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EVER TRUTHFUL

20TH YEAR

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on

January 1, 2027.

Abounding in scholarly articles on a diversity of issues, the edition recaps and bids good bye to 2026 and welcomes 2027.

Readers are invited to be a part of this historic edition with their contribution of articles and advertisements.

Please email to salujaindra@gmail.com latest by December 15, 2026.

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Donald Trump urges Vladimir Putin to end 'military aggression' in Europe

Donald Trump said he had requested Vladimir Putin when they met in China last week, adding that he thought it would help lead to a deal to end Moscow's grinding war in Ukraine



Russia's President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump.

File | Photo Credit: Reuters

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

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday, November 26, 2026, he had asked Vladimir Putin to "pull back all military aggression" against Europe, in a fresh shift in tone towards the Russian leader he called his friend just last week, reports AFP from West Palm Beach, Florida.

Mr. Trump said he had requested Mr. Putin when they met in China last week, adding that he thought it would help lead to a deal to end Moscow's grinding war in Ukraine.

Kremlin accuses Ukraine of trying to widen conflict zone to Mediterranean and Baltic seas

Mr. Trump's comments come a day after he hosted NATO chief Mark Rutte in Florida, after which the two leaders issued a joint statement calling on

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A SEASON OF FAREWELLS FOR A MUCH-LOVED DIPLOMAT

INDIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS BID AN AFFECTIONATE FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR BINAYA SRIKANTA PRADHAN AND HIS WIFE MONALISA AS THEY PREPARE TO RETURN TO NEW DELHI



FIA presents framed keepsakes to Consul General Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan and Monalisa Shuvadarshini

NOVEMBER 24, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

November has turned into a season of farewells for India's Consul General in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and his wife, Monalisa Shuvadarshini Pradhan, as the distinguished diplomat prepares to conclude his tenure at the end of the month and take up his next assignment in New Delhi.

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BJP-LED NDA'S DELIMITATION DILEMMA: HOW WILL IT SECURE THE NUMBERS THIS TIME?

DMK, NCP-SP SUPPORT KEY AS TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY NEEDED



NOVEMBER 27, 2026
NEW DELHI (TIP)

In signs that it has mustered the numbers required to pass the Constitution amendment Bills on delimitation and the implementation of 33 per cent reservation for women in the

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Major storm batters U.S. on Thanksgiving holiday; 400 flights cancelled

NEW YORK'S FAMED MACY'S PARADE WAS POSTPONED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ITS 100-YEAR HISTORY



Macy's Thanksgiving Parade 2025 File photo

NOVEMBER 27, 2026
NEW YORK (TIP)

A powerful storm disrupted Thanksgiving celebrations for millions of Americans on Thursday, November 26, 2026, as New York's famed Macy's parade was postponed for the first time in its 100-year history.

Heavy rain and strong winds from the "Nor-easter" battered the central and eastern United States, creating treacherous travel conditions during one of the country's busiest holiday periods.

As families were gathering for traditional holiday feasts, more than 900,000 homes and businesses were without power, with Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia particularly

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COMMENT

WAKE UP, UNITED NATIONS! HUMANITY CANNOT WAIT



THE WORLD NEEDS NOT ANOTHER ARSENAL OF WEAPONS, BUT AN AWAKENING OF CONSCIENCE. PEACE MUST BECOME OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY, AND COMPASSION OUR COMMON LANGUAGE.

How much more must humanity suffer before the nations of the world summon the collective will to bring an end to wars? How many more children must lose their parents, how many more parents must bury their children, and how many more generations must inherit the bitterness of conflicts they had no part in creating?

The prolonged Russia-Ukraine war and the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict confront humanity with these disturbing questions. Despite diplomatic initiatives, promises of peace and intermittent hopes of reconciliation, a durable resolution remains elusive. Meanwhile, emerging tensions elsewhere in the Middle East threaten to compound human suffering.

What is particularly disturbing is the apparent inability of the international community to act collectively and decisively. Where is the authority of the United Nations? Where is the collective voice of humanity that this great institution was created to represent?

AN INSTITUTION MUST REDISCOVER ITS PURPOSE

When the United Nations was established in 1945, humanity was emerging from the devastation of two world wars. Nations had witnessed enough destruction to recognize the imperative of an international order founded upon cooperation rather than confrontation.

The opening words of the United Nations Charter expressed that determination: "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war."

Eighty-one years later, those words remain as relevant as they were when they were written. Yet the distance between that noble commitment and contemporary reality is painfully evident.

It would be unfair to overlook the appeals of the Secretary-General, the humanitarian work of United Nations agencies or the dedication of international peacekeepers and relief workers. But the institution's effectiveness cannot be measured merely by the number of appeals it issues, resolutions it adopts or meetings it convenes. It must ultimately be measured by the lives it helps save, the conflicts it helps prevent and the peace it helps establish. The United Nations was created not merely to represent the nations of the world, but to protect the humanity that inhabits them.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POWERFUL

The responsibility for the diminishing effectiveness of the United Nations rests substantially with its member states, particularly the major powers. The five permanent members of the Security Council were entrusted with exceptional powers because they were expected to shoulder exceptional responsibilities. Yet geopolitical rivalries, strategic alliances and the exercise of veto power have repeatedly frustrated collective action. Surely, the privilege of power carries an obligation that transcends national convenience.

Can the powerful nations not rise above their competing interests, even temporarily, to agree that human life is precious, civilian suffering must end and disputes must be resolved through peaceful means consistent with international law? The United Nations must speak with a collective moral authority that neither favors the powerful nor discounts the legitimate rights of the weak.

The sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine must be respected. Israelis deserve to live in security, and Palestinians deserve freedom, dignity, security and self-determination. A durable peace cannot be built upon the permanent denial of another people's legitimate aspirations. Justice and security must reinforce, rather than contradict, each other.

THE DANGERS OF A DEEPLY UNEQUAL WORLD

Beyond the conflicts that dominate today's headlines lies another disturbing reality that demands the attention of the international community: the enormous inequalities among nations and within societies. God created us as equals. It is humanity that has erected barriers of inequality.

While affluent societies enjoy the benefits of scientific advancement, sophisticated healthcare, abundant resources and unprecedented technological opportunities, millions elsewhere struggle for food, clean drinking water, education and elementary medical care. The accident of birthplace should not determine the worth of a human life or the limits of human aspiration. Economic inequality does not inevitably produce conflict. But when inequality is compounded by injustice, exploitation, exclusion and the absence of opportunity, it can generate resentment, instability and conditions conducive to violence.

No nation should imagine that its prosperity can forever insulate it from the consequences of suffering elsewhere. In an interconnected world, deprivation, displacement, environmental degradation and political instability seldom remain confined within national boundaries. Helping economically disadvantaged nations develop is not merely an act of generosity. It is an investment in the collective security and stability of humanity. The affluent nations must recognize that their prosperity will be more secure in a prosperous world than in a world divided between abundance and desperation.

RESOURCES FOR LIFE, NOT DESTRUCTION

Consider the enormous human ingenuity and material resources devoted to developing increasingly sophisticated instruments of destruction. Imagine what even a fraction of those resources could accomplish if directed toward eliminating hunger, combating disease, educating children, developing clean energy and improving living conditions. How many schools could rise where buildings have been destroyed? How many hospitals could serve humanity with resources presently consumed by warfare? Nations have legitimate security concerns. But security cannot be understood exclusively in military terms.

A hungry child is insecure. A family without shelter is insecure. A young person without education or employment is insecure. The ultimate purpose of national security must be human security.

COMPASSION: THE COMMON LANGUAGE OF HUMANITY

The great religious and spiritual traditions of the world, despite their different paths and practices, have taught humanity the virtues of compassion, mercy, generosity and love.

Christianity teaches us to love our neighbors. Islam emphasizes mercy and charity. Judaism enjoins justice and loving-kindness. Hindu philosophy recognizes the world as one family. Buddhism places compassion at the heart of ethical living. Sikhism seeks the welfare of all through the enduring prayer of Sarbat da Bhala.

The tragedy of our civilization is not that humanity has lacked moral instruction. It is that humanity has too often failed to practice what it professes. Compassion must transcend religious affiliations, national boundaries, racial identities and political loyalties. A suffering human being needs neither a religious identity nor a passport to deserve our concern.

A WAKE-UP CALL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

We appeal to the United Nations and its member states to renew their commitment to the institution's founding purpose, strengthen mediation, resist the misuse of veto power, mobilize diplomatic resources for peace and promote equitable economic development.

Let the General Assembly become a more consequential voice of humanity whenever the Security Council finds itself unable to act. Let nations compete in alleviating poverty rather than accumulating weapons, in advancing knowledge rather than perfecting destruction, and in improving human lives rather than demonstrating military superiority.

The world cannot afford an international community that awakens only after catastrophes have occurred. It needs institutions that possess the wisdom to anticipate dangers and the courage to confront them.

Let the United Nations rise to the occasion before another generation loses faith in the promise of collective peace. Let its members speak as one in defense of human life, human dignity and humanity's shared future.

We inhabit one planet. We belong to one human family. Our destinies are inseparable. Let us not wait for a greater catastrophe to rediscover that fundamental truth.

Wake up, United Nations. Wake up, nations of the world. Wake up, conscience of humanity. Humanity cannot wait.

Indian American Community Honors Outgoing Consul General Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan at Long Island Farewell

RANA, BRUHUD NY SENIORS AND JAIPUR FOOT USA HOST LUNCHEON CELEBRATING THE DIPLOMAT'S PEOPLE-CENTERED SERVICE AND COMMITMENT TO THE DIASPORA



Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan is being welcomed on arrival with a bouquet by Haridas Kotahwala

NOVEMBER 23, 2026
PORT WASHINGTON, NY (TIP)

In yet another expression of the Indian American community's affection and appreciation for India's outgoing Consul General in New York, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, the Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA), BRUHUD NY Seniors and Jaipur Foot USA jointly hosted a farewell luncheon on Sunday, November 22, at Diwan Restaurant in Port Washington, Long Island.



Time for traditional Invocation. Anju Sharma recites a prayer. L to R: Prem Bhandari, President RANA, Ms Anju Sharma, Ajay Patel, President, BRUHUD NY Seniors, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Haridas Kotahwala, and RANA patron and senior AIA national leader Dr. Narinder Kukar

Representatives of TEAM Aid, the Association of Indians in America (AIA) and several other community organizations joined the gathering to honor the distinguished diplomat as his nearly three-year tenure in New York draws to a close this week.

The luncheon provided an opportunity for community leaders to acknowledge Ambassador Pradhan's contributions to strengthening the relationship between the Indian Consulate and the diaspora, particularly his emphasis on making consular services accessible, responsive and sensitive to the needs of the community.

RANA patron and senior AIA national leader Dr. Narinder Kukar delivered the welcome remarks. He was followed by BRUHUD NY Seniors President Ajay Patel, TEAM Aid founder Mohan Nannapaneni and RANA President Prem Bhandari.



Ajay Patel, President, BRUHUD NY Seniors is speaking on the occasion



RANA President Prem Bhandari, in his remarks, paid tribute to Ambassador Pradhan for ensuring the availability of emergency consular services 365 days a year, including weekends, public holidays and periods of severe weather. He particularly appreciated the Consulate's responsiveness during emergencies, even amid snowstorms and other adverse weather conditions

All four speakers paid tribute to Ambassador Pradhan for ensuring the availability of emergency consular services 365 days a year, including weekends, public holidays and periods of severe weather. They particularly appreciated the Consulate's responsiveness during emergencies, even amid snowstorms and other adverse weather conditions.

Responding to the tributes, Ambassador Pradhan expressed his gratitude to the participating organizations for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure in New York.



Ambassador Pradhan expressed his gratitude to the participating organizations for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure in New York

The gathering brought together representatives of several organizations engaged in humanitarian service and community welfare.

Mohan Nannapaneni traveled from Boston to attend the farewell luncheon. TEAM Aid, the organization he founded, has helped repatriate the mortal remains of more than 5,000 people to India, providing invaluable assistance to bereaved families during moments of profound distress.

Ajay Patel represented BRUHUD NY Seniors, one of the largest Indian American senior citizens' organizations in the United States.

Harish Thakkar and Nick Garg represented Jaipur Foot USA, the American supporting organization of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS), one of the world's largest nonprofit organizations serving persons with disabilities.



The host organizations presented a memento to Ambassador Pradhan

Prem Bhandari, in addition to serving as president of RANA, is the founding chairman of Jaipur Foot USA and chairman of both BRUHUD NY Seniors and TEAM Aid.

Among the distinguished guests were Deputy Consul General of India in New York Vishal Harsh and the parents of newly elected Vermont State Senator Nikhil Goyal.

Other prominent attendees included AIA National President Nilima Madan, Zee CEO Harish Goyal, Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja, Editor-in-Chief of The Indian Panorama, media personality Sunil Hali, RANA patron Haridas Kotewala, Dr. Deepak Nandi, Dr. Ajay Jain, Dr. Raj Modi and RANA board member Atul Pareek. Dr. Jain also serves on the RANA board.

Founded in 1967, the Association of Indians in America is one of the oldest Indian diaspora organizations in the United States.

RANA Treasurer Neelam Modi served as master of ceremonies, while RANA Secretary Ravi Jargarh proposed the vote of thanks.

The Long Island luncheon was among the numerous farewell gatherings organized by Indian American associations, community leaders and friends in recent weeks, reflecting the considerable goodwill Ambassador Pradhan has earned during his assignment in New York.

As he prepares to return to New Delhi, Ambassador Pradhan leaves behind a legacy of accessible diplomacy, responsive consular administration and enduring relationships with the Indian American community.

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L to R: Prem Bhandari, Mohan Nannapaneni, Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh, Deputy Consul General.



L to R: Ravi Jargarh, Prem Bhandari , Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, and Vishal Jayeshbhai Harsh, Deputy Consul General.

PREM BHANDARI POSTPONES INDIA VISIT; PLANS MAJOR JAIPUR FOOT INITIATIVE IN BENGALURU

RANA President and Jaipur Foot USA founding chairman Prem Bhandari has postponed his month-long visit to India, originally scheduled to begin on November 24, by approximately a week owing to ill health.

Bhandari has been suffering from influenza since RANA's Deepmahotsav celebrations on November 15. His symptoms recurred following Sunday's farewell luncheon, and he has been advised to rest for a week before undertaking international travel.

During his forthcoming visit to India, Bhandari plans to return to Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA) in Bengaluru and meet Karnataka government officials to seek their assistance in identifying persons with disabilities who require prosthetic limbs.

During a recent three-day visit to Bengaluru, Bhandari attended S-VYASA's Golden Jubilee celebrations as a distinguished guest at the invitation of internationally renowned yoga exponent Dr. H. R. Nagendra. The Golden Jubilee celebrations were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Following consultations with BMVSS founder and Padma Bhushan recipient D. R. Mehta, Bhandari announced plans to organize a major Jaipur Foot camp at S-VYASA in 2027.

The humanitarian initiative aims to provide free prosthetic limbs to 1,000 beneficiaries in commemoration of the birth centenary of Dr. H. V. Sheshadri.

The proposed camp represents another significant initiative in Jaipur Foot USA's continuing efforts to restore mobility, independence and dignity to persons with disabilities.

(TIP Staff Report)

LARGEST NUMBER OF ASIAN AMERICANS EVER SET TO TAKE OFFICE IN THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE

NOVEMBER 23, 2026
ALBANY, NY (TIP)

Following the historic November 3, 2026 general election, a record number of Asian Americans are set to serve in the New York State Senate, the largest Asian American representation in the Senate's history. Beginning January 1, 2027, five State Senators representing diverse Asian American backgrounds from across New York State will serve in the Senate, including two newly elected members. They are (from left to right):

State Senator John Liu, representing the 16th Senate District in Queens.

State Senator Grace Lee, representing the 27th Senate District in Manhattan.

State Senator Jeremy Cooney, representing the 56th Senate District in Rochester.

State Senator Lisa Kaul, representing the 39th Senate District in Poughkeepsie.

State Senator Larry He, representing the 17th Senate District in Brooklyn.



State Senators all. L to R: John Liu, Grace Lee, Jeremy Cooney, Lisa Kaul, and Larry He

State Senator John Liu stated, "Asian Americans continue to be the fastest-growing population in the State of New York, and now more than ever, our growing numbers are being reflected in the halls of government, both locally and across the state. As we prepare for the beginning of the legislative session in January, we remain committed to fighting for the issues and concerns that are important to Asian Americans. From funding education to fighting against unjust immigration deportations, we are fired up and ready to stand up for our communities!"

State Senator-elect Grace Lee stated, "For too long, Asian Americans were left out of the rooms where decisions about our communities were made. With a record five Asian Americans in the State Senate, we're not just getting a seat at the table - we're helping set the agenda. We've already seen what representation can deliver, from making Lunar New Year and Diwali school holidays to securing $30 million for organizations serving AAPI communities four years in a row. Now, we have the coalition to fight for even more to protect immigrant families from Trump's harmful policies, safeguard the safety net our communities rely on, and make sure our small businesses and working families have the resources they need to thrive."

State Senator Jeremy Cooney said, "As the first Asian American or Pacific Islander state legislator elected outside of the metro New York City, I'm proud to be part of this historic milestone and to serve alongside a record number of Asian American colleagues in the state legislature. As we approach the upcoming legislative session, our momentum is strong and I look forward to delivering for our AAPI communities so that every New Yorker feels seen, heard, and represented."

State Senator-elect Lisa Kaul stated, "As a 'New American,' I am honored to join the largest group of Asian-Americans in the State Senate to represent voices in our communities that have too often gone unheard. Together, we will fight to lower the cost of living and bring meaningful opportunities and real safety to all."

State Senator-elect Larry He stated, "As a first-generation Asian American immigrant who came to America with little, New York gave me an education, home, career, and a wonderful community. It's my honor to represent this very community in the New York State Senate, and it's my duty to make sure our community's voices are heard in Albany."

ELECTRIFYING RECEPTION FOR CONGRESSMAN TOM SUOZZI AT VICTORY CELEBRATION

Enthusiastic Supporters Chant "Suozzi for President" as Congressman Celebrates Resounding Reelection Victory



Victory Celebration poster with pics of Congressman Tom Suozzi and the host committee.



Congressman Tom Suozzi addresses the gathering



Varinder Bhalla, who has known the Congressman for a long time, speaks on the occasion

NOVEMBER 26, 2026
HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP)

On November 16, Indian American community leaders representing every major organization assembled for celebration of Congressman Tom Suozzi's impressive reelection victory. It was an extraordinary demonstration of public affection and enthusiasm, with supporters spontaneously chanting slogans urging the popular Congressman to run for President of the United States.

Suozzi, a Democrat representing New York's Third Congressional District, defeated Republican challenger Michael LiPetri in the November 3 elections by approximately 10 percentage points, substantially improving upon his narrow victory margin of less than four percentage points in 2024.

The victory celebration, held at Pearl Banquet Hall in Hicksville, Long Island, was conceived and confirmed by Varinder Bhalla during his conversation with the vacationing Congressman in Rome, and was hosted by APS President Gary Sikka collaborating with prominent community leaders, Naveen Shah, Dr. Dipak Nandi, Malla Reddy and Mohinder Taneja.

The atmosphere became electrifying the moment Congressman Suozzi entered the banquet hall.

Enthusiastic supporters surrounded him, eager to shake his hand, offer congratulations, and pose for photographs. The spontaneous outpouring of affection was so overwhelming that it took nearly 45 minutes for the Congressman to reach his seat, delaying the commencement of the formal program.

Even after his address, the enthusiasm continued unabated, with supporters seeking more photographs and personal interactions, delaying his dinner.

Taneja, a longtime friend of Suozzi and prominent Indian American community leader described the reception as extraordinary.

"I have rarely witnessed such a spontaneous and overwhelming demonstration of affection for an elected representative," Taneja observed.

"It was so much more than a "Victory Party," it was a "Thank You!" party. A 'thank you' to all my friends who worked together because they believe that there is so much more that unites us, than divides us. It was a warm and festive celebration of all that is good about America and each other", said the grateful Congressman.

One of the evening's most remarkable moments came when enthusiastic supporters spontaneously began chanting slogans urging Suozzi to seek the presidency of the United States.

In his remarks, Bhalla recalled that several American Presidents had previously served in the House of Representatives, emphasizing that service in Congress has historically provided a pathway to the nation's highest office.

Bhalla also recounted that nearly three decades ago, legendary Bollywood actor Dev Anand had predicted that Suozzi - then only Mayor of Glen Cove could become President of the United States.

The comments resonated with the gathering, reflecting the admiration and high expectations that many supporters have developed for the Congressman.

Suozzi's own address was warmly received. Dr. Nandi described his speech as "inspiring, statesmanlike, and distinctly presidential."


A group of supporters and admirers with Congressman Suozzi

Over the years, Suozzi has cultivated a particularly close relationship with the Indian American community and has been a strong advocate for closer relations between the United States and India.

Currently serving as Democratic Vice Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, he has consistently engaged with Indian American community leaders and worked for stronger ties between India and the United States.

Bhalla, who has known Suozzi for more than three decades, has frequently highlighted the Congressman's accessibility, friendship, and longstanding support for Indian Americans.

The evening concluded with an unmistakable demonstration of the Congressman's popularity among his supporters, many of whom clearly envision an even larger role for him in American public life.

For Suozzi, it was a celebration of an impressive electoral victory.

For his enthusiastic supporters, it was also an opportunity to express their hopes for his political future.

(Based on a Press Release issued by Varinder Bhalla)



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A Season of Farewells for a Much-Loved Diplomat



Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan and Monalisa Suvadarshini with dignitaries and FIA officials. L to R: Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Member, Board of Trustee , Dr. Avinash Gupta, Member, Board of Trustee, FIA President Sreekanth Akkapalli, Karishma Vaidya, Monalisa Shuvadarshini, Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan, FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya, Edison Mayor Sam Joshi, Parsippany Mayor Pulkit Desai, and Anil Bansal, Member, Board of Trustee.



Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan presents a commendation to FIA

Community organizations, business leaders, professionals and personal friends have organized farewell gatherings in honor of the departing diplomat and his wife, expressing appreciation for their friendship and association with the Indian American community.

The numerous invitations reflect the goodwill Ambassador Pradhan has earned during his nearly three-year tenure through his accessibility, personal warmth and commitment to bringing the Indian Consulate closer to the people it serves.

Since assuming charge in January 2024, Ambassador Pradhan has devoted considerable attention to improving consular services, promoting trade and investment, strengthening academic and technological partnerships, and expanding people-to-people relations between India and the United States.

His particular concern for Indian students pursuing higher education in American institutions has been another distinguishing feature of his tenure. His outreach to universities and willingness to engage with young Indians adjusting to life in a foreign country have earned him considerable appreciation.

14 ORGANIZATION COME TOGETHER TO HONOR THE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR

A major expression of the community's affection came on Sunday, November 22, when fourteen organizations and institutions joined hands for a farewell reception at the Moghul Ballroom in Edison, New Jersey.

The gathering brought together elected officials, business leaders, community activists, representatives of cultural and religious organizations, and members of the diplomatic fraternity.

The hosts welcomed Ambassador Pradhan and Mrs. Pradhan with music and traditional festivities. Cultural performances from Odisha, including a Sambalpuri dance, paid tribute to the Ambassador's home state. A sacred garland associated with Lord Jagannath was presented to him, making the occasion particularly meaningful.



Edison Mayor Sam Joshi presents a township proclamation to Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan



River Edge Councilwoman Priti Dhariwal recognizes Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan for his community service.

Federation of Indian Associations board member Srujal Parikh opened the proceedings, expressing the community's appreciation for the departing diplomat.

Edison Mayor Sam Joshi acknowledged Ambassador Pradhan's ability to bring different sections of the community together and presented him with a township proclamation.

Parsippany Mayor Pulkit Desai and River Edge Councilwoman Priti Dhariwal also recognized his contributions, highlighting the personal dimension he brought to public service.

TRIBUTES TO A PEOPLE-CENTERED DIPLOMAT

Deputy Consul General Vishal Harsh, representing his colleagues at the Consulate, recalled Ambassador Pradhan's mentorship and the initiatives undertaken during his tenure.

Among the accomplishments highlighted were year-round emergency consular assistance, a trade portal aimed at helping Indian exporters, and a meeting of chief executives organized during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's September 2024 visit.

Padma Shri recipient Dr. Sudhir Parikh appreciated the Consul General's efforts to make the mission more accessible to ordinary members of the diaspora.

Dr. Avinash Gupta praised his ability to combine effective diplomatic representation with personal relationships.

FIA President Sreekanth Akkapalli recalled Ambassador Pradhan's extensive participation in community festivals, religious celebrations and public meetings across the region.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya emphasized the friendship and guidance the organization had received from the Consul General, observing that the occasion was far more than a conventional diplomatic farewell.

AMBASSADOR PRADHAN ACKNOWLEDGES THE DIASPORA

Responding to the tributes, Ambassador Pradhan expressed gratitude to the Indian American community for its cooperation and support throughout his tenure.

He recalled his association with the FIA from the early days of his assignment and acknowledged the contribution of community volunteers in extending consular outreach to cities beyond New York.

Reflecting upon the evolution of India-US relations during his diplomatic career, he highlighted the multidimensional character of the contemporary partnership, encompassing commerce, investment, research, technology, education and interpersonal relationships.

He attributed much of that progress to the Indian diaspora.

For Ambassador Pradhan, the unfurling of the Indian national flag in Times Square was among the most memorable experiences of his New York assignment.

He also expressed appreciation for cultural initiatives that enable American-born children of Indian descent to maintain their connection with their ancestral heritage.

MONALISA PRADHAN RECEIVES SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The farewell gathering also recognized the warmth and graciousness of Mrs. Monalisa Shuvadarshini Pradhan, who has endeared herself to many members of the Indian American community.

Speaking on the occasion, FIA board member Anil Bansal told her, "You have



Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, addresses the gathering at his farewell reception at the Moghul Ballroom in Edison, New Jersey on November 22, 2026.

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Time for benediction: Amb. Binaya S. Pradhan is honored with a ceremonial shawl and garland by a temple priest.

been a gracious ambassador in your own right."

Mrs. Pradhan, in turn, expressed gratitude for the affection extended to her husband and their family. She particularly cherished the friendships they had developed during their stay in New York.

The evening concluded with an audiovisual presentation recalling moments from Ambassador Pradhan's tenure and the presentation of commemorative mementos.

The participating organizations and institutions included FIA NY-NJ-CT-NE, GANA, BJANA, The Diaspora Bi-Weekly, Axria, Bansal Foundation, TAK Group, TV9 USA, The Odisha Society of the Americas, Sai Datta Peetham, Siddhivinayak Temple USA, Parikh Worldwide Media, Namaste Global Foundation and SKN Foundation.

BEYOND DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL

The Edison reception was part of the wider expression of affection that has accompanied the conclusion of Ambassador Pradhan's New York assignment.

From community associations to individual friends, many have sought an opportunity to spend an evening with the departing couple and convey their personal appreciation.

For the Indian American community, these gatherings have provided an opportunity to recognize not only the accomplishments of a diplomat but also the qualities of a human being who made himself accessible to the people.

For Ambassador Pradhan and Mrs. Pradhan, they have offered an occasion to acknowledge the friendships and memories they will carry back to India.

Diplomatic assignments have prescribed tenures. Friendships do not.

As Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan and Monalisa Shuvadarshini Pradhan prepare to leave New York, the affection expressed at their numerous farewell gatherings remains a meaningful tribute to their years among the Indian American community.

They leave with the community's gratitude, affection and best wishes for the next chapter of their lives.

(TIP Staff Report)

Almost 6K Still Without Power After Powerful Thanksgiving Day Storm Slams LI



NOVEMBER 27, 2026
LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP)

Almost 6,000 customers are still without power after a massive storm socked Long Island on Thanksgiving.

According to the PSEG Long Island outage map, as of 5:25 a.m., Friday morning. 5,907 were without power.

In a message at 9 p.m. on Thanksgiving, PSEG Long Island gave an update on storm restoration.

"The storm has brought heavy rain and peak wind gusts of up to 65 mph across parts of the service area, downing trees, branches and wires, currently affecting 18,331 of 1.2 million electric customers across Long Island and the Rockaways," the update said.

As of 9 PM, PSEG Long Island has restored power to more than 40,000 customers affected by the storm since 7 a.m. Thursday, the update said.

Outages are scattered across the service area, with the hardest hit areas including Port Washington, Oyster Bay, Sands Point and Port Jefferson.

"PSEG Long Island recognizes that being without power for any length of time is a hardship, especially during the Thanksgiving holiday that many are spending with family and friends. We appreciate customers' patience and understanding as our crews work to restore electric service," the message said.

More than 500 lineworkers, tree trimmers, surveyors and other field personnel are supporting the restoration efforts throughout Thanksgiving Day and will continue overnight, the message Thursday night said.

Crews have been working in challenging storm conditions and will continue to work throughout the night, safely and as quickly as possible, to restore all customers.

To ensure the safety of personnel in bucket trucks, strong winds may temporarily slow restoration efforts, PSEG Long Island said.

Electric service crews are working to assess damage. As this assessment continues and more information is available, estimated times of restoration (ETRs) will be provided and refined, PSEG Long Island said.

PSEG OFFERED CUSTOMER SAFETY TIPS

Downed wires should always be considered "live." Stay as far away as possible from them, and if possible, keep others, children, and pets away from the wire. Do not drive over or stand near any downed wire. To report a downed wire, call PSEG Long Island's 24-hour electric service number at 800-490-0075 or call 911.

Electric current passes easily through water. If you encounter a pool of standing water, stop, back up and choose another path.

Never use a generator or any gasoline-powered engine inside your home, basement, or garage or less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent. Use an extension cord that is more than 20 feet long to keep the generator at a safe distance.

STAY CONNECTED:

- Download the PSEG Long Island mobile app to report outages and receive information on restoration times, crew locations and more.
- Report an outage and receive status updates by texting OUT to PSEGLI (773454). You can also report your outage through the PSEGLI app or here.
- To report an outage or downed wire, residents can also call PSEG Long Island's 24-hour electric service number at 800-490-0075.
- Follow PSEG Long Island on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) to report an outage and for updates before, during and after the storm.
- Visit PSEG Long Island's MyPower map for the latest in outage info, restoration times and crew locations across Long Island and the Rockaways here.

(Courtesy PSEG Long Island)



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2026
20TH YEAR

The SAD-BJP alliance revived as Punjab continues to pioneer coalition politics in the country

By Prabhjot Singh



PUNJABIS CONTINUE TO SWAY NATIONAL POLITICS



Punjab is different. Its politics favors confrontation over getting mired in manipulations and intrigues. Every time elections are held in the country, this border state, ravaged by external and internal conflicts, injects something new into the body politic. It has always been at the forefront. Be it fighting against drugs, terrorist attacks from across the border or battling against the Centre to get farm laws repealed, Punjab remains in the world's focus.

Now, when the State is heading for its next assembly elections, it already has several firsts to its credit. The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took the country by surprise by releasing two lists of 71 candidates in an Assembly of 117.

Two traditional political partners - Shiromani Akali Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) - after parting ways in the aftermath of the controversial Farm Laws in 2022, have decided to revive the alliance in their joint bid to topple the ruling Aam Aadmi Party, the only third political outfit, besides the oldest national political party, the Congress, and the oldest regional party, Shiromani Akali Dal, to rule this border state.

Political pundits, who read between the lines, believe that the new SAD-BJP alliance has icing on the cake with a fair sprinkling of erstwhile Congress leaders, including Capt. Amarinder Singh, Sunil Jakhar, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Kewal Singh Dhillon, Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa and Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi.

The alliance has been revived on an auspicious day of the Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who always advocated for "Sarbat da Bhalla". Will this alliance be able to regain its lost political mileage in a state which looks set to give the ruling AAP another term in office, with the Congress too, smelling power in the early 2027 assembly elections?

Though elections are a natural democratic process that happens every five years, it is Punjab elections that generate considerable attention. This is why the battle lines for elections are drawn long before the announcement of the poll schedules. Realizing that no electoral battle could be won without numbers, leaders of all parties, national and regional, new and old, not only make a beeline to the State but also engage strategists and social media experts to win over the electors.

Numbers, undisputedly, are one single tool to measure success in electoral politics. The number of votes polled or the number of seats won by a political outfit or alliance decides the new rulers of a state or a nation.

Punjab has a mix of numbers. Its representation in national politics is minuscule. But even a small number of MPs has not diminished the political stakes of the state, as it has already produced a president and a prime minister of the country. Punjab has less than two per cent of the country's population, but its people have been successful in demonstrating how to use numbers to their advantage.

About two decades ago, as the country ushered in an era of coalition politics at the center, this political tool gained extra significance. Since the concept of minority governments has never been experimented in the country, the demand to win over the support of parties with a smaller number of successful candidates has been escalating in situations of hung legislatures - State Assemblies or even Lok Sabha. Any party staking claims to form a government needs numbers. Though in the immediate past last Lok Sabha elections saw the BJP getting a clear majority, the numbers game in general and the coalition politics in particular have been continuing with unabated vigor.

Punjab, with 13 members in the 547-member Lok Sabha - a little less than 3 per cent, which, statistically speaking, may be minuscule in national politics - has been playing an aggressive role, thanks to coalitions. The coalition in Punjab has been a rare and successful model where one partner is a national party while the other is a regional one.

It is pertinent to mention how one Akali Dal MP, Sukhdev Singh Libra, owing allegiance to the BJP-led NDA, was lured to save the UPA government led by Manmohan Singh in the Lok Sabha, when one vote saved the day for the ruling alliance.

Besides saving the blushes, Sukhdev Singh Libra's defiance of the party whip was a watershed in coalition politics in which Punjab, where electoral battles for political supremacy are fought with ferocity, remains credited as the pioneer of coalition governments in the country.

Now, when the state is going to polls to elect its new state legislature, the oldest alliance partners - Shiromani Akali Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party - have been tottering at the brink, perhaps in one of the worst scenarios in contemporary politics. Their total strength is not even in double digits.

In fact, the SAD-BJP alliance was running into rough weather over various contentious issues, especially those relating to farmers and long-standing demands of Punjab, before it collapsed under its own ideological conflicts.

After the demise of the oldest coalition of the country, the SAD took another plunge in coalition politics to forge a new alliance, this time with the Bahujan Samaj Party, while its old partner BJP was hopeful of striking an accord with the new political outfit on the state horizon, the Punjab Lok Congress, which was floated by the displaced Chief Minister, Capt. Amarinder Singh. The idea failed to evoke any public interest and met its own end before even being tested.

True to its traditions, Punjab became the first full-fledged state in the country to bring in the Aam Aadmi Party in preference to both SAD and Cong.

These were not only Akalis who had been steadfast in their political alliances; even Congress had been forging alliances in the past, mostly with so-called secular forces, including the Communists. Intriguingly, the last time Congress ruled Punjab, it had its alliance partners, Communist legislators, merge into it, thus decimating the left challenge.

And the new entrant to state politics, AAP, also could not keep itself aloof from coalition politics. Despite its sworn policy of contesting elections alone, it has entered into poll adjustment with the Lok Insaaf Party, another new outfit spearheaded by two Bains brothers, who are in the last Assembly as Independents.

Interestingly, of the 35 different governments under different chief ministers in the state since 1952, at least 13 had more than one party legislator on the Treasury benches. Perhaps no other state has scripted such a success story of coalition governments. Incidentally, the last three coalition governments in the state - all headed by the Akali Dal supremo Parkash Singh Badal - managed to complete a full five-year term in office.

The history of the "coalitions" in Punjab is as old as the first elections to the State Assembly in 1952. Interestingly, the key participant in each coalition has been the Shiromani Akali Dal. Initially, the Dal was in partnership with Congress, both in the 1952 and the 1957 elections, and subsequently it partnered with the erstwhile Jana Sangh and then the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). In between, when the country was swept by the JP wave, the Akalis had an alliance with the then Janata Party.

Though the avowed policy of the Congress - claiming itself to be a secular party - had been not to go for political tie-ups with any religious party (fundamentalists), it was able to win all three elections in Punjab (1952, 1957 and 1962) immediately after independence mainly because it had won over Akalis, its main opposition party, at least for the first two electoral battles. Twice, first in 1948 and again in 1956, Akalis merged with the Congress but walked out of the "friendship pact" in March 1960, as the then Akali supremo Master Tara Singh directed all his party men who had joined Congress in or after 1956 to return to their party fold.

Intriguingly, the reason given at that time, interference by the government in the religious affairs of the Sikhs, has since then remained the main tool with the Akalis to do Congress bashing. Another reason given for leaving Congress in 1960 was the ruling party's opposition to the Punjabi Suba. Of the 24 Akali MLAs in the Congress party, only five returned to the Akali Dal fold.

Though since then Akalis have remained sworn enemies of Congress, there have been "friendly electoral battles" in which the Congress-ruled Centre tried to appease their one-time political partners by facilitating their return to power.

The 1985 election after the infamous Rajiv-Longowal accord is an example of when Akalis swept to power with an overwhelming two-thirds majority.

It will be interesting to watch over the next few months leading to the Assembly elections how the Punjab voters react to the coalition combinations, motivated by the sole desire to come to power. By now Punjabi voters have learnt one lesson: "koyee bhi power vich aa jaaye, uhne lutna hai te kutna bhi hai" (whoever may come to power, they will rob Punjab and also use force against the people).

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based senior journalist. He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)

THE NIGHT MUMBAI CAME UNDER SIEGE

The deaths of Muslim women wearing burqas would have served as a powerful reminder that the terrorists showed no regard even for people belonging to their own religious community

By Julio Ribeiro



My wife and I were attending the wedding of Bachi Karkaria's son at a Parsi Agiary in Colaba on the evening of November 26, 2008. On our way home, we took the usual route past the Oberoi Hotel. I remember being struck by an eerie silence that seemed to prevail over the city. Something felt amiss. I remarked to my wife that I feared the underworld gangs might have come out onto the streets.

I cannot recall precisely when news of the terrorist attacks began reaching us, but it soon became clear that Mumbai, the city of my birth, was experiencing something it never experienced before.

Ten terrorists, belonging to a Pakistan-based organization, had arrived by sea. The possibility of such an attack had reportedly been communicated earlier to the Mumbai Police Commissioner. Precautions had been taken and security had been strengthened at the Taj Mahal Palace and Oberoi hotels. However, as weeks and months passed without any incident, the police gradually relaxed their vigilance. The hotels too felt that the security arrangements were unsettling their guests.

My wife and I were frequent visitors to the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), where my good friend Kushroo Suntook has long been a prominent figure. It subsequently emerged that 10 terrorists had landed on the Mumbai coast, adjoining the NCPA. Their targets had been carefully selected. These included Leopold Café, popular with foreign visitors; the Taj Mahal Palace and Oberoi hotels; and Chabad House, a Jewish establishment frequented by Jewish visitors from abroad.

The attacks on the Taj and the Oberoi attracted particular attention because of their international clientele. When the terrorists struck, the police were taken by surprise. Small groups of attackers entered the two hotels and unleashed a reign of terror. The Police Commissioner, Hasan Gafoor, took charge near the Oberoi while his second-in-command was directed to focus on the Taj.

It was incidental that Hasan Gafoor was a Muslim IPS officer heading the Mumbai Police at the time. I had known him since he was 12 years old. His father had been the District Magistrate of Sholapur in 1962, when I was posted there as the Police Superintendent. Some of my Muslim friends were delighted that a member of their community had been entrusted with such an important responsibility.

They sought my opinion of him. I distinctly remember telling them that I could vouch for his integrity, but that I would be worried if an untoward incident occurred during his tenure as Hasan was always uncertain about his own decisions. Unfortunately, the terrorist attack came during his tenure as commissioner.

Looking back, I believe the police leadership had been placed in an exceptionally difficult position. Intelligence inputs from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) had indicated the possibility of a sea-borne attack and security precautions had been taken at the two hotels. But when nothing happened for a considerable period, vigilance diminished. The tragedy demonstrated how dangerous it can be to allow the passage of time to dull the urgency of a credible security warning.



26/11 : Mumbai displayed its familiar resilience. -Photo / PTI

One of the greatest tragedies of that night was the loss of three outstanding police officers. Hemant Karkare, Chief of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), rushed to confront the terrorists, but was killed. Ashok Kamte, a young IPS officer serving as Deputy Commissioner of Police in the Eastern Region and grandson of Namdev Rao Kamte, the first Inspector General of Police of the erstwhile Bombay state, also responded to the unfolding crisis.

Although he was not directly responsible for the area, he put on his uniform and rushed to the scene. He, too, was killed near the Cama Hospital. They were joined by Vijay Salaskar, a highly regarded officer of the Mumbai Police, who also lost his life that night.

For me, the most traumatic aspect of 26/11 was the loss of these promising officers. They represented the best traditions of the police service and had much more to contribute to the state and the country.

The terrorists had divided themselves into three groups, attacking Leopold Café, Chabad House, the Taj and the Oberoi. Two of them subsequently made their way to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), where they indiscriminately fired at passengers waiting to board trains.

Among those killed were Muslim women wearing the burqa. I remember wondering why photographs of these innocent victims were not prominently displayed at the station. Their deaths would have served as a powerful reminder that the terrorists had shown no regard even for people belonging to their own religious community.

The terrorists displayed ruthlessness and a willingness to sacrifice their own lives. Nine of the 10 were eventually killed. The sole survivor, Ajmal Kasab, was captured alive at Girgaum Chowpatty, largely due to the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of Assistant Sub-Inspector Tukaram Omble, who laid down his life while overpowering him.

The encounters at Cama Hospital and elsewhere also demonstrated the courage of officers like Sadanand Date, now the DGP of the state, but then Additional Commissioner of Police, Central Region, who confronted the terrorists despite the formidable odds.

It was painfully evident that the Mumbai Police did not then possess a specialized force adequately equipped to deal with an attack of this nature. The authorities had to seek assistance from New Delhi and the National Security Guard (NSG) was flown in.

One important consequence of the tragedy was the strengthening of Mumbai's counter-terrorism capabilities. The Anti-Terrorism Squad and other specialized arrangements were subsequently strengthened, giving the police greater capacity to respond to such threats.

Most Mumbaikars became aware of the attacks only the following morning. Those living in South Mumbai, however, had experienced the terrifying reality as it unfolded. Citizens were shocked, anxious and deeply disturbed.

Yet Mumbai displayed its familiar resilience. Its people gradually came to terms with what had happened, although the city would never quite be the same again. The attacks had changed not only the way citizens perceived their own security but also the way the police and the administration had to prepare for threats of this magnitude.

For me, November 26, 2008 remains a night of personal recollection, professional reflection and sorrow.

(Julio Ribeiro is a retired IPS officer who has served as the DGP of Punjab and Gujarat and the ambassador to Romania)

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2026
20TH YEAR

Democrats must unite on AI regulation. Here's our three-point plan



VOTERS ARE DEMANDING ACTION ON THE ISSUE. WE NEED TO MAKE AI WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, NOT THE TECH OLIGARCHS

This month's elections demonstrated the American public's urgent demand for change. But they also revealed a glaring problem for the Democrats' policy agenda: they haven't presented a compelling plan around AI.

This is important, because AI isn't just a political issue in itself: it's also a primary force behind both the economic disruption and political corruption that drove so many voters to the polls.

As AI companies and their boosters tossed around hundreds of millions of dollars in the 2026 elections, and the Trump administration lined up unequivocally alongside industry oligarchs, Democratic leaders have so far done more dodging than leading on the issue. Despite the massive overall shift towards the Democratic party, voters emerged from the election split on which party would best help control this technology.

Yet the public has been quite clear that they want government to take action. As an October survey shows, 84% of voters say AI threatens American workers, and 57% say the Trump administration has not taken AI risks seriously enough or at all. Eighty per cent of Democrats and 61% of Republicans want stricter AI regulation. This is one of the rare, emotional issues that crosses party lines.

Some politicians have channeled that anger. The Democratic senators-elect Sherrod Brown in Ohio, James Talarico in Texas, Troy Jackson in Maine and Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan all ran - and won - against giveaways to tech billionaires and the general undercurrent of backlash against AI.

Among other proposals, the Vermont senator Bernie Sanders has advocated that the government acquire shares of AI companies, the California representative Ro Khanna has called to give workers a say in AI use in their workplaces, and the New York governor, Kathy Hochul, has signed safeguards for consumers using AI companions into law.

But there are other critical aspects of AI that have not yet made it on to the public agenda, where political leaders should be putting forward powerful ideas.

These include addressing the staggering inequality driven by the growing wealth of big tech, ensuring fair and universal access to this technology as it becomes increasingly embedded in life and work, and protecting consumers and workers from the exploitative uses of AI.

To be successful in the 2028 presidential campaign, Democrats must align around an AI policy agenda that shows they are willing to fight for the change voters are demanding.

The congressional caucus must walk into the Capitol in January prepared to take immediate legislative action on this agenda, showing they can channel the wishes of the public and set aside the self-interested demands of AI billionaires. That includes rejecting their campaign funds and barring Congress members from stock trading. And they should coordinate action across the statehouses they control, as well as those they do not.

In our book Rewiring Democracy, we studied examples from around the world of how AI will affect democratic politics. Following this month's election, the path forward for US AI policy - and its intersections with broader economic and social policy - is clearer than ever.

We propose a policy platform with three planks: curbing the power of big tech, building AI that works for everyone, and putting people in charge of where the technology is used.

The first plank is restraining the big tech companies that Trump has cozied up to. Today, a few trillion-dollar corporations are rigging the tech ecosystem - really, the country's entire economy - for their own benefit,



The congressional caucus must walk into the Capitol in January prepared to take immediate legislative action.'

Photograph: J Scott Applewhite/AP

generating wealth from models trained on our knowledge, our grid, our land, and our air and water, while forcing the costs of their harmful practices on to the rest of us. We need to rein in their power and make them pay the costs of the problems they create for society.

Like so many voters, we would start with datacenters. We would match and extend Massachusetts' policy preventing companies from foisting pollution and price spikes on datacenter host communities. We would require datacenter developers to match their power consumption with new clean energy, and install energy storage systems to compensate for their strain on the energy grid.

But we also can learn from the UK's experience, after a datacenter developer secured more than £200m of public guarantees for a project before backtracking on promises to use renewable energy.

The challenge is to ensure local control, while defending towns against developers with nation-state-like coffers. Congress should go beyond Massachusetts' policy and insist that states receiving federal energy and economic grants require their cities to execute transparent, binding and enforceable agreements with datacenter developers. These agreements would need to meet a minimum standard of annual payments per megawatt-hour of energy consumption that accounts proportionately for local infrastructure impacts.

We would not stop with datacenters. Borrowing from Senator Elizabeth Warren, we would seek big, structural change, particularly to the incentives that give corporations tax benefits for replacing people with machines.

We would levy an excise tax on the energy used by large AI datacenters, a simple mechanism to force those profiting from the "hyperscaling" of AI to internalize its true costs. We would direct the funds recovered from the tax to a counterbalancing reduction in payroll taxes and to support unemployment insurance, so that private investment in AI always translates to public investment in people.

There are other structural changes the party might also consider, such as the sovereign wealth fund proposed by Sanders or the AI dividend proposed by Talarico. We urge inclusion of a mechanism like the excise tax because it shifts incentives, forcing AI providers to pay all of the costs for truly advantageous uses and discouraging frivolous ones.

We would also bar companies from consolidating control of the full AI stack across chips, compute infrastructure and model development and strengthen SEC scrutiny of AI companies' business transactions and accounting. These steps would mitigate anti-competitive behavior and end the circular investment that threatens to inflate a bubble that could lead to a catastrophic market crash.

The second plank is building AI that benefits everyone, not just the barons of the industry. AI should operate like a public utility - a regulated service built and operated for the public benefit - and not an extractive product foisted upon consumers by unaccountable corporations for the benefit of their owners.

This starts with providing a public alternative to corporate AI: public AI models that are developed transparently under democratic oversight and control. These models must follow ethical guidelines such as compensating content creators for training data and strictly comply with regulations.

Most importantly, models developed by public agencies would be incentivized to create public good instead of private profit. Public AI would not replace for-profit AI, but provide an alternative for consumers and enterprises wary of big tech, and set a competitive baseline for corporate models.

Building AI in that mold might sound like a pipe dream, but countries such as Switzerland and Spain are doing it already. Congress should invest in a permanent federal AI research program, as a bipartisan coalition including the New Mexico senator Martin Heinrich and New Jersey senator Cory Booker have proposed, to lead this effort.

Public AI should include guaranteeing public access to AI services. South Korea is doing this at scale today, offering free universal AI access to its 52 million residents. The US could do it differently, borrowing from the history of New Deal programs such as the Rural Electrification Act, which provided federal low-interest loans to non-profit, member-owned cooperatives to build local infrastructure.

The datacenters that power US AI don't have to be behemoths owned and operated by big tech companies to maximize shareholder value. They could be small, local facilities owned and operated cooperatively by the communities they serve to benefit their neighbors.

The datacenters that power US AI don't have to be behemoths owned and operated by big tech companies to maximize shareholder value

The third plank is giving voters and workers power over where and how AI is used.

Voters say by nearly a seven-to-one ratio that companies developing or deploying AI should be liable for the harms of their products, and yet Congress has not established that accountability. This is yet another kind of corporate handout: why hire human writers, lawyers or doctors when AIs are not only cheaper, but they also absolve employers whenever they make a mistake?

Here's how it should work: Congress should curtail the power of corporate owners to use AI to exploit, and expand the power of workers to exercise control over how AI is used against them.

Congress should mandate that AI use be disclosed, where appropriate. There should be strict guardrails on the use of AI in decision-making in contexts implicating human rights and civil liberties to prevent algorithmic discrimination. There should be clear rules surrounding AI's use in lethal military applications and surveillance, whether by marketers or police forces.

Warren has proposed the Accountable Capitalism Act, which would give workers at least a 40% share of the largest corporations' board seats so they can exercise some control over corporate decision making, including around political spending and use of AI.

We prefer this broad-based "codetermination" reform to El-Sayed's proposal aimed solely at AI companies, since most large corporations now use AI in their business operations, and it matches longstanding practice in some European countries such as Germany.

CONTD ON PAGE 11

CONTD FROM PAGE 10

There are myriad details to be decided in redistributing power over how and where AI is used. We're likely to get only some of them right and, even then, the shifting capability of the technology and circumstances of its use will cast doubt on those choices over time. That's to be expected.

The immediate imperative is to put in place a regulatory framework for governing the use of AI that acts as a solid, federal regulatory floor that can be tweaked and built upon over time.

Since Americans don't trust the Trump administration or tech executives to carry out this enforcement, Congress should pass legislation to create the regulatory framework. It could base legislation on the framework already adopted in California, and plan to review it and add specificity at least annually. Part of the initial action must be clarifying the boundaries between where each federal regulatory agency acts, and strengthening their authorities and enforcement budgets.

There are great debates to be had about each of the policy proposals we've put forward, and true urgency to have them. The Trump administration has made clear what the alternative path is: an administration "100% in favor" of "super intelligence", promoting "self-policing" by AI companies while blocking state efforts to regulate the technology and giving corrupt handouts to the corporations benefiting from it.

It's all justified through the lens of an arms race with China, despite the administration subverting sanctions to sell chips to Chinese firms and ignoring Chinese espionage targeting Trump's industry allies.

Is any of this politically realistic? It seems more politically advantageous for Democrats to be caught trying than to give up without a fight.

If Trump stays true to his promise to block Democrats' legislative action, they should stand prepared to work with Republican members to overcome those vetoes. Republican AI defectors such as Governor Ron DeSantis and Senator Josh Hawley suggest this is possible.

Where Democrats cannot work with Republicans, they should jump at the opportunity to draw a contrast for voters. The party needs to go into 2028 with a positive vision, one that could lead to more and more enduring change.

(Nathan E Sanders is a data scientist affiliated with the Berkman Klein Center of Harvard University and co-author, with Bruce Schneier, of the book Rewiring Democracy: How AI Will Transform Our Politics, Government, and Citizenship.

Bruce Schneier is a security technologist who teaches at the Harvard Kennedy School and the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs &Public Policy, and the chief of security architecture at Inrupt, Inc)





19th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2027
January 7-9, 2027 @ Milan Mela, Kolkata, West Bengal

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2026
20TH YEAR

Former President George W. Bush Keynotes US India Chamber of Commerce DFW Annual Awards Banquet

AMBASSADOR VINAY KWATRA GRACES THE OCCASION AS GUEST OF HONOR; KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON AND DR. KIRK CALHOUN HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP

NOVEMBER 21, 2026
DALLAS, TX (TIP)

Former US President George W. Bush headlined the 2026 Annual Awards Banquet of the US India Chamber of Commerce Dallas-Fort Worth (USICOC DFW), held on Thursday, November 19, at the Westin Dallas Park Central, bringing together business executives, entrepreneurs, educationists, community leaders and distinguished dignitaries for an evening celebrating excellence, leadership and community service.

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, attended as the Guest of Honor, lending diplomatic significance to the gathering and underscoring the importance of the growing partnership between the United States and India.

The sold-out banquet, for which organizers anticipated more than 800 participants, also commemorated the 250th anniversary of American independence, celebrating the contributions of the Indian American community to the economic and civic life of the United States.

The presence of George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, was a major highlight of the evening. In its account of the proceedings, the Chamber described the former President as "witty, warm and insightful," noting the enthusiastic response his remarks received from the audience.

Bush, who served as President from 2001 to 2009, occupies a significant place in the history of contemporary India-US relations. His administration worked closely with the government of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to advance the landmark civil nuclear agreement, which helped transform the strategic relationship between the two democracies.

Ambassador Kwatra's participation provided another important dimension to the evening. A former Foreign Secretary of India, Kwatra assumed his diplomatic assignment in Washington in August 2024, bringing extensive experience in international diplomacy and bilateral relations.

Distinguished leaders honored

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE

SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON has spent nearly five decades in public life. She started out as a Houston TV reporter covering law and politics and won a seat in the Texas House in 1972. She went on to serve as vice chair of the National Transportation Safety Board and as Texas State Treasurer. In 1993, she became the first woman to represent Texas in the U.S. Senate, serving 20 years, and later was U.S. Ambassador to NATO from 2017 to 2021. A longtime friend of the Chamber, she also joined the Chamber's Annual Women's Conference.



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison



Texas Super Kings

The award was presented by Ambassador Kwatra in the presence of the Chamber's founding chairman, Ashok (A.K.) Mago, and its current chairwoman, Neeti Khaitan.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



Prasad Reddy



Dr. Kirk Calhoun

PRASAD REDDY, CEO of Twisted X Global Brands, earned engineering degrees in India and a graduate degree from Ohio University, then held senior roles at Wolverine Worldwide and K-Swiss. In 2008, he took over Twisted X when it was bankrupt. Under his leadership, the boot and footwear brand has grown 16-fold and now sells through about 3,600 retailers. Each year, he directs about 12 percent of operating income to veterans, children's health and disaster relief.

DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE

THE TEXAS SUPER KINGS, a founding franchise of Major League Cricket, are helping bring professional cricket to American audiences. Co-owned by Anurag Jain, who is also a co-owner of MLC, the DFW-based team draws on its ties to the IPL's Chennai Super Kings. With MLC headquartered in Grand Prairie and sell-out crowds at Grand Prairie Stadium, North Texas has become a true hub for the sport. Through top-level competition and grassroots outreach, TSK is building the next generation of cricket fans and players across Texas.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

DR. KIRK CALHOUN has spent more than three decades in academic medicine and university leadership. A nephrologist, he became president of UT Health Science Center at Tyler in 2002. In 2021, he became the first president of the unified UT Tyler, and he helped launch the UT Tyler School of Medicine. After retiring in 2024, he returned to lead UNT Health Fort Worth, first as interim president and, since July 2025, as its eighth president.

The recognition acknowledged his contributions to higher education, healthcare education, scientific research and community health. He was joined on stage by Ambassador Kwatra, Chairwoman Neeti Khaitan and founding chairman A.K. Mago, who also serves on the University of North Texas System Board of Regents.

CONTD ON PAGE 13

CONTD FROM PAGE 12

CORPORATION OF THE YEAR



QENTELLI

SANJAY JUPUDI FOUNDED QENTELLI in 2015 and built it with his own savings, without outside investors. The Dallas-based company now has more than 1,200 employees in five countries. It delivers AI-driven digital transformation and quality engineering for Fortune 500 clients. Through Qentelli and his family foundation, Jupudi supports a school in Hyderabad, hunger relief in Dallas and local sports teams. Qentelli employees volunteer for these causes, which makes giving back part of the company culture.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

VENKAT SHASHANK is building a business portfolio across finance, real estate and early education. Based in DFW, he serves as Chief Operating Officer of AIM Financials. He is also a partner in The Learning Experience, an early education franchise, and in ValourUSA. He studied at UC Irvine's Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences. He is part of a new generation of Indian American business leaders shaping the North Texas economy.



Venkat Shashank



Dr. Vikas Sinha

ASHOK MAGO LEGACY AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED COMMUNITY SERVICE

DR. VIKAS SINHA, Vice President of Engineering and Architecture for Broadcom's Mainframe Software Division, has made education the center of his giving. He earned his Ph.D. in data science from the University of North Texas in 2023. He and his wife, Anuradha, first gave more than $3 million to create UNT's Anuradha and Vikas Sinha Department of Data Science. They followed with $2.15 million for an innovation lab and a $20 million gift to launch a new UNT college for AI and advanced analytics.

US INDIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DFW: BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN AMERICA AND INDIA

Founded in 1999, the US India Chamber of Commerce DFW has emerged as an important platform for Indian American businesses and professionals in North Texas.

Under successive generations of leadership, the organization has worked to promote entrepreneurship, professional development, business networking and bilateral economic engagement between the United States and India.

Its membership spans a broad spectrum of industries, including information technology, healthcare, financial services, education and other sectors contributing to the economic growth of the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

The Annual Awards Banquet has become one of the Chamber's flagship events, providing an opportunity to recognize individuals and institutions whose accomplishments extend beyond professional success to public service and community development.

The Chamber expressed its appreciation to the sponsors, members, volunteers and guests who contributed to the success of this year's gathering.

Coming during the 250th anniversary year of American independence, the banquet also served as a reminder of the increasingly prominent role of Indian Americans in the nation's business, professional and civic institutions.

The participation of a former American President, India's Ambassador and distinguished representatives of public service, education and industry reflected the breadth of the Chamber's engagement with mainstream American society and its continuing role in strengthening people-to-people and economic ties between the two nations. Chamber's founding chairman, Ashok (A.K.) Mago played the pivotal role not only in founding the chamber but nurturing it to its present stature.

(TIP Staff Report)

Two Generations, One Voice: Udit Narayan and Aditya Narayan Launch Legacy Tour USA 2026

From Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak to a New Generation: The Narayan Legacy Tour Begins

One Stage, Two Generations, Endless Melodies: The Legacy Tour Captivates America

NOVEMBER 25, 2026
CHICAGO, IL (TIP)

On a memorable afternoon in late November 2026, the stage was set for something rare in the world of Bollywood music: a father and son sharing not only a bloodline but a living legacy of melody. Legendary playback singer Udit Narayan and his son, singer-entertainer Aditya Narayan, stood together before media and fans as they prepared to embark on their Legacy Tour USA 2026 an extraordinary journey that runs from November 20 to December 6 and brings two generations of unforgettable voices to audiences across America.

The tour opened on November 20 at Aura Club and Conventions in Naperville, Illinois, followed by Long Island/Brookville, New York on November 21, Kansas City on November 22, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania on November 27, Detroit's Music Hall Center on November 28, San Jose, California on December 5, and Phoenix, Arizona on December 6. In city after city, the demand has been overwhelming. At the press conference, organizers announced that the show had already sold out five days in advance in at least one market, a testament to the enduring love for Udit Narayan's voice



Udit Narayan with son Aditya Narayan

and the growing excitement around watching him perform alongside his son.

The press conference itself offered a warm, candid window into the relationship that makes this tour special. National promoter Sahil, along with representatives from Shri Balaji Entertainment, Rocky and Darshan, and Raju Shah of Ati Sundar Entertainment, helped set the stage. Media personalities including influencer Megha and Jassi Parmar of Desi Junction Media and Radio Zindagi posed thoughtful questions that revealed both the depth of Udit Narayan's career and the quiet humility that still defines him.

Udit Narayan, the Padma Shri awardee and four-time National Award winner whose voice has soundtracked more than four decades of Indian cinema, spoke with characteristic simplicity. From the rural songs he sang as a child in the villages of Nepal to the historic breakthrough of Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak in 1988 and the enduring success of films through Gadar 2, he emphasized one constant: hard work and devotion. "Melody never dies," he said. He continues to approach every recording and every stage performance with the same seriousness he brought when he first arrived in Mumbai in 1978. Even after singing thousands of songs and becoming the first male playback singer in Bollywood with one of the longest careers, he remains, in Aditya's words, "still a student."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2026
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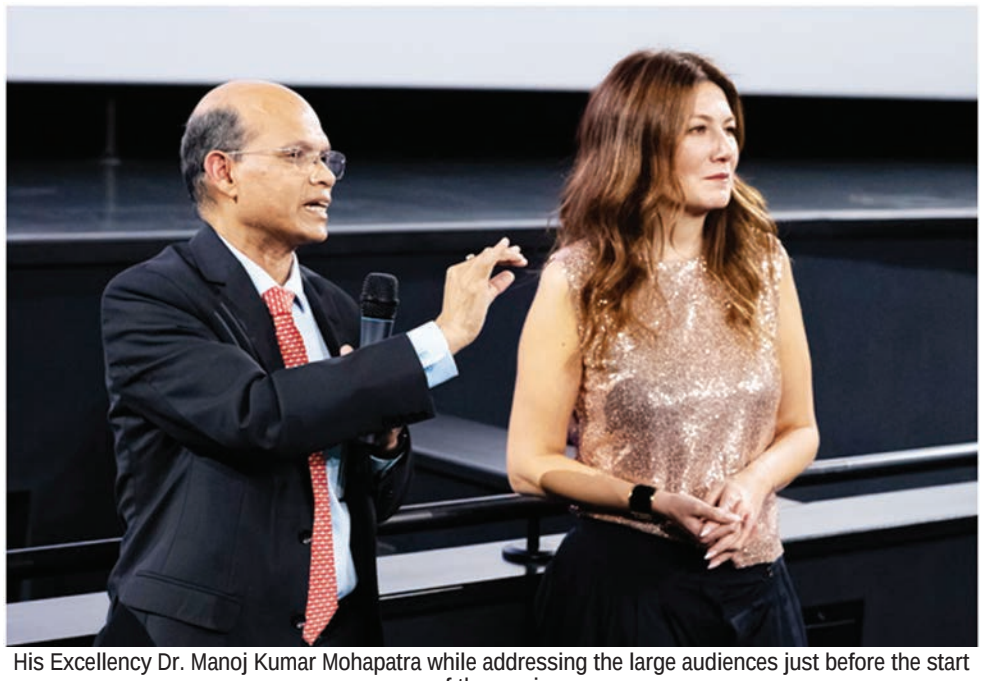
Embassy of India Organises Special Screening of *Ramayana: The Rise of a Legend* in Romania



NOVEMBER 21, 2026
BUCHAREST (TIP)

The Embassy of India in Bucharest organised a special screening of the Indian film Ramayana: The Rise of a Legend on Saturday, 21 November 2026, at Cinema City, AFI Cotroceni, Bucharest. The event witnessed an enthusiastic and overwhelming response, bringing together members of the Indian diaspora, Romanian friends of India, cinema enthusiasts, cultural representatives and other guests to celebrate India's rich cultural heritage through the medium of cinema.



His Excellency Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra while addressing the large audiences just before the start of the movie

The screening was organised as part of the Embassy's ongoing initiatives to promote Indian culture, heritage, traditions and values in Romania, while strengthening cultural exchanges and people-to-people connections between India and Romania. The event offered the audience an opportunity to experience one of India's most celebrated epics, the Ramayana, through cinematic storytelling and appreciate its timeless teachings and universal appeal.

The Ramayana is one of India's most revered epics and occupies a significant place





Her Excellency Ms. Sena Latif, Ambassador of Romania and Mr. Rahul Walia, Touchdown Media, USA while addressing the large audiences





















Ambassador Mohapatra with Indians and friends of India in Romania during the promotion of the movie Ramayana - The Rise of the Legend at the Cinema Lobby

CONTD ON PAGE 15

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Large number of enthusiastic Bollywood movie lovers in Romania standing in the queue for the movie tickets

in the country's literary, spiritual and cultural traditions. The story of Lord Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman embodies enduring values of righteousness, courage, devotion, loyalty, sacrifice, compassion and the triumph of good over evil. These values transcend geographical and cultural boundaries and continue to inspire people across generations. Through the screening of Ramayana: The Rise of a Legend, the Embassy sought to introduce and familiarise Romanian audiences with this timeless narrative and its profound cultural significance.

opportunity for Romanian audiences to engage with India's rich cultural heritage and traditions, while further reinforcing the close people-to-people ties between India and Romania.

The screening was particularly significant in providing an opportunity for Romanian audiences and members of the Indian community to come together and celebrate a shared appreciation of culture and storytelling. The enthusiastic participation and overwhelming presence of the audience reflected the growing



Overwhelming response at the AFI Cinema City Hall

Ambassador of India to Romania, Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, addressed the audience on the occasion. In his remarks, he highlighted the enduring relevance of the Ramayana and its universal message, which continues to resonate with people across cultures and societies. He underscored the importance of cultural diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and strengthening friendship between nations. He also highlighted the role of Indian cinema as an important medium for showcasing India's rich cultural diversity, traditions, history and values to audiences around the world. The Ambassador expressed his sincere appreciation to Mr. Rahul Walia of Touchdown Media Inc., who travelled all the way from the United States, for his valuable support and cooperation in facilitating the screening of the film in Bucharest. He also thanked Sony and all partners and stakeholders involved in organising the event. The Ambassador conveyed his gratitude to the audience for their overwhelming response, noting that the cinema hall was completely packed and several people had unfortunately to return due to the large turnout. He observed that the enthusiastic participation reflected the growing interest in Indian cinema, culture and heritage among Romanian audiences and underscored the importance of such cultural initiatives in strengthening people-to-people ties and fostering closer friendship between India and Romania.

H.E. Ms. Sena Latif, Ambassador of Romania to India, also highlighted the close and friendly bilateral relations between India and Romania, underscoring the strong cultural ties and enduring friendship between the two countries. She emphasised that the relationship between India and Romania is rooted in mutual respect, shared values and a longstanding tradition of cooperation across various fields. She noted that cultural exchanges, including cinema, art, literature and other creative expressions, play an important role in bringing people closer, fostering mutual understanding and strengthening the bonds of friendship between the two nations. The screening of Ramayana: The Rise of a Legend provided a meaningful interest in Indian culture, cinema and heritage in Romania.

Mr. Rahul Walia, representing Touchdown Media Inc., expressed his sincere appreciation to the Embassy of India and Sony Pictures for their support and cooperation in making the screening possible. He thanked the audience for their enthusiastic participation and acknowledged the efforts of all stakeholders involved in organising the event and ensuring its successful execution.

Indian cinema has long played an important role in India's cultural outreach across the world. Its powerful storytelling, music, dance, colourful visual traditions and diverse narratives have helped create enduring connections with audiences internationally. The screening of Ramayana: The Rise of a Legend was another meaningful initiative in this direction, offering a glimpse into India's cultural and spiritual heritage while reinforcing the role of cinema as a bridge between cultures.

The Embassy of India extends its heartfelt gratitude to all the guests and audience members for their overwhelming response and presence at the screening. The Embassy also appreciates the cooperation and support extended by all partners and stakeholders in organising the event.

The film was extensively publicised on the Embassy's social media platforms ahead of the screening, generating considerable interest and anticipation among Romanian audiences. Photographs and videos of the event have also been shared on the Embassy's social media platforms, showcasing the overwhelming response and enthusiastic participation of the audience.

The Embassy of India remains committed to promoting India's rich cultural heritage in Romania through film screenings, cultural festivals, exhibitions, performances, literary activities and other initiatives aimed at strengthening the longstanding friendship and mutual understanding between India and Romania.

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

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SC-ordered mediation fails in Sunjay Kapur's Rs 30,000-crore family trust dispute

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Supreme Court on Thursday, Nov 26, ended mediation between late industrialist Sunjay Kapur's mother, Rani Kapur, and his widow, Priya Sachdev Kapur, over the RK Family Trust, whose assets are estimated at around Rs 30,000 crore.

The trust holds a significant stake in Sona Comstar, the auto parts maker Sunjay chaired before his death on June 12, 2025.

Former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud led about 15 rounds of talks, but the two sides could not reach an agreement.

"One can never force a settlement," a bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and K Vinod Chandran said. The bench indicated that it would hear arguments in the case, according to Bar & Bench.

At Thursday's hearing, senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, appearing for Rani Kapur, told the court that she had sought Rs 6,000 crore to settle her claims against the trust.

Priya Kapur's lawyers put the value of the trust's assets at around Rs 30,000 crore. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Priya, disputed Rani's claim to the assets. Senior advocate Abhimanyu Bhandari, also appearing for Priya, argued that she was entitled to 60 per cent of the trust's assets, with the remaining 40 per cent to be divided among Sunjay's children.

After Saurav Das, lookout circulars against CJP leaders Abhijeet Dipke, Ashutosh Ranka

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Mumbai Police on Thursday, Nov 26, has issued Lookout Circulars against Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) National-Convener Abhijeet Dipke and co-conveners Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das in connection with an FIR linked to the CJP protest after the October 2 protest at Shivaji Park in Mumbai.

This came to light after Das was barred from boarding an overseas flight at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport earlier this week, prompting him to petition the Delhi High Court.

During court proceedings on Thursday, the central government confirmed before Justice Amit Mahajan that the travel restriction against Das was initiated at the specific request of the Maharashtra Police.

Das, who was scheduled to fly to the United Kingdom on the night of November 23 to attend an Oxford panel discussion, approached the court after immigration authorities stopped him, revealing that an active alert had been placed on his passport.

Representing the Union government, Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma told the bench that discrepancies regarding Das's educational background, residential address, and parentage had surfaced during record checks, suggesting these inconsistencies could have implications regarding his citizenship status.

Opposing the restriction, Senior Advocate Akhil Sibal, counsel for Das, argued that his client had received neither prior intimation nor formal documentation regarding any travel curbs before arriving at the airport. Contending that a show-cause notice was presented only on-site, Sibal questioned the legality of detaining a citizen without providing the underlying order or explaining the grounds of the restriction."He was not given time to respond to the show-cause notice few hours before travel. He has a valid passport and has a valid visa. He cannot be stopped from travelling as it is his fundamental right," Sibal said. When the petitioner's counsel requested a copy of the LOC along with the date and specific charges under which it was authorised, the Additional Solicitor General stated that the document could not be furnished directly in the ongoing hearing, adding that the petitioner remained free to initiate separate legal challenges against the circular.



CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and Ashutosh Ranka. ANI

The underlying First Information Report (FIR) was lodged on October 3 at the Shivaji Park police station. It names the event's organisers and cites between 400 and 500 unnamed attendees under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 189 (unlawful assembly) and 223 (disobedience to an order lawfully promulgated by a public servant).

Rs 2 cr bed, Rs 11 lakh chandelier, Rs 5 lakh sofa: What's inside Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' as Delhi govt opens facility for media

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The Delhi government opened former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's official residence, dubbed 'Sheesh Mahal' by the ruling BJP, for a media tour on Friday.

Calling it a "lavish" bungalow, the BJP displayed a Rs 30-lakh TV unit, a Rs 11.56-lakh chandelier, a Rs 6.71-lakh 'mandir', and a Rs 5.47-lakh two-seater sofa.

"We are just showing how Arvind Kejriwal spent the public money," Delhi Minister Parvesh Verma told NDTV during the media tour of the 6, Flagstaff Road residence, where the price tags were put on the household items.

"He (Kejriwal) used to say that he won't use the government vehicle or the government residence, but went on to spend Rs 56 crore on this government bungalow," the senior BJP leader said.

Verma, who defeated Kejriwal in the 2025 Assembly elections in the New Delhi constituency, a seat the AAP leader held since 2013, alleged that the 'Sheesh Mahal' was built while people were dying during the Covid-19 pandemic.

While giving NDTV a tour of the "luxurious" residence, the Public Works Department (PWD) minister also showed a "Facebook Live room".

"In this room, everything was very simple," he said as he showed a wooden chair with a torn seat.

"Kejriwal used to do Facebook Live from here to show the public how he lived a simple life," he charged.



The bungalow, maintained by the PWD, has eight bedrooms, 12 toilets, a jacuzzi bath, spa, five OLED TVs, and other amenities.

The government has said it may open 'Sheesh Mahal' for public tour based on public demand.

The 6, Flagstaff Road bungalow, where Kejriwal lived during his tenure as chief minister from 2015 to 2024, was nicknamed 'Sheesh Mahal' by the BJP to highlight the alleged corruption by the AAP.

"Attempt To Divert Attention"

The AAP has said the Delhi government's announcement to open the official residence for public viewing is an attempt to divert attention from the issue of Yamuna River pollution.

"He can talk about anything else he wants, but Verma cannot escape questions about the Yamuna. We will not allow him to divert attention from this issue. We will keep bringing him back to the condition of the river and demanding answers," AAP Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

He said the minister must tell Delhi "why thousands of fish died". He cannot simply run away from these questions, he said.

According to a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) tabled in the Delhi Assembly, the renovation work of Kejriwal's then official residence was completed for Rs 33.66 crore, 342 per cent above the estimated cost.

The report mentioned that out of Rs 33.66 crore, Rs 18.88 crore was spent on "superior specifications, artistic, antique and ornamental" items.

The report also listed various irregularities in providing additional accommodation at the bungalow, as well as additions and alterations in the Camp office and Staff Block there, by the PWD.

Source: NDTV

Tata Trusts To Go To Court Against N Chandrasekaran's Reappointment

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): Noel Tata-backed Tata Trusts has now taken their battle against N Chandrasekaran's reappointment as chairman of Tata Sons to court, sources told NDTV Profit.

In the latest escalation of a dispute that has been brewing for months, the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and the Ratan Tata Trust have decided to move the Bombay High Court against the reappointment of N Chandrasekaran as executive chairman of Tata Sons. The court will hear the case on Friday.

The dispute stems from a board meeting held on September 17, when Chandrasekaran was approved for another five-year term beginning February 2027. The trusts argue that the resolution did not receive the votes required under Tata Sons' Articles of Association and should therefore be considered invalid. At the centre of the dispute is a technical but important question: Was Chandrasekaran's reappointment approved in the manner required by the rules governing Tata Sons? Tata Trusts believes the answer is no. They contend that key decisions such as the appointment or reappointment of the chairman require the support of a majority of trust-nominated directors present at the meeting. According to the trusts, that condition was not met during the Sept. 17 board meeting.

India set to deploy fifth S-400 along Pakistan border by February

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): With China and Turkey supplying hardware, the US giving more teeth to F-16 fighters, and Saudi Arabia providing capital for Pakistan's military capabilities, India has decided to further strengthen its western border by deploying a fifth S-400 air defence system to guard the 740km Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir, according to two top officials aware of the matter.

At present, three S-400 long-range systems to counter aerial threats are deployed in Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat, and a fourth is deployed in Assam to protect the 1126km long Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh.

While the Union government remains tight-lipped on national security, the officials cited above told HT that an Indian Air Force (IAF) pre-dispatch inspection team will visit Russia next month, and a fifth S-400 system will be ready for deployment by February 2027.

The S-400 system, of which India is seeking to buy another five from Russia in the coming year, can counter ballistic missiles, aircraft, unmanned combat air systems, kamikaze drones, and loitering ammunition from a range of 40km to 400 km. The S-400 proved itself during Operation Sindoor, ensuring that no ballistic missile or rocket fired by Pakistan hit the Indian territory, apart from knocking down Pakistani fighters, AEW&C aircraft, and ELINT platforms from the skies till as far as west of the Indus.

In the backdrop of China planning to supply J-35 fifth-generation fighters to Rawalpindi in 2027, India has decided to manufacture and acquire long-range stand-off weapons and loitering ammunition to counter Chinese long-range air-to-air missiles such as the PL-15 E (Extended), and air defence systems such as the HQ 9BE. PAF used Chinese J-10 fighters in tandem with Swedish AWACS to fire 200km range twin-data link PL-15 E missiles during Op Sindoor.

"We know the future war will be without contact with stand-off weapons. "Whoever has a longer-range missile and better anti-



missile capability will have an edge," said a top military officer.

The second official cited above said that India is aware that Beijing and Ankara are bolstering Pakistan militarily, Washington is providing an F-16 upgradation package, and Riyadh is releasing capital as compensation for Mecca Alliance support against Iranian-backed Houthis. Though Pakistan is seeking IMF support and has low forex reserves, it is buying eight Yuan (Hangor)-class AIP diesel attack submarines from China (over $5 billion), with one already deployed by the Pakistan Navy in June 2026, he added. Meanwhile, Turkey is upgrading its Agosta 90 B submarines and supplying long-range kamikaze drones to Pakistan, and China has already supplied armed Wing Loong II missile firing drones to boost Pakistan's military-aerial capability, the people said.

In light of the national security assessment emanating from these acquisitions, coupled with the cross-border terror threat from Pakistan, India is preparing to bolster not only on long-range air-to -air, air-to-ground and ground-to-ground stand-off weapons but also upgrade its border infrastructure on the LAC, the officials added.

Source: HT

Remembering Sikh Soldiers, British Army delegation visits Amritsar, Chandigarh



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

To commemorate the supreme sacrifices made by Sikh soldiers as part of the British Army during World War II, an army delegation from Great Britain led by Maj Gen John Kendall, Deputy Commander of Field Services, visited Amritsar and Chandigarh to attend the special Remembrance Day events.

The events were organised jointly by the Saragarhi Foundation, Shadeed Welfare Society and World Sikh Soldiers Yadegar Committee (Italy) at st Soldier Elite Convent School in Jandiala Guru and at Sultanwind.

Dr Gurinder pal Singh Josan, President of the Saragarhi Foundation presided over the function held at Jandiala Guru School where besides Maj Gen John Kendall, Lieu-Col Alice Archer, and a delegation participated.

Several officers of the Indian Army besides family members and relatives of Sikh soldiers who made a part of the British Army during its Second World War European operations also attended the event.





The management of the school led by its Director Mangal Singh Kishenpuri added glamour and colour to the event with a cultural programme comprising bhangra, giddha and a skit on battle of Saragarhi.

The event at Sultan wind saw rich tributes being paid to all 135 soldiers who went from this village on the outskirts of Amritsar. Seven soldiers – Banta Singh, Pal Singh 1, Pal Singh 2, Sarmukh Singh and Thakur Singh attained martyrdom at Basra while Jagat Singh and Banta Singh made the supreme sacrifices in the Middle East.

Prithipal Singh of World Sikh Soldiers Yadgar Society, along with Kamaljit Kaur, Sewa Singh Fauji came from Italy to attend these functions. They were joined by many others from Punjab, Haryana and other parts of the world.



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India in history this Week

NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 3

NOVEMBER 27

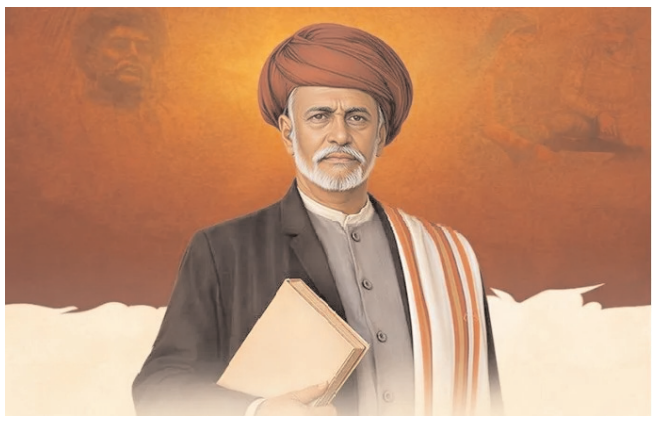
1888: Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar, the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha, was born. He played a significant role in shaping parliamentary procedures in independent India.



1907: Harivansh Rai Bachchan, one of the most celebrated Hindi poets of the 20th century and author of Madhushala, was born in Allahabad (now Prayagraj).

2008: Former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who introduced the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations, died. He served as India's prime minister from 1989 to 1990.

NOVEMBER 28



1890: Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, the pioneering social reformer who fought caste discrimination and advocated education for women and marginalised communities, died in Pune.

1927: Pramod Karan Sethi, the renowned Indian orthopaedic surgeon who developed the Jaipur Foot, was born.

1962: K. C. Dey, the celebrated blind singer and music director of Bengali and Hindi cinema, died.



NOVEMBER 29

1869: Amritlal Vithaldas Thakkar, popularly known as Thakkar Bapa, was born. A social worker and reformer, he devoted his life to the welfare of tribal communities and the upliftment of disadvantaged sections of society.

1759: Mughal emperor Alamgir II was assassinated in Delhi.



1989: Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi resigned following the Congress party's defeat in the general election. The resignation paved the way for the formation of a government led by Vishwanath Pratap Singh.



1993: J. R. D. Tata, the legendary industrialist and former chairman of the Tata Group, died in Geneva, Switzerland.

NOVEMBER 30

1858: Jagadish Chandra Bose, the pioneering Indian scientist known for his contributions to radio science and plant physiology, was born in Mymensingh, now in Bangladesh.

1997: Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral resigned after his government lost the support of the Congress party.

2000: Priyanka Chopra was crowned Miss World in London, becoming the fifth Indian woman to win the title.



DECEMBER 1

1963: Nagaland became the 16th state of the Indian Union. Kohima was designated its capital.

1965: The Border Security Force (BSF) was established to guard India's borders and strengthen border security following the 1965 India-Pakistan war.

1974: Sucheta Kripalani, India's first woman chief minister, died. She had served as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh from 1963 to 1967 and was an important freedom fighter.

DECEMBER 2

1911: King George V and Queen Mary visited Bombay (now Mumbai) during their coronation tour of India. The Gateway of India was later constructed to commemorate their arrival.



1984: The Bhopal gas tragedy began during the night of December 2-3, when highly toxic methyl isocyanate (MIC) gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The disaster killed thousands and exposed hundreds of thousands of people to toxic gas.

1989: Vishwanath Pratap Singh was sworn in as India's seventh prime minister, heading the National Front government.



DECEMBER 3

1884: Dr Rajendra Prasad, India's first president and a prominent freedom fighter, was born in Ziradei, Bihar. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, he played an important role in the freedom struggle and the framing of the Constitution.

1984: The Bhopal gas disaster reached its deadliest phase. The leak of toxic gas from the Union Carbide plant remains one of the world's worst industrial disasters. Its long-term consequences included serious health problems, environmental contamination and continuing demands for justice and rehabilitation.



Rs 24 in his bank account, Rs 1 crore on KBC: Meet season 18's first crorepati

He arrived in Mumbai with just Rs 24 in his bank account, and he is now returning home as a crorepati. Meet Bhushan Thakare, the first contestant this season to win Rs 1 crore on Kaun Banega Crorepati. For the UPSC aspirant from Jalgaon, the journey to the hot seat was a decade in the making, marked by unsuccessful auditions, financial struggles and an unwavering belief that he would one day make it to the Amitabh Bachchan-hosted quiz show.

Bhushan had been trying to get selected for KBC since 2016. While he appeared for auditions and interviews over the years, success remained elusive. But he never gave up. Growing up, KBC was a family favourite, with his parents, who are not formally educated, often looking to him for answers whenever a question appeared on television. His ability to answer correctly made them proud and fuelled his ambition to be on the show someday.

"I had been trying for KBC since 2016. For four to five years, I couldn't even get an opportunity to audition. Later, I appeared for auditions and interviews, but didn't succeed. This time, when I finally got selected, I made it count," Bhushan said in an exclusive interview with India Today.

The Rs 24 in his bank account has become one of the most interesting details of Bhushan's KBC journey. He clarified that he did not have to spend any money on his travel, accommodation or food in Mumbai, as the show's team took care of all his arrangements. In fact, the money is still untouched. "Those Rs 24 are still in my bank account. They haven't been spent. Now, that amount will become Rs 1 crore and Rs 24," he said with a smile.

While Bhushan had always visualised making it big, he admitted that he was not entirely confident about winning the competition. As the prize money increased, so did the difficulty of the questions and the risk of losing a significant amount. For him, answering the Rs 1 crore question was considerably more challenging than reaching the hot seat.

Bhushan's preparation for the civil services examination also doubled up as his KBC training.

Emmy-winning 'The Pitt' to return with Season 3 in January 2027

HBO Max has announced that the third season of its Emmy-winning medical drama The Pitt will premiere on January 7, 2027.

The streaming platform revealed the release date through the show's official Instagram account, featuring actors Taylor Dearden, Isa Briones and Gerran Howell, who play Dr King, Dr Santos and Dr Whitaker, respectively.

The announcement video shows the three actors in a hospital locker room, with pink sticky notes revealing the return date of the series.

Created by R Scott Gemmill, The Pitt follows the challenges faced by frontline healthcare professionals at the fictional Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center's emergency department.

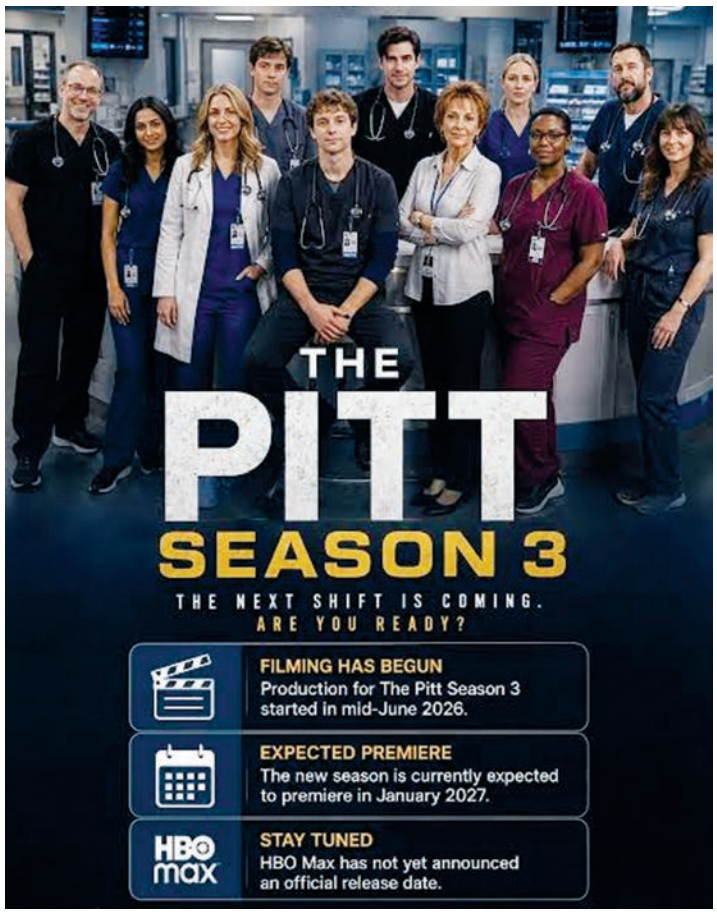
Presented in a real-time format, the series chronicles medical emergencies and personal crises faced by doctors and nurses over the course of a hospital shift, as they deal with an overwhelming number of patients and limited resources.

The show features Noah Wyle as Dr Michael Robby Robinavitch, alongside Patrick Ball as Dr Langdon, Katherine LaNasa as Dana Evans, Fiona Dourif as Dr McKay, Dearden as Dr King, Briones as Dr Santos and Howell as Dr Whitaker.

The cast also includes Shabana Azeez as Javadi, Ayesha Harris as Dr Ellis, Sepideh Moafi as Dr Al-Hashimi and Shawn Hatosy as Dr Abbot.

The upcoming season will introduce Stephen Chang, Barry Clifton, Chris Diamantopoulos, Lawrence Kao, Brent Sexton, JB Tadena and Hannah Ware in recurring roles.

Speaking to Deadline about the storyline of the third season, Wyle said, "Season 3 is about doctors benefiting from being patients. We're going to see that [Robby]'s begun the therapeutic road; it's had a positive effect. It's fragile, and it's not without risk and vulnerability, but at least there's forward progress."



The Pitt has won five Primetime Emmys, seven Creative Arts Emmys, two Golden Globes, and four Critics' Choice Awards.

Mahabharata's Eklavya to be played by AI-generated actor in new series

Eklavya, the self-taught archer from the Mahabharata, is set to take on a new form in Lionsgate Play's first artificial intelligence-led original series. The eight-episode production will star AI-generated actor Yug R.Ai in the title role and premiere in 2027.

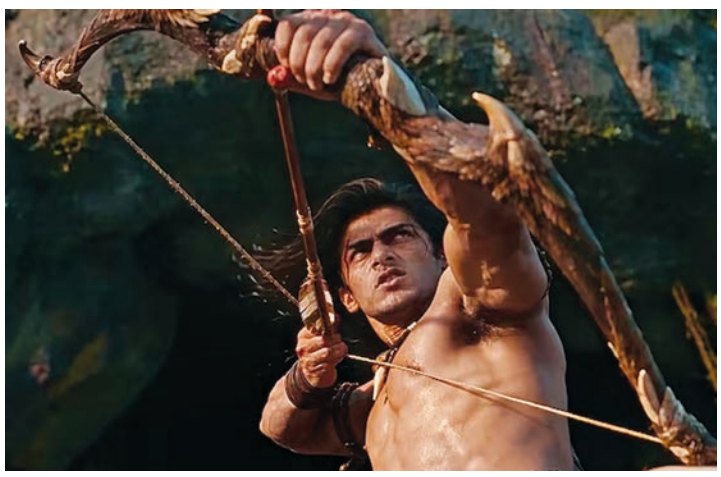
Directed by National Film Award winner Vibhu Puri, Eklavya is currently in production and is planned as the beginning of a multi-season franchise. The series is the first project under a long-term strategic partnership between Lionsgate Play and Google Cloud, and will be available in multiple Indian and international languages.

The series reimagines the story of Eklavya, the young archer who taught himself archery after being rejected by his guru. Yug R.Ai will lead the series as Lionsgate Play's first AI actor, marking a new phase in the platform's original programming.

The partnership will combine Lionsgate Play's storytelling expertise with Google's AI technology. Eklavya is also the first title in a planned slate of AI-led originals from the streaming platform.

Speaking about the project, Lionsgate Play founder and CEO Rohit Jain told Variety, "Every leap in technology has opened new doors for storytellers, and AI is opening more of them, faster, than anything before it. But technology alone doesn't create magic on screen. Great stories and the people behind them do. That's why every title on our AI slate is driven by a strong creative team, from the writers and artists to the director."

He added, "Eklavya is our boldest statement of intent, an eight-episode first season built to grow into a multi-season franchise, and Yug R.Ai is just the beginning."



Puri's credits include Hawaizaada, Gustaakh Ishq, Heeramandi and Taj: Divided by Blood. He has also directed several large-scale commercials.

Drawing a connection between Eklavya's story and his experience of making the series, Puri said the character was never given a teacher and made the bow his own. He added that working on the series felt much the same way to him.

"I've spent my career making ambitious ideas fit inside budgets and schedules. With Eklavya, for the first time, the canvas is as big as the imagination," he told the portal.

Eklavya will premiere in 2027 exclusively on Tiger TV within the Lionsgate Play app. In India, Lionsgate Play is priced at Rs 349 for three months and Rs 799 for a year.

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NEWARK LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

BY MABEL PAIS

Audiences are invited to make the arts part of their holiday traditions with a December lineup spanning the joyful carols of - Christmas with Canadian Brass, the candlelit rock anthems of - The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight, the timeless enchantment of - The Nutcracker, the world premiere of - Sacred Visions: Oru de Oro, the irresistible Caribbean rhythms of - Kesmas: Kes the Band, and the dazzling acrobatics of - Cirque Dreams: Holidaze. This lineup of traditional holiday culture will take place indoors and outdoors at New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) during December 2026.

At the heart of the season is NJPAC's Free Annual Kwanzaa Celebration, welcoming people of all ages for an afternoon of culture, creativity and family fun. Adding a new destination for holiday shopping, NJPAC also introduces its outdoor Holiday Market, featuring curated vendors and distinctive gifts.

FREE KWANZAA FAMILY FESTIVAL

On Saturday, December 19, from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., "NJPAC's Annual FREE Kwanzaa Family Festival," a beloved New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) tradition for 27 years, welcomes families, friends and neighbors to celebrate culture, community and creative expression.

Children can have their faces painted, learn dance moves and discover the joy of cultural storytelling, while visitors of every generation explore an array of engaging activities.

The free programming includes exquisite face painting, arts and crafts, interactive storytelling, lobby performances and other family-friendly activities that embody the seven principles of Kwanzaa. RSVP to the festival @ https://njpac.org/about/community-engagement/kwanzaa-festival-and-marketplace

"The annual Kwanzaa Family Festival & Marketplace makes our holiday season bright," says Eyesha Marable, Assistant Vice President, Community Engagement. "With the collaboration of our engaged partners, NJPAC delivers a memorable celebration that brings people together through creativity, culture and community."

NJPAC'S HOLIDAY MARKET

Launching December 10, "NJPAC's new Holiday Market" makes finding a thoughtful gift part of the holiday experience. Set in a heated outdoor tent, the market brings together more than 30 curated vendors offering one-of-a-kind keepsakes, embellished clothing, decorative home goods, handcrafted jewelry and accessories, paintings and other unique finds. Browse for something special for everyone on your gift list and enjoy a cozy seasonal outing in the heart of Newark.

The festival coincides with an expanded NJPAC Holiday Market in the Prudential Hall Lobby. Skip the big box stores and browse a large selection of one-of-a-kind keepsakes. Curated vendors include local makers and artisans selling specialty items, such as embellished clothing, decorative home goods, handmade jewelry, paintings and other unique finds.



NJPAC Kwanzaa Family Festival & Marketplace -Courtesy, https://njpac.org



NJPAC Holiday Marketplace -Courtesy, https://njpac.org

The Holiday Market will be open Thursdays through Sundays, December 10 – 20, 12 – 8PM, closing at 6PM on Sundays. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

The Kwanzaa Family Festival & Marketplace will also feature

- Holiday ceremonies such as a Kwanzaa candle-lighting and vibunzi (a tradition of honoring young people with an ear of corn, or fresh fruits and vegetables, to represent hope for the future)
- Face painting by Miley's Parties
- A fashion show presented by Ancient African Formula
- Arts and crafts workshops led by The North Jersey Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, The Newark Museum of Art, Trust for Public Land, Essex County Civic Club and AARP Chapter 5398 of The Newark University Area
- Kwanzaa-inspired HBCU step performance by Infinite Step Team of Columbia High School
- Vision screenings by Eyes Like Mine
- Health screenings by RWJBarnabas Health
- Capoeira class by Afro Brazilian Arts and Education
- West African, salsa, soca and traditional Brazilian dance lessons
- Book readings by Reading Partners, Source of Knowledge and Newark Public Library
- Kwanzaa-themed books, bookmark giveaways and arts and crafts led by the Beta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated
- A panel discussion on African timekeeping presented by Kebtah: The Earth Center
- Two ticketed evening performances:
- An incredible night of neo soul with 13-time GRAMMY nominee Musiq Soulchild and Kindred the Family Soul performing songs that are a testament to the power of faith, hope and love. Performance at 8PM, purchase tickets @ https://njpac.org/event/musiq-soulchild
- The world premiere of Sacred Visions: Oru de Oro, passionate choreography — inspired by Yoruba ceremonial traditions — accompanied by Cuban and jazz-infused melodies. Performance at 7:30PM, purchase tickets @ https://njpac.org/event/sacred-visions.

Rooted in the seven principles of Kwanzaa: (UMOJA: Unity), (KUJICHAGULIA: Self Determination), (UJAMAA: Cooperative Economics), (KUUMBA: Creativity), IMANI (Faith), (UJIMA: Collective Work & Responsibility), and (NIA: Purpose), the celebration also includes a candle-lighting ceremony and vibunzi (ears of corn, in Swahili, symbolizing "ujima"). Whether continuing a cherished tradition or experiencing Kwanzaa for the first time, all are welcome to join this FREE celebration.

DECEMBER PERFORMANCES AND EVENTS

Christmas with Canadian Brass

Saturday, December 12, 2026; 3:00 p.m.; Victoria Theater

The renowned brass quintet fills the season with cheerful carols, beloved classics and consummate musicianship, paired with playful banter and spontaneous fun. The performance also features the New Jersey Youth Chorus: Coriste ensemble.

The Rock Orchestra by Candlelight

Saturday, December 12, 2026; 8:00 p.m.; Prudential Hall

Traditional orchestral instruments meet heavy metal anthems in a genre-defying concert illuminated by candlelight. This dramatic musical experience brings a dark, gothic atmosphere to the holiday lineup.

The Nutcracker

Sunday, December 13, 2026; 3:00 p.m.; Prudential Hall

The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine transports audiences to a winter wonderland with hand-painted sets, more than 200 exquisite costumes and Tchaikovsky's unforgettable score, including "Waltz of the Flowers," "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" and "Waltz of the Snowflakes."

FREE Annual Kwanzaa Celebration

Saturday, December 19, 2026; 1:00–6:00 p.m.; Free admission

NJPAC's Kwanzaa Family Festival & Marketplace brings generations together for face painting, dance, cultural storytelling, a candle-lighting ceremony, vibunzi (ears of corn, in Swahili) and activities inspired by the seven principles of Kwanzaa.

Sacred Visions: Oru de Oro

Saturday, December 19, 2026; 7:30 p.m.

This world premiere unites pianist and composer Michele Rosewoman's acclaimed New Yor-Uba Ensemble with choreographer Danys "La Mora" Pérez Prades's Oyu Oro Afro-Cuban Dance Ensemble. Rosewoman's jazz-infused suite comes vividly to life through La Mora's expressive choreography, drawing on Yoruba ceremonial traditions in a dialogue of sacred rhythms, intricate composition, improvisation, movement and storytelling.

Kesmas: Kes the Band

Sunday, December 20, 2026; 7:00 p.m.; Prudential Hall

The vibrant sound of Kes, the Trinidadian band whose blend of calypso, rock and Caribbean rhythms has captivated audiences around the world. Their high-energy performance brings an electrifying island spirit to the season.

Cirque Dreams: Holidaze

Saturday, December 26, 2026; 4:00 p.m.; Prudential Hall

A breathtaking circus spectacular wrapped in a Broadway-style holiday show, Cirque Dreams: Holidaze features aerial acts, sleight-of-hand jugglers, eye-popping acrobatics, singers, dancers and Christmas characters. Tickets make a memorable stocking stuffer for children and a festive outing for the whole family.

TICKETS

For tickets, additional information and the latest updates, visit njpac.org.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center Street, Newark, N.J. or call 1-888-696-5722.

For details on the free Kwanzaa celebration, visit the https://njpac.org/about/community-engagement/kwanzaa-festival-and-marketplace

KWANZAA

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by activist and author Maulana Karenga to offer people of African heritage a holiday that would celebrate their culture. Kwanzaa encompasses seven days dedicated to seven principles, also known as the Nguzo Saba. The Kwanzaa principles are Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith). Each activity or event at NJPAC's Kwanzaa Family Festival embodies one of the seven principles.

WOMEN@NJPAC, THE CONTINUAL FORCE BEHIND THE NJPAC CULTURAL POWERHOUSE, MEET TO LEAD NEXT CHAPTER

BY MABEL PAIS

For over three decades, Women@NJPAC has brought together an inspiring network of women whose leadership, philanthropy and generosity have helped shape NJPAC into the cultural powerhouse it is today.

Members and non-members are invited on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 4-6 PM, to join Women@NJPAC for its annual meeting at the Chase Room of NJPAC, Newark, for an evening of connection, light bites and cocktails, as they celebrate and look ahead to the next chapter of Women@NJPAC. This is an opportunity to discover the impact of the sisterhood, connect with current members and trustees and learn more about the opportunities to get involved.

Make meaningful connections, expand your network and take advantage of a special discounted membership opportunity as Women@NJPAC celebrate all that we can accomplish together!



Women@NJPAC, 2026 banner -Courtesy, https://njpac.org

TICKETS

This meeting is free for current members.

Non-members are required to purchase a ticket. Learn more @ https://support.njpac.org/event/women-njpac-annual-meeting-2026/e863834/register/new/select-tickets

ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

In the spirit of the holiday season, attendees are requested to participate in the Holiday Toy Drive by bringing a new toy for a child ages 1 – 18. The gift will help bring joy to the families of Wynona's House, La Casa de Don Pedro and Clinton Hill Community Action.

WOMEN@NJPAC: A SISTERHOOD FOR GOOD

Women@NJPAC are change makers, rabble-rousers, artists, moms, bosses — women who give back in a hundred different ways. If you're passionate about the performing arts and want to make an impact, Women@NJPAC is the place for you.

Women@NJPAC have been making moves for 30 years — before NJPAC even opened its doors. The Women's Association was born in 1994, when its nine founders advocated for women to have a seat at the table as NJPAC fundraisers and decision-makers. Now known as Women@NJPAC, its powerhouse board and 2,000+ members have generated $58M+ to bolster the performing arts and improve our community.

NJPAC REFLECTS ON BREAKING BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

BY MABEL PAIS

Event Details

What: Breaking Barriers to Affordable Healthcare (Standing in Solidarity Series)

When: November 30, 2026 @ 6 PM

Resource tables: 5 PM; Film: 6 PM; Panel: 7 PM

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

A lump that goes unchecked. A chest pain that is ignored. As healthcare costs soar, many New Jersey residents put off medical visits in order to afford rent, utilities and food.

This Standing in Solidarity (a PSEG collaboration) conversation brings together medical and policy experts to answer challenging questions such as, why is healthcare so expensive? Is there a cure for skyrocketing costs? And what are some New Jersey resources to make quality care more affordable?



Affordable Healthcare. -Courtesy, https://njpac.org

FILM

"The Healthcare Divide" a - PBS Frontline - documentary about healthcare inequities and how pressure to increase profits in U.S. hospitals is endangering the care of low-income populations.

In partnership with Dodge Poetry, the program will open with poetry from Ray Jane, a Brooklyn-based spoken word artist whose first book is "Black Like That."

Panel

MODERATOR

DEBORAH VISCONI - Following the film screening, a panel conversation will be moderated by Deborah Visconi, President and CEO, Bergen New Bridge Medical Center in Paramus, NJ.

PANELISTS

ROCHELLE EVANS, RN, Executive Director, Healthcare Foundation of the Oranges

IRIS JONES, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Health Services at the New Jersey Department of Health

DR. ARNOLD WILLIAMS, Medical Director/Chair, RWJBarnabas Health Behavioral Health Center in Toms River, NJ

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC is a collaborative leader in Newark's cultural and civic life, a catalyst of the city's revitalization and a champion of its artistic spirit. The Arts Center produces and presents world-class performances by music, dance, spoken word poetry and comedy artists, and hosts insightful conversations with creators and changemakers, on its own stages and in venues across the region.

Through real estate development, NJPAC advances Newark's economic growth and cultural vitality. In addition, the Arts Center collaborates with local partners to deliver social impact initiatives that nurture the well-being and creativity of the communities it serves.

These offerings include arts education and career development opportunities for students and educators, programs that support community health and well-being through the arts and free creative experiences in neighborhoods across Newark and throughout the state. NJPAC has attracted more than 13 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997. Visit https://njpac.org for more information.

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

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NJYC WILL SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGHOUT DECEMBER WITH THEME: COMING HOME. HONORING OUR ROOTS. CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE.

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC - https://whartonarts.org/programs/new-jersey-youth-chorus), a program of Wharton Arts, will spread holiday cheer throughout December with a series of special performances celebrating music, community, and the spirit of the season.

As NJYC celebrates its 35th anniversary season with the theme: Coming Home —Honoring Our Roots. Celebrating Our Future., choristers from all five ensembles will share their music at venues throughout New Jersey, including a special appearance with internationally acclaimed Canadian Brass at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC).



Sola Voce and Coriste ensembles. -Credit: https://whartonarts.org

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The festivities begin with "Home for the Holidays" on Sunday, December 6, at 4 p.m. at Morristown United Methodist Church in Morristown. The concert will feature NJYC's Sola Voce and Coriste ensembles, joined by brass and percussion. Adding a special touch to the celebration, alumni from across the decades will return home to join the current choristers, bringing together generations of voices in the NJYC family. Through carols, readings, video, and photographs, the program will explore the meaning of home, the richness of different holiday traditions, and the things that connect us all: family, memories, and celebration. Music selections will include "Carol of the Bells," "Veni," "Veni Emmanuel," "S'vivon," "Somewhere in My Memory," "Crowded Table," "Patake," and several of the beloved David Willcocks carol arrangements, along with familiar singalongs and solo performances.

The spirit of coming home will extend beyond the music with the NJYC Winter Village, a collection of small houses individually decorated by the choristers, creating a festive display in the church lobby and reception area. Guests will also enjoy complimentary holiday treats representing different cultures.

TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased at https://whartonarts.interticket.com/program/njyc-home-for-the-holidays/29e44029077847bc9a0032ba5eb0bfa9eventId=b99235e7645e484daa9d03d8d3faa4af&selectedDate=2026-12-06T21:00:00%2B00:00.

Adults pay regular prices. Students and seniors pay a discounted price.

CHRISTMAS WITH CANADIAN BRASS

NJYC's Coriste ensemble on Saturday, December 12 will join famed Canadian Brass for "Christmas with Canadian Brass" at 3 p.m. in NJPAC's Victoria Theater in Newark.

One of the world's leading brass ensembles, Canadian Brass is renowned for its exceptional musicianship, engaging performances, and signature blend of musical excellence and humor. The collaboration is especially meaningful to NJYC, which has had the privilege of performing with Canadian Brass seven times throughout its history.

Sharing the stage with the celebrated quintet once again during its 35th anniversary season is a particularly special highlight. Coriste will perform Canadian Brass arrangements of "Ding Dong Merrily on High" and "Sweet Songs of Christmas," as well as Michael John Trotta's a cappella arrangement of "Veni, Veni Emmanuel." Drawing on the ancient "O" Antiphons, which date to the ninth century, the arrangement gives the centuries-old hymn a contemporary character through driving rhythmic ostinatos, suspended harmonies, and percussive syncopation, complemented by hand drum, triangle, and tambourine.

HAPPY WINTER

NJYC's Primo Coro on Saturday, December 19, will visit Juniper Village in Chatham for a holiday caroling performance. The young singers will perform "Happy Winter" by Jill Gallina and "Red Bird" by Teresa Jennings and invite residents to join them in singing favorite and familiar Christmas carols. Choristers will also share handmade holiday cards filled with warm winter wishes for the residents.

Later that evening, NJYC's Cor Amici and Camerata will join Imperial Brass for a Holiday Concert at 7:30 p.m. at Morristown Presbyterian Church in Morristown. Imperial Brass will present a festive mix of holiday works composed specifically for brass band, traditional carols and classics, jazz-infused charts, and pop and swing standards, including "Let It Go," "Defying Gravity," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Sleigh Ride." The NJYC choristers will add their voices to the celebration with familiar favorites such as "Noel Nouvelet," arr. Michael Elgin; "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," arr. Stephen McNeff; and Carl Nygard's playful choral parody of "O Christmas Tree."

The December performances are part of NJYC's 35th anniversary celebration, bringing together current choristers, alumni, and the broader community to honor the Chorus' history and celebrate the generations of singers that make up its choir family.

TICKETS

For tickets and additional information about New Jersey Youth Chorus performances, visit https://whartonarts.org/programs/new-jersey-youth-chorus

WHARTON ARTS, NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS (NJYC) AND MORE

Wharton Arts is New Jersey's largest independent non-profit community performing arts education center serving nearly 2,000 students through a range of classes and ensembles.

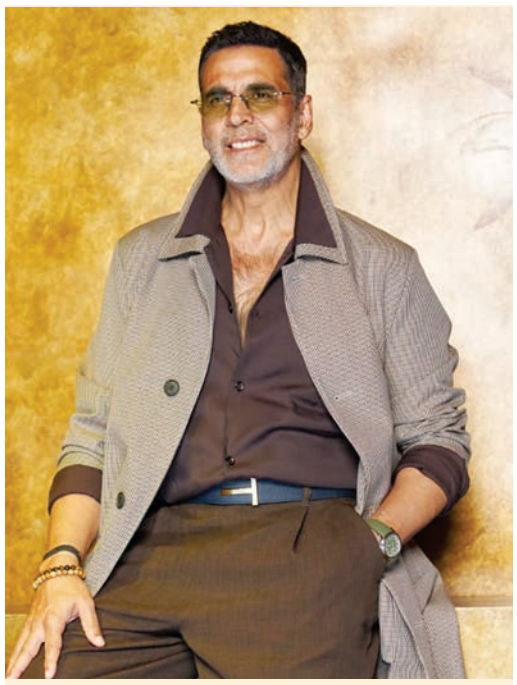
The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades 3–12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development.

The 15 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Symphony, which serve over 500 students in grades 3–12 by audition, inspire young people to achieve musical excellence through high-level ensemble training and performance opportunities.

Based in Paterson, the Paterson Music Project is an El Sistema-inspired program of Wharton Arts that uses music education as a vehicle for social action by empowering and inspiring young people to achieve their full potential through the community experience of ensemble learning and playing. From Pathways classes for young children to Lifelong Learning programs for adults, the Wharton Performing Arts School has a robust musical theater and drama program and offers both private and group classes for instruments and voice for all ages and all abilities. With the belief in the positive and unifying influence of music and that performing arts education should be accessible to all people regardless of their ability to pay, Wharton Arts offers need-based scholarships.

Wharton Arts is located in Berkeley Heights, New Providence, and Paterson, NJ and reaches students from 12 counties. All of Wharton Arts' extraordinary teaching artists, faculty members, and conductors hold degrees in their teaching specialty and have been vetted and trained to enable our students to achieve their personal best.

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



Akshay Kumar says big people in Bollywood don't cast him due to his 8-hour shift rule

Bollywood actors Akshay Kumar and Ravi Kishan recently appeared on Karan Johar's Koffee With Karan Season 9. During the episode, Akshay revealed that he follows an eight-hour work schedule, which has reportedly led some big producers to hesitate before collaborating with him. The actor also compared his working style with that of Hollywood filmmaker Christopher Nolan and actor Tom Cruise.

During the episode, when Karan praised Akshay for giving debutant directors a chance and being considerate towards both producers and directors, Akshay said, “A lot of big people don’t want to cast me. There are a lot of rumours; they say I work for only eight hours. But they forget that I don’t even go to my vanity van for those eight hours. Our work is to be in front of the camera, and people want to see you beautiful in front of the camera, not tired. So I thought I would work eight hours, sleep for eight hours, spend two hours on my physique and dedicate a few hours to my family.”

Ravi praised Akshay's speed and energy on film sets, saying that the actor also helps producers save money by wrapping up films quickly. He added that Akshay usually completes a film in around 55 days, which benefits producers and provides employment to the 300-400 people who are part of a film unit.

Akshay then added that many people question how he manages to finish a film in 65 days. He said, “I recently read an interview with Christopher Nolan, and apparently he doesn’t take more than 90 days to complete a film. Tom Cruise completed Mission: Impossible in 55 days.”

In 2025, Deepika Padukone's reported exit from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit over her eight-hour shift demand sparked a debate about work-life balance for actors. Later, the producers of Kalki 2898 AD also announced that Deepika would not be part of the film's sequel. Soon after the announcement, reports about the actor demanding an eight-hour work shift and a share in the profits surfaced online.

Ramayana in Oscars Best Visual Effects longlist beside Doomsday, Dune 3, The Odyssey



Director Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana Part One has made it to the top 20 films under consideration for the Best Visual Effects category at the 2027 Academy Awards. The Indian epic drama joins major Hollywood releases such as Dune: Part Three, Avengers: Doomsday, Project Hail Mary, and The Odyssey on the Oscars longlist.

According to a report by Variety, the film's visual effects were executed by eight-time Oscar-winning studio DNEG, whose previous credits include Dune and Interstellar. Their work has placed Ramayana: Rise of a Legend among the 20 contenders advancing in the visual effects race ahead of the 99th Academy Awards.

The line-up also includes Spider-Man: Brand New Day, Disclosure Day, Whalefall, and The Sheep Detectives, alongside Japanese blockbuster Godzilla Minus Zero, which released globally around the same time as Ramayana: Rise of a Legend. Its predecessor, Godzilla Minus One, won the Best Visual Effects Oscar in 2025.

Released worldwide by Sony Pictures, the Nitesh Tiwari directorial has gained steady traction during the international awards season. Earlier this week, the Critics Choice Association (CCA) shortlisted the film — distributed internationally in a 30-minute shorter cut titled Ramayana: Rise of a Legend — in two technical categories: Best Visual Effects and Best Stunt Design.

Produced by Namit Malhotra and Yash, the first chapter of Tiwari's two-part adaptation of Valmiki's epic features Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, and Yash as Ravana. Having opened to largely positive reviews in India and mixed reactions overseas, the film has collected Rs 1,735.15 crore worldwide — within 20 days of its theatrical release.

India Today, in its review for the film, wrote, "At nearly three hours, Ramayana gives you plenty to celebrate, a fair amount to question and enough to look forward to. Some of its visual choices could have been more refined, and the occasional reliance on artificial-looking imagery is difficult to overlook. But the ambition is undeniable, and so is the achievement of creating a cinematic universe that feels this expansive." Ramayana: Rise of a Legend theatrically released on November 5, 2026.

Ayushmann Khurrana says he has rejected potential hits that didn't align with his values

Ayushmann Khurrana says he has never been one to choose a film purely because it could become a box-office success. The actor, who is currently promoting Yeh Prem Mol Liya, has spoken about why he stays away from stories that go against his personal beliefs, particularly those that make unhealthy relationships appear desirable. He believes cinema can explore difficult love stories, but should not present toxic behaviour as something to celebrate.



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He said he wants the films he chooses to make to convey the right message. According to him, a character who behaves toxically should not be presented as an ideal romantic partner. He feels this is an important part of his responsibility as an artist. “But I really believe the kind of films that I have done, the messaging should be correct, and the toxic person should be labelled as a negative guy. I think these are the basics I believe in as an artist. But as I said, there is a film for every kind. To each his own, I think. It's not my kind, but there are actors who want to do that. There is a huge audience for that," he said. “I am somebody who will say no to a film even if I feel the film is a hit. I have done that in the past. Films have to resonate with my core”.

Yeh Prem Mol Liya, which also features Sharvari, is scheduled to release in cinemas on November 27, 2026. The film also features Anupam Kher, Seema Pahwa, Supriya Pathak Kapur, Swanand Kirkire, Geeta Agrawal Sharma, Saumya Tandon, Surbhi Tiwari, Krish Rao, Ashnoor Kaur Kuckreja, Shruti Seth, Shaad Randhawa, Rajesh Kumar, Girish Kulkarni and Jameel Khan. Yeh Prem Mol Liya is produced by Rajshri Productions (P) Ltd. with Mahaveer Jain Films. Himesh Reshammiya has composed the music, reuniting with Sooraj after Prem Ratan Dhan Payo.

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Kendall Jenner faces backlash for wearing Om symbol as beach cover-up

American model and television personality Kendall Jenner has faced online backlash after photographs from a yacht trip with her sister Kylie Jenner showed her wearing a cloth printed with the Hindu sacred symbol Om as a beach cover-up.

The controversy started after Kylie Jenner posted two pictures from their outing on Instagram, captioning the post “cutest girl in the whole world.” The photographs showed the sisters posing together, with one image capturing them in a hug and another showing them against the sea.

In the pictures, Kendall is wearing a black two-piece bikini with a yellow-and-red cloth wrapped around her upper body, and the cloth features Om symbols printed across it. Kylie, in the same set of photographs, is seen in a fitted black midi dress with a deep neckline, short sleeves and sheer detailing.

The images drew sharp reactions from several Indian users who objected to the Om symbol being treated as a casual fashion accessory. Many described the choice as disrespectful to Hindu religious beliefs and traditions.

A user wrote that Kendall was “wearing sacred signs of Sanatani dharma,” referring to Hinduism. Another argued that the Om symbol is “not just a design or a fashion statement” but a sacred symbol of faith, devotion and Sanatan culture for millions of Hindus, adding, “Please respect our religious beliefs and symbols.”

Another commenter wrote that sacred religious symbols from Sanatan culture should not be worn as fashion accessories over swimwear, saying celebrities and stylists need to research before turning someone’s faith into a vacation look.

This is not the first time a Western celebrity has faced criticism for wearing Hindu or South Asian religious imagery as a fashion element. The practice of using sacred symbols from Hinduism, Buddhism and other Eastern religions on clothing, accessories and tattoos has been a recurring point of tension between Western fashion and communities that consider these symbols deeply personal and spiritual.

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt settle bitter legal battle over French winery

Hollywood stars Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt have reached an out-of-court settlement in their long-running legal battle over Chateau Miraval, the French winery they once owned together. The dispute began after their separation in 2016 and involved allegations of abuse, claims of broken agreements and the sale of Jolie's stake in the business.

The former couple confirmed the settlement on Wednesday but did not disclose its terms. Although it ends their dispute over the winery sale, Pitt is continuing his legal action against businessman Yuri Shefler, who bought Jolie's stake in the estate.

In a brief statement shared with US media, Jolie and Pitt said they had settled the case in the best interests of their family.

"We have settled out of court in the best interests of our family and will not be commenting further," the statement said.

They also addressed reports that cited unnamed sources discussing the settlement. "Any comments in media stories attributed to 'sources' are in fact not coming from either of us, or anyone close to us," the statement, cited by People, said.

Pitt, 62, and Jolie, 51, share six children. They separated in 2016 after 12 years together, and their divorce was finalised in 2024. Their legal fight over Chateau Miraval continued after the divorce was finalised.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, Pitt and Jolie bought the 1,200-acre Chateau Miraval estate in the South of France in 2008. The property, which was also the venue for their wedding, became a major source of conflict after their separation.

Following their split, Jolie reportedly planned to sell her share of the winery to Pitt. However, the negotiations broke down over a proposed nondisclosure agreement. According to court filings, Pitt wanted Jolie to sign an agreement that would prevent her from publicly discussing allegations of abuse linked to their separation.

Jolie did not accept the terms and instead sold her 50 per cent stake in the winery to billionaire businessman Yuri Shefler in a deal reportedly worth $64 million.

In 2022, Pitt filed a lawsuit against Jolie, alleging that she had breached an unwritten agreement under which neither of them would sell their stake in the business without the other's consent. Jolie later filed a countersuit and brought allegations about a 2016 incident aboard a private plane into the dispute.



In her account, Jolie alleged that Pitt "grabbed her by the head and shook her," "choked one of the children" and "struck another in the face."

A representative for Pitt denied the allegations at the time and accused Jolie of repeatedly changing her account of the incident.

"Jolie continues to rehash, revise and reimagine her description of an event that happened 6 years ago by adding completely untrue information each time she fails to get what she wants," the spokesperson said. "Her story is constantly evolving."

While the settlement ends the legal battle between Pitt and Jolie over the winery sale, Pitt's dispute with Shefler and his company, Tenute del Mondo, remains ongoing.

Pitt has alleged that Shefler secretly worked with Jolie to acquire her stake in the business. He is seeking a court order allowing him to buy the shares at the same valuation paid by Shefler, as well as unspecified damages.

Avengers: Doomsday new trailer sets Disney record with 563 million views

The new trailer for Marvel Studios’ Avengers: Doomsday has recorded 563 million views, making it the most-viewed Disney trailer of all time, according to Deadline. The trailer features new footage of the Avengers, X-Men and Fantastic Four, along with Doctor Doom.

The trailer has surpassed the film’s earlier teaser, which recorded 503 million views in 24 hours, as well as Deadpool & Wolverine’s 2024 Super Bowl teaser, which garnered 365 million views, including broadcast viewership.

Avengers: Doomsday brings together heroes from three distinct universes as they face an existential threat. Directed by Anthony and Joe Russo, the film is produced by Kevin Feige, Louis D'Esposito and Jonathan Schwartz.

The ensemble cast includes Robert Downey Jr., Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth, Pedro Pascal, Paul Rudd, Anthony Mackie, Florence Pugh, Vanessa Kirby, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Wyatt Russell, Channing Tatum, Simu Liu, Ian McKellen, Hayley Atwell, Tom Hiddleston, James Marsden, Patrick Stewart, Joseph Quinn, Sebastian Stan, David Harbour, Letitia Wright, Lewis Pullman, Kelsey Grammer, Kathryn Newton, Danny Ramirez, Winston Duke, Alan Cumming, Hannah John-Kamen, Rebecca Romijn, Alex Livinalli, Mabel Cadena and Tenoch Huerta Mejia.



The latest trailer picks up from the newly added scene featuring Steve Rogers and Peggy Carter in the re-release of 'Avengers: Endgame', which revealed that the couple has a teenage son. In the new footage, the Fantastic Four travel back in time to bring Steve Rogers back to the main timeline, where he is expected to lead the Avengers against Doctor Doom, according to Variety.

1 killed, several injured as Houthi projectile strikes Saudi oil refinery

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

JAZAN (TIP): A Nepalese national was killed, and several others were injured after a projectile struck an Aramco refinery in Saudi Arabia's Jazan early on Friday, Nov 27, triggering a fire and forcing a temporary suspension of some operations at the facility.

Saudi Arabia's Energy Ministry confirmed the casualties, saying the injured workers were of various nationalities and were receiving medical care. The blaze was brought under control, while emergency and technical teams began assessing the damage and checking the safety of the installations.

The ministry did not identify those responsible for the attack. However, the Saudi-led military coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis blamed the Iran-aligned group for the strike.

The coalition said it had destroyed a ballistic missile launch platform in Yemen's port city of Hodeidah, which it claimed the Houthis had used to carry out the attack on the refinery. It had earlier warned that attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure would be met with a firm military response. The latest strike follows a series of Houthi attacks on Saudi targets. On November 24, a strike on a tower in Riyadh's King Abdullah Financial District injured 11 people, including two Indian nationals. The injured also included two Saudi citizens, three Nepalese nationals and four Egyptians, according to Saudi Civil Defence.

A day later, the Houthis claimed attacks on Ras Tanura, the kingdom's largest refinery and a major crude export hub, as well as the Red Sea ports of Jeddah and Jazan.

Located in southwestern Saudi Arabia, close to the Yemeni border, the Jazan refinery is designed to process up to 400,000 barrels of crude oil per day.

The Houthis control Yemen's capital Sanaa and its most populous areas. Since Yemen's civil war reignited in July, the group has launched missiles and drones targeting Saudi airports, oil facilities and office buildings, widening the conflict's impact beyond Yemen amid the US-Iran war. Previous attacks have temporarily disrupted some of Saudi Aramco's operations and led to the cancellation of most international flights to Riyadh. They have also forced Saudi Arabia to postpone or cancel major international events, including the AFC Asian Cup and the flagship Future Investment Initiative (FII) investment conference. Fighting has intensified since the Houthis seized strategic territory along Yemen's Red Sea coast in September and advanced towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a vital shipping route for Gulf oil producers seeking access to the Red Sea.

Biggest since Soviet era, Putin approves record $609 billion defence budget

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

MOSCOW (TIP): Russia's parliament has approved a record defence budget for 2027-2029, allocating more than 50 trillion roubles (around $609 billion) to national defence over the three-year period.

The spending marks the highest military allocation since the collapse of the Soviet Union and signals Moscow's continued focus on its war effort in Ukraine.

The Russian State Duma passed the draft federal budget in its third and final reading. Under the plan, defence spending will account for around 35.2 per cent of Russia's total federal expenditure in 2027, highlighting the priority given to military needs as the conflict with Ukraine continues.

According to the figures cited by the State Duma's Defence Committee, Russia will allocate 17.15 trillion roubles (approximately $208.8 billion) to defence in 2027.

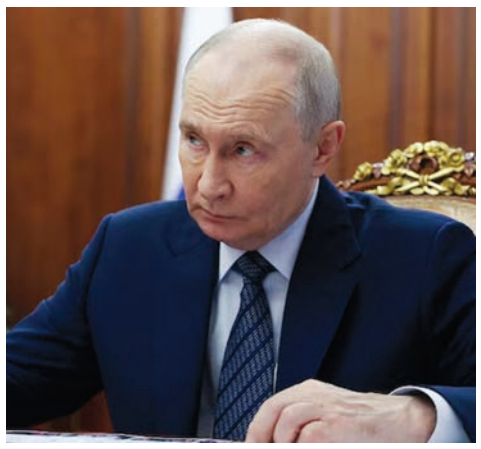
This is around 33 per cent higher than the 12.93 trillion roubles ($157.4 billion) earmarked for 2026 under the previous budget plan.

The allocation is expected to decline slightly in the following two years but will remain significantly above current levels.

Russia plans to spend 16.61 trillion roubles ($202.2 billion) on defence in 2028 and 16.30 trillion roubles ($198.4 billion) in 2029.

The new budget represents a substantial increase over the previous three-year spending plan.

Defence funding has been raised by



approximately 3.58 trillion roubles ($43.6 billion) for 2027 and 3.56 trillion roubles ($43.3 billion) for 2028 compared with earlier allocations.

The planned spending also adds to the enormous financial burden of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which began in February 2022.

According to calculations by Janis Klug, a researcher at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Russia had spent around 58.3 trillion roubles, or $710 billion at the exchange rates applicable at the time, on military needs since the start of the invasion.

If the allocations for 2027-2029 are fully implemented, cumulative military spending since the invasion could exceed 108 trillion roubles, or approximately $1.31 trillion.

The figures include both publicly disclosed and classified expenditure under the National Defence budget section. However, Russia's actual war-related spending could be higher, as some military expenses are covered through other budget heads.

The increase in defence spending is expected to coincide with reductions in allocations for several civilian sectors.

According to The Moscow Times, compared with the allocations set for 2026 under the previous budget plan, funding for the national economy will decline by around 3 per cent. Spending on housing and utilities is expected to fall by 8 per cent, while healthcare funding will be reduced by 3 per cent.

Social policy spending, which includes pension payments and other support measures, is also set to decrease by around 6 per cent.

The cuts come as the government continues to direct a substantial share of public resources towards defence.

The 2027 federal budget projects total expenditure of 48.74 trillion roubles (around $593.3 billion), of which more than a third will go towards national defence alone.

Despite the planned military expenditure, Russia is also facing a sizeable budget deficit. The federal budget deficit for 2027 is projected at 5.44 trillion roubles (approximately $66.2 billion), equivalent to 2.2 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

Government borrowing is expected to be the primary source of financing for the shortfall.

The scale of military spending has also raised questions about the wider impact of the war on Russia's public finances.

Kim Jong Un vows irreversible nuclear buildup, accuses US of escalating threats

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

TEHRAN (TIP): North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons across multiple domains and said the country's capacity to produce nuclear materials was being systematically expanded, state media KCNA reported on Thursday, Nov 26.

Kim made the remarks during an inspection of nuclear material production and weapons research facilities on Wednesday. He also declared that North Korea's status as a nuclear weapons state was "absolutely inviolable". "Our nuclear capability is now a reality," KCNA quoted Kim as saying, adding that the country should "focus on utilising tactical nuclear weapons across multiple domains for different missions".

Kim described recent achievements in nuclear weapons production as a major success for North Korea's nuclear force policy. KCNA, however, did not disclose



Kim Jong Un called for tactical nuclear weapons across multiple domains. (File Photo: AP)

the names or locations of the facilities he visited. The inspection appears to underline Pyongyang's determination to expand and diversify its nuclear arsenal despite international calls for denuclearisation and continuing uncertainty over the possibility of renewed diplomatic engagement with the United States. Tactical nuclear weapons are generally lower-yield warheads designed for battlefield use, unlike strategic nuclear weapons intended for longer-range strikes. Photographs released by KCNA showed Kim and officials inspecting objects that analysts said appeared to be gas centrifuges used for uranium enrichment, along with miniaturised tactical nuclear warheads resembling the Hwasan-31. North Korea first displayed what it described as the Hwasan-31 warhead in 2023, claiming it could be fitted to various delivery systems, including short-range missiles.

Kim warned that any attempt to challenge North Korea's nuclear weapons status, which was enshrined in its constitution in 2023, would be treated as "an open declaration of war".

"Our possession of nuclear weapons is an absolutely irreversible choice as long as malicious forces exist that use nuclear weapons as a means of achieving hegemony," he said.

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Australia passes online safety law, Big Tech can face fines of up to 5% of revenue

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

CANBERRA (TIP): Australia has passed sweeping online safety legislation that could leave major technology companies facing penalties worth billions of dollars if they fail to prevent foreseeable harm on their platforms. The Digital Duty of Care Act cleared the House of Representatives on Wednesday by 97 votes to 43, after the government secured a deal with the Greens to push the legislation through the Senate, where no party holds a majority.

The law puts a new burden on tech companies, requiring them to identify and reduce risks before serious online harm occurs rather than responding only after damage has been done.

The legislation establishes minimum safety standards for a broad range of online services, including games, apps and artificial intelligence chatbots. Companies will be expected to protect Australians from seriously harmful material and conduct, according to the government. The most significant change came through Greens-backed amendments that sharply increased the maximum penalties for violations. Instead of the A$109 million (about Rs 671 crore) maximum originally proposed by the government, companies could now face fines of up to 5 per cent of their global revenue.

That means the financial exposure for the world's biggest technology companies could run into the billions.

The measure follows a broader international push to make technology platforms more accountable for online harms. It brings Australia closer to the European Union's Digital Services Act and the UK's Online Safety Act, both of which place greater responsibilities on platforms to manage risks to users.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the law was intended to shift responsibility towards technology companies and give governments greater leverage to address dangers that have grown alongside the digital world.

"This is a victory for our children and young people. The dangers were unforeseen when the digital world was young," Albanese said. "But now that the digital world has matured, they can be easily recognised and they can be remedied." He described the legislation as a "powerful instrument to protect our children and our society from online harms by placing the onus on the tech platforms to ensure a safer online environment". The government secured Senate support after reaching an agreement with the Greens, who pushed for tougher penalties and other changes. Greens chief negotiator Sarah Hanson-Young said the legislation marked a shift in priorities away from technology companies and towards public safety.

Israel accused of institutionalising torture of Palestinians to extract confessions

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

JERUSALEM (TIP): Israel has institutionalised the use of torture against Palestinian prisoners to extract confessions, with interrogation records and internal procedures effectively allowing abusive methods in cases deemed "necessary", according to a report by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel (PCATI).

As per The Guardian, the rights group examined 42 complaints filed by Palestinians who alleged they were tortured during Shin Bet interrogations over the past decade. More than three-quarters said they confessed after being subjected to "torture or other illegal methods", while one in 10 said they provided incriminating statements about other people while under torture.

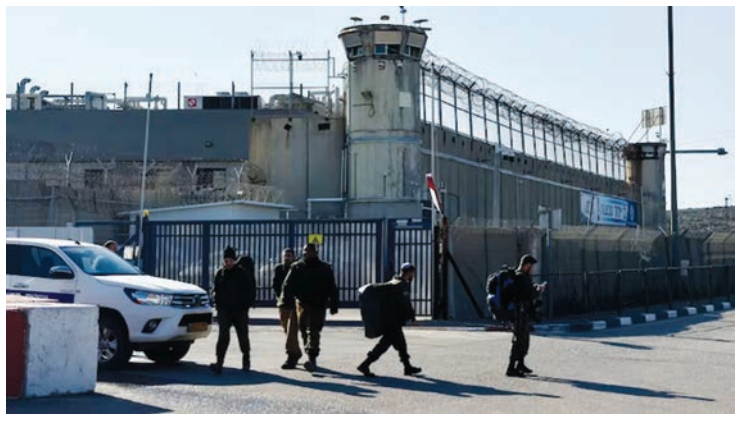
This comes as Israel moves towards expanding the use of the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of terrorism-related offences, raising concerns that confessions extracted through coercion could have irreversible consequences.

"When it comes to Palestinian detainees, the Israeli legal system officially sanctions torture as a tool for extracting confessions, regardless of whether the content of those confessions is true," Sari Bashi, executive director of PCATI, as quoted by The Guardian.

"Torture as a tool of interrogation is particularly egregious given initiatives to impose the death penalty in Israel for the first time since 1962."

PCATI said Palestinian detainees have described a recurring pattern of abusive interrogation techniques in hundreds of testimonies over the years. These include extreme sleep deprivation, slapping and kicking, threats, sexual violence and forcing detainees into painful stress positions.

In some cases, the alleged abuse appears in official Shin Bet records, according to the report. PCATI cited the case of a Palestinian lawyer arrested in February 2019 who was subjected to prolonged sleep deprivation during interrogation. Over 27.5 days -- 660 hours -- he was questioned for more than 552 hours,



This comes as Israel moves towards expanding the use of the death penalty for Palestinians convicted of terrorism-related offences. (File Photo: Reuters)

averaging around 20 hours of interrogation a day. One session lasted nearly 48 hours.

The remaining time was partly spent travelling to and attending detention hearings, according to the report. Israel's Supreme Court had explicitly prohibited deliberate sleep deprivation as an interrogation method in a 1999 ruling. Yet the lawyer was later convicted of involvement in shooting attacks based on information extracted during the interrogation, PCATI said. The state inspector responsible for complaints against Shin Bet interrogations, known as Mavtan, ruled that the interrogations had followed procedures, according to the rights group.

The report also flags what PCATI describes as a wider accountability problem. More than 1,680 complaints about Shin Bet interrogations were filed with Mavtan between 2001 and 2024. None resulted in an indictment, according to PCATI.

Other alleged cases of torture have surfaced indirectly through Israeli court records. PCATI said judges have rarely accepted testimony from Palestinian defendants about torture.

UK net migration plunges to 77,000, the lowest in last three decades

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

LONDON (TIP): Net migration to the United Kingdom fell to 77,000 in the year ending June 2026, its lowest level since 1997 outside the Covid-19 pandemic, as fewer foreign nationals arrived to work, study or seek asylum, according to official figures released on Thursday, Nov 26.

The estimate by the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) marks a decline of more than 62% from the revised figure of 204,000 in the year ending June 2025. It is also around 92% below the peak of 944,000 recorded in the year ending March 2023, Reuters reported.

Net migration refers to the difference between the number of people who move to a country for long-term residence and those who leave it. The latest ONS estimates cover people moving to or leaving the UK for at least 12 months.

The sharp decline was primarily



Net migration to the UK declined by 62% since June 2025. (Image: AP)

driven by a fall in migration from countries outside the European Union, alongside more British and EU nationals leaving the UK than arriving.

According to the ONS, total long-term immigration fell 17% to 738,000 in the year ending June 2026, from 893,000 in the preceding 12 months. Meanwhile, long-term emigration stood at 661,000, broadly stable against the revised figure of 689,000 recorded a year earlier.

The ONS attributed the decline largely to a reduction of more than 100,000 in long-term immigration from outside the EU, with the number of people leaving the UK remaining broadly stable.

Net migration among non-EU+ nationals — the largest contributor to Britain's population growth through immigration — fell to 258,000 from 379,000 a year earlier.

The number of non-EU nationals arriving for long-term stays also fell from 671,000 to 550,000. Within this category, study-related arrivals stood at 257,000, down 11% from 290,000 a year earlier. Work-related arrivals dropped 25%, from 180,000 to 135,000.

The fall in work migration also reflected a reduction in the number of dependants accompanying overseas workers. Of the 135,000 work-related arrivals, 75,000 were dependants, down 21%, while the number of principal applicants fell 30% to 60,000, ONS data showed.

Pak Actor's 2017 Selfie With Hafiz Saeed In Focus Amid Netflix Series Row

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

NEW DELHI (TIP): The row over Netflix's first Pakistani original series 'Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo' has been intensifying, with the Centre reminding the streaming platform about the Pahalgam terror attack and the ban on Pakistani content in India that followed. Amid this, an old selfie of one of the actors from the series, Hamza Ali Abbasi, with terrorist Hafiz Saeed resurfaced on social media, with X users slamming Netflix's "hypocrisy". Abbasi, in 2017, posted the selfie with the 26/11 Mumbai attacks mastermind on X, calling him "one of the most nicest people". The actor also called Saeed the "most misunderstood man in Pakistan".

Though Abbasi's account is blocked in India, users are widely circulating a screenshot of his post. Hitting out at Netflix, one user questioned, "Are you promoting terrorists on your platform?"

"This man Hamza Ali Abbasi who pretends to be an actor openly supports and defends a globally recognised terrorist Hafeez Saeed. Now terrorists will be given space to spread their propaganda against humanity??" the user added. Another user said, "He is one of the leading actors in this pakistani series Hamza Ali Abbasi with terrorist Hafeez Saeed who was the mastermind behind 26/11..Filmfare should be ashamed of promoting a Pakistani netflix series where one of the leading actors is literally a Hafeez Saeed fan".

Hasina's ex-deputy press secy, two others arrested ahead of her return

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

DHAKA (TIP): Weeks before ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina's planned return to Bangladesh, authorities arrested her former deputy press secretary KM Shakhawat Moon along with former deputy commissioner Mohammad Ilias Hossain and income tax lawyer Sufi Mohammad Al Mamun in Dhaka early Thursday, state-run BSS reported. The three were arrested from the Dhanmondi-27 area.

According to The Daily Star, the three were initially detained by leaders and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), before being taken into police custody. Mohammadpur Police Station duty officer Sub-Inspector Masudur Rahman said police were preparing to produce the trio before a court.

Bangladesh is entering another period of heightened political tension, with Hasina expected to return from India on December 16 despite facing a death sentence in absentia. The BNP-led government has stepped up security measures in several parts of the country, deploying 108 platoons of border paramilitary forces. Of these, 56 have been deployed in Gopalganj, Hasina's home district.

The security buildup follows a series of violent incidents reported across Bangladesh in recent weeks, including arson attacks involving trains, buses, banks and other vehicles. Political violence since early November has reportedly killed at least four people, while four police stations and several vehicles have also been torched.

Police have blamed activists linked to Hasina's Awami League and its affiliated organisations for the recent violence. The Awami League's activities have been banned, while the party has been promoting a lockdown programme for November 29 and 30 through online platforms.

The developments have raised concerns that tensions could intensify as the December 16 date approaches.

Hasina has been living in India since fleeing Dhaka in August 2024 after a student-led uprising brought down her government.



Sheikh Hasina

She faces serious legal challenges in Bangladesh, including a death sentence handed down in absentia by a special tribunal over the crackdown on protesters during the 2024 uprising. Hasina has denied wrongdoing and questioned the legitimacy of the proceedings.

Bangladesh has also sought her extradition from India. New Delhi has acknowledged receiving Dhaka's requests but has not announced a decision, saying the matter is being examined through established processes.

The crackdown has also extended to the police force. Two senior police officers were arrested on Wednesday over alleged "anti-state activities", Dhaka Metropolitan Police's additional commissioner Shafiqul Islam said. The two officers were identified as Superintendent of Police Md Abul Kalam Azad and Additional Superintendent of Police Md Rakibul Hasan. They were arrested late at night from their workplaces in Gazipur and Noakhali.

They must be called 'Bibi': in Afghanistan, a decree orders women's names to be replaced with nicknames

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

KABUL (TIP): Afghanistan's Taliban authorities have reportedly ordered officials in the northern province of Balkh to stop using women's names in official documents and replace them with the term "Bibi", a move that has sparked fresh concerns over the systematic erosion of women's rights and identity in the country.

The reported directive requires hospitals, clinics and other public institutions to use the nickname for female patients instead of their actual names. The word "Bibi", commonly used as a respectful form of address for an elderly woman or grandmother, is also required to appear on medical prescriptions, according to reports by Afghan news outlet Zan Times and international media. The order, which has been reported in recent days, is part of a broader pattern of restrictions imposed on Afghan women since the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

The reported measure has raised concerns among Afghan women's rights activists, who say the removal of women's names from official records represents a further attempt to deny them individual identity and visibility in public life.

Women's names erased from medical records

According to an investigation published by Zan Times and The Guardian, Taliban morality police officials instructed hospitals, private medical practices and clinics in Balkh province to stop recording female patients' real names. The directive reportedly applies even to medical prescriptions, meaning women could be identified by the same nickname across medical records and healthcare documents. The reports have not established whether the order has been formally published as a written decree. Nor has there been independent confirmation of its implementation across the province. The scope of the reported measure has also raised questions about whether it applies to all official documents or primarily to medical records and documents handled by government institutions.



The reported directive requires hospitals, clinics and other public institutions to use the nickname for female patients instead of their actual names. Image: AFP

Activists warn of systematic erasure of identity

Afghan women's rights activist Lalah Osmany, who is based in Germany, has condemned the reported policy, saying it goes beyond traditional social customs and amounts to the systematic removal of women's identities.

Osmany said testimonies gathered from women, doctors and civil society activists indicated that some Afghan women were being addressed through degrading terms associated with animals, including "goat" and "livestock".

She warned that replacing women's names with such labels reduces them to objects or possessions rather than recognizing them as individuals.

"When a regime replaces a woman's name and gives her one of an animal, it is stripping her of her human soul and reducing her to a mere biological creature or the property of a man," she said, according to a report by EL PAÍS. The activist said the practice reflected a wider pattern of restrictions designed to limit women's participation in public life and deny them recognition as independent individuals.

Medical risks raise further concerns

The reported directive has also raised concerns over the potential consequences for women's healthcare.

Osmany warned that using the same nickname for multiple patients could create confusion in hospitals, increasing the risk of errors involving prescriptions, diagnoses and treatment.

"Imagine a hospital where dozens of prescriptions and medical records are filed under the same name - Bibi - or a number. The risks of making medical errors are huge," she said.

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Sculpt, define and lift: Makeup tricks for a more chiseled look

From strategic contouring and high-placed blush to simple facial massage, these expert-approved techniques can help create the appearance of lifted cheekbones and a beautifully defined face.

Achieving a sculpted facial appearance does not require heavy makeup or complicated beauty routines. The secret lies in using light and shadow strategically to enhance natural features. With the right placement of contour, blush and highlighter, you can create the illusion of sharper cheekbones, a defined jawline and a more lifted complexion. Here are some professional makeup techniques to help you get started.



Play with Light and Shadow

Contouring is one of the easiest ways to add dimension to the face. Celebrity makeup artist Sofia Tilbury recommends using cream contours and bronzers to enhance natural facial structure.

Apply contour high along the cheekbones, blending it towards the temples. Add a little along the jawline and either side of the nose for subtle definition. The trick is to blend thoroughly to avoid harsh lines.

To create a lifted effect, use a lighter concealer at the inner corners of the eyes, along the outer corners, and down the centre of the nose, forehead and chin. These brighter areas reflect light, drawing attention to the high points of the face. Finish with blush and highlighter on the upper cheekbones, blending upwards towards the ears.

Refresh and Depuff Before Makeup

Preparing your skin can make a difference to the final makeup result. Cooling treatments, chilled facial rollers and gentle massages can temporarily reduce the appearance of puffiness. Tilbury recommends incorporating facial massage into a skincare routine. Using your fingertips, massage the face in circular movements, smoothing outwards and upwards beneath the cheekbones. Gently sweep along the jawline towards the ears. These movements may help reduce the appearance of fluid-related puffiness, making facial contours look more noticeable. Avoid excessive pressure or pulling the skin.

Rethink Your Blush Placement

Blush placement can dramatically influence how your face looks. Applying it directly to the apples of the cheeks creates a fuller, rounded appearance. For a more elongated and lifted effect, makeup artists recommend placing it higher.

Lori Leib, Bodyography creative director and professional makeup artist, suggests applying blush to the upper apples of the cheeks and blending towards the temples. Celebrity makeup artist Renée Loiz also recommends sweeping blush along the upper cheekbones rather than concentrating it in the centre of the cheeks. This draws attention upwards and creates a more sculpted appearance.

FOOD CORNER

Pav Bhaji

INGREDIENTS

1 tbsp butter, 3 tomato (finely chopped), ¼ cup peas, ½ capsicum (finely chopped), 2 potato (boiled & mashed), 1 tsp salt, ¼ tsp kashmiri red chilli powder, ¼ tsp turmeric / haldi, 1 tsp + ½ tsp pav bhaji masala, 1 tsp kasuri methi / dry fenugreek leaves, 1 tbsp coriander leaves (finely chopped), 1 tsp ginger garlic paste, 1 onion (finely chopped), ½ lemon juice, 3 drops red food colour (optional), water to adjust consistency

8 pav / bread roll, 4 tsp butter, ½ tsp kashmiri red chilli powder, ½ tsp pav bhaji masala, 4 tsp coriander leaves (finely chopped).

INSTRUCTIONS

- In a large kadai heat 1 tbsp butter and add vegetables. cook and mash well.
- Now add 1 tsp chilli powder, ¼ tsp turmeric, 1 tsp pav bhaji masala, 1 tsp kasuri methi and 2 tbsp coriander leaves.
- Heat a tbsp of butter and add ¼ tsp chilli powder, ½ tsp pav bhaji masala, 1 tsp kasuri methi.
- Also add 1 tbsp coriander leaves, 1 tsp ginger garlic paste, 1 onion and ½ lemon juice. saute well.
- Now add 3 drops of red food colour and mix well.
- Boil and mash for 5 minutes adjusting consistency.
- Finally, serve pav and bhaji as pav bhaji.



Smart ways to lose eight without counting calories

Losing weight often brings to mind strict diets, food restrictions and endless calorie calculations. But maintaining a healthy weight need not become an exhausting exercise in counting every bite. Developing mindful eating habits and making small lifestyle adjustments can be equally important. From changing your dining environment to managing stress, certain everyday practices can help you become more conscious of your food choices and avoid unnecessary snacking. Here are simple strategies worth incorporating into your routine.

Let Vanilla Curb Your Cravings

The aroma of vanilla may remind you of rich desserts, but its fragrance has also been explored for its potential influence on food cravings. Certain pleasant aromas may help redirect attention from the urge to snack. Peppermint is another fragrance sometimes associated with appetite management. Although these techniques are not scientifically established weight-loss solutions, enjoying such aromas may offer a simple way to pause before reaching for calorie-rich treats.



Make a Mirror Part of Your Dining Space

A mirror placed near the dining table may encourage more mindful eating. The idea is that seeing yourself while eating makes you more conscious of your food choices and portion sizes. Some studies suggest that visual self-awareness can influence eating behavior. Rather than eating absent-mindedly, you may become more attentive to how much food you are consuming. Combine this with eating slowly and recognizing when you are comfortably full.

Pay Attention to Plate Colors

Believe it or not, the colour of your dinner plate can influence how you perceive food portions. When the food and plate have contrasting colours, the serving becomes easier to distinguish. For example, red sauce pasta may be more noticeable on a white plate than on a red one. This visual contrast can improve portion awareness and help you avoid serving yourself more than you need. Using moderately sized plates can further support portion control.

Choose What You Watch While Eating

Eating while watching television or scrolling through your phone can make you less attentive to how much you consume. When your attention is occupied, it becomes easier to miss signals of fullness. If you enjoy watching something during meals, choose light-hearted entertainment, but try not to let the screen distract you completely.

Why winter can slow down your gut: Ways to prevent constipation

Winter is often associated with warm drinks, hearty meals and cozy evenings indoors. However, the change in weather can also bring an unwelcome problem: constipation. Many people notice that their bowel movements become less frequent or stools harder during colder months. While low temperatures do not directly cause constipation, seasonal changes in daily habits can affect digestive health.

One of the main reasons is reduced water intake. People tend to feel less thirsty in winter and may not drink enough fluids throughout the day. Adequate hydration is essential because water helps soften stools, making them easier to pass. When the body does not receive sufficient fluids, the colon absorbs more water from waste, potentially resulting in hard, dry stools.

Less movement, slower digestion

Physical activity often declines during winter. Shorter days, chilly mornings and a preference for staying indoors can make people less inclined to walk or exercise. However, regular movement supports normal bowel function by encouraging intestinal activity. A sedentary routine may therefore contribute to slower bowel movements and constipation.

Eating habits can also change. Winter comfort foods may include refined carbohydrates, fried snacks and rich meals, while the intake of fresh fruits, vegetables and other fiber-rich foods may decrease. Dietary fiber adds bulk to stools and helps them move through the digestive tract. A diet lacking fiber can make constipation more likely.

Simple habits to keep digestion regular

Maintaining good hydration is important, even when the weather is cold. Drink water regularly rather than waiting to feel thirsty. Warm water, soups and other unsweetened fluids can also contribute to daily fluid



intake. Include fiber-rich foods such as oats, whole grains, lentils, beans, leafy vegetables, guava, pears and apples in your meals. Increase fiber gradually and drink enough water to help it work effectively.

Staying physically active can make a difference. A daily walk, gentle stretching or indoor exercise can support bowel regularity. It is also helpful to maintain a consistent toilet routine and avoid ignoring the urge to pass stools.

Occasional constipation can often improve with these lifestyle changes. However, persistent symptoms should not be ignored. Consult a healthcare professional if constipation continues or is accompanied by blood in the stool, severe abdominal pain, vomiting or unexplained weight loss. Early attention can help identify underlying causes and prevent complications.

Lymphatic drainage massage: The truth behind the viral slimming trend

Lymphatic drainage massage has become a popular wellness and beauty trend, with social media influencers claiming that a few minutes of gentle massage can reduce bloating, define facial features and make the body look slimmer. While the technique does offer certain health and cosmetic benefits, its ability to promote actual weight loss is often exaggerated.

The lymphatic system is an important part of the body's immune and circulatory systems. It consists of a network of vessels, tissues and lymph nodes that transport lymph, a fluid containing water, proteins, waste products and immune cells. Unlike blood circulation, which is powered by the heart, the lymphatic system relies on muscle movement, breathing and the contraction of lymphatic vessels to keep fluid moving.

What does lymphatic massage do?

Manual lymphatic drainage is a specialized, gentle massage technique designed to encourage the movement of lymph fluid towards functioning lymph nodes. It is commonly used in medical settings to manage lymphedema, a condition in which excess lymph fluid accumulates in body tissues, causing swelling.

The massage involves slow, rhythmic and light movements rather than deep tissue pressure. It may help reduce fluid retention, relieve swelling and create a temporary feeling of lightness. Some people also notice that their face appears less puffy after a session.

Does it actually help with weight loss?

The short answer is no. Lymphatic massage does not burn a significant number of calories, break down fat cells or directly reduce body fat. Any immediate reduction in measurements or weight is generally associated with the movement of excess fluid rather than the loss of fat. This explains why the stomach may appear flatter or the face more defined after a session. However, these changes are usually temporary, and fluid can accumulate again. It is important to distinguish between losing water weight and losing body fat. Sustainable weight loss requires a calorie deficit achieved through balanced eating, regular physical activity and healthy lifestyle habits.

Are there any benefits?

Apart from helping manage certain types of swelling, lymphatic drainage may ease discomfort and improve mobility in people with lymphedema. It can also help some individuals experiencing post-operative swelling when recommended by their healthcare provider. However, it is not a detox treatment. The liver and kidneys already perform the body's primary waste-processing and elimination functions.

Polluted air could leave you tired even after 8 hours of sleep

You went to bed on time, spent nearly eight hours in bed and expected to wake up feeling refreshed. But instead, you opened your eyes with a heavy head, tiredness and little energy to get through the day.

While an irregular sleep schedule, stress and lifestyle habits are often blamed for poor sleep, there could be another factor affecting your nights: the air you breathe.

As air pollution levels rise, particularly during winter, concerns about its impact on the lungs and heart become more common. But polluted air may also interfere with sleep quality, making it harder for the body and brain to get the restorative rest they need.

Exposure to pollutants such as PM2.5 and PM10 can irritate the respiratory tract and may contribute to inflammation, breathing difficulties and disturbed sleep. This means that even if you spend enough time in bed, you may not wake up feeling refreshed.

Not all pollutants affect the body in the same way. The size of particulate matter plays an important role in determining how deeply it can enter the respiratory system.

According to Dr Neha Pandita, Senior Consultant Neurologist and Unit Head, Clinical Lead – Parkinson's Disease & Movement Disorders, Fortis Hospital, Noida, PM10 particles can irritate the upper airways, causing throat discomfort and congestion that may make it difficult to sleep comfortably.

Fine particulate matter, particularly PM2.5, can travel deeper into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. Exposure to these particles has also been linked to inflammatory responses that may affect the nervous system.

Dr Pandita explains that pollution-related inflammation can interfere with the brain's ability to maintain deep, restorative sleep.

"Once it triggers low-grade inflammation in the central nervous system, the brain struggles to sustain deep, restorative sleep," she says.

Dr. Loveleen Mangla, Senior Consultant and Head of Unit (2), Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Metro Hospital, Faridabad, explains that poor air quality can affect sleep even when a person does not experience obvious breathing problems such as coughing, wheezing, breathlessness or chest discomfort.

Fine particulate matter and other pollutants can cause irritation and inflammation in the respiratory tract. They may also trigger physiological responses, including oxidative stress and changes in autonomic nervous system activity. These effects can interfere with the body's normal sleep cycle, potentially reducing deep sleep and causing brief awakenings that a person may not even remember. *Source: India Today*

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WhatsApp rolls out scheduled messages for individual, group chats

WhatsApp is finally giving users a way to decide when their messages should reach someone, rather than having to send them immediately or rely on reminders to come back later.

The Meta-owned messaging platform has started rolling out scheduled messages, allowing users to prepare texts, photos and videos in advance and choose when they should be delivered. The feature works in both individual and group chats, making it easier to remember birthdays, send important updates and stay in touch with people living in different time zones.

In a blog post, WhatsApp described scheduled messages as one of its most requested features. The company said users could write a message whenever they thought of it and arrange for it to be sent at a more appropriate time.

The feature allows messages to be scheduled anywhere between 10 minutes and 14 days in advance. It is being rolled out globally to users on iOS and Android over the coming weeks.

Using the feature does not require users to navigate through complicated settings. Once it becomes available on your account, follow these steps:

Open WhatsApp and go to the individual or group chat where you want to send the message.

- Type your message in the chat box.
- Press and hold the send button instead of tapping it.
- Select the date and time when you want the message to be delivered.
- Confirm your selection to schedule the message.

The message will then be sent automatically at the chosen time. WhatsApp says scheduled messages will appear like regular messages to recipients, meaning they will not need to do anything differently to receive them.

Users will also be able to keep track of messages they have scheduled to send. WhatsApp will provide a view of all future messages lined up for delivery, allowing users to check what they have planned. If plans change, a scheduled message can be deleted before it is sent. WhatsApp has not specified whether users will be able to edit an existing schedule or



change its delivery time, so that option should not be assumed.

The feature also addresses a common concern with scheduled messages: whether they will be delivered if the sender's phone is unavailable. WhatsApp says messages will still be sent at the selected time even if the phone is switched off or has run out of battery.

WhatsApp said scheduled messages will retain the end-to-end encryption that protects personal conversations on the platform. This means the messages remain private and cannot be read by anyone else, including WhatsApp itself, the company said.

The feature supports text, photos and videos, giving users more flexibility than simply scheduling a plain-text reminder.

Announcing the rollout, WhatsApp's global head, Kunal Shah, wrote on X: "Be the first one to wish for their birthdays now. Scheduled messages on WA now."

The most obvious use is sending birthday wishes or other greetings at precisely the right moment, particularly when friends and family live in different time zones. Users can also prepare exam wishes, reminders and important updates in advance without worrying about remembering to send them later.

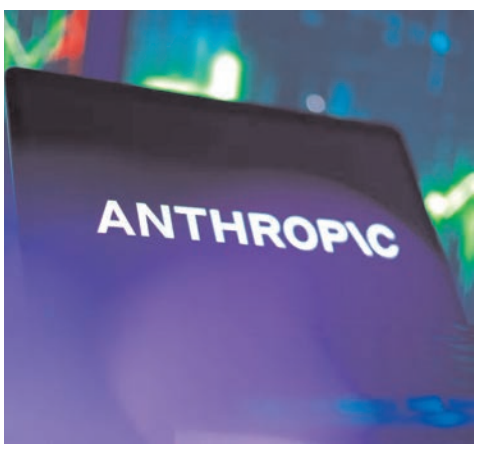
Anthropic now lets users download artifacts as standalone apps on Mac and Windows

Anthropic has announced that users can now turn Claude Artifacts into desktop apps that they can create, run and share. The company is rolling out the new 'Install as app' feature in beta for Claude on Mac and Windows.

Artifacts in Claude are separate interactive creations such as documents, slide decks, dashboards, diagrams or mini apps that open in a side panel next to a user's conversation where they can edit, reuse or share them. Unlike regular chat that moves over to the top, artificacts remain in the side view.

According to Anthropic, artifacts began as a work output users would share with others. However, people now use them as tools for everyday work, like meeting prep pages that regularly pull from their calendar and email, etc.

With the latest announcement, users who create apps using Claude can try it as an artifact as well as install it as an app. The company said that users are not



required to package or sign it, and it uses their Claude account, eliminating the need for an API key or separate login.

Once installed on a Mac or Windows PC as an independent app, Claude artifacts gets its own desktop icon and opens in a separate window instead of within Claude. Further, users can share it with others, and it only interacts with a user's computer after it is granted permission. Anthropic claims that users can decide on the extent of access.

"Each app can use Claude and your connectors, and it updates automatically when the underlying artifact is edited. This simplifies the process for building and maintaining apps for both knowledge workers and developers. Requests the app makes to Claude count toward your plan's usage limits," the company wrote on its announcement blog. Anthropic said that installed apps can send notifications or add items to a user's menu bar or system tray. Further, they can opt for permissions for each app, and Team and Enterprise admins can turn app permissions and full access on or off for their organisation. The company shared how its staff were using the feature to create apps like a full-layered image editor, file manager, apps to organise folder rules and uses, terminal to help and explain, app for checking your computer's performance, etc.

Astronomers spot oldest-known quasar powered by giant black hole

Astronomers have discovered the oldest-known quasar, a remarkably bright object powered by a black hole that had already grown to 360 million times the mass of the Sun when the universe was just 630 million years old.

Named Dun Aonghasa, the object existed more than 13.1 billion years ago, when the universe was less than 5% of its present age.

Its discovery pushes the record for the most distant known quasar back by about 40 million years, giving scientists a proper look at how the first giant black holes grew.

The findings were reported in the journal Astronomy and Astrophysics.

A quasar is the extremely bright centre of a galaxy, powered by a supermassive black hole.

As gas, dust and other materials spiral toward the black hole, they heat up and release enormous amounts of energy, making the region shine brighter than the galaxy around it.

Black holes themselves do not emit light. Their powerful gravity prevents even light from escaping. The glow comes from the material surrounding them as it moves closer to the black hole.

Dun Aonghasa was first spotted using the European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid space telescope.

Astronomers then used several other observatories, including the Hubble and James Webb space telescopes, to confirm its identity and age.

Its central black hole is about 90 times more massive than the one at the centre of our Milky Way galaxy.

The discovery has also raised a question about how a black hole became so massive so early in the universe's history.

One possibility is that it began as the remains of an early star and grew by pulling in surrounding material.

However, the researchers say its present growth rate appears too slow to explain how it reached such an enormous size in the available time.

Another possibility is that it formed through the direct collapse of a huge cloud of gas.

Under certain conditions, instead of breaking into smaller pieces and forming stars, the gas could collapse into a single massive object that eventually becomes a black hole.

Scientists say this could have given the black hole a much bigger starting mass, allowing it to grow faster.

The discovery could be followed by even older finds. Researchers believe Euclid could find quasars that existed even closer to the Big Bang.

Some models suggest the first quasars could have appeared between 270 million and 470 million years after the Big Bang.

Trump caps 17% tariffs on India if trade deal is reached, 25% otherwise

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

WASHINGTON (TIP): The Donald Trump administration has unleashed another tariff salvo against India and 13 other countries, putting a 25 per cent duty threat back on the table for New Delhi if it fails to clinch a trade deal with Washington. Under the latest proposal, Indian goods would face a lower tariff ceiling of 17 per cent if an agreement is finalised, but the higher rate would kick in if negotiations fall through.

The latest proposal, announced by the US Trade Representative (USTR) on Wednesday, puts India among 14 major trading partners facing fresh tariff measures under President Donald Trump's latest protectionist push.

The proposed duties will not kick in immediately. The USTR has scheduled a public hearing for January 25 before moving towards implementation.

The two-tier arrangement puts New Delhi in a difficult position. India has yet to finalise a trade agreement with the Trump administration. The lower tariff ceiling is therefore tied directly to a diplomatic outcome that Washington wants to secure. Rather than offering India a straightforward reduction in duties, the Trump administration has made the concession conditional on a deal.

Other trading partners have also been offered different tariff ceilings under the proposal. Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Bangladesh would face capped rates of 18 per cent.

Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the European Union and Switzerland would face proposed rates of 15 per cent, including existing Most Favoured Nation duties. Singapore would receive a capped rate of 10 per cent. China faces a proposed



ceiling of 20 per cent, while Vietnam would face the same rate if it reaches an agreement with Washington. If negotiations fail, Vietnam's rate could climb to 35 per cent.

Washington has accused India of following trade and industrial policies that it believes put American businesses at a disadvantage. The US has flagged India's industrial expansion strategy, weak labour protections, financial restrictions and barriers to market access, while also accusing New Delhi of failing to tackle global excess capacity. The Trump administration argues that these practices hurt US manufacturers, exporters, jobs and investment. It has also raised concerns about America's dependence on inputs from non-market economies, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, steel, solar energy and information technology.

The latest tariff proposal comes against the backdrop of prolonged trade negotiations between New Delhi and Washington. The two sides agreed on a framework for a trade deal in February, following which the punitive tariff imposed on most Indian goods in August 2025 was reduced from 50 per cent to 18 per cent.

The tariff landscape changed again after the US Supreme Court struck down Trump's use of emergency powers to impose sweeping duties on trading partners worldwide. This led to the introduction of a 10 per cent baseline tariff. However, despite several rounds of negotiations and the February framework, India and the US have yet to seal a final trade agreement. Indian officials have maintained that discussions with Washington are still underway.

The latest tariff offensive follows an eight-month US investigation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows Washington to investigate alleged unfair foreign trade practices.

The Trump administration's main argument is that several countries are producing more manufactured goods than their domestic and international markets can absorb. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the proposed tariffs were intended to counter "industrial strategies built on targeting manufacturing, wage and labor suppression, financial and other support, non-market economy inputs, and other market-distorting practices" that undermine the US manufacturing base.

India has now been placed alongside major manufacturing economies, including China, Japan and South Korea, as well as the European Union. The investigation is particularly significant because Washington's definition of excess capacity gives it another basis to challenge the industrial policies of its trading partners.

NSE becomes world's No. 3 listed stock exchange

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has overtaken Germany's Deutsche Boerse and the London Stock Exchange to become the world's third-largest stock exchange by market capitalisation. The milestone came after NSE shares extended their rally for a second straight session on Thursday, November 26, hitting a fresh post-listing high.

With this, NSE moved ahead of Deutsche Boerse, valued at $63.4 billion, and the London Stock Exchange, with a market capitalisation of $62.4 billion.

NSE shares rose 3.5% during the day to touch an intraday high of Rs 2,400, taking the exchange operator's market capitalisation close to Rs 6 lakh crore.

With a market value of $64.1 billion, NSE now ranks third among the world's largest listed stock exchange operators.

It is behind the CME Group, valued at $111.6 billion, and Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), which has a market



capitalisation of $99.4 billion.

The latest gains have strengthened NSE's position among the world's most valuable exchange operators, with its shares continuing to rise in the months following its stock market debut.

NSE shares have seen a strong rally in November so far, gaining in 14 of the 18 trading sessions.

The stock has recovered nearly 50% from its post-listing low of Rs 1,640, which was below its IPO price of Rs 1,785. It had also gained around 34% in October.

On Wednesday, NSE's market capitalisation crossed Rs 5.76 lakh crore, making it the ninth most valued company in the Indian stock market.

The development comes around two months after NSE made its long-awaited stock market debut on September 24. Its shares were listed on the BSE at Rs 1,800, a premium of 0.84% over the issue price of Rs 1,785. The stock later climbed to Rs 1,876.70 during the trading session.

NSE's Rs 22,561-crore initial public offering (IPO) was open for subscription between September 17 and September 21. It received bids for 5.69 times the shares on offer.

Established in 1992, NSE began operations in 1994 as India's first electronic stock exchange. It provides trading, clearing and settlement services across equities, debt, currencies, commodities and derivatives.

Sensex, Nifty open in red, end winning streak; IT stocks lead losses

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

MUMBAI (TIP): Markets opened lower on Friday, Nov 27, taking a breather after two sessions of gains, as selling in IT, banking and heavyweight technology stocks weighed on the benchmarks. Metal and realty shares offered some support, but rising crude oil prices and concerns over the broader economic outlook kept investors cautious. The Sensex was down 363.83 points, or 0.43%, at 83,964.76 as of 9:30 am. It opened at 84,093.24 and touched an early high of 84,286.18, while the day's low so far stood at 83,932.34.

The Nifty 50 slipped 73.15 points, or 0.28%, to 25,811.35 at 9:30 am. It opened at 25,839.25, moved to a high of 25,909.15 and touched a low of 25,803.60.

IT stocks were among the biggest drags in early trade. TCS fell 2.82%, Infosys declined 2.21%, HCL Technologies dropped 2.02% and Tech Mahindra was down 0.84%.

Banking stocks also faced pressure. ICICI Bank slipped 0.44%, Kotak Mahindra Bank fell 0.78%, Axis Bank declined 0.63% and HDFC Bank was down 0.63%. Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv also traded lower.

Among other heavyweight stocks, Asian Paints fell 0.99%, Reliance Industries declined 1%, Bharti Airtel slipped 1.22% and Maruti Suzuki was down 0.09%. On the other hand, Titan was the top Sensex gainer, rising 2.68%. Tata Steel advanced 1.25%, BEL gained 0.77% and Adani Ports rose 0.73%. Trent, Eternal, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, NTPC and ITC were also trading higher.

The sectoral picture was mixed. Nifty Metal was up 1.54%, while Realty gained 1.17%. PSU Bank rose 0.26%, Financial Services ex-Bank advanced 0.06% and Healthcare edged up 0.02%.

However, IT fell 1.80%, while Auto declined 0.28%, FMCG slipped 0.37% and Private Bank was down 0.26%. Media and Pharma also traded lower.

Consumer Durables declined 0.36%, Oil and Gas fell 0.50%, while Chemicals gained 0.53%. MidSmall Financial Services rose 0.59% and MidSmall IT and Telecom advanced 0.31%.

The broader market showed some resilience. The Nifty Midcap 50 gained 0.39%, Midcap 100 rose 0.48% and Smallcap 100 advanced 0.56%. The Nifty 100 was down 0.20%, while the Nifty 200 slipped 0.07% and the Nifty 500 was almost unchanged. India VIX, which tracks expected market volatility, fell 3.59% to 16.23. Crude oil prices were mixed but remained elevated. WTI crude rose 2.40% to $85.69 per barrel, while Brent crude was down 0.14% at $96.43 per barrel. The rise in crude prices is a concern for India, which depends heavily on imports to meet its oil requirements. Higher oil prices can add to pressure on the import bill and inflation, making the outlook for interest rates and economic growth important for investors.

The INDIAN PANORAMA
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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2026
20TH YEAR

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - NOV 30, 2026 TO DEC 6, 2026

BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES

Ganesha says circumstances will be somewhat challenging for Aries this week. Some instability and confusion may arise in your life. This is a time to focus on yourself and maintain inner balance. Controlling emotions may be challenging, and you will want to exercise restraint and thoughtfulness in your interactions with others. Relationships with others may become strained, leading to mental fatigue. While this time brings challenges, it also offers opportunities for introspection and self-growth. You need to foster communication and understanding to improve your relationships. Take any problems that arise positively and strive to learn. Self-control and patience will help you overcome this time. Maintain direct and clear communication; this will help you better understand yourself and those around you.

TAURUS

Ganesha says this week is quite important for Taurus. Some challenges may arise in your overall life during this time, which may make you feel a little anxious. Although this time is full of difficulties, you can face them with patience and restraint. You may also experience instability in your personal relationships. It's important to share your feelings openly with your loved ones. This week is about communication, which can improve your relationships. Overall, it's a time to gain clarity. Pay attention to your inner thoughts and understand what you want. Focus on positivity to avoid any negativity. During this time, be sensitive to your loved ones and respect their feelings. Remember, temporary challenges always lead to dynamism and growth. Control your emotions and turn this challenging time into an opportunity.

GEMINI

Ganesha says this week will bring prosperity and positivity for Gemini. A special energy will surround you during this time, allowing you to strengthen your relationships. Spending time with family and friends will be extremely enjoyable. This is a time to promote harmony and understanding, allowing you to express your feelings. Your communication skills will also improve this week. This will allow you to express your thoughts openly, bringing freshness to relationships. You'll be inspired to share your ideas, strengthening not only your personal relationships but also your collective ones. This week's energy will open doors to new possibilities for you. Free from mental stress, you'll feel a deeper connection with your loved ones. If you're looking to strengthen your relationship with someone special, this is the right time to express your feelings.

CANCER

Ganesha says this week will be generally pleasant for Cancerians. Positive energy will flow into your life during this time. You'll try to build better relationships with those around you, which will improve your social life. This is a time when you'll enjoy spending time with loved ones and develop mutual understanding. Your sensitivity will prove to be a strength this week, bringing depth and sweetness to your relationships. If you're single, this is a good time to form new relationships. Family relationships will also strengthen, and spending time with family will increase happiness. Try to express your thoughts clearly so that your loved ones can understand your feelings. This week will also help you in self-analysis and personal growth. Your creativity and self-expression will increase, allowing you to express your thoughts better. Overall, this week is a time of dedication, love, and strong relationships.

LEO

Ganesha says the overall situation seems a bit challenging for Leos. You'll need to make a lot of effort to maintain composure and normalcy. There may be some tension in your social life, causing you to experience anxiety and instability. Communication with family and friends may be a bit confusing, so exercise patience and understanding. This week may bring some distance to relationships. Spending time with loved ones is important, but you'll need to be careful about expressing your feelings appropriately. Use communication and cooperation to reduce stress. Although circumstances are challenging, this is a time when you can recognize your inner strength and move forward with a positive attitude. Have faith in yourself and don't dwell on small things. This is a time for self-reflection and improvement.

VIRGO

Ganesha says the overall situation is likely to be somewhat challenging for Virgos this week. You may experience some discomfort in your daily life. This is a time when you may experience mental stress and unrest. Your inner anxiety and restlessness may affect your mood. During this time, your relationships may also experience some disruptions. You need to be careful in communicating with your loved ones. Misunderstandings may arise over small matters, causing anxiety. Remember that it's important to maintain patience and resolve old issues openly. You may face some difficulties expressing your feelings correctly, but try to share your thoughts clearly. This will strengthen your relationships. This is a week when you need to control your worries and channel your inner energy in a positive direction. Always remember that every situation is temporary and you can overcome it.

LIBRA

Ganesha says this week will be a positive and happy time for Libras. The atmosphere around you will be filled with joy and harmony, strengthening your relationships. You will feel inspired to spend more time with your loved ones, which will deepen your relationships. This is a time to understand each other's thoughts and share your feelings. Your communication skills will be excellent this week, allowing you to express your thoughts clearly. This is especially important when you need to resolve problems in your relationships. Your behavior will be balanced and fair, strengthening your relationships. Your creativity and tendency to self-expression will also be highly influential, enhancing your perspective. The overall experience of this week will provide you with emotional stability and inner balance, bringing new energy and inspiration into your life. This time will undoubtedly prove to be exemplary for your relationships.

SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week will be extremely positive and encouraging for Scorpios. Your inner energy and confidence will provide you with opportunities to strengthen your relationships. Moments spent with family and friends will be especially enjoyable. Mutual understanding and cooperation will resolve many of your conflicts, bringing newness and freshness to your relationships. Clarity and honesty in communication will be especially beneficial this week. You will share your feelings openly, which will deepen your bonds with your loved ones. Try to find joy in small things; this will add sweetness to your relationships. Your sensitivity and depth will help you achieve excellence in love this week. This week, an influx of love will transform your life. The possibilities are endless; just follow your heart and maintain positivity. Therefore, this week will prove to be emotionally rich and satisfying for you.

SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week may bring some challenges for Sagittarius. The overall impact of your experiences may open up new perspectives in your life. However, you may feel a little anxious during this time. It's important to maintain balance in your emotions in relationships, as those around you may have difficulty understanding you. This is a time for harmony. There may be some turmoil in your thinking, but to benefit from this period, you must focus on your inner strength. Remember, moments of restlessness can also be a means of self-realization. This week will teach you to cope with emotionally difficult moments. It's important to maintain positivity and hope within yourself so that you can achieve harmony in your relationships and the environment around you. Believe in yourself and keep moving forward, as this time is only a temporary situation.

CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week is overall a wonderful time for Capricorns. You will feel a change in the environment around you, and this will fill you with confidence. Your feelings and thoughts will be clearer, allowing you to communicate better in your relationships. This is an opportunity to strengthen your bonds with those close to you. The surrounding environment will be positive, which will also have a positive impact on your social life. Spending time with friends and family will bring you inner satisfaction. Your thoughts will be refreshed, inspiring your creativity. This week is perfect for increasing mutual understanding. Having the courage to express your deepest feelings will bring you closer to relationships. Furthermore, if you share your thoughts, you will find people who listen. Overall, this week will be wonderful and loving for you. This is the best time to strengthen your relationships.

AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be challenging for Aquarius. There will be some ups and downs in your social life and relationships. This is a time to increase communication with those close to you, but you may also face some conflicts. You may find it difficult to express your thoughts and feelings clearly, which may make others misunderstand you. Maintain patience this week and be cautious in fulfilling your emotional responsibilities. There may be some differences in your relationships, but try to resolve them. There will be some anxiety and hesitation in romantic relationships, which could create tension. Try to spend time with loved ones and exercise restraint. This time will teach you how important honesty and understanding are in relationships. Handle these difficulties with patience and understanding, so you can strengthen yourself and move towards positivity. This week, recognize your inner strength and use it to move forward on your path.

CONTD ON PAGE 33

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : NOV 30, 2006 TO DEC 6, 2026
BY ASTROLOGER CHIRAG DARUWALLA



NOVEMBER 30

Ganesha says you strike the ideal balance between religion and logic. You will spend a lot of time traveling in the coming year. You will be fascinated by both music and literature and listening to music can bring you peace. You love to support those who are oppressed. You will have many possibilities to help those less fortunate in the coming year. The subject of your choice will be available for study, and you will be able to delve deeper into it. As a result of this, you will be successful in your academic subject. You are obsessed with maintaining law and order.

DECEMBER 1

Ganesha says in the coming year, you can expect changes both on the professional and domestic front. Some of you may suffer financial loss by betting. It is advised that you lend money only when you are sure that you will get it back. In the coming year, you will be able to make your own decisions because of your independence. You are serious by nature, and you value some level of solitude in your life. You like to spend time alone working on your projects. The suffering of physically challenged persons is unbearable. You will spend a lot of time in the coming year working as a social worker for hospitals and non-profit organizations.

DECEMBER 2

Ganesha says although you tend to have a practical approach and take your obligations seriously, you need to rein in your tendency to act stubborn and jealous at times. Your spouse gives you love and affection, and your children excel and make you proud. If there is a sudden deterioration in the health of an elderly relative, there may be a concern. Be extra careful while driving at night. You have the potential to invest extensively in the coming year not only in speculative industries but also in real estate. Benefit in kind and cash from family and friends.

DECEMBER 3

Ganesha says in the coming year, your self-assurance will help you become popular and successful. Family and friends will come to you for guidance and support. The domestic front will be filled with a lot of happiness and love, especially for your children. Colors Like Yellow, Purple, and Green Are Lucky for You. Some of you are likely to inherit property in the coming year, especially from your father's side. Your career will involve a lot of travel in the coming year. You enjoy developing your spiritual abilities and using them to help groups of people.

DECEMBER 4

Ganesha says your character and an optimistic outlook toward life will enable you to surround yourself with a large number of friends. Proximity to water bodies will benefit you financially in the coming year. Try to get a job in a city or town near a river or sea. Those of you who are single can guess to get married. In the coming year, you will roam among intelligent people. This will benefit you in every way. After your marriage, you will be prosperous.

DECEMBER 5

Ganesha says your friends will notice your humility and humility and will come to you for help and guidance. However, you sometimes get restless and make hasty decisions as a result. It only gets worse as a result. You do not enjoy exercising your authority because you are submissive and meek by nature. However, you also hate people interfering in your matters. You value privacy and like to be alone. Your passion for reading and thirst for information will be your assets in the coming year. You will be able to harness this powerful power of observation so that you will be able to notice small movements around you.

DECEMBER 6

Ganesha says you will experience many events in the coming year, but it is best not to overreact to unimportant issues. White, blue, purple, and cream are auspicious colors for you. You are naturally a studious person, and you are happy when you are surrounded by literature. You will be willing to defy tradition and decide what you think is best in matters of love. Those who will get married this year should look forward to a happy and prosperous life in marriage. Your dedication and hard work will be noticed by your managers, and you will be rewarded for your efforts. You are naturally good at teaching. You enjoy doing it professionally and find fulfillment in it.

CONTD FROM PAGE 32



PISCES

Ganesha says this week, the general situation will be quite positive and encouraging for Pisces. You will not only build better relationships with those around you, but you will also experience a deeper connection. This will be a time to boost your self-confidence and deepen your understanding. You will find the right inspiration to spend special time with your partner, which will strengthen your feelings even more. Your sensitivity will connect you with truth and depth this week, bringing a new warmth to your relationship. This is an excellent time to express your heartfelt feelings openly, which will not only increase mutual trust but also strengthen your relationship. This week will be filled with spirituality and love. Conversation and communication will be of particular importance, taking you to new heights on a social and emotional level. Just listen to your heart and embrace positivity. This week will be a wonderful and memorable experience.

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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Sikh History This Week

NOVEMBER 27 TO DECEMBER 3

NOVEMBER 27

1552 - Marriage of Guru Amar Das Ji



According to a Sikh historical chronology, Guru Amar Das Ji married Bibi Mansa Devi, daughter of Baba Devi Chand, in the village of Sankhetra in the Sialkot region. Guru Amar Das Ji later became the third Sikh Guru in 1552, succeeding Guru Angad Dev Ji. He was instrumental in expanding the Sikh community and strengthening its institutions. His contributions included the development of the langar tradition, the establishment of the Manji system for religious administration and the promotion of equality among people regardless of caste or gender.

NOVEMBER 28

Akal Chalana of Bhai Mardana Ji



The SGPC Nanakshahi calendar commemorates the Akal Chalana (passing) of Bhai Mardana Ji on November 28, 2026. Bhai Mardana Ji was the lifelong companion of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and one of the earliest figures associated with the Sikh tradition. Born into a Muslim family, he was a gifted musician and played the rabab, a stringed instrument. His music accompanied Guru Nanak Dev Ji's hymns during their travels. Their companionship is an important example of the Sikh principle that spiritual devotion and human fellowship transcend religious and social divisions.

1984 - Sikh soldiers protest after Operation Blue Star



Following Operation Blue Star in June 1984, Sikh soldiers in several military establishments expressed anger and distress over the operation at the Golden Temple complex. Some soldiers left their units or attempted to reach Punjab in protest. The incident resulted in disciplinary action and court-martial proceedings.On November 28, 1985, the Indian government reportedly stated that 2,239 Sikh soldiers had been court-martialled and 98 dismissed from service.

NOVEMBER 29

1960 - Akali leaders face trial

A Sikh historical chronology records that Master Tara Singh, Sant Fateh Singh and eight members of the Akali Dal Working Committee faced trial on November 29, 1960. The proceedings were linked to their participation in the Punjabi Suba movement and the political campaign for a Punjabi-speaking state.

The Punjabi Suba movement was one of the most consequential political movements in post-independence Punjab. It sought the reorganisation of Punjab on linguistic lines, with Punjabi as the principal language of the proposed state.

NOVEMBER 30

Birth anniversary of Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji



The SGPC Nanakshahi calendar observes the birth anniversary of Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh Ji on November 30, 2026.Sahibzada Zorawar Singh Ji was the third son of Guru Gobind Singh Ji and Mata Gujri Ji.

He is remembered for his courage and steadfastness during the persecution of the Sikh family by the Mughal authorities.After the evacuation of Anandpur Sahib in December 1704, the Guru's family became separated near the River Sarsa. Mata Gujri Ji and the two younger Sahibzadas, Zorawar Singh Ji and Fateh Singh Ji, were taken to Sirhind.

They were subsequently brought before the Mughal governor, Wazir Khan, and pressured to abandon their faith. The young Sahibzadas refused.

Their martyrdom is commemorated in Sikh tradition as an enduring example of courage, faith and resistance to religious coercion.

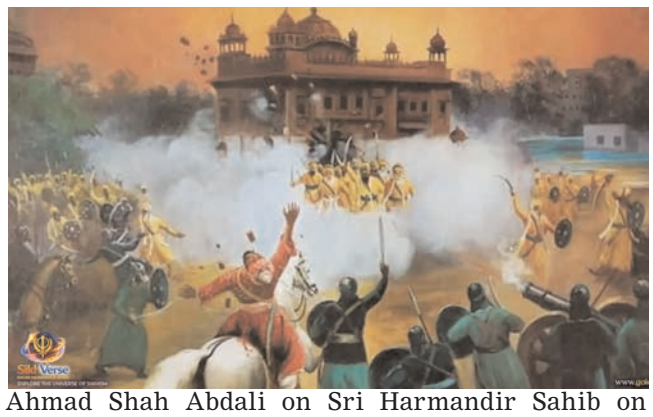
Sikh military history - Attack on Lahore

A Sikh historical chronology also records an attack on Lahore by Sikh forces on November 30

DECEMBER 1

1757 - Ahmad Shah Abdali attacks Sri Harmandir Sahib

A Sikh historical chronology records an attack by



Ahmad Shah Abdali on Sri Harmandir Sahib on December 1. Abdali, the Afghan ruler who invaded India repeatedly during the 18th century, sought to suppress Sikh resistance and establish control over Punjab. During this period, Sikh groups were engaged in a prolonged struggle against Afghan and Mughal forces. The repeated destruction of Sikh religious sites did not end Sikh resistance. Instead, the community continued to rebuild its institutions and strengthen its military organisation.

DECEMBER 2

1848 - Battle of Sadulpur

A Sikh historical chronology records a battle between Sikh forces and the British at Sadulpur, in the Gujranwala region, on December 2. The battle took place during the period of conflict that led to the Second Anglo-Sikh War of 1848-49. The Sikh kingdom, established by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, had become a major power in northwestern India. After his death in 1839, internal political instability and tensions with the British East India Company weakened the Lahore Darbar. The Second Anglo-Sikh War ultimately ended with the defeat of the Sikh forces and the annexation of Punjab by the British in 1849.

DECEMBER 3

1849 - Maharaja Duleep Singh meets Lord Dalhousie

A Sikh historical chronology records a meeting between Maharaja Duleep Singh and Lord Dalhousie on December 3. Maharaja Duleep Singh, the youngest son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, was the last ruler of the Sikh Empire. Following the British annexation of Punjab in 1849, the young Maharaja was removed from power. He subsequently came under British supervision and was separated from his mother, Maharani Jind Kaur.

In later years, Duleep Singh was taken to England, where he converted to Christianity and became part of British society. He eventually sought to reclaim his Sikh identity and the kingdom that had been taken from him.

Historical significance: The life of Maharaja Duleep Singh symbolises the end of the Sikh Empire and the transformation of Punjab under British colonial rule.



Kaal Bhairav Jayanti: The divine power that conquers fear and ego



In Hindu spirituality, the divine is worshipped in many forms, each reflecting a different aspect of existence. Some manifestations represent peace, compassion and creation, while others embody strength, transformation and the destruction of evil. Kaal Bhairav is one such powerful manifestation of Lord Shiva, whose fierce appearance conceals a deeper spiritual purpose.

Revered as the Lord of Time and the guardian of dharma, Kaal Bhairav represents the power that destroys ignorance, punishes arrogance and protects those who walk the path of truth. His presence reminds devotees that time is the ultimate force governing worldly existence and that no human being, irrespective of wealth or power, can escape its influence.

Kaal Bhairav Jayanti, also known as Bhairav Ashtami or Kalashtami, commemorates the divine manifestation of Kaal Bhairav. It falls on the eighth day of the Krishna Paksha (waning phase of the moon) in the Hindu month of Margashirsha, according to the Purnimanta calendar. In 2026, the festival will be observed on December 1.

For devotees, the occasion is an opportunity to seek divine protection, overcome personal fears and renew their commitment to spiritual discipline.

Important information

Kaal Bhairava Jayanti 2026

Tuesday, 01 December 2026

Ashtami Date Start : 01 December 2026 at 00:11 am

Ashtami Date ends : 01 December 2026at 11:13 pm

The Legend of Kaal Bhairav's Birth

The origin of Kaal Bhairav is associated with an important episode in Hindu mythology involving Lord Brahma, the creator, and Lord Vishnu, the preserver.

According to a traditional account in the Shiva Purana, a disagreement arose between Brahma and Vishnu over their supremacy. As their argument intensified, Lord Shiva appeared before them in the form of an enormous pillar of light, known as the Jyotirlinga, which had neither a visible beginning nor an end. He challenged the two deities to discover its limits. Vishnu assumed the form of a boar and travelled downwards in search of its base, while Brahma transformed into a swan and flew upwards to find its summit.

Vishnu eventually accepted his inability to locate the end of the divine manifestation. Brahma, however, falsely claimed to have reached its summit. His dishonesty and arrogance angered Shiva, who manifested Kaal Bhairav to humble him.

In the familiar version of the story, Bhairav severed Brahma's fifth head. The act symbolised the destruction of false pride and the restoration of cosmic order.

However, the story did not end there. Carrying Brahma's skull, Kaal Bhairav wandered as a mendicant until he reached Kashi, where he was freed from the burden of the sin. Shiva subsequently established him as the divine guardian of the sacred city.

The legend conveys an important message: even divine power must operate within the principles of cosmic order, and arrogance has no place in the pursuit of truth.

Why Is Kaal Bhairav Known as the Lord of Time?

The word 'Kaal' has several meanings in Sanskrit, including time, death and destiny. 'Bhairav' signifies a powerful and fearsome manifestation of the Divine. Together, Kaal Bhairav represents the supreme force that governs time and reminds humanity of the impermanence of worldly existence.

Time is perhaps the greatest teacher. It brings change, tests human character and eventually brings every individual face to face with the consequences of their deeds. Kaal Bhairav symbolises this universal truth.

His worship encourages people to use their time wisely, overcome destructive habits and understand that material possessions and worldly achievements cannot provide permanent happiness.

He is also regarded as the protector against negative forces, fear and obstacles. Devotees believe that sincere prayers to Kaal Bhairav bring courage, confidence and the strength to face difficult circumstances.

The Fierce Appearance and Its Spiritual Symbolism

Kaal Bhairav is generally depicted with a dark complexion, dishevelled hair, a garland of skulls and multiple arms carrying weapons such as a trident, sword and drum. His fierce appearance represents the destruction of ignorance and the triumph of divine power over evil.

Every element of his form carries a deeper meaning.

- The skulls: They represent the impermanence of life and the inevitability of death.
- The trident: It symbolizes the power to overcome the three fundamental afflictions of existence and destroy negative tendencies.
- The drum: It represents the cosmic rhythm and the eternal cycle of creation and dissolution.
- The dark complexion: It signifies the infinite and all-encompassing nature of the Divine.
- The dog: His vahana represents loyalty, alertness and protection.

His frightening appearance is therefore not intended to terrify devotees. Rather, it represents the destruction of fear itself. He is fierce towards evil but compassionate towards those who approach him with sincere devotion.

Kaal Bhairav, the Guardian of Kashi

Among the many sacred traditions associated with Kaal Bhairav, his relationship with Varanasi holds exceptional importance.

Kashi, regarded as one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, is considered a sacred place of spiritual liberation. Here, Kaal Bhairav is worshipped as the Kotwal, or divine guardian, of the city.

According to religious tradition, Lord Shiva entrusted him with the responsibility of protecting Kashi and maintaining its spiritual sanctity. Devotees believe that seeking his blessings is an important part of a pilgrimage to the holy city.

The famous Kaal Bhairav Temple in Varanasi attracts thousands of worshippers throughout the year. Devotees offer flowers, incense, mustard oil and prayers, seeking protection from difficulties and guidance on their spiritual path.

His association with Kashi reflects a profound belief: the journey towards liberation requires discipline, humility and freedom from ego.

Observing Kaal Bhairav Jayanti

The festival is marked by fasting, temple visits, devotional singing and special prayers. Devotees wake up early, bathe and prepare their homes and prayer spaces for worship.

An image or idol of Kaal Bhairav is placed on an altar and worshipped with flowers, incense, lamps and traditional offerings. Many devotees light a mustard oil lamp and offer black sesame seeds, coconut and sweets according to their family traditions.

Special significance is attached to evening and night worship. Temples organise devotional programmes, recitations and aarti, while devotees chant the deity's name and seek his blessings.

Reciting the Kalabhairava Ashtakam, a devotional hymn traditionally attributed to Adi Shankaracharya, is another important practice.

The mantra commonly chanted by devotees is:

Om Kaal Bhairavaya Namah.

It is recited as an expression of surrender and devotion, with the intention of seeking courage, protection and spiritual strength.

Many devotees observe a day-long fast. Some abstain from food, while others consume fruits and milk. The fast is concluded according to individual religious customs after prayers.

Feeding Dogs: An Act of Devotion

One of the distinctive customs associated with Kaal Bhairav worship is feeding dogs. In Hindu tradition, the dog is regarded as his vehicle and is associated with vigilance, loyalty and protection.

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Sri Lanka: Tracing the Ramayana trail through the island of legends

From the mystical landscapes of Ashok Vatika and the sacred waters of Seetha Amman Temple to Ravana's caves and the dramatic beauty of Ella, Sri Lanka offers a fascinating journey through places associated with the Ramayana. Blending mythology, spirituality, nature and history, the island invites travelers to explore the legendary world of Lord Rama, Sita and Ravana.

There are journeys that take travellers to beautiful destinations, and then there are journeys that transport them into the pages of ancient epics. Sri Lanka offers a rare combination of both. Beyond its palm-fringed beaches, mist-covered mountains, tea plantations and wildlife sanctuaries lies a fascinating network of places associated with the Ramayana, one of India's greatest epics.

Known for its connection with the legendary kingdom of Lanka ruled by Ravana, the island attracts pilgrims, history enthusiasts and curious travellers interested in exploring the locations associated with the epic. From the believed site of Ashok Vatika, where Sita was held captive, to caves traditionally linked with Ravana's meditation and the landscapes associated with the final battle, these destinations form an intriguing spiritual and cultural trail.

The Ramayana sites are spread across different parts of the island, making the journey as much about discovering Sri Lanka's natural beauty as exploring its mythological heritage. Although these associations belong to religious traditions and local beliefs rather than independently established historical evidence, they remain an important part of the island's cultural landscape.

Seetha Amman Temple: Where Sita's Memory Lives On

One of the most significant stops on the Ramayana trail is the Seetha Amman Temple near Nuwara Eliya. Surrounded by lush greenery and cool mountain air, this colourful Hindu shrine is traditionally associated with the place where Sita spent her days in captivity after Ravana abducted her.

According to the Ramayana, Ravana brought Sita to Lanka and kept her in Ashok Vatika, where she refused his advances and remained devoted to Lord Rama. The temple is believed by devotees to mark part of this sacred landscape.

A stream flows beside the temple, and local tradition associates the surrounding rocks and water with the period of Sita's captivity. Visitors can see images of Sita, Rama, Lakshmana and Hanuman, making the shrine an important destination for Hindu pilgrims. The peaceful surroundings, prayerful atmosphere and mountain scenery make this a particularly moving stop on the journey.

Hakgala Botanical Garden: The Legendary Ashok Vatika

A short distance from Nuwara Eliya lies Hakgala Botanical Garden, another destination associated with the Ramayana. Many local traditions identify the Hakgala area with the legendary Ashok Vatika, the beautiful garden where Ravana is believed to have kept Sita. The landscape, with its towering rocks, flowering plants and cool climate, offers an evocative setting for this ancient story.

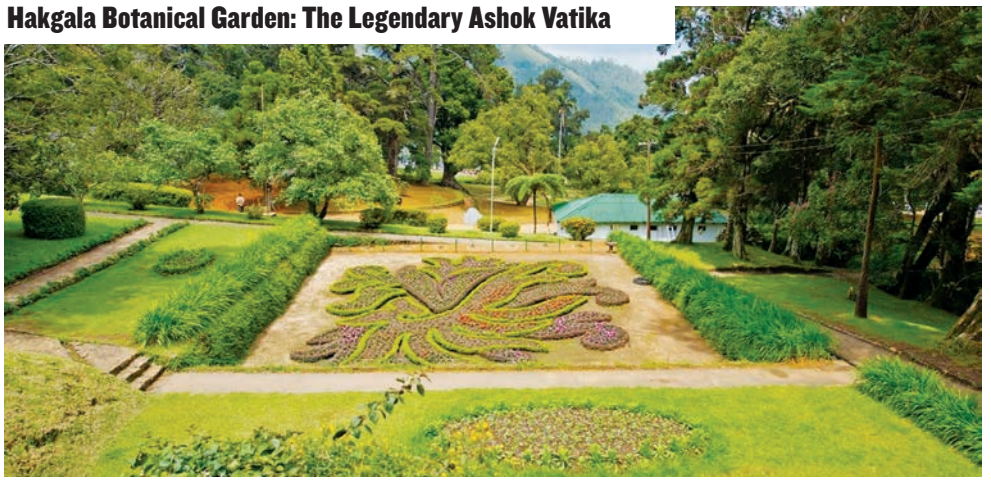
Rumassala: The Mountain of Sanjeevani



Ravana Cave



Hakgala Botanical Garden: The Legendary Ashok Vatika



Today, Hakgala is known for its impressive collection of plants, colorful flowers, landscaped gardens and spectacular mountain views. Established during the British colonial period as an experimental garden for cinchona cultivation, it subsequently developed into one of Sri Lanka's celebrated botanical attractions.

For visitors following the Ramayana trail, the garden offers an opportunity to experience the natural beauty of a landscape deeply connected with local mythology.

Sri Bhakta Hanuman Temple: Following the Footsteps of the Divine Messenger

Situated amid the picturesque hills of Ramboda, the Sri Bhakta Hanuman Temple is another important destination on the Ramayana trail. Built by the Chinmaya Mission, the temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman, who travelled to Lanka in search of Sita.

According to local tradition, these hills were among the places where Hanuman searched for Sita before discovering her whereabouts. The temple houses a striking statue of the deity and attracts devotees throughout the year.

The journey to Ramboda is equally rewarding. Tea-covered slopes, winding mountain roads and spectacular waterfalls make this region one of the most scenic parts of Sri Lanka. Visitors can combine their temple visit with a stop at the beautiful Ramboda Falls.

Divurumpola: The Place Associated with Sita's Agni Pariksha

Located near Welimada, Divurumpola Temple holds a special place in the Ramayana tradition. It is believed to be the location where Sita underwent Agni Pariksha, the trial by fire, to establish her purity after being rescued from Ravana. The story describes how Sita entered the sacred fire and emerged unharmed, with Agni, the fire deity, affirming her innocence. The site is revered by devotees as a symbol of faith, courage and steadfastness.

Interestingly, local traditions associate the temple with the taking of oaths and promises. Its relatively peaceful surroundings make it a meaningful stop for those interested in exploring the spiritual dimensions of the epic.

Ravana Falls and Ravana Cave: Exploring the Kingdom of Legends

Ravana Falls is a spectacular waterfall cascading down a rocky mountainside. Local folklore connects it with Ravana, who is believed to have used the surrounding caves and hills as hiding places during Sita's captivity.

A short distance away is Ravana Cave, a cave traditionally linked with the legendary king. Reaching it involves a steep climb and requires reasonable physical fitness.

Beyond their mythological associations, these attractions offer wonderful opportunities to experience Sri Lanka's dramatic highland scenery. The combination of waterfalls, rugged cliffs, forested slopes and ancient-looking caves makes Ella a memorable destination.

Munneswaram Temple: Rama's Prayers to Lord Shiva

Near Chilaw, the Munneswaram Temple is an important Hindu pilgrimage centre associated with the Ramayana. According to tradition, after defeating Ravana, Lord Rama sought the blessings of Lord Shiva to absolve himself of the sin of killing a Brahmin. Shiva advised him to install and worship Shiva lingams at sacred locations.

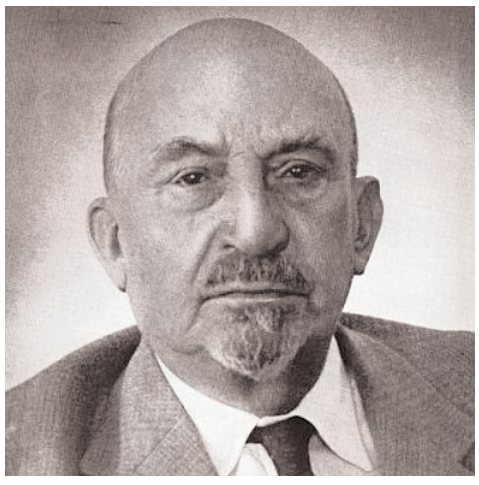
The temple is therefore associated with Rama's prayers for spiritual purification following the battle. Its colourful architecture, elaborate sculptures and devotional atmosphere make it an important stop for pilgrims.

Another significant shrine in this region is Manavari Temple, traditionally believed to be the first place where Rama installed a Shiva lingam after the war. The lingam is popularly known as Ramalingam.

History This Week NOV 27 - DEC 03

NOVEMBER 27

Birthday - Wild West lawman Bat Masterson (1853-1921) was born in Henryville, Quebec. He was also a gambler, saloonkeeper, and later became a news writer in New York.



Birthday - Israeli statesman Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952) was born near Pinsk, Byelorussia. He helped bring about the British government's Balfour Declaration, which called for the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine.

Birthday - Czech leader Alexander Dubcek (1921-1992) was born in Uhrocev, Slovakia. In 1968, as first secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, he attempted to achieve "socialism with a human face" and loosen Soviet Russia's control of his country. This resulted in a military invasion by the Russians.

NOVEMBER 28



November 28, 1919 - Lady Nancy Astor was elected as the first female in the British House of Commons.

November 28, 1934 - FBI agents killed bank robber George "Baby Face" Nelson near Barrington, Illinois.

November 28, 1942 - Fire erupted inside the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston killing nearly 500 persons who had become trapped inside.

November 28, 1943 - The Teheran Conference began, attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Josef Stalin. Among the major topics discussed, a second front in Western Europe, resulting in D-Day, the seaborne invasion of Normandy in northern France on June 6, 1944.

Birthday - British artist and poet William Blake (1757-1827) was born in London. Best known for Songs of Innocence examining life through the eyes of children and Songs of Experience exploring adult viewpoints of the world.

Birthday - British cleric John Bunyan (1628-1688) was born in Elstow, Bedfordshire. He wrote A Pilgrim's Progress, a religious allegory of the human soul.

Birthday - German socialist Friedrich Engels (1820-1895) was born in Barmen, Wuppertal, Germany. He was an associate of Karl Marx and edited the second and third volumes of Marx's Das Kapital.

NOVEMBER 29

November 29, 1929 - American explorer Richard Byrd and Bernt Balchen completed the first airplane flight to the South Pole.

November 29, 1947 - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.

November 29, 1989 - Forty-one years of Communist rule came to an end in Czechoslovakia following a twelve day revolution sparked by the beating of protesters. The Czech parliament voted unanimously to repeal constitutional clauses granting the Communist Party sole power. This brought a wave of reform headed by playwright Vaclav Havel, who later became president in the first free elections since World War II.

Birthday - Little Women author Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888) was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



Birthday - Hollywood director Busby Berkeley (1895-1976) was born in Los Angeles (as William Berkeley Enos). After serving in World War I as an entertainment officer, he changed his name and began his show business career. Best known for lavish musicals including Forty-Second Street, Gold Diggers of 1933, Babes in Arms, Strike Up the Band, and Girl Crazy.

Birthday - British author C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was born in Belfast, Ireland (as Clive Staples Lewis). He wrote books on Christian teachings including The Pilgrim's Regress, The Problem of Pain, Miracles, and The Screwtape Letters.

NOVEMBER 30

November 30, 1939 - Finland was invaded by more than 20 Russian divisions in the Winter War.

November 30, 1995 - Bill Clinton became the first American president to visit Northern Ireland.

Birthday - American author Samuel Clemens (1835-1910) was born in Florida, Missouri. He wrote books under the pen name Mark Twain including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and The Prince and the Pauper.



Birthday - Winston Churchill (1874-1965) was born in Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, England. Before World War II, he held a number of high level political offices in Britain including First Lord of the Admiralty. In May 1940, he became Prime Minister, stating, "I have nothing to offer but blood, tears, toil, and sweat." His inspirational speeches, combined with his political skills and military strategy carried Britain through the war, and helped the Allies overcome the Nazi onslaught and defeat Hitler.

Birthday - 1960's political activist Abbie Hoffman (1936-1989) was born in Worcester, Massachusetts. He leapt to fame as a member of the Chicago Seven, a group of young radicals accused of conspiring to disrupt the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

DECEMBER 1

December 1, 1941 - The American Civil Air Patrol (CAP), a U.S. Air Force auxiliary, was founded as Director of Civilian Defense, former New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, signed the formal order. The CAP currently provides aerospace education, a CAP cadet program, and emergency services such as locating missing aircraft.

December 1, 1942 - The Beveridge Report was published in Britain envisioning the welfare state including insurance for the entire population.

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.



December 1, 1988 - Benazir Bhutto was nominated to become prime minister of Pakistan, the first woman to govern a Muslim nation.

December 1, 1989 - Mikhail Gorbachev became the first Soviet Russian leader to visit the Vatican and meet the Pope, thus ending 72 years of strict atheist policy in Communist Russia.

December 1, 1990 - England was connected to mainland Europe for the first time since the Ice Age as engineers digging a railway tunnel under the English Channel broke through the last rock layer.

December 1, 1994 - The head of the U.N. Commission on Rwanda estimated 500,000 deaths had resulted from genocide.

DECEMBER 2

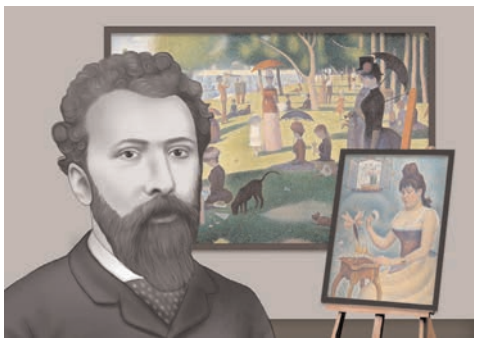
December 2, 1942 - Physicists led by Enrico Fermi carried out the world's first successful nuclear chain reaction at the University of Chicago.

December 2, 1954 - The U.S. Senate condemned Senator Joseph McCarthy for misconduct following his ruthless investigations of thousands of alleged Communists.

December 2, 1971 - The United Arab Emirates was formed, consisting of seven Arab kingdoms on the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula including the former Trucial states Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm al Qaiwain and Fujairah. Ras al-Khaimah became a member in 1972. The area has some of the world's largest reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

December 2, 1979 - Electors in Iran voted overwhelmingly in favor of a new constitution granting absolute power to Ayatollah Khomeini.

December 2, 1982 - The first permanent artificial heart was implanted in 61-year-old Barney C. Clark by Dr. William De Vries at the University of Utah Medical Center in Salt Lake City. Clark, who was near death at the time of the operation, survived 112 days after the implantation.



Birthday - French painter Georges Seurat (1859-1891) was born in Paris. He was a leader in the neo-impressionist movement of the late 19th Century.

DECEMBER 3

December 3, 1962 - Edith Sampson was sworn in as the first African American female judge, after she was elected associate judge of the Municipal Court in Chicago.

December 3, 1967 - The first successful heart transplant was performed by Dr. Christiaan Barnard at Cape Town, South African, on Louis Washkansky, who lived for 18 days.

December 3, 1984 - A deadly gas leak (of methyl isocyanate) at a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, killed at least 3,000 persons and injured more than 200,000.

December 3, 1993 - Britain's Princess Diana announced she was stepping out of the public spotlight, desiring more privacy amid unyielding attention from the tabloid press and 'paparazzi.'

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Donald Trump urges Vladimir Putin to end 'military aggression' in Europe

Russia not to expand the Ukraine war.

"During my conversations in China with President Vladimir Putin, of Russia, I spent a lot of time talking about the fact that I would like to see President Putin pull back all Military aggression against territories throughout Europe," Mr. Trump said on his Truth Social network.

Mr. Trump said he had done so "in the hopes that a Deal can be made between Russia and Ukraine, and made quickly."

"I really believe this is a strong possibility," he added.

The statement did not specify which territories Mr. Trump meant -- and did not specifically include Ukraine, which Russia invaded in February 2022, kicking off the largest war in Europe since World War II.

Donald Trump predicts deal with Russia on Ukraine and 'all of Europe'

European nations have been increasingly concerned by what they regard as Russian provocations, including three Russian cruise missiles landing in NATO-member Poland last week.

In their joint statement on Wednesday, November 25, Mr. Trump and Mr. Rutte said they "discussed the importance of Russia avoiding any actions that intentionally, or unintentionally, expand the war."

In a notable contrast with Mr. Trump's recent criticisms of Ukraine for striking targets deep inside Russia, the U.S. leader made no call for Kyiv to show similar restraint.

Speaking to reporters at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida on Thursday, November 26, Mr. Trump said he was unsure if Mr. Putin would be coming to the G20 summit next month in Miami, but "but if he wanted to come, he certainly can."

Mr. Trump's tone appeared markedly different to when Mr. Trump met Mr. Putin in the Chinese city of Shenzhen last week, both face-to-face and together with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Mr. Trump warmly greeted Mr. Putin and called him his "friend" at the summit, renewing concerns in Kyiv and European capitals that he was once again pivoting towards the Russian leader.

Asked on Thursday, November 26, about the apparent firmer tone this week, he said: "I don't know if I was tougher. I mean, I think I'm the one that gave them the anti-tank busters, right?"

Mr. Trump often cites his approval of Javelin missile sales to Ukraine during his first term as saving the country from Russia's initial assault.

Russia dusts off its pre-war demands as the U.S. raises discussing European security at Ukraine talks

The U.S. envoys on the Ukraine war, Mr. Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and business friend Steve Witkoff, have been accused of a similar willingness to take Moscow's side.

In an interview with the German MD Meets Podcast on Wednesday, November 25, Mr. Kushner said that Mr. Putin had "showed restraint" because he had "agreed not to use nuclear weapons."

Mr. Kushner also described the Russian leader, whom he has met several times, as a "grandmaster of politics" -- while calling the Ukraine conflict "a proxy war where Europe is funding and arming Ukraine against Russia."

But he acknowledged that the issue of territory in eastern Ukraine claimed by Moscow remained a sticking point with Mr. Putin.

"What Steve and I have deciphered from having many, many hours with President Putin and from the Russian team, is that you know the territorial issue is right now a little bit of a deadlock," he said.

And he warned against any downward spiral in the Ukraine war, saying "it won't take a lot of miscalculation for this thing to escalate massively." (Source: AFP)



BJP-led NDA's delimitation dilemma: How will it secure the numbers this time?

Lok Sabha and state Assemblies ahead of the 2029 election cycle, the government is set to reconvene Parliament from November 30 to December 3.

Ahead of the session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Friday chair a Cabinet meeting to approve the consequential draft legislations, which have agitated the Congress-led Opposition for long.

The Bills are likely to propose increasing the strength of the Lok Sabha from the current 543 to 850 MPs, with a written assurance that every state will see a flat 50 per cent rise in seats over and above their present numbers.

In April as well, the government had introduced similar Bills, but without writing the 50 per cent seat increase provision into the law. The Bills were defeated by a joint Opposition.

Since then, the government has been engaging with a broader Opposition to bring parties on board and build a consensus to pass the Constitution amendment Bills, which, to pass, require the Houses to be in order and also a two-thirds majority of the MPs present and voting.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju today stamped the move to convene Parliament. "The government has requested the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, and the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, to reconvene the Lok Sabha on Monday , November 30, and the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday , December 2, to transact essential government business. Subject to exigencies of the business, the sitting of both Houses may conclude on December 3," Rijiju said.

The government is only to reconvene the Parliament session rather than calling a fresh session because it had not prorogued the monsoon session, which was adjourned on August 13. As of today, the session had not been prorogued for 104 days.

Senior government leaders today said the BJP-led NDA was targeting the support of 380 MPs in the Lok Sabha. The current effective strength of the 543-member Lok Sabha is 540 due to three vacancies. If all these MPs vote, two-thirds of the number comes to 360.

The NDA currently has the support of 320 MPs, including 20 TMC rebels and one Shiromani Akali Dal MP. Four YSRCP MPs may support the NDA, taking the numbers to 324, still short of 360. The DMK's 22 MPs, the NCP-SP's eight will be key.

In the Rajya Sabha, the effective strength of the House is 244 MPs and the two-thirds mark is 164.

The NDA has over 154 members, with the YSRCP likely to support it. That would mean 158 MPs-six short of a special majority needed to pass a Constitution amendment Bill. Government managers, however, claim they have surplus numbers-more than what they need to pass the Bills this time.

The Congress parliamentary strategy group has, meanwhile, called a meeting tomorrow to finalize the plan for the special session of Parliament. The Congress has been seeking an all-party meeting on the issue and has demanded a freeze on the Lok Sabha's 543 MPs' strength for another 25 years by amending Article 82 of the Constitution.

This Article freezes the House numbers till 2026 and says that the next delimitation will happen after the publication of the first Census taken after 2026.

Unless amended, Article 82 will kick in once the data from the ongoing census is published. The larger Opposition realizes that if delimitation is done on the basis of new population data, the southern states and those that have done well on family welfare will stand to lose a lot.

It is in this window that the government's proposal of a flat 50 per cent raise in seats of all states over and above their current numbers may fit in.

The eight-member NCP-SP in the Lok Sabha has already indicated support for the 50 per cent raise suggestion. The government leaders say a 22-member DMK may also come on board.

"The government can fill the gap that is left by managing some abstentions and bringing down the House effective strength at the time of voting," said a senior Opposition leader. It remains to be seen what stand the larger Opposition and the Congress take on the matter, which the BJP-led NDA, with women electorate in mind, is pitching right ahead of a seven-state Assembly election cycle next year.

(Source: TNS)

Major storm batters U.S. on Thanksgiving holiday; 400 flights cancelled

hard hit, according to tracking website PowerOutage.

At airports, nearly 400 flights were canceled and over 2,000 were delayed in the United States, mostly in the East, figures from FlightAware showed.

New York's famed parade, which sees brightly colored balloons travel through the heart of Manhattan, was pushed back to Saturday (November 28, 2026) due to what organizers said was an "abundance of caution."

Millions of people typically gather to catch a glimpse of the festivities. The only other time the parade was not held on Thanksgiving Thursday was when it was canceled for three years during World War II.

Organizers would have been only too aware of the gusting winds that wrecked the parade back in 1997 when a careening 18-foot figure of the "Cat in the Hat" toppled a lamppost, knocking one bystander unconscious.

"While we are heartbroken that our parade was postponed, the safety of our partners, the safety of our participants - and spectators - is and always will be our top priority," said Macy's parade executive producer Will Coss.

While flooding was reported up and down the East Coast, impacts were also felt inland, with powerful gusts and inundated soil leading to trees tumbling over onto power lines and homes.

Authorities in the Maryland suburbs of the US capital, worried about the impact of power outages on the water treatment network, asked nearly two million customers to conserve tap water consumption.

Officials urged people to limit road travel, while several major bridges were closed due to high winds.

New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill, who declared a state of emergency Wednesday over the weather, urged residents to take precautions to stay safe.

"Keep your devices charged, report power outages directly to your utility provider, and stay away from downed power lines," she wrote on X.

Some people improvised to still enjoy Thanksgiving, which is traditionally marked by gathering with family around a large meal, with turkey as the centerpiece.

"No electricity? No problem," celebrity chef Jose Andres wrote on X, alongside a video of a candlelit dining room and lobsters cooking on a gas-powered stove.

The east coast disruption came as Californians also suffered weather woes this week with massive waves battering the coast, prompting evacuations in some areas and soaking San Francisco. (Source: Agencies)

Brar makes his Test debut and doesn't take long to take maiden wicket

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

CHRISTCHURCH (TIP): A great day for Gurnoor Brar, by all means. On Friday, Nov 27, the fast bowler from Punjab finally made his Test debut for India after receiving his Test cap from none other than Jasprit Bumrah. With that, he became the 321st player to represent the team in Test cricket.

"It takes a lot of hard work, dedication and sacrifices to get this cap. Please keep this cap with utmost respect and keep this honour really high," Bumrah told him.

And Gurnoor didn't take long to impress. He trapped Devon Conway in front of the wickets for 31 to provide India with the breakthrough after Shubman Gill won the toss and decided to have a field at Christchurch in the second and final Test of the series. Gurnoor received his maiden call-up earlier this year for the one-off Test against Afghanistan; however, he didn't make it to the Playing XI. He was also part of the team for two Tests against Sri Lanka in August, but again he didn't feature in any of those games.

Gurnoor had a great ODI series before the Test rubber in the Antipodean nation. He took nine wickets in three games to help the visitors to a 3-1 victory and was rightly chosen Player of the Series.

The 26-year-old made his ODI debut against Afghanistan in June, after which he featured in matches against England, West Indies and the Blackcaps. In one of his memorable red-ball performances this year, he took a 10-for for India A against hosts Sri Lanka A in a thumping win at Galle and guided his team to a 1-0 series win. Last month he played two games for Punjab in the Ranji Trophy.

Test cricket is Gurnoor's favourite format, and one hopes over time he develops into a fearsome bowler. Many believe he can be the next Bumrah. Gurnoor has a lot of things going for him. He is very tall, around 6'5", and has genuine pace. One really hopes that he lives up to expectations.



Gurnoor Brar, the fast bowler from Punjab finally made his Test debut for India after receiving his Test cap from none other than Jasprit Bumrah.

'Hard to believe': Mohammed Siraj's exclusion surprises Sunil Gavaskar, Mohammed Kaif and Murali Kartik

Mohammed Siraj was once again left out of India's playing XI as the second and final Test between India and New Zealand got underway at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Friday, Nov 27. Former India players Sunil Gavaskar, Murali Kartik and Mohammed Kaif weighed in on the pacer's exclusion, saying the call was "tough" on the speedster.

For the second Test against New Zealand, India made just one change to their playing XI from the series opener, bringing in Gurnoor Brar in place of Prasidh Krishna. This meant that spin allrounder Ravindra Jadeja was also kept out of the line-up, with Washington Sundar playing ahead of him.

Before the start of play, Gavaskar said since the first Test at Wellington most people were talking about Siraj's exclusion but not Jadeja's.

"You're talking about Siraj. What about Jadeja? I do believe that his spin would have been pretty useful on the fourth and fifth days because he gives the ball a fair tweak. He's not somebody who will toss the ball up, but he's known to get the ball to grip and turn, even on the most placid of pitches," Gavaskar told the broadcaster.

"So, I think it's tough for him as well as for Siraj. Now, Siraj is among the top wicket-takers in the cycle. So, let's wait and see. The way I've always seen it is that whatever reservations you might have about the XI, the 14 or the 16, once the team is selected, it is your team and my team. It's an Indian team. So, I back this team now that they've picked this playing XI, and I'm praying that this team does well," he added.

Former India spinner Kartik didn't hold back, saying if the team felt that the pacer's form wasn't ideal, then he shouldn't have been on the tour.

After the first Test in Wellington ended in a draw, India captain Shubman Gill had hinted that Siraj was dropped owing to his current form. However, he admitted that the call was tough to make.

Former India batter Kaif echoed the same sentiment. According to him, whenever India are travelling, Siraj should be one of the first names to be picked in the Playing XI.

"Hard to believe, as one of India's premier fast bowler Mohammed Siraj is dropped again. Siraj should be one of the first names considered in India's overseas Test bowling attack, alongside Bumrah. Interestingly, bowling coach Morne Morkel himself called Siraj a world-class bowler and said he was bowling well," Kaif wrote on X.

Bournemouth, AC Milan record comeback victories in Europa League

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

SPAIN (TIP): Ten-man Bournemouth fought back to maintain their 100-per cent record in the Europa League with a 2-1 victory at Celta Vigo on Thursday, Nov 26, while AC Milan overturned a two-goal deficit to defeat Olympiakos.

The fifth round of matches was overshadowed by clashes between Georgian police and Besiktas fans, which caused the Turkish club's match against Israeli side Hapoel Beer-Sheva in Batumi to be temporarily suspended.

Marco Rose's Bournemouth notched a 10th successive win in all competitions despite finding themselves a goal and a man down in Spain.

The Premier League club, playing in Europe for the first time, now sit two points clear at the top of the 36-team table from second-placed Juventus, who saw off Cypriots Omonia 4-1 in Turin.

"My team, with one player down and 1-0 down, and this kind of energy and spirit -- this is quite remarkable and amazing," said Bournemouth boss Rose.

"Sometimes I have the feeling with this team (that they) don't even need a coach."

Bournemouth could secure a top-eight finish and a last-16 berth when they host Viktoria Plzen, 4-0 winners over Benfica on Thursday, in two weeks' time.

Celta struck first in the 19th minute as Bournemouth allowed 39-year-old Iago Aspas time and space in the box to score his first goal since August.

The visitors were dealt another blow just three minutes later when Bafode Diakite was sent off following a VAR review for a tackle on Couhaib Driouech.

But the Cherries pulled themselves level two minutes after half-time as Alvaro Rodriguez headed in Amine Adli's cross. The 10 men completed a remarkable turnaround with 12 minutes to play when Rayan slotted home Marcus Tavernier's square pass to cap a quick counter-attack.

Ruben Amorim's Milan, who had lost three of their opening four matches, gave their hopes of avoiding an embarrassing early exit a boost with a 4-2 victory at Olympiakos. Milan were facing another huge blow to their bid to reach the knock-out phase when they were trailing to a Mike Maignan own goal and Joao Silva's 49th-minute strike.

India A knocked out of Asia Cup Rising Stars after loss to Sri Lanka A in semis

NOVEMBER 27, 2026

DOHA (TIP): A spirited Sri Lanka A rode on centuries from openers Lasith Croospulle (116) and Sineth Jayawardene (105) to decimate a star-studded India A by eight wickets and reach the Asia Cup Rising Stars final here on Thursday, Nov 26.

Both Croospulle and Jayawardene received early reprieves in the form of dropped catches and made India A, which had several international cricketers at its disposal, rue those mistakes.

India A's 317 for eight looked competitive at the halfway mark, but a ruthless approach on a flat deck under lights by Jayawardene, the more belligerent of the two, and Croospulle left the Indians scrambling for answers.

Jayawardene (105 off 70 balls; 10 fours, 6 sixes) and Croospulle (116 off 107 balls; 12 fours, 3 sixes) put India A to the sword with a 174-run opening stand that laid the foundation for a comprehensive win. Sri Lanka A completed the chase in the 42nd over, reaching 318 for two.

Nishan Madushka (58 not out) and Pavan Rathnayake (31 not out) finished the job with an unbeaten 53-run stand for the third wicket, after Madushka had added 91 runs with Croospulle for the second.

India pacer Harshit Rana (7-0-61-1), who was making a comeback, conceded 50 runs in his first six overs, while the other bowlers too struggled to maintain control.

Rana induced a leading edge off Croospulle's bat on the first ball of the innings, but the ball fell short of skipper Tilak Varma at mid-off. On the first ball of the second over, Jayawardene got another reprieve when his shot burst through Tanush Kotian's hands at backward point.

With luck on their side, the Sri Lankan pair unleashed a flurry of boundaries against India's frontline bowlers, crossing the 50-run mark in the fifth over and 100 in the 13th.

Jayawardene was particularly severe on Arshad Khan, smashing the left-arm seamer for two sixes and as many fours in the fourth over to plunder 21 runs. Sri Lanka never looked back.

Earlier, Shahbaz Nadeem provided a late impetus to a faltering innings with an unbeaten 54 as India A posted 317 for eight. Nadeem struck four sixes in his 48-ball knock and shared a 73-run seventh-wicket stand with Tanush Kotian (28), helping India recover from a precarious 235 for six to post a challenging total.

The partnership rescued India after their innings threatened to lose momentum following the dismissals of skipper Tilak Varma (53) and Abhishek Sharma (78), who had laid the foundation for a big score.

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