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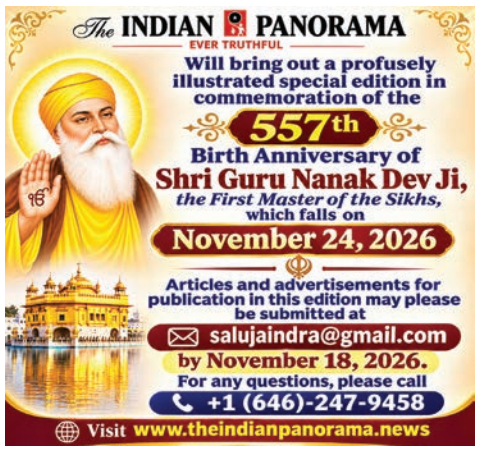
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Trump tells JD Vance to shift focus from Iran to targeting 'corruption and crime' at home



Trump says no deal needed on Iran war and orders Vance to focus on domestic issues

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

President Donald Trump on Thursday, November 12, directed Vice President JD Vance to shift his focus away from the Iran war and instead devote himself to fighting what the president says is corruption and crime in Democratic-controlled cities and states, according to AP.

Vance, who served as the lead negotiator for a short-lived truce in the eight-month-old war, has been blunt in blaming the war - and the economic reverberations it has caused - for Republicans' sweeping losses in last week's midterm elections in the United States.

But Trump brusquely told the vice president in a social media post Thursday, November 12, to shift his energies away from the Iran war to what he argues is a more pressing - and

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India's PM Modi to Visit Canada on December 11-12; Mark Carney confirms

Trade, energy, tech on the table, signals Indian mission



PM Narendra Modi with his Canadian counterpart Mark Carney. -File photo

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
OTTAWA (TIP)

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Canada on December 11 and 12, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and the Indian High Commission in Ottawa have officially confirmed.

PM Carney shared the news while speaking with visitors at a local restaurant in Calgary on Thursday, November 12 morning. He said he "just spoke" to PM Modi about his upcoming visit. Carney said Modi will travel to Toronto and Ottawa, but added, "We'll see if we can broaden it out."

Later, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa posted on X: "PM Shri Narendra Modi will visit Canada on 11-12 December 2026. In the recent conversation with Rt. Hon. PM Mark Carney, both the leaders agreed to build on the positive momentum in ties and work towards concrete outcomes in

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US Congressman Ro Khanna throws weight behind Van Hollen for Democrat majority leader role

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





Calling on every Democratic senator to support Van Hollen (right), Khanna (left) said the Maryland senator would commit to ending funding for the Iran war, allowing a vote on Medicare for All and eliminating US aid to Israel.

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna has backed US Senator Chris Van Hollen's bid to challenge incumbent Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, saying the party needs new leadership to deliver the change demanded by American voters.

Calling on every Democratic senator to support Van Hollen, Khanna said the Maryland senator would commit to ending funding for the Iran war, allowing a vote on Medicare for All and eliminating US aid to Israel.

In a post on X, Khanna said, "I am calling on every Democratic Senator to support @ChrisVanHollen for Majority Leader. He will commit to: End funding for the Iran war, Allow a vote on Medicare For All, Zero out aid to Israel. This is a time for new leadership."

In a video message, Khanna reiterated his support for Van Hollen, urging Democratic senators, including those he had campaigned for, to back his leadership challenge against Schumer. "Chris Van Hollen just announced for Majority Leader against Chuck

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Microsoft outage hits companies and governments worldwide as it struggles to restore services



Microsoft said it was trying different ways to identify the cause of the problem and get its servers back online

File photo

NOVEMBER 13, 2026
HONG KONG / NEW YORK (TIP)

From Asia to the U.S., Microsoft's outage involving services like Outlook and Teams has dragged on for hours and impacted many users, companies and some government operations as the technology giant struggled with fixing the issue, says AP.

Microsoft said in an update Friday, November 13, that the outage was affecting a wide range of Microsoft 365 offerings that interact with its Exchange Online and email services. Services including Outlook, Teams and AI

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COMMENT

Peaceful Coexistence: Toward a World Without Wars



THE WILL TO MAKE PEACE. THE WISDOM TO PRESERVE IT. THE HUMANITY TO SHARE IT.

Humanity has accomplished wonders that earlier generations could scarcely have imagined. We have conquered distances, explored space, developed extraordinary technologies, and discovered ways to prolong and improve human life. Yet, despite these achievements, we have failed to master one of the oldest challenges confronting civilization: learning to live together without resorting to war.

We possess the knowledge to make peace. We have institutions dedicated to preserving it. We have witnessed the devastation of countless conflicts and understand their terrible consequences.

What we have not consistently demonstrated is the will to prevent them. Wars continue to destroy cities, displace populations, impoverish nations, and extinguish innocent lives. Governments justify military action in the language of security, sovereignty, national interest, and sometimes even peace. Yet the suffering that follows is painfully similar, regardless of which flag flies over the battlefield.

Must humanity accept war as an unavoidable condition of its existence? Surely, after centuries of bloodshed, we owe ourselves and future generations a more ambitious answer. We must aspire not merely to end the wars being fought today, but to build a world in which war is no longer regarded as an acceptable means of settling differences.

THE WISDOM OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE : The principle of peaceful coexistence offers a foundation for that aspiration. It recognizes that nations have different histories, cultures, political systems, interests, and ambitions. Such differences are natural. They need not become reasons for hostility.

India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was among the influential advocates of this philosophy. The five principles of Panchsheel, articulated in the 1954 agreement between India and China concerning Tibet, emphasized mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. These principles expressed a profound truth: nations need not agree on everything to live together in peace.

The subsequent conflict between India and China demonstrated how easily such principles can be violated. But the failure to honor an ideal does not diminish its worth. Rather, it reminds us that peace requires commitments supported by trust, restraint, and responsible conduct.

Peaceful coexistence is not a demand that nations abandon their convictions. It is an appeal that they respect the right of others to hold different convictions.

POWER MUST ANSWER TO WISDOM : The history of great powers offers repeated lessons about the limitations of military strength. The United States, whose contributions to science, democracy, economic progress, and international institutions have been immense, has also experienced the painful consequences of prolonged military engagements. Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan demonstrated that overwhelming military superiority does not necessarily produce political stability, public acceptance, or enduring peace.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought destruction and suffering while reminding the world that territorial ambition and the use of force can undermine the very security governments claim to protect. The lesson applies universally.

No nation, however powerful, possesses the moral right to impose its will upon another merely because it has the military capacity to do so.

National security is a legitimate concern. Every country has the right to defend itself against aggression. But defense must not become a convenient justification for domination, expansion, or interference in the destiny of other peoples. Strength is necessary in an imperfect world. Restraint is what makes strength responsible.

THE CHANGING WORLD ORDER : The world is no longer organized around the unquestioned dominance of a single power. China has emerged as an economic and technological giant. India is assuming a larger international role. Russia remains strategically influential. Europe continues to exercise considerable economic and diplomatic weight. Countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East increasingly seek greater independence in determining their futures. This changing balance need not lead inevitably to confrontation.

The rise of one nation does not require the decline of another. Economic competition need not become military rivalry. Differences over political systems need not become campaigns for regime change. The challenge is to replace the pursuit of supremacy with the acceptance of shared responsibility.

A multipolar world will not automatically be peaceful. Indeed, competing ambitions could make it more dangerous unless nations establish dependable rules for managing their disagreements. But surely the answer cannot be perpetual preparation for conflict. The world does not need one nation powerful enough to dominate all others. It needs nations wise enough to live together.

PEACE WITHOUT JUSTICE IS NOT ENOUGH : Peaceful coexistence must never be confused with appeasement. A nation subjected to aggression cannot reasonably be asked to surrender its sovereignty in the name of peace. Nor should violations of human rights be ignored merely to avoid uncomfortable disagreements. Lasting peace requires justice, respect for international law, credible security arrangements, and institutions capable of resolving disputes fairly. Above all, international principles must be applied consistently. The sovereignty of a small nation deserves the same respect as that of a powerful one. The suffering of civilians must concern us regardless of their nationality, religion, or political allegiance.

International law cannot retain its authority if governments invoke it against adversaries while disregarding it when their own interests are involved. Peace founded upon humiliation or coercion is unlikely to endure. The objective must be a world in which nations feel sufficiently secure to negotiate their differences rather than threaten one another.

THE HUMAN COST WE MUST NEVER FORGET : Behind every military strategy are human beings. A mother who loses her child does not find consolation in geopolitical explanations. A family driven from its home does not experience displacement differently because one government describes the conflict as necessary. The dead do not return when leaders declare victory. And the costs of war extend far beyond the battlefield.

Consider what humanity could accomplish if even a fraction of the resources devoted to developing weapons and sustaining conflicts were invested in education, healthcare, scientific research, environmental protection, and the elimination of hunger. The world confronts challenges that cannot be defeated by armies: climate change, pandemics, poverty, and the dangers accompanying rapidly advancing technologies. These challenges demand cooperation among nations that may disagree profoundly on other matters. Our common humanity should provide the basis for that cooperation.

THE WILL TO MAKE PEACE : Some will dismiss the aspiration for a world without wars as unrealistic. But many achievements now considered ordinary were once regarded as impossible. Human progress has depended upon people refusing to accept that the world must forever remain as they inherited it.

A world without wars will not emerge through wishful thinking. It will require courageous political leadership, functioning international institutions, public accountability, diplomatic perseverance, and a willingness to place human welfare above the prestige of governments.

It will require citizens to demand that their leaders exhaust peaceful alternatives before contemplating military action. And it will require powerful nations to recognize that greatness is not measured merely by their ability to defeat adversaries, but by their capacity to prevent hostility from becoming war.

Your weakness gives you no right to answer injustice with terrorism. Your strength gives you no moral license to frighten or oppress others. The principle is simple. Its application requires courage. We must reject the belief that war is humanity's permanent destiny.

A world without wars may appear an impossible dream. But the greater tragedy would be for humanity to abandon that dream altogether. The greatest victory humanity can achieve will not be one nation triumphing over another, but all nations triumphing over the need for war itself.

Let us summon the will to make war unnecessary, the wisdom to make peace enduring, and the humanity to recognize that every life, wherever it is lived, is equally precious.

ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DIWALI STAMP

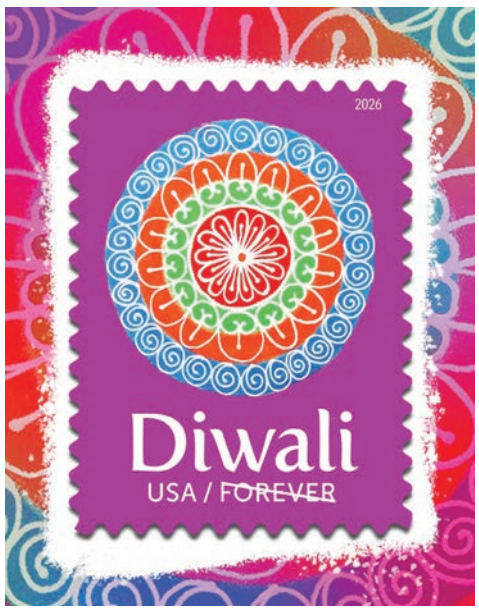
The Power of One: Ten Years Since a Woman's Determination Made History

One woman. One vision. Seven years of perseverance. Ten years of pride. A legacy for generations

BY PROF. INDRAJIT S. SALUJA



DIWALI STAMP 2016
The photograph was taken by Sally Andersen-Bruce, the design was created by Greg Breeding, and William J. Gicker served as art director.



DIWALI STAMP 2026
Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada created the artwork. Jennifer Arnold designed the stamp, William Gicker served as art director, and Bijay Dixit was the photographer.

A postage stamp is a small piece of paper. Yet sometimes, within its modest dimensions, it carries a story far greater than its size: a people's identity, their aspirations, their struggle for recognition, and their rightful place in the larger human family.

The Diwali Forever Stamp, issued by the United States Postal Service on October 5, 2016, was one such stamp.



Diwali Stamp is inaugurated at the Indian Consulate in New York, October 5, 2016. Seen in the picture, among others are-Hardip Singh Puri, then India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and now Union Minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Cabinet (left foreground), then Consul General of India Riva Ganguly Das (first left), Congresswoman Carolyn B Maloney (second left), Congresswoman Grace Meng (third right) , Ranju Batra, (second right), Ravi Batra (right foreground)

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

For millions of Indian Americans, it represented more than the celebration of a festival. It was a recognition that the traditions they had brought from their ancestral homeland had become part of the rich cultural fabric of America.

And behind that achievement lay an extraordinary story of determination, perseverance, friendship, and the power of one woman's conviction.

Her name is Ranju Batra.

A CELEBRATION THAT CONNECTS TWO WORLDS

For Indians living abroad, Diwali is more than an annual festival. It is an occasion to reconnect with their heritage, introduce their children to ancestral traditions, and share their cultural inheritance with neighbors and friends.

Homes glow with lamps and decorations. Families exchange sweets and gifts. Temples and community centers become places of prayer and celebration. Music, dance, food, and fellowship bring together people across generations.

Diwali, or Deepavali, celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. While its religious significance varies among Hindu, Sikh, Jain, and Buddhist communities, its broader message speaks to humanity.

For immigrants, festivals such as Diwali also perform another important function: they help preserve identity while building bridges with the wider society.

And what better symbol of that acceptance than a stamp issued by the postal service of one's adopted country?

The United States had long issued stamps recognizing Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Eid. Yet Diwali, celebrated by vast numbers of people around the world, remained unrepresented.

Many had raised the issue over the years. But persuading the USPS to issue a commemorative stamp was no simple undertaking. It required patience, persistence, public support, and the ability to navigate a federal institution with its own procedures and priorities.

Ranju Batra decided that the task, however difficult, was worth pursuing.

THE WOMAN WHO WOULD NOT GIVE UP



Ranju Batra, the woman who asked why Diwali should not receive the same recognition as other major cultural and religious celebrations.

Ranju's campaign lasted approximately seven years. It began with a seemingly simple question: Why should Diwali not receive the same recognition as other major cultural and religious celebrations?

The answer was not readily forthcoming. There was no guaranteed route to success, and the United States Postal Service was under no obligation to accept the proposal.

Indeed, the USPS receives thousands of suggestions for commemorative stamps each year, with only a small number eventually approved.

But Ranju refused to interpret institutional difficulty as a reason for surrender.

She carried petitions wherever she went. Friends, acquaintances, strangers, diplomats, and community leaders were approached for signatures. The petitions became part of her daily routine, and the campaign became a personal mission.

She wrote letters, sought meetings, encouraged supporters, and kept the proposal alive even when success appeared remote.

She reached out to prominent leaders, including President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Her husband, distinguished attorney Ravi Batra, recalls that he initially doubted the feasibility of the undertaking. He regarded it as an almost insurmountable challenge, with no clear path to success. But Ranju's determination eventually persuaded him to lend his full support.

As Ravi recalled in an earlier conversation with The Indian Panorama, Ranju had made it unmistakably clear that she would pursue the campaign with or without his assistance. He eventually joined the effort, becoming one of its strongest advocates.

There is something deeply human in this recollection.

Many worthwhile undertakings begin not with universal encouragement, but with doubt-even from those closest to us. What distinguishes the determined individual is the willingness to continue when the outcome remains uncertain.

A CAMPAIGN THAT BECAME A COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

Ranju's personal initiative gradually attracted broader support. Former Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney of New York became one of the campaign's most influential political advocates. Maloney pressed the case with the USPS and its Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, introduced congressional resolutions, and together with Ranju and Ravi Batra, encouraged lawmakers to support the proposal.

In January 2015, she introduced House Resolution 32, urging the issuance of a

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Ranju Batra speaking with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the foreground is Ravi Batra.

Diwali commemorative stamp. Her earlier efforts included House Resolution 47 in 2013 and correspondence with postal authorities.

The campaign also benefited from the encouragement of diplomats, community organizations, public officials, and ordinary Indian Americans. Among those associated with the effort were Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Assistant Secretary General Lakshmi Puri, and Consul General Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congressman Ami Bera, Congressman Greg Meeks, Congressman Eliot Engel, and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, among many other members of Congress, including the iconic John Lewis.

Mulay contributed an official poem to the Diwali Stamp Project, adding a literary dimension to the campaign.

What began as one woman's determination had become a collective effort. Yet its defining characteristic remained Ranju's refusal to abandon the cause.

She understood something that public institutions sometimes overlook: recognition has an emotional significance that cannot always be measured in money, numbers, or administrative convenience.

For a community seeking acceptance, a modest official gesture can carry immense meaning.

OCTOBER 5, 2016: A DAY TO REMEMBER

Finally, the long-awaited announcement came. The United States Postal Service would issue a Diwali Forever Stamp.

The first-day-of-issue dedication ceremony was scheduled for October 5, 2016, at the Consulate General of India in New York.



The enthusiastic gathering at the Consulate to witness the historic unveiling of the Diwali Stamp

For those who had participated in the campaign, the occasion was unforgettable. The Consulate was filled with community members, supporters, public officials, and well-wishers. There was an unmistakable atmosphere of celebration and achievement.



Diwali Stamp on sale at the Consulate on the day of the release of the stamp

People lined up to purchase the stamps. The enthusiasm was so great that, the Diwali Stamps sold out at the Dedication venue.

The ceremony brought together representatives of the USPS, the Indian diplomatic establishment, elected officials, and the Diwali Stamp Project.

Among the participants were Consul General Riva Ganguly Das, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Ranju Batra, and Ravi Batra, who served as master of ceremonies.

Pritha Mehra, a senior USPS official, represented the Postal Service.

GLIMPSES OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE ELEGANT DIWALI STAMP



Air India Regional Manager, Americas Vandana Sharma and her staff celebrate Diwali Stamp with Ranju and Ravi Batra



New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer honors Ranju Batra with a Commendation from New York City



Congresswoman Grace Meng Exhibits Diwali Stamp



Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das is speaking on the occasion



Ravi Batra addresses the gathering

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The stamp itself was elegantly simple. It depicted a traditional illuminated diya, surrounded by flower petals against a shimmering golden background. The photograph was taken by Sally Andersen-Bruce, the design was created by Greg Breeding, and William J. Gicker served as art director.

Issued as a Forever Stamp, it could continue to be used for standard domestic first-class letter postage regardless of subsequent rate increases.

There was something particularly appropriate about that designation. A festival celebrating the enduring victory of light over darkness had received a stamp whose postal value would endure.

For Ranju and her supporters, the word Forever acquired an emotional meaning beyond its technical definition.



A celebration at City Hall, New York. Seen, among others, from L to R: Prof. Indrajit S Saluja, Neeta Bhasin, Vandana Sharma, Ranju Batra, Carolyn Maloney, Kamlesh Mehta, Riva Ganguly Dass, Ravi Batra, Sudhir Vaishnav, and Srujal Parikh

THE POWER OF ONE-AND THE STRENGTH OF MANY

Ranju had personally sold more than 170,000 Diwali stamps on Day One, making the Diwali Stamp the Number One Best Seller in USPS's 200 plus year history. The extraordinary enthusiasm generated by the campaign and its sales was witnessed by this author who was present for the Day One Stamp Dedication- having supported this cause: to belong in the United States.

Such figures, as recounted by Ravi, illustrate the intensity of community participation, although claims about historical USPS sales records would require independent confirmation.

The campaign also attracted international recognition.



Diwali Stamp made its way to the United Nations. Ranju Batra is seen addressing the gathering of diplomats and community leaders at the UN , December 11, 2017.

Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

On December 5, 2016, Permanent Representatives from 24 nations co-sponsored a United Nations evening, honoring Ranju's achievement and celebrating the Diwali Stamp. (UN Web TV: Small Stamp for a Big Festival. https://Media.un.org/en/asset/k10/k10cOTpm4k)



The gathering of the diplomats at the United Nations to celebrate the Diwali Stamp and recognize Ranju's achievement. -Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

For these nations, Ranju's journey showed "how to" achieve the highest ideals of the United Nations Charter.



Ambassadors, including India's Ambassador to the United Nations, Syed Akbaruddin, lighted the lamp at the United Nations, December 11, 2017 -Photo / Mohammed Jaffer-SnapsIndia

Ranju herself viewed the achievement in precisely those terms. She did not see the stamp as belonging exclusively to a religion, a nation, or even the Indian diaspora. She regarded it as an affirmation of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence, and the right of different communities to celebrate their traditions with dignity.



H. E. Andrei Dapkunias, P. R. of Belarus, lead organizer of the Dec 5, 2016 UN event honoring Ranju's journey to achieve a "small stamp."

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That philosophy deserves particular attention. In a world too often divided by religion, nationality, ethnicity, and political ideology, the recognition of another community's traditions should be seen not as a concession, but as an enrichment of our shared humanity.

A PERSONAL MEMORY REKINDLED

With the passage of time, even remarkable achievements gradually become familiar. The Diwali stamp has now been part of American postal history for a decade. Younger Indian Americans may have little knowledge of the struggle that preceded it. I confess that, despite having been associated with the campaign as a volunteer from its early days, I too had allowed many of those memories to recede.

They returned recently during 2026 Diwali celebrations organized by the Jackson Heights Indian Merchants Association.

Its president, Shiv Dass, honored Ranju and Ravi Batra for their contribution to securing the Diwali Stamp.



Jackson Heights Indian Merchants' Association President Shiv Dass is honoring Raju Batra for her significant achievement in getting the USPS Diwali Stamp issued.

Watching that recognition brought back the excitement, the uncertainty, the countless efforts, and finally the satisfaction of seeing the stamp released.

I was reminded that achievements of lasting significance should not be allowed to disappear into the routine of everyday life.

As a journalist, I felt an obligation to revisit the story-not merely to celebrate its success, but to preserve the memory of the effort that made success possible. Future generations should know that the recognition they may now take for granted was secured through the perseverance of those who came before them. As Ranju and Ravi often say -God Bless America-we must have gratitude of America, and Americans' generosity of heart. America deserves our love , and we must protect her from enemies -foreign and domestic.

TEN YEARS LATER, ANOTHER MILESTONE

The tenth anniversary of the original Diwali Stamp has acquired added significance.

On October 21, 2026, the USPS dedicated a new Diwali Forever Stamp at the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C.

The new design features a colorful rangoli, the traditional Indian decorative art created with geometric patterns and floral imagery.

Houston-based artist Sangita Bhutada created the artwork. Jennifer Arnold designed the stamp, William Gicker served as art director, and Bijay Dixit was the photographer.

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, participated in the dedication ceremony alongside USPS representatives.

This was the second USPS stamp design honoring Diwali and the first new design since the original 2016 issue. The newly released Diwali Stamp is proof that USPS truly treats the Forever Diwali Stamp as immortal.

The development gives the earlier campaign a fresh historical significance. What was once a hard-fought demand for recognition has become part of an established American tradition of acknowledging the cultural heritage of its people.

The second stamp does not diminish the achievement of the first. It reinforces it.

THE LARGER MEANING OF A SMALL STAMP

The story of the Diwali Stamp offers lessons that extend far beyond the Indian-American community. It reminds us that meaningful change does not always begin in the corridors of power. Sometimes it begins with an ordinary citizen asking a reasonable question and refusing to accept that a worthwhile objective is impossible.

It demonstrates the importance of perseverance, the value of community cooperation, and the role that elected representatives can play when they listen to the aspirations of their constituents.

Above all, it illustrates the beauty of a democracy that can recognize and accommodate the cultural traditions of its diverse population.

America's strength has never rested solely on its economic power, military might, or political institutions. It has also rested on its capacity-however imperfectly realized-to bring together people of different origins, beliefs, languages, and traditions under a common civic identity.

The Diwali Stamp is a small but meaningful expression of that capacity. It tells Indian Americans that their heritage need not be surrendered in order for them to belong. It tells their children that being American and cherishing their ancestral culture are not competing loyalties. And it tells the larger American society that cultural diversity, when accompanied by mutual respect, strengthens rather than weakens the nation.

As we remember Ranju Batra's remarkable campaign ten years after its success, we should remember not merely the stamp, but the spirit that brought it into existence.

A woman had a vision. She refused to surrender it. Others joined her. An institution responded. And a community found its cherished festival honored in the postal history of its adopted homeland.

The stamp may be small, but the achievement is immense.

And perhaps its finest message is also the simplest:

When one person's determination inspires the cooperation of many, even a small piece of paper can become a lasting symbol of belonging, dignity, and humanity.



Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, presenting the Commendation to Ranju Batra

The admirable determination of Ranju Batra came to be recognized on November 10, 2026 at the Diwali dinner hosted by Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, the Consul General of India in New York who chose the occasion to honor Ranju Batra with a commendation that read: " Consulate General of India, New York, COMMENDATION In recognition of Ms. Ranju Batra for her outstanding contribution to the recognition and celebration of Diwali in the United States, particularly instrumental her role in spearheading the seven-year campaign that led to the issuance of the first-ever U.S. Postal Service Diwali Forever Stamp in 2016. The Consulate General of India, New York, extends its deep appreciation to Ms Ranju Batra.

/s/
Ambassador Binaya S. Pradhan
Consul General
10 November, 2026

Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams honored as Grand Marshal of New York Veterans Parade

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

The celebrated spacefarer, who is a retired Navy captain, spearheaded a massive procession of 20,000 participants along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on Wednesday, November 11.

Reflecting on her central role, the Grand Marshal remarked that it was "an incredible honor", noting, "My time in the Navy shaped who I am and prepared me for every challenge that followed."

She added, "I'm proud to join New Yorkers and Americans from around the country in honoring the service, sacrifice, and commitment of veterans from every generation."

Before joining the space agency, she served as a test pilot, subsequently undertaking three missions spanning a cumulative 608 days in orbit. During her career, she established a record for the most spacewalks by a woman, completing nine spacewalks totaling 62 hours.



New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani accompanies Indian-American astronaut Sunita Williams, the Grand Marshal of the Veterans Day Parade in New York on November 11, 2026

Marking its 107th annual Veterans Day Parade, the landmark procession brought together thousands of former military personnel alongside various armed forces units, municipal law enforcement officers, civic societies, educational institutions and musical brass bands. Commercial enterprises also contributed significantly, rolling out elaborate floats that highlighted former military personnel in their corporate workforce.

On the eve of the parade, the decorated captain participated in ceremonial observances on board the USS San Antonio to mark the 251st anniversary of the Marine Corps' founding.

Born to Deepak Pandya, a neuroanatomist, and Ursuline Pandya, who is of Slovenian heritage, Williams previously made headlines when a scheduled eight-day expedition to the orbital laboratory during the first crewed flight of Boeing's Starliner capsule abruptly transformed into an extended nine-month odyssey. The prolonged stay stemmed from persistent technical problems with the spacecraft, ultimately requiring a rescue mission by a SpaceX Crew-9 vehicle to bring her and fellow stranded astronaut Butch Wilmore back home.

Deeply connected to her cultural roots, she famously took a copy of the Bhagavad Gita aloft in 2006, followed by the Upanishads in 2012.

(Source: ANI)

Illegal fireworks at New York gurdwara's Diwali celebrations sparks outrage; several youths arrested



The incident has adversely affected the image of the Punjabi and Indian diaspora, says Jatinder Singh, president of the Sikh Cultural Society Inc, Richmond Hill.

Photo Credit: World Gurudwaras

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP)

Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas celebrations at the Sikh Cultural Society Gurdwara in Richmond Hill, New York, have come under scrutiny after illegal fireworks were allegedly set off.

Several youths were arrested and illegal weapons reportedly recovered from some of them. A police officer was also injured in the incident.

The community expressed concern over the incident of fireworks and the resultant garbage littered outside the Hindu temples and gurdwaras following the Diwali celebration in the UK, the US and Canada.

Condemning the violence and violation of law, Jatinder Singh, president of the Sikh Cultural Society Inc, Richmond Hill, addressed a press conference and tendered an unconditional apology to the injured police officer.

He said thousands of devotees had visited the gurdwara to pay obeisance on the occasion, but a few miscreants had disrupted the celebrations. He maintained that the gurdwara management had reached an understanding with the administration that fireworks would not be used, but some youths deliberately violated the restrictions.

"Had this happened in India, the police might have dealt with the offenders strictly. However, the police here handled the situation within the framework of the law," he said, expressing concern over the embarrassment faced by police personnel from the diaspora following the incident.

He said the incident had adversely affected the image of the Punjabi and Indian diaspora and added that similar disturbances had been reported at all four gurdwaras in Richmond Hill.

Demanding strict action against those involved, Jatinder Singh said the community must respect the laws of the country in which it lived.

"We may have arrived here in large numbers, but that does not give us the right to violate the law of the land. A handful of irresponsible people are bringing disrepute to the entire community and could shut doors of opportunities for others from the diaspora," he said.

Highlighting the attitude of some youths, he pointed out that while he was addressing the press conference, a youth revved his motorcycle loudly and sped past the venue.

"You can see how much heed this younger generation pays to our requests," he remarked, adding that those caught violating the law often approached community leaders seeking their intervention.

He also referred to incidents of shootings and sword fights reported during a Nagar Kirtan in Yuba City, California, saying such incidents further damage the community's reputation.

Jatinder Singh warned that the diaspora could have to pay a heavy price for the irresponsible conduct of a few individuals. He stressed that when fireworks were prohibited, youths should have respected the restrictions instead of taking the law into their own hands. (Source: TNS)

Sikh hate crime in Canada: 3 teens charged after removing man's turban and pouring beer on him

NOVEMBER 13, 2026
TORONTO (TIP)

Three teenagers have been charged with hate-motivated offences in Canada after allegedly assaulting two passengers on public buses in Barrie, Ontario, including a 22-year-old Sikh man whose turban was removed and beer poured on him.

The incident took place on November 8, when the accused, aged 16, 18 and 19, allegedly targeted two men on separate buses within an hour, according to Barrie Police.

In the first incident, around 7.15 pm, the trio allegedly harassed a 26-year-old passenger on a bus near Essa Road. They pushed and slapped him while making derogatory remarks, police said. When the man approached the driver for help, the teenagers allegedly pushed him off the bus and fled.

Around 8.30 pm, the same group approached a 22-year-old passenger on another bus on Yonge Street. One of the teenagers allegedly removed his turban and poured beer on him.

When the victim tried to call the police, one of the accused threw his phone to the ground. As he sought help from the bus driver, two teenagers allegedly restrained him while the third punched him in the face and body.

The accused then fled in a taxi. Police located the vehicle within half-an-hour and arrested all three teenagers.

Each has been charged with an offence motivated by hatred. Police have not disclosed the identities of the accused or the victims. Neither passenger suffered serious injuries.

The Hindu Sikh Unity Forum Canada identified the 22-year-old victim as a Sikh.

Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism Graham McGregor condemned the incident, describing the targeting of the turban as an attack on religious freedom.



The 22-year-old was allegedly restrained by two teenagers while a third punched him in the face and body; the accused also face charges over an earlier assault on another passenger

Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

"A turban is a sacred symbol of faith. Targeting it is a blatant attack on someone's dignity and religious freedom," he wrote in a post on X.

The World Sikh Organisation also condemned the assaults, warning against treating such incidents as isolated acts.

"The growing targeting of Sikhs demands serious attention, accountability and action to ensure Sikh Canadians can live safely," it said in a post on X.

Canada has world's second-largest Sikh population. According to Canada's 2021 Census, the country is home to 771,790 Sikhs, accounting for around 2.1 per cent of its population. More than 300,000 Sikhs live in Ontario, where Barrie is located.

The two accused who are adults could face a maximum prison sentence of 10 years, while the 16-year-old could face up to three years in youth custody, according to the information provided. (Source: TNS)

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DELHI CANNOT CLEAN ITS AIR BY ITSELF

Crop-residue burning is a seasonal contributor in parts of Punjab and Haryana, but not the sole explanation for Delhi's winter pollution

BY AJAI MALHOTRA



DELHI-NCR CANNOT CLEAN ITS AIR BY ITSELF, BUT NEITHER CAN IT ABSOLVE ITSELF OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITS OWN EMISSIONS. LOCAL AND AIRSHED-LEVEL ACTIONS MUST PROCEED IN TANDEM. UNLESS GOVERNANCE REFLECTS THE ENVIRONMENTAL REALITIES OF INTERCONNECTED AIRSHEDS, WINTER HAZE WILL CONTINUE TO EXACT AN ENORMOUS HUMAN AND ECONOMIC TOLL.



Hazard: Air pollution undermines public health, constrains productivity and weighs on economic growth.

Photo / PTI

Every winter, a toxic haze blankets much of northern India. Delhi-NCR is its most visible casualty, but the problem extends well beyond the capital. Across Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Bihar and West Bengal, cities and rural areas experience deteriorating air quality, though sources and severity vary. The Indo-Gangetic Plain, stretching from the Indus plains in the west to the Ganga-Brahmaputra plains in the east, comprises several distinct and interconnected airsheds. Since pollutants can travel hundreds of kilometers, crossing state and national boundaries, tackling this problem requires managing air pollution at the airshed level, not the municipal level.

Official responses have been fragmented and largely reactive. Traffic restrictions, construction bans, water sprinkling and temporary shutdowns become necessary when pollution reaches emergency levels, but cannot substitute for year-round emission reductions. Since sources differ across urban centers, industrial corridors and rural areas, a unified airshed strategy must address them where they originate, not merely where haze is most visible.

Winter inversions, with warmer air above cooler surface air, restrict vertical mixing and prevent pollutant dispersal. Shallow, stable boundary layers and low winds further trap pollutants near the ground. Fine particles absorb moisture and grow in size, while humid conditions accelerate chemical reactions that generate additional particulate matter. These conditions sustain the haze.

This is not solely an urban problem. Household fuels, brick-kilns, rural biomass and agricultural practices contribute alongside vehicles, power plants, industries, construction dust and waste burning. Ammonia released from fertilizers and livestock reacts with sulphuric and nitric acids formed from sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emitted by combustion sources to form secondary particulate matter. The World Bank estimates that over half of India's PM2.5 is formed through such secondary processes, with precursor gases travelling hundreds of kilometers across state boundaries. Controlling precursor gases is as important as reducing smoke and dust.

Crop-residue burning is a seasonal contributor in parts of Punjab and Haryana, but not the sole explanation for Delhi's winter pollution. Its timing is linked to the narrow interval between paddy harvesting and wheat sowing. The policy intended to conserve groundwater by delaying paddy transplantation has also pushed harvesting and residue burning later, sometimes by one to four weeks. Economically viable alternatives should be made available through access to machinery, residue-collection networks, productive uses for straw and crop diversification incentives.

Climate change adds a layer of uncertainty. Western disturbances, which bring winter rain and pollutant-dispersing winds, are an important influence on northern India's air quality. Their winter patterns have become less predictable, with activity shifting to the pre-monsoon months. Meanwhile, climate modelling projects an increase in winter atmospheric stagnation over the Indo-Gangetic Plain under high-warming scenarios. These shifts reinforce the need for year-round, multi-sectoral emission reductions.

The economic and human costs are enormous. Air pollution undermines public health, constrains productivity and weighs on economic growth. A FICCI-EY report estimates India's pollution-related economic losses at 9-9.5 per cent of GDP, with business losses of $95 billion and 1.3 billion working days lost. Illness, premature death and lost productivity impose costs on businesses, public health systems and households.

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is city-oriented. Its targets focus on PM10, giving insufficient attention to the regional nature of PM2.5 and its precursor gases. A 2026 assessment found that 28 of the 130 NCAP cities lacked continuous monitoring, while only 23 of 100 cities with adequate data met the 40 per cent PM10 reduction target. These gaps reflect disjointed jurisdiction, uneven implementation and inadequate accountability.

Northern India must move from a fragmented, city-centric response to airshed-based management, building on existing institutions. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has statutory powers to coordinate action across Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, but does not cover the wider Indo-Gangetic Plain.

An Indo-Gangetic Airshed Council, created by extending the CAQM's statutory mandate, should coordinate action across the region's distinct but interconnected airsheds. Chaired by the Union Environment Minister, it should bring together chief secretaries of the affected states, representatives of relevant Central ministries and the CAQM, with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) providing technical coordination. It should prepare a five-year Indo-Gangetic Clean Air Framework, supported by separate airshed-level action plans, set measurable annual targets for each airshed, broken down by state and sector, and allocate responsibilities according to each state's emission contribution. Targets must cover ambient PM2.5 concentrations and precursor emissions such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ammonia.

Each airshed action plan must translate targets into sector-specific responsibilities. State transport departments and urban local bodies should accelerate cleaner public transport and dust control. Pollution control boards must enforce industrial standards and modernize brick-kilns. Agriculture departments should make crop-residue management financially attractive through collection networks and productive uses for straw. The programme must cover cleaner household fuels, better waste management and fertilizer use. Success should be measured by sustained reductions in ambient PM2.5 concentrations and precursor emissions, not by restrictions imposed or pollution-control devices deployed.

Each state should translate the relevant airshed action plan into time-bound departmental and district action plans, with its chief secretary personally accountable for delivery. The CPCB and state pollution control boards should expand their monitoring networks, prepare periodic emission inventories and publish a common dashboard-tracking progress. Independent scientific institutions should validate data. Annual performance reviews should identify lagging states, with Central funding directly linked to independently verified progress.

Beijing offers a relevant precedent: during 2013-2017, coordinated action reduced PM2.5 by 35 per cent in the city and 25 per cent in surrounding regions. Its experience shows that sustained coordination and multi-sector action can deliver measurable results.

There are promising initiatives: UP has developed an airshed-based Clean Air Plan (2024) and the World Bank's $600 million programs in UP and Haryana are among India's first state-led, multi-sectoral initiatives of this kind. They address transport, agriculture and industry, including cleaner technologies for small enterprises and alternatives to crop-residue burning. They should be integrated into the airshed framework with compatible targets and shared data.

Air pollution ignores borders. The region's interconnected airsheds extend into Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh. The South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme provides a regional framework for cooperation on transboundary air pollution and can facilitate the exchange of non-sensitive air-quality data, research and early warnings.

Delhi-NCR cannot clean its air by itself, but neither can it absolve itself of responsibility for its own emissions. Local and airshed-level actions must proceed in tandem. Unless governance reflects the environmental realities of interconnected airsheds, winter haze will continue to exact an enormous human and economic toll.

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

IT IS THE WAR, STUPID!

BY GEORGE ABRAHAM



"It was not simply the war that changed the trajectory of the Trump presidency. It was the failure to finish the war and achieve its objectives that brought about this political disaster. Americans love a winner. They are willing to endure hardship and even sacrifice when they believe their country is moving toward a decisive victory. What they cannot tolerate indefinitely is a war without an end, mounting costs without visible results, and leadership that continues to proclaim victory while the facts on the ground tell a different story."

Now that the midterm election results are in, everyone seems to have their own explanation for why the Republicans suffered such a shellacking across the country. The damage was not limited to urban areas or traditional Democratic strongholds. Even rural districts in deeply Republican states were not spared from the blue tsunami that swept across the nation. What was once considered safe Republican territory suddenly became vulnerable, leaving party leaders searching for answers and wondering what went wrong.

Vice President JD Vance was quick to declare that the war with Iran was the principal reason for the Republican defeat. He even suggested that the United States needed to reconsider its relationship with Israel, a remarkable turnaround in a bilateral relationship that, not long ago, was considered almost sacrosanct in American politics.

However, from my vantage point, it was not simply the war that changed the trajectory of the Trump presidency. It was the failure to finish the war and achieve its objectives that brought about this political disaster. Americans love a winner. They are willing to endure hardship and even sacrifice when they believe their country is moving toward a decisive victory. What they cannot tolerate indefinitely is a war without an end, mounting costs without visible results, and leadership that continues to proclaim victory while the facts on the ground tell a different story.

Trump went into this conflict with enormous confidence in America's military superiority. His administration appeared to believe that overwhelming American firepower, combined with Israeli military capabilities, could cripple Iran, destroy its military infrastructure, and perhaps even bring about a regime change in Tehran. Instead, Iran survived, retaliated, and demonstrated that it could continue to inflict enormous economic and strategic costs on the United States and its allies.

Trump failed to bring about a regime change in Tehran. Instead, American voters chose to change the political balance in Washington, while voters in Israel delivered their own rebuke to Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition. What an extraordinary reversal of fortunes!

The problem with America for quite some time has been its inability to conclude wars with the decisive victory its leaders promise at the outset. Apart from limited military operations in its own backyard in the Western Hemisphere, America's record since World War II has been anything but impressive. The Korean War ended in a stalemate. Vietnam was a disaster. Iraq became a quagmire that destabilized the entire region. Afghanistan ended with the humiliating withdrawal of American forces after twenty years of fighting. And now Iran has turned into another war of attrition, with no clear political settlement in sight.



I remember the much-celebrated Powell Doctrine, which argued that America should go to war only when its objectives were clearly defined, its national interests were at stake, and it possessed the overwhelming force and determination necessary to achieve victory. Yet, ironically, the very man associated with that doctrine later appeared before the United Nations Security Council to defend the deeply flawed intelligence used to justify the invasion of Iraq. That war not only destabilized Iraq but also strengthened Iran's regional influence and opened the door to extremist movements that continue to haunt the Middle East.

There is an adage that those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. That is precisely what happened here once again.

The Trump administration appears to have failed both in planning the war and in understanding its consequences. The intelligence community and the Defense Department should have anticipated not only Iran's military capabilities but also its willingness to use unconventional methods to impose costs on a vastly superior adversary.

One of the most serious miscalculations was underestimating Iran's ability to launch precision missile and drone attacks against American military installations throughout the region. Although American and Israeli forces inflicted considerable damage on Iranian military facilities, Tehran demonstrated that it retained enough capabilities to threaten military bases, infrastructure, and critical economic installations across the Gulf.

The damage and the cost of defending and repairing these installations have raised serious questions about the vulnerability of America's military presence in the region. How could a country possessing the world's most sophisticated intelligence apparatus and military technology underestimate an adversary whose asymmetric warfare strategy has been developed over decades?

But the biggest failure, in my view, was the apparent inability to anticipate the consequences of Iran's ability to threaten the Strait of Hormuz. This narrow waterway carries roughly one-fifth of the world's petroleum liquids consumption and is a vital supply route for energy markets in Asia and beyond. Any prolonged disruption would have immediate repercussions for global oil prices, international trade, and economies already struggling with inflation.

Iran demonstrated that it did not need a superior navy or air force to threaten this crucial passage. A missile here, a drone there, or a few naval mines could be enough to make commercial shipping through the strait a dangerous proposition. Even a relatively small disruption could send insurance premiums soaring and force shipping companies to reconsider their operations. After all, which shipowner would willingly risk a multimillion-dollar tanker, its cargo, and the lives of its crew in waters where insurance coverage might be restricted or withdrawn?

This is where Iran came to understand the vulnerabilities of the global economy better than those who planned the war. The United States may possess the world's most powerful navy, but it cannot guarantee uninterrupted commercial shipping by deploying aircraft carriers and destroyers alone. Even a small threat can have enormous economic consequences when the world's energy lifeline passes through such a narrow corridor.

The second major consequence was the vulnerability of American naval facilities in the Persian Gulf. The threat from Iranian missiles and drones forced a reassessment of how safely American warships could operate from established bases in the region. Ships that previously relied on these facilities for logistics, maintenance, supplies, and rest and recuperation increasingly had to consider the dangers of remaining within range of Iranian weapons.

Suddenly, military installations built at enormous expense were exposed to threats that their planners may not have adequately anticipated. A base is valuable only as long as it can perform its intended mission. If American naval assets must operate farther away to reduce their vulnerability, the strategic advantages of those facilities are considerably diminished.

The third consequence was the tremendous damage inflicted on the confidence and economic security of the Gulf Cooperation Council nations. For decades, countries such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia have worked tirelessly to transform their economies into international centers of commerce, tourism, finance, transportation, and investment. They built magnificent cities, airports, ports, hotels, and business centers, attracting millions of expatriates and billions of dollars in foreign investment.

All those achievements depend upon one essential ingredient: stability. When missiles and drones begin flying across the region, confidence disappears. Investors become nervous, businesses reconsider their commitments, airlines face disruptions, and ordinary people begin to worry about their safety. The image of the Gulf as a safe haven for international business has suffered a serious setback.

Those with the financial means to leave can relocate their businesses and families. But what about the millions of migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, and other developing nations whose livelihoods depend upon employment in these countries? They have few alternatives. Their families back home depend upon the money they send every month.

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The SIR exercise is also a technology failure

WHEN CODE CHANGES BUT THE USER MANUALS HAVE NOT YET BEEN UPDATED, THE SOFTWARE BECOMES THE RULEBOOK

BY PRIYA SEETHARAMAN



Much of the public argument over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of India's electoral rolls is around law, power and politics. The autonomy of the Election Commission of India (ECI), the list of acceptable documents, and the burden placed on voters to prove eligibility are the key focus issues. There is, of course, no doubt that these questions matter. But a quieter, less spoken-about story runs underneath them. The 2025-26 SIR is the first revision of this scale to be run through a centralized digital platform, and the technology itself has become a source of exclusion. Viewed as a nationwide digital transformation project, the SIR fails on several counts that any student of technology would immediately recognize.

The irony stares right at us. India presents itself, with ample reasons to do so, as a leader in digital public infrastructure. From the IRCTC's (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) ticketing system and the income tax department's e-filing to Aadhaar authentication, UPI, DigiLocker etc., India holds up proof, at home and abroad, that it can build technology that works at scale.

Yet when it came to one of the most fundamental processes of any democracy, that is, the revision of electoral rolls, India has failed to utilize that capability. The irony is sharper because the above-mentioned successes were not built in weeks. They came from years of piloting, iteration and published specifications - the very peer-backed disciplines that seem to have been omitted when it came to the SIR.



India's special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter roll is worrisome.

AGE AND NAME DISCREPANCIES

Let's begin with how voters are flagged. A large share of notices to voters across States have been issued under the head of 'logical discrepancy' - a term that reflects little to no context sensitivity. Flags were generated centrally by ERONet, the ECI's roll management platform, using filters such as parent-child age gap, the number of children linked to one parent and the like. It is generally known that the ages mentioned on Indian electoral rolls are often approximate, especially for older citizens born at home. Therefore, rules that treat them as precise are bound to misfire.

An analysis of Delhi's draft roll by The Hindu found that family-size checks flagged Muslim electors at a markedly higher rate. The Supreme Court has clarified that it has not yet ruled on the legality of the 'logical discrepancy' category; it had allowed it in West Bengal only as an interim arrangement.

Additionally, a rule coded into the software platform decides who must appear for a hearing. This rule has never been published by the Commission; it varies from State to State, and the burden of contesting its outcome falls largely on the voters themselves.

Second, the platform relies on matching techniques that were not validated at scale. Linking a voter to a parent on the 2002 roll means comparing family names across decades. West Bengal's 2002 rolls which were in the Bengali language had to be digitized and rendered into English from old, printed records, reportedly with machine tools. Many names that were correct on paper reached the software garbled. Over 1.3 crore entries in West Bengal were flagged, and the counsel told the Supreme Court that more than half the 'logical discrepancy' cases were name variations. Similar problems have surfaced in Telangana and Karnataka as well. The ECI's own search portal suggests trying different spellings, indicating that the difficulty was not unknown. Matching Indian names across scripts is a well-documented difficulty, given the ambiguity and variation. Pilots in a handful of constituencies across different States would have exposed it before it reached lakhs of households.

OVERARCHING POWER

Third, the system and its features were repeatedly changed while the SIR was in progress. The ECI has in the past used de-duplication software to flag people who may hold more than one voter ID. It was not used in Bihar, and in late 2025, the Commission had told the Supreme Court that results from the software could not be relied on. However, it was switched back on in some States and Union Territories where the revision was underway. This is a failure of digital governance.

Another algorithm, which checks how voters are "mapped" to relatives on the old electoral roll, appeared on the app in some States, forcing Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to redo work that was already completed. If the app was being loaded with new protocols frequently, then it is only understandable that the key users of the app, the BLOs, experienced tremendous stress and frustration. In any well-run deployment of such scale, a live operation of this sensitivity would be under a change freeze, with new features being tested and documented before release.

Fourth, the encoded rules travelled by video rather than in writing. In October, some newly introduced ERONet options allowing Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to dispose of notice cases without hearings were explained through demonstration videos. Interim instructions such as these often came through video conferences and WhatsApp groups with the software already reconfigured to enforce them. When code changes but the user manuals have not yet been updated, the software becomes the rulebook. The BLOs and EROs, as statutory custodians of the electoral roll, are left implementing decisions they are not privy to while citizens, on the other hand, have nothing to cite on appeal. Officials in some States have asked for the restoration of the discretion that the centrally controlled platform had taken from them, including the power to decide which flagged cases need a hearing.

Fifth, the digital workflow and legal forms seem to have drifted apart. The online Form 6 carried an SIR-related declaration about parents and grandparents that applicants could not skip, although it was not part of the statutory form. The Supreme Court said it had never approved that modification. In Delhi, voters whose enumeration forms were not received but were earlier on the roll were directed to submit Form 6, meant for first-time voters. The court has called this a "structural incongruity".

However, both are also system design failures. The screen a citizen sees should not demand what the law and the approved process do not.

QUESTIONS OF TIMING

Time compounds these challenges. In Delhi, where no election is due, the Supreme Court questioned the need for a tight deadline. Voters in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal had no such cushion. In those States, enumeration went on for about six weeks with the final rolls being released in February while the polls were scheduled for April. West Bengal's final roll was published with over half-a-crore names still marked "under adjudication". In a system rollout, time is always a design parameter, not a backdrop. Here, it was set by the electoral calendar rather than by the system's and the context's readiness.

None of this is unique to elections. Validating 'business' rules against real data, testing name matching in different languages, freezing a system during live operations, issuing written SoPs (Standard Operating Procedures) prior to user training and keeping digital forms aligned with statutory ones are the ordinary, time-tested disciplines of digitizing a manual process. Lawrence Lessig's warning over two decades ago, that "code is law" has rarely been more literal. With the SIR, rules written into software decided what statute did not.

In any such transformation, many of these failures could have been envisaged. Whether they were anticipated and set aside or not anticipated at all is an open question. Neither answer can ever reassure the citizens whose voting rights are on the line.

(Priya Seetharaman is Professor, Management Information Systems Group, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. Views are personal)

American Punjabi Society Honors Padma Bhushan Sant Singh Chatwal with Punjabi Ratan Award 2026

Harry Singh Bolla presents medal; Ed Cox presents trophy; Gary and Babli Sikka present commemorative plaque



Harry Singh Bolla presents the Punjabi Ratan Award medal to Sant Singh Chatwal



Babli Sikka presenting the Plaque to Sant Singh Chatwal

NOVEMBER 7, 2026
HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP)

An evening of appreciation, recognition and celebration brought together business leaders, physicians, philanthropists and members of the Indian-American community at Pearl Banquet Hall on Saturday, November 7, 2026. The gathering combined three occasions: a Mint and Pearl Appreciation Dinner thanking customers, business associates and friends; the American Punjabi Society (APS) presentation of its Punjabi Ratan Award 2026 to Padma Bhushan Sant Singh Chatwal; and a birthday celebration for Gary S. Sikka, owner of Mint and Pearl and Global President and CEO of APS.

Distinguished guests included Harry Singh Bolla, founder and CEO of Bolla Oil Corporation, APS Patron and inaugural recipient of the Punjabi Ratan Award in 2025; Ed Cox, Chairman of the New York Republican State Committee and an attorney with a longstanding record of public service; Dr. Krishan Kumar, President-Elect of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI); Kamal Dandona, Chairman of the Bollywood Group of Companies and founder of the Bollywood Awards; Dr. Pailla Malla Reddy, pharmaceutical entrepreneur and founder of Bactolac Pharmaceutical Inc. and ScieGen Pharmaceuticals; and Naveen C. Shah, President and CEO of Navika Capital Group, a hospitality and real estate entrepreneur.



Ed Cox presenting Trophy to Sant Singh Chatwal



Many Happy Returns of the day to Garry Sikka.

MINT AND PEARL THANK CUSTOMERS AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATES

Mohinder S. Taneja, Senior Vice President of APS, introduced Rubal Sikka, Managing Director of Mint Restaurant and Pearl Banquet Hall and CEO of Storytellers Entertainment Company. Rubal opened the evening with Diwali greetings on behalf of Mint and Pearl, explaining that the Appreciation Dinner was an opportunity to thank customers, business associates and friends for their continued loyalty and support-whether through celebrating family milestones at the venues, recommending them to others or returning to enjoy a meal.

Rubal also offered a personal tribute to his father, Gary S. Sikka, describing him as "a great teacher, and a loving father." He spoke warmly about learning the business from his father and thanked him for his guidance. He closed by wishing everyone light, health and happiness for Diwali.

GARY S. SIKKA REFLECTS ON THE PUNJABI RATAN AWARD

Gary S. Sikka welcomed the gathering and spoke about the purpose of the Punjabi Ratan Award: recognizing outstanding individuals of Punjabi heritage whose achievements, leadership, philanthropy and service inspire the wider community. He praised Sant Singh Chatwal's international hospitality career and contributions to India-United States relations, and recognized Harry Singh Bolla as the award's first recipient in 2025. Sikka thanked the selection board, directors, organizers, volunteers and supporters who helped bring the ceremony together, while reaffirming APS's commitment to cultural heritage and community service.



Sant Singh and wife Daman Chatwal with Community leaders

GENERAL SECRETARY VPS SIKKA REVIEWS APS PROGRAMS

VPS Sikka, General Secretary of APS, reviewed the organization's activities in 2025 and 2026. He recalled the 2025 gala featuring Punjabi actress Neeru Bajwa and singer Puja, as well as the APS Women's Council's winter coat drive for children in need and an initiative to fulfill children's wishes.

He highlighted a health-awareness lecture by Dr. Tarun Wasil; a consular assistance camp conducted with the Consulate General of India in New York, which served hundreds of visitors and addressed more than 200 inquiries; the annual picnic and a beach cleanup involving women and children; and the October 11 Cancer Awareness Walk at Eisenhower Park. Despite rainy weather, the walk drew approximately 450 participants and was supported by nearly 70 volunteers. He credited the Society's directors, Women's Council, volunteers and supporters for the work.

NAVNEET SIKKA SONDHI INTRODUCES THE HONOREE

Navneet Sikka Sondhi, APS Director and Master of Ceremonies, introduced the Punjabi Ratan Award and its 2026 honoree. She described Sant Singh Chatwal as an Indian-American entrepreneur of Punjabi Sikh heritage whose achievements in hospitality, philanthropic involvement and contributions to India-U.S. understanding made him a fitting recipient.

She noted that Chatwal founded Dream Hotel Group and helped develop brands including Dream Hotels, The Chatwal and Unscripted Hotels. Hyatt's acquisition of the group's hotel brands and management platform in 2023 marked a milestone in the enterprise he built. She also described his role as a founding trustee of the American India Foundation, his support for humanitarian causes, and his efforts to strengthen India-U.S. relations, including support for the civil nuclear agreement.

Navneet recalled his recognition with the Order of the Khalsa in 1999, the Rajiv Gandhi Award in 2005 and the Padma Bhushan in 2010. She said his journey illustrated how initiative, ambition and service can inspire younger generations. A specially prepared five-minute video presentation then highlighted Chatwal's life, career, philanthropy and achievements.

HARRY SINGH BOLLA DISCUSSES BANDI CHHOR DIWAS AND HIS MENTOR

Harry Singh Bolla spoke about the significance of Bandi Chhor Diwas, which commemorates the release of the sixth Sikh Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, from imprisonment, together with 52 princes. He reflected on its message of

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NYPD Celebrates Diwali Heritage & Cultural Celebration at One Police Plaza; Srujal Parikh Honored for Exceptional Service



NYPD representatives lighting the diya- an Indian traditional ceremony to start a celebration

NEW YORK, NY (TIP)

The New York City Police Department (NYPD), together with the NYPD Indian Officers' Society, NYPD Desi Society, Hindu Officers' Society, and Bangladeshi American Police Association, proudly celebrated Diwali at the 3rd Annual Diwali Heritage & Cultural Celebration at One Police Plaza.

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. These values closely reflect the mission of the NYPD, whose members answer the call whenever New Yorkers are in need, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities across the city.

The celebration brought together law enforcement professionals, community leaders, families, and distinguished guests to honor the rich cultural traditions of the South Asian community. The event featured the ceremonial lighting of traditional diyas, vibrant cultural performances, and a recognition of individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to public service and community engagement.



Certified IT Administrator Srujal Parikh receives an Award for Exceptional Service during the NYPD Diwali Heritage & Cultural Celebration at One Police Plaza.

During the gathering, Police Commissioner Jessica S. Tisch welcomed attendees and emphasized the importance of cultural understanding, inclusion, and community partnerships within New York City.

In a special moment of recognition, Certified IT Administrator Srujal Parikh was presented with an award for Exceptional Service to New York City, reminds us of the power of unity, service, and hope, values that continue to guide both the NYPD and New Yorkers from all backgrounds."

The evening was illuminated by hundreds of festive lights and diyas, creating a welcoming atmosphere that highlighted the spirit of Diwali. Guests also enjoyed inspiring performances that showcased the cultural heritage,



Members of the NYPD and community leaders gather to celebrate Diwali, highlighting unity, diversity, and community partnership.



Honorees, guests, and NYPD representatives pose on stage during the 3rd Annual Diwali Heritage & Cultural Celebration featuring traditional diya lighting and cultural festivities.

acknowledging dedication, professionalism, and contributions that have positively impacted the community.

"Diwali is a time to celebrate our traditions, strengthen our relationships, and come together as a community," said event organizers. "The Festival of Lights diversity, and talent of New York City's vibrant South Asian communities.

As the celebration concluded, attendees shared wishes for health, happiness, peace, and prosperity for all New Yorkers during the Diwali season and throughout the year.



TRUMP WEIGHS MILITARY CAMPAIGN TO FREE CUBA BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

President Donald Trump said in a radio interview on Nov. 12 that he aims to free Cuba from communist rule before his term ends in January 2029 and would consider a military campaign if necessary.

"I want to get Cuba done before I leave," Trump told radio and talk show host Hugh Hewitt on the Salem News Channel.

"We're watching it very closely. It's doing very poorly. It's essentially a failed, you know, place, nation, whatever you want to call it. It's failed, and we're watching it," Trump said.

Asked whether he'd be OK with using a little military force, perhaps a week-long campaign, on Cuba, Trump said, "I would certainly consider that, yes."

He also praised his secretary of state, Marco Rubio, calling him a "talented guy."

"His parents are from Cuba, as you probably know, and he would love to do that," Trump said.

Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Trump has brought back the "maximum pressure" campaign against Cuba, leading to a breakdown in formal relations between the two countries.

Following a U.S. military operation in Venezuela that resulted in the capture and removal of regime leader Nicolás Maduro on Jan. 3, Washington restricted oil shipments to Cuba. By cutting off subsidized Venezuelan oil, the Trump administration removed Cuba's most critical economic lifeline. As a result, Cuba has entered a severe economic and energy crisis.

In recent months, Trump has intensified the U.S. pressure campaign by expanding sanctions on state-owned businesses, government agencies, and senior officials.

One of the most significant escalations since the Cold War occurred on May 20, when Raúl Castro was indicted on murder charges in the United States.

On Nov. 5, the Trump administration announced new sanctions targeting eight entities and two individuals connected to the Cuban regime's foreign military support and illegal revenue networks.

The U.S. State Department said that the sanctions aim to end the regime's malign activities in Cuba and the Western Hemisphere. The measures target entities and individuals linked to Cuba's shipping networks, China-based suppliers for Cuba's military, state-owned import and technical support organizations, and Cuban elites.

"The United States will not tolerate subversive communist networks in our hemisphere," Rubio said in an X post on Nov. 5.

"The Marxist Cuban regime relies on a web of state-owned enterprises, joint ventures, and offshore intermediaries to keep its systems running, and its foreign backers supply the military equipment that helps sustain the regime's military forces and enables persistent threats to the American homeland."

The State Department designated two China-based companies, China National Electronic Import and Export Co. and Beijing H&C Technologies, for allegedly exporting military equipment to the Cuban regime in 2026.

In its latest sanctions announcement, the State Department referenced its July 20 report, "Cuba: The Capital of 21st Century Communism," which states that China and Russia have supplied the Cuban regime with military hardware, surveillance technology, and other security capabilities.

During a midterm campaign rally on Oct. 23, Trump said the United States would "take care of Cuba" after the Iran conflict was finished and hinted at the possibility of U.S. military intervention.



'I want to get Cuba done before I leave,' Trump said during a radio interview.

On Oct. 28, the U.N. General Assembly voted in favor of a resolution calling for the United States to end its 64-year economic embargo on Cuba. The vote was the 34th time the U.N. has condemned the embargo.

(With input from agencies)

401(k) limit increases to $25,500 for 2027, IRA limit remains $7,500

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The Internal Revenue Service announced on Thursday, November 12, that the amount individuals can contribute to their 401(k) plans in 2027 has increased to $25,500, up from $24,500 for 2026.

The IRS today also issued technical guidance regarding all cost?of?living adjustments affecting dollar limitations for pension plans and other retirement-related items for tax year 2027 in Notice 2026-66, posted today on IRS.gov.

"Along with the Working Families Tax Cuts, this increase in the pension limitations will help American families keep more of their hard-earned income," said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. "With the new adjustment in place now, the IRS is giving taxpayers and employers the information needed to make retirement planning decisions for the year ahead."

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES FOR 2027

The annual contribution limit for employees who participate in 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to $25,500, up from $24,500 for 2026.

The limit on annual contributions to an Individual Retirement Account remains $7,500. The IRA catch?up contribution limit for individuals aged 50 and over, which was amended under the SECURE 2.0 Act of 2022 (SECURE 2.0) to include an annual cost?of?living adjustment, remains $1,100.

The catch-up contribution limit that generally applies for employees aged 50 and over who participate in most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans, and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan is increased to $8,500, up from $8,000 for 2026. Therefore, participants in most 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457 plans and the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan who are 50 and older generally can contribute up to $34,000 each year, starting in 2027. Under a change made in SECURE 2.0, a higher catch-up contribution limit applies for employees aged 60, 61, 62 and 63 who participate in these plans. For 2027, this higher catch-up contribution limit is $11,750 instead of the $8,500 noted above.

The income ranges for determining eligibility to make deductible contributions to traditional IRAs, to contribute to Roth IRAs and to claim the Saver's Credit all increased for 2027.

Taxpayers can deduct contributions to a traditional IRA if they meet certain conditions. If, during the year, either the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse was covered by a retirement plan at work, the deduction may be reduced or phased out until it is eliminated, depending on filing status and income. If neither the taxpayer nor the spouse is covered by a retirement plan at work, the phase-outs of the deduction do not apply. The phase out ranges for 2027 are:

For single taxpayers covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between $83,000 and $93,000, up from between $81,000 and $91,000 for 2026.

For married couples filing jointly, if the spouse making the IRA contribution is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is increased to between $133,000 and $153,000, up from between $129,000 and $149,000 for 2026.

For an IRA contributor who is not covered by a workplace retirement plan and is married to someone who is covered, the phase-out range is increased to between $250,000 and $260,000, up from between $242,000 and $252,000 for 2026.

For a married individual filing a separate return who is covered by a workplace retirement plan, the phase-out range is not subject to an annual cost-of-living adjustment and remains between $0 and $10,000.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

IRS SHARES AGENCY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

NOVEMBER 12, 2026
WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP)

The Internal Revenue Service, on Thursday, November 12, announced the publication of its Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2026, detailing the IRS's sound financial position and its commitment to accountability and transparency to the American people.

For the 27th consecutive year, the IRS received unmodified audit opinions on its financial statements and its internal control over financial reporting from the Government Accountability Office. This distinction underscores the IRS's dedication to presenting its financial data fairly and accurately in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

"Strong financial management is central to public trust," said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. "The IRS carries out one of the most important financial responsibilities in government, collecting the revenue that funds the nation while delivering refunds and other services to taxpayers. This report reflects our continued commitment to accountability, transparency and responsible stewardship of public resources."

This year's report continues a tradition of excellence in financial reporting. Earlier this year, the IRS was honored with its fourth consecutive Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting (CEAR), the most prestigious recognition of its kind in federal government, which is issued by the AGA, an association of government accountants.

The IRS also won a Best-in-Class CEAR award for the "Outstanding Discussion of the Entity's Enterprise Risk Management Program," receiving the following praise from the AGA: "This agency's discussion of its top enterprise risks over the next year was insightful and compelling. These risks were effectively integrated into the Management's Discussion and Analysis, identifying the top risks, their potential impact, and actionable mitigation strategies. This level of candor is commendable."

The full report is available in Publication 5456, Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2026. Prior year reports are available on IRS Financial Reports.

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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20TH YEAR

U.S. lawmakers summon Nvidia former CEO after affair with suspected spy



Nvidia's former CEO Jensen Huang.
File | Photo Credit: Reuters

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

U.S. lawmakers have called Jensen Huang, an architect of the artificial intelligence boom, to face their questions in December after the Nvidia ex-CEO quit over extramarital affairs, including one with a suspected Chinese spy.

The scandal has wiped almost half a trillion dollars off Nvidia's market valuation, as it raises national security fears and leaves the AI industry in uncharted waters.

"Recent reports raise serious concerns about our national security and the protection of sensitive US technology," Republican Senator Tim Scott wrote on Thursday (November 12, 2026) on X.

Mr. Scott said he was requesting Huang and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to testify in December before the Senate Banking Committee, which he chairs.

It joins a call for a closed-door interview with the leather-jacketed, 63-year-old Huang on December 1 by three House of Representatives committees, on threat of subpoena.

Huang, who has been married to his wife Lori for over 40 years, admitted Sunday, November 8, to an affair, reportedly with Alice Huang, a former senior executive at Singapore-based data center company Megaspeed. The two are not related.

U.S. intelligence reportedly circulated a memo this spring alleging she was an asset of China's Ministry of State Security. Beijing has rejected the allegations.

On Wednesday, November 11, The New York Times reported a second affair, citing video of Huang being affectionate with Nvidia's vice president of health care, Kimberly Powell.

While Nvidia's board searches for a permanent successor to Huang, who spent 33 years at the helm of the firm he co-founded, chief Financial Officer Colette Kress will serve as interim CEO.

Nvidia hit gold when the launch of OpenAI's ChatGPT in 2022 sparked a global rush to develop AI, with its processors - once designed for video game graphics - becoming a crucial ingredient to train and run the technology.

Nvidia did not give a reason for the departure of Huang, who also gave up his board seat.

Huang is Nvidia's largest individual shareholder, with a stake of about 3.6 percent, according to the company.

The Taiwanese-born businessman was a close informal adviser to President Donald Trump on AI, and had spent years lobbying against curbs on sales of advanced AI chips to China for national security reasons.

Dan Ives of investment bank Yorkville Ives called it "a dark day for Nvidia and the US tech industry".

But he said the board had done what it needed: "rip off the band-aid and take Nvidia into its next chapter without him."

The board named Harvey Jones, a former chief executive of chip design software firm Synopsys, as chair, and said it expected the company's operations and product roadmap "to continue without interruption."

Interim CEO Kress joined Nvidia in 2013 after nearly 25 years at companies including Cisco and Microsoft.

Mr. Trump, who had stood by Huang throughout the scandal, said former Apple boss Tim Cook should take over.

"A Legend replaces a Legend!" Trump said on his Truth Social network, adding that Cook had made Apple "one of the great companies of the world at a fairly short range".

'Going through hell'

Singapore said on Thursday, November 12, 2026, it had barred Alice Huang, a Chinese national, from re-entering the country in February for giving investigators inaccurate information about her role at Megaspeed, though she was not investigated for espionage.

Nvidia's board opened a probe on Sunday into reporting that Mr. Huang had been the target of a "foreign intelligence effort," while saying it retained confidence in him.

When asked on Thursday, November 12, 2026, if Mr. Jensen should have stepped down, Mr. Trump said it would depend.

"If the woman was a spy, yes. If the woman was not a spy, perhaps it would be different," Trump said in an interview.

But Trump said he was confident that Huang will "end up on his feet," adding: "I spoke to him yesterday. He's going through hell. What he feels most badly about is his wife and family."

At the heart of the spy allegations is the race between the United States and China for supremacy in an industry widely seen as the next industrial revolution.

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news



CONTD FROM PAGE 11

American Punjabi Society...

freedom, justice and compassion. Turning to the honoree, Bolla praised Sant Singh Chatwal's accomplishments and described Chatwal as his mentor, adding a personal note to the tribute.

EIGHT-MEMBER SELECTION BOARD JOINS AWARD PRESENTATION

All eight members of the Punjabi Ratan Award Selection Board remained on stage throughout the award ceremony: Chairman Gary S. Sikka and Board Members Mohinder S. Taneja, VPS Sikka, Paul S. Bindra, Ravinder P. S. Narang, Jaspal S. Arora, Pradeep Tandon and Navneet Sikka Sondhi.

The presentation took place in three parts. Harry Singh Bolla, the inaugural award recipient, presented the Punjabi Ratan medal to Sant Singh Chatwal. Ed Cox presented the award trophy. Gary S. Sikka and Babli Sikka jointly presented a commemorative plaque. The assembled selection board joined in recognizing Chatwal's professional accomplishments, philanthropy and community contributions.

SANT SINGH CHATWAL THANKS APS AND PRAISES ITS LEADERSHIP

Accepting the honor, Sant Singh Chatwal expressed gratitude to the American Punjabi Society and its leadership, directors and selection board. He particularly praised APS's work under Gary S. Sikka, noting the meaningful initiatives the organization had undertaken for the community. His remarks recognized the Society's charitable activities, cultural programs and efforts to bring people together.

GARY S. SIKKA'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The gathering also celebrated Gary S. Sikka's birthday, with family, friends, business associates and community members extending their good wishes. The birthday observance added a personal dimension to an evening already dedicated to appreciation and public recognition.

PAUL S. BINDRA OFFERS VOTE OF THANKS

Paul S. Bindra Vice President APS and a member of the award selection board delivered the vote of thanks. He expressed appreciation to Sant Singh Chatwal, Harry Singh Bolla, Ed Cox, the dignitaries, speakers, presenters, selection board, APS leadership, volunteers, organizers and guests. He also thanked Gary S. Sikka for his leadership and everyone whose efforts contributed to the evening's success.

A CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT, RELATIONSHIPS AND SERVICE

The November 7 event brought together the appreciation of Mint and Pearl's customers and business associates, APS's recognition of a distinguished Punjabi-American achiever, and the birthday celebration of Gary S. Sikka. The combination of personal tributes, the five-minute video, the ceremonial presentations and fellowship made the evening memorable for those in attendance.

ABOUT THE AMERICAN PUNJABI SOCIETY

The American Punjabi Society is a nonpolitical and nonreligious community organization devoted to Punjabi heritage, cultural understanding, charitable initiatives, health awareness and community service. Its programs seek to strengthen relationships and promote goodwill across communities.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Pradeep Tandon, Director, Media & Public Relations, American Punjabi Society)

सत्यमेव जयते

Consulate General of India
New York

19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2027

YOUTH PBD 2027

Essay Writing Competition

Share your ideas. Reconnect with Bharat.

THEME | *From Roots to Return: Reigniting Diaspora Connect with Bharat*

Who can apply?
Indian diaspora youth aged 21–25 years in the jurisdiction of CGI New York.

Essay format
- 800–1,000 words
- Original entries only

Selection
The five best essays will be nominated for consideration among 100 youth diaspora participants worldwide for PBD 2027.

Kolkata, India | 7–9 January 2027

Last date for submission | 20 November 2026

Submit your essay with your **Name, Age, Contact details, State of residence in US, Passport details** and brief profile.

Email for Submission
madad.newyork@mea.gov.in

Let your words build bridges.

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20TH YEAR

Diwali Celebrations at the Centre for Indian Studies, Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE), Promote Indian Culture and Strengthen India-Romania People-to-People Ties





In the presence of Rector and Vice Rector and His Excellency the Ambassador of India to Romania, speaking on the occasion of the jointly inauguration of the India Centre at Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE)

NOVEMBER 11, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Embassy of India, Bucharest, organised a vibrant celebration of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, on 9 November 2026, at the Centre for Indian Studies of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (Academia de Studii Economice - ASE), Bucharest. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of Romanian students and provided a platform for showcasing India's rich cultural heritage, traditional craftsmanship, fashion, jewellery and performing arts.



Henna display during the exhibition

The celebration was organised as part of the Embassy's ongoing public outreach initiatives aimed at promoting Indian festivals, cultural traditions and India's diverse cultural heritage among the people of Romania, particularly the younger generation. Through such initiatives, the Embassy seeks to enhance awareness and appreciation of India's rich civilisational heritage while fostering closer cultural connections, academic engagement and people-to-people exchanges between India and Romania.

The event assumed special significance in the context of the growing institutional partnership between the Embassy of India and the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. Recently, the India Centre at ASE was jointly inaugurated by Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra and the Rector of the University on 4th November 2026 at ASE, marking an important milestone in strengthening academic, educational and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Centre serves as a platform for promoting greater awareness and understanding of India's history, culture, economy, traditions and contemporary developments, while facilitating academic interactions and cultural exchanges.

The partnership between India and ASE was further strengthened when the University conferred an Honorary Doctorate upon the Hon'ble President of India during her visit to Romania in July 2026. This recognition reflected the University's appreciation of India's contributions and underscored the importance of educational and institutional cooperation in further deepening India-Romania relations. The organisation of Diwali celebrations at the Centre for Indian Studies represents another meaningful step in this growing partnership.

A major highlight of the celebration was a special exhibition showcasing products under India's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. The exhibition featured a variety of Indian products representing the distinctive craftsmanship, traditional skills and regional specialities of different parts of India. The ODOP initiative seeks to promote unique products associated with individual districts, preserve traditional skills, support local artisans and enhance the visibility of India's diverse regional products in domestic and international markets.



Addressing the gathering by Mrs. Iulia Rascanu, Director, Centre for Indian Studies of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies during the Diwali Exhibition

The exhibition offered Romanian students an opportunity to explore India's rich artisanal traditions and understand how locally produced goods reflect the cultural identity, creativity and heritage of their respective regions. It also highlighted the potential of Indian traditional products and handicrafts to reach wider international audiences.

The exhibition additionally featured displays of Indian fashion, traditional attire, textiles and jewellery, providing visitors with a glimpse into India's vibrant fashion heritage, intricate designs and artistic craftsmanship. These displays reflected the diversity of Indian clothing and accessories, showcasing the harmonious blend of traditional artistry and contemporary design. The initiative also provided an opportunity to introduce Indian fashion, handicrafts and creative industries to Romanian students and other visitors, thereby promoting greater awareness of Indian products and cultural expressions.

The celebrations were further enriched by colourful and captivating Indian dance performances presented by talented artists. The performances showcased the vibrancy, grace and diversity of India's performing arts and added a festive atmosphere to the occasion. The artists received enthusiastic appreciation from the audience for their engaging presentations, which offered Romanian students an opportunity to experience India's artistic traditions. The performances also demonstrated the important role of music and dance in connecting people across cultures and promoting mutual understanding.



Indian and Romanian Dance Performers



ODOP items displayed at the Diwali Exhibition for promotion of Indian Culture





Indian Costumes were also displayed at the Diwali Exhibition



Gathering of Romanian Students enjoyed the Diwali Exhibition and the Dance Performances



Indian Dance performed during the Diwali Exhibition by the Indian and Romanian performers

CONTD ON PAGE 17

Embassy of India Organizes Hybrid Business Event to Promote Bharat Metal Exhibition and Strengthen India-Romania Cooperation in the Metals Sector



Representatives of the Romanian mining, extractive and metals industries joined the event in Embassy



Indian companies joined virtually and showcased their products

NOVEMBER 9, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Embassy of India in Bucharest organized a Hybrid Business Event on 6 November 2026 to promote the upcoming Bharat Metal Exhibition (scheduled to be held at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi between August 11-13, 2027) and explore new avenues for enhancing bilateral trade, investment and industrial cooperation between India and Romania in the ferrous and non-ferrous metals sectors.

The event brought together representatives of the Romanian mining, extractive and metals industries, Indian business representatives and other stakeholders to discuss emerging business opportunities, facilitate industry-to-industry linkages and explore the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships between companies from the two countries.

In his remarks, Mr. R?zvan Rotaru, Director General of PATROMIN, an employers' association representing companies in Romania's mining and extractive industries, highlighted the importance of the mining and extractive sector in Romania's industrial ecosystem. He also shared perspectives on the sector's potential and the scope for developing stronger commercial and industrial partnerships with Indian companies.

Mr. Priyank Jain, CEO of Tulip 3P Media Pvt. Ltd., accompanied by Mr. Gaurav Chawla, Project Head for Bharat Metal Expo, made a detailed presentation on the forthcoming Bharat Metal Exhibition. The presentation highlighted the exhibition's objectives, its importance as a platform for the metals and mining industry, and the opportunities it offers for international companies to explore business partnerships, identify suppliers and buyers, exchange industry knowledge and establish new commercial connections with Indian enterprises.



Participants at Hybrid Business Event to Promote Bharat Metal Exhibition and Strengthen India-Romania Cooperation in the Metals Sector

Mr. Amit Arora of Precious Metal Industries also made a presentation highlighting opportunities in the Indian metals industry and the potential for expanding business engagement with Romanian counterparts.

The discussions covered the broader possibilities of cooperation in the ferrous and non-ferrous metals value chains, including opportunities for business partnerships, sourcing, industrial collaboration and greater engagement between companies and industry associations. The interaction also provided Romanian participants with an opportunity to understand the capabilities of Indian companies and explore avenues for participating in India's expanding industrial and manufacturing ecosystem.

The presentations were followed by an interactive question-and-answer session, during which participants exchanged views on business prospects, industry requirements and potential areas of collaboration. The event provided a useful platform for establishing direct contacts between Indian and Romanian stakeholders and generating interest in further commercial engagement.

India has a well-established and expanding metals and manufacturing ecosystem, offering opportunities for international partnerships across various segments of the metals value chain. Romania, with its industrial base and established mining and extractive sector, offers considerable potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. Enhanced engagement between businesses from the two countries can contribute to diversification of supply chains, technology exchange, industrial partnerships and increased bilateral trade.



Remarks by Mr. Razvan Rotaru, Director General, PATROMIN(an employer's association representing companies in Romania's mining and extractive industry)

The Embassy of India continues to actively engage with Romanian business associations, chambers of commerce and industry stakeholders to promote India's trade and investment opportunities. Through such business outreach initiatives, the Embassy aims to facilitate direct interaction between Indian and Romanian companies, encourage participation in trade exhibitions and strengthen the overall framework of India-Romania economic and commercial cooperation.

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

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celebrated festivals, symbolises the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Traditionally celebrated through the lighting of diyas, festive decorations, prayers, family gatherings and the exchange of greetings, Diwali conveys universal messages of peace, hope, prosperity, harmony and togetherness. The celebration at ASE provided Romanian students with an opportunity to learn about the cultural and spiritual significance of the festival and experience the warmth and inclusiveness associated with Indian traditions.

The enthusiastic participation of Romanian students added a meaningful dimension to the celebrations and reflected their interest in India's culture, traditions and contemporary achievements. By organising Indian festivals and cultural activities in collaboration with Romanian educational institutions, the Embassy seeks to extend its cultural outreach beyond conventional platforms and engage directly with students, academicians and local communities.

The Embassy of India, Bucharest, attaches considerable importance to cultural diplomacy, educational cooperation and public outreach as essential components of the longstanding friendship between India and Romania. Its continued engagement with Romanian universities, cultural institutions and local communities through festivals, exhibitions, academic interactions and cultural programmes aims to promote India's rich heritage, traditional knowledge, handicrafts, performing arts and contemporary creative expressions.

The establishment of the India Centre at ASE, the recognition accorded to the Hon'ble President of India by the University, and the successful organisation of Diwali celebrations collectively reflect the growing cultural and academic engagement between India and Romania. Such initiatives provide valuable opportunities to strengthen mutual understanding, encourage educational exchanges and build lasting connections between the younger generations of the two countries.

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Delhi overtakes Lahore as world's most polluted city as air quality drops

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Delhi overtook Lahore in Pakistan to become the world's most polluted city on Friday, with air quality reaching hazardous levels and visibility dropping as smog blanketed the city of 20 million people.

Air quality index (AQI) in Delhi was "hazardous" at 334, making it the most polluted global major city, according to Swiss group IQAir, which measures air quality levels based on the concentration of toxins.

An AQI reading up to 50 is considered good with little or no health risk. India's official Central Pollution Control Board pegged the AQI higher at 403 and rated it "severe". The Swiss and Indian readings vary due to the different AQI scales and methodologies used to calculate and classify air pollution levels.

Cars and motorcycles emerged from dense smog, which also appeared to obscure street lights on the city's main roads, videos from news agency ANI showed. Pollution is a seasonal problem in many parts of northern India and neighbouring Pakistan, as the cold, heavy air of winter traps vehicle emissions, construction dust and smoke from stubble burning.

JPC likely to submit FCRA Bill report during Winter Session

NEW DELHI (TIP): The joint parliamentary committee (JPC) examining the contentious Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 may submit its report during the winter session of Parliament, enabling the government to push for its passage in the session, sources said.

The bill was referred to the JPC on August 12 during the monsoon session after pushback from the Opposition, which alleged that the proposed legislation targets minorities and NGOs and demanded its withdrawal. Sources said the government may bring certain amendments to the bill, maintaining that the proposed legislation is not religion-specific and is aimed at regulating foreign contributions.

The 31-member panel, headed by BJP MP Sanjay Jaiswal, was expected to submit its report to the Lok Sabha by the last day of the first week of the winter session. Opposition members have alleged that consultations are being rushed ahead of the deadline.

Introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 25, the FCRA Bill proposes tighter oversight of NGOs and foreign contributions. The government had put it on hold following resistance from stakeholders.

Modi will not remain PM after one-on-one debate with me: Rahul

NOVEMBER 13, 2026



NEW DELHI (TIP): Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday, Nov 13, repeated his debate dare to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and claimed that Modi will not remain in office after a one-on-one exchange with him.

Responding to a question during an 'Ask Me' session on Instagram about why he was insisting on a public debate when the BJP has said that the exchange can take place in Parliament, Gandhi said he was not allowed to speak in the House, and his microphone was even switched off.

"You did not let me talk on the farm bills, vote chori, SIR, China, on (Gen) Naravane's book, Epstein. I want a one-on-one debate. I don't want a debate entailing long speeches," the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

"I want that Narendra Modi makes allegations against me and I do the same to him. He can come; there will be a table, on one side there will be Narendra Modi ji and on the other side, it would be me," Gandhi said.

He added that he had no objection if Adani Group chairperson Gautam Adani or RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was appointed as the judge for the debate.

"But I guarantee that the prime minister will not remain the PM after a one-on-one debate with me," Gandhi said.

Gandhi has repeatedly challenged Modi to an open debate and earlier claimed that it would take him just five minutes to establish that the prime minister was a "traitor".

The BJP leaders have scoffed at Gandhi's challenge, alleging that he has been running away from debates in Parliament.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that while Gandhi is asking the prime minister to choose the venue for a debate, there already exists one in Parliament and called on him to show "some seriousness and responsibility" as the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

BJP questions Rahul Gandhi's US visit

The BJP on Nov 11 took a swipe at Rahul Gandhi over his visit to the US next week, asking the Congress leader to disclose whether he was travelling abroad to interact with students or "anti-India forces". This came after Indian Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda said Gandhi would hold fireside chats at Columbia and Chicago universities on global student movements and geopolitics, respectively, during his visit to the US.

Asked about Gandhi's visit, BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "Look, this is no longer a new thing. He should go and tell if he is interacting with the students or interacting with anti-India forces." The BJP Rajya Sabha MP said Gandhi had never spent even 15 days in any poll-bound state campaigning for his party. The BJP has often accused Gandhi of travelling abroad to meet anti-India forces and defaming the country during his public interactions there. The party has also alleged that instead of campaigning on the ground during elections, Gandhi chooses to travel abroad and makes "baseless" allegations of "vote chori" when his party loses elections.

"Excluding the Covid period, there has never been a stretch of even 25 consecutive weeks during which he (Rahul Gandhi)did not travel abroad," Trivedi said while responding to reporters' queries at the BJP headquarters.

"I have a question for the person who has been raising the 'vote chori' slogan. Our national president Nitin Nabin recently visited Uttar Pradesh. Amit Shah spent several days in Punjab. But Rahul Gandhi, after a trip to Vietnam, is now heading to America," Trivedi added.

In an interview with PTI from Chicago, Pitroda said the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha was visiting the US primarily for two engagements that had been planned some time ago. "One is a fireside chat at Columbia University (on 17th) mainly on the global rise of the student movement, what it means, how it is seen in India, the impact on democracy, their demands on education, employment, economy and environment," Pitroda said. "And the second one on the 18th November is at University of Chicago with a very distinguished professor, Dr (Robert) Pape, who is very well known in the geopolitics area. He has a very unique view on the Middle East, the Iran war and all that. So the second conversation would be more on geopolitics and global affairs," the Indian Overseas Congress chief said.

Delhi may extend SIR deadline by 2 weeks, giving 47.6 lakh excluded voters another chance

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): With nearly 47.6 lakh voters missing from Delhi's draft electoral rolls, the Election Commission is considering extending the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise by around two weeks to give them another opportunity to establish their eligibility and get their names included in the final list.

Officials said the existing schedule was likely to be extended to facilitate the re-verification of voters categorised as absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) during the enumeration exercise. The revised timeline, however, is yet to be approved and will be discussed at the next meeting.

The move follows an announcement by the Delhi Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office last week that voters placed in the ASDD category would be given another opportunity to submit their enumeration forms. These voters had failed to submit the forms during the house-to-house enumeration conducted between June 30 and August 17, resulting in their exclusion from the draft rolls published on August 31.

Under the proposed arrangement, nearly 15,000 Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are expected to visit the registered addresses of these voters and distribute fresh enumeration forms. The voters will have to submit the forms along with prescribed declarations and supporting documents to establish their eligibility. "The issue will be taken up for discussion in the next meeting and finalised," an official said, indicating that the extension could be around two weeks to complete the re-verification exercise.

Officials clarified that voters who have already applied for fresh enrolment through Form 6 during the SIR exercise would not need to submit enumeration forms again. Their applications would be processed by the respective Electoral Registration Officers (EROs). Those submitting fresh enumeration forms would also not be required to file a separate application for inclusion in the final rolls.

Govt extends ban on Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation as unlawful association by 5 years



NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Centre has extended the ban on controversial preacher Zakir Naik's Islamic Research Foundation (IRF) as an unlawful association for another five years.

This is the third extension of the ban, which was first imposed in 2016 for five years and subsequently extended in 2021.

A notification issued on Friday by the Union Home Ministry states that the ban has been extended for another five years from November 13.

The government said the IRF and its members, particularly the founder and president, Dr Zakir Abdul Karim Naik, alias Dr Zakir Naik, has been encouraging and aiding its followers to promote or attempt to promote, on grounds of religion, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious communities and groups, thereby posing a threat to the integrity and security of the country.

The notification alleged that Naik has been spreading enmity among communities through objectionable and subversive statements and speeches. It further accused him of allegedly promoting hatred among religious groups and inspiring youths of a particular religion in India and abroad to commit terrorist acts.

It also stated that Naik had made radical statements and speeches to millions of people worldwide through international satellite TV network, internet, print and social media.

The Centre said that unless the IRF's alleged unlawful activities were curbed immediately, the organisation could use the opportunity to continue its subversive activities and reorganise its activists who were still absconding.

The notification further warned that the organisation may disrupt the country's secular fabric by creating communal disharmony, propagating anti-national sentiments, escalating secessionism through support for militancy, and undertaking activities prejudicial to the sovereignty, integrity and security of the country.

These reasons, the notification said, warranted extending the ban on the IRF as an unlawful association for another five years with immediate effect.

PM Modi takes dig at Opposition over 'Constitution in pocket' remark, recalls Gujarat ranking row

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took an apparent swipe at Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, accusing some people of treating the Constitution and democracy as being "in their pocket" and displaying an "intoxication of power" despite being out of government.

Addressing the Kisan Tak Bharat Agriculture Conference, Modi did not name any leader or political party.

"These days, some people take out the Constitution from their pocket. They think the country's Constitution and democracy are in their pockets. Even while not being in government, they seem to be under a peculiar intoxication of power," he said. Recalling an incident from his tenure as Gujarat chief minister, Modi alleged that those in power at the Centre had attempted to undermine the state's reputation after it secured the top rank in a ranking of the best-performing states on the economy.

He said the institution that ranked Gujarat first was named after a former Prime Minister, adding that the assessment was based on research by reputed economists. "Those sitting in power in Delhi could not tolerate Gujarat's reputation and went after those who



conducted the research," he said. Taking a further swipe at his political opponents, Modi said the same people who spoke about democracy and martyrdom had acted differently when in power. "This was a long time ago. You can find out through research what happened after that," he added.

Modi to attend ASEAN summit in Manila from November 16 to 17

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Philippines from November 16 to 17 to attend the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Manila, India's foreign ministry said. India is a strategic partner of the 11-member grouping consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Timor-Leste.

Kangana Ranaut faces police complaint over Sonia Gandhi remarks on her memoir; Congress hits out at BJP

A complaint has been filed with the Himachal Pradesh Police against Mandi MP Kangana Ranaut over her alleged derogatory and misleading remarks about former AICC president Sonia Gandhi on social media. In a complaint submitted to Director General of Police (DGP) Ashok Tewari, Capt Atul Sharma has sought registration of an FIR against Ranaut, alleging that her posts promote hatred, question constitutional loyalty and spread false information.

Ranaut had recently targeted Gandhi over her memoir, questioning how she could remain unaware of the circumstances surrounding the killings of members of the Gandhi family, which took place years after Sonia Gandhi joined the family. The remarks were made in the context of Ranaut's experience while researching and making her film Emergency.

Taking exception to the remarks, Sharma approached the DGP, seeking legal action against the BJP MP.

At 6.09%, retail inflation exceeds RBI's upper limit; rate hike likely

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): India's retail inflation rose to a two-year high of 6.09% in October, breaching the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6% and strengthening expectations of another rate hike in December. Headline inflation has risen every month since November 2025 and had crossed the RBI's actual target of 4% in June this year.

The latest reading, driven by both food and non-food prices, was largely in line with expectations. A Bloomberg poll of economists had predicted inflation at 6%.

India's benchmark inflation rate, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose 6.1% in October, according to data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO). The reading indicates that inflation is becoming broad-based, even as food remains its primary driver.

Monthly inflation increased in 11 of the 12 major categories of the CPI basket. The only exception was personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods, a category that nevertheless continued to record the highest inflation in the basket.

Food and beverages, which account for 37% of the CPI basket, recorded inflation of



8.51% in October, up from 7.36% in September. The number was 2.1% in January 2026, the earliest month for which comparable data is available. Disaggregated data for the food and beverages category showed that eight of the nine food categories and six of the seven beverage categories recorded higher inflation than in September. Among food categories, sugar, confectionery and desserts recorded the highest inflation at 13%.

Core inflation – the non-food, non-fuel component of the CPI basket, which is considered less susceptible to seasonal fluctuations – stood at 4.6%, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted the rising trend in core inflation in its October resolution and projected it at 4.4% for the full financial year. The MPC's latest projection for headline CPI inflation is 5.2% for the fiscal year, with quarterly projections of 6% and 5.7% for the quarters ending December 2026 and March 2027, respectively.

Transport inflation, which includes the fuel sub-category, has also risen consistently, reaching 5.8% in October. This was despite fuel inflation remaining unchanged at 7.6% since June, as the government has not revised petrol and diesel prices during this period.

While the latest inflation numbers are in line with analyst and RBI expectations, economists believe a rate hike in December is likely.

"CPI inflation is projected to peak in Q3 FY27 and average around 5.0% for the full year. On the monetary policy front, given rising inflation expectations, and broadening price pressures there is a likelihood of a 25-bps rate hike at the December policy meeting", Rajani Sinha, chief economist at CareEdge Ratings said in a note.

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India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 13 TO NOVEMBER 19

NOVEMBER 13

Birth of Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780)



November 13, 1780, marks the birth anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, one of the most powerful rulers in Indian history. Born in Gujranwala (now in Pakistan), he founded the Sikh Empire and unified several Sikh misls (confederacies) into a powerful kingdom.

He became Maharaja of Punjab in 1801 and established Lahore as his capital. His reign was known for administrative reforms, religious tolerance and military strength. He also strengthened the Sikh army by introducing modern military training and European techniques.

His legacy remains significant in Punjab's political and cultural history.

NOVEMBER 14

Birth of Jawaharlal Nehru (1889)



Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, was born on November 14, 1889, in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), Uttar Pradesh. A prominent leader of the Indian freedom movement, he worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi and played an important role in India's struggle for independence.

After independence in 1947, Nehru became the country's first Prime Minister. He emphasised scientific development, industrialisation, education and democratic institutions.

His birthday is celebrated as Children's Day (Bal Diwas) across India to honour his affection for children, who fondly called him Chacha Nehru.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT EVENT: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was inaugurated on November 14, 1955. It provides social security and medical benefits to eligible workers and their families.

NOVEMBER 15

Birth of Birsa Munda and Formation of Jharkhand (1875, 2000)

Birsa Munda was born on November 15, 1875, in Ulihatu, present-day Jharkhand. He was a prominent tribal freedom fighter and social reformer who led the Munda rebellion against British colonial rule and exploitation.

Popularly remembered as Bhagwan Birsa Munda, he inspired tribal communities to protect their land, culture and traditional rights. His movement, known as Ulgulan (The Great Tumult), became an important chapter in India's freedom struggle.

In recognition of his contribution, November 15 is celebrated as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day), an observance established in 2021.

Formation of Jharkhand: On November 15, 2000, Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar and became India's 28th state. Ranchi was designated its capital. The date was chosen to coincide with Birsa Munda's birth anniversary.

NOVEMBER 16

Birth of Pullela Gopichand



Pullela Gopichand, India's celebrated badminton player and coach, was born on November 16, 1973. He won the All England Open Badminton Championships in 2001 and later helped develop several internationally successful Indian badminton players.

According to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee's historical calendar, Guru Gobind Singh Ji reached Anandpur Sahib on November 16, 1688, after spending approximately three and a half years at Paonta Sahib.

NOVEMBER 17

Death Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai (1928)

November 17, 1928, marks the death anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, one of India's most prominent freedom fighters. Popularly known as Punjab Kesari (Lion of Punjab), he was born in 1865 in Dhudike village, Punjab.

He was an influential nationalist leader, social reformer and writer who played a significant role in India's independence movement. He was also one of the prominent members of the Lal-Bal-Pal trio, alongside Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.

In 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai led a peaceful protest against the Simon Commission in Lahore. During the demonstration, police officers carried out a lathi charge, and he sustained serious injuries. He died on November 17, 1928.

His famous declaration, "Every blow aimed at me is a nail in the coffin of British imperialism," became a symbol of resistance against colonial rule. His sacrifice inspired several young revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh and his associates.

NOVEMBER 18

Foundation of Jaipur (1727)

November 18, 1727, is traditionally associated with the foundation of Jaipur, Rajasthan, by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.

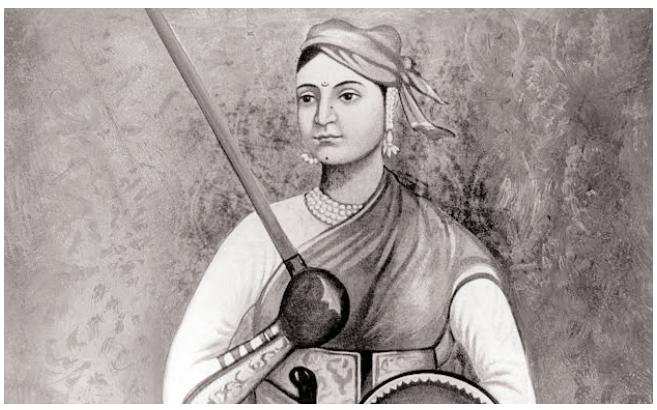
The city was designed by architect Vidyadhar Bhattacharya and developed according to principles of traditional Indian architecture and town planning. Jaipur was established as the new capital of the Kachwaha kingdom, replacing Amber.

Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City because of the distinctive pink colour used on many of its buildings. Today, it is an important tourist destination and a centre of Rajasthan's culture, heritage, handicrafts and architecture.

Birth of Batukeshwar Dutt (1910): November 18 also marks the birth anniversary of Batukeshwar Dutt, an Indian revolutionary who worked alongside Bhagat Singh. In 1929, the two revolutionaries threw non-lethal bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi to protest against repressive colonial laws. They deliberately surrendered and used their trial to communicate their revolutionary message. Dutt remained an important figure in India's freedom struggle.

NOVEMBER 19

Birth of Rani Lakshmibai (1828)



Rani Lakshmibai, the legendary queen of Jhansi, was born on November 19, 1828, in Varanasi. Her original name was Manikarnika Tambe, and she became one of the most recognised leaders of the Revolt of 1857 against British rule.

Following the British attempt to annex Jhansi under the Doctrine of Lapse, she emerged as a courageous leader who resisted colonial expansion.

She led her forces against the British during the uprising of 1857-58 and became a lasting symbol of bravery, patriotism and women's empowerment. She died fighting British forces in June 1858 near Gwalior.

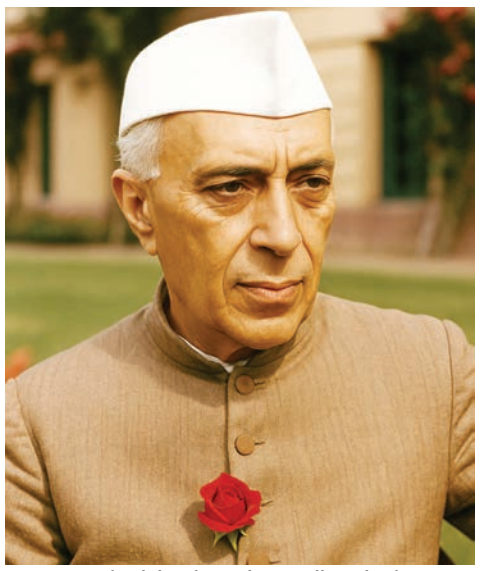
Her courage continues to inspire generations of Indians, and she remains one of the most celebrated women in Indian history.

Birth of Indira Gandhi (1917): November 19 also marks the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, India's first and, to date, only woman Prime Minister. Born in Allahabad, she served as Prime Minister from 1966 to 1977 and again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984. Her leadership played a significant role in shaping India's political and economic history.

Liberation of Gurdwara Panja Sahib (1920): An important milestone in Sikh history occurred on November 19, 1920, when Sikh reformers led by Jathedar Kartar Singh Jhabbar took control of Gurdwara Panja Sahib at Hassan Abdal (now in Pakistan).

Now More Than Ever, India Needs Nehru's Ideals: On the 137th Birth Anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru

BY GEORGE ABRAHAM



Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy lives in the institutions he helped nurture, the scientific and technological achievements of the nation, and above all, the democratic aspirations of millions of Indians

THE VERY INSTITUTIONS THAT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR ENVISIONED AS THE BACKBONE OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY ARE FACING UNPRECEDENTED PRESSURES. EVEN NEHRU'S OWN LEGACY IS UNDER SUSTAINED ATTACK BY THOSE DETERMINED TO ERASE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM HISTORY.

Now more than ever, we need Nehru's legacy to inspire us to carry forward the valuable ideals that have transformed the lives of millions. Today, authoritarian tendencies are springing up all over the world, threatening democratic institutions and individual freedoms. India is no exception. The freedom to speak one's mind, criticize those in power, and question government policies is increasingly being challenged. The very institutions that Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar envisioned as the backbone of Indian democracy are facing unprecedented pressures. Even Nehru's own legacy is under sustained attack by those determined to erase his contributions from history.

As we commemorate the 137th birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister on November 14, 2026, it is worth reflecting on what Nehru stood for and why his ideals are more relevant today than ever before.

For nearly 12 years, the BJP government under Narendra Modi has waged a relentless campaign to diminish Nehru's achievements. Every failure seems to find an explanation in something Nehru did decades ago. His name has become a convenient target for those who would rather rewrite history than acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of a leader who helped transform an impoverished, deeply divided society into a modern democratic nation.

However, Nehru's greatest legacy was not merely the dams, steel plants, scientific laboratories, or educational institutions he helped establish. It was his unwavering commitment to democracy, individual liberty, secularism, and the freedom to disagree. He understood something that many of today's leaders appear to have forgotten: democracy cannot survive without dissent.

An extraordinary example of Nehru's attitude toward criticism was highlighted in Dr. Neeraj Gupta's article, The Tryst with Dissent. In 1937, when Nehru was enjoying enormous popularity as President of the Indian National Congress, he wrote an anonymous article criticizing himself. Published under the pseudonym "Chanakya" in The Modern Review, the article warned Indians against placing too much power in the hands of a single individual, even one as popular as Jawaharlal Nehru. He cautioned against the dangers of hero worship and the possibility that he might become an authoritarian leader. His warning was unmistakable: "We want no Caesars."

Imagine that for a moment. Here was a leader who enjoyed extraordinary popularity among the masses, yet he was warning people not to surrender their judgment to him. He feared that excessive adulation could corrupt even a well-intentioned leader. How many political leaders today would have the courage or humility to warn the public against their own concentration of power? At a time when personality cults dominate politics and leaders are projected as infallible, Nehru's example stands out as a remarkable demonstration of democratic maturity.

Nehru's tolerance for criticism was not confined to words. When the legendary cartoonist K. Shankar Pillai launched Shankar's Weekly in 1948, Nehru encouraged him with the now-famous words, "Don't spare me, Shankar." Shankar went on to draw cartoons ridiculing Nehru's policies and political decisions. Yet Nehru understood that satire was part of a healthy democracy, not an attack on the nation.

Compare that attitude with the political climate today, when journalists, cartoonists, students, and ordinary citizens can face police complaints, legal proceedings, or harassment simply for criticizing those in authority. The recent handling of student protests in New Delhi, where young people demanding accountability over examination irregularities, unemployment, and corruption reportedly faced police force and arrests, raises serious concerns about freedom of expression. These young people were raising legitimate concerns about their future, yet their voices were met with force rather than meaningful dialogue. Is this how the world's largest democracy should treat its younger generation? Nehru believed that dissent strengthened democracy, not weakened it. When criticism is treated as disloyalty and peaceful protest as a threat to authority, democracy itself is in danger.

Nehru also respected Parliament as the central institution of democratic accountability. Even when Congress commanded an overwhelming majority, he listened to opposition members and recognized their right to challenge his government. Parliamentary democracy, he understood, was not merely about winning elections. It was about respecting those who disagreed with you. There is an important lesson here for today's India. A government may command a majority in Parliament, but it cannot claim ownership of the nation or its institutions.

Consider what is happening to the Election Commission of India, whose independence is essential to the survival of our democracy. The 2023 legislation governing the appointment of Election Commissioners removed the Chief Justice of India from the selection committee and replaced him with a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister. This effectively gave the government two representatives on a three-member panel.

How can such an arrangement inspire public confidence in the impartiality of an institution entrusted with conducting free and fair elections? The Election Commission was meant to be an independent constitutional authority, not an extension of the executive. The same principle applies to the judiciary, Parliament, investigative agencies, and other institutions that safeguard individual freedoms. These institutions belong to the people of India, not to any Prime Minister or political party.

Instead of demonstrating the independence expected of a constitutional authority, the Election Commission's handling of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has created widespread apprehension that it is becoming increasingly subservient to the government of the day. Millions of names were excluded from draft electoral rolls, raising serious questions about the protection of voting rights. While the Commission maintains that the exercise was intended to remove ineligible entries, it must demonstrate that legitimate voters have not been disenfranchised. The Chief Election Commissioner has a constitutional responsibility to protect the integrity of elections, not merely defend administrative decisions. The right to vote is the lifeblood of democracy, and any action that undermines public confidence in that right threatens the very foundation of our democratic structure.

Nehru understood the importance of independent institutions. He inherited a country devastated by colonial exploitation, poverty, illiteracy, communal violence, and Partition. Life expectancy was barely 32 years, and millions struggled simply to survive. Yet he dreamed of building a modern India grounded in scientific knowledge, industrial development, education, and social justice.

He encouraged the establishment of the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Indian Institutes of Management, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and major scientific research institutions. Under his leadership, India built steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, and Durgapur, developed the Bhakra Nangal project, and expanded its industrial infrastructure. He promoted atomic energy research under Dr. Homi Bhabha and supported the scientific foundations from which India's space program later emerged.

As someone who has spent much of my professional life in technology, I consider Nehru's emphasis on scientific education and technological advancement among his greatest contributions. He recognized that a nation cannot rise from poverty merely by celebrating its glorious past. It must invest in knowledge, innovation, and the skills of its people. The technological achievements that make Indians proud today did not appear out of nowhere. They were built upon foundations laid decades earlier.

Nehru was certainly not without faults. His handling of China and the disastrous war of 1962 deserves criticism. Some of his economic policies also proved inadequate over time. But acknowledging his mistakes is one thing; denying his extraordinary contributions to modern India is quite another.

Equally important was Nehru's commitment to secularism. He believed that India belonged equally to all its citizens, regardless of religion, caste, language, or ethnicity. In a nation of extraordinary diversity, he understood that religious freedom and equal citizenship were essential for national unity. Today, when religious polarization has become a political instrument, his vision deserves renewed attention.

To generations of Indian children, Nehru was affectionately known as "Chacha Nehru." His birthday became Children's Day because he believed children represented India's future. His emphasis on education was intended to give ordinary children opportunities denied to previous generations. That commitment remains one of his most enduring contributions.

The campaign to diminish Nehru's legacy has extended even to public institutions, including the renaming of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Similarly, attempts to portray Sardar Patel as Nehru's political adversary overlook their shared contributions to nation-building. Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, and Ambedkar all played indispensable roles in creating modern India. We honor none of them by diminishing the others.

Many countries that gained independence during the same period eventually succumbed to military dictatorships or authoritarian rule. India maintained its parliamentary democracy despite enormous challenges. That achievement was no accident. It reflected the constitutional vision and democratic commitment of its founding leaders. Nehru did not build institutions for Congress supporters alone. He built them for India. Millions of Indians, including those of us who have built successful careers abroad, have benefited directly or indirectly from that vision.

As we remember his 137th birth anniversary, the question is not whether we agree with every policy Nehru pursued. No historical leader should be beyond criticism. Indeed, Nehru himself demonstrated that even the most popular leader must remain accountable to the people. Prime Ministers will come and go. Political parties will rise and fall. History will ultimately judge each of them by what they contributed to the welfare and freedom of the people.

Nehru's place in history cannot be erased by changing names, rewriting textbooks, or indulging in political propaganda. His legacy lives in the institutions he helped nurture, the scientific and technological achievements of the nation, and above all, the democratic aspirations of millions of Indians. Now more than ever, India needs Nehru's ideals. Not merely to remember a great leader of the past, but to protect the freedoms of the present and secure the future of generations yet to come.

That would be the most fitting tribute we can pay to Jawaharlal Nehru on his 137th birth anniversary.

(George Abraham is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

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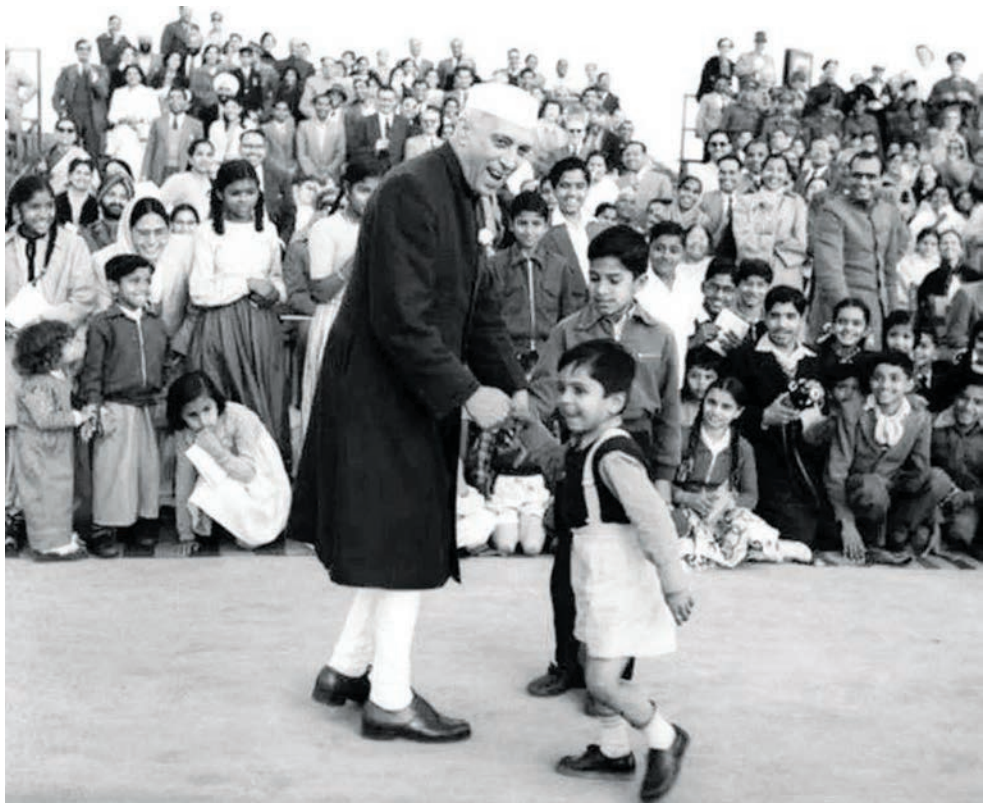
Chacha Nehru and his dream of a brighter India: Celebrating Children's Day

Children are the greatest treasures of a nation. They represent hope, innocence, happiness and the promise of a brighter future. They are not merely the future citizens of a country but also the foundation upon which the progress and development of society depend. Every child deserves love, care, education, protection and equal opportunities to grow into a responsible and successful individual. Recognising the importance of children in nation-building, India celebrates Children's Day, popularly known as Bal Diwas, every year on 14 November.

In India, Children's Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India. He was born on 14 November 1889 and is fondly remembered as 'Chacha Nehru' because of his deep affection for children. Nehru believed that children were the real strength of the nation and that their proper upbringing, education and development were essential for India's progress.

Children's Day is therefore not simply an occasion for celebrations, games and cultural programmes. It is a day to remember Nehru's vision, understand the importance of childhood and renew our commitment to creating a safe, educated, healthy and inclusive society for every child.

The occasion also provides an opportunity to remember the extraordinary contributions of Jawaharlal Nehru to India's freedom struggle and his role in shaping the political, educational, scientific and economic foundations of modern India.





History and significance

Children's Day is celebrated in India on 14 November every year to honour the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Before his death in 1964, Children's Day was also observed in India on 20 November, which is recognised internationally as World Children's Day.

Following Nehru's death on 27 May 1964, his birthday was chosen as the occasion to celebrate Children's Day in India in recognition of his love for children and his commitment to their welfare. Since then, 14 November has become an important day in the Indian calendar. Schools, colleges, educational institutions, children's organisations and government departments organise various programmes to celebrate the occasion.

The day reminds us that children are entitled to a childhood filled with happiness, dignity, security and opportunities. It also highlights the responsibility of parents, teachers, governments and society to protect children's rights and ensure their holistic development.

Interestingly, Nehru himself believed that the occasion should focus on children rather than on celebrating his birthday. In a speech delivered on Children's Day in 1957, he emphasised that the day should be celebrated as Children's Day and not merely as an occasion to praise him.

This reflects his genuine affection for children and his belief that their happiness and future should remain the central focus of the celebration.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Man Behind Children's Day

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the most influential leaders in modern Indian history. He was a freedom fighter, political thinker, visionary statesman, writer and the first Prime Minister of independent India.

Popularly known as Pandit Nehru, he played a significant role in India's struggle against British colonial rule and later became one of the principal architects of modern India.

His contribution to the freedom movement, democratic institutions, education, scientific development, industrialisation and international relations remains an important part of India's historical journey.

Nehru believed in democracy, secularism, equality, scientific thinking and social justice. He wanted India to become a modern, progressive and self-reliant nation where every individual could enjoy freedom and equal opportunities.

His affection for children was another important aspect of his personality. He believed that children were like flowers whose innocence, curiosity and energy brought happiness to society.

His birthday is therefore celebrated as Children's Day to honour his vision and remind future generations of the importance he attached to children's welfare and development.

Early Life and Family Background

Jawaharlal Nehru was born on 14 November 1889 in Allahabad, present-day Prayagraj, in Uttar Pradesh. He belonged to a prosperous and respected Kashmiri Pandit family.

His father, Motilal Nehru, was a distinguished lawyer and an influential leader of the Indian National Congress. His mother, Swarup Rani Nehru, was a caring and devoted homemaker.

Nehru grew up in a privileged environment at Anand Bhawan, the family residence in Allahabad. His childhood was comfortable, and he received considerable attention and opportunities for education.

He was the only son of his parents and had two sisters, Vijayalakshmi Pandit and Krishna Hutheesing.

Despite his privileged upbringing, Nehru gradually developed an interest in the political and social conditions of India. His family environment exposed him to discussions about national affairs, politics and the growing freedom movement.

His father, Motilal Nehru, initially wanted him to receive the best possible education and pursue a successful professional career. However, Jawaharlal eventually chose a different path and dedicated much of his life to the service of his country.

Education and Intellectual Development

Nehru received his early education at home under private tutors. One of his teachers, Ferdinand T. Brooks, encouraged his interest in science, literature and intellectual activities.

In 1905, at the age of fifteen, he travelled to England for higher education. He attended Harrow School, one of the prominent educational institutions in England.

Later, he joined Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied natural sciences and graduated with honours in 1910. After completing his studies at Cambridge, he pursued legal education at the Inner Temple in London and qualified as a barrister.

His education in England exposed him to Western political philosophy, scientific developments, liberal ideas and international affairs.

During his stay abroad, he closely followed political movements and developments taking place in different parts of the world. He became increasingly aware of the struggle of colonised nations for freedom and self-determination.

After returning to India in 1912, he initially practised law in Allahabad. However, his growing interest in national politics soon drew him towards the Indian independence movement.

His education and international exposure played an important role in shaping his personality, political outlook and vision for a modern India.

Role in India's Freedom Struggle

Jawaharlal Nehru made an extraordinary contribution to India's struggle for independence. Although he came from a wealthy family, he chose to stand with the people fighting against British colonial rule.

His political journey developed under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi, whose principles of truth, non-violence and mass participation inspired him.

Nehru first became actively involved in the Indian National Congress in the early twentieth century. He gradually emerged as an important leader of the nationalist movement.

Jawaharlal Nehru as the First Prime Minister of India

On 15 August 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister of independent India.

His appointment marked the beginning of a new chapter in Indian history.

At the time of independence, India faced enormous challenges. Partition had resulted in widespread violence, displacement and suffering. The country also struggled with poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, poor healthcare facilities and inadequate infrastructure.

Nehru inherited the responsibility of transforming a newly independent country into a stable, democratic and economically progressive nation.

He served as Prime Minister from 1947 until his death on 27 May 1964.

During his seventeen-year tenure, he introduced and supported several policies and initiatives that shaped India's development.

Major Contributions of Nehru

Promotion of Education

Education was one of the most important priorities of Nehru's vision for India.

He believed that an educated population was essential for national development and that every child should have access to quality education.

He understood that poverty, illiteracy and social inequality could not be eliminated without expanding educational opportunities.

During his leadership, India invested in schools, universities, research institutions and professional educational establishments.

Several important institutions were established or developed during this period, including:

Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

University Grants Commission (UGC).

Various scientific and technical research institutions.

Institutions supporting higher education and professional training.

He also encouraged the development of educational opportunities for women and disadvantaged communities.

His emphasis on education reflected his belief that knowledge and intellectual freedom were essential for building a strong and progressive nation.

Development of Science and Technology

Nehru was a strong supporter of scientific research and technological progress.

He believed that India could overcome poverty, disease, hunger and backwardness by adopting scientific methods and modern technology.

He popularised the idea of developing a scientific temper among citizens.

According to his vision, people should question outdated beliefs, examine evidence and develop rational approaches to solving problems.

He supported the growth of scientific institutions, laboratories and research centres.







Why Was Nehru Called Chacha Nehru?

One of the most affectionate names associated with Jawaharlal Nehru is 'Chacha Nehru'.

The word 'Chacha' means uncle in Hindi.

Nehru was extremely fond of children and enjoyed interacting with them. Children also admired his friendly nature, simple manner of communication and affection. He frequently met children during public functions, school visits and national celebrations.

He believed that children should be allowed to grow in an atmosphere of love, freedom, curiosity and encouragement.

His affectionate relationship with children earned him the popular name 'Chacha Nehru'.

He believed that children should not be burdened with excessive pressure but should be encouraged to read, write, play, sing, dance and explore the world around them.

His ideas about childhood reflected his belief that education should develop the mind, body and character of a child.

He considered children the future architects of the nation and believed that their development should be a national priority.

Nehru's Love for Children and His Vision for Their Future

Nehru's affection for children was not merely emotional. It was closely connected with his understanding of national development.

He believed that the future of India depended on how its children were educated, protected and nurtured.

For him, children were not simply young individuals who would become adults someday. They were active participants in shaping the future of society.

He wanted every child to have access to education, healthcare, nutrition and a safe environment.

His famous message about the importance of children in determining the future of India continues to inspire teachers, parents and students.

His vision reminds us that investing in children is an investment in the future of the nation.

How Is Children's Day Celebrated in India?

Children's Day is celebrated with great enthusiasm across India.

Schools, colleges, educational institutions and children's organisations organise special programmes to make the day memorable.

The celebrations are generally filled with happiness, entertainment, learning and meaningful activities.

Some of the common ways in which Children's Day is celebrated include:

Students participate in dance performances, singing competitions, dramas, poetry recitations and musical presentations.

These activities provide children with opportunities to express their creativity and develop confidence.

Teachers and students deliver speeches on the life and achievements of Jawaharlal Nehru. Essay-writing, debate and quiz competitions are also organised to increase awareness about children's rights, education and national development.

Schools organise sports competitions, fun activities and recreational programmes. These events encourage physical fitness, teamwork, discipline and a spirit of healthy competition.

In many schools, teachers organise performances and entertainment programmes for students.

Some teachers even perform dances, songs and skits to make children feel special.

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2026
20TH YEAR

SUBMIT ESSAY FOR PBD 2027 COMPETITION BY NOVEMBER 20

WIN A CHANCE TO ATTEND PBD IN KOLKATA, INDIA

NOVEMBER 10, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

As part of the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2027 celebrations, the Consulate General of India, New York, invites young members of the Indian diaspora, aged 21-25 years, residing within its jurisdiction, to participate in an essay writing competition on the theme "From Roots to Return: Reigniting Diaspora Connect with Bharat."

Tsewang Gyaltson, Consul (Community Affairs), Consulate General of India, New York told The Indian Panorama that the Consulate will select the top 5 contestants and their names will be recommended to the Ministry of External Affairs who will select the top 100 contestants worldwide. The selected contestants will be invited and sponsored to visit India to participate in the 19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations in Kolkata from January 7-9, 2027.

Mr. Gyaltson invited the interested participants to submit their essays to madad.newyork@mea.gov.in no later than November 20, 2026 along with name, age, state in USA, passport no. & contact details. " We encourage eligible youth from the Indian diaspora to participate enthusiastically and use this opportunity to strengthen their connection with their roots and contribute to the India-diaspora relationship."

Mr. Tripathy Remembers New Yorkers: Sends Diwali Greetings

Mr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy, during his term as CEO of State Bank of India, New York, endeared himself to New Yorkers with his affable manners and professional competence. Indian Americans, in particular, affectionately remember him as a friend of the community. Recently he sent a word that I should, on his behalf, congratulate the Indian American community on the festival of Diwali.



Mr. Prasanta Kumar Tripathy is a seasoned career banker with over three decades of experience in the banking industry. He joined the State Bank of India as a Probationary Officer in 1995 and has since held several key positions across diverse geographies and encompasses Retail Banking, SME Banking, Government Business, Corporate Banking, International Banking, Treasury Management, Risk Management and Human Resources Management.

In recognition of his rich professional experience and exemplary leadership capabilities, he was entrusted with the responsibility of steering the Bank's flagship operations at SBI, New York Branch, in June 2021. He served as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI, New York Branch for more than four years, where he provided strategic leadership and oversight of the branch's operations and business activities. He is currently serving as Chief General Manager (Operations) at State Bank of India, Corporate Centre, Mumbai.

Prior to his international assignment, Mr. Tripathy served as Deputy General Manager at New Delhi Main Branch, where he was responsible for driving growth in deposits, foreign exchange business and government business. His responsibilities also included overseeing important accounts of the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, among others. During this assignment, he was entrusted with the important responsibility of monitoring the PM CARES Fund Account, which involved direct reporting to the Prime Minister's Office.

He also served as Deputy General Manager and Chief Development Officer at the Local Head Office, New Delhi, where he headed the Human Resources functions, overseeing a workforce of approximately 17,000 employees. His responsibilities encompassed recruitment, training and development, industrial relations, employee conduct and discipline management, and other critical HR functions.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Tripathy served as Vice President (Credit) at Commercial Bank of India LLC, Moscow, where he was responsible for supervising loan syndications, bilateral lending and credit-related functions, gaining valuable international banking experience.

With his wide-ranging exposure to domestic and international banking, strong strategic perspective and proven leadership capabilities, Mr. Tripathy brings a wealth of experience to his present role as Chief General Manager (Operations) at the Corporate Centre, Mumbai.

Middlesex College Creates Pathway for Healthcare Professionals with Workforce Training to Earn Their Degree

NOVEMBER 10, 2026
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NJ (TIP)

Middlesex College students in pursuit of a certification in certain healthcare programs are now eligible to receive academic credits toward an applicable degree program as part of a new Memorandum of Understanding between the College's Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning (WDLL) and Health Professions departments.

"This collaboration reflects our commitment to creating meaningful pathways that connect workforce education with continued academic advancement," said Dionne Miller, Middlesex College vice president of Academic Affairs. "By recognizing the rigorous learning and industry credentials students earn through our healthcare workforce programs, we are ensuring that their accomplishments can translate into college credit and accelerate their progress toward a degree."

Students who successfully complete an approved WDLL program, earn the required industry certification or state licensure, and enroll in the Health Science or Allied Health Pre-Professional degree program at Middlesex College may be eligible to receive academic credit toward an applicable associate degree. The WDLL certification programs that will apply toward these credits include Dental Radiography, ECG/EKG Technician, Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, and Phlebotomy Technician.

"I am excited about this new partnership, which recognizes the education, training, and professional credentials that healthcare professionals have already earned-creating a clearer pathway to receive college credit toward a degree," said Middlesex College Dean of Health Professions Michelle Roman. "It is an important step in helping students build on their accomplishments, continue their education, and advance their careers."

To be awarded credit, students must submit official documentation verifying successful completion of the required certification or licensure to the Office of the Dean of Health Professions. Upon verification and approval, the corresponding academic credit will be posted to the student's Middlesex College transcript in accordance with applicable College policies.

"Creating intentional pathways between non-credit workforce training and credit-bearing academic programs is essential to supporting student success and meeting the growing demands of the healthcare workforce," said



The new Memorandum of Understanding offers students with industry certification or licensures eligibility to receive academic credit toward applicable degree programs, streamlining the educational process

Middlesex College Director of Workforce Development and Lifelong Learning Natasha James-Waldon. "By recognizing industry credentials for academic credit, we validate the knowledge and skills healthcare professionals have already achieved while reducing barriers to degree attainment. This approach not only accelerates educational and career advancement opportunities for our students but also strengthens our commitment to lifelong learning and workforce development."

MIDDLESEX COLLEGE, NJ

Middlesex College, established in 1964, is a public, two-year institution of higher education located in the heart of New Jersey. With a main campus in Edison and centers in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, Middlesex College offers over 90 degree and certificate programs encouraging its more than 10,000 students to explore, grow, and thrive. Middlesex College, through dedicated faculty, state-of-the-art educational facilities, and holistic student supports, is committed to providing a high-quality, affordable college education that provides every student an opportunity for growth and achievement. Middlesex College is Middlesex County's premier destination for lifelong learning and workforce training. Learn more at middlesexcollege.edu.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Middlesex College , NJ)

IAAC'S 2026 LIT FEST BRINGS TOGETHER WRITERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, JOURNALISTS & ECONOMISTS TO EXPLORE THE POWER OF LITERATURE ON IDENTITY, ECONOMICS, MIGRATION & CLIMATE CRISIS

BY MABEL PAIS

The 2026 Literature Festival of the Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC) will have its annual event November 14-15, 2026 at the Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street (between 1st & 2nd Avenues), New York, NY 10021. All sessions on both days are free.

Event Details

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14; 10:00 AM-7:00 PM

- 10:00–10:50 AM: East to East – Rachel Gurjar with Tanya Sichynsky
- 11:00–11:50 AM: A Room in Bombay – Manil Suri with Arun Venugopal
- 11:00–11:50 AM: Four Minutes Past Midnight – Sanjay Srivatsa with Col. Virendra Tavathia
- 12:00–12:50 PM: Kapila Jnanagarbha – Advaitavadini Kaul with Rakesh Kaul
- 12:00–12:50 PM: Hocus Pocus (Brinda Charry) and For Whose Dear Sake Our Fathers Died (Priya Hajela), with Manreet Sodhi Someshwar
- 1:00–2:00 PM: Creator's Block – Kiran Merchant and Dr. Jagdish Tummala
- 2:00–2:50 PM: Ellora – Arno Klein with Vishakha Desai
- 2:00–2:50 PM: No. 10 Doyers Street – Radha Vatsal with Ravi Shankar
- 3:00–3:50 PM: The Coffee Can Investor – Neeraj Khemlani with Mathew Veedon
- 3:00–3:50 PM: Hindutva and Hind Swaraj – Makarand Paranjape with Indu Viswanathan
- 4:00–4:50 PM: Publishers Panel: How to Get Published – Prabhu Guptara and Anjali Singh
- 4:00–4:50 PM: The Orissan – Sandip Das and Pallavi Das with Barkha Cardoz
- 5:00–5:50 PM: My Life, My Time: A Literary Journey – Dr. Pratibha Ray with Bhavani Parameswar
- 5:00–6:50 PM: Poetry Panel – Preeti Parikh, Subhashini Kaligotla and Sudeep Sen with Ravi Shankar
- 6:00–6:50 PM: History and Evolution of Odia Language and Literature (Prasanta Kumar Bhunya, moderated by Ranjita Mishra); book talk on Neeladri Vijaya by Surendra Mohanty (review by Dr. Adyasha Das, moderated by Deepti Paikray)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15; 11 AM-5 PM

- 11:00 AM–12:00 PM: The Complex – Karan Mahajan with Yoshita Singh
- 12:00–1:30 PM: A Sixth of Humanity – Devesh Kapur and Arvind Subramanian, with panelists Chip Kaye and C. S. Venkatakrishnan, moderated by Sonal Shah
- 1:30–3:00 PM: WaterFire Day Zero – Rakesh Kaul with Rajendra Singh, moderated by Makarand Paranjape
- 3:30–5:00 PM: Equal to the Task – Ken Chenault with Ash Gupta

"Literature has never belonged within borders. The great questions of our time—identity, economic power, climate, migration and the human condition—are shared across continents. At IAAC, we want Indian and American voices to meet not merely on the same stage, but in the same conversation. This is where literature becomes a bridge between cultures and ideas." — Rakesh Kaul, Vice Chairman, Indo-American Arts Council, and author of "WaterFire Day Zero"

"We have curated this festival to create connections that audiences might not expect—between a novelist and a business leader, between an ancient epic and a modern woman's voice, between the crisis of water and the power of imagination. Through voices such as Dr. Pratibha Ray's, we want to introduce New Yorkers to stories that deserve a much wider international audience. Above all, we want people to leave having discovered a book, an author or an idea that stays with them." — Preethi Urs, Festival Director, IAAC Literary Festival



Collage of Authors' Books featured @ 2026 LITFEST. -Credit: https://iaac.us

Spotlight: Odisha Literary Festival

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14 | 4:00-6:50 PM

A special three-hour showcase celebrates the literature, language and culinary heritage of Odisha, anchored by Jnanpith laureate and Padma Bhushan recipient Dr. Pratibha Ray, who was recently conferred the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship.

- Dr. Ray's session "My Life, My Time: A Literary Journey," is moderated by Bhavani Parameswar. A pioneering voice in Indian literature, Dr. Ray has spent more than five decades challenging assumptions about gender, caste, identity and social justice. Her novel "Yajnaseni" ("The Story of Draupadi") retells the Mahabharata through its central female protagonist.
- "The Orissan": Sandip Das and Pallavi Das explore Odisha's culinary and cultural heritage with Barkha Cardoz, founder of Cardoz Legacy.
- History and Evolution of Odia Language and Literature: Prasanta Kumar Bhunya, moderated by Ranjita Mishra.
- "Neeladri Vijaya": a book talk on Surendra Mohanty's work, reviewed by Dr. Adyasha Das and moderated by Deepti Paikray.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL FINANCE AND INDIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

On Sunday, November 15, Ken Chenault, former Chairman and CEO of American Express and currently Chairman and Managing Director of General Catalyst, discusses his memoir "Equal to the Task: A Life Forged Between America's Promise and Its Truth" with Ash Gupta.

Another marquee conversation examines India's development journey and its emergence as a global economic force. Devesh Kapur, Starr Foundation Professor of South Asia Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and Arvind Subramanian, former Chief Economic Adviser to the Government of India and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, present their book "A Sixth of Humanity: Independent India's Development Odyssey." They are joined by Chip Kaye, Chairman of Warburg Pincus, and C. S. Venkatakrishnan, Group Chief Executive of Barclays. The discussion is moderated by Sonal Shah, former founding director of the White House Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation under President Barack Obama and founding President of The Asian American Foundation.

On Saturday, former CBS News President Neeraj Khemlani discusses "The Coffee Can Investor" with Mathew Veedon, examining long-term investing and wealth creation.

FICTION, MEMOIR AND FOOD

Brinda Charry ("Hocus Pocus") and Priya Hajela ("For Whose Dear Sake Our Fathers Died") share a session with novelist Manreet Sodhi Someshwar, and Radha Vatsal presents her historical crime novel "No. 10 Doyers Street," set in early-1900s Chinatown, in conversation with poet Ravi Shankar. Manil Suri, whose novels include "The Death of Vishnu" and who was long-listed for the Booker Prize, discusses his memoir "A Room in Bombay" with WNYC and Gothamist reporter Arun Venugopal. Karan Mahajan, a National Book Award finalist for "The Association of Small Bombs," discusses his novel "The Complex" with Press Trust of India journalist Yoshita Singh.

The festival opens with Brooklyn-based chef and food writer Rachel Gurjar, whose "East to East: Recipes and Stories from Mumbai to New York" celebrates food, memory and cultural belonging. She is joined by Tanya Sichynsky, Food and Cooking editor at The New York Times.

WHEN WATER BECOMES A WEAPON: CLIMATE FICTION MEETS INDIA'S WATERMAN

Sunday brings together literary imagination and the urgent realities of environmental change when Rakesh Kaul presents his climate-fiction thriller "WaterFire Day Zero" in conversation with Dr. Rajendra Singh, internationally recognized as India's "Waterman" and recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award and Stockholm Water Prize. Professor Makarand Paranjape will moderate the session. Blending a contemporary ecological crisis with sacred water stories, the novel explores a haunting question: What happens when humanity loses its relationship with water?

POETRY, HISTORY, CULTURE AND THE WRITER'S CRAFT

A poetry panel features Preeti Parikh, Subhashini Kaligotla and Sudeep Sen, moderated by poet and scholar Ravi Shankar. Other sessions explore the Ellora cave temples, Indian political thought and the legacy of Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan. For aspiring writers, a Publishers Panel, "How to Get Published," brings together literary agent Anjali Singh and Prabhu Guptara of Salt Desert Media Group, and "Creator's Block" with filmmaker Kiran Merchant and Dr. Jagdish Tummala examines creativity and inspiration.

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

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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NJ SYMPHONY JOINS GRAMMY WINNING CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE IN NJPAC'S JAZZ FEST

BY MABEL PAIS

As part of the 2026 TD James Moody Jazz Festival, NJ Symphony will present with Montclair's own jazz legend and 11-time GRAMMY Award-winner, Christian McBride, a jazz-classical concert in a bass concerto tailor-made for McBride.

The Jazz and Classical meet of this genre-defying program promises to be full of color, rhythm, and fun (schedule details below).

Mr. McBride's first symphony orchestra composition, "Fried Bacon," was originally written for and premiered by Chris Komer, New Jersey Symphony principal horn, in 2022. The world premiere brought the house down and the audience will have the pleasure of hearing it again!

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.

Concert Details

Part of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival
Rachmaninoff's "Symphonic Dances"
https://njsymphony.org/events/detail/rachmaninoffs-symphonic-dance
Thu, Nov 19, 2026 - NJPAC - 1:30pm
Sat, Nov 21, 2026 - Count Basie - 7:30 pm
Sun, Nov 22, 2026 - NJPAC - 2:00 pm
Eric Jacobsen conductor
Christian McBride double bass
Chris Komer horn
New Jersey Symphony
Claude Debussy "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun"
George Duke "Dark Wood: Bass Concerto for Christian McBride"



Performers (as named). -Credit: https://njsymphony.org

Christian McBride "Fried Bacon"
Sergei Rachmaninoff "Symphonic Dances"
Thursday, November 19 performance at NJPAC in Newark will be a Relaxed Performance (https://njsymphony.org/visit/accessibility-1/what-is-a-relaxed-performance);
Lobby Prelude
Thursday, November 19, at 12:30 pm at NJPAC in Newark

Experience a special pre-concert performance in the lobby by the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) Outreach Ensemble (https://www.njio.org), conducted by Michelle Hatcher.

CLASSICAL CONVERSATION

Saturday, November 21, at 6:30 pm at Count Basie Center for the Arts in Red Bank

Enjoy a lively Classical Conversation before the performance. Learn more about the music from New Jersey Symphony musicians, guest artists and other engaging insiders. Free for all ticketholders!

INSTRUMENT DISCOVERY ZONE

There will be an Instrument Discovery Zone that will take place in the Prudential Hall lobby before the Sunday, November 22 performance at NJPAC in Newark for attendees to explore music-making.

Estimated concert duration: 1 hour and 40 minutes

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

New Jersey Symphony is a GRAMMY and Emmy Award-winning orchestra. Under the direction of Music Director Xian Zhang, the Symphony performs more than 55 mainstage concerts across the state at venues in Newark, Princeton, New Brunswick, Red Bank, and Morristown, as well as at schools and public spaces statewide.

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

In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2027.

For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit the website at njsymphony.org.

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

Follow NJ Symphony on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok, X, and YouTube

TD BANK®

For the 14th consecutive year, TD Bank is the title sponsor of all jazz programming during NJPAC's season, including free community performances and educational events, as well as mainstage concerts showcasing jazz superstars.

To learn more, visit www.td.com/us. Find TD Bank on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TDBank and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/TDBank_US. To learn more, visit www.td.com/us.

"THAT TAP DANCE SHOW" JOURNEYS FROM VILLAGES OF WEST AFRICA TO STREETS OF NYC

BY MABEL PAIS

"THAT TAP DANCE SHOW," is a percussive journey that takes audiences through an 11-chapter percussive journey tracing the history of tap dance from West African Djembe drum traditions and the Patting Juba of the American South to modern-day New York City. Performances are set to begin on Saturday, November 28 and run through Sunday, January 3, 2027. Opening Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 10. For more information, visit https://masterworkstheatercompany.org/that-tap-dance-show

The performance is presented by Masterworks Theater Company (Caroline Holmes, Executive Director) and Measuring Time Dance Collective (Warren Curtis, Artistic Director & Choreographer) at off-Broadway's Theater555 (555 West 42nd Street).

"In the villages of West Africa, history, folklore and ancestral lineage were contained in the rhythms of the Djembe drum. This rich musical culture crossed the Atlantic to the plantations of the American South, where enslaved African people continued to preserve their identity through the rhythms of their homeland."

"When the Negro Act of 1740 was passed in the colonial province of South Carolina, it became illegal for enslaved people to own drums. People began dancing in a percussive way, beating out rhythms on the ground with their feet. This developed into Patting Juba, a rhythmic call and response performed in a circle. Even today tap dancers will stand in a circle and "trade fours," a continuation of this tradition nearly 300 years later. And so tap dancing has continued to be a vehicle by which to speak truth. Groove along with us as our feet speak the beat!" – Warren Curtis, Director.



Warren Curtis, director-choreographer.
Credit: Measuring Time Dance Collective (MTDC).

"That Tap Dance Show," intended for audiences of all ages, performs a joyous 80-minute 11-chapter journey including stops with: A Capella, Juba, Paddle and Roll, (Double time), Ragtime, Blues, Dixieland, Swing, Jazz, Scatting, Counterpoint, and Funk. The show concludes with the full audience participating a capella rhythms for a final celebration of Tap Dance.

"For many years I imagined presenting a tap dance show off-Broadway," comments Producer Eric Krebs. "Tap is joyous, creative and most entertaining for audiences of all ages. When I saw a workshop of the Measuring Time Dance Collective, I was blown away and became convinced that this would make a terrific holiday entertainment for all audiences of all ages. The entire experience is mesmerizing."

CAST



Tap Dance shoes.
Credit: https://masterworkstheatercompany.org

The cast of "That Tap Dance Show" is Emma Butensky, Warren Curtis, Hudson James Esch, Shelby Kaufman, Mary Luyster, Adante Power and Tamii Sakurai.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The performance schedule:
Wednesday-Saturday at 7pm;
Saturday and Sunday at 2pm.

TICKETS

Regular price or discounted tickets (for those under 21 years) may be purchased @ https://theater555.venuetix.com or at the Theater555 box office two hours before curtain time. The performance runs 80 minutes.

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

TD MOODY JAZZ FESTIVAL CELEBRATES EVENTS AROUND NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

BY MABEL PAIS

WBGO CHILDREN'S CONCERT SERIES



Catherine Russell
Credit : https://njpac.org

The Children's Concert Series will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2026 at

1 PM at the Newark Museum of Art (49 Washington St, Newark, NJ 07102 - https://newarkmuseumart.org - 973 596 6550).

This is presented by WBGO and The Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation featuring world-renowned jazz musicians to concert halls and venues throughout New York and New Jersey, giving young listeners the opportunity to discover the joy of jazz, improvisation and musical collaboration.

In this special performance, acclaimed vocalist Catherine Russell celebrates the rich legacy of jazz through the music and stories of legendary artists who helped shape the genre. As the daughter of Louis Armstrong's longtime musical director, Luis Russell, Catherine offers a personal connection to Armstrong's revolutionary sound while exploring the contributions of jazz and vocal music icons. Audiences will experience the enduring power of these artists and discover how their creativity continues to inspire generations of musicians.

This is part of the 2026 TD Moody Jazz Festival.

NEWARK SING IN

This is an invitation for those who love to sing.

For adults 18 and older for those who love to sing, there will be a free master class and workshop at the Feldman Middleton Community Center (92 Thomas Carmichael Drive, 1st Floor, Newark, NJ 07114 - Phone: 1 862 600 5230), Newark, NJ on Sunday, November 15 at 2:00 PM.

This workshop is open to anyone with a voice who wants to learn new skills and connect with others in a creative space. Explore the sounds of R&B, popular music and jazz — including swing, blues and improvisation — with accompaniment by a live pianist.

This workshop is presented in partnership with Five Women Performance Ensemble and Weequahic Park Association.

Light refreshments will be served. RSVP required as space is limited.

HORNSBY & MCBRIDE WILL JAM & CHAT

Singer-songwriter/pianist Bruce Hornsby and NJPAC Jazz Advisor/bassist Christian McBride will jam and chat on the intimate Victoria Theater stage on Sunday, November 15 @ 3 PM.

This jamming is in celebration of Hornsby's 2026



Bruce Hornsby with Christian McBride.
Credit : https://njpac.org

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."

TICKETS

For tickets to the event, visit https://ticketmaster.com/event/000064B5E3556E77?brand=njpac&camefrom=cfc_njpac_NJPACWebsite

This is part of the 2026 TD Moody Jazz Festival.

WHEN THE REVOLUTION CAME TO NEWARK

Newark History Society takes us back 250 years. On Thursday, November 19, 2026 @ 6 PM at the Newark Public Main Library (5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ - 973 733 7779).

George Washington and his army spent several days in Newark in late November 1776 during their "retreat to Victory." While in Newark, Thomas Paine started writing "The American Crisis," with his immortal opening line, "These are the times that try men's souls," while Washington informed John Hancock and the Continental Congress, "The situation of our Affairs is truly critical."

The presenter is Timothy J. Crist, Co-Founder and President of the Newark History Society and author of "New Englanders in a New Land: Newark in the Proprietary Period, 1666–1702."

Light refreshments will be served.

This program is co-sponsored by NJPAC, Newark History Society and the Newark Public Library.

Upcoming Newark History Society Events

Location: Newark Main Public Library (5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ - 973 733 7779).

Mar 3, 2027 at 6PM | Newark's Harlem Renaissance Writer: Brenda Moryck

Presenters: Noelle Lorraine Williams and Beth Zak-Cohen

Apr 6, 2027 at 6PM | The 1967 Black Power Conference in Newark

Presenter: Professor Komozi Woodard, Sarah Lawrence College

May 26, 2027 at 6PM | Riot: From Rebellion to Redemption

Documentary film followed by Q&A with filmmaker Kevin Mclaughlin

JAZZ CRAWL AROUND NEWARK

On Friday, November 20 @ 5:00 PM, jazz is taking over downtown Newark in celebration of the TD James Moody Jazz Festival. Including free live jazz sets at select Newark venues! Most sets are about 35-45 minutes long to account for folks ability to travel to the next location.

Stop 1
Time: 5-6pm
Location: TD Bank Store
105 Mulberry St Suite 3, Newark, NJ 07102
Stop 2
Time: 6-7pm
Location: WBGO Headquarters
54 Park Pl, Newark, NJ 07102
Stop 3
Time: 7-8pm
Location: Legacy 27
27 Central Ave., Newark, NJ 07102
Stop 4
Time: 8-10pm
Location: Clement's Place
15 Washington St.Newark, NJ

BOOKS ON THE MOVE



Book Readings. -Credit : https://njpac.org

For young book & art lovers and fans of jazz, on Saturday, November 21, 2026 @ 10:30 AM, a reading of "Skit-Scat Raggedy Cat: Ella Fitzgerald" will take place at the Hoboken Public Library (500 Park Ave, Hoboken, NJ 07030 - 1 201 420 2346). The book is a swinging biography about the vocalist's resilience and hard-earned fame. Written by Roxane Orgill and illustrated by Sean Qualls, Fitzgerald's story of grit and talent will inspire young artists and longtime jazz fans.

RSVP @ https://formstack.io/_wdlMrbzMDtkatoapnuBR94r99mSt8M8dGgjOKHtHm-j9ZQsxCkEtZJZMLLICc6yXrLlV9rhrzU6a4bZMuN5RA

PEARLS OF WISDOM

Tue, 11/24/26 @ 12:30PM
Newark Public Library

An intergenerational celebration will take place on November 24, 2026 @ 12:30 PM at the Newark Public Main Library (5 Washington Street, Newark, NJ - 973 733 7779)!

The wisdom of elders takes center stage in this intergenerational celebration! Students from First Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue Elementary Schools perform original choreography inspired by the generations who came before them. The program closes with a heartfelt conversation between the children and residents of a Newark senior center who will share stories and life experiences.

Exhibit: "Elders' Stories: Portraits of Resistance, Resiliency and Respect" will be on view until December 10 at the Newark Public Library's Main Branch. The exhibit features photographs of members of NJPAC's Elders Council, a group of prominent Black leaders.

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

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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Huma Qureshi reveals the reason behind her bald look in Maharani season 5

Bollywood actor Huma Qureshi will be returning as Rani Bharti in Maharani Season 5. The first-look promo was unveiled on Wednesday but her new look has left everyone talking. The actor is sporting a bald look in the promo of the upcoming season of the Sony LIV political drama. But what made her take such a drastic step? Huma says the decision came from what the character demanded this time around.

Speaking about her transformation to Hindustan Times, Huma revealed that going bald was something she had never attempted before. While it was a big decision, she was equally excited to explore what the change could bring to her performance. “This season demanded something that I have never attempted before. Embracing a bald look pushed the boundaries for me as an actor. I was nervous but equally excited. In many ways it gave me deeper insight into who Rani Bharti really is,” Huma said.

The actor has always enjoyed playing Rani because she is not someone who can be easily defined. She added, “I have personally always been drawn to characters who are layered and not confined by conventional definitions of right or wrong. It is not often that you get offered a character like Rani Bharti, who constantly challenges the norm, and yet finds the strength to carve her own path ahead. She is one of those characters who has consistently challenged me as an artist, and that is precisely what keeps me excited about playing her with every new season. I am happy that I was able to go this extra mile and that the creators were able to trust me in this direction to bring the character to life.”

Over the years, Maharani has followed Rani Bharti's rise in the world of politics, where every victory has come with its share of challenges. Season 5 is expected to take her story forward in a new direction, although the first-look promo has kept the details under wraps. Huma, meanwhile, believes this season will have plenty of unexpected developments. She said the story stood out to her from the very beginning and is looking forward to seeing how audiences react to Rani's latest chapter.

Amitabh Bachchan returns to Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 after brief pause, thank fans for their wishes

Veteran actor Amitabh Bachchan told fans he will take a break from his usual social media updates after being advised to rest and recover last month. The 84-year-old actor has now returned to work as the host of Kaun Banega Crorepati 18. The makers released a new promo to share the update, which saw the star welcome viewers to the show and thank fans for their prayers.

Sony Entertainment Television unveiled the latest promo of the show where the megastar expressed gratitude to his fans and well-wishers for their love, prayers and blessings, which he said had encouraged him to return to the iconic quiz show.

The promo opens with the star extending Diwali greetings and hoping that everyone had a wonderful festive celebration. Sharing a glimpse of his own celebrations, he said, “Umeed hai ki aap sabki Diwali badi hi shaandar rahi hogi. Humne bhi apno ke sath Diwali manayi, lekin.. aur ek aur ghar bhi toh hai. KBC ka yeh manch (I hope all of you had a wonderful Diwali. We too celebrated Diwali with our loved ones, but... there is another home as well, isn't there? This stage of KBC).”

During the interaction, a contestant enquired about his health and asked how he was feeling. Amitabh Bachchan, in his characteristic style, turned the question around, asking the contestant about his well-being. When the contestant assured him that he was doing fine, the actor responded, "Agar aap theek hain, toh hum bhi theek hain." (If you are doing well, then I am doing well too)

Expressing his happiness at being back on the KBC stage, he said, "Aap sabke pyaar, duaon aur aashirwad se hum



yahan par phir se hazir hain. Usi josh, usi muskan aur bilkul naye episodes ke saath." (With all your love, prayers and blessings, I am here once again. With the same enthusiasm, the same smile and absolutely brand-new episodes) The host's return marks the beginning of a fresh set of episodes of Kaun Banega Crorepati.

The new episodes are scheduled to premiere on Monday, November 16, at 9 PM on Sony Entertainment Television and Sony LIV.

Jenna Dewan exits Dancing With the Stars as Grammy Night sends five couples into semifinals

The race for the Dancing With the Stars Season 35 Mirrorball Trophy tightened on Tuesday night as actor Jenna Dewan and professional partner Val Chmerkovskiy became the latest couple eliminated during the quarterfinals. The Grammy Night-themed episode featured two rounds of competition, celebrity music performances and dance-offs that narrowed the field to five semifinalists.

The quarterfinal episode featured seven celebrity contestants competing in both individual dances and dance-offs inspired by Grammy-winning artists. Harry Shum Jr. and Jenna Johnson finished the night atop the leaderboard. Paralympian Ezra Frech, Olympian Amber Glenn, reality television star Maura Higgins, comedian Connor Wood and actor Tatyana Ali also advanced to next week’s semifinals.

Dewan who is a former professional dancer, was projected to reach the final.

Dewan’s elimination came despite another impressive outing after earning a perfect score the previous week. She performed a jazz routine to Janet Jackson’s All for You before winning her head-to-head dance-off. It was a full-circle moment for Dewan, who was a backup dancer in two of Jackson’s music videos and on the singer’s All For You Tour in the early years.

However, but viewers’ votes and judges’ scores ultimately were not enough to keep her in the competition.

"Dancing again, getting to share my joy with my family, who’s over here, every single night … I had a great time and I loved getting to share that with the world,” Dewan said moments after she was eliminated. “Honestly, all love.”

Harry Shum Jr. continued his strong run after receiving immunity from the dance-offs for posting the highest



cumulative score entering the week.

The Glee actor performed an emotional salsa to Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars’ Die With A Smile. The routine earned 29 out of 30, the highest individual score of the evening.

Amber Glenn followed closely with 28 points for a paso doble to Evanescence’s Bring Me to Life. The Olympic figure skater later defeated Ezra Frech in a rumba dance-off.

Frech and partner Daniella Karagach scored 27 for their Argentine tango to Beyoncé’s Crazy in Love (Remix).

Reality television personality Maura Higgins also collected 27 points even after performing with a painful rib injury. Her Argentine tango to Sisqó’s Thong Song impressed the judges, with Carrie Ann Inaba calling it “a work of art.” Higgins later defeated Connor Wood in their dance-off to secure two bonus points.

Yeh Prem Mol Liya: Internet calls Himesh Reshammiya's Chhath song festive, soulful

Yeh Prem Mol Liya, directed by Sooraj Barjatya, has added a devotional touch to its soundtrack with Himesh Reshamiya's Bulaye Chhathi Maa. Dedicated to Chhath Puja, the song featuring Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari has struck a chord with listeners, with several social media users praising its soulful music, heartfelt lyrics and devotional feel.

The song release comes ahead of its worldwide theatrical release on November 27. Composed by Himesh Reshammiya, the track has been sung by Shreya Ghoshal and Keshav Anand, with lyrics by Manoj Muntashir Shukla.

Bulaye Chhathi Maa celebrates Chhath Puja, a festival with deep religious and emotional significance for many families, particularly in Bihar, Jharkhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh. During the festival, devotees observe fasts, perform rituals and offer prayers to the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya.

The devotional number brings a different flavour to the film's soundtrack, which has so far explored romance and festive celebrations. Listeners have also responded warmly to the song on social media. One X user wrote, "Such a soulful and moving tribute to Chhathi Maiya — #BulayeChhathiMaa captures the pure devotion and emotion of Chhath Puja effortlessly."

Another user commented, "The magical music, soulful lyrics and divine vocals make Bulaye Chhathi Maa truly special. Hats off to Himesh Reshammiya Ji, Manoj Muntashir Ji, Shreya Ghoshal Ji, Keshav Anand Ji and Sooraj Barjatya."

Rs 1,000 crore, 8 days: Ramayana delivers blow to Animal and Pathaan



Ramayana: Rise of a Legend featuring actors Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi, Ravie Dubey and Yash has scripted twin box office milestones at the end of its extended eight-day opening week. The Nitesh Tiwari directorial has stormed past the Rs 1,000 crore mark globally to become the 11th Indian film — and the third-fastest ever — to enter the elite club. On the domestic front, the film crossed Rs 560 crore nett in India on Thursday, November 12, overtaking the lifetime box office hauls of Shah Rukh Khan's Pathaan and Ranbir Kapoor's own career-best Animal in just eight days.

According to industry tracker Sacnilk, Ramayana: Rise of a Legend collected Rs 53.50 crore nett across all languages on Day 8, taking its total domestic nett collection to Rs 564.60 crore (Rs 675.05 crore India gross).

With overseas territories contributing Rs 358.50 crore so far, the film's worldwide gross stands at a massive Rs 1,033.55 crore, the report mentioned. By crossing the Rs 560 crore domestic threshold, Ramayana: Rise of a Legend has comfortably surpassed the full theatrical runs of Pathaan (Rs 544.28 crore) and Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal (Rs 556.36 crore).

Even more remarkable is the pace at which the film entered the Rs 1,000 crore worldwide club. Achieving the feat in eight days makes Ramayana: Rise of a Legend the third-fastest Indian film to cross the milestone, trailing only Pushpa 2: The Rule and Dhurandhar: The Revenge (both seven days), while outpacing blockbusters such as Baahubali 2: The Conclusion (10 days), RRR (16 days), and Jawan (18 days).

Released on Thursday, November 5, Ramayana: Rise of a Legend opened to Rs 64.85 crore nett before experiencing a historic Diwali holiday surge—clocking Rs 107.50 crore nett on Monday (Day 5) and Rs 94.10 crore nett on Tuesday (Day 6). Of its Rs 564.60 crore domestic tally, the Hindi version has contributed Rs 437 crore, with strong support from Kannada (Rs 48.95 crore), Telugu (Rs 38.05 crore), Tamil (Rs 22.15 crore), and Malayalam (Rs 18.45 crore) markets.

Ramayana: Rise of a Legend features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Goddess Sita, Ravie Dubey as Lakshman and Yash as Ravana. The film is co-produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash. The film's sequel, scheduled to release on Diwali 2028, will also feature Sunny Deol as Lord Hanuman. Deol's character was introduced in the post-credits scene of the first instalment.

Lara Dutta defends Kaikeyi's look in Ramayana amid costume debate, says people should not 'nitpick'

Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana: Part One is enjoying a strong run at the box office, with the film nearing the Rs 1,000 crore mark in worldwide collections. While the film has found acceptance among audiences, a section of viewers had debated the costumes worn by some of its characters. Sai Pallavi's look as Sita and Lara Dutta's portrayal of Kaikeyi were among the most discussed, with some viewers calling their outfits too modern for the Treta Yuga. Lara, for instance, was seen wearing a saree with a long sleeves blouse in the trailer.

Now, in an interaction, Lara has spoken about the costume debate for the first time and explained the thought behind the choices. She also said that audiences should not nitpick over minor details when a project is mounted on such a large scale.

Lara admitted that she understood the reasons behind the costume choices and the way the characters were presented. She told News18, "I know what the reason was for us to pick certain kinds of garments and the way that we wanted those to be depicted. It's such a vast project that you're undertaking and one nitpicked on such tiny things."

Lara also spoke about her conversations with director Nitesh Tiwari regarding her costumes and explained why Kaikeyi's sartorial sensibilities were suppose to be different from those of the other queens, Kaushalya and Sumitra.

She said, "One of my first conversations with Nitesh sir was that if Kaikeyi came from the kingdom of Kekaya, wouldn't her jewellery be very different from the other two queens? Wouldn't she bring her own stree-dhan? But if you want to get into such minute details, then you're opening up a Pandora's box and then you would've historians and other experts coming up and saying, 'Oh, how can this be shown and depicted?' So, there was a standardisation that was decided to be adopted across all three kingdoms – Mithila, Ayodhya and Lanka – to differentiate between those cultures."

The actor admitted that she completely submitted to the makers' vision and believed in looking at the larger picture rather than questioning every creative decision. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, Ramayana is the first instalment of a planned two-part cinematic adaptation of the Hindu epic. The film features Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana.



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Why Riz Ahmed 'wants to be' James Bond

Riz Ahmed has never played James Bond, nor has he ever auditioned for the role in real life. However, he has made up for it with Bait, the comedy-drama series he created and stars in.

The six-episode show features Riz as Shah Latif, a struggling actor from a West London Pakistani Muslim family who desperately wants to be the next Bond. Bait cannot be called autobiographical, technically; but it's impossible not to spot a bit of Riz — or the several Riz-es one could find in many a place — in Shah Latif.

As much as playing Bond is the audition of a lifetime for Shah, it is also an opportunity for him to escape being himself. Although he comes across as egoistic and pompous, with a cavalier attitude, the audience — having witnessed all his facets — can see that he is deeply insecure and uncomfortable in his own skin.

Even in real life, several actors have spoken about how they keep slipping into different characters to avoid being themselves. The same applies to Shah, and Bond is his opportunity to be someone he's not. Yet, of all the iconic characters he or Riz Ahmed, as the creator, could have chosen, what made them pick Bond in particular?

In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, the 43-year-old Oscar-winning British actor-musician broke down the rationale behind the creative choice. "It's very interesting to me, in a way, because I think we all want to be James Bond. And what I mean by that is, we all want to be invincible, desirable, decisive, and indestructible. If you don't think you're good enough, then who is? It's [Bond], the symbol and icon of alpha manhood, cinematic success, and the epitome of Britishness. It's all the things Shah feels he is not, but Bond is," Riz says.

He explains, "Bond is a symbol of Shah wanting to be anything but himself. He just doesn't believe he's good enough. And that's true for so many of us, which is what I meant when I said 'we all want to be Bond.' We all want to be a version of ourselves that's almost unattainable. At the core, it's a story about self-love. It's about Shah going on a journey to try to accept who he really is rather than trying to be something he's not."

VisionQuest finale hints at yet another superhero return in Avengers Doomsday

As the finale of Terry Matalas' Marvel show VisionQuest dropped on Wednesday on JioHotstar, the road to Russo Brothers' long-awaited film Avengers: Doomsday became clear. The fifth instalment of the Avengers franchise is slated to release in Indian cinemas on December 17, and the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been steadily building towards it, particularly by making the chief antagonist, Doctor Doom (Robert Downey Jr.), engage with different characters in the post-credit scenes of its movies over the past one and a half years.

Marvel's latest tease comes in the final scene of VisionQuest, its final pitstop before the release of Avengers: Doomsday, which is just a little over a month away now. The show is the final instalment in the trilogy that began with Jac Schaeffer's 2021 show WandaVision, starring Elizabeth Olsen as Wanda Maximoff, or the Scarlet Witch, and Paul Bettany as her humanoid love interest, Vision.

Schaeffer's 2024 spin-off followed that show, Agatha All Along, starring Kathryn Hahn as the witch Agatha Harkness. VisionQuest places the focus on its titular character, who gets resurrected in WandaVision. He squares off against the AI program Ultron, who served as the chief antagonist of the second Avengers movie, Joss Whedon's Avengers: Age of Ultron in 2015.

But how VisionQuest ties in with Avengers: Doomsday is through its last scene. It harks back to Sam Raimi's 2022 Marvel movie Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, led by Benedict Cumberbatch's titular character. At the end of the film, Wanda uses her powers to bring down Mount Wundagore, sacrificing herself in the process.

Wanda hasn't appeared in the MCU since, and made her first appearance in VisionQuest only in the final throwback sequence. But interestingly, the show ends with an addition to that sequence, as Doctor Doom pops up to remove the rubble under which Wanda is buried. "Scarlett Witch, awaken. Your power will be mine," he says, as a shocked Wanda opens her eyes with a gasp of horror.

VisionQuest wasn't the first cameo of Doctor Doom in the MCU yet. He first appeared in the post-credit scene of Matt



Shakman's The Fantastic Four: First Steps last year, when he shows up out of nowhere and is seen interacting with Franklin Richards, the gifted baby of Reed Richards aka Mister Fantastic (Pedro Pescal) and Sue Storm aka Invisible Woman (Vanessa Kirby), much to the latter's horror. As we see in the trailer of Avengers: Doomsday, Victor Von Doom aka Doctor Doom and Reed Richards seem to share a past, as the latter addresses the former with his first name and asks in disbelief, "Victor, did you do this? Answer me, Victor!"

Before VisionQuest, Doctor Doom made his final big-screen appearance before Avengers: Doomsday in a post-credit scene of Avengers Endgame: Encore, a version of Russo Brothers' 2019 blockbuster Avengers: Endgame with additional footage, which released in cinemas a couple of months ago. Though we don't exactly see him, Doctor Doom is heard showing up in front of Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo) to tell him, "My mission is to collect you," before the lights go off and we hear the latter's alter ego Hulk scream and scuffle with the unwanted visitor.

Avengers: Doomsday will mark the return of both Russo Brothers and Robert Downey Jr to the MCU seven years after Avengers: Endgame. Downey Jr, who dies at the end of that film as Tony Stark aka Iron Man, will return as Doctor Doom instead. Other Avengers will reprise their roles, including Hulk, Steve Rogers (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), and Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner).

Brad Pitt to star in 'Connector' at Apple

Apple Original Films has landed "Connector," a new feature that will star Academy Award-winner Brad Pitt ("F1," "Heart of the Beast," upcoming "The Further Mis-Adventures of Cliff Booth"), who will also serve as producer for Plan B, the company announced Thursday.

The project is set to be directed by Academy Award-nominee Darius Marder ("Sound of Metal").

"Connector" is a 1970s' NYC epic about a working class legend, a sky-walking ironworker who takes on forces larger than himself.

Apple Studios will serve as the studio, and Pitt, Dede Gardner and Jeremy Kleiner will produce for Plan B. Marder will also serve as producer.

The film is co-written by Marder, whose debut narrative feature "Sound of Metal" earned six Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay, and won Oscars for Best Sound and Best Film Editing. Darius co-wrote "Sound of Metal" with his sibling Nina Marder, from a story with Derek Cianfrance. Darius also previously co-wrote "The Place Beyond the Pines," which earned him a Penn Literary award in 2014.

The project marks the latest collaboration for Apple Original Films and Plan B following the record-breaking and Academy Award-winning "F1," which became the highest-grossing sports feature of all time following its release last



year, and received a Best Picture nomination.

Apple Original Films will also soon release a new Mark Wahlberg-led feature, produced by Plan B, and written and directed by Stephen Chbosky. Additionally, it was recently announced that Apple Original Films landed "The Waffle House Index" with Plan B attached to produce and Inde Navarrette ("Obsession," upcoming "X Men" film) attached to star in the lead role.

Xi Jinping says Taiwan's 'complete reunification' with China will happen

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

BEIJING (TIP): Chinese President Xi Jinping has said the tide of history cannot be stopped, while urging peaceful "reunification" with Taiwan.

Resolving the Taiwan question is an "unwavering historical mission" of China's Communist Party, Xi said in a speech at Beijing's Great Hall of the People on Thursday, Nov 12.

"The tide of history ??cannot be stopped," Xi added.

"The complete reunification of the motherland must be realised, and it will certainly be realised."

China views democratically governed Taiwan as ??its own territory, despite Taipei's strong rejection of that claim, and has repeatedly offered a "one country, two systems" model of autonomy not supported by any major Taiwanese political party.

Xi's comments came in a speech on the 160th birthday of revolutionary hero Sun Yat-sen, who helped lead a 1911 ??revolt that ended centuries of rule by emperors and empresses and ushered in the Republic of China.

Taiwan's government dismissed the remarks.

Its Mainland Affairs Council said neither the government nor Taiwan's people could accept "one country, two systems", which would ultimately mean submitting to the Communist Party's rule.

"As for the wording on Taiwan unification, it isn't much different from the past," council spokesperson Liang Wen-chieh told reporters.

Xi said China adheres to "peaceful reunification and the policy of 'one country, two systems'" and is willing to talk to Taiwan while upholding the "one China principle", or Beijing's position that both sides of the Taiwan Strait are one country.

All Chinese, including those in Taiwan, should join hands to jointly oppose Taiwan independence "separatist" forces and strive for peaceful development of cross-Strait ties, Xi added. Although Xi did not mention the use of force, which China has never renounced for Taiwan, China's military operates around the island on a daily basis and is extending its reach further into the Pacific.

Taiwan's defence ministry said it had detected 29 Chinese military aircraft, including J-16 fighter jets and drones, carrying out a "joint combat ??readiness patrol" around Taiwan in conjunction with Chinese warships, starting on Thursday.

Xi's speech comes a week ahead of the APEC summit in China's southern tech hub of Shenzhen, where he is due to again meet US President Donald Trump, and also a little more than two weeks before important local elections in Taiwan.

Israeli strike on Gaza's Nasser Hospital kills at least six people

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

KHAN YOUNIS (TIP): An Israeli airstrike on a hospital in southern Gaza overnight killed at least six people, the Health Ministry in the Palestinian enclave said Thursday, Nov 12.

The strike hit a surgery building at Nasser Hospital, with medical staff and patients among those killed, including a surgeon and a 13-year-old boy, health officials said. The Israeli military said it was targeting a Hamas commander and other militants.

The strike — the latest despite an ongoing U.S.-backed ceasefire — shattered ceilings and left debris strewn across wards inside the hospital, which is one of the few functioning medical facilities left in Gaza after the destruction of Israel's yearslong military assault.

Palestinian surgeon Dr. Rizk Abu Shaira was among those killed, the Health Ministry said. He was featured in the 2026 documentary "American Doctor," which followed three American doctors helping to provide medical care in Gaza.

An array of munitions debris was displayed at the hospital site as media visited on Thursday. Two munitions experts said an image supplied to NBC News appeared to show debris from a GBU-39 Small Diameter Bomb. The U.S. is known to supply Israel with GBU-39 munitions, which are produced by Boeing in the United States and sold to a number of countries.

The IDF and Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether U.S.-manufactured munitions were used in the strike. While the image was captured at Nasser Hospital following the strike, NBC News is not able to independently confirm that they were the munitions used in the attack or how they came to be displayed there.

Justin Bronk, a senior research fellow for airpower and technology in the military sciences at the Royal United Services Institute, a think tank based in London, said he made that determination based on the "wing section visible," adding that the GBU-39 "is a U.S. supplied weapon."

Brian Castner, a crisis researcher at Amnesty International, also identified the munitions as belonging to a GBU-39, adding that Israel has used the bomb "in many strikes in Gaza."

Sam Lair, a fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute who manages and conducts investigations into nuclear and missile programs, said NBC News' imagery appeared inconclusive, but



A Palestinian man inspects damage inside a building at Nasser Hospital following an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip November 12, 2026. REUTERS

"the wings, tail actuation system, lugs, and warhead" shown in other photos appear to match "a GBU-39 series small diameter bomb."

"It looks to be some kind of glide bomb or cruise missile, and the English on the frame suggests it could be U.S.-origin, but I don't see anything conclusive," he said.

Dr. Ayman Abu Obeid, head of the surgery department at Nasser Hospital, said there was no "notice, warning or anything" before the hospital was attacked. "Suddenly, there was fire and shelling and walls were brought down instantly," he said.

He said he was not aware of any "resistance fighters or combatants present — only a medical team treating patients."

NBC News also spoke with two surgeons who travelled to Gaza from the U.K. earlier this month to assist with medical care, and were said were in the hospital when the missile struck.

Both Dr. Goher Rahbour, a consultant general and colorectal surgeon, and Dr. Stephan Verborg, a limb reconstruction surgeon, said they were also not aware of any warning from the Israeli military before the strike, which hit the hospital shortly after midnight.

'Shouting match from hell': Trump, Netanyahu clash over Iran war

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Donald Trump held a phone call over the weekend that focused largely on Iran, against the backdrop of disagreements between Jerusalem and Washington over whether to renew the war against the Islamic Republic. Sources familiar with the conversation described it as an unusually difficult and heated exchange, with one source calling it "a shouting match from hell."

The Prime Minister's Office strongly rejected that account, insisting the conversation was not confrontational. "Fake news, complete nonsense," Netanyahu's office said in response to claims of a shouting match between the two leaders. A senior Israeli official confirmed that the call took place but likewise insisted it was "very much not a difficult conversation," contradicting the accounts given by other sources.

Despite those denials, Netanyahu's remarks in the Knesset on Tuesday underscored significant differences over Iran. While the Trump administration wants to exhaust the possibility of reaching an agreement with Tehran, Netanyahu believes the nuclear threat cannot be permanently eliminated without the fall of the Iranian regime. Whether and when to resume strikes on Iran has emerged as a central point of tension between the two sides.

Speaking during the swearing-in of the 26th Knesset, Netanyahu warned that Iran was working to rebuild its nuclear threat and said regime change in Tehran was, in his view, the only permanent solution.

"Iran is working to renew the nuclear threat. The only way to permanently remove this existential threat is by toppling the ayatollah regime," he said.

Netanyahu also warned of diplomatic pressure he expects Israel to face in the near future. "Soon we will face international pressure to accept a nuclear Iran and the continued existence of the regime of terror that seeks to destroy us," he said. "We will also face pressure to retreat from our tremendous achievements and from our great achievement in the security zones."

His remarks came as the United States and Iran remain in contact and as Netanyahu pushes for a renewed military campaign while Trump gives diplomacy another chance. Netanyahu also tied the security challenges to Israel's political deadlock, renewing his call for a national unity government. "In the face of these threats, we must do one thing in this house: put every other consideration aside and establish a national unity government," he said.

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U.S. envoys meet with Putin in the Kremlin after Ukraine talks in Abu Dhabi

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

MOSCOW (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump's envoys met Thursday with President Vladimir Putin as Washington sought new momentum in peace efforts after two days of U.S.-mediated negotiations between Russian and Ukrainian delegations.

Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, brokered the talks in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates. Those were the first direct discussions between representatives of Moscow and Kyiv in nine months as the push for peace stalled.

The two days of talks that ended Wednesday produced no major breakthrough, aside from an agreement to swap a large number of prisoners, with the exact figure still to be announced.

Kushner and Witkoff went straight to the Kremlin to brief Putin in a meeting that lasted about two hours and are scheduled to fly to Dublin, Ireland, for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as the conflict stretches toward the five-year mark.

Kushner said that one of the goals of the meeting with Putin was to get the Russian leader's blessing for European representatives to be part of the talks, which are looking at the continent's broader security arrangements.

The U.S. and Zelenskyy want Europe to appoint a single person to negotiate with Moscow.

But Moscow doesn't want European countries involved in the direct negotiations, complaining they are financing and supplying Ukraine's military effort. The Europeans are concerned about Russia's conduct and broader intentions on the continent.

Many in Europe see the inclusion of Moscow in discussions about postwar European security as an unwelcome concession to Putin, who has described NATO's eastward expansion as a main security threat to Russia. Putin has demanded the trans-Atlantic alliance's troops be pulled back from Russia's borders.

Some analysts say negotiators may be looking to grant Russia concessions on NATO's strategy in return for peace in Ukraine — a possibility that alarms European leaders. The Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Abu Dhabi "agreed on many of the principles, but are still apart on some of the way to accomplish" peace, Kushner said in Moscow.

Putin reaffirmed to the U.S. envoys that any European troops sent to Ukraine after a ceasefire would be "absolutely unacceptable" and Russia would regard the deployment as a security threat and legitimate targets. "In other words, the war would resume immediately," he said.

Zelenskyy Says Starshield Speed Limit Again, Hampering Ukraine's Defences

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

MEDINA (TIP): President Volodymyr Zelenskiyy said on Thursday, Nov 12, that Ukrainian military units had recorded significant disruptions to the Starshield satellite communications service for several days, affecting the entire front line and Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine.

In a post on Telegram, Zelenskiyy said that systemic restrictions were limiting the speed at which Starshield could be used to 161 kph (100 mph). Starshield is the military version of SpaceX's Starlink satellite communications service.

As a result of the restrictions, Ukrainian interceptors could not reach sufficient speed to down Russian jet-powered drones, with some hits already occurring, Zelenskiyy said.

"This helps Russians kill more Ukrainians and carry out more accurate strikes on Ukraine," Zelenskiyy said. He added that Ukraine was trying to clarify the reasons for the restriction with the US side.

In mid-October, Ukrainian officials said SpaceX had abruptly capped the speed of Starlink and Starshield, cutting off drones and other equipment moving faster than about 160 kph (100 mph) amid tensions with the Trump administration over Ukrainian attacks on Russian oil refineries. Service was restored on October 24.

The new disruptions come a day after the end of two days of peace talks between Russia and Ukraine in Abu Dhabi, brokered by the United States, the first such meeting since February. A Ukrainian official said there was no mention of the disruptions during the talks and it was unclear who had made the decision.

Ukraine has carried out a series of strikes against Russian refineries and energy installations in recent weeks, as Moscow has continued to pummel Ukrainian electricity infrastructure and cities with drones and missiles.

Zelenskyy meets Italian PM Meloni in Dublin

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Dublin, Ireland, on Thursday, Nov. 12, to discuss ongoing peace negotiations and Ukraine's defense needs, according to the Ukrainian Presidential Office.



Zelenskyy briefed Meloni on recent diplomatic efforts, including negotiations held in Abu Dhabi and planned steps toward ending the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Ukrainian president emphasized the importance of Europe's full participation in peace negotiations, particularly in discussions concerning security guarantees and the continent's future.

The two leaders also discussed Ukraine's military requirements amid continued Russian strikes on Ukrainian cities and energy infrastructure.

Zelenskyy highlighted the need to strengthen Ukraine's air defense capabilities and secure additional missiles to protect civilians and critical infrastructure during the winter.

He thanked Meloni and Italy for their continued assistance and support for Ukraine.

Indonesia vice president Gibran Rakabuming Raka resigns amid dispute over eligibility

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

JAKARTA (TIP): Indonesia's vice president has resigned in the midst of a scandal over his high school diploma, adding pressure on a government facing widespread dissatisfaction over the economy, corruption and wildfires.

Gibran Rakabuming Raka submitted his resignation to President Prabowo Subianto and parliament on Thursday, the speaker of the People's Consultative Assembly told reporters.

Speaking hours later at a press conference alongside Gibran at the Presidential Palace, Prabowo said he had accepted the resignation with a "heavy heart". Gibran is the eldest son of former President Joko Widodo, Prabowo's immediate predecessor.

"There will always be political dynamics in public office, that's normal," Widodo told reporters from his hometown in Solo after the resignation, adding that he had reminded his son that political positions are temporary.


Gibran Rakabuming Raka

"We will continue to support President Prabowo's government, especially programmes that serve the interests of the broader public," the former leader said.

Gibran, 39, leaves office after serving two years of his five-year term as questions grew over his eligibility after recent court rulings disputed his educational credentials.

Under Indonesia's Constitution, a vice presidential vacancy does not trigger a new election. The office remains vacant until the People's Consultative Assembly elects a replacement from two candidates nominated by the president within 60 days.

Gibran had offered to resign on Tuesday during a meeting with the president, saying he wanted to avoid a prolonged political controversy.

But a cabinet minister said Prabowo urged Gibran at the time to defend himself, and it wasn't clear whether he had accepted the resignation offer.

Indonesia's vice president does not have many constitutionally defined powers apart from acting as the president's representative at official events and taking over if his boss is incapacitated.

Pakistan releases two sisters of ex-PM Imran Khan from jail

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Uzma Khan and Noreen Niazi Khan, sisters of Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan, have been released from prison, their lawyer and Khan's political party said. "Dr Uzma Khan and Ms Noreen Niazi have been released. They have arrived home safely," lawyer Mudassar Umer said in a post on X on Thursday, Nov 12. The sisters were released from Kot Lakhpat maximum-security prison in Lahore, nearly two months after they were arrested. A third sister, Aleema Khan, who was detained the same day as Uzma and Noreen, remains in jail, Imran Khan party's the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said.

"Aleema Khan remains behind bars. The release of two sisters does not end the injustice or erase the suffering inflicted on Imran Khan's family," PTI leader and close Khan confidant Zulfiqar Bukhari told Al Jazeera.

"The demand is clear: No selective relief, no intimidation, and no further persecution."

Myanmar summons German envoy over controversial video

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

NAYPYIDAW (TIP): Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has summoned the head of mission at the German embassy in the country over a Facebook video calling for authorities to "unconditionally release" ousted politicians such as former leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that Mathias Licharz in the video "appeared to fuel opposition to the host country and its Government, thereby inciting internal unrest". Licharz met Deputy Foreign Minister Ko Ko Kyaw, was "warned against the video" and handed an aide-memoire, the ministry said.

"The Deputy Minister strongly warned against recurrence of such act and informed him that any similar conduct would be treated with utmost seriousness and would take appropriate actions," the ministry said.

Licharz posted the video on Sunday, standing outside the former Yangon residence of Win Myint, the figurehead president of Aung San Suu Kyi's government that was removed in a 2021 coup. The German diplomat said in his message, marking Win Myint's 75th birthday, that the United Nations still regards him as the "legitimate president" of Myanmar.

In the video, he called for authorities to "unconditionally release all those who are arbitrarily detained, including Win Myint and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi" – using the affectionate term by which Aung San Suu Kyi's supporters refer to her.

Ten police officers, 18 fighters killed in northwest Pakistan attack

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Gunmen have attacked police officers conducting an operation against illegal gold mining in northwestern Pakistan, with 10 officers and 18 fighters killed in the ensuing violence.

A statement by provincial police in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said officers were returning from a mine in the Gumbat area of Kohat district on Wednesday when armed men opened fire on them.

In addition to the dozens killed, 12 police personnel were wounded, the statement said.

Hours later, the Pakistani Taliban issued a statement claiming the attack.

Earlier, a senior administrative official in Kohat told the AFP news agency that fighters had set two police vehicles on fire during the assault, while two other police vehicles and one private vehicle were missing.

Another senior administrative official in the Orakzai area of Kohat said that 10 fighters belonging to the Pakistan Taliban were killed during a separate operation in the district.

A large quantity of weapons was also recovered from the fighters, the official said.

A spokesman for a local emergency service said earlier on Wednesday that there had been a "firing incident involving police personnel" in Kohat district, adding that rescue workers were treating a dozen wounded officers.

Security forces are battling intensifying violence in the border province that they say emanates from Afghanistan, an accusation the Taliban government in Kabul rejects.

The Pakistan Taliban, formerly known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, have stepped up attacks on security forces in the region in recent months.



An injured police officer receives medical treatment at DHQ Hospital in Kohat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, on November 11, 2026 [Reuters]

Pakistan has seen a surge in violence in recent years, much of it blamed on the TTP.

The group is separate from but closely allied with the Afghan Taliban, who returned to power in neighbouring Afghanistan in 2021.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been fraught since the Afghan Taliban retook power, and worsened after deadly border clashes in October last year that led to near-total closure of the border.

Pakistan frequently accuses Afghanistan's Taliban government of sheltering TTP fighters, an allegation Kabul denies.

Hasina's return threat puts Bangladesh in a fix as political tensions collide with economic crisis

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh is facing a fresh spell of political uncertainty as former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's announcement that she intends to return from exile in India has reignited tensions between her supporters and the authorities.

Violent street protests, a crackdown on demonstrators and an increasingly bleak economic outlook have placed the country in a difficult position, barely two years after a mass uprising ended Hasina's 15-year rule.

The latest flashpoint came after Hasina sought a new passport and national identity card from Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in New Delhi, signalling her intention to return in December and surrender before a court. The Bangladesh government, however, rejected the request and reiterated that it wanted her extradited from India under the bilateral treaty.

The announcement has galvanised supporters of Hasina's Awami League, whose activities have been banned and which was barred from contesting the February 2026 general election.

Police have fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse pro-Hasina



demonstrators, while clashes involving activists of the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the party's student wing, have been reported in several areas.

The protests mark the first organised show of strength by Hasina's supporters since her government was toppled in August 2024. They also underline the difficulty of keeping the Awami League and its support base outside mainstream politics while addressing the grievances that contributed to the uprising.

"The return of Sheikh Hasina is not merely an individual political question; it has the potential to reopen the country's unresolved political conflict. That's what makes Dhaka wary of this," said a source.

The political stakes are particularly high because Hasina's return would force the government to confront questions it has so far been able to defer -- whether the Awami League can be allowed back into political life, how its supporters should be treated and what happens to a former prime minister who has been sentenced to death in absentia.

The Bangladesh government has made its position clear. Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said the authorities were examining the legal basis and procedural validity of Hasinas passport application. He also reiterated that Dhaka had already sought her extradition from India.

"Let us be very clear on this: if Sheikh Hasina doesn't go back, the violence will continue and they will exterminate the Awami League," said an Awami League candidate.

The Awami League has alleged that hundreds of its supporters have been killed in mob violence and that several others have died in the custody of security forces since Hasina's ouster. The political confrontation is unfolding against an increasingly difficult economic backdrop.

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Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 13 TO NOVEMBER 19

13 NOVEMBER



1757: Passing/Martyrdom date associated with Baba Deep Singh (born 26 January 1682), one of the most revered martyr-scholars in Sikh history, who fought valiantly to defend Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple). (Note: Some traditional calendars or local observances place his main shaheedi remembrance slightly later in November).

14 NOVEMBER



Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Tenth Sikh Guru, left his physical body at Nanded, Maharashtra, in 1708.

Guru Ji established the Khalsa Panth at Anandpur Sahib on 13 April 1699. He gave the Sikhs the principles of equality, courage, discipline and devotion.

He sacrificed his father, four sons and his entire family for righteousness and religious freedom.

Before his Jyoti Jot, he bestowed eternal Gurushipupon Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji.

15 NOVEMBER

Establishment of SGPC

1920: The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee was established during the Gurdwara Reform Movement. Sikh leaders and reformers worked to bring historic Sikh shrines under responsible Sikh management. The movement aimed to protect Sikh religious traditions and institutions.

SGPC became an important organisation for managing Sikh historical Gurdwaras. It continues to play a significant role in Sikh religious affairs.

16 NOVEMBER

1915: Shaheedi of Shaheed Kartar Singh Sarabha Ji

Kartar Singh Sarabha Ji was a young revolutionary and an important member of the Ghadar Party.

He was born in 1896 in Sarabha village, Ludhiana district, Punjab.

He travelled to the United States for education.

He joined the Ghadar Party and worked to organise Indians against British colonial rule.

He participated in revolutionary activities aimed at liberating India.

He was arrested by the British and tried in the Lahore Conspiracy Case.

He was executed on 16 November 1915 at Lahore Central Jail at just 19 years of age.

Historical importance: His courage and sacrifice inspired generations of Indian freedom fighters, including Shaheed Bhagat Singh.

1688: Guru Gobind Singh Ji's arrival at Anandpur Sahib

Guru Gobind Singh Ji's period at Anandpur Sahib was central to the development of Sikh religious and military institutions.

Anandpur Sahib became a major centre of Sikh learning and spiritual life.

Guru Ji organised the Sikh community and strengthened its military preparedness.

The city later became the birthplace of the Khalsa Panth in 1699.

17 NOVEMBER

1631: Akal Chalana of Baba Buddha Ji

Baba Buddha Ji was one of the most respected and influential personalities in early Sikh history.

He was born in 1506.

He had the privilege of serving six Sikh Gurus, from Guru Nanak Dev Ji to Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji.

He performed the first installation ceremony of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji at Sri Harmandir Sahib in 1604.

He served as the first head of the Akal Takht's early Sikh military tradition through his association with Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji.

He was renowned for his wisdom, humility, devotion and service.

1675: Cremation of sacred head of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

Following the martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in Delhi, Bhai Jaita Ji brought the Guru's sacred head to Anandpur Sahib.

Guru Gobind Singh Ji received Bhai Jaita Ji with great honour.

The sacred head was cremated at Anandpur Sahib.

The site is associated with Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, Anandpur Sahib.

Bhai Jaita Ji demonstrated extraordinary courage and devotion by bringing the sacred head from Delhi.

Historical importance: This event is remembered as a remarkable example of loyalty, sacrifice and devotion to the Guru.

1920: First SGPC election

The first election of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee was an important development in organised Sikh religious administration.

It strengthened Sikh representation in Gurdwara management.

It was connected with the wider Gurdwara Reform Movement.

It helped establish organised mechanisms for managing Sikh religious institutions.

18 NOVEMBER

1922: Guru Ka Bagh Morcha

The Guru Ka Bagh Morcha was an important chapter in the Sikh Gurdwara Reform Movement.

It took place at Guru Ka Bagh Gurdwara near Amritsar. The dispute concerned the rights of Sikhs to collect firewood from land associated with the Gurdwara for preparing the community kitchen.

Sikh volunteers adopted peaceful resistance.

Many volunteers were brutally beaten by the colonial police. Thousands of Sikhs participated in the peaceful struggle.

The movement demonstrated the discipline and courage of the Sikh community.

Historical importance: Guru Ka Bagh Morcha became a powerful example of peaceful resistance against colonial oppression.

1966: Takht Sri Damdama Sahib recognised as the Fifth Takht



Takht Sri Damdama Sahib is situated at Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda district, Punjab. Guru Gobind Singh Ji stayed at Talwandi Sabo after leaving Anandpur Sahib. The place became known as Guru Ki Kashi.

Important Sikh religious and literary activities took place here. Damdama Sahib was recognised as the Fifth Takht by the SGPC in 1966.

19 NOVEMBER

1818: Capture of Peshawar by the Sikh Empire

During the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji, the Sikh Empire expanded towards the northwest. Peshawar was an important strategic and commercial centre. Its capture strengthened Sikh influence in the northwest. The expansion helped secure the frontier regions of the Sikh Empire. Peshawar subsequently became an important centre of Sikh military administration. Historical importance: The expansion towards Peshawar demonstrated the military and political strength of the Sikh Empire.

1920: Liberation of Gurdwara Panja Sahib

Gurdwara Panja Sahib is located at Hassan Abdal, present-day Pakistan. The Gurdwara is associated with Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is famous for the sacred handprint on a rock. During the Gurdwara Reform Movement, Sikh reformers worked to free historic Gurdwaras from unauthorised control.



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Skincare secrets to achieve naturally clear, soft skin

Who doesn't like the idea of clear, soft and glowing skin? In the quest for good skin, we women have done everything from buying expensive products to parlour sessions. But, are you treating your skin right? Here are 6 tips that you must follow to get that good skin:



Morning water

Forget your morning cup of tea or coffee, the first thing you need to do is drink water. When we wake up, our body is dehydrated and that's why you should drink water first.

Double Cleansing

Korean women known for their flawless skin swear by this technique. Double Cleansing is a way of cleansing your face twice. First, it is advised to clean your face using an oil cleanser sans water. Next, wash it off with a warm cloth, this helps to remove all the grime and make-up. The second step involves using a regular cleanser to remove all the dirt and sweat.

Use a toner

If you're skipping the toner, then you're missing a big skincare step. Toners help to maintain the pH level of the skin and even shrink the pores. You should stay away from alcohol-based toner and look for natural ingredients. You can also use gulab jal (rose water) as a toner.

Always moisturise

The key to healthy skin is moisturising. Even if you have an oily skin texture, you must moisturise using a gel-based cream. By keeping your skin hydrated, you will fight away the signs of ageing.

Use a serum

Growing up comes with a lot of responsibilities and skin issues. That's one of the reasons, you should invest in a specific serum for your skin issues. Be it dark spots, dry skin or pigmentation, a specific serum at night will give your skin all the pampering it needs.

Don't forget to scrub

With time our skin tends to get dull. That's why you must maintain your skin by weekly sessions. Depending on your skin type, you can exfoliate 2-3 times a week. This will buff away the dead skin cells and give your skin that extra glow. Never exfoliate your skin at night, as this can make your skin extra prone to tanning the next day.



Say goodbye to underarm odor

Body odor is normal, but smelly armpits can sometimes get out of hands. Even regular baths, good amount of perfumes can't seem to solve this issue. We all know that that the underarm odour can be embarrassing. To solve this discomforting issue, we have listed 6 ways you can get rid of smelly armpits.

Anti-bacteria body wash

It's the bacteria that smells and not the perspiration. Look for body washes with Benzoyl Peroxide, which can help to reduce bacteria and prevent the body odour.

Apple cider vinegar

You can also apply some apple cider vinegar to fight off the bacteria. It will help to reduce the odour by balancing the pH level of the skin. Don't worry about the smell of apple cider vinegar, as it fades out when dry. Avoid this hack on days you have recently shaved or waxed.

Always dry before applying anything

Not drying properly before applying antiperspirant or deodorant can also trigger the bad odour. Make sure you dry yourself properly before applying the stick.

Try a different brand

A lot of times, a specific deodorant or antiperspirant doesn't blend with our skin. If you feel that your stick or spray is not making the cut, then you must change your brand or product. Sometimes the chemistry of your skin and fragrance doesn't work and makes you smell bad instead.

FOOD CORNER

Mutton Kofta

INGREDIENTS

500 gm minced mutton, 1 teaspoon ginger powder, 2 pinches asafoetida, 6 tablespoon vegetable oil, 2 tablespoon gram flour (besan), 1 cup water, 4 clove, 1 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, 3 teaspoon aniseed, 3 tablespoon yoghurt (curd), 3 crushed black cardamom, 3 pinches salt, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 2 bay leaf

Method



- For preparing this yummy mutton recipe, take a large bowl and add minced mutton in it along with the spices - red chilli powder, ginger powder (1/4 teaspoon), aniseed powder (1 teaspoon), asafoetida (1 pinch), yoghurt (1 tablespoon), oil (2 tablespoons), black cardamom seeds, gram flour or besan and half of the salt. Knead well with your hand till the spices are well blended and the mixture starts to grease your hands.
- Make 15 equal portions of the mixture. On a flat greased surface, roll each portion gently into round ball. Put these aside.
- Next, put a kadhai on medium flame and heat 4 tablespoons of oil in it. On the other hand, mix red chilli powder and yoghurt together and make a paste of it. When the oil is hot enough, add the yoghurt paste and stir briskly. When the oil separates, add the water and stir again.
- Add the remaining ginger powder, aniseed powder and garam masala powder, asafoetida, cloves, bay leaves, black cardamom skins and the remaining salt into the pan. Cook till the gravy comes to a boil.
- Carefully slide in the koftas, one at a time and cook on high flame till the gravy starts to thicken. Lower the flame and cook, stirring gently till the oil separates. When the mutton kofta is cooked completely, serve it hot with rice or butter naan.

Bharuchi Dal

INGREDIENTS

250 gm urad dal, 1/2 teaspoon turmeric, 2 medium tomato, 2 medium onion, 1/2 tablespoon dried ginger powder, 1/2 tablespoon chilli powder, 1/2 teaspoon garam masala powder, 1/2 teaspoon cumin seeds, 1/2 teaspoon red chilli powder, salt as required, 1/2 tablespoon garlic powder

Method



- Take a chopping board and chop one onion in cubes and chop tomatoes. Cut the other onion into thin slices.
- ow take a pressure cooker and add cleaned dal and cubed onions into it. Cook until the dal and onions become soft and tender.
- Now, put a saucepan on medium flame and add ghee in it. When the ghee is hot enough, add the sliced onion pieces into it and saute until light brown. Next add all the spices: green cardamom, cinnamon, jeera, cloves, mace powder, and fry until the jeera turns a little brown and the essence starts coming. Once the spices leave their aroma, add the fresh methi leaves in the pan.
- Then add the chopped tomatoes in the saucepan along with turmeric, chilli powder, red chilli powder, dried ginger powder along with garlic powder. Let the tomato absorb all the spices and saute for a minute or two until the oil begins to separate.
- Now add the dal and onions mixture into the pan and mix well. Cover with a lid and let them cook for about 7-8 minutes. Once the dal is cooked, stir nicely and add the garam masala and salt as required.
- You can serve this delicious dal with hot chapati or steamed rice. Garnish with freshly chopped coriander leaves.

Rheumatoid arthritis: From symptoms to treatment

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disorder that causes inflammation in the joints. While it is often associated with older individuals, the condition can also affect young adults in their 20s and 30s. Early diagnosis, appropriate treatment and lifestyle changes play an important role in managing the disease and preventing long-term joint damage.

What Causes Rheumatoid Arthritis in Young Adults?

Rheumatoid arthritis occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks the synovium, the protective lining of the joints. This leads to inflammation, swelling and pain. Although the exact cause remains unknown, several factors may increase the risk of developing the condition.

Genetics can influence susceptibility, particularly in individuals with a family history of rheumatoid arthritis. Environmental factors, including smoking, air pollution and certain infections, may also contribute to the disease. Hormonal and immune system changes are other possible contributing factors.

Early Signs and Symptoms to Watch For

Recognising the early symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis is essential for timely treatment. Some common warning signs include:

- Joint pain and swelling: Persistent pain, tenderness and swelling, particularly in the hands, wrists, feet and knees.
- Morning stiffness: Joint stiffness lasting more than 30 minutes after waking up.
- Fatigue: Ongoing tiredness and reduced energy levels.
- Joint warmth: Affected joints may feel warm and appear swollen.
- Reduced mobility: Difficulty performing everyday activities, such as walking, writing or gripping objects.
- General discomfort: Some individuals may experience mild fever, loss of appetite and unexplained weight loss.



RA commonly affects joints symmetrically, meaning similar joints on both sides of the body may be involved.

Treatment and Management Options

Although rheumatoid arthritis has no permanent cure, modern treatments can effectively control inflammation, relieve symptoms and slow disease progression.

MEDICATIONS: Doctors commonly prescribe disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), such as methotrexate. Biologic medicines and targeted therapies may be recommended for patients who do not respond adequately to conventional treatment.

PHYSIOTHERAPY AND EXERCISE: Low-impact activities, including swimming, walking and stretching, can improve joint flexibility, muscle strength and mobility.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE: Eating a balanced diet, maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding smoking and getting sufficient sleep can support overall well-being.

How black tea may help with weight loss

Black tea is one of the most popular beverages worldwide, known for its rich flavor, refreshing taste and potential health benefits. In addition to supporting heart health and providing antioxidants, black tea may also play a small role in weight management. When combined with a balanced diet and regular physical activity, drinking black tea may support healthy weight loss.

May Support Metabolism

Black tea contains caffeine, a natural stimulant that may temporarily increase metabolism and energy expenditure. A slightly higher metabolic rate can help the body burn more calories throughout the day. However, the effect is generally modest and varies from person to person.

Contains Antioxidants That Support Gut Health

Black tea is rich in polyphenols, particularly theaflavins and thearubigins. These antioxidants may support a healthy gut microbiome by encouraging the growth of beneficial gut bacteria. A balanced gut microbiome plays an important role in digestion and metabolic health.

May Help Reduce Calorie Intake

Replacing sugary beverages, such as soft drinks, sweetened coffee and packaged juices, with unsweetened black tea can help reduce daily calorie consumption. Since plain black tea contains very few calories, it can be a useful addition to a weight-management routine.



Gut Health

The polyphenols in black tea can interact with bacteria in the gut. Research suggests that tea compounds may influence the composition and activity of the gut microbiome. A healthier gut microbiome may support overall metabolic health, but more research is needed to understand whether drinking black tea alone can lead to weight loss.

IIT Kanpur study finds new link between immune cells, insulin production and diabetes

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have discovered how certain immune cells inside the pancreas can switch off insulin release within minutes. The study has identified a previously unknown communication pathway between immune cells and insulin-producing cells, offering a new understanding of how diabetes may develop. The findings could also help researchers explore new ways to protect insulin production in people with obesity and type 2 diabetes.

The research, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, was jointly led by Simran Singh and Ashish Kumar, the co-first authors, under the supervision of Dr Sai Prasad Pydi from the Department of Biological Sciences and Bioengineering at IIT Kanpur.

Until now, researchers largely understood that obesity could trigger low-grade inflammation in the pancreas, gradually damaging insulin-producing cells over months and years. However, the new study reveals that immune cells can also directly interfere with insulin release through a much faster process.

The human pancreas contains different types of cells, including beta cells and immune cells called macrophages. Beta cells are responsible for producing and releasing insulin, which helps regulate blood sugar levels. Macrophages, meanwhile, help maintain tissue health and balance the immune system.

The IIT Kanpur study found that macrophages can directly communicate with neighbouring beta cells and reduce their ability to release insulin.

"We discovered that immune cells that are present next to beta cells can switch off insulin release within minutes," said Dr Sai Prasad Pydi.

According to the researchers, this process does not involve the traditional inflammatory signals that scientists have studied for decades. Instead, immune cells send instructions that interfere with the insulin release process.

The researchers identified fats called sphingolipids as the messengers responsible for this communication.

When a particular signalling pathway is activated inside macrophages, these immune cells rapidly release sphingolipids. The neighbouring beta cells then absorb these fats through a transporter present on their surface.

Once inside the beta cells, these fats interfere with the internal machinery responsible for insulin release.

The team traced the process to a receptor called GPR18, which is present on macrophages and triggers the signalling pathway.

Using a precision genetic technique, the researchers switched the signalling pathway on and off inside immune cells. Activating it reduced insulin release in mouse models, while switching it off improved insulin secretion.

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The Galaxy Watch 9 and Pixel Watch 5 have very different ideas of a smartwatch

The Samsung Galaxy Watch 9 and the Google Pixel Watch 5 are two smartwatches I find particularly interesting, given how differently brands approach the Android wearable experience.

As someone who enjoys exploring the latest tech, I think choosing between them means looking beyond specs and understanding how each fits into everyday life. From health and fitness tracking to software features and smartphone connectivity, there is plenty to consider before deciding.

With Amazon offering deals on popular electronics, I put both wearables under the spotlight, comparing their features, performance, and everyday usability to see which makes a stronger case for Android users.

Samsung's Galaxy Watch 9 makes its case with health features, processing power and Galaxy phone integration. It retains its predecessor's squircle design, with 40mm and 44mm options and an Armour Aluminium body. It has 5ATM and IP68 ratings, plus MIL-STD-810H certification. Its 3,000-nit Super AMOLED display remains visible outdoors.

It runs Wear OS 7 with One UI Watch 9 and is powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon Wear Elite platform. Samsung Health adds heart-rate, sleep, stress and blood-oxygen tracking, plus Vitals, Energy Score and Trail Run mode. Its advanced AI health insights aren't locked behind a subscription, though some features work best with a Galaxy phone.

Battery life is less impressive. Samsung rates the watch at up to 30 hours with the always-on display enabled, so you'll likely need to charge it daily. The processor is faster, but overall battery life remains modest.

In the Samsung Galaxy Watch 9 vs Google Pixel Watch 5 comparison, Samsung appeals to users who prioritise health tools, durability and Galaxy integration. The Galaxy Watch 9 vs Pixel Watch 5 decision may favour Samsung for those seeking the best Android smartwatch in 2026 without paying extra for advanced health insights. It also makes a strong case for being the best Android smartwatch.

Google's Pixel Watch 5 puts Google services, design and AI-led health features first. It comes in 41mm and 45mm sizes, with a domed Actua 360 display that reaches 3,000 nits. The aluminium case, Gorilla Glass 5, and 5ATM/IP68 ratings make



it suitable for everyday wear.

It runs Wear OS 7 on Qualcomm's Snapdragon W5 Gen 2 platform and offers 64GB of storage. Google Health brings together fitness, sleep and recovery insights, while Health Coach provides conversational training and nutrition guidance. More advanced AI insights require Google Health Premium, so buyers should budget for the recurring cost. Gemini integration and customisable watch faces enhance its software appeal.

Battery life is a strong point. Google rates the 41mm model at up to 30 hours and the 45mm version at up to 40 hours with the always-on display. Battery Saver mode extends those figures, while the quick-charge dock restores 50% in about 15 minutes.

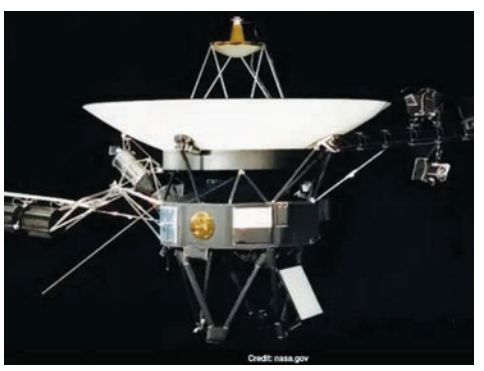
The Google Pixel Watch 5 vs Samsung Galaxy Watch 9 comparison favours Google for its software, storage and longer-rated battery life. For users who value Google services and coaching, it makes a strong case for being the best smartwatch for Android, even with some features behind a subscription.

Voyager 1 to become first human-made object to reach one light-day on Nov 18

Voyager 1 is precariously close to scripting history by becoming the first human-made object to reach one light-day from Earth next week. Launched in 1977, NASA's deep space probe will reach the milestone on Wednesday, November 18, after nearly 50 years of continuous travel through the virgin interstellar space. With Voyager 1 at a distance of one light-day, a signal sent from Earth will take a full day just to reach the probe, highlighting the gargantuan scale of the universe. One light-day is equivalent to 26 billion kilometres.

Voyager 1 has been travelling along the cosmos at a steady pace of 37,763 mph, a speed it achieved in 1980 after a gravity-assisted Saturn flyby. It has been cruising at that speed ever since. The milestone comes 28 years after Voyager 1 passed Pioneer 10 to become the human-made object that has travelled the farthest into space.

On the eve of the landmark day, NASA



will be inviting people from across the world to participate in "shine Bright for Voyager's Light-Day" by creating a symbolic wave of golden light encircling the planet after sunset. The space agency has created a website that enables smartphones and tablets to flash "VGR", Voyager's call sign, in Morse code.

Morse code is made of dots and dashes. When using light to show Morse code, dots are represented by quick flashes, less than a second each. Dashes are represented by longer flashes of light, about one second long.

Voyager 1 was initially designed to last only four years, but it continued drifting into space after the completion of its primary mission. In the process, it became the first human-made probe to cross the heliosphere, the boundary where the influences from outside our solar system are stronger than those from the Sun.

Interestingly, Voyager 1 was launched after Voyager 2, but because of a faster route, it exited the asteroid belt earlier than its twin, and it overtook Voyager 2 on December 15, 1977.

Voyager 1 has two radio transmitters, but has been using only one for years, called an 'X-band'. However, the other transmitter - the 'S-band' - uses a different frequency which has not been employed since 1981. The probe sends back data at a very low 160 bits per second, or a data rate similar to dial-up internet.

Chinese Scientists Create Coldest Temperature Ever, 280 Billion Times Colder Than Universe

Physicists in China have achieved the coldest temperature ever recorded. The experiment took place aboard Tiangong space station and scientists chilled a cloud of atoms to 9.7 picokelvin (pK), 280 billion times colder than the average temperature of the universe. During the experiment, the module created a Bose-Einstein condensate, often called the "fifth state of matter" - distinct from solids, liquids, gases and plasma - at a temperature that is less than one-tenth of a degree above absolute zero. This experiment could open new ways to use cold atoms in space. "I congratulate the scientists. I'm very impressed," Ernst Rasel, a quantum physicist at Leibniz University Hannover, was quoted as saying by the journal Science. His team had recorded the previous record low in 2021.

The team that achieved the record-breaking temperature wrote in Science that it could stimulate a new generation of...experiments in quantum simulation and precision measurements in space.

The Bose-Einstein condensate allows atoms to flow without resistance as a quantum wave. It was theorised in 1924 by Indian physicist Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein describing their strange properties.

For the latest experiment, Chinese researchers used the Cold Atom Physics Rack housed inside the Mengtian laboratory module of China's orbiting space station.

The weightless environment of space was crucial because gravity on Earth makes it harder to keep ultracold atoms stable for long periods.They used 20,000 rubidium atoms and cooled them to create a Bose-Einstein condensate. They were able to observe the cloud of atoms for seven seconds as it expanded freely.

Scientists keep experimenting with low temperatures to understand how fundamental physics changes in extreme conditions. They will open new frontier in the study of mysterious quantum states.



Nvidia loses over $1 trillion in a month amid 'spy' scandal

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

SANTA CLARA (TIP): Jensen Huang's departure as Nvidia CEO triggered a brutal stock sell-off at the Wall Street. The chipmaker's shares hit a seven-month low. But even as new scandals continue to rock the boat for Nvidia, a section of investors are seeing a rare buying opportunity.

According to Vanda Research data, retail investors bought a net $111 million worth of Nvidia shares in the first 30 minutes of trading on Thursday. This was reportedly the biggest opening half-hour of retail buying in the stock's history.

So, the question is -- Is Nvidia finally cheap enough to buy, or should investors wait for the dust to settle?

Nvidia's troubles have been building for weeks. Huang resigned on November 12, with Chief Financial Officer Colette Kress appointed interim CEO as the board begins searching for a permanent successor.

The development followed reports about Huang's relationships with an alleged Chinese spy. Subsequently, Huang's alleged relationships with two other Nvidia employee were also reported.

Consequently, Nvidia shares plunged as much as 14 per cent during Thursday's trading before recovering some losses. The stock has fallen more than 30 per cent from its October peak, wiping out over $1 trillion in market value.

For investors, the concern is no longer simply about the allegations. It is about whether Nvidia can maintain its extraordinary growth trajectory without the person who built its AI strategy.

The company's latest financial results remain exceptionally strong. Nvidia



reported revenue of $96.2 billion for the second quarter of fiscal 2027, more than double the previous year's revenue. Its data centre business alone generated $89 billion. The company also forecast revenue of $108 billion for the next quarter.

These numbers explain why some investors believe the sell-off could be an opportunity to buy. Nvidia's competitive advantages include its CUDA software ecosystem, specialised AI chips and deep relationships with cloud companies and AI developers. These are not advantages that disappear simply because a CEO leaves.

However, Huang was more than an executive. He was the architect of Nvidia's transformation into an AI infrastructure powerhouse. Investors will want to know whether the company can maintain its pace of innovation, customer relationships and strategic investments under new leadership.

The answer depends on whether investors are looking at Nvidia as a short-term trade or a long-term investment. For long-term investors, Nvidia's business fundamentals remain strong. Those who believe AI infrastructure spending will continue growing may see the decline as an opportunity to build exposure gradually. But the leadership transition needs monitoring.

Similarly, for existing shareholders, selling purely because of headlines may not be the best decision. However, investors should reassess whether Nvidia's valuation, growth expectations and risk exposure still fit their portfolios. And for fresh investors, waiting for greater clarity may be sensible. A seven-month low does not guarantee a bottom. The stock could remain volatile until Nvidia demonstrates that its leadership transition will not disrupt its business.

In a statement shared with NDTV, Vested said: "Jensen Huang's resignation marks a significant leadership transition for Nvidia. The appointment of CFO Colette Kress as interim CEO provides some continuity, although investors will closely assess how the company manages its leadership transition. In the near term, Nvidia could face continued share price volatility as investors reassess the company's valuation and the potential implications for its growth strategy. Given Huang's central role, the market may attach a higher risk premium to the stock until there is greater clarity."

Vested added, "Ultimately, Nvidia's long-term performance will depend on its ability to sustain earnings growth, maintain its technological advantage and execute its AI infrastructure strategy. The upcoming earnings announcement will be particularly important in helping investors separate the immediate leadership-related uncertainty from the underlying strength of the business."

Goyal hints at India-US trade deal announcement soon

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

VISAKHAPATNAM (TIP): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursdaov 12, said negotiations between India and the United States for a bilateral trade agreement were progressing smoothly, with only a few issues left to be resolved. He indicated that an announcement on the deal could come soon, adding that India was working towards securing one of the "best" trade agreements with Washington.

"We are having a fabulous negotiation with the US. They are an important partner for us in trade and defence, and we share a multi-dimensional relationship. The negotiations are smooth and friendly, with no obstacles. There are just a few issues left, which we are sorting out. You could hear an announcement soon," Goyal told Business Today in an on-camera interaction.

The minister also expressed confidence that the proposed agreement would give India favourable access to the American



market, saying the country had negotiated a strong set of outcomes.

"And in every respect, India will have one of the best deals with the US," he said.

Goyal said India expected to secure highly favourable market access in the US for products in which it had a strong interest, particularly when competing with countries at similar levels of economic development.

"Nations that make the same products and are at a similar level of development, like India. We will have the most preferred market access in the US post the deal in products of our interest," he said.

India and the US had finalised a framework for the first phase of their bilateral trade agreement in February. However, changes in the US tariff landscape have necessitated further negotiations before the pact can be concluded.

A two-member team of US officials visited India earlier this month for discussions on trade and customs facilitation. Goyal said the visit primarily involved engagement with Indian customs authorities.

"The Deputy Chief Negotiator had come for discussions with the customs department on one track," he said.

Asked whether the recent US midterm election results would affect the pace of trade negotiations, Goyal said India did not link its trade relations with domestic political developments in other countries.

"We do not link our trade relations with internal elections or results of any kind," he said.

Sensex falls over 400 points, Nifty above 25,100; HDFC Bank, M&M among top losers

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): The domestic equity market witnessed a weak trading session on Friday, Nov 13, as investors turned cautious, with selling pressure in banking and automobile stocks weighing on the benchmark indices.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell more than 400 points, while the NSE Nifty 50 traded above 25,100. HDFC Bank and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the biggest losers, adding to the pressure on the indices.

The decline comes after a strong run-up in domestic equities over recent sessions, with both benchmark indices having gained around 10 per cent in November. Investors appeared to be booking profits after the rally pushed stocks to elevated levels.

Rising crude oil prices have emerged as a concern for investors, particularly given India's dependence on imported energy. Higher oil prices can increase the country's import bill, put pressure on the rupee and add to inflationary pressures.

Brent crude has been trading around $95 per barrel amid concerns over disruptions to energy supplies following attacks on Saudi energy infrastructure and disruptions to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz.

Inflation has also added to market concerns. India's retail inflation rose to 6.09 per cent in October, moving above the Reserve Bank of India's upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent. The higher reading has raised questions about the inflation outlook and the central bank's room to ease monetary policy.

Another factor weighing on sentiment is profit booking following the recent rally. After substantial gains in November, investors appear to be locking in profits, particularly in stocks that have witnessed significant appreciation.

Despite the weakness in the market, foreign institutional investors have remained net buyers of Indian equities. Foreign investors purchased shares worth Rs 7,831 crore on Thursday, extending their buying streak to nine consecutive sessions. Their November inflows have reached around $8 billion, the highest monthly inflow since December 2020, according to Reuters. The continued foreign buying has provided some support to the domestic market, even as investors remain watchful of inflation, crude oil prices and global market trends.

Investors will track crude oil movements, foreign fund flows and global market cues for further direction. The ability of the Nifty to sustain above the 25,100 level will also remain important as the market navigates profit booking following its recent rally.

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BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 16, 2026 TO NOV 22, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES

Ganesha says this week will be excellent overall for Aries. This time will allow you to recognize your inner energy and channel it positively. Your personal relationships will become sweeter and deeper, strengthening them. This is an excellent time to spend time with friends and family. Your communication skills will improve, allowing you to better express your thoughts and feelings. This weekend will provide you with the opportunity to share pleasant experiences with loved ones. Participate in social events and meet new people. Your creativity will also flourish this week, allowing you to rekindle your hobbies and interests. Try to embrace new ideas by staying in touch with your contacts. This week will bring you excellent opportunities; you just need to maintain a positive attitude. This is a time to strengthen your relationships.

TAURUS

Ganesha says this week may be filled with some challenges for Taurus. You will feel the need to establish balance in your life. Although circumstances may not be favorable, remain patient and maintain positivity. There may be some ups and downs in your relationships, which may make you feel a little anxious. Maintain communication with your loved ones, as this will improve the situation. It's important to spend time with your partner this week, even if circumstances seem stressful. It's crucial to develop empathy and understanding. Don't get caught up in small things; instead, try to understand the situation from a broader perspective. This time may be challenging for your personal growth, but it will strengthen you. If you show patience and courage, these difficulties can give you a new direction. Maintain your emotional balance and a positive outlook this week. Despite the struggles and challenges, hope for better times should always remain.

GEMINI

Ganesha says this week is a time for reflection and improvement for Geminis. During this period, you may face some dilemmas in making decisions, which will impact your mental health. Be careful in your communication and interactions, as disagreements may arise. Be open with your loved ones; this is a time when you need to share your thoughts. Although you may face some challenges, maintaining a positive outlook can improve the situation. Relationship instability is possible this week, but you need to be patient and empathetic. Acting with understanding and sensitivity can strengthen your relationships with others. Remember that every challenge is an opportunity; this week is a good chance for you to deepen your relationships. Try to communicate openly and understand; this will improve your relationships. Try to maintain balance in your relationships this week and move forward with positivity.

CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be especially good for Cancers. The environment around you will foster positivity and creativity. This is a time when you can benefit from understanding and expressing your inner feelings. You will have the opportunity to strengthen your relationships; spending time with loved ones will be enjoyable. Your insight and intuition will help you reach new heights this week. This is a time when your intuition will guide you in the right direction. Focus on your dreams and intentions, and you will find that those around you are influenced by your energy. This week will bring excellence not only to your relationships but also to your personal growth. You will easily overcome every challenge and encounter favorable opportunities. By delving deep into your soul, your desires and goals will become clear. Make the most of this week and maintain a sense of warmth and compassion towards those around you.

LEO

Ganesha says the experience will be wonderful for Leos. This is a time to recognize and hone your personal strengths in life. Your self-confidence will increase, and you will be able to establish better relationships with those around you. This period will bring excitement to social interactions, allowing you to express your thoughts and feelings openly. You have a unique charm that will attract people. This is why your interactions with loved ones will be more empathetic and gentle during this time. Any old conflicts may be resolved, bringing new energy to relationships. Overall, this week is a great time for you to express your heart. Take advantage of this opportunity and try to make positive changes in your life. You may be surrounded by a loving and supportive environment that will help you move forward. Therefore, increase intimacy and friendships, and enjoy this week.

VIRGO

Ganesha says this week, you may feel that your emotions and mindset are a little unstable. An insight is developing within you that can give you a new perspective on life, but it can also bring internal conflict. This is a time to understand the depth of your relationships, but complications may dampen your enthusiasm. People around you may sense your emotional state, and their reactions may further stress you. Minor disputes or disagreements may arise that will need to be resolved. Although this time is challenging, it also provides you with an opportunity to better understand and deal with your emotions. Don't forget to seek help from your support system. This week, give yourself time and accept your feelings, as this will help you move forward.

LIBRA

Ganesha says everything will be especially positive for Libra this week. Planetary positions will bring you excellent experiences in love and relationships. A sense of harmony and unity will increase in your relationships. Your ease in communicating with your partner will strengthen you from within. This is a time especially for forging new friendships and strengthening old ones. Your sensitivity and understanding will help you build happy and lasting relationships with those close to you. Spending time with family and friends will bring you peace of mind. Your creative thinking will spark new and exciting ideas, refreshing your relationships. Don't hesitate to express your feelings and communicate openly. This week, try to understand your loved ones; this will deepen your relationships. Overall, this period will bring precious moments of love and relationships. So, listen to your heart and enjoy this happy time to the fullest.

SCORPIO

Ganesha says the situation seems to be a bit challenging for Scorpios this week. This time may cause you to experience stress on a sensory and psychological level. You need to control your emotions, as this time may make you more sensitive. The circumstances around you may be somewhat unusual, making it difficult to express your thoughts and feelings correctly. During this time, relationships with others may experience ups and downs. Your emotions may flare up over small things, affecting your intimacy. This is a time for dialogue and understanding differences. Listening patiently and expressing your thoughts clearly will help you handle situations sensitively. This week, try to recognize your inner strength through introspection and meditation. This can help you maintain mental balance. Remember, even difficult times will eventually pass; move forward with patience and courage.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be extremely encouraging for Sagittarius. Not only will prosperity prevail in various aspects of your life, but it will also open doors to new possibilities. You will be successful in building cordial relationships with those around you. Through conversation and communication, you will be able to express your thoughts and feelings clearly, which will enhance your understanding. This week will also enhance your decision-making abilities, which may lead to many important opportunities. Positivity in your relationships will bring joy and enthusiasm. Your creativity will be at its peak, inspiring you to implement new ideas and plans. Overall, this week is a time to strengthen your relationships and enjoy new opportunities. Maintain your confidence and move forward with positivity. Use this time wisely and welcome the wave of change in your life.

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week may be challenging for you due to unfavorable planetary positions. This situation can affect all aspects of your life. There may be some turmoil in your relationships. Differences may arise in your family and personal life, so maintain restraint. Keep communication open and express your feelings clearly. It's important to maintain harmony with your partner during this time. Avoid overreacting to small things. Be aware that your reactions can further complicate your relationship. You must approach this period with positivity. Don't hesitate to express your feelings, but act wisely. Mutual understanding and cooperation will help normalize the situation. By proceeding thoughtfully, you can be in a better position by the end of the week. Take this time as an opportunity to strengthen your relationships.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week can be a bit challenging for Aquarius. You will need to maintain mental and emotional stability while dealing with everything. Some tensions and differences may arise in your relationships during this time. This is a time to understand and communicate with those around you. Opinions may differ, so it's important to approach the situation with patience and empathy. Communication can be the solution to any problem. Spending time with loved ones and expressing your feelings clearly will be beneficial. Try to avoid any negativity and maintain positivity. This week is about understanding yourself and strengthening your relationships. Try to find the positive even in stressful moments; this will help revitalize your relationships. Overall, let patience and communication be your guide.

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BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOVEMBER 16 TO NOVEMBER 22
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA



NOVEMBER 16

Ganesha says today that the cosmos appears to be in perfect agreement with your desires. The planets and stars have come together in a way that will bring about opportunities that you have been hoping for. Today is a day to put your faith in your gut feelings, be brave, and take some chances. Your ferocious nature is your greatest asset, and it will point you in the direction of routes that were before unknown to you. Participate in dialogues because they may provide you with new perspectives that you had not previously considered. You are surrounded by an energy that is alive and brimming with possibilities.

NOVEMBER 17

Ganesha says on this day you may find yourself confronted with obstacles that put your mettle to the test. Your inner tenacity is your greatest strength, and the universe may throw curveballs at us to teach and shape us, but you can't let that stop you. Embrace the difficulties, for they are nothing more than stepping stones on the path to your development. Seek the advice of people in your life whom you respect, as the viewpoints they provide may offer options that you had not considered. Keep in mind that what truly defines you is not the difficulty of the task at hand, but rather how you rise to meet it.

NOVEMBER 18

Ganesha says you're encouraged to reconnect with your inner circle. The connections you've made over the years serve as your anchor, bringing not only support but also happiness. Not only will sharing your innermost thoughts and emotions with them make your heart feel lighter, but it will also provide you with insights that you may have missed otherwise. You will be able to make judgments that are in alignment with the wishes of your soul if you take their advice and combine it with the innate intuition you were born with.

NOVEMBER 19

Ganesha says the energy in the world today is electric. It's a day for getting things done, for challenging yourself, and for accomplishing any goals you set for yourself. Your level of vitality is at an all-time high, which means that now is the ideal moment to take on undertakings or problems that you have been putting off. If you can harness this energy and direct it in a positive direction, you'll discover that impediments vanish, providing you with a clear route to achievement.

NOVEMBER 20

Ganesha says You are receiving a gentle nudge from the universe to reflect on the path that you have been on thus far, to look inward, and to take a step back. It is a day to reflect on the things you've accomplished, take stock of the lessons you've learned from your mistakes, and plot out your plans for the future. Your activities should be in line with your genuine purpose, and this introspection will help you gain clarity to ensure that this is the case.

NOVEMBER 21

Ganesha says that you have a responsibility to serve as a source of optimism and motivation for the people in your immediate environment. Your inherent characteristics of leadership shine brightly, making you an attractive choice for individuals who are looking for direction. When you assist people and actively listen to what they have to say, you will discover that you are also assisting yourself, which will start a cycle of positive progress in your life. You are going to come out on the other side of today more powerful and more experienced because of your ferocious spirit and your unyielding determination.

NOVEMBER 22

Ganesha says as the month draws to a close, it's a day of celebration for you. Your perseverance, your enthusiasm, and your achievements are all worthy of praise from the cosmos. Just for a little while, let yourself soak up all the love and praise that is emanating from everyone around you. If you want to make memories that will last a lifetime, you should try to share the happy times you have with the people you care about. If you learn to harness it, you'll discover that doors you previously believed to be closed are suddenly invitingly open.

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PISCES

Ganesha says Pisces, the energy surrounding you this week is extremely positive, allowing you to connect deeply with your emotions and relationships. You will enjoy spending time with loved ones this week. Your relationships will experience a new freshness and excitement, filling your mind with joy. Your creativity will be at its peak during this time, allowing you to plan new activities to share with those close to you. Mutual understanding and communication will be key elements in strengthening relationships this week. You will also take important steps towards spiritual and personal growth this week. This is a time for introspection and meditation, which will reveal the depths of your inner self. Overall, this week will prove to be a great one for you, allowing you to spend quality time with the important people in your life. Experience improved relationships and commitment with your loved ones and make full use of this positive energy.

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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Trump tells JD Vance to...

perhaps more politically salient - issue after Republicans were trounced at the polls.

"We don't need a deal with Iran," Trump said in the post. "Those days have long since passed. We've got their money, Hundreds of Billions of Dollars, and we've got their Strait!"

Trump earlier this week said he believed the war "militarily is effectively over," and appeared to double down on that message by pointedly directing Vance "to focus his complete and total attention" on his anti-fraud campaign.

Democrats have promised intense oversight of Trump's business dealings and other targets when they take control of Congress in January after voters identified corruption as one of their top concerns. Trump's post about Vance and the Iran war was, in part, responding to a flurry of reports about Democrats' plans.

But it also came after The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday evening that Vance was weighing engaging in a new round of direct talks with a senior Iranian official.

The White House press office, in an email, responded to a query by highlighting that Trump made clear in his post that he sees no need to negotiate with Iran.

Vance, who had long advocated for restraint in U.S. military interventions overseas, was lukewarm in his defense of the conflict after Trump launched it and became the face of an unsuccessful attempt to end the fighting when he headed up negotiations over the summer.

Following the Nov. 3 losses, Vance wrote a lengthy post on X in which he didn't mince words about the political impact of the conflict.

"If you'd like to argue it was worth it, that losing the Senate for the next 6 years was worth it, then do so," Vance said. "Argue it was a worthwhile cost to pay. Agree or disagree, that's at least honest."

The vice president is considering whether to launch a 2028 run for the White House. Voter dissatisfaction with Trump's handling of the war could weigh down those ambitions.

The president has yet to endorse a successor for the 2028 race. In a CBS "60 Minutes" interview that aired Sunday, the president said he "may or may not get involved" in offering an endorsement. (Source: AP)

India's PM Modi to Visit...

trade, energy, technology, security and people-to-people ties."

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday said: "As you are aware, Foreign Minister of Canada visited India a few days back. She met with the External Affairs Minister (S Jaishankar) and discussed progress in bilateral ties. She also called on the Prime Minister. During the visit, the Prime Minister's visit to Canada came up for discussion. The dates for the visit are presently under discussion. We will announce the visit at the appropriate time."

PM Modi met visiting Foreign Minister of Canada Anita Anand on Wednesday and said India is committed to building a "constructive and forward-looking strategic partnership" with Canada that delivers "tangible benefits" to the people of both countries.

Modi, after meeting Anand, said, "Pleased to meet Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand. We had a productive discussion on further strengthening India-Canada ties in trade, technology, security, energy, education and people-to-people exchanges."

"India is committed to building a constructive and forward-looking strategic partnership with Canada that delivers tangible benefits to the people of both countries," he posted on X.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Modi and Foreign Minister Anand discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral ties and expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including trade, science and technology, defense, security, energy, education, people-to-people ties and multilateral cooperation, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US Congressman Ro Khanna...

Schumer. I'm calling on every Democratic Senator, including the ones I campaigned for, to support Chris Van Hollen. Chris will fight to actually end the funding for this war in Iran and to zero out the aid to Israel, and Chris will allow for a vote on Medicare for All," Khanna said.

He added that he had been among the first lawmakers to call for Schumer to step aside, arguing that Van Hollen's election would provide an opportunity for a change in leadership in the Senate.

Khanna's endorsement comes as Van Hollen gathers support from several Democratic lawmakers after announcing his intention to challenge Schumer for the party's top Senate leadership position.

Senator Bernie Sanders and newly elected Michigan Senator Abdul El-Sayed have also endorsed Van Hollen's bid.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Microsoft outage hits companies and...

assistant Copilot were reported by users to be down.

The Redmond, Washington-based company said it was trying different ways to identify the cause of the problem and get its servers back online, using "a measured approach to identify and repair affected infrastructure." The company said it did not have any indication that the outage was caused by malicious activity and would treat the incident "with urgency and priority until full resolution."

More than 130,000 users on outage tracker Downdetector reported problems accessing Outlook earlier on Thursday, November 12, although new reports have since fallen from that peak.

A series of posts by the company on X suggested its engineers were struggling to get the problem fully under control.

Hours after saying it managed to successfully restore service health and functionality, the company said it had updated its list of impacted services and was continuing to address the issue.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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The human and economic costs of this war extend far beyond the battlefield.

The fourth consequence may prove even more damaging to American interests in the long run. It is the growing realization among Gulf leaders that the United States may no longer be able to guarantee their security. For decades, these nations have depended upon America's military presence, sophisticated weapons systems, and security commitments to protect them from external threats. They spent billions purchasing American military equipment and providing facilities for American forces.

Yet when the confrontation with Iran escalated, their territories and economic interests became targets of retaliation. They discovered that hosting American military facilities could make them vulnerable rather than necessarily provide the security they had expected. This realization could fundamentally alter the strategic calculations of Gulf leaders. They cannot simply move away from Iran. Geography does not permit that luxury. They must somehow learn to coexist with Tehran, whether Washington likes it or not.

Consequently, we may witness a gradual realignment of relationships in the Middle East, with Gulf nations seeking greater independence in their foreign policies and exploring new security arrangements. China and other powers could find opportunities to expand their influence as confidence in American security guarantees diminishes. For a country that has invested so much blood and treasure in maintaining its influence in the Middle East, this would be a remarkable strategic setback.

Finally, there is the danger of an emboldened Iran emerging from this conflict. Despite the enormous punishment inflicted upon its military infrastructure, Iran has survived the initial assault and retained sufficient capabilities to threaten its neighbors and disrupt global energy supplies. That alone could strengthen the regime's claim that it successfully resisted the combined military power of the United States and Israel.

Tehran may attempt to leverage its ability to threaten the Strait of Hormuz in future negotiations. Rather than abandoning its regional ambitions, it may demand concessions in return for restoring stability and reducing tensions. The United States, anxious to escape another costly Middle Eastern confrontation, could find itself negotiating from a position far less favorable than its leaders anticipated when they launched the war. What an irony! A war intended to weaken Iran could end up strengthening its bargaining position.

The intelligence and strategic failures surrounding this conflict will undoubtedly be studied for years to come. How did America's military planners misjudge the resilience of the Iranian regime? Why was there such confidence that military pressure would produce political capitulation? Why was insufficient attention apparently given to the economic consequences of a prolonged confrontation?

Iran's military strategy was hardly a secret. For years, it had invested in missiles, drones, underground facilities, and unconventional warfare, knowing full well that it could never match American military power. Tehran did not need to defeat the United States on the battlefield. It only needed to survive long enough to make the war politically and economically unbearable for Washington. That is where the Trump administration and its intelligence agencies failed so miserably. Even the diplomatic negotiations conducted by Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff appeared to underestimate the resilience and strategic calculations of the Iranian leadership. It is another case of David confronting Goliath, not by matching his strength but by exploiting his vulnerabilities.

Trump's constant threats, exaggerated claims, and undiplomatic pronouncements did little to inspire confidence among America's friends or intimidate its adversaries. His administration seemed to believe that overwhelming military power could accomplish anything. But destroying military installations is not the same as winning a war, and bringing an adversary to the negotiating table is not the same as forcing him to surrender. That distinction appears to have been lost on those who planned and executed this ill-conceived adventure.

Vice President Vance may be correct in blaming the Iran war for the Republican defeat. However, I would go one step further. Americans did not necessarily reject the Republicans because they went to war. They rejected them because they failed to win it, failed to finish it, and failed to explain why billions of American dollars were being spent abroad while economic problems at home remained unresolved. Trump came to power promising to put America First and end the endless foreign wars. Instead, he ended up repeating the same mistakes he had so loudly condemned. Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan should have taught him that military superiority does not necessarily translate into political victory.

There is a lesson here for every future American president. Never go to war unless it is in the nation's vital interests, and never begin one without a clear objective and a strategy to finish it. Trump believed that he could bring about a regime change in Tehran. Instead, American voters chose to change the political balance in Washington. What an irony! Americans may forgive a president for going to war when national security is at stake, but they are far less likely to forgive one who takes them into a war without knowing how to get them out. That is what brought about the Republican shellacking at the polls. It is the war, stupid! But more precisely, it is the war you failed to finish!

(George Abraham is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

Chhath Puja: The sacred four-day festival celebrating the sun god, faith and devotion



Chhath is an ancient Hindu Vedic festival which is historically celebrated in Bihar-Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and India's eastern Uttar Pradesh and Nepal in the most elaborate form. This festival is celebrated mainly in Bihar- Jharkhand. But it is also prevalent in areas where the presence of people of Bihar-Jharkhand is present. This festival is celebrated not only in India but also in foreign countries. This festival has now become prominent in the India capital, Delhi. The Chhath Puja is dedicated to the Sun and his wife Usha in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth and to request the granting of certain wishes.

It is called Chhath due to Sun Shastri's fasting. This festival is celebrated twice a year. For the first time in Chaitra and the second time in Kartik. The festival celebrated on the Chaitra Shukla Paksha Sashti is called Chaitra Chhath and the festival celebrated on the Kartik Shukla Paksha Sashti is called Kartik Chhath.

Chhath Puja is a four-day festival. It starts with Kartik Shukla Chaturthi and ends with Kartik Shukla Saptami. During this fasting, the fast will continues for next 36 hours. During this time they do not even accept water.

Important information

Chhath Puja or Surya Shashthi 2026

13 Novmeber 2026 - Nahay-Khay First Day of Chhath Festival.

14 Novmeber 2026 - Kharna and Lohanda Second Day of Chhath Festival.

15 Novmeber 2026 - Sandhya Arghya Third Day of Chhath Festival.

16 Novmeber 2026 - Usha Arghya Foruth Day of Chhath Festival.

Sunrise on Chhath Puja Day : 16 Novmeber 2026 at 06:44 am

Sunset on Chhath Puja Day : 16 Novmeber 2026 at 05:27 pm

Chhath festival is also known by this name: Chhathi, Chhath Parv, Chhath Puja, Dala Chhath, Dala Puja, Surya Shashthi

Nahay Khay

The first day of Chhath festival or it can be said that Chhath festival starts from this day, this day is known as 'Nahay-Khay'. This day falls on the Chaturthi of Kartik month, Kartik Shukla Chaturthi. On this day, first of all the house is cleaned and sanctified. On this day, the fasting person can eat food only once in a day. On this day, the devotees take a bath after thoroughly cutting off the nails, etc., washing their hair thoroughly with clean water. Vratis take bath in the nearby river Ganges, a tributary of the Ganges or a pond. While returning, he brings with him Gangajal which he uses for cooking. The fasting eats food only once on this day. In the food, Vratis use pumpkin vegetable, moong gram dal, rice. This food is cooked in a bronze or earthen pot. Mango wood and earthen stove are used for cooking. When the food is prepared, first the fast eats the food, only then other members of the family eat the food.

Kharna and Lohanda

The second day of Chhath festival is known as Kharna or Lohanda. It is celebrated on Panchami of Kartik month. On this day, the fasting fasts fast for the whole day. Do not take even a drop of water before sunset. In the evening, kheer is made using rice jaggery and sugarcane juice. Salt and sugar are not used in cooking. After giving these two things to the Sun God, they do 'solitude' in the same house, that is, they accept it by staying alone. All the family members go out of the house at that time so that there is no noise. It is against the rules of the festival to hear any kind of sound for the fasting person while eating alone.

After eating the fast again, he feeds the same 'Kheer-Roti' to all his family members and friends and relatives. This whole process is called 'Kharna'. Rice pitha and ghee-laden roti are also distributed as prasad. After this, for the next 36 hours, the fasting fast is kept Nirjala. At midnight, the fasting prepares special prasad Thekua for Chhath Puja.

Sandhya Arghya

The third day of Chhath festival which is known as Sandhya Arghya. It is celebrated on Kartik Shukla Shashthi. This day is a special day of Chhat Puja. Special prasad like thekua, also known as rice laddus or kachvaniya, is prepared for Chhath puja. For Chhath Puja, a basket made of bamboo called Daura is put in the offerings of worship, fruits and kept in Devkari. After offering worship, in the evening a coconut, five types of fruits, and other items of worship are placed in a basket, which the man picks up with his hands and takes it to the Chhath Ghat. It is not impure so that it is kept on the top of the head. On the way towards Chhath Ghat, women usually go singing the song of Chhath.

Usha Arghya

Arghya is offered to the rising sun on the morning of Kartik Shukla Saptami on the fourth day. Even before sunrise, the fasting people worship the rising sun god at the ghat. The dishes offered in Sandhya Arghya are replaced by new ones, but the tubers, roots, fruits and vegetables remain the same. All the rules and regulations are the same as in the evening prayer. At this time only the fasting people stand in the water facing east and do Suryapasana. After the worship is over, the ghat is worshipped. After distributing prasad among the people present there, the fasting comes home and also distributes prasad to his family at home. Vratis come back home and worship the Peepal tree in the village, which is called Brahma Baba. After the puja, the fasting is completed by drinking sherbet of raw milk and eating some prasad, which is called Paran or Parana. The fasting people eat salty food this morning after fasting from Kharna till date.

Popular Katha

Many stories are prevalent in relation to Chhath fast. According to one of them, when Pandavas lost their entire palace in gambling, then Lord Krishna suggest to Draupadi for Chhath fast. When Draupati completed the fast, her wishes were fulfilled and the Pandavas got the Raajpat's back.

According to one belief, Lord Rama and Mata Sita fasted Kartik Shukla Shishtha on the establishment of Ramrajya after the Lanka victory and worshiped the sun god. Saptami had received a blessing from Sun God after re-rituals during sunrise.

Scientific point of view

If the Chhath festival is seen from a scientific point of view, then a special astronomical transformation on the date, at this time, the ultraviolet rays of the Sun are gathered in greater quantity than the normal on the surface of the earth, hence due to its possible maladies, the power to protect is achieved. Following the festival of Chhath Puja, the animals are protected from harmful effects of sun light. In Hindu religion, Lord Sun is worshiped for the treatment of various types of skin diseases including leprosy diseases.

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NOVEMBER 13



November 13, 1942 - The five Sullivan Brothers from Waterloo, Iowa, were lost in the sinking of the cruiser USS Juneau by a Japanese torpedo off Guadalcanal during World War II in the Pacific. Following their deaths, the U.S. Navy changed regulations to prohibit close relatives from serving on the same ship.

November 13, 1945 - General Charles De Gaulle was appointed president of the French provisional government.

November 13, 1956 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

November 13, 1973 - A state of emergency was declared in Britain after power workers and coal miners began work slowdowns.

November 13, 1995 - Israel began pulling its troops out of the West Bank city of Jenin, ending 28 years of occupation.

Birthday - American jurist Louis Brandeis (1856-1941) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as an associate justice of U.S. Supreme Court from 1916 to 1939.

Birthday - Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894) was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. Best known for Treasure Island, Kidnapped and The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

NOVEMBER 14

November 14, 1994 - The first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.



Birthday - Steamboat developer Robert Fulton (1765-1815) was born in rural Pennsylvania.

Birthday - French painter Claude Monet (1840-1926) was born in Paris. He pioneered the impressionist style in his landscapes including the Haystacks, Poplars, and Rouen Cathedral series.

Birthday - Jawaharlal Nehru (1889-1964) was born in Allahabad, India. He spent over 20 years working with Mahatma Gandhi to free India from British rule. Following independence in 1947, Nehru became India's first prime minister, serving until his death in 1964.

Birthday - American composer Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was born in Brooklyn, New York. He created a quintessential American music style in his ballets, film scores, and orchestral works including Fanfare for the Common Man, Rodeo, and Appalachian Spring for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. His film score for The Heiress won an Oscar.

NOVEMBER 15

November 15, 1943 - During the Holocaust, Heinrich Himmler ordered Gypsies and part-Gypsies to be sent to concentration camps. The number of Gypsies killed by Nazis is estimated up to 500,000.

November 15, 1969 - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.

November 15, 1980 - Pope John Paul II visited West Germany, the first papal visit to Germany in 200 years.



Birthday - American artist Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-1986) was born in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. She painted desert landscapes and flower studies and was the subject of more than 500 photographs taken by her husband, photographer Alfred Stieglitz.

Birthday - German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel (1891-1944) was born at Heidenheim, in Wurttemberg, Germany. During World War II, he led the 7th Panzer Division to victory in the Battle of France. His early victories in North Africa earned him the nickname, "Desert Fox." However, in 1943, he was defeated at El Alamein by the British under General Montgomery. Rommel was implicated in the July 1944 failed assassination of Hitler. He was then forced to commit suicide and died at age 52 on October 14, 1944, near Ulm, Germany. BuyMaps

NOVEMBER 16

November 16, 1933 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced the U.S. and Soviet Russia had resumed diplomatic relations, suspended since 1919.



November 16, 1989 - South African President F.W. de Klerk announced the abandonment of the Separate Amenities Act, thus opening the country's beaches to all races.

November 16, 1995 - The United Nations charged Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and his military commander, Ratko Mladic, with genocide.

NOVEMBER 17



November 17, 1954 - General Gamal Abdel Nasser became Egyptian head of state after forcing out General Mohammed Naguib.

November 17, 1989 - Thousands of protesters marched through the streets of Prague demanding an end to Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. Riot police and army paratroopers then moved in to crush the revolt.

November 17, 1993 - The United Nations opened its first war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II. Judges from 11 nations were sworn in to examine recent mass murders in Yugoslavia characterized as ethnic cleansing.

November 17, 1993 - NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 234 to 200. NovemberHistory Events

Birthday - German mathematician August Mobius (1790-1868) was born in Schulpforte, Germany. He worked in the area of analytic geometry and was a pioneer in topology, the study of geometric figures that remain constant even when twisted or distorted.

Birthday - British General Bernard L. Montgomery (1887-1976) was born in St. Mark's Vicarage, Kennington Oval, London. He led the British Eighth Army to a major victory over the Germans at El Alamein in North Africa in 1943. He then led the Eighth Army in the Sicilian and Italian campaigns and commanded all ground forces during D-Day.

NOVEMBER 18

November 18, 1993 - South Africa adopted a new constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule. The constitution provided basic civil rights to blacks and was approved by representatives of the ruling party, as well as members of 20 other political parties. NovemberHistory Events



Birthday - German composer Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826) was born in Eutin, Germany. He founded the German romantic style of music. Best known for his operas including Der Freischutz.

Birthday - Photography inventor Louis Daguerre (1789-1851) was born in Cormeilles, near Paris. In 1839, at a meeting of the French Academy of Sciences, he announced his daguerreotype process, the first practical photographic process that produced lasting pictures.

Birthday - British author Sir William Gilbert (1836-1911) was born in London. He wrote the verses for the famed Gilbert and Sullivan comic operas which poked fun at the British establishment. Among their operas; H.M.S. Pinafore, The Pirates of Penzance, Iolanthe, The Mikado and The Yeoman of the Guard. He died in May 1911, suffering a heart attack while attempting to save a woman from drowning.

Birthday - Polish pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski (1860-1941) was born in Kurylowka in southwestern Russia. He achieved world fame for his interpretations of Schubert and Chopin. After World War I, he served briefly as the first premier of the Republic of Poland.

NOVEMBER 19

November 19, 1939 - Construction of the first presidential library began as President Franklin D. Roosevelt laid the cornerstone next to his home in Hyde Park, New York. Roosevelt donated the land, but public donations funded the library building which was dedicated on June 30, 1941.

November 19, 1942 - The Russian Army began a massive counter-offensive against the Germans at Stalingrad during World War II.

November 19, 1969 - The first news reports emerged that American troops in Vietnam had massacred civilians in My Lai Village back in March of 1968. NovemberHistory Events



November 19, 1977 - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

November 19, 1978 - The biggest mass suicide in history occurred as Reverend Jim Jones led over 900 followers to their deaths at Jonestown, Guyana. Members of his "Peoples Temple" religious cult were ordered to drink a cyanide-laced fruit drink. Those who refused were forcibly injected. Precipitating the tragedy a day earlier, California Congressman Leo J. Ryan, along with four associates and several reporters, had been shot to death during an ambush at a nearby airstrip. They were attempting to return home after investigating the cult's remote jungle location. Jones and his mistress killed themselves after watching his entire membership die. Only a few cult members managed to escape.

November 19-20, 1990 - The Cold War came to an end during a summit in Paris as leaders of NATO and the Warsaw Pact signed a Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, vastly reducing their military arsenals.

Mukteshwar: Uttarakhand's hidden Himalayan gem where nature, adventure come together

Tucked away in the beautiful Kumaon hills of Uttarakhand, Mukteshwar is a charming hill town that promises a refreshing escape from the chaos of city life. Located around 50 km from Nainital, this picturesque destination is known for its breathtaking views of the Himalayan ranges, lush green forests, winding trails and peaceful surroundings. Whether you are a nature lover, an adventure enthusiast or someone looking for a quiet holiday in the mountains, Mukteshwar has something special to offer. Named after the ancient 350-year-old Mukteshwar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, the town is steeped in mythology and spiritual significance. According to local belief, Lord Shiva defeated a demon here and granted him moksha, or salvation. Beyond its religious charm, Mukteshwar captivates visitors with its colonial-era cottages, fruit orchards, pine and coniferous forests, and rolling green meadows.

Unlike some of Uttarakhand's more crowded hill stations, Mukteshwar offers a slower, more intimate mountain experience. Here, mornings begin with crisp mountain air, birdsong and spectacular sunrise views, while evenings invite you to unwind amid the tranquillity of the hills.





Places to Explore

Sitla - A Peaceful Colonial Retreat

Perched at approximately 6,000 feet, Sitla is a beautiful hill destination known for its old-world charm and colonial-style bungalows. Surrounded by dense forests and scenic mountain landscapes, it is an ideal place for travellers seeking peace and solitude. Adventure lovers can also enjoy trekking expeditions along the surrounding trails, with routes catering to different experience levels.

Chauli Ki Jaali - Where Mythology Meets Nature

Located close to Mukteshwar Temple, Chauli Ki Jaali is one of the town's most fascinating attractions. This natural rock formation is associated with local legends about a battle between a demon and a goddess. Visitors can spot unusual markings on the rocks that are traditionally believed to resemble a sword, shield and elephant trunk.

The site is also known for its spectacular views of the surrounding valleys and Himalayan landscape. According to local folklore, women hoping to conceive visit the natural rock lattice with the belief that it may bless them with children. Whether you visit for its mythology or magnificent scenery, Chauli Ki Jaali is worth exploring.

Mukteshwar Temple - A Spiritual Escape in the Hills

Standing proudly at around 2,312 metres above sea level, the ancient Mukteshwar Temple is among the most significant attractions in the region. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this centuries-old shrine is not only a place of worship but also a wonderful vantage point offering panoramic views of the surrounding mountains.

The temple houses a white marble Shiva Linga with a copper yoni, along with idols of several Hindu deities, including Lord Ganesha, Goddess Parvati, Lord Vishnu, Brahma, Hanuman and Nandi.

Reaching the temple is an experience in itself. The scenic approach takes visitors through beautiful orchards and forested trails, making the journey as memorable as the destination. The peaceful atmosphere also makes it an ideal spot for meditation and reflection.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute - A Heritage Landmark

Established in 1885, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) is an important educational and research institution that adds a distinctive historical dimension to Mukteshwar. Spread across a vast campus amid the picturesque Kumaon hills, the institute is surrounded by beautiful landscapes and colonial-era architecture.

The institute is dedicated to research in veterinary sciences, animal health, livestock diseases and related fields. Its historic buildings and scenic surroundings make it an interesting landmark for visitors interested in history, science and architecture. Visitors should check access permissions before planning a campus visit.

Nanda Devi Viewpoint - Witness the Majesty of the Himalayas

One of the biggest attractions of Mukteshwar is its spectacular Himalayan panorama. On a clear day, visitors can enjoy magnificent views of Nanda Devi, India's second-highest mountain peak, rising to an impressive 7,816 metres. Watching the snow-covered Himalayan peaks glow in the golden light of sunrise or sunset is an unforgettable experience. Keep your camera ready, as the changing colours of the mountains create picture-perfect moments throughout the day.

Mukteshwar Inspection Bungalow - A Scenic Mountain Hideaway

For travellers who love heritage architecture and breathtaking landscapes, the Mukteshwar Inspection Bungalow is another interesting landmark. Located near the temple, it is known for its beautiful surroundings and views of the Himalayan ranges. Its peaceful setting makes it an attractive spot for those looking to experience the old-world charm of the hills.

Things to Do in Mukteshwar

Soar Above the Valleys with Paragliding

If you are looking for an adrenaline rush, paragliding can add an exciting twist to your Mukteshwar holiday. Imagine floating above lush valleys, looking down at tiny villages and forests while enjoying sweeping views of the mountains. It is a thrilling way to experience the region's natural beauty from a completely different perspective. Activities are weather-dependent, so choose a licensed operator and check current availability before booking.

Trek Through Picturesque Forest Trails

Mukteshwar is a paradise for trekking enthusiasts. Its winding trails pass through dense forests, charming villages, fruit orchards and beautiful meadows. Whether you prefer a leisurely nature walk or a more challenging hike, the surrounding hills offer plenty of opportunities to explore.

The best part of trekking here is the chance to experience the region's natural beauty at your own pace, away from the usual tourist crowds.

Enjoy Camping Under the Stars

For those who wish to spend more time amidst nature, camping is a wonderful experience in Mukteshwar. Spend your evenings surrounded by towering trees, enjoy the cool mountain breeze and admire the star-filled night sky. Several local stays and adventure operators offer camping experiences, sometimes combined with trekking and other outdoor activities.

The Perfect Escape for Nature Lovers

Mukteshwar is more than just another hill station in Uttarakhand. It is a destination where spirituality, adventure, history and natural beauty come together effortlessly. From exploring ancient temples and mysterious rock formations to trekking through forest trails and admiring the mighty Himalayas, every experience here has its own charm.

So, if you are dreaming of a mountain getaway filled with peaceful mornings, breathtaking views and unforgettable adventures, Mukteshwar deserves a place on your travel bucket list. Sometimes, the best holidays are not about doing more but about slowing down, breathing in the mountain air and simply enjoying the beauty around you.

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Pat threw Khawaja under the bus: Warner on Sandpapergate denial

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

SANTA CLARA (TIP): Former Australia opener David Warner has hit back at Pat Cummins after the Australia captain rejected Usman Khawaja's revelations about the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, accusing him of throwing his former teammate under the bus. Warner said he stood firmly by Khawaja's account of the infamous Sandpapergate episode and was disappointed with Cummins' public response.

Speaking on Fox Cricket ahead of Australia's first ODI against England, Warner said Khawaja had told the truth in his autobiography, Sabr, and deserved support rather than criticism. "I still stick by Uzzy, and what he's written in that book, because it is the truth, and I really, really support him," Warner said.

"I actually feel for him at the moment. I actually feel that today, the captain threw Uzzy under the bus, and I'm very, very disappointed about that."

Warner's comments came after Cummins addressed the controversy in an hour-long press conference, strongly rejecting Khawaja's claims about the extent of the Australian team's knowledge of the ball-tampering episode during the 2018 Cape Town Test against South Africa.

"If by that he means that we knew sandpaper was going out in the field, he's 100 per cent wrong. I've said that consistently for the last eight years. I did not know that was happening," Cummins said.

The Australia captain also took issue with Khawaja's suggestion that he and other members of the team were architects of a plan to alter the condition of the ball.

"That's complete and utter nonsense," Cummins said, adding that he was disappointed with the way Khawaja had handled the revelations.

Cummins said the book had been casual with his life and the reputations of others, and questioned why Khawaja had not intervened when he allegedly knew that sandpaper was being used. He also said the revelations had reopened a painful chapter for those involved.

Warner, however, believes the consequences of the scandal have continued to follow the three players who were punished by Cricket Australia. Warner, Steve Smith and Cameron Bancroft were handed suspensions of varying lengths after the incident, with Warner and Smith receiving 12-month bans and Bancroft being suspended for nine months.



"All three of us have paid a big price in this thing. I hadn't spoken about it in eight years, but at the end of the day, we've got to live with these consequences daily. We've been served a life punishment," Warner said.

The former opener said the focus on the three players had overlooked the emotional and personal cost they had endured since the scandal.

"When other people talk about how they've been affected by it, there's nothing worse for me, Steve and Cam, who have to walk out there every day and we cop abuse.

"Yes, we accepted it, but at the end of the day, my wife and I paid the greatest price. We lost a baby during that time. That's why it really hurts me the most until the truth is accepted," he added.

The controversy resurfaced after Khawaja revisited the 2018 scandal in his book Sabr, questioning whether Warner, Smith and Bancroft were made to shoulder the blame for an episode in which the wider team had knowledge of what was happening.

Khawaja recounted events during the Cape Town Test, where Bancroft was caught on television cameras attempting to use a piece of sandpaper on the ball. The incident led to an investigation by Cricket Australia and severe sanctions against the three players.

Kumamoto Masters: Lakshya beats crowd favourite to reach semis, Srikanth ousted

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

KUMAMOTO (TIP): Lakshya Sen continued his impressive run at the Kumamoto Masters Japan Super 500, producing a composed performance to beat home favourite Yushi Tanaka in straight games and reach the men's singles semifinals on Friday, Nov 13.

The eighth-seeded Indian needed just 40 minutes to overcome the World No. 31, winning 21-16, 21-15 at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium. Despite the vociferous home support behind Tanaka, Lakshya rarely looked troubled, using his attacking game and quick follow-up shots to keep his opponent under pressure.

The victory is significant for Lakshya, who is chasing a place in the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals in China. The Indian is currently 12th in the World Tour rankings with 64,980 points and needs to break into the top eight to qualify. A title run in Kumamoto would give his chances a considerable boost.

Lakshya will face sixth seed Alwi Farhan of Indonesia in the semifinals. The Indian has lost both his previous meetings against the World No. 10, making Saturday's contest another important test.

Lakshya is bidding for his second successive title on the BWF Tour after winning the Hylo Open in Germany last month. Having skipped the Korea Masters, he has made an encouraging return to competition in Japan, dropping no games in his last two matches.

Lakshya gradually took control of the opening game after a tight start, with Tanaka briefly threatening a comeback before the Indian pulled away to take the lead.

The second game followed a similar pattern, with the pair locked in a close contest until Lakshya's attacking play helped him open up a decisive four-point cushion. Tanaka struggled to keep up as the Indian maintained the pressure, eventually closing out the match without much fuss.

Meanwhile, former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth's campaign came to an end after a 22-24, 15-21 defeat to Japan's Koki Watanabe in 41 minutes.

The unseeded Indian had enjoyed an encouraging run in Kumamoto, beating Denmark's Rasmus Gemke in the opening round before producing one of the upsets of the tournament by defeating fifth seed and World No. 8 Kodai Naraoka in a three-game battle on Thursday.

Srikanth had another opportunity to extend his run against Watanabe but could not convert his chances in a closely fought opening game. He also appeared to be in control in the second, building a 12-5 lead after the change of ends.

Harry Kane breaks England record, Italy stun France in Nations League thriller

NOVEMBER 13, 2026

LONDON (TIP): Harry Kane celebrated a landmark night for England with another match-winning performance as the Three Lions defeated Croatia 2-1 in the UEFA Nations League on Thursday, Nov 12. The England captain became his country's most-capped men's international before scoring his 92nd goal to secure qualification for the quarter-finals.

Italy produced one of the night's biggest results, recovering from an early setback to beat France 3-1 at San Siro. Pio Esposito scored twice as Italy registered their first home victory against France since 1962, leaving both sides level on points at the top of Group A1.

World champions Spain continued their impressive run with a 2-0 victory over the Czech Republic, maintaining their perfect record in the competition. Alex Baena and Marc Pubill were on target as Spain extended their unbeaten run to 43 matches.

Belgium also kept their qualification hopes alive with a 2-1 comeback win against Trkiye, while Thursday's results



Harry Kane

set up an intriguing final round of group fixtures. England and Spain have already secured quarter-final places, but their meeting in Madrid on Sunday will determine who finishes top of Group A3.

Kane's 126th appearance took him past Peter Shilton to become England's outright record holder for men's international caps. He marked the occasion by extending his national scoring record, converting a second-half penalty to seal a 2-1 win at Wembley.

Morgan Rogers opened the scoring in the 24th minute after Jude Bellingham helped create the opportunity. Croatia responded through Petar Sucic in the 59th minute, but England regained the lead five minutes later after Jarell Quansah was brought down inside the box.

Kane stepped up and converted from the spot to take his international tally to 92 goals.

"It's a perfect opportunity now Sunday to try to prove ourselves," Kane told ITV Sport, looking ahead to the meeting with Spain.

England need to beat Spain by at least two goals to finish top of the group, having lost 3-2 in the reverse fixture in September.

Italy had to recover from an early setback after Michael Olise capitalised on a mistake by Gianluigi Donnarumma to put France ahead. Pio Esposito restored parity in the 26th minute, finishing Nicol Cambiaghi's delivery to bring the hosts back into the contest.

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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Best Wishes, Peter



Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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