roles in X-Men and Star Trek films, dies at 86

Actor Patrick Stewart, whose roles in the "X-Men" and "Star Trek" franchises made him a Hollywood legend, passed away in Los Angeles on Wednesday. Stewart's death was confirmed by his representatives on his social media accounts on Thursday. He was 86.

A statement shared on the actor's social media accounts said that he died after a "short and poignant journey with Alzheimer's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia."

"We announce with great sorrow the passing of Sir Patrick Stewart yesterday at his home in Los Angeles, in the loving care of his beloved wife Sunny, following a brief and poignant journey with Alzheimer's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia," the statement read.

"We announce with great sorrow the passing of Sir Patrick Stewart yesterday at his home in Los Angeles, in the loving care of his beloved wife Sunny, following a brief and poignant journey with Alzheimer's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia," the statement read.

Patrick Stewart is survived by his wife, Sunny Ozell, and his two children from his first marriage, son Daniel



Stewart and daughter Sophie Alexandra-Stewart.

Several of Patrick Stewart's co-stars took to social media to pay their tributes to the late actor. "What a heartbreaking week it has been. Sir Patrick Stewart was a friend, a colleague, and a magnificent actor," actor William Shatner and Stewart's "Star-Trek" colleague, wrote.

"From the stage to the bridge of the Enterprise, he brought intelligence, grace, and a deep sense of humanity to everything he did," Shatner added. "Captain Picard stood for the best of us, and so did the man who played him. I was filled with affection and admiration for him and his work."

"We lost one of the greats of stage and screen today," Hugh Jackman, who acted alongside Stewart in the "X-Men" films, wrote. "And, in my book, a tremendous friend and man. I learned so much from him. I will miss you, Patrick Stewart, all of my days."

Cary Elwes, who starred alongside Stewart in "Lady Jane" and "Robin Hood: Men in Tights" recalled how he first met Stewart on the sets of "Lady Jane" in 1984 and "fell in love with him immediately."

"Not only was amiable and kind with a great sense of humor, he was incredible to work with," he continued. "His command of the screen with his sheer presence and that unmistakable voice was a sight to behold. Almost a decade later when Mel and I were discussing who should play King Richard in Men in Tights, I told him it has to be Patrick."

Iran says four tankers on fire after hitting mines in Hormuz

30 OCT 2026
EHRAN (TIP)

Four tankers caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to navigate the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's armed forces said Thursday, a day after the US military said it cleared key routes through the waterway.

"Over the past 24 hours, three violating oil tankers exploded and caught fire after striking mines while attempting to pass through the unauthorised southern route of the Strait of Hormuz," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps said in a statement.

Another tanker had caught fire east of the strait, after hitting mines while "operating in a restricted and dangerous area", Iran's army reported later Thursday.

The initial three vessels had "switched off all their radar and navigation systems" and disregarded warnings from the IRGC navy, the statement said.

It was not immediately clear when the incidents occurred or which flags the tankers were flying.

British maritime agency UKMTO, meanwhile, said late Thursday it had received a report of a vessel on fire about 25 nautical miles (46 kilometres) northeast of Khasab, Oman, in the



Hormuz strait.

Hours later, UKMTO reported the fire was extinguished and the crew were safe.

The tanker was approached on the port side by a small boat which attached two explosive devices to the hull above the waterline, the maritime agency said.

"The subsequent blasts resulted in a fire in the engine room which temporarily disabled the vessel."

Earlier, UKMTO reported two other incidents in the area: a dhow that caught fire and sank following a maritime

security incident, and a tanker struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz.

In recent weeks, Iran has reported multiple vessels striking sea mines, prompting US Central Command (CENTCOM), which runs military operations in the region, to reaffirm on social media its insistence that all mines in "primary transit routes" have been cleared.

On Thursday, Hossein Mohebi, the spokesman for the IRGC challenged the

claim, saying on X: "Prove your Hormuz mine-clearing claim with independent evidence, not statements!"

Since the outbreak of the war on February 28, Iran has severely restricted traffic through the strategic waterway, which normally carries about one-fifth of global oil consumption.

The United States has in response imposed a blockade on Iranian ports and helped tankers travel the strait. On Sunday CENTCOM said it had helped Gulf countries export 1.5 billion barrels of oil via Hormuz since the summer.

Iran considers ships using the southern corridor near the Omani coast unauthorised.

In their statement on Thursday, the Guards said "the unauthorised route through the Strait of Hormuz is mined, and that vessel owners and crews are responsible for transiting these routes and should not pay attention to CENTCOM's delusions on social media".

The IRGC also said it had captured a US reconnaissance drone, in a separate statement.

"The IRGC Navy announced that its electronic warfare unit had successfully captured a US MQM-170 drone during an offensive operation in the western Strait of Hormuz," the statement said. (AFP)

Fire pollution killed 3,560 people in Indonesia in September: report



30 OCT 2026
JAKARTA (TIP)

Pollution from smoke emitted by months of wildfires across Indonesia caused an estimated 3,560 deaths in the vast Southeast Asian archipelago in September, according to a new study.

The same month, about 57.8 million people in Indonesia were inhaling unhealthy to hazardous air, said the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), a Helsinki-based think tank.

"Worsening air quality due to forest and land fires in Indonesia pushed the estimated death toll to 3,560 cases in September 2026, a twofold increase from the August estimate," said a CREA statement on Thursday.

The CREA study estimated the number of deaths brought about by PM2.5 pollution in the short-term, meaning a matter of days.

PM2.5 particles are small enough to penetrate the lungs or bloodstream and the World Health Organization has linked exposure to a higher risk for illness and premature death.

Most estimated deaths occurred on Indonesia's part of Borneo island as well as on Java and Sumatra islands and in the country's east, said the

report.

The researchers also looked at non-fire pollution from urban power generation, industry, and transportation, and found it had caused a further 1,750 deaths in September for a total of 5,310 in the country of about 290 million people.

"In September alone, exposure levels breached the WHO annual PM2.5 threshold... by over seven times nationally, 10 times in Sumatra, and an alarming 24 times in Kalimantan" in Borneo, said the report.

More than 330,000 cases of acute respiratory infection have been recorded countrywide.

Gripped by drought worsened by the El Nino weather phenomenon, Indonesia has for months battled wildfires that deforestation monitor Nusantara Atlas says have consumed more than 1.9 million hectares in the nine months to September.

The government has not confirmed or rejected the number.

The resulting haze has sent pollution levels soaring as far afield as Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and East Timor, clouding Indonesia's ties with its neighbours.

Experts say the wildfires can be blamed in large part on slash-and-burn land-clearing practices, often by timber, palm oil or mining companies.

For the island of Java, the most populated and home to the capital Jakarta, the CREA report said between 73 and 80 percent of air pollution deaths -- a total of 1,530 in September -- were attributed to non-fire sources such as industry, vehicle emissions, and waste burning. (AP)

North Korea's Kim calls for rapid expansion of drone technology and observes weapons tests



30 OCT 2026
SEOUL (TIP)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for rapidly expanding the country's drone technology and observed tests of various weapons, state media reported Friday, as his nation remains embroiled in a standoff with rival South Korea along their heavily fortified border.

Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to beef up both conventional and nuclear capabilities. Experts say his troops dispatched to Russia to support its war against Ukraine have likely gained valuable expertise on drone warfare from Russian forces and related battlefield experiences.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim on Thursday visited an exhibition of a variety of attack and other drones that show recent achievements in the field of unmanned aeronautical technology.

In a speech at the exhibition, Kim stressed the need to seize "the absolute superiority in the drone technology" and announced unspecified steps needed to "rapidly expand and strengthen the

unmanned aeronautical technology," KCNA said.

To mark the event, KCNA said that North Korea later conducted test-launches of various drones, missiles and weapons from the 600 mm-caliber ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers. KCNA photos showed Kim watching soaring weapons or him clenching his fist while his teenage daughter was clapping her hands beside him. South Korea's spy agency assesses that the girl, reportedly about 13, is likely Kim's heir.

South Korea's military earlier said it detected the launches of about 10 short-range ballistic missiles from North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan on Thursday. They were North Korea's first ballistic weapons firings in 17 days.

Tensions between the two Koreas are running high since last month's land mine blasts at their border that wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul accused North Korea of burying the mines south of the military demarcation line and demanded an apology. But Pyongyang has denied responsibility for the explosions and warned of retaliation if provoked. (AP)

China elevates a military general to the Politburo and seeks to strengthen party discipline

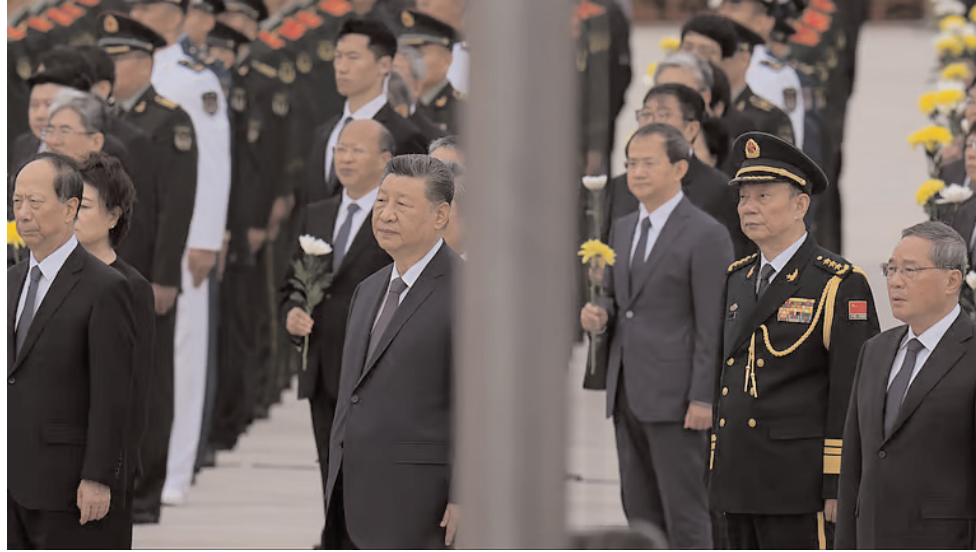
29 OCT 2026
BANGKOK (TIP)

China's top leaders on Thursday elevated the only remaining general on the commission that oversees the country's military to the Politburo, the top governing body of the Communist Party.

The leaders also adopted a resolution on strengthening self-governance, discipline and anti-corruption in the party, as they seek to extend their grip on power.

During a four-day closed-door meeting, top Communist Party leaders deliberated on and adopted resolutions that will guide the party in the coming years. The meeting comes about a year before President Xi Jinping is widely expected to secure his fourth five-year term as the party's leader.

The party elected Gen. Zhang Shengmin, who currently serves as vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, to the Politburo. Xi had earlier purged two of China's top generals, leaving Zhang as the



commission's only member besides Xi himself. It also left the Politburo without any representatives from the People's Liberation Army.

Zhang also holds a position overseeing internal discipline for the military, serving as deputy secretary of the CMC Commission for Discipline Inspection.

The party said in a summary of the resolution that the tasks facing it were "increasingly arduous," such as "uniting and leading the people to safeguard national sovereignty, security, and development interests."

It said it must step up its self-governance, which involves rooting out

corruption and maintaining ideological purity.

The party should, "with an eye on enhancing its long-term governance capacity, maintain its progressive nature and purity, and its close, flesh-and-blood ties with the people," according to a summary of the resolution from the official Xinhua News Agency.

Xi has championed anti-corruption since coming to power in 2012, and has sustained a crackdown on officials for more than a decade. However, analysts say the focus now also includes underperforming officials.

Party members also reviewed the earlier purges of top members and military officials, confirming the personnel changes.

The plenum meeting revealed wider-than-expected purges, according to analysis by Neil Thomas, a senior fellow at Asia Policy who studies Chinese politics. He calculated an attendance rate of 74 percent, the lowest since the times of former leader Mao Zedong, who ran political purges regularly. (AP)

Four killed, 11 injured as helicopter with EU force crashes in Bosnia

30 OCT 2026
SARAJEVO

A helicopter with the European Union peacekeeping force in Bosnia crashed Thursday in the country's north, killing four personnel on board and injuring 11, according to a statement from the force.

The Italian CH-47 Chinook crashed during routine training in an area around the town of Brcko. The EU force, or EUFOR, said the injured are currently in stable condition and receiving medical treatment.

The Klix news portal carried photos of the wreckage showing a largely destroyed helicopter on a lawn.

EUFOR SAID A "THOROUGH AND COMPLETE" INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERWAY AND MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW LATER. IT ADDED THAT "NO CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE, PROPERTY, OR VEHICLES WERE DAMAGED, AND THERE WERE NO INJURIES TO CIVILIANS."

EUFOR's 1,200-soldier mission took over from NATO in 2004 to help maintain security and oversee the military provisions of a peace agreement that ended the 1992-95 war. It operates under a U.N. Security Council mandate. (AFP)

Serbia's students demand resignations in police, judiciary as they prepare to take power



29 OCT 2026
BELGRADE (TIP)

Serbia's student movement on Thursday demanded the resignations of top officials in the police, intelligence agencies and the judiciary as they prepare to take power after a historic election win last weekend against former strongman leader Aleksandar Vucic.

The students at a news conference also urged Serbia's election authorities to officially declare the final results of Sunday's ballot without delay after a rerun at some 50 polling stations next Sunday, so that a new Parliament and government can be formed.

The Students' List movement swept the parliamentary election on Sunday against Vucic's right-wing Serbian Progressive Party, which has ruled unchallenged for 14 years. The outgoing authorities remain in control as the formal transition of power will take several weeks.

"Changes are starting now," student Filip Ubovic said at the news conference held at a central Belgrade park that used to be a sealed-off area occupied by Vucic's loyalists. "Institutions belong to the citizens and the law applies to everyone."

Vucic's party has gradually taken control over all state institutions since it came to power in 2012. The SNS party has been accused of rampant corruption and cronyism, links to organized crime and pressure on the judiciary, police and the media, which the populists have denied.

The students on Thursday asked public servants to prevent outgoing officials from destroying documentation or evidence of potential wrongdoing.

Vucic on Thursday held a news conference of his own, accusing the election winners of "revolutionary terror" after groups of people stormed the Informer TV station that led the preelection propaganda branding the

EU hits pause on country-level social media bans for children

29 OCT 2026

The European Union said Thursday it does not want any more national-level bans on social media before a pan-European law is approved, as it blocked draft rules put forward by Austria.

Under EU law, member states must notify the European Commission to ensure their bills do not break the bloc's rules. Austria wanted to ban children under 14 from social media, but the EU said no. "The commission has decided to postpone for 12 months any draft national laws overlapping with the future harmonised rules," EU spokesman Thomas Regnier said.

The European Commission last month proposed to ban children under 13 from social media, and permit only limited, supervised access until the age of 15.

The EU believes allowing countries to move ahead with national laws would divide the bloc, creating varying age-limits among member states.

Brussels also fears EU countries will not rush to pass the bloc-wide law if they have their own country-level rules in place. "We need to now focus on the negotiations of the EU Kids Act and to ensure an effective enforcement of our rules," Regnier said. The commission hopes EU countries and the European Parliament will reach a deal on the new rules in the next few months. There will, however, be exceptions to the EU's decision. Although the commission demanded France's proposed law be reworked, it is not expected to be blocked because Paris notified Brussels of the law before bloc-wide legislation was put forward. (AFP)

Pak detains UK councillor who spoke for Kashmiris, blocks his return

OCTOBER 30, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan detained British Labour councillor Daalat Ali, who has campaigned for Kashmiris, during a visit in October. After his release, he was reportedly stopped from boarding a flight at Lahore airport on October 28 to return home to the UK. Ali, the deputy leader of Rochdale Borough Council, was allegedly told his name was on an immigration control list.

Ali was travelling with a delegation led by Rochdale's ceremonial mayor, Faisal Rana, to Sahiwal in Punjab, a city that has been twinned with Rochdale since 1998. The UK's Rochdale Council suspects the detention was linked to his Kashmir activism.

The initial detention of Ali came to light in a Manchester Evening News report published on October 28. A day later, Jammu-based Kashmir Times reported that Ali had also been prevented from leaving Pakistan. British Labour MP Imran Hussain has sought ministerial intervention over his treatment. Indian human rights activist Azhar Ahmed questioned the detention and said it raised serious concerns about freedom of expression and political intimidation in Pakistan. He urged the UK government to seek a full explanation from Pakistani authorities.

In his writings, Daalat Ali has described Pakistan as an occupying power in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK). The action against Ali comes amid months of intense protests in POK, where dozens of demonstrators have been killed, internet services have been shut down and journalists have been detained. Pakistan has also imposed restrictions requiring foreign media to obtain permission to report outside Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

UN reports a sharp rise in Afghanistan poppy cultivation despite Taliban ban

OCTOBER 30, 2026

KABUL (TIP): Poppy cultivation and opium production in Afghanistan rose sharply over the past year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said on Thursday, Oct 29, describing it as the first significant increase since the country's Taliban rulers imposed a narcotics ban in 2022.

The agency attributed the rise to deepening poverty, which it said has driven some farmers to cultivate opium clandestinely. It called on the international community to provide greater support to farmers to help curb reliance on illicit crops.

Afghanistan was the world's biggest opium producer and a major source of heroin in Europe and Asia when the Taliban seized power in August 2021. They pledged to wipe out the country's drug cultivation industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022, dealing a heavy blow to hundreds of thousands of farmers and day laborers who relied on proceeds from the crop to survive.

The U.N. agency said cultivation was up 330% and production rose by 400% compared to last year. Cultivation rose to more than 43,000 hectares (106,000 acres) in 2026 from 10,000 hectares (24,700 acres) a year earlier, it said.

Farmers were concealing small poppy plots within cereal fields or inside walled compounds to evade detection, the report said.

"The fourfold increase in opium poppy cultivation shows the difficulty in sustaining decreases in illicit opium cultivation when poor farmers have no alternatives to feed their families," a statement quoted the agency's executive director, Monica Juma, as saying.

"The (Taliban authorities) and the international community need to work



together to support farming communities by investing in livelihoods, farming infrastructure and access to markets," she added.

The U.N. agency said that while cultivation and production remained below levels prior to the 2022 narcotics ban, the increase was the highest since the ban came into effect. The agency said that continued monitoring was required as it was too early to determine whether the increase was temporary or an indication of the resurgence in opium cultivation and production.

Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Tuesday described the fight against narcotics as one of the Taliban administration's greatest achievements. He however, also said the international community has a role to play to keep the drugs issue under control.

"An effective fight against this phenomenon is a shared responsibility of both Afghanistan and the international community," Muttaqi said. "It is essential alongside security measures to support alternative livelihoods for farmers, provide treatment for those struggling with addiction, and enhance regional and international cooperation against drug-trafficking networks."

Foreign secretary Vikram Misri to visit Kathmandu as preparations begin for Nepal PM's India trip

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is scheduled to visit Kathmandu on November 4 as New Delhi and Kathmandu step up preparations for Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah's proposed official visit to India later next month.

The visit is expected to focus on discussions with Nepalese officials over the agenda, key bilateral issues and possible agreements to be announced during Shah's proposed meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to diplomatic sources, Shah is likely to undertake his first official bilateral visit to India around November 22, although the dates have not yet been formally confirmed by either government.

Misri's visit is being viewed as an important diplomatic step towards strengthening engagement between the two neighbouring countries following the formation of Shah's government in March this year.

A senior Nepalese Foreign Ministry official confirmed that the two sides would discuss possible agenda items for the Nepalese Prime Minister's India visit. Misri is expected to hold meetings with senior government officials and ministers during his November 4-6 visit. However, it remains unclear whether he will meet Prime Minister Shah during his stay in Kathmandu.

Meanwhile, India's newly appointed Ambassador to Nepal, Sudhakar Dalela, is scheduled to arrive in Kathmandu on November 3, a day before Misri's visit, to assume his diplomatic assignment.

Dalela, a 1993-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, will succeed Naveen Srivastava, who has completed his tenure in Kathmandu.

RAW spy charge, explosive podcast: Mystery shrouds ex-Bangladesh officer's death

OCTOBER 30, 2026

DHAKA (TIP): Mystery surrounds the death of former Bangladesh Air Force flight lieutenant KM Tahsif Souri, who is believed to have recorded the viral video that showed former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fleeing Bangladesh amid the student uprising in 2024. The discovery of Souri's body in a river in Dhaka has drawn renewed attention to his sudden exit from the Air Force and allegations of his links with India's spy agency, RAW. Months before his death, Souri addressed these issues in an explosive podcast and also questioned the government's handling of the 2025 fighter jet crash at a school that left over 35 dead.

The body of the former Bangladesh Air Force officer was found floating in the Turag River in Dhaka on October



KM Tahsif Souri

28, over 24 hours after he went missing. Souri left his home on October 27 with a friend to repair his motorcycle but never returned. The 28-year-old's father and cousin have alleged that he was murdered, according to a report in Dhaka Tribune. While the police have

remained tight-lipped, Souri's controversial past has come under renewed scrutiny.

For the report, we have scoured through past reports in Bangladeshi media and tried to piece together the circumstances in which he was dismissed from service in August 2024, days after Hasina fled to India.

Souri first drew public attention over his reported role in recording and circulating the footage of Hasina leaving Bangladesh on August 5, 2024. Hasina fled to India as her Awami League government collapsed amid violent student-led protests, which left over 500 dead.

The video circulated widely on social media, prompting questions about who had recorded and released it. Interestingly, days after the video,

Souri was dismissed from service in September 2024. The Bangladesh Air Force, however, said it was not linked to the recording and sharing of the Hasina video.

Souri's father said the family was told that his son was dismissed over disciplinary issues. However, the family doubted the explanation, pointing to his exemplary service record and nearly 200 hours of flying experience. His family said becoming a pilot was Souri's childhood dream.

After his dismissal, Souri worked with several organisations, including the Bangladesh Cricket Board and Netra News. He had recently started a security guard supply business.

Life had begun to return to normal for Souri before he found himself back in the headlines last year in August.

Sikh History This Week

OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 5

OCTOBER 30

1922 - Saka Panja Sahib



One of the most moving episodes in Sikh history is commemorated on October 30. At Hassan Abdal, now in Pakistan, Sikh volunteers are remembered for placing themselves on railway tracks to stop a train carrying imprisoned Sikh protesters so that the prisoners could receive food and water. Bhai Karam Singh and Bhai Partap Singh are honoured for their sacrifice. The episode is remembered as an expression of seva (selfless service), courage and solidarity.

1902 - Chief Khalsa Diwan established



Founded in Amritsar, the organisation brought together Sikh reform groups and worked to advance Sikh education, religious institutions and social welfare.

OCTOBER 31

1984 - Assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

Indira Gandhi was killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards in the aftermath of Operation Blue Star, the Indian Army's June 1984 operation at the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Her assassination was followed by horrific anti-Sikh violence in several parts of India. This date is a painful and complex chapter in modern Sikh and Indian history.

NOVEMBER 1

1966 - Formation of the reorganized Punjab

After a prolonged political campaign led by Sikh organizations, including the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Punjabi-speaking state of Punjab came into existence in its reorganized form on November 1, 1966. Haryana became a separate state, Chandigarh became a Union Territory, and some territories were transferred to Himachal Pradesh. Sant Fateh Singh and Master Tara Singh were prominent leaders associated with the

Punjabi Suba movement.

1926 - Sikh Gurdwaras Act



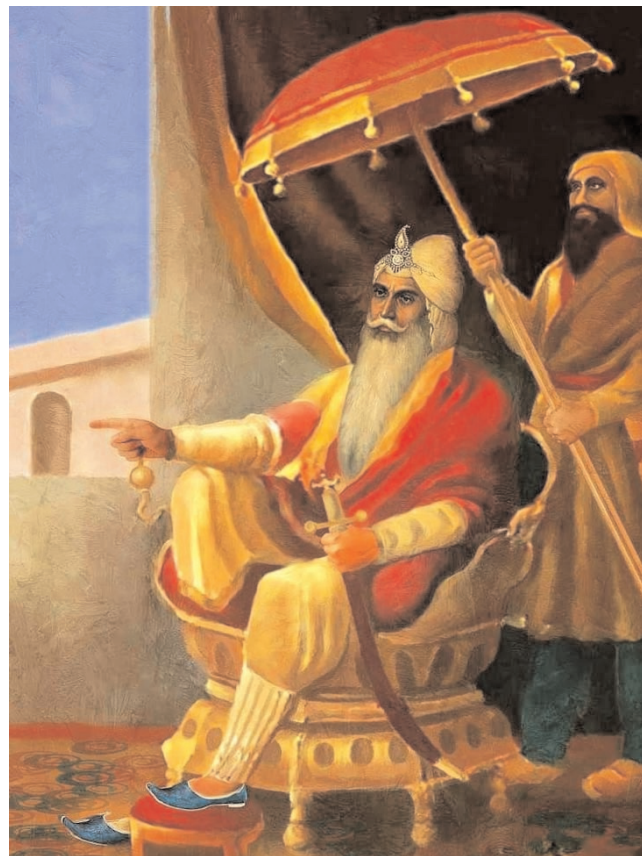
The Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, came into operation on November 1, 1926. It was a major outcome of the Gurdwara Reform Movement, which sought accountable Sikh management of historic gurdwaras. The legislation helped establish a formal framework for their administration.

1916 - Ghadar Di Gunj

Sikh historical calendars record the publication of this revolutionary collection associated with the Ghadar movement. The movement, supported by many Punjabi migrants and Sikh revolutionaries, sought to overthrow British colonial rule.

NOVEMBER 2

Maharaja Ranjit Singh - The Lion of Punjab



Some Sikh historical calendars associate November 2 with the birth anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, although the Gregorian birth date is disputed in historical sources; November 13, 1780, is widely cited. He unified much of Punjab under Sikh rule, was proclaimed Maharaja in 1801 and established a powerful kingdom with Lahore as its capital. His administration included people from different religious communities, and his reign is remembered as a

defining period in Punjab's political history.

NOVEMBER 3



1666 - Birth anniversary of Bhai Dharam Singh Ji

Sikh historical calendars commemorate the birth of Bhai Dharam Singh Ji on November 3. He was one of the Panj Piare, the Five Beloved Ones chosen by Guru Gobind Singh Ji during the historic Vaisakhi gathering of 1699 at Anandpur Sahib. His willingness to offer his head in response to the Guru's call became an enduring symbol of faith, courage and commitment to the Khalsa.

NOVEMBER 4

1906 - Khalsa Pracharak Vidyalaya

The Chief Khalsa Diwan established a missionary training institution at Tarn Taran to prepare ragis, granthis and Sikh preachers. It formed part of a broader effort to strengthen religious education and community institutions during the Sikh reform era.

The wider legacy of the Singh Sabha movement: The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries saw growing efforts to strengthen Sikh education, publish religious literature, promote Gurmukhi and improve the administration of gurdwaras. Organizations such as the Chief Khalsa Diwan helped carry these initiatives forward.



NOVEMBER 5

Sikh History and the Changing Calendar

November 5 does not have one universally recognized, fixed Sikh historical observance across all calendars. Important Gurburabs, including the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, follow a calendar whose corresponding Gregorian dates vary.

For example, some calendars placed Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Gurburab on November 5 in 2025, whereas the SGPC-aligned Nanakshahi calendar lists it on November 24 in 2026.

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Age gracefully, stay strong: workouts every woman should embrace

Ageing is inevitable, but feeling old before your time is not. A slowing metabolism, declining stamina and an increased risk of chronic illnesses are some of the challenges that come with age. While you cannot turn back the clock, a regular fitness routine can help you stay active, energetic and healthy for longer.

Exercise helps strengthen muscles, improve flexibility, support bone health and reduce the risk of several lifestyle-related diseases. Here are five workouts that can help you age gracefully.

Yoga: Relax Your Way to Youthfulness

Yoga is not just about physical fitness; it also promotes mental well-being. Regular practice can improve flexibility, balance and posture while helping reduce stress. Since stress can affect sleep, mood and overall health, yoga can be a valuable addition to your daily routine. Although facial yoga's anti-wrinkle benefits remain uncertain, regular yoga can help you feel calmer and more refreshed.

Weight Training: Strengthen Your Bones

Many women shy away from lifting weights, but strength training is essential for maintaining muscle mass and supporting healthy bones as we age. Resistance exercises can help improve strength, balance and mobility while contributing to the prevention of age-related muscle loss. Weight-bearing exercise can also support bone health. Beginners should start with light weights or resistance bands and seek professional guidance to learn the correct technique.

Squats: Build Stronger Legs

Squats strengthen the thighs, hips and glutes - muscles that play an important role in everyday activities. From climbing stairs to lifting grocery bags, strong legs make daily movements easier. Squats can also improve functional strength and balance. Start with simple chair squats, maintain proper posture and



increase the difficulty gradually to avoid injuries.

Walking: A Simple Step Towards Better Health

Walking is one of the easiest ways to stay fit at any age. A brisk daily walk supports cardiovascular health, improves endurance and helps manage blood pressure and blood sugar levels. Regular physical activity is also associated with better cognitive health. Begin with 10-15 minutes a day and gradually increase your duration. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity activity each week, according to your abilities.

Cardio: Keep Your Heart Young

Swimming, cycling and dancing are enjoyable cardiovascular workouts that improve stamina and strengthen heart health. Regular cardio can help improve circulation, support weight management and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease. Choose an activity you enjoy so that exercising becomes a habit rather than a chore.

FOOD CORNER

Dal bafla

Ingredients

2 cups wheat flour, ¼ cup maize flour, ½ cup ghee, 1 tsp cumin seeds, ¼ tsp ajwain, Salt to taste

1 ½ cups toor dal, soaked, A pinch of hing, 1 tsp red chilli powder, ½ tsp mustard seeds, 1 tsp sugar, ½ tsp turmeric powder, Salt to taste, 1 Tbsp desi ghee, 2 Tbsp coriander leaves, chopped

Method

In a large bowl, mix all the ingredients together to make a stiff dough, adding a little water at a time. Divide the dough into smaller balls, and roll them using your palms to make them smoother. Bring water to a boil in a large pan. Add salt and turmeric, and then drop the balls and cook till they float on the surface. Place them on a kitchen towel to drain excess water. Once they are dried, bake them in the oven at 150 degree C for till crisp and golden on both the sides.

Pressure cook the dal in 3 ½ cups of water for 3 whistles, by adding salt and turmeric powder. Let the steam escape and then add the hing and stir well. Add a little water if it is too thick, and bring to a boil. Meanwhile, heat ghee in a pan, add mustard seeds and let it splutter. Add red chilli powder, and quickly pour this tadka in the boiling dal. Add sugar and remove from the flame. Finish with coriander leaves.

To Serve

Place two Baflas on a plate, crumble them using your fingers, add a teaspoon of ghee, and pour the dal on top.



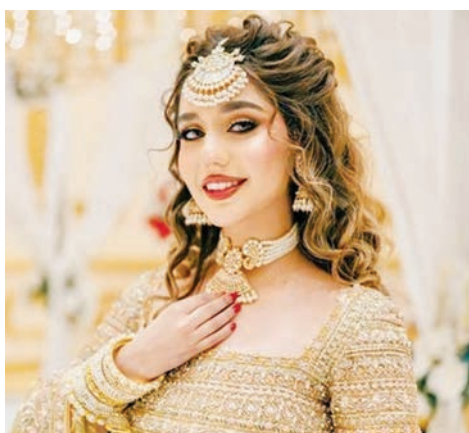
Easy party hairstyles to make you the star of the evening

Getting ready for a party is all about creating the perfect look, and your hairstyle can make all the difference. Whether you are attending a wedding, a festive celebration or an evening with friends, the right hairdo can instantly elevate your appearance. The good news is that you don't always need a salon appointment to achieve a glamorous look. Here are five easy party hairstyles you can create at home.

French Braids: Classic Elegance

French braids are perfect for women who prefer a stylish yet sophisticated look. They complement both ethnic and Western outfits.

How to style: Apply dry shampoo to add texture. Create a centre parting and French-braid both sides, securing the



ends with elastic bands. Gently loosen the braids for a fuller appearance and finish with hairspray. Add statement earrings for extra glamour.

Centre-Parted Waves: Effortless Glamor

Soft waves are a timeless favourite that

adds movement and volume to your hair. This hairstyle looks beautiful with gowns, dresses and Indo-western outfits.

How to style: Apply heat protectant and a volumising product before blow-drying. Use a curling tong to create loose waves in large sections. Gently separate the curls with your fingers and finish with hairspray for a soft, natural look.

Low Side Bun: Understated Sophistication

A low side bun is an elegant choice for weddings, formal dinners and festive occasions. It gives your look a polished finish without appearing overdone.

How to style: Create a side parting and gather your hair into a low side ponytail. Curl the ponytail lightly, twist it into a bun and secure it with bobby pins. Leave a few strands around your face and finish with hairspray.

Double Top Knots: Fun and Trendy

For a playful, contemporary look, double top knots are an excellent choice. They work particularly well with casual party outfits.

How to style: Divide your hair into two sections using a centre parting. Tie each section into a high ponytail, twist the hair around its base and secure it with pins. Use hairspray to keep the buns in place.

Messy Ponytail: Chic and Easy

A messy ponytail is ideal when you want a stylish look without spending too much time styling your hair.

How to style: Apply texturising spray, tie your hair into a high ponytail and gently loosen the crown for volume. Pull out a few face-framing strands and finish with hairspray.

How to manage blood sugar when you can't exercise regularly

Managing blood sugar can be challenging when busy schedules, physical limitations or health conditions prevent regular exercise. Although physical activity helps the body use glucose efficiently, it is only one part of the picture. Balanced nutrition, quality sleep, stress management and appropriate medication also play important roles in maintaining healthy blood sugar levels. The good news? A few simple changes to your daily routine can help you take control of your health.

Build a Balanced Plate

When exercise is limited, paying attention to food choices and portion sizes becomes particularly important. Instead of eliminating carbohydrates completely, choose fibre-rich options such as whole grains, vegetables, beans and lentils. A simple strategy is to fill half your plate with non-starchy vegetables, one-quarter with protein sources such as eggs, dal, tofu or lean meat, and the remaining quarter with carbohydrates such as whole-wheat roti or rice. Fibre can slow digestion and help manage post-meal glucose levels. Including protein in meals may also keep you feeling fuller for longer.

Rethink Sugary Drinks and Snacks

Sugary beverages, packaged juices, sweets and refined snacks can contribute to sudden increases in blood glucose. Choose water, unsweetened tea or other drinks without added sugar more often. Replace frequent snacking on biscuits or sweets with options such as nuts in modest portions, roasted chickpeas or plain yoghurt. Choose whole fruit instead of fruit juice to benefit from its fibre. You don't need to eliminate every favourite food. Moderation and consistency matter more than perfection.



Move Whenever Possible

If your health permits, small amounts of movement throughout the day can help muscles use glucose. Stand up regularly during long working hours, take short walks around your home or office, or try gentle seated movements if walking is difficult.

Even brief activity may be helpful. However, consult a healthcare professional about safe alternatives if pain, disability or another medical condition limits movement.

Prioritise Sleep and Stress Management

Poor sleep and prolonged stress can affect hormones involved in blood sugar regulation. Aim for seven to nine hours of sleep each night and maintain a consistent bedtime. Simple practices such as slow breathing, meditation, relaxing hobbies and short breaks from work can also help manage stress.

Monitor Glucose and Follow Your Treatment Plan

Monitoring blood sugar as recommended can help you understand how meals, sleep and daily habits affect your readings. Take prescribed medication consistently, and never change doses without medical advice.

If you use insulin or certain diabetes medicines, speak to your healthcare professional about managing blood sugar safely when your routine changes.

Junk food rewires children's brains, study finds

A new study has given the most direct evidence yet that ultra-processed foods (UPFs) change how children's brains respond to food, and that this change helps drive weight gain.

It comes as the Supreme Court weighs warning labels on junk food, and as nutrition policy experts say the government has not acted on a proposal to restrict advertising of these products to children. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the latest study was led by researchers at the University of Southern California and Kaiser Permanente. It followed 46 healthy-weight children, with a mean age of 8.7 years, and used functional MRI to measure how their brains reacted to food cues.

Children who ate more UPFs, foods that are made industrially with typically high sugar, salt and fat, have little nutrient value and contained one or more additives, showed stronger responses in the dorsal striatum, the brain region linked to habit formation and reward-seeking.

A stronger response predicted a rise in body mass index (BMI) and body fat percentage over the following year. When the researchers accounted for this brain response, the link between UPF intake and weight gain weakened, which suggests it is a key pathway.

The authors say added sugar alone is unlikely to explain the effect. Experimental work indicates that the fat-and-carbohydrate combinations typical of UPFs trigger more reward signalling than either does alone.

"This study moves the debate from obesity to addiction," said Dr Arun Gupta, convenor of the Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest (NAPI) and co-author of the 2025 Lancet Series on Ultra-Processed Foods.

UPFs, he said, "are not just making children fat," they are "changing the way their brains respond to food." The finding adds to a growing body of research showing the health toll of UPFs. A BMJ meta-analysis of 8.8 million adults linked UPF consumption to a 24 per cent higher risk of cardiovascular events, 12 per cent higher cancer risk and 18 per cent higher all-cause mortality.

A BMC Medicine study of 4,000 children found that UPF intake at age 3 predicted greater weight gain by age 10-11. In India, the Indian Medical Council Research (ICMR)-INDIAB study found that one in four Indians is diabetic, pre-diabetic or obese, and attributed 56.4 per cent of the disease burden to unhealthy diets.

The Supreme Court is hearing a PIL by 3S and Our Health Society seeking mandatory front-of-pack warning labels on foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fat. In February, it asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to consider such labels.

Heart health after 40: Symptoms men and women should not dismiss as ageing

Turning 40 often brings changes in energy levels, sleep and physical stamina. However, symptoms that are new, persistent or worsening should not automatically be blamed on ageing. Heart disease can develop gradually, making early recognition and regular health checks essential.

Warning Signs You Should Not Ignore

Chest pain or pressure is a common heart attack symptom, but heart problems do not always cause obvious discomfort. Other warning signs include:

- Unusual fatigue: Feeling exhausted despite adequate rest, particularly when accompanied by other symptoms.
- Breathlessness: Difficulty breathing during everyday activities that previously felt comfortable.
- Dizziness or fainting: Episodes that may indicate a heart



rhythm or circulation problem.

- Palpitations: A racing or irregular heartbeat, especially with chest discomfort.
- Swelling in the ankles: Sometimes associated with reduced heart function.

Symptoms in Men and Women

Men commonly experience chest pressure, discomfort spreading to the arms and sweating during a heart attack. Women may

experience these symptoms too, but can also report unusual fatigue, nausea, breathlessness, back pain or jaw discomfort. Symptoms vary considerably, and neither men nor women should assume that the absence of chest pain rules out a heart problem.

Protect Your Heart After 40

High blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, physical inactivity and family history can increase cardiovascular risk. Menopause and certain pregnancy complications can also influence women's long-term heart health.

Adopt a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and pulses. Stay physically active within your abilities, prioritise sleep, avoid tobacco and limit excess salt. Regular check-ups can help identify cardiovascular risk factors before symptoms appear.

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Claude can now flag your chats to Anthropic if it detects indecent behavior

Anthropic has rolled out a new safety feature for its AI model, Claude, allowing the chatbot to silently evaluate its own conversations for potential misuse, called "self-assessment." This background monitor has been running across models like Claude Fable 5 since June 2026.

Taking to X, Anthropic shared that the technique trains Claude to give a preliminary safety assessment right after it responds. Because the tool draws on Claude's own judgment rather than a fixed list of rules, it gets more accurate as the underlying AI models improve and catches complex misuse that older safeguards were never designed to spot.

Typically, interacting with an AI involves a simple back-and-forth exchange. With self-assessment, an extra step happens completely out of sight. Right after Claude generates an answer, the system adds a hidden instruction asking the AI to review the exchange. Claude then produces a short internal verdict, noting if the request was harmful, the type of harm, and a priority score for human review.

If the conversation is safe, the system simply registers it as unflagged and moves on. This happens without interrupting the user or generating annoying pop-up warnings. Because Claude has already read the conversation, it can reuse the stored memory of the chat, making this extra step highly efficient.

Safety checks usually require a massive amount of computing power, but Anthropic's new method is surprisingly cheap. The process takes just about 10



extra tokens, or small chunks of text, to run a check. This adds less than 2% to the total computing cost. To put that in perspective, Anthropic's older safety systems added nearly 24% to costs, while rivals like OpenAI have reported safety features consuming up to 16% of computing power. Despite being lightweight, the tool is highly accurate. On the Claude Fable 5 model, self-assessment successfully catches 78% of overall harmful conversations and a massive 94% of high-priority cases. It also rarely makes mistakes, showing a false-positive rate of just 1%, meaning innocent chats are almost never flagged unnecessarily.

Since its quiet deployment, the system has already proven its worth in the real world. In August alone, self-assessment flagged over 100,000 cases of child exploitation material tied to a single customer, which Anthropic immediately reported to the authorities.

Because self-assessment relies on

Claude's general knowledge, it can recognize fresh, uncatalogued types of bad behaviour even if it was never explicitly trained to look for them. For example, when researchers completely hid examples of fraud and cyberattacks from its training data, the AI was still able to detect 90% of those threats.

While the new feature is a major step forward, Anthropic is transparent about its limitations. Self-assessment is built to flag issues for later offline review, not to instantly block them. The company admits that it is not strong enough to stop a dedicated attacker on its own.

In internal cybersecurity tests, hackers were able to bypass the AI 54% of the time when self-assessment was the only safeguard running. While this is an improvement over the 79% success rate hackers had with no safeguards at all, a dedicated real-time blocking system is still much better, reducing attack success to just 25%.

Bharatiya Antariksh Station to have two robotic arms

India's planned Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) is being designed with robotic capabilities that could help astronauts handle operations outside the station, inspect its structure and support future expansion.

New technical details presented by K Kalpana, BAS Project Director at ISRO, during the Space Science and Technologies session of ESTIC 2026 in New Delhi on October 29, point to a station equipped with internal and external robotic arms, alongside free-flying systems and humanoid robots.

The presentation also outlines a five-module station in low Earth orbit, with provisions for docking across all modules.

The station is planned to support long-duration human stays and microgravity research, marking a major step in India's ambition to build an independent human spaceflight infrastructure.

According to the presentation, the station will comprise five modules, orbiting Earth at an altitude of around 450 km and an inclination of 51.5 degrees. Its overall mass is estimated at approximately 54 tonnes, with dimensions of about 27 metres by 20 metres.

The station is expected to accommodate three to four crew members for continuous stays, with space for around three additional astronauts during short-duration missions.

The station's planned robotic systems are intended to expand its operational capabilities. The presentation lists internal and external robotic arms, free-flying systems and humanoid robots among the planned features. However, it does not specify the exact configuration or operational roles of each arm.

Other features include docking provisions across all modules, regenerative environmental control and life-support systems, and protection against radiation, extreme temperatures and micrometeoroids and orbital debris.

The station is also expected to provide a platform for microgravity experiments, potentially supporting research in areas such as life sciences, pharmaceuticals, materials science and advanced manufacturing. These are among the research priorities identified for the BAS programme by the government.



After PHP, critical EDK2 flaw puts millions of servers at risk of hacking

There seems to be no end to Black October in the world of cybersecurity. After finding severe flaws in PHP and eMudhra, there is now another critical vulnerability which may put millions of servers at risk. A critical flaw has been found in Tianocore EDK II – open-source code widely used to build UEFI firmware. This flaw could allow hackers to run malicious code on servers before the servers boot up.

Tracked as CVE-2026-97631, the vulnerability is a memory corruption flaw. It has a severity score of 9.5 out of 10. The flaw may affect servers in data centres and enterprises that boot over a network. Ars Technica claims that it may impact "most servers" on Earth.

It was discovered by Anthropic's Alex Matrosov and Google's Dan Holmes-Mitra. As per reports, this flaw was supposed to be disclosed in January 2027. However, AMI, which makes motherboards and other hardware, detailed the vulnerability and a fix code



in a pull request last month. Following this, Tianocore Project members issued a public advisory.

The flaw is said to be in the PXE Base Code driver, which allows servers, storage equipment and other devices to boot using code downloaded from a network. Before a machine is able to load security measures, such as Secure Boot or Trusted Platform Module, a hacker may be able to inject malicious code.

"While a machine is PXE-booting over IPv4 or IPv6, an unauthenticated network attacker who can deliver ICMP

error messages to it can corrupt DXE-phase memory and execute arbitrary code before the operating system loads, before Secure Boot or measured boot has verified or measured any OS component," the official advisory says. However, a hacker need detailed knowledge of the target firmware to be able to run their code.

Public patch code over the flaw could help hackers develop exploits before vendors distribute firmware updates. But the vulnerability does not affect users who boot solely from disk drives. No confirmed exploitation or comprehensive list of affected products has been reported.

The flaw follows other UEFI-related weaknesses, including LogoFail, PixieFail, PKFail, BootHole, Bootkit and BlackLotus. As per Ars Technica, Intel said none of its supported commercial products was known to be affected, while Arm said the flaw was "not directly applicable to Arm's product portfolio."

Crude oil surges past \$115 as Saudi attacks fuel global supply fears

OCTOBER 30, 2026

HOUSTON (TIP): Global crude oil prices continued their upward march on Friday, with international benchmark Brent crude crossing the \$115-per-barrel mark as escalating attacks on Saudi Arabia's energy infrastructure and mounting security risks to shipping in the Gulf intensified fears of supply disruptions.

The latest rally has placed oil markets on course for a fourth consecutive monthly increase, raising concerns among governments, energy companies and consumers about the potential economic consequences of prolonged geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

According to market data, Brent crude futures rose 0.75 per cent to \$115.74 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude advanced 0.71 per cent to \$102.72 per barrel during early trading. Both benchmarks were heading towards their strongest monthly gains since July, with Brent poised for an increase of nearly 14 per cent and WTI around 15 per cent in October.

The US benchmark was also on track to settle above \$100 per barrel for the first time since April, highlighting the scale of the recent rally.

Saudi energy infrastructure under threat

The latest surge in prices followed claims by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi group that it had attacked several major Saudi energy installations, including the Ras Tanura and Rabigh refineries and an Aramco facility at Abqaiq.

Saudi-led forces separately reported intercepting a cruise missile launched towards the kingdom's western region.

The developments have heightened



concerns about the vulnerability of critical oil production and processing facilities in one of the world's most important energy-producing regions. Any significant damage to these installations could affect crude production, refining capacity and international supply chains.

Market participants are increasingly factoring geopolitical risks into oil prices, as uncertainty surrounding further attacks continues to cloud the global energy outlook.

Hormuz adds to shipping concerns

Apart from attacks on energy facilities, growing security threats to commercial shipping in the Gulf have emerged as another major concern for international oil markets.

The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, is one of the world's most strategically important oil transportation routes. A substantial share of globally traded crude passes through this passage, making it particularly vulnerable to regional conflicts.

According to reports, a tanker in the Strait of Hormuz was struck by explosive devices attached to a small boat, although

responsibility for the incident remained unclear. Such developments have increased concerns about the safety of vessels transporting crude oil and other energy products.

Any prolonged disruption to shipping through the strait could delay deliveries, increase transportation and insurance costs, and place additional pressure on already elevated oil prices.

Despite attempts to reopen diplomatic channels between Washington and Tehran, markets have received little reassurance that tensions will ease in the immediate future.

US President Donald Trump said Vice President JD Vance had contacted Iran regarding medical supply assistance, amid reports of renewed efforts to restart peace negotiations.

Iran confirmed receiving a communication but had yet to respond, according to reports. Tehran has maintained that any diplomatic progress would depend on Washington addressing its conditions.

The uncertainty surrounding negotiations has prevented investors from reducing the geopolitical risk premium currently built into crude oil prices.

The sustained rise in international crude prices could pose significant challenges for major oil-importing economies, particularly India, which depends heavily on overseas supplies to meet its energy requirements.

Higher crude prices can increase the country's import bill, put pressure on the rupee and contribute to inflationary pressures.

Transportation, manufacturing, aviation and several other sectors could face higher operating costs if elevated prices persist.

Sensex, Nifty trade flat as IT gains counter crude oil concerns

OCTOBER 30, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): Stock market traded largely flat on Friday, October 30, as gains in IT stocks and select heavyweight shares helped offset pressure from elevated crude oil prices and weakness in broader markets. Investors also remained focused on quarterly earnings from key companies, including Reliance Industries and Sun Pharma, due later in the day.

At around 10.23 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 74,157.19, up just 6.15 points or 0.01%. The NSE Nifty 50 was at 22,921, down 15.75 points or 0.07%.

The benchmarks recovered from a muted opening but struggled to build on the gains made in the previous session, when both indices advanced more than 1% following strong quarterly results from key constituents and the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said, "The crude oil headwind is getting stronger with Brent rising above \$117. There are reports of the US likely resuming strikes against Iran after the mid-term elections which is due on November 3rd. Even though FII selling has turned weak with occasional buys in recent days, the market construct appears unfavourable for a rally."

IT stocks were among the key supports for the market. The Nifty IT index gained 1.60%, with Infosys rising 1.91%, Tech Mahindra advancing 1.88%, TCS gaining 0.81% and HCLTech up 0.94%.

Binance hack biggest crypto theft in history, hackers steal \$6 billion

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW YORK (TIP): Hackers have made off with an estimated \$6.3 billion in a suspected cyber heist targeting Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, according to The Wall Street Journal (WSJ). The incident could rank as the biggest-ever cryptocurrency theft, raising fresh questions about the safety of funds held on digital asset exchanges.

Binance, however, has described the figure as the estimated financial impact of the security incident and has not explicitly confirmed that \$6.3 billion was stolen. In an official update published on October 30, the exchange said the estimated total impact was around \$6.3 billion, while approximately \$3 billion of the affected assets had been frozen on-chain.

Blockchain analytics firm Chainalysis separately confirmed that at least \$5.912 billion had been stolen as of 8:30 pm ET on Thursday. The remaining affected assets are yet to be fully accounted for.

Binance has assured customers that their money is safe and said it will cover all losses using its Secure Asset Fund for Users (SAFU) and company funds. However, it has temporarily suspended deposits and withdrawals while it investigates the incident, secures its wallet infrastructure and works with law enforcement and



blockchain intelligence partners.

The incident has already unsettled cryptocurrency markets. Bitcoin fell more than 3% to a six-week low of \$76,368, while ether declined more than 3% to a two-month low of \$2,178 in early Asian trading on Friday. BNB, the token originally launched by Binance, was down 5% over the previous 24 hours at \$709.70, according to CoinGecko.

Shares of cryptocurrency exchange Coinbase fell 4.8%, while those of bitcoin-buying company Strategy dropped nearly 6% in extended US trading.

The scale of the suspected heist has become clearer as Binance, blockchain investigators and cryptocurrency companies track the movement of the affected assets.

In its security incident update published on October 30, Binance said: "The estimated total impact sits at around \$6.3B. We have worked with blockchain partners to freeze affected assets, with ~\$3 billion frozen on-chain so far."

The exchange has not provided a detailed breakdown of the remaining affected assets or an update on their status.

Chainalysis, meanwhile, confirmed that at least \$5.912 billion had been stolen as of 8:30 pm ET on Thursday. The funds had moved across several blockchain networks, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tron, Ripple and multiple Layer 2 networks.

Eric Jardine, head of research at Chainalysis, told Reuters that the investigation was still under way and the firm could not yet confirm the cause of the hack.

"The investigation is ongoing, and we cannot yet confirm the cause of the hack. As of 8:30 p.m. ET (0030 GMT), we have confirmed that at least \$5.912 billion was stolen, with funds moving across multiple blockchains, including Bitcoin, Ethereum, Tron, Ripple and several Layer 2 networks," Jardine said.

He added that around \$3 billion had been frozen.

"Blockchain transparency and coordination across the industry are helping disrupt the movement of stolen funds. Our investigators are actively identifying additional opportunities to freeze funds and support recovery efforts," Jardine told Reuters.

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat: A mother's prayer woven with faith, love and devotion

From the sacred glow of the evening diya to the heartfelt prayers offered beneath the stars, Ahoi Ashtami celebrates the timeless bond between a mother and her children. Rooted in faith, compassion and the blessings of Ahoi Mata, this traditional Hindu vrat is a beautiful reminder of the power of a mother's love.

As the festive season gathers momentum and homes begin to prepare for Diwali, another deeply cherished occasion brings mothers together in prayer. Ahoi Ashtami, also known as Ahoi Aathe, is observed predominantly in North India by women who pray for the health, happiness, prosperity and long life of their children.

Celebrated on the eighth day, or Ashtami Tithi, of Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Kartik, the festival traditionally falls four days after Karwa Chauth and approximately eight days before Diwali. The day is dedicated to Ahoi Mata, revered as the divine protector of children.

More than a ritual of fasting, Ahoi Ashtami is an expression of maternal devotion—a day when faith becomes a prayer for the well-being of the next generation.

The Origin: A Tradition Passed Down Through Generations

Ahoi Ashtami is rooted in North Indian folk traditions and household worship. Unlike festivals with a clearly established textual origin, its history is primarily preserved through oral narratives and the recitation of the Ahoi Mata Vrat Katha.

Over generations, mothers have passed down the rituals, prayers and stories associated with this vrat, keeping alive a tradition that blends spirituality, family values and faith in divine protection.

The Legend of Ahoi Mata: A Story of Repentance and Divine Grace

At the heart of Ahoi Ashtami lies a poignant tale of a mother, an unintended mistake and the power of sincere devotion.

According to a popular version of the vrat katha, a woman with seven sons once went to the forest to collect soil for renovating her home before Diwali. While digging, she accidentally killed the young of a wild animal, commonly identified in the story as a syahu, or porcupine.

The woman was deeply distressed by the incident. In the traditional tale, misfortune subsequently struck her family, and she lost her seven sons. Overwhelmed by grief and remorse, she confided in the village elders, who advised her to worship Ahoi Mata and observe the sacred fast.

With a repentant heart, the woman observed Ahoi Ashtami, drew the image of the animal's young and prayed with



Important information

Ahoi Ashtami Vrat 2026

Sunday, 01 November 2026

Evening time to see the stars : 06:00 pm Approx.

Ashtami Tithi Begins : 01 November 2026 at 02:51 pm

Ashtami Tithi ends : 02 November 2026 at 01:10 pm



unwavering faith. Moved by her devotion, Ahoi Mata blessed her, and her sons were restored to her.

The story has variations across regions and households, but its central message remains consistent: acknowledge your mistakes, practise compassion towards all living beings, and approach the divine with humility and sincerity.

The Spiritual Significance: More Than a Mother's Fast

Traditionally, Ahoi Ashtami is observed for the long life, health, happiness and prosperity of children. Today, many women pray for all their children, daughters and sons alike, seeking divine guidance for their future.

The vrat also carries a deeper spiritual message. It encourages patience, self-discipline, gratitude and compassion.

The image of Ahoi Mata with her young ones symbolises motherhood, nurturing and the protective power of divine feminine energy.

The festival is also a reminder that devotion is not merely about rituals. It is about cultivating kindness, accepting responsibility and wishing well for others.

Ahoi Ashtami Rituals: How the Sacred Day Unfolds

The observance begins in the morning and culminates in the evening with prayers to Ahoi Mata.

- Morning preparations: Women bathe, clean the prayer area and take a sankalp, or sacred resolve, to observe the vrat.
- Observing the fast: Traditionally, many women fast throughout the day, sometimes without food or

water. Customs vary, and the fast may be adapted according to health and family tradition.

- Preparing the puja space: An image of Ahoi Mata is drawn on a wall or placed on a clean surface. Traditional images often depict the goddess alongside her young ones. A printed picture may also be used.
- Offering prayers: Roli, rice, flowers, incense, a lit diya and water are arranged for worship. Some families also worship a silver representation of the syahu.
- Reciting the vrat katha: In the evening, women gather to listen to or recite the story of Ahoi Mata, followed by prayers and aarti.
- Offering prayers to the stars: In many households, women offer water to the stars after they appear in the evening and then break their fast. Some families follow the custom of waiting for moonrise instead.

Since customs and auspicious timings differ by region, families generally follow their local panchang and established traditions.

Celebrations: Faith, Family and Festive Warmth

Ahoi Ashtami brings a special warmth to homes during the build-up to Diwali. Prayer corners are decorated, diyas illuminate the evening, and traditional offerings such as halwa, puri, kheer and other sweets are prepared according to family custom.

In many households, women come together to perform the puja, exchange greetings and listen to the vrat katha. Grandmothers and mothers pass on the story to younger generations, ensuring that the festival remains a living tradition rather than merely a date on the calendar.

In Mathura, Radha Kund holds particular religious significance on this occasion. Some devotees visit the sacred water body and perform ritual bathing, associating the observance with prayers for children and family blessings.

A Prayer That Transcends Ritual

Ahoi Ashtami is ultimately a celebration of the enduring bond between a mother and her children. Its rituals may differ from one household to another, but its emotional essence remains unchanged: a heartfelt wish for the well-being of those we love.

As the evening sky fills with stars and the glow of diyas lights up homes, the prayers offered on Ahoi Ashtami carry a timeless message of hope, humility and compassion. For every mother observing this sacred vrat, Ahoi Ashtami is not just a day of fasting—it is a day of faith, a celebration of motherhood and a prayer for a future filled with health, happiness and divine grace.

Mizoram: Where the hills touch the clouds and nature whispers peace

Tucked away in the northeastern corner of India, Mizoram is a destination that seems to belong to another world. Draped in lush greenery, wrapped in drifting clouds and blessed with rolling hills that stretch as far as the eye can see, this beautiful state offers a refreshing escape from the noise and rush of modern life. Known for its rich cultural heritage, colourful festivals and the melodious traditions of the Mizo people, Mizoram invites travellers to slow down, breathe deeply and reconnect with nature.

With its pleasant climate, winding mountain roads, charming hill towns and remarkable biodiversity, Mizoram is a paradise for those who seek tranquility, adventure and authentic cultural experiences. Here, every hillside has a story, every village offers a glimpse into a vibrant way of life, and every journey unfolds against a backdrop of breathtaking natural beauty.

Aizawl: The Charming Capital in the Clouds

Perched approximately 1,132 meters above sea level, Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram, is a captivating hill city where tradition and modern life blend effortlessly. Its houses climb the slopes, its winding roads reveal spectacular views, and the surrounding hills are often veiled in a delicate layer of mist.

A visit to the Mizoram State Museum offers an introduction to the state's history, traditional attire, handicrafts and cultural heritage. Travellers can also explore local markets, discover beautifully woven Mizo shawls and sample regional delicacies that reflect the distinctive flavors of Northeast India.

For those eager to venture beyond the city, the surrounding countryside offers peaceful escapes. The scenic hills of Hmuifang and the tranquil waters of Tamdil Lake are ideal for enjoying nature, photography and leisurely exploration. Whether wandering through local neighbourhoods or admiring the panoramic mountain scenery, Aizawl provides a wonderful introduction to Mizoram's understated charm.

Lunglei: An Offbeat Haven of Natural Beauty

Located about 170 kilometers south of Aizawl, Lunglei is a destination for travelers who prefer quiet landscapes and adventures away from crowded tourist trails. Its name, commonly translated as "bridge of rock," comes from a distinctive rock formation near the Nghasih stream.

Lunglei's appeal lies in its dramatic hills, forested surroundings and rich biodiversity. The region is well suited to trekking, birdwatching, camping and exploring the outdoors. Nature enthusiasts can venture towards



Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary and Saza Wildlife Sanctuary, both associated with the area's remarkable wildlife and birdlife.

Another highlight is the famous Lunglei Rock Bridge, while Saikuti Hall offers an opportunity to learn more about local culture and traditions. With its unhurried atmosphere and scenic surroundings, Lunglei is a rewarding destination for anyone looking to experience Mizoram beyond its capital.

Champhai: The Rice Bowl of Mizoram

Set near the Indo-Myanmar border, Champhai is celebrated for its expansive rice fields, rolling valleys and striking mountain views. Often called the "Rice

Bowl of Mizoram," this picturesque town showcases a different side of the state, where fertile agricultural landscapes meet the rugged beauty of the eastern hills. The countryside becomes particularly enchanting when seasonal flowers and orchids add splashes of colour to the landscape. Visitors can explore attractions such as Kungawrhi Puk cave, Tiau Lui river and Lianchhiari Lunglen Tlang, each offering a distinct glimpse of the region's natural character.

Adventure seekers can also explore trekking opportunities around Thasiama Seno Neihna. Nearby Rih Dil, a lake across the Myanmar border, holds special cultural significance for the

Mizo people and is closely associated with traditional beliefs about the afterlife. Travellers planning to visit border areas should check current access requirements and local travel regulations in advance.

Champhai is a destination where the pleasures of rural scenery, cultural discovery and quiet exploration come together beautifully.

Mamit: Into the Wild Heart of Mizoram

Situated west of Aizawl, Mamit district is a compelling destination for wildlife lovers and adventure enthusiasts. Its green hills, forested landscapes and rich agricultural heritage make it an appealing addition to a Mizoram itinerary.

One of its most notable attractions is Dampa Tiger Reserve, an important protected area known for its forests and diverse wildlife. The reserve offers a glimpse into the ecological richness of the region, although wildlife sightings are never guaranteed.

Mamit is also known for its orange cultivation, which has earned the district the affectionate nickname "Orange Garden of Mizoram." During the appropriate season, the countryside offers a delightful picture of agricultural life amid the hills. Those with an interest in underground landscapes may also explore information about Pukzing Cave, subject to local access and safety conditions.

For travellers seeking a combination of nature, wildlife and rural charm, Mamit promises a memorable detour from the more familiar tourist routes.

Saiha: A Quiet Escape for Angling Enthusiasts

In southern Mizoram, Saiha offers a peaceful atmosphere surrounded by hills and the natural beauty of the state's less-explored landscapes. Located at an elevation of approximately 729 metres, this small town is particularly known among angling enthusiasts.

Saiha is also a gateway to exploring the wider region around the scenic Palak Dil, one of Mizoram's best-known lakes, located in the surrounding southern landscape. The lake and its environs offer opportunities for appreciating nature, enjoying photography and experiencing the tranquillity of rural Mizoram.

The town's original name, Siaha, is traditionally explained through the Mizo words sia, meaning elephant, and ha, meaning tooth, referring to an elephant tusk. Over time, the name became commonly known as Saiha.

For travellers willing to venture farther from the main tourist circuit, Saiha rewards the journey with a slower pace of life, striking scenery and a glimpse of the distinctive character of southern Mizoram.



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES

Ganesha says this week is a great one for you. This period will bring you renewed energy and positivity. Your thoughts will be clear, and your intentions will be strong. Harmony and love will deepen in your relationships. Communication and time spent with your partner will strengthen your bond. If you're attracted to someone special, you'll definitely have a good opportunity to deepen your intimacy with them. Sharing your experiences and thoughts will be enjoyable during this time, and you'll be able to express your feelings better with others. This communication will infuse new energy into your relationships and enrich your social life. Overall, this week promises to provide you with positive experiences in love and relationships. Listen to your heart and spend time with people who bring you joy. This is a great time to deepen your romantic relationships.

TAURUS

Ganesha says general circumstances may be somewhat challenging for Taurus this week. Anxieties and uncertainties may increase in your mindset, creating a sense of unease within you. This tension in relationships may hinder your close relationships. To avoid any misunderstandings, try to express your feelings, especially with loved ones. At this time, you need to control your emotions and make informed decisions. You may be forced to refrain from your favorite activities, but try to keep yourself filled with positivity. Participating in activities like meditation or yoga can be helpful in self-protection and avoiding negativity. Remember, it's important to maintain stability and balance in any situation. Your relationships may experience some ups and downs, but if you remain patient and prioritize communication, these challenges will subside over time. This week, try to take care of yourself and your loved ones, and you will notice positive changes.

GEMINI

Ganesha says this week will be an overall wonderful experience for Geminis. Your positive energy and calm nature will attract others. This is a time to enhance your personality and hone your creative abilities. Social interactions will increase, which could lead to new friendships and relationships. Your communication skills will be quite impressive this week, so be careful in your conversations to avoid negativity.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 2, 2026 TO NOV 8, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

Your curiosity and courage will lead you to new possibilities, and you will be successful in expressing your thoughts clearly. You will strive to build cordial relationships with those around you, which will strengthen your emotional state. This is also a good time for introspection and personal growth. Recognize your inner energy and use it to bring positive changes in your life. This week, you will truly shine, and doors of opportunity will open up for you.

CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be average for Cancers in all areas. During this time, you may experience some anxiety and stress, especially in your relationships. You may worry excessively about small things, which could impact your mental health. Try to conduct all conversations with restraint and express your feelings openly to avoid misunderstandings. Spending time with your loved ones this week will be beneficial. Simple conversations and shared experiences can bridge the gap between you. This is a time when you will have the opportunity to understand the importance of your relationships. Remember, every challenge is also an opportunity. Try to bring positivity into your relationships. If a problem arises, find a solution with patience and understanding. Don't forget to express your feelings, as this will be your biggest support this week.

LEO

Ganesha says this week will be overall normal for you. You may feel hesitant to connect with those around you and share your feelings. This time indicates some mental anxieties and tensions that may persist. Your previous plans may be somewhat affected, so you are expected to maintain patience. A slight feeling of insecurity in relationships is possible, which may make you feel uneasy. Try to understand and control your emotions. Prioritize communication, as this can strengthen your relationships. Your creativity may be slightly hindered, making it difficult to implement new ideas. Therefore, focus on self-expression. Meditation and spiritual practices will help you achieve mental peace during this period. Overall, this week can be an opportunity to bring stability, which will help you deal with your worries.

VIRGO

Ganesha says this week, the overall outlook for Virgos will be bright and positive. This is a time of balance and harmony. You will be able to establish deep connections with those around you. Your sensitivity and understanding will provide opportunities to inspire others, expanding your social circle. Your conversations will have a special charm, further strengthening your relationships. You're likely to find new

friends or partners who will contribute positively to your life. Whatever you think will have a positive impact, and clarity in your thoughts will help you communicate better with your loved ones. During this time, it's important to show kindness and empathy toward yourself and others. If you face any challenges, maintain patience and a positive attitude. This week is an excellent time for you to move forward slowly and deepen your relationships.

LIBRA

Ganesha says this week, the overall experience for Libras will be extremely positive. A new direction is emerging in your life, empowering your thoughts and emotions. You'll feel harmony and balance in your relationships, making your social life easier. Time spent with friends and family will bring joy and satisfaction to your heart. Your strength and charm will attract more people this week. If you've faced conflict in a relationship, now is the time to resolve it and make a fresh start. You'll be able to express your feelings easily through conversation. A positive attitude and a spirit of cooperation will help strengthen your relationships. Remember that your attitude and perspective towards life will influence your experience. Be patient when facing challenges and try to remain calm in every situation. This week is a time to fully accept these circumstances!

SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be normal for Scorpios. You may experience a range of emotions, which may make you anxious and restless. This is a time for introspection, so try to delve deeper into your mind. You may also feel some irritability and uneasiness in your relationships. In such situations, try to maintain patience and overcome negative thoughts. The support of loved ones will motivate you to move forward. Maintaining harmony is important this week. Also, if you're experiencing any fears or apprehensions, try to understand and accept them. In such situations, communication can yield many positive results. Remain calm and seek support from those around you. Remember, this week's challenges will strengthen you and make you more aware of your emotions. This is a time for self-reflection, which can help strengthen your relationships.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be a mixed bag. Your mind will be filled with various worries and organizational challenges. This is an important time for social relationships, but stress and anxiety may impact your experience. You may face challenges in connecting with those around you, so it's important to maintain patience and balance. This week offers you an opportunity to understand and focus on

the depth of your relationships. You need to maintain honesty and clarity in your relationships. Pay attention to small details, as these can strengthen them. This is also a time to connect with your inner self. Calm your thoughts through meditation and introspection. Work on yourself to bring warmth and love into your relationships. Remember, even this challenging time can lead to growth and improvement.

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, Capricorns are experiencing positive and encouraging signs in their overall lives. You will now reap the rewards of your stability and hard work. Relationships will be filled with harmony and cooperation, strengthening your bonds with family and friends. This week is a time for increased social interaction, which will leave you feeling mentally and emotionally energized. Your communication skills may improve during this period, allowing you to express your thoughts effectively. It's a time to connect with people who understand your ideas and perspectives. Increased mutual love and respect will deepen your relationships. This week will open doors to new possibilities in your life, allowing you to spend more time with loved ones and share joys. Overall, this week will be valuable and memorable for you, bringing you self-satisfaction and happiness.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says your social skills and communication skills will improve during this time, allowing you to build deeper bonds with loved ones. This is a time to strengthen friendships and new relationships. Those around you will appreciate your uniqueness and courage, making your relationships even more special. Your openness and spontaneity will make you more popular with others. Moments spent with family members will bring you joy. If there have been any lingering misunderstandings, this is the right time to resolve them. You will also have the opportunity to make new friendships or rekindle old ones. Participate in social activities and utilize your creativity. This week will allow you to socialize with others and enjoy positive experiences. Listen to your heart and be prepared to bring emotional depth to your relationships. This week brings excellent opportunities for you.

PISCES

Ganesha says this week will be a bit mixed for Pisces. You will experience a range of emotions, which may make you feel anxious and confused. This is a time for introspection and reflection. You will try to maintain cordial relationships with your friends and family, but interpersonal communication may be a bit strained. To avoid misunderstandings, you must

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOVEMBER 2 TO NOVEMBER 8
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA****NOVEMBER 2**

Ganesha says you can see that today you are a little too excited. Your outgoing behavior and jovial nature are highly appreciated in the social circle. Your strong leadership qualities can make you so confident that you will be able to do all the work very well. If you work hard then success can kiss your feet. Today may bring some good fortune as the planets are in your favor.

NOVEMBER 3

Ganesha says may your day be very kind today. Today you may be able to complete the remaining tasks in the projects. You can complete your work quickly so that you will be able to enjoy your time with your family. You can plan to go somewhere with your partner. Your business can do well today. Today things can go according to your wish because you are getting a lot of luck. A new opportunity can come your way, which can come today itself and can bring you a lot of profit. The stars are in your favor which can help you to easily solve any

problem regarding this new opportunity.

NOVEMBER 4

Ganesha says you can see that things are working for you without much effort. Small auspicious works can continue to happen throughout the day. It is great that everything may go well for you today but do not be lazy and focus on the things that you need to do today. You are very lucky today because you can get what you want, make sure you use today's luck for your benefit and not for others because only then can it remain a positive thing for you.

NOVEMBER 5

Ganesha says meditate first thing in the morning; This can be beneficial for your personal and professional life. You can make a good profit in your business, so today can be a good day for you. Looking at the spiritual awakening in your zodiac today, you can lean more toward charity. Make sure that you do not stray away from your dreams and ambitions as you may face some distractions today. Make

sure that you are ethical in both your personal and professional life.

NOVEMBER 6

Ganesha says you may feel lots of love and care from family friends as well as from your partner. You may have a tough day today but you may feel supported and cared for all the way, at the end of the day you may feel very satisfied with where you are currently in your life. Your partner's loving and caring nature can make you fall in love with your partner a lot today. You can experience for yourself how beautiful it is to be loved and cared for by someone you trust and love with all your heart.

NOVEMBER 7

Ganesha says your love life has been full of ups and downs, but today you can experience stability. Try saying what you're thinking. Expressing your feelings can help you improve your love life. Venus may bring love today and the Moon may bring luck to your face today. You are entering a new phase that marks the



beginning of a lane called success. Along with your old commitments, you may also take up additional responsibilities today, but it will not seem like a tough or daunting task as you may enjoy completing it.

NOVEMBER 8

Ganesha says you are very lucky today because you can get what you want; Make sure that you use the luck that you have today for your benefit and not for others because only then can it remain a positive thing for you. You may focus more on your financial issues hence your love life may take a back seat. A spouse's full support can surprise you a bit. Try to be patient and understanding. You are very close to finding that one person who can support you in everything, don't make that person angry.

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express your thoughts clearly and openly. Whenever you discuss any topic, try to maintain patience and understanding. This week will give you the opportunity to learn how to communicate and share your inner concerns. Have confidence in yourself and try to channel your

thoughts in a positive direction. Although you may face internal conflict, you can use this time to strengthen your self-confidence. Avoid depression or anxiety, as your energy is channeled into positive thinking.

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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CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Netanyahu accused of smearing Arab...

seeking to delegitimize the results of the election," Eisenkot said in a video message.

The prime minister's allegations were quickly disowned by a range of government officials, including police officers and members of the election committee. Netanyahu was also rebuked by the president for "tarnishing an entire community".

On Wednesday night, the prime minister posted a statement by Likud online, which described the claimed violations as "an attack on democracy whose purpose is to lead to a foreign takeover of the Knesset, the Islamization of Israel, and the overthrow of rightwing rule".

Tuesday's elections led to Netanyahu's far-right coalition losing its majority after four years in power. The main Jewish opposition bloc also fell short, however, leaving two Arab Israeli parties, the Joint List and Ra'am, holding the balance of power.

Final results released early on Friday local time showed the pro-Netanyahu bloc winning 53 seats in the 120-member Knesset and Eisenkot's bloc taking 48 seats. Joint List and Ra'am won the remaining 19 seats, a historic high for the Arab Israeli community, which makes up about a fifth of Israel's population.

The prime minister's attack appeared aimed at stopping the Jewish and Arab opposition from voting together in the new Knesset to oust the incumbent speaker, Amir Ohana, a Likud politician and former Shin Bet official, and advancing their own legislation.

The Likud statement posted by Netanyahu on X said: "It is clear that no Zionist party should cooperate with Ra'am and the Joint List, replace the Knesset speaker through votes bought for cash, and form a government that is dangerous to Israel."

Opposition leaders lambasted the claims of Netanyahu, 77, who has run Israel for 19 of the past 30 years.

Yousef Jabareen, the Joint List leader, accused the prime minister of incitement. "Netanyahu was defeated at the ballot box," Jabareen said, adding that he "refuses to come to terms with the fact that the Arab public voted and decided".

Eisenkot said any investigation should be conducted "without fear or favor," and with "the utmost caution", but insisted it could not be used as a reason to delay the convening of the newly elected Knesset, due to be sworn in within 14 days of the election.

The acting director general of the central elections committee, Dean Livneh, said there appeared to be no basis for the claims. Police officials quoted across the Israeli press said the allegations were groundless, adding that voting had been relatively trouble-free.

The president, Isaac Herzog, called for political leaders to "avoid tarnishing an entire community that sought to exercise its right to vote and take an active part in democracy".

It was not specified in Likud statements, but press reports said Qatar was the foreign power alleged to have funded vote-buying and voter mobilization. Majed al-Ansari, an adviser to Qatar's prime minister, said its government "categorically" denied any involvement in the elections.

The record turnout among Arab Israelis (Palestinians with Israeli citizenship) appeared to be driven by outrage at routine discrimination and fear that it could become far worse if extremist and openly racist members of the government, such as the national security minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and the finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, secured another term in office.

On Thursday, Ben-Gvir called for the arrest of Arab party leaders, and Smotrich demanded they be subjected to Shin Bet interrogation.

Voting in Nazareth, the biggest majority-Palestinian town in Israel, was brisk on Tuesday, with few signs of irregularities, other than apparent ploys by the government and coalition parties to suppress the Arab vote.

Some packets of ballots sent to Nazareth polling stations were in Hebrew alone, rather than in Hebrew and Arabic. Election workers said that monitors sent by far-right parties had attempted procedural ploys to slow

down voting but had been largely unsuccessful.

The leaders of the Joint List and the Zionist "Change" bloc have ruled out a formal coalition, but officials from both have discussed the possibility of tactical voting in the Knesset to unseat Ohana, the speaker, and to pass some consensus legislation.

One proposed bill would establish a commission of inquiry into the security failures that helped lead to the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, something Netanyahu has blocked over the past two years.

Ahmad Tibi, a party leader on the Joint List, said Netanyahu was trying to subvert the election results by trying to sabotage a common front between the Eisenkot bloc and the Arab Israeli parties.

"This entire campaign is directed against Eisenkot, to prevent him, intimidate and scare him off forming a government that relies on external support from the Joint List or Ra'am," Tibi told the Reuters news agency.

Naftali Bennett, a former prime minister who is a partner in the "Change" bloc, pointed out the irony of Netanyahu denouncing Qatar for election meddling while the Israeli leader's own political advisers are being accused of taking Qatari money for promoting the Gulf monarchy's image.

"This morning, suddenly, when it serves his interests, Netanyahu remembered Qatar and is using it to sow chaos and undermine public confidence in the democratic process," Bennett wrote on X. (Source: The Guardian)

JD Vance letter may offer last chance...

A reply is imminent, but Iran is reluctant to give upfront and irreversible commitments on its nuclear program, such as exporting its stockpile of highly enriched uranium to a third country, if the compensatory US steps, such as lifting sanctions on Iranian oil exports, are reversible.

Some form of third-party guarantee that both sides will adhere to their commitments has been discussed, with China often mentioned as the only country of sufficient status to underwrite it.

The return of Vance, a sceptic about the war, to the negotiations is significant and a sign the US has not abandoned diplomacy.

One Democratic senator briefed on the targets the US military had identified in Iran said the plan for a renewed attack was "insane" and would lead to "the likely destruction of our commitment to the rule of law".

In a sign of Iran's reluctance to meet US demands about sequencing, its chief negotiator, Mohammad Ghalibaf, wrote on X: "Iran's conditions have been repeatedly and clearly stated to the mediators. The carrot-and-stick approach has no effect on Iran. Progress can only be achieved once Iran's seven conditions have been agreed upon."

Those conditions include lifting sanctions, ending asset freezes and ending the war on all fronts, a phrase that requires an Israeli ceasefire in Lebanon.

The US wants front-loaded, specific commitments about the removal of Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium. Tehran is reluctant to give up its bargaining leverage, and is also resistant to the return of UN nuclear inspectors for fear they might provide the US with intelligence on the whereabouts and state of the stockpile.

It has proposed blending the stockpile down so it is no longer usable to make a nuclear weapon.

The Vance letter was sent to Rezaei rather than Ghalibaf or the foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, because Washington judged that decision-making power rests with those closest to the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. In practice, Iran tries to reach decisions through consensus at the highest level of government in a six strong committee.

Ghalibaf and Rezaei met the supreme leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, last week to discuss the risk of a new war. Khamenei has said he would like an end to the current state of neither war nor peace. Iran has well-laid plans ready to strike back against US interests in the region, by hitting desalination plants, internet cables and electricity grids across the Gulf.

For a third US attack in two years to have any rationale, or prospect of inducing Iran's capitulation, the plan would require the US, probably in conjunction

with a caretaker government in Israel, to mount attacks on previously off-limits targets. Europe would not join the attacks, but the views of the Gulf states, the chief targets of Iran reprisals, would be key.

The Connecticut senator Chris Murphy told a briefing at the Middle East Institute: "I did get a fairly detailed conversation about what the war plan would be ... I will just say this their plan is insane. It will lead to devastating escalation and the likely destruction of our commitment to the rule of law.

"There has been open reporting as to the civilian infrastructure we may be targeting ... I think the plan they have developed will lead, in my judgment, to a prolongment [sic] and escalation of this war that will be devastating to our security interest."

Although Tehran trusts Vance marginally more than most White House politicians and envoys, the Iranian high command is still suspicious about his status after he negotiated a 14-point memorandum of understanding which then fell apart when other members of the US administration took charge of its implementation.

That led to unilateral US steps to reopen the strait of Hormuz that Iran said contravened the terms of the agreement. Trump also came to detest it because it delayed the start of nuclear talks for as long as 60 days.

In an offer made by Tehran on the margins of the UN general assembly recently, it proposed foreshortening the timeframe before nuclear talks started, saying they could start within six or seven days of the US restoring the sanctions waiver on its oil exports and the reopening of the strait of Hormuz. (Source: The Guardian)

India votes in favor of UNGA resolution...

Delivering India's statement, Counsellor at India's Permanent Mission to the UN Soumya Nair said the General Assembly has repeatedly called for an end to the embargo and rejected laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that adversely affect the sovereignty of other states and the progress and prosperity of their peoples.

"India reiterates the Assembly's call to all states to refrain from promulgating and applying, and to repeal and invalidate, such laws and measures in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law," she said.

Ms. Nair said India's commitment to multilateralism is rooted in the belief that international challenges are best addressed through dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with the UN Charter.

"It is in this spirit that India hopes that the embargo will be lifted at the earliest to help create an environment that would enable the people of Cuba to participate more fully in international cooperation and pursue their legitimate development aspirations," she said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Hegseth fires high-ranking army...

information", the Washington Post reported.

Sylvia had served as the director for strategy, plans and policy on the joint staff.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell acknowledged the dismissal in a statement on social media, though he did not mention Sylvia by name.

"Following an extensive Air Force OSI investigation, the Department took necessary personnel action to protect sensitive information," Parnell wrote. "To protect the integrity of the investigation, no further comment will be made regarding the individual or the circumstances of this action."

"This matter, along with others, have been referred to the Justice Department for potential further legal action," he added.

A spokesperson for the Department of Justice said in a statement that it "has ongoing investigations related to possible leaks of classified information".

"We work closely with our government partners, which includes the Department of War," the spokesperson added, using the Trump administration's name for the Pentagon.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

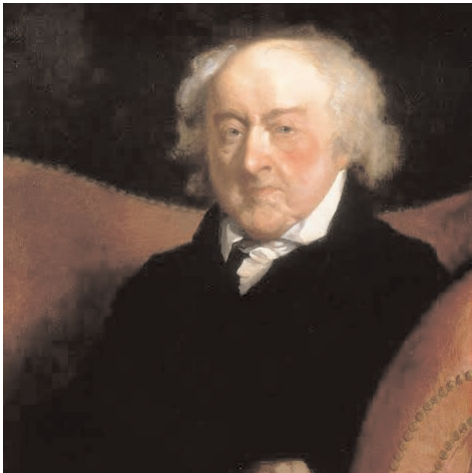
History This Week

OCT 30 - NOV 05

OCTOBER 30

October 30, 1938 - The War of the Worlds radio broadcast panicked millions of Americans. Actor Orson Welles and the Mercury Players dramatized the story by H.G. Wells depicting a Martian invasion of New Jersey. Their script utilized simulated radio news bulletins which many listeners thought were real.

October 30, 1990 - For the first time since the Ice Age, Great Britain was connected with the European continent, via a new rail tunnel under the English Channel.



Birthday - John Adams (1735-1826) the 2nd U.S. President was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. He served from March 4, 1797 to March 3, 1801. He had been George Washington's vice president, and was the father of John Quincy Adams, the 6th President. He died on July 4, 1826, the same day as Thomas Jefferson, on the 50th anniversary of adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

Birthday - Emily Post (1872-1960) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. She wrote influential books on etiquette and a syndicated newspaper column giving advice on manners in specific situations.

Birthday - Admiral William "Bull" Halsey (1882-1959) was born in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He was the American fleet commander during World War II in the Pacific and played a leading role in the defeat of the Japanese. In 1942, he launched the Doolittle Raid, the first air raid on Japan. From 1942-44, he coordinated successful attacks on the Solomon Islands and New Guinea. In 1944, he led the U.S. fleet to victory at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history. Historybooks

OCTOBER 31

October 31, 1940 - The Battle of Britain concluded. Beginning on July 10, 1940, German bombers and fighters had attacked coastal targets, airfields, London and other cities, as a prelude to a Nazi invasion of England. British pilots in Spitfires and Hurricanes shot down over 1,700 German aircraft while losing 915 fighters. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few," declared Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

October 31, 1941 - Mount Rushmore National Memorial was completed after 14 years of work. The memorial contains 60-foot-tall sculptures of the heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt - representing America's founding, political philosophy,

preservation, and expansion and conservation.

October 31, 1950 - Earl Lloyd became the first African American to play in a National Basketball Association (NBA) game when he took the floor for the Washington Capitols in Rochester, New York. OrderCalendars

October 31, 1952 - The U.S. detonated its first hydrogen bomb at the Elugelab Atoll in the Eniwetok Proving Grounds in the Pacific Marshall Islands.

October 31, 1961 - The body of Joseph Stalin was removed from the mausoleum in Red Square and reburied within the Kremlin walls among the graves of lesser Soviet heroes. This occurred as part of Russia's de-Stalinization program under his successor Nikita Khrushchev. Stalin's name was also removed from public buildings, streets, and factories. Stalingrad was renamed Volgograd.

October 31, 1968 - During the Vietnam War, President Lyndon Johnson ordered a halt of American bombing of North Vietnam.



October 31, 1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by three Sikh members of her bodyguard while walking in the garden of her New Delhi home.

Birthday - Chinese soldier and statesman Chiang Kai-shek (1887-1975) was born in Chekiang. Educated at the Wampoa Military Academy, he led the KMT (nationalist) forces in the struggle against the Communist army led by Mao Zedong.

NOVEMBER 1

November 1, 1936 - The Rome-Berlin Axis was proclaimed by Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini following a visit to Berlin by Italian Foreign Secretary Ciano.



November 1, 1950 - President Harry S.

Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

November 1, 1963 - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

November 1, 1993 - The European Union came into existence as a result of the Maastricht Treaty.

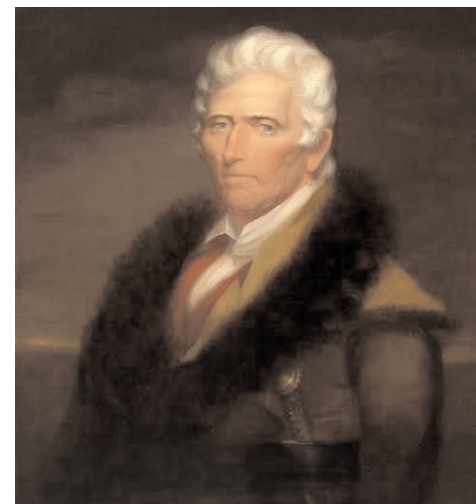
November 1, 1995 - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

NOVEMBER 2

November 2, 1930 - Haile Selassie was crowned Emperor of Ethiopia.

November 2, 1947 - The first and only flight of Howard Hughes' "Spruce Goose" flying boat occurred in Long Beach Harbor, California. It flew about a mile at an altitude of 70 feet. Costing \$25 million, the 200-ton plywood eight-engine Hercules was the world's largest airplane, designed, built and flown by Hughes. It later became a tourist attraction alongside the Queen Mary ship at Long Beach and has since been moved to Oregon.

November 2, 1962 - During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President John F. Kennedy announced on TV, "the Soviet bases in Cuba are being dismantled, their missiles and related equipment being crated, and the fixed installations at these sites are being destroyed."



Birthday - American frontiersman Daniel Boone (1734-1820) was born in Berks County, near Reading, Pennsylvania.

Birthday - James K. Polk (1795-1849) the 11th U.S. President was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. He served from March 4, 1845 to March 3, 1849. He declined to be a candidate for a second term, saying he was "exceedingly relieved" at the completion of his presidency.

NOVEMBER 3

November 3, 1948 - Dewey Defeats Truman banner headline appeared on the front page of the Chicago Tribune newspaper. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

November 3, 1957 - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

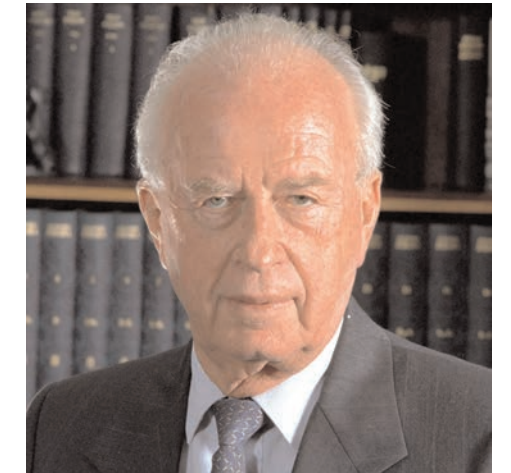
November 3, 1983 - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

NOVEMBER 4

November 4, 1942 - During World War II, British troops led by Bernard Montgomery defeated the Germans under Erwin Rommel at El Alamein after a twelve-day battle.

November 4, 1956 - Soviet Russian troops moved in to crush an uprising in Hungary.

November 4, 1979 - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.



November 4, 1995 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

Birthday - American humorist Will Rogers (1879-1935) was born in Oologah, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). "All I know is what I read in the newspapers," he once joked. He was killed in an airplane crash with aviator Wiley Post near Point Barrow, Alaska.

Birthday - Famed TV journalist Walter Cronkite (1916-2009) was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was a leading correspondent for United Press International during World War II. From 1962 to 1981, he was the anchorman of the CBS Evening News and was widely regarded as America's most trusted journalist. D-DayInvasion prints

NOVEMBER 5

November 5th - Remembered as Guy Fawkes Day in Britain, for the anniversary of the failed "Gunpowder Plot" to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 5, 1733 - The first issue of the New York Weekly Journal was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling New York's royal governor.



November 5, 1911 - Aviator C.P. Snow completed the first transcontinental flight across America, landing at Pasadena, California. He had taken off from Sheepshead Bay, New York, on September 17th and flew a distance of 3,417 miles.



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OCTOBER 26, 2026

JALANDHAR (TIP): India is set to complete a hat-trick of the Asian Champions Trophy titles as international hockey returns to Punjab; India has set sights on sixth Hero Asian Champions Trophy title

Another title win will complete a hat-trick of Asian Champions Trophy triumphs for defending champions India, who will open their campaign against Bangladesh on October 27 in Jalandhar

When critics, writers and sports journalists describe holding of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament for men at Jalandhar and Mohali from October 27 to November 5, as return of big hockey to this border State, many may be getting confused.

For them, hockey has become an integral part of Punjabi lifestyle for more than hundred years. It was the British who brought hockey to India and chose some of the Cantonments, including Jalandhar, Bhopal, Meerut, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and famous Jhansi to sow the seed of a game in the early 20th century.

Till then, the game was played in some tribal areas of northeast and even parts of north India as an indigenous sport with specially chiseled wooden stems with a ball made from waste pieces of cloth held together by rubber bands. It was called "khudo-kundi" with "khudo" standing for the ball and "Kunda" or "Kundi" for the stick.

Even when India lost its supremacy in world hockey after the 1964 Olympic Games in Tokyo, hockey never lost its popularity base in areas around major cantonments.

It is why all major hockey tournaments of the country - Beighton Cup, Aga Khan Cup, Gold Cup, Murugappa Cup - are continuing to be hosted by Cantonments of Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.

Also, all major Cantonments continue to serve as homes of major hockey teams of the country. And Jalandhar in Punjab figures prominently in the list.

Teams like Punjab Police, Border Security Force, EME, ASC, Corps of Signals, Punjab & Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank and few others have long been associated with Jalandhar, the permanent home of hockey.

Jalandhar also continues to host one of the prestigious international invitation hockey tournaments in memory of its star Olympian son, Surjit Singh. It is only the second tournament after famous Jawahar Lal Nehru Hockey Tournament in New Delhi that normally gets teams from overseas.

And no one underwrites Punjab for its immense contribution to Indian hockey in general and world hockey in

Is it return of big hockey to Punjab?



particular.

So now you can judge for yourself the justification of the statement that the international hockey is returning to Punjab as red-hot India prepare to defend its title at the men's Hero Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) 2026, which begins in Jalandhar on October 27. India will be joined by Japan, China, Malaysia, South Korea and Bangladesh in the six-team continental tournament.

With the showpiece being held in Punjab, the Indian team will have the opportunity to play before supporters in a state that has contributed generations of players to Indian hockey.

The hosts enter the tournament after successfully defending their Asian Games gold medal in Japan. The Craig Fulton-coached team will look to carry that momentum into the continental tournament and add to their record haul of ACT titles.

The Indian team will be led by captain Harmanpreet Singh, who guided the side to consecutive Asian Games gold medals for the first time.

India have won the Asian Champions Trophy five times - in 2011, 2016, 2018 (joint winners with Pakistan), 2023 and 2024. Their most recent triumph came in Hulunbuir, China, where Jugraj Singh scored the decisive goal in a 1-0 win over the hosts in the final. India will now look to make it three consecutive titles, having also won the competition in Chennai in 2023 - when the men's Asian Champions Trophy was held in India for the first time.

India suffered a setback before the start of the tournament when former captain and star playmaker Manpreet Singh was ruled out due to a calf injury. He has been replaced by fellow midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad.

"Every team is here to compete and

win the tournament. All the teams are strong, and we do not want to take any opponent lightly. Everyone has come here to give their best," said India captain Harmanpreet.

"We have gained a lot of experience and matured as a team. We will approach every match with the same mindset and give every opponent the respect they deserve."

Malaysia have arrived in Punjab after finishing as runners-up to India at the Asian Games. The Malaysians will be among the teams looking to challenge the hosts, and their league-stage meeting with India is scheduled for November 1. South Korea, a regular contender in Asian hockey, will also look to make a strong impression after finishing fourth at the Asian Games.

Two-time runners-up Japan finished fifth at the Asian Games and will want to make a positive impression in this tournament. Bangladesh, meanwhile, will open their ACT campaign against India and hope to add to their learnings from their meeting at the Asian Games.

The 2026 event is the ninth edition of the Asian Champions Trophy. The six participating teams will compete in a single round-robin format, with each team playing the other five sides once. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the semi-finals. All league-stage matches will be played at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar from October 27 to November 2. The tournament will then move to the Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium in Mohali, which will host the semi-finals on November 4, followed by the bronze-medal and gold-medal matches on November 5.

India will open their campaign against Bangladesh on October 27,

before facing China on October 29, Japan on October 30, Malaysia on November 1 and South Korea on November 2. Except for the opener against Bangladesh, all of India's league matches are scheduled to begin at 1900 IST. The match against Bangladesh will begin at 1920 IST, with a glittering opening ceremony scheduled before the game.

Traditional Punjab dance forms Bhangra and Gidha will be showcased during the opening ceremony that will also include performances by exponents of Gatka -- the Sikh martial art. One of the primary attractions will be a musical performance, including a laser show.

Hockey India has already announced free entry for spectators at both the venues of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Punjab 2026.

The tournament holds special significance for Punjab, which is widely regarded as one of the traditional centers of Indian hockey. The state has produced generations of players who have represented the country at the highest level, with Jalandhar especially closely associated with the sport.

For India, the immediate priority will be to finish the home season on a high with another successful title triumph.

(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)

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Punjabi gets a blow as Jalandhar welcomes its first-ever FIH tournament with a colorful start



BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OCTOBER 27, 2026

JALANDHAR (TIP): Tuesday, October 27, turned out to be a big day for Jalandhar and hockey lovers. While Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium at Burton Park was the center of all eyes, the State's official language was desperately looking for a place where it could hide its face.

The State's official language, Punjabi, was nowhere. Inside playing arena, hoardings, including side boards, were running scrolls in English and Hindi announcing Punjab as the pride hosts of this historic event. Nowhere in the Stadium was anything in Punjabi.

And incidentally, the tournament got off to an otherwise blast of Punjabi culture with Punjabi folklore and bhangra hawking the attention of nearly three-fourths of the stadium, where the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann, made a big statement, offering to host the 2030 FIH World Cup in Punjab.

Living true to the traditions, Bhagwant Mann met families of some of the stars of



Blast of Punjabi culture with Punjabi folk dances Bhangra and Gidha. Photo / Maninder K. Chandhoke

Punjab and Indian hockey, both present and past, and invited all Punjabis to join this first-ever hockey festival being held on the soil of the State that has earned kudos worldwide for its immense contribution to the sport.

The main attraction of the show, after the cultural programme, was a drone show.

A digital show on the history of Indian hockey in general and Punjab in

particular kept the spectators enthralled. There was a display of fireworks organized to the song "Jai Ho".

Among those felicitated at the opening ceremony were Colonel Balbir Singh of Sansarpur, parents of Indian skipper Harmanpreet Singh and family of former captain, Manpreet Singh, besides others.

Conspicuous by his absence was former Indian skipper, Olympian and three-time MLA and President of Punjab

Congress Committee, Parget Singh. In a statement earlier in the day, Bhagwant Mann announced that he has extended an open invitation to all, irrespective of their political affiliations and said all former Olympians and international players have been invited to watch the tournament.

At the time of introduction, many of stalwarts of yesteryear, including Harpreet Singh, Baljit Singh Dhillon, Daljit Singh Dhillon, Jugraj Singh, Ripudaman Singh, Jagdeep Singh Gill, Colonel Balbir Singh, RP Singh, Gagan Ajit Singh, and Rupinderpal Singh, and a few others.

Hockey India was represented by its Secretary-General Bhola Nath Singh, who went on to declare that Punjab would be accorded priority as and when any opportunity to hold any further FIH tournament came the way of Hockey India.

The tournament got off to a start with a feast of goals. Asian Games silver medalist Malaysia defeated China 5-4 in a game that saw the first penalty stroke awarded and converted by Malaysia.

In the second game, Japan beat South Korea 3-2.

The hosts India played Bangladesh in the third and final game after a glittering opening ceremony.

Malaysia, Japan and India keep their slates clean

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OCTOBER 29, 2026

JALANDHAR (TIP): With festivities continuing unabated, the hosts India, Asian Games silver medalists Malaysia and Japan continued their winning spree in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament at Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar on Thursday.

When the matches resumed after a day's break, Malaysia, Japan and India picked up from where they left on the opening day to keep their slates clean. Yesterday, the rest day, turned out to be yet another day of feasts, music and entertainment as the Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Singh Mann, played host to all the six participating teams, their accompanying officials, besides officials of Hockey India, Asian Hockey Federation and the International Hockey Federation.

Some former Indian stars, including Olympians and international players were also called in to join the celebrations while many others on the other side of either the Punjab government or the Punjab Hockey Association were either not invited or preferred to stay away from the first ever international hockey event held by the State.

The Chief Ministers' reception at one of his official residences outside the shared capital of Chandigarh, was an opportunity for all overseas players to interact with members of the local hockey fraternity.

Among the stars of Indian hockey of yesteryears invited to the dinner reception included Rajinder Singh



A Malaysia player (in blue) against South Korea in the Asian Champions Trophy in Jalandhar, Punjab, India. PIC FROM ASIAN HOCKEY FEDERATION

Senior, Col Balbir Singh, Harpreet Singh Mandher, Gurbaj Singh, Gurjant Singh, Baljit Singh Dhillon, Baljit Singh Chandi, track star Manjit Kaur, Simranjit Singh, Rajpal Singh, Gagan Ajit Singh, Jugraj Singh Senior, Balwinder Singh Shammi, R P Singh, Edwards, Gurjit Kaur, and Jagdeep Singh Gill.

Interestingly, several other international stars closely associated with the development of the game, including Pargat Singh, Rajinder Singh Junior, Gurmail Singh, Rajbir Kaur, Charanjit Kumar, Gundip Kumar, Surinder Singh Sodhi, Sukhvinder Singh Grewal, Hardeep Grewal, Dronacharya coach Baldev Singh, Mukhbain Singh, Brig Harcharan Singh and others were seen nowhere either during the matches or the festivities associated with the conduct of the tournament.

There was not much to watch on the playfields as the top

three teams faced little or no resistance to keep their track records clean.

The response of the crowd too was lukewarm on a day that started with an overcast weather.

Malaysia after its narrow 5-4 win over China on the opening day had to struggle hard to stave off the challenge of the spirited Koreans in their second game. At one stage, the Koreans managed to draw level with a brilliant field goal through Haeseong Song in the 31st minute after Azimuddin Kamaruddin had put them ahead in the 10th minute.

Stung by the equalizer, Malaysians played their hearts out to take the lead again in the 36th minute through Akhi mullah Anaur and then consolidated it further through veteran Faizal Saari in the 50th minute to move to the top of the table, though temporarily, with a maximum of six points from two games.

Japan survived some stiff resistance from the bottom placed Bangladesh in the second match of the day. It was only a second half penalty corner goal by Ralick Fujishima in the 40th minute that clinched the issue for Japan.

(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)

ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

India overcomes stiff resistance from China to win 5-2

BY
PRABHJOT SINGH

OCTOBER 29, 2026

JALANDHAR (TIP): The hosts and Asian Games champions India overcame a stiff resistance from China to record its second straight win in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament at Olympian Surjit Singh Stadium in Jalandhar on Thursday. India won 5-2 in a game that saw China posting both its goals through penalty corners after skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Jugraj Singh also scored three of five goals for the home team.

With its second win from as many matches, India's position as the leader of the table remains intact while Malaysia and Japan with as many wins had to settle for second and third spots on goal difference. Earlier Malaysia beat Korea 3-1 and Japan managed to defeat Bangladesh by a solitary goal.

China after losing a close 4-5 battle to Malaysia in the opener came out with determination to display its best. Matching their opponents in every department of the game, the Chinese players defied their opponents' room to weave out their moves for the first 10 minutes of the game before a slight lapse in concentration saw Sukhjeet Singh using the aerial route to put the home team ahead.

In a game of pulsating turns, both India



India won 5-2 in a game that saw China posting both its goals through penalty corners after skipper Harmanpreet Singh and Jugraj Singh also scored three of five goals for the home team.

and China had equal exchanges for most of the time in the first half. It was in the 26th minute that China from one of his concerted moves earned a penalty corner from which Yang Feng made no mistake to put the teams at level.

A minute later, India again took the lead, this time through a penalty corner conversion by skipper Harmanpreet Singh. After a change of ends, Harmanpreet continued from where he left at the end of

the first half and scored his second successive penalty corner goal with a powerful grounder to put India 3-1 ahead.

Unperturbed by the third goal, there was no let-up in the spirit of the Chinese as they continued to play with vigor and determination.

After Harmanpreet scored his second penalty corner goal, it was Sukhjeet Singh again who once again made aerial ball a trajectory for his second goal of the game

to make the score 4-1.

China retaliated. Chen Choncong had a different plan in his mind when he took a penalty corner in the 35th minute. This time he essayed a shot that beat Suraj neat and clean to make the score 2-4.

Sensing a fight back by China, India consolidated its defense, tightened man to man marking and resorted to first time clearances. This strategy helped. Two minutes into the fourth quarter, it was Jugraj Singh who scored the home team's fifth goal to make the score 5-2 to give India its maximum of three points.

With this win, India moved to the top of the table on better goal average with a maximum of six points from two games. While Malaysia and Japan also have six points from two games each, their goal averages relegated them to second and third spots.

(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)

WFI must decide show-cause notices to Vinesh Phogat within fortnight: Delhi HC

OCTOBER 30, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Delhi High Court has given the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) two weeks to decide the show-cause notices issued to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, taking note of her concerns that the pending disciplinary proceedings could disrupt her preparations for upcoming competitions.

Justice Amit Mahajan said keeping a sportsperson under uncertainty over disciplinary action could have an impact on their mental state and readiness for sporting events.

The Court emphasised that athletes need to be mentally relaxed and physically prepared to deliver their best performance.

The directions came on a petition filed by Phogat questioning two show-cause notices issued by the WFI on May 9 and June 17.

Senior Advocate Rajshekhar Rao, appearing for Phogat, told the Court that she plans to compete in a national tournament scheduled around mid-December 2026. He submitted that she must begin preparations for the event and cannot be expected to do so with the threat of an adverse decision by the federation looming over her.

Rao expressed apprehension that the WFI could pass an adverse order



immediately before the tournament, leaving Phogat with insufficient time to seek judicial intervention.

After considering the submissions, the Court said the concern raised by the wrestler appeared genuine and warranted consideration.

The High Court directed the WFI to take a decision on both show-cause notices within two weeks. It also made clear that if the federation fails to decide the matter within the stipulated period, any subsequent decision would remain in abeyance until the next hearing.

Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates B.O.A.T. award with Al Nassr hat-trick, nears 1,000 goals

OCTOBER 30, 2026

AL KHOLOOD (TIP): Cristiano Ronaldo is getting closer to a number that once seemed almost impossible to reach. The Portuguese superstar moved his career tally to 985 goals after smashing a 15-minute hat-trick to fire Al Nassr to a 5-3 win over Al Kholood in the Saudi Pro League on Thursday, Oct 29.

With the game locked at 2-2 after an eventful first half, Ronaldo took matters into his own hands. He struck in the 66th and 72nd minutes before completing his treble in the 81st, giving Al Nassr the breathing room they needed. It was his seventh hat-trick for the club since joining in 2023.

There was another reason for Ronaldo to celebrate on Thursday. The 41-year-old was named the winner of the inaugural B.O.A.T. (Ballon d'Or of All Time) award, with his 2008 Ballon d'Or-winning season at Manchester United beating Lionel Messi's 2012 campaign in a fan vote. Ronaldo, of course, already has five official Ballon d'Or awards.

The latest treble leaves him just 15 goals away from the elusive 1,000 mark. And if there is one thing Ronaldo has made clear over the years, it is that he has no intention of slowing down just yet.

The 985-goal tally puts Ronaldo within



touching distance of a milestone he has spoken about openly. In a 2024 conversation with former Manchester United teammate Rio Ferdinand, he admitted that reaching 1,000 career goals was one of his biggest remaining ambitions, with fitness and staying injury-free key to getting there.

Thursday's performance also took his career hat-trick count to 67. Real Madrid have seen the most of them, with Ronaldo scoring 44 trebles during his time in Spain. He has also managed 10 for Portugal, seven for Al Nassr, three for Manchester United and three for Juventus.

Ronaldo's goals also kept Al Nassr firmly in on track of their Saudi Pro League title defence bid. They are level on 28 points with leaders Al Qadsiah, but have played a game fewer. Al Kholood, meanwhile, remain 10th with 12 points.

SANJHA PUNJAB USA
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SUFI SHAM
HANS RAJ HANS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026 | **7:30 PM** | **SAPPHIRE BANQUET HALL**
244 W Old Country Rd,
Hicksville, NY 11801

Chief Guest
Harry Singh
(Bolla Petroleum)



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Balwinder Singh Bajwa

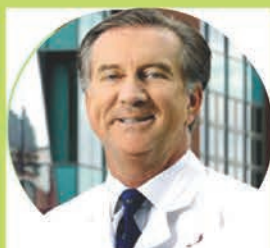
516 852 2222



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combating avoidable blindness in children.

On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion.

Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



New Goutami Institute to be constructed 2024



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated and Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.

3.5 + million served
325,000 + vision restoring surgeries
30,000 + surgeries on children

Services include :

- Treating disease and vision problems
- Performing free cataract surgeries
- Distributing glasses and visual aids
- Conducting community research
- Providing education to physicians and the public

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