



NOTICE

HAPPY VAISAKHI

The INDIAN PANORAMA

Will bring out a profusely illustrated special edition to mark Vaisakhi- the Harvest Festival of Punjab and the Birth of the Khalsa (the Sikhs) on April 11, 2025.

Articles and advertisements may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by April 6, 2025.

For any questions, please call +1 646-247-9458, or email to editor@theindianpanorama.news

INSIDE

THE DANGER OF EXECUTIVE OVERREACH: THE CASE OF DROPPING CORRUPTION CHARGES AGAINST MAYOR ERIC ADAMS PAGE 2

MISSING: INDIA'S COMIC SENSE PAGE 8

PERILOUS AND CHAOTIC, TRUMP'S 'LIBERATION DAY' ENDANGERS THE WORLD'S BROKEN ECONOMY - AND HIM PAGE 9

PARLIAMENT CLEARS WAQF AMENDMENT BILL



Photo caption: Parliament in the wee hours of Friday, April 4, 2025, morning cleared the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, after nearly 14-hour debate in Rajya Sabha by 128 members voting in favor and 95 against.

APRIL 4, 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): Parliament in the wee hours of Friday, April 4, 2025 morning cleared the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2025, after nearly 14-hour debate in Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favor and 95 against. The government maintained that the law is not directed against the Muslims.

CONTD ON PAGE 34

Trump slaps 26% 'discounted reciprocal tariff' on India in major trade move

COMMERCE MINISTRY ANALYZING IMPACT OF US TARIFF ON INDIA; IT'S MIXED BAG, NOT SETBACK, SAYS A SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks on tariffs in the Rose Garden at the White House in Washington, DC, April 2, 2025

APRIL 3, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US has announced 2 percent reciprocal tariffs on India saying New Delhi imposes high import duties on American goods, as the Donald Trump administration aims to reduce the country's trade deficit and boost manufacturing.

The move is expected to impact India's exports to the US. However, experts say that India is better-placed than its competitors who also face increased levies.

President Trump, in a historic measure to counter higher duties on American products imposed globally, announced reciprocal tariffs on about 60 countries.

"This is Liberation Day, a long-awaited moment. April 2, 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn, the day America's

CONTD ON PAGE 34

New York City Mayor Eric Adams' historic federal corruption case has been dropped



Today we turn the page: Eric Adams addresses dismissal of corruption case NBC Screenshot

APRIL 2, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Judge Dale Ho has agreed to the U.S. Department of Justice's request to drop the charges against Adams, but he did so "with prejudice." That means Adams

cannot be re-tried on the same charges at a later time - a stipulation the Justice Department sought in its initial request to dismiss the case.

The decision to formally drop the case comes after Judge Ho appointed Paul Clement as a "friend of the court" to present arguments over the DOJ's request. The initial hearing on the request did not include anyone who opposed the move.

CONTD ON PAGE 20

Indian-American lawmakers criticize Trump's reciprocal tariffs, call them 'reckless'

APRIL 3, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Describing US President Donald Trump's tariff announcements as "reckless and self-destructive," Indian-American Congressmen on Wed, April



Photo caption: Indian-American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, and Ami Bera.

2, alleged that he is trying to destroy the country's economy with his Liberation Day tariff, reports Lalit K Jha.

"Trump is literally trying to destroy our economy with Liberation Day. Tariffs slapped overnight. No strategy, no consultation, no Congressional input. What does this mean? Prices are going to go up," Congressman Ro Khanna said. There is total uncertainty, he said, adding that businesses don't know whether to invest, and the stock market is down.

CONTD ON PAGE 34



Prime Minister Mark Carney announced "25% tariffs on all vehicles imported from the United States that are not compliant with CUSMA," using the Canadian acronym for an existing North American free trade agreement

Photo / The Canadian Press

Canada Retaliates; imposes 25% tariff on some U.S. auto imports

APRIL 04, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Canada said it would impose a 25% tariff on tens of thousands of vehicles imported from the United States, retaliating against U.S. President Donald Trump's levies that came into effect on Thursday, April 3, 2025. Prime Minister Mark Carney announced "25% tariffs on all vehicles imported from the United States that are not compliant with CUSMA," using the

CONTD ON PAGE 34



Andy Singh 516-441-7000 16 E. Old Country Road Hicksville, NY 11801

E-mail: herman@omnimortgage.com



OMNI MORTGAGE CORP. Residential | Commercial | SBA Loans



Herman Singh 718-441-7000 118-18 101 Avenue Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Registered Mortgage Broker- NYS Dept of Financial Services Loans arranged thru 3rd party providers

**PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER:**

Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Chitagam Saluja

**CHIEF EDITOR:**

Prof Indrajit S. Saluja

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:**

Bidisha Roy

**SPL. REPORTER UNO:**

H.S. Panaser

**GRAPHICS DIRECTOR:**

Om Parkash Malik

**DIRECTOR****ADMINISTRATION:**

Gauri Beri

**CONTRIBUTING****PHOTOGRAPHERS:**

Baldev Singh / BJ Videos  
 Gunjesh Desai / Masala Junction  
 Jay Mandal,  
 Mohammad Jaffer,  
 SnapIndia  
 Mohammad Shahzad,  
 Zia Khan,  
 Nisha Rani  
 Vaaho Photographers,  
 Vijay Shah - Photo Journalist.

**CORRESPONDENTS :****SACRAMENTO:**

Parminder S. Aujla

**NEW YORK :**

Chitagam

**FRESNO:**

Tarlochan Singh

**DALLAS:**

Harjit Dhesi, Amarjit Dhillon

**OVERSEAS CORRESPONDENTS****LONDON**

Nirpal Singh Shergill

**SPL CORRESPONDENT****DELHI BUREAU CHIEF:**

Chandan Singh

**CHANDIGARH:**

Manjit Sidhu

**LUDHIANA:**A.S. Arora,  
R.P.Sharma**JAIPUR :**

Dr. Yashpaul Goyal

**DALLAS BUREAU CHIEF & VP**

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South  
 Richmond Hill, NY 11419,  
 Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

## DISCLAIMER

THE INDIAN PANORAMA ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CLAIMS MADE IN ADVERTISEMENTS. WE ONLY SELL SPACE. VIEWS PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE NEWSPAPER. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IN WRITING FROM THE INDIAN PANORAMA IS PROHIBITED.

## COMMENT

# The Danger of Executive Overreach: The Case of Dropping Corruption Charges Against Mayor Eric Adams

By Indrajit Saluja



The American democratic experiment, as envisioned by the founding fathers, was predicated on a system of governance rooted in the principle of checks and balances. By distributing power among three co-equal branches—the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary—they sought to protect the nascent republic from the concentration of power that had led to tyranny in the old world. In their wisdom, they foresaw the dangers of an overreaching government and ensured that no single branch could function without being held accountable by the others.

But this balance, once the pride of the American system, now appears dangerously frayed. The second term of President Donald Trump has brought into sharp focus the creeping and now galloping-centralization of power in the Executive branch. The recent decision by the Trump administration to drop the corruption case against New York City Mayor Eric Adams exemplifies this alarming trend. In doing so, the administration has not only overridden serious investigative processes but also ignored the collective voice of public opinion. The implications of this are profound and deeply troubling.

This isn't just about one case or one mayor. It is about the slow erosion of democratic norms and the growing tendency of the Executive to function as judge, jury, and kingmaker. A few months ago, The Indian Panorama noted with concern that the United States—often described as the world's greatest democracy—was increasingly beginning to resemble an oligarchy, one in which power is concentrated in the hands of a few, with minimal regard for transparency, fairness, or the rule of law. That warning rings even louder today.

In democratic societies, the rule of law is paramount. The judiciary serves as the guardian of that law, ensuring that no individual—however powerful—is above it. When the Executive branch interferes with or outright nullifies judicial processes, it undermines the very foundation of democracy. The dropping of serious corruption charges against a political figure—particularly one seen to be close to or useful to the ruling administration—raises disturbing questions. Was the decision based on merit, or was it a politically motivated maneuver aimed at consolidating influence and rewarding loyalty?

It is worth remembering that the charges against Mayor Adams were not trivial. They involved serious allegations of misuse of public funds, campaign finance violations, and unethical associations with foreign

entities. Federal investigators had spent months building the case, collecting evidence, and issuing subpoenas. The public, too, had taken note, with numerous editorials, civic organizations, and watchdog groups calling for accountability and a fair trial. Yet, in one sweeping move, the Trump administration's Department of Justice dropped the charges—without a satisfactory explanation, and certainly without public consultation.

This is not an isolated incident. In recent months, we have witnessed a disturbing pattern: presidential pardons being issued not as acts of mercy or justice, but as political tools. Allies, donors, and former aides—many of them convicted on serious charges—have found themselves the beneficiaries of executive clemency. Meanwhile, critics and whistleblowers face relentless persecution. The message is clear: loyalty is rewarded, dissent is punished.

This weaponization of executive power threatens to fundamentally alter the nature of American democracy. When the President can bypass the judicial process to protect political allies, when legal accountability becomes a matter of partisan convenience, and when public institutions are turned into instruments of personal power, we move from democracy towards autocracy.

The danger is not merely theoretical. History offers grim lessons. Democracies do not fall overnight; they erode slowly, often under the guise of patriotism, strong leadership, or "draining the swamp." Institutions are hollowed out from within, norms are discarded, and power becomes increasingly centralized. By the time the public awakens to the change, it is often too late.

The Founding Fathers envisioned a government "of the people, by the people, and for the people." But today, we must ask: whose government is this? When public opinion is ignored, when legal processes are subverted, and when transparency is sacrificed at the altar of partisanship, we risk becoming a government of the few, by the few, and for the few.

Some may argue that the President is acting within his legal authority. Technically, perhaps. But legality is not the same as legitimacy. A president has the legal power to pardon, to appoint judges, and to

direct federal prosecutions. But how those powers are exercised determines the moral and democratic legitimacy of the administration. Power wielded without restraint or accountability—even if legal—can still be tyrannical.

In a functioning democracy, the legitimacy of action is derived not just from the Constitution, but from public trust. When that trust is broken—as it has been in the case of the Adams investigation—governance becomes coercive, not consensual.

**SO WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

**FIRST**, the people must stay vigilant. Democracy is not self-sustaining; it requires constant engagement from its citizens. Silence and apathy are the allies of autocracy. Every time the Executive oversteps, it must be challenged—not only in courtrooms, but in town halls, newsrooms, and in the ballot box.

**SECOND**, the media must continue to serve as the fourth estate, holding power to account. In an age of misinformation and manufactured narratives, investigative journalism remains one of the most powerful tools to expose corruption and abuse of power.

**THIRD**, institutions must resist co-optation. From federal prosecutors to career civil servants, from judges to election officials, those who serve the public must remember their duty is to the Constitution, not to any political figure.

**LASTLY**, it is up to Congress to reassert its constitutional authority. The legislative branch must no longer be a silent spectator to executive overreach. Through oversight hearings, subpoenas, and legislation, it must reclaim its role as a check on the presidency.

The United States has long stood as a beacon of democracy for the rest of the world. But that reputation is at risk. The dropping of corruption charges against a politically connected mayor may seem like a minor skirmish in the broader political battlefield. In truth, it is a warning flare—a sign that democratic norms are being sacrificed for expediency and control.

The question before us now is stark: Will America wake up to the danger? Or will it continue to drift into complacency, only to awaken one day and find the democratic republic it cherished has quietly given way to oligarchy—or worse, dictatorship?

History is watching. So are the people. The soul of American democracy depends on what we do next.

# Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) Celebrates 75th Rajasthan Diwas & 25th Holi Sneh Milan with a Grand Cruise Event



Dr. Varun Jeph, the outgoing Deputy Consul General of India in New York and his family were given a warm welcome on their arrival for the 75th Rajasthan Diwas celebration & the 25th Holi Sneh Milan on a cruise by RANA officials led by RANA President Prem Bhandari

**MARCH 30, 2025**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) New York, one of the most influential and largest organizations representing Rajasthanis outside Rajasthan, hosted a spectacular celebration marking the 75th Rajasthan Diwas and the 25th Holi Sneh Milan. The grand event took place aboard a cruise and was attended by over 400 distinguished guests, making it a truly memorable occasion.

## CALL FOR RECOGNITION OF THE RAJASTHANI LANGUAGE

On this significant occasion, RANA President Prem Bhandari voiced his strong displeasure over the continued injustice faced by over 100 million people due to the non-recognition of the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. He expressed deep disappointment that despite a unanimous resolution passed by the Rajasthan State Assembly on August 25, 2003, urging its inclusion, the central government has yet to take action.

Bhandari recalled that this resolution was a direct outcome of RANA's first International Convention, during which a memorandum advocating for Rajasthani's recognition was submitted to the then Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. However, even after decades, this demand remains unfulfilled due to a lack of political will.

## FAREWELL CEREMONY FOR DR. VARUN JEPH



Dr. Varun Jeph being received on the cruise

A farewell ceremony was also organized in honor of Dr. Varun Jeph, the outgoing Deputy Consul General of India, who has been the longest-serving DCG, completing over 3 years and 8 months in office.

Former RANA Presidents-K.K. Mehta, Anand Nahar, Haridas Kotawala, Dr. Narender Hadpawat, and Dashrath Dugara-presented floral tributes to Dr. Jeph, acknowledging his dedicated service to the Indian diaspora.

Prominent diaspora leader Prem Bhandari shared his experiences of working with

Dr. Jeph, praising his round-the-clock availability and unwavering commitment to assisting the Indian community across the 10 states under the jurisdiction of the Indian Consulate in New York. Bhandari commended him for being approachable, accessible, and always willing to help.

## WELCOME TO NEW DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL VISHAL HARSH

The event also welcomed the new Deputy Consul General, Vishal Harsh, and was attended by Indian Foreign Service officers Surender Adhana and Eldos Mathew Punnoose. Many Indian-Americans of Rajasthani origin from the tri-state area actively participated in the celebrations, further strengthening the community's ties.

## CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Celebration time

The evening was filled with cultural vibrancy, as renowned poet Abhinav Shukla mesmerized the audience with his soulful poetry. Adding to the festive spirit, guests participated in the traditional Holi celebration with flower petals, making the event truly special.



Celebration time

Dr. Sharad Kothari, Vice President of RANA, and Neelam Modi, Treasurer of RANA, warmly welcomed the guests. They extended heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Committee and Board Members, emphasizing that the event's remarkable success would not have been possible without their active participation and unwavering support.

The celebration was a testament to RANA's commitment to preserving and promoting Rajasthani culture and heritage while addressing important community issues at an international level.

(Press released by RANA media chairman Dr Ravi Murarka)



Dr. Varun Jeph in his address to the gathering recalled his pleasant experiences with the Indian American community. Standing with him is RANA President Prem Bhandari.

## INDIAN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE AJAY ANAND NAMED TO LEADERSHIP ROLE AT WHARTON



Wharton  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Ajay Anand, Senior Vice President, Global Services, Strategy and Business Services, at Johnson & Johnson, has been named as the inaugural Executive in Residence at the Wharton AI & Analytics Initiative (WAIAI)

**MARCH 31, 2025**

**NEW YORK (TIP):** An

Indian American executive has been named to a leadership role at an inaugural program at the prestigious Wharton School, bringing his industry-leading expertise to advise faculty and mentor students in the field of Artificial Intelligence and analytics.

Ajay Anand, Senior Vice President, Global Services, Strategy and Business Services, at Johnson & Johnson, has been named as the inaugural Executive in Residence at the Wharton AI & Analytics Initiative (WAIAI), a statement issued here said.

The statement added that the Wharton AI & Analytics Initiative is launching the exclusive Executive in Residence program to bring industry-leading expertise into the heart of Wharton's AI research and student initiatives.

Each year, select executives from top organizations will work alongside faculty and students to bridge the gap between cutting-edge AI research and real-world industry challenges.

Anand and Senior Director ERP, Digital & IT Strategy, The Hershey Company, Achim Welter, have been named the inaugural Executives in Residence.

As Executives in Residence, the leaders will advise the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton faculty, helping shape AI research to align with business needs; mentor students, and guide future AI innovators in WAIAI-sponsored projects like the Wharton AI & Analytics Accelerator.

Expressing his enthusiasm for the role, Anand said, "It is an honor to join the Wharton AI & Analytics Initiative as Executive in Residence. I am excited to collaborate with Wharton's esteemed faculty, talented students, and industry leaders to explore the transformative potential of AI and analytics."

# Selected as govt school teacher, youth leaves Oz shores to serve his state, people

**APRIL 3, 2025**

**AMRITSAR (TIP):** Returning from Australia to serve as a government schoolteacher in the rural border belt of Chogawan in Amritsar district, Sukhmandeep Singh's journey isn't just about the several thousand miles he flew. He gave up the lure of earning in dollars and getting a permanent residence permit to return and serve his state and people.

His trials and tribulations began in 2020, when he took the exam hoping to crack the entrance test for selection of government teachers. Sukhmandeep found himself in a fix when the recruitment process got delayed even after the results of the exam were declared. In 2022, he migrated to Australia for higher education and if possible to get a permanent residence permit. But destiny had other plans for him.

Today, District Education Officer (Elementary) Kanwaljit Singh handed Sukhmandeep his appointment letter as a government schoolteacher. He is now set to teach at Government Elementary School, Mahale Ke, a border village in Chogawan block.

"At a time when the youth of Punjab are rushing to migrate wherever their visa application takes them, Sukhmandeep Singh's return to his motherland makes for a stand-out story. He left Australia to join a government job and serve his motherland. All efforts are being made to ensure that our youth, our biggest human resource, come back to Punjab to join government workforce and have a life instead of facing uncertainty," said Kanwaljit Singh, DEO (Elementary).

"I always wanted to serve as a government official and my original plans were to pursue my dream here. But fate intervened, and now, despite the delay, I have finally made it here again. I believe my love for Punjab and its language and culture made it happen," said Sukhmandeep. He said that educated youth from Punjab must try and have a life here itself rather than spend a fortune on pursuing foreign dreams, only to return disappointed. Excited, he immediately said goodbye to Australia upon learning that he had been selected as a government schoolteacher, reaching the District Education



Sukhmandeep Singh (center) being given the appointment letter by district education officials in Amritsar.

Office directly from the airport in Rajasansi, to collect his appointment letter.

DEO Kanwaljit Singh said that the Punjab Education Department is giving appointment letters to teachers on merit basis without any bias. "Many youths are joining the teaching profession, leaving international companies. We are hopeful that this would serve as a good beginning for others as well."

(source: Neha Saini, Tribune News Service)

## Indian-origin sentenced to 9 months in jail for molesting cabin crew on Singapore Airlines flight

**APRIL 2, 2025**

**SINGAPORE (TIP):** A 73-year-old Indian national was on Wednesday sentenced to nine months in prison for molesting four female cabin crew on board a Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight from the US to the city-state, according to a media report.

Balasubramanian Ramesh pleaded guilty to four counts of molestation, while three additional charges-related to one victim he molested on four separate occasions during November 18, 2024, were taken into consideration, according to media reports.

The former manager at a bank in India cannot be caned as he is over 50. For each count of molestation an offender can be jailed for up to three years, fined or caned, or receive any combination of



Balasubramanian Ramesh was on Wednesday, April 2, sentenced to nine months in prison for molesting four female cabin crew on board a Singapore Airlines (SIA) flight from the US to Singapore

Photo for Representation only

such punishments, according to the

report.

Balasubramanian molested the four women over a period of 14 hours during the San Francisco to Singapore flight.

The plane landed at around 6.45pm and a flight supervisor reported the matter to staff members at the SIA control center, who alerted the Singapore police. Officers arrested Balasubramanian later that day, and he was charged in court on November 25, 2024.

On Wednesday, April 2, Deputy Public Prosecutor Ashley Chin urged the court to give Balasubramanian a jail sentence of up to a year and six months, stressing that he had targeted four victims. While defense lawyer Rezvana Fairouse pleaded for a shorter sentence, asserting that her client's offences did not involve skin-to-skin contact.

For advertising in  
[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)  
 Call @ 646-247-9458

## Six Indian Americans on Forbes' 2025 billionaires list



Vinod Khosla, Jay Chaudhry, Jayshree Ullal, Romesh Wadhvani, Rakesh Gangwal, and Aneel Bhusri are the six Indian Americans on Forbes' 2025 Billionaires list

APRIL 3, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** Forbes released its 2025 Billionaires List today, highlighting several Indian Americans among the world's wealthiest individuals. While none has broken into the top 200, their success across diverse industries, including technology, finance, and aviation, underscores their growing influence in the global economy.

Among those listed is Vinod Khosla,

the founder of Khosla Ventures and co-founder of Sun Microsystems, with an estimated net worth of \$7.5 billion. A veteran in Silicon Valley, Khosla has played a key role in nurturing technology startups and advancing innovation in artificial intelligence and sustainability.

Jay Chaudhry, the CEO of cybersecurity firm Zscaler, boasts net worth of \$8.3 billion. Born in a small village in India, Chaudhry's journey

from humble beginnings to billionaire status is a testament to the power of entrepreneurship. His company, Zscaler, has been instrumental in reshaping cloud security for major global enterprises.

Other notable Indian Americans on the list include Jayshree Ullal, CEO and president of Arista Networks, with a net worth of \$4.5 billion; Romesh Wadhvani, founder of Symphony Technology Group, worth \$5 billion; Rakesh Gangwal, co-founder of IndiGo Airlines, with a fortune exceeding \$4 billion; and Aneel Bhusri, co-founder of Workday, with an estimated \$3.3 billion.

Elon Musk is the world's richest individual, with a net worth of approximately \$433.9 billion. He is followed by Jeff Bezos, founder of Amazon, with a net worth of \$239.4 billion, and Mark Zuckerberg, co-founder of Facebook, with \$211.8 billion.

A record 3,028 people around the globe make Forbes' annual World's Billionaires list this year, 247 more than last year. It's the first time the billionaire population has crossed 3,000 marks. They're worth a record \$16.1 trillion in all, \$2 trillion more than a year ago and more than the GDP of every country in the world besides the U.S. and China. The average fortune now stands at \$5.3 billion, up \$200 million from 2024.

### INDIAN AMERICAN PROFESSOR RAMESH AGARWAL TO RECEIVE AWARD FOR INNOVATION IN AEROSPACE



Ramesh Agarwal will receive the 2025 John J. Montgomery Award for Distinguished Innovation in Aerospace from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

APRIL 3, 2025

**ST. LOUIS (TIP):** Ramesh Agarwal, an Indian American professor at Washington University in St. Louis, will receive the 2025 John J. Montgomery Award for Distinguished Innovation in Aerospace from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Agarwal, the William Palm Professor of Engineering in the McKelvey School of Engineering, will receive the Montgomery award at the upcoming ASME SSDM Conference on May 5-7 in Houston.

The Montgomery Innovation Award recognizes the outstanding contribution of an individual engineer in the international community who has researched, designed and/or developed new technologies or equipment for the aerospace industry, such as propulsion, aerospace structure/materials, and stability and control.

Recipients are chosen for having significantly contributed to aeronautics and astronautics and to the larger engineering community. Awardees have demonstrated originality, forward-thinking and a thirst for innovation and have helped to revolutionize the industry and open the door for greater progress in the field.

Prior to joining WashU in 2001, Agarwal was chair of the aerospace engineering department at Wichita State University from 1994 to 1996 and the executive director of National Institute for Aviation Research from 1996 to 2001. From 1994 to 2001, he was also the Bloomfield Distinguished Professor at Wichita State University.

Previously, Agarwal worked in various scientific and managerial positions at McDonnell Douglas Research Laboratories in St. Louis, at NASA Ames Research Center and at Rao and Associates.

Agarwal has worked in computational fluid dynamics (CFD), computational magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) and electromagnetics, computational aeroacoustics, multidisciplinary design and optimization, rarefied gas dynamics and hypersonic flows, bio-fluid dynamics, and flow and flight control.

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

## Indian-origin Avinandan Mukherjee named as new provost by Georgia Southern University

APRIL 3, 2025

**STATESBORO, GA (TIP):** Georgia Southern University has announced the appointment of Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee, Ph.D., as its next provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. Mukherjee will assume his new role on July 1, bringing with him over 16 years of leadership experience in higher education.

Mukherjee, a seasoned academic leader, has held key positions including provost and chief academic officer at a public research university, dean of two AACSB-accredited business colleges, and department chair of marketing. His global academic experience spans teaching at undergraduate, MBA, executive MBA, and doctoral levels in the U.S. and abroad.

"Dr. Mukherjee's extensive experience in academic leadership, global perspective, and commitment to discovery and innovation make him an outstanding choice to serve as our next provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs," said Georgia Southern University President Kyle Marrero. "His vision for academic excellence, research advancement, and student success perfectly aligns with Georgia Southern's values."

Mukherjee joins Georgia Southern from Marshall University, where he has served as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs since 2022.



Avinandan (Avi) Mukherjee, Ph.D. has been named as the next provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs by Georgia Southern University

Prior to that, he was the dean of Marshall's Lewis College of Business, where he led strategic transformations. His leadership history also includes serving as dean of the College of Business at Clayton State University and chairing the marketing department at Montclair State University, where he contributed to the development of an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in environmental management.

"It is a great honor to take on this role, and I do so with humility and excitement for the possibilities ahead," Mukherjee stated. "Georgia Southern has achieved tremendous momentum under President Marrero's visionary leadership, and I look forward to becoming part of this transformative journey."

Mukherjee emphasized his commitment to fostering an environment that promotes academic excellence,

student success, and innovative teaching. "Higher education today exists in an evolving landscape that requires innovation, adaptability, and resilience. I look forward to collaborating with faculty, staff, students, and stakeholders to navigate this dynamic landscape together."

A distinguished scholar, Mukherjee has taught full-time or as a visiting faculty member in nine countries. His research has been cited over 7,000 times, and he has published extensively in top-tier journals. His scholarly contributions include co-authoring the book *An Integrated Approach to Environmental Management* and serving as founding editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Marketing*.

In addition to academia, Mukherjee has led executive development programs and consulted for corporations in the U.S., U.K., Denmark, India, China, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Malaysia. His leadership roles include serving as president of the Society for Advancement of Management and the Midwest Business Administration Association. Mukherjee holds a doctorate in marketing from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India, with part of his research conducted at ESSEC Business School in Paris and MIT Sloan School of Management. Read full story at [www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)

# NYC HEALTH + HOSPITALS/QUEENS TO RENAME THE PAVILION BUILDING AS "CLAIRE SHULMAN PAVILION" IN HONOR OF THE LATE QUEENS BOROUGH PRESIDENT CLAIRE SHULMAN



Claire Shulman, the first woman to serve as Queens Borough President, began her career as a nurse at Queens Hospital in the late 1940s.  
Photo courtesy of the Shulman family.

**MARCH 27, 2025**

**QUEENS, NY (TIP)**: Following a vote by the health system's Board of Directors, NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens is proud to announce that it is officially renaming The Pavilion building as the "Claire Shulman Pavilion" in honor of the late former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman. Shulman was the first woman to serve as Queens Borough President, a role she held from 1986 to 2002. Her staunch dedication and advocacy began early in her career as a nurse at Queens Hospital in the late 1940s, when she developed a lifelong commitment to improving healthcare services for her constituents. Throughout her tenure as Borough President, she made significant contributions to enhancing healthcare services and resources for Queens

County, resulting in securing more than \$150 million in capital funding for the extensive modernization of Queens and Elmhurst Hospitals in the early 2000s. This major modernization project included the introduction of the Queens Cancer Center of Excellence, one of the first of its kind in the borough. She passed away on August 16, 2020. The renaming of The Pavilion is intended to acknowledge Shulman's lasting legacy and unwavering commitment to accessible healthcare for all New Yorkers.

"Claire Shulman's lifelong dedication to quality healthcare and love of nursing led to her fight to preserve our public hospitals from the threat of privatization in the mid-1990s," said NYC Health + Hospitals President and Chief Executive Officer Mitchell Katz, MD. "Her rugged determination and tireless perseverance secured more than \$150 million in capital funding for a major modernization project and upgrading of both Queens and Elmhurst Hospitals. A longtime ally and ceaseless champion of NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens, she enabled the fulfillment of a dream: a newly modernized facility that would meet the demands of the 21st century. I want to thank the Shulman family for allowing us to honor her legacy and Borough President Donovan Richards for leading the charge."

"Claire Shulman built her entire career around contributing to the betterment of the borough of Queens for the past half-century," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Chief Executive Officer Neil J. Moore, MBA, MPA, FACHE. "Claire began her career as a

nurse working right here in what was formerly known as Queens General Hospital, where she met her husband, Dr. Melvin Shulman, a psychiatrist, and went on to raise a talented and industrious family. Beginning her time in politics as chair of a local community board, she became deputy borough president and eventually landed the job of first female Queens Borough President - remaining in the position for the next sixteen years, and paving the way for the two dynamic borough presidents, Helen Marshall and Melinda Katz, who succeeded her."

"Claire Shulman was much more than one of my predecessors. She was my friend, my mentor and one of my heroes whose career in public service was born at Queens Hospital," said Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr. "Whether it was as a healthcare worker or as the chief executive of our borough, Claire served Queens residents with dignity, grace and determination. She deserves our eternal gratitude and I'm proud to have pushed for this renaming in her honor, as we celebrate her work to both save Queens Hospital during her tenure in office and all she did to make our borough a stronger, healthier place."

"Our mother was deeply committed to the hospital and the critical role it plays in providing excellent healthcare for the people of Queens," said Ellen Baker and Larry Shulman, Claire Shulman's children. "And while she never felt the need to be honored in this way, we feel it is a fitting acknowledgement of her commitment to the hospital and her commitment to quality healthcare for everyone. Thank you so much for

honoring her in this way."

"Queens Hospital held a special place in Claire Shulman's heart," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Chief Nursing Officer Abbi-Gail Baboolal, DNP, FNP, MSN. "One could feel the genuine affection she had for Queens Hospital when she spoke of her days as a student at the Queens Hospital School of Nursing - her first professional job at Queens, where she met her husband, Dr. Melvin Shulman. It was obvious that she was grateful for the role Queens Hospital played in her life, but she gave back to the people of Queens much more than she received."

"Claire Shulman was larger than life: a hero, a fighter for so many underdogs, and always for the just cause," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Chief Medical Officer Dave Holson, MD. "I will be forever proud and appreciative to have known her and to have witnessed her in action. She made it possible for us to pursue our mission-driven approach to healthcare with dignity and respect for all those we serve. More than any other civic leader, Claire was a major player in our hospital's history."

"Claire's fierce dedication in promoting expanding quality, comprehensive healthcare and her tenacious efforts paved the way for Queens Hospital to become one of the premier healthcare providers in the borough, serving some 400,000 patients annually," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Queens Community Advisory Board Chair Robin Hogans.

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

10<sup>TH</sup>-ANNUAL

Supporting:



# VAISAKHI 5K™ RUN

SUNDAY APRIL 27, 2025 @ 8:30 AM • VICTORY FIELD • WOODHAVEN, NY

REGISTER NOW

- Online at [VAISAKHI5K.COM](http://VAISAKHI5K.COM)
- On Sunday at most New York area Gurdwaras
- By Phone at 844-VAISAKHI



**PARAMJIT SINGH BEDI**

**AVTAR SINGH TINNA, D.D.S.**  
**SUMIT PARHAR, D.M.D.**

(718) 291-1200

**SATNAM SINGH PARHAR**  
A VOICE OF THE PEOPLE ★ 516-703-9110



kuldeep  
(516) 448-3393

**BJ SINGH**



Jatinder Singh  
**SinghSellsNY.com**  
516-445-1300



CONTACTS

Dr. Avtar Singh Tinna 718-291-1200 | Satnam Singh Parhar 917-440-3543 | Gurbhinder Singh Brar 718-598-0256 | Sabi Singh 559-242-6545 | Manvir Jaswal 917-893-0786

# Bihar Diwas Celebrated at the Indian Consulate in New York



Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan reflected on Bihar's immense contributions to education, culture, and history-mentioning icons such as Nalanda University, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Aryabhata

MARCH 23, 2025

**NEW YORK (TIP):** The Consulate General of India in New York, in collaboration with Bihar Foundation USA (East Coast Chapter) and the Bihar Jharkhand Association of North America (BJANA), hosted a vibrant and inspiring Bihar Diwas 2025 celebration. The event brought together over 135 distinguished members of the Indian-American community to honor Bihar's rich heritage, remarkable progress, and growing global presence.

strengthen their connection with Bihar and ensure their concerns are addressed effectively.

Hon. Consul General Mr. Binaya Pradhan warmly welcomed the guests and reflected on Bihar's immense contributions to education, culture, and history-mentioning icons such as Nalanda University, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and Aryabhata. In recognition of his continued support and encouragement to the diaspora, Bihar Foundation USA East Coast and BJANA jointly presented a Thank You Award to Mr. Pradhan for his outstanding service and collaboration.

A touching video tribute was also presented in memory of the late Padma Vibhushan Smt. Sharda Sinha, one of Bihar's most celebrated cultural icons. The video, created by her children Vandana Bhardwaj and Anshuman Sinha, featured one of her favorite songs and honored her unmatched musical legacy. Young artists gave heartfelt performances dedicated to her memory, creating an emotionally resonant moment for the audience.

## BIHAR VISHWA GAURAV SAMMAN HONOREES

A major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Bihar Vishwa Gaurav Samman to four remarkable individuals for their exceptional contributions:



Consul General was presented a Memento

FIA), Mr. Sanjeev Singh (President, BJANA), and Mr. Alok Kumar (Chairman, Bihar Foundation USA - East Coast) shared perspectives on Bihar's development and urged the community to continue building strong connections between Janmabhoomi (birthplace) and Karmabhoomi (workplace).

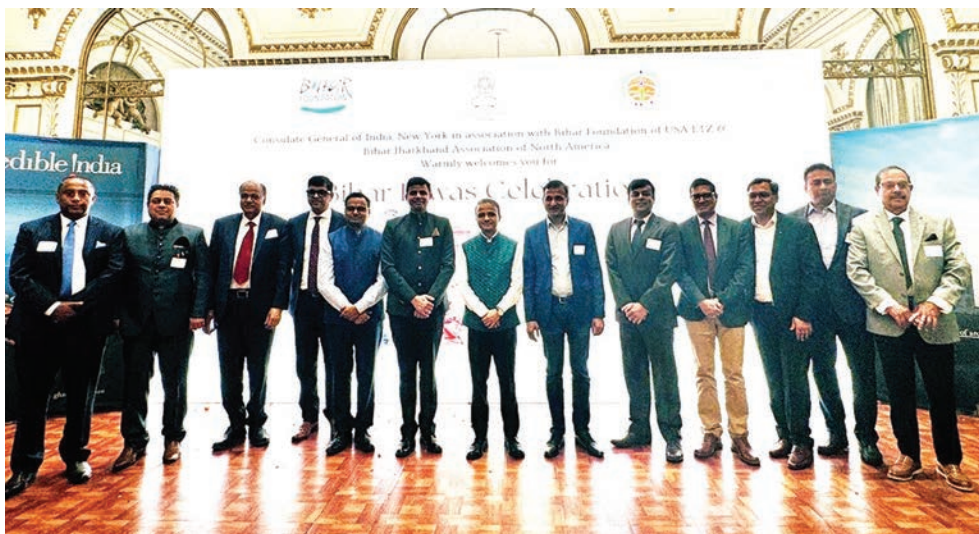
The celebration also spotlighted the upcoming 50th anniversary of BJANA, centered around themes of youth engagement, cultural preservation, and global collaboration.

Bihar Diwas 2025 was not just a celebration-it was a tribute to the spirit



A view of the gathering

of Bihar, a showcase of its global achievements, and a reaffirmation of the community's collective commitment to its bright and promising future.



Honorees and organizers with the Consul General

The celebration commenced with heartfelt messages from Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Samrat Choudhary, who also serves as Chairman of Bihar Foundation, Patna. Shri Choudhary specifically acknowledged Mahesh Kumar, Founder of Tiger Analytics, for helping establish a strong IT presence in Patna and inspiring entrepreneurship in Bihar. He emphasized that "NRIs must give back to their roots and work for their land."

In a special address, Mr. Kundan Kumar, CEO of Bihar Foundation Patna, reaffirmed the organization's strong commitment to the welfare of the global Bihari diaspora. He announced the establishment of a dedicated Grievance Cell to address issues faced by Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), aiming to

- o Mahesh Kumar, Founder of Tiger Analytics - for advancing Bihar's IT and innovation ecosystem.
- o Dr. Abhishek Tiwary, Global Head of People at KPMG - for empowering youth through leadership and opportunity creation.
- o Sharad Kumar, Managing Director at Bank of America - for his excellence in the financial sector and leadership within the diaspora.
- o Dr. Prakash Jha, Agricultural Scientist - for leveraging technology to drive food security and uplift rural communities.

Their inspiring stories underscore Bihar's global influence and the transformational power of its diaspora.

Community leaders such as Dr. Avinash Gupta (President, FIA NY-NJ-CT-NE), Mr. Saurin Parikh (Chairman,

## ATLAS ROLL OFF CORP.

### DISPOSAL SITE

OPEN Monday - Friday 6.30 AM to 4.00 PM  
Saturday 6.30 AM to 1.30 PM

For  
construction  
Debris,  
Demolition  
& Cleanouts



Located at 895 Essex Street, Brooklyn, NY 11208  
Just 5 minutes from JFK



Roll Off Container Service  
10, 15, 20, 30 & 40 Yards

Serving all the five boroughs of New York Since 1983  
NYC BIC LIC #711

Reasonable low rates \*\* All major credit cards accepted

Call @ 718-345-6451

# Missing: India's comic sense



By Aditya Mani Jha

IN THE MIDST OF FIRS, VANDALISM AND OUTRAGE, THERE MUST BE DEBATE ABOUT WHY COMEDY IS STILL A FAIR WAY AWAY FROM BEING A VEHICLE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY

In 2021, I watched the comedian Varun Grover perform in New Delhi. As usual, he had the audience in the palm of his hand. About 10 minutes in, Grover said (in Hindi), "Please understand the chronology. First, I tell the joke, then you laugh and finally, I go to jail." The laughter was muted, not because people didn't understand it, but because they understood it a little too well.

The tension in the room was because back then, the comedian Munawar Faruqui's legal troubles were hogging the headlines. Across January and February, he ended up spending over a month in jail for allegedly making offensive jokes about Hindu deities, a charge for which not a shred of evidence was ever produced.

Four years down the line it's more of the same with Indian comedy. At the time of writing this column, Kunal Kamra had just been slapped with the second, third and fourth FIRs against him this week, after the comedian's allegedly derogatory comments about Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde, cabinet minister Nirmala Sitharaman, et al. The comments happened in the context of Kamra's 45-minute stand-up special Naya Bharat on YouTube, which has received over 11 million views since it was released on March 23. Kamra's Mumbai studio was also vandalized last week by supporters of Shinde's faction of the Shiv Sena.

## PERSECUTING COMEDIANS

In India, comedy is still a fair way away from being a vehicle for social change. And one of the main reasons is that successive Indian governments - both at the state and central levels - have been trigger-happy when it comes to persecuting comedians. A decade ago, in 2015, All India Bakchod (AIB) uploaded a video where they, in conjunction with Bollywood celebrities such as Karan Johar, 'roasted' the actors Arjun Kapoor and Ranveer Singh.

The entire political ecosystem cried obscenity and multiple FIRs were filed against the comedians. AIB finally removed the video from their YouTube page. Since then, through the late 2010s and early 2020s, comedians such as Sanjay Rajoura have faced legal action on the flimsiest of charges. Like in 2016, when the actor and comedian Kiku Sharda was arrested after he did an impression of the religious leader and convicted rapist Gurmeet Ram Rahim, on the TV show Comedy Nights With Kapil.

After Vir Das performed his Two Indias set at Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Centre in 2021, he faced a total of seven police complaints against him in various parts of the country - in Delhi, the complainant was a vice-president of the ruling Bharatiya Janta Party (named, sadly, Aditya Jha). Das also faced lawsuits for "objectionable material"

after his Netflix TV series Hasmukh, about a small-town comedian who becomes a serial killer. Kamra himself has a previous contempt case against him in the Supreme Court, running since 2020.

collective, not a dissent-based culture where individual rights are paramount. And because of this, I don't see individual outlier comedians affecting vital conversations in India anytime soon - the kind of conversations that lead

Pakistan, Bangladesh et al because they come through a system designed to reward compliance and punish dissent.

In my view, Harmison had hit upon something crucial to the discourse, and his point can be extrapolated to the comedic sphere as well. Why would a young, up-and-coming Indian stand-up comedian try to critique, say, caste and religion-based discrimination, or the gender wage gap, or any one of the zillion other problems in our society? If anything, they would be incentivized to swing to the other extreme, to cater to the bigotries and insecurities of the majority.

Can you imagine being a comedian who regularly performs in corporate events in India? Half the people hiring you want nothing else but jokes about their wives' cooking, or jokes about how feminism "has gone too far", or jokes about how you can't catcall women anymore because of "woke culture". The other half of your clientele consists of people who don't actually want you to joke about anything at all. They want the comedic equivalent of white noise, words so anodyne and inoffensive that they kind of blend in with the ambience, like elevator music.

Which isn't to say that actual change cannot be triggered by comedians. In America, basically the entire legal framework for mass-media censorship happened because of one legal case: FCC (Federal Communications Commission) vs. Pacifica Foundation, 1978, ending in a landmark 5-4 ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that upheld the right of the federal government to regulate content over the broadcast airwaves. The case itself only happened because of comedian George Carlin's Seven dirty words monologue, wherein he listed certain swear words that could not be uttered on TV or radio, regardless of context.

Carlin was riffing off his predecessor Lenny Bruce's monologue in 1966, where Bruce reeled off the words he had been arrested for in the past. A conservative activist filed the case against Radio Pacifica for airing the Carlin segment, which eventually brought about this outstanding ruling, rich in both legal and public policy arguments.

You may or may not agree with the U.S. Supreme Court's judgment, but you cannot deny the rigor and the intellectual heft of the exercise. I would urge Indian comedians and politicians to read not only the judgment, but the arguments that preceded it. These are conversations we should be having right now, when the Internet has forever changed how the public consumes information and opinions.

Alas, we would rather file FIRs and vandalize studios than actually do the reading and construct informed arguments.

*(Aditya Mani Jha, a writer and journalist, is working on his first book of non-fiction)*



The maligned and persecuted comedians

Most recently, of course, comedian Samay Raina and podcaster Ranbeer Allahabadia (aka BeerBiceps) were the subjects of an FIR filed after allegedly objectionable jokes made during Raina's paywalled YouTube series India's Got Latent.

Personally, I see this largely as a cultural issue where the standards are very different for India vs. the rest of the world. We are an obedience-based culture focused on the needs of the

to real change.

## SYSTEM DESIGNED TO REWARD COMPLIANCE

Recently, I was watching the former English cricketer Steve Harmison answer a question about cultural differences between Asian and non-Asian cricketers. He replied that it was very tough for young players to be mavericks and rule-breakers in India,

# Perilous and chaotic, Trump's 'liberation day' endangers the world's broken economy - and him



---> By Martin Kettle

WHILE THE PRESIDENT HAS IDENTIFIED THE NEED TO DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY, HIS STRATEGY RISKS A SLUMP, HITTING THE VERY AMERICANS HE CLAIMS TO CHAMPION



President Donald Trump holds a signed executive order during an event to announce new tariffs in the Rose Garden of the White House, Wednesday, April 2, 2025  
CNN Screenshot

It would be "liberation day" in the US, the White House announced. Well, we shall see. Yet even if one puts the noise and nastiness that accompany a Donald Trump announcement to one side - in this case tonight's pronouncement that there will be an executive order announcing "reciprocal tariffs on countries throughout the world", a 10% tariff on the UK and 20% on the EU - the significance of the theatre is hard to miss. Whether they presage the US's liberation, or instead the disintegration of the global trading order, Trump's tariffs add up to an attempt to transform a badly broken economic model. And that is something that affects us all.

Trump's announcement was awash with insult and rambling nonsense. The rest of the world had looted, raped and pillaged, had scavenged and ransacked America - shocking claims if they had come from any other US president, yet water off a duck's back today. But the hard core was there all the same: tariffs on the whole of the rest of the world. The shutters were up.

This threatened trade war will appear to supporters - of whom there were rather fewer this week in some important US electoral contests - exactly like the Maga big bazooka he promised in his inaugural speech in January. "Instead of taxing our citizens to enrich other countries, we will tariff and tax foreign countries to enrich our citizens," he said back then. The new tariffs turn those words into realities.

Even to Trump's opponents, though, the tariffs should be seen as the most important piece of evidence so far that he has American workers on his agenda. Where Joe Biden tried major tax, borrow and spend programs to combat post-Covid economic precarity, Trump is deploying tariffs, ostensibly to the same purpose. There has been speculation that this will be merely tactical, to be quickly lifted or adjusted. Right now, that looks a long way off. For Trump, tariffs are not so much a negotiating tactic as a policy, a new revenue stream and a "made in the USA" commitment.

Before the announcement, markets and foreign governments were jittery. But the uncertainties have not disappeared. Listening to Keir Starmer continue to advocate a "calm pragmatic approach" does not disguise the fact that he knows, as we do, that Trump's approach is the exact reverse. We are in a trade war now, whether we like it or not, and Trump, as the leader of the strongest economy in the world, likes it a lot because he thinks the US will win.

Things may not look so benign, however, when the rubber hits the road. It is inevitable that enthusiasm will be dulled - either among the public or in markets - when the inevitable price hikes

are passed on to consumers, when inflation and the cost of mortgages begin to rise, when real wages remain flat, or when investment stalls and the US economy starts to experience a Trump slump.

All this, though, is speculation about the future, and a lot of it is for the fairly long-term future at that. It takes time for the real economic effects to be felt from a tariff wall of the kind Trump is planning. It is true that the tariffs have to be charged immediately, and that retaliatory tariffs are likely to kick in fast too. Nevertheless, it will be months, if not years, before many US companies or sectors have the confidence and the cash to invest in the way "fortress America" supporters hope. Longer still, maybe, before US car workers or farmers feel truly confident about paying down their debts and spending again.

It makes perfect sense, therefore, to emphasize the uncertainties that Trump has just unleashed. All the more so because of the man himself, as well as the policy. It is hard not to feel, yet again, that part of what drove Trump's decision was the sheer thrill he gets from his power. He glories in the way the world hangs on his every move, as the world must when its largest economy is controlled by a grudge-bearing manchild with guns who governs by decree.

Yet step back a little and it is also apparent that Trump is acting more logically than that. He is acting, albeit in a willful and perverse manner, because the international economic model has been broken. He is responding to something real, namely a global recession that stems most immediately from the combined impact of the

banking crisis of 2008-9 and the Covid pandemic of 2020. This was not something fake or imagined. Nor was it - or is it still - something felt in the US alone, but elsewhere, certainly including Europe and Britain.

The common root of today's economic burden was the overload of debt and credit that caused the banking crash of 2008. That crash was principally confronted by spending massive amounts of public money on quantitative easing. But, just as before the crash, this was money based on credit more than on production or goods. This triggered attempts to square the circle - tax cuts in the US, austerity in Britain, pension cuts in France - which in turn provoked so-called populist responses, such as Trump's election win in 2016, Brexit in the UK, the gilets jaunes in France. But before any of these national responses could resolve, Covid arrived, causing recessions all round, stock-market collapses and a rise in inflation.

Faced with these continuing problems, Trump's response takes the form of tariffs. It is very uncertain whether they will work, even for the US itself. They may also trigger recessions, and the resultant tax and spend policy dilemmas elsewhere, in places such as the EU, Britain, Canada and Japan. In addition, they are likely to widen the gulf between the US and its postwar allies. While Trump talks of liberation, Germany's new chancellor, Friedrich Merz, talks of "independence from the USA".

Trump and Musk have ushered in the era of cataclysm capitalism. But I have a plan to counter it

In his tariffs, Trump is clutching at

straws. He may divert the US's tariff income into orthodox neoliberal tax cuts for corporations and the rich, like him. But his approach can also be seen as an illustration of the limited strategic options that today's democratic political leaders have at their command when faced with economic recession or, worse, depression.

In a recent article in the London Review of Books, Perry Anderson has drawn an illuminating historical contrast with the post-depression 1930s. In the early 1930s, he writes, governments also followed economic orthodoxy with disastrous consequences. Back then, their failure forced the public works programs of the New Deal (and of the Nazis) and then, after emerging from the abyss of war, the postwar establishment of Keynesianism. John Maynard Keynes himself, it is worth noting, was no dogmatic free-trader and was sometimes an advocate of tariffs.

In the 2020s, governments face a comparable dilemma. They, too, have been constrained by an economic orthodoxy that is increasingly difficult to sustain. They, too, have occasionally been forced into interventionist measures such as the Covid furlough scheme.

But beyond that? Trump is no New Dealer; he is the New Deal's sworn enemy. At least he sees the need to do things differently. But his tariffs are the opposite to the new paradigm of political economy that the democratic capitalist world so obviously and urgently craves.

(Martin Kettle is a Guardian columnist)

# Nation's moral fabric is in peril

CITIZENS ARE THE SUFFERERS AS PUBLIC LIFE IS WITNESSING A STEADY DECLINE IN VALUES



---> By Julio Ribeiro

Justice Yashwant Varma, who was recently transferred to the Allahabad High Court amid a cash stash row, has claimed that someone placed the money in the outhouse of his official residence in Delhi in order to frame him. It must have been a very rich person who had planned to frame the judge. Only Justice Varma would be in a position to name him!

A fire was reported at the judge's residence during his absence last month. The police and, of course, the fire brigade were at the scene promptly. Wads of notes were recovered from the outhouse. Some of them were charred, making it difficult for the first responders to count the money - Rs 15 crore is what the public has learnt. It is the figure bandied around on the grapevine, but there is no official take on the amount nor how the money got into the outhouse.

The Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court was informed before others. He informed the Chief Justice of India (CJI), who, in turn, ordered an in-house inquiry by a committee of three judges of different high courts. The CJI has decided to be open about the facts as and when they are reported to him. It is obvious that the CJI wants to hide nothing since he knows that if rumors based on conjectures are allowed to proliferate, the damage being done to the integrity and good name of the institution would harm the very essence of the judicial process system in the country. In fact, much harm has already been done.

The armed forces and the judiciary are the two institutions that the people still respect. The other two pillars of any democratic polity, the legislature and the executive, have gone for a toss. The media, too, has largely capitulated. It no longer performs the task of acting as the eyes and ears of the people which it was wont to do earlier. The judiciary is our sole protector at present. If the judiciary, too, goes the way of all flesh, we as a nation are doomed.

There is an advocate in Mumbai named Raju Z Moray. He writes books on his experiences in courts of the city, including the high court. In his latest book, *Tales of Law and Laughter*, he makes the reader laugh at the foibles of the stakeholders he meets in the HC corridors. But he also subtly hints at the decline in the quality of judges and, worse, the standards of integrity that they were known for earlier.

It is very, very sad that the very concept of honesty is under assault in all departments of the government and public life. When our Prime



We don't know as yet if Justice Varma accepted money. A fair inquiry should reveal the truth.

Photo / ANI

Minister proclaimed that he would not touch tainted money and would not permit others from doing so, many took him at his word. I do not doubt that he has kept to the first part of his promise. The second part should never have been included in the first place. Corruption at the ground level has bested all records. The PM is helpless to combat the menace. He knows it and so do the people.

Entrants to the IAS, the IPS and the judiciary, the three Services which matter the most to the people, primarily used to be men and women of merit and integrity. The subordinate ranks respected them and followed their example to a major degree. Three decades later, electoral battles have become so intense that demands to expand the scope of reservation and relax the age of the candidates for the All-India Services and the Central Class I have led to a situation where someone like Puja Khedkar could walk into the premier Service and that, too, in her home state, even though she was ranked 800-plus in the order of merit! In 1952, when I competed, only 41 were taken into the IAS/IFS and 37 in the IPS.

If the need to win elections eclipses the need to ensure justice and good governance, there will never be any light at the end of the tunnel. People will have to be content with mediocrity and the insidious

corruption that they experience in daily life. It becomes even murkier if justice is dispensed on payment in courts of law.

One of my first postings as an assistant superintendent of police was in Nasik. The district judge, for some reason, took a liking to me. When my superior was on leave and I was temporarily in charge of the district police, a policeman on duty in the tribal area of Surgana raped a woman at a fair. The commotion that followed required the presence of a senior officer to calm tempers. The sessions judge and I were in the Officers' Club when the news reached us. He advised me to leave every other matter on hand and proceed immediately to the scene of the disturbance, which I did.

All sessions judges in the districts where I served were men of great integrity. Our social interaction rested on shared values and a firm belief in justice and the rule of law.

Things have changed drastically in recent decades. All Services that cater to the public have experienced a steady deterioration in standards. The real sufferers are the citizens of our great nation. The irony is that they do not know what has hit them and how the tsunami originated.

We do not know as yet if Justice Varma accepted money. A fair inquiry should reveal the truth. What is certain, however, is that there has

been a steady decline in morals and values in public life. India may rise to the rank of the third-largest economy in the world, but if that is achieved under the shadow of corruption, the self-esteem of our citizens will remain low.

The writ of the Supreme Court on bulldozer justice, for instance, is being openly flouted by the executive in BJP-ruled states. A form of terrorism has taken shape. The State has become a terrorist. In classical terrorism, citizens do not know who is going to be the next victim. The uncertainty keeps him or her on edge constantly.

On the outskirts of Mumbai, a 'patriot' passing by a Muslim house when an India-Pakistan cricket match was being played in Dubai thought he heard a boy raise anti-India slogans. That was enough for the bulldozers to perform their task of destruction as punishment for a crime the boy may or may not have been guilty of. The Supreme Court's diktat was peremptorily ignored!

Where is our beloved country heading? Will we be governed by the rule of law?

*(Julio Ribeiro is a former governor and a highly decorated retired Indian Police Service (IPS) Officer)*



## SRINIKETAN FOUNDATION

An Abode of Success Of Body, Mind, & Soul Through Various Therapies

A 501 © (3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED IN 2015

[sriniketanfoundation2015@gmail.com](mailto:sriniketanfoundation2015@gmail.com)  
[www.sriniketanfoundation2015.org](http://www.sriniketanfoundation2015.org)

VIDUSHI PURNIMA A. DESAI FOUNDER & PRESIDENT



THE COMMUNITY CENTER

143-09 HOLLY AVENUE, FLUSHING N.Y. 11355

DATE: SATURDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 DINNER: 5:30 – 7: 30 P.M

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.



SURESH KETWAROE



VIRENDRA BANKER

MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL EVENING  
RENOWNED VOCALIST & ZEE SA RE GA MA PA  
LITTLE CHAMPS FAME: VASUNDHARA RATURI



SUNNY GILL



RABI S. BHATTACHARYA

CONTACT: PURNIMA A. DESAI: (646) 472-9255 OR VIRNEDRA BANKE: R (347) 337-7601

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EVENT

"SHYAMA SHYAM SHASHTRIYA SUGAM SANGEET SAMMELAN"

ADMISSION: \$21 & V.I.P.

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

Laughing Therapy- Kriya Yoga- Ayurveda-Meditation-Reflexology

Reiki Therapy-Listening Therapy

FOR CHAITANYA- JAGRUTI (AWARENESS & PURE CONSCIOUSNESS)



HEALTH IS WEALTH

# RS approves Prez rule in Manipur amid criticism from Opposition

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Rajya Sabha early Friday, April 4, adopted a Statutory Resolution confirming the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur.

While members across party lines supporting the decision, the opposition slammed the Centre for its failure in controlling the violence in strife-torn state.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed the House that two meetings between the Kuki and Meiti communities have already taken place in Manipur. He hoped a third would take place in New Delhi soon.

"It is true that 260 people were killed in Manipur's violence. But of these 70% were killed in the first 15 days of the outbreak of ethnic clashes," he said.

Shah said no violence in Manipur was reported since November 2024.

The Union government on February 13 imposed President's rule in Manipur under the Constitution's Article 356, four days after chief minister Biren Singh resigned. Under Article 356, both houses of Parliament must approve the proclamation of the President's Rule within two months.

Shah said that under Congress's tenure there were 225 blockades, curfew and even then the prime minister didn't visit the state.

Responding to TMC's charge that women were assaulted in Manipur's



ethnic clash, Shah said the state government didn't take action when women were assaulted in Sandeshkhali in West Bengal and even in RG Kar hospital incident where a doctor was raped and killed.

In West Bengal 250 people were killed in political violence, Shah said.

"From 2004-2014 under Congress's tenure 11,327 cases of violence took place, in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure there is a 70% reduction in violence with only 3,428 such cases," Shah added.

During a discussion, Opposition parties demanded that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi should visit the state at the earliest.

They also demanded a thorough inquiry

into the violence and a white paper be tabled in the Parliament.

Initiating the discussion on a statutory resolution on imposition of President's Rule in Manipur, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said that the Modi government failed in governing the northeastern state despite having a majority there.

"For nearly two years, Manipur has been burning and the government has totally failed in stopping the violence," he said.

Kharge said that while the BJP's "double-engine" government promised stability, it delivered "bloodshed, division, and economic collapse" to the state.

"I would urge the prime minister to visit Manipur, meet the affected people and resolve their issues and set right the law and order situation there," he said.

Kharge said that more than 260 people have died and many displaced since ethnic violence breakout; yet the BJP government watched in silence.

He said more than 4,700 houses have been burnt, 13,000 structures including schools, hospitals and places of worship have been destroyed in the state since 2023.

AAP MP Sanjay Singh of the prime minister for not visiting the state and asked the Centre to restore the election process in the state soon.

Shiv Sena (UBT) Priyanka Chaturvedi said the prime minister must visit the state and help restore the law and order and electoral process. *Source: TNS*



## Supreme Court takes Revanth Reddy to task for 'mockery of 10th Schedule'

The Supreme Court completed the hearing on the disqualification case against 10 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs who switched allegiance to the Congress party in Telangana. The court, however, reserved its decision.

Meanwhile, during the case proceedings on Wednesday, April 2, the court took strong exception to Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's alleged statement made on the Floor of the Assembly regarding the MLAs.

Reddy had reportedly declared that no by-elections would be conducted even if opposition BRS MLAs defected to the Congress. The statement, brought to the court's attention by the petitioners' counsel, prompted sharp criticism from the bench.

A two-judge bench comprising Justice Bhushan R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih rebuked the remark, stating, "If this is said on the Floor of the House, the Chief Minister is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule." The court underscored the significance of statements made in the Assembly, emphasising that they carry greater weight than casual public remarks. "When politicians say something in the Assembly, it has some sanctity," Justice Gavai observed, further noting that such statements could be used in legal interpretation.

The Supreme Court issued a cautionary note, orally advising senior counsel representing the Speaker that such statements should not be repeated in the future. "The court may be slow in issuing contempt notices, but it is not powerless," the bench warned. The controversy surrounding Reddy's statement sparked political backlash, with BRS leaders calling the Chief Minister's remark an attempt to undermine constitutional provisions.

On the other hand, Congress leaders defended Reddy, arguing that his words were taken out of context, who said the Chief Minister was merely making an observation about the current political climate. The case stems from a petition filed by the BRS, urging the Supreme Court to direct the Speaker to expedite the disqualification proceedings against the defected MLAs. The court was informed that despite previous directions from a single-judge bench of the Telangana High Court, which had asked the Speaker to set a timetable within four weeks, the matter had been delayed.

## Rahul slams govt over US tariffs, China dispute; Anurag hits back

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on April 3 criticised the government over the China border dispute and the implementation of US tariffs, prompting sharp rebuttals from BJP MP Anurag Thakur.

Speaking during Zero Hour in the Lower House, Rahul accused the BJP of submitting to foreign powers, claiming it was part of their political heritage. "The question is, what exactly is happening to the 4,000 sq km of territory taken over by China?" he asked.

"I was shocked to see our foreign secretary cutting a cake with the Chinese ambassador... China is occupying 4,000 sq km of our territory. This is a known fact," he stated.

"We are not against normalcy, but normalcy must be preceded by status quo. Our land should be restored to us," he added.

Rahul further alleged that the Prime Minister and President had written to the Chinese leadership, but Indians were learning about this not from their own government, but through the



Chinese ambassador.

"China has occupied 4,000 sq km of our land, 20 jawans were martyred and yet we are cutting a cake with them (Chinese officials)," he remarked.

On the issue of US-imposed tariffs on Indian exports, the Congress leader said, "On the other side, our ally (the US) has decided to levy tariffs on us. This will completely devastate us. What is the Government of India doing about our land, and what will you do regarding these tariffs?"

Quoting former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, he recalled that when asked if her foreign policy leaned left or right, she responded that she stood straight. "The BJP and the RSS have a

different philosophy. They bow their heads before every foreign power. It's not in their culture... But as a government, what are you doing? What are you doing about the tariffs imposed by our ally?" he questioned.

Rahul's remarks triggered strong reactions from the treasury benches, with Thakur countering that those who spoke about India and China had themselves dined with Chinese officials in the past. "Not a single inch of Indian land has been lost to China," Thakur asserted.

He further questioned, "During whose tenure did China take control of Indian territory? Who were the people sipping soup with Chinese officials during the Doklam standoff? Why did the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation receive funds from China?"

Thakur defended the government's handling of the border situation, stating that Indian forces had responded effectively to Chinese actions. "Politicising this issue will not yield anything, but the Congress must answer to the people for the mistakes of the past," he said.

## Small portion of Charminar's minaret collapses

A small section of the minaret of Hyderabad's historic Charminar collapsed on Thursday, April, 3, following heavy rainfall in parts of the city, news agency ANI reported, citing police. No casualties were reported in the incident.

ANI quoted the inspector of Charminar police station as saying, "A small piece of the minaret of Hyderabad's iconic Charminar structure fell off after heavy rain lashed parts of the city. Fortunately, no casualties were reported in the incident." Police added, "This incident occurred today, where a small piece of the minaret fell down due to rainfall, and fortunately, there were no casualties reported."

Moderate to heavy rainfall on Thursday disrupted normal life in several parts of Telangana. According to a PTI report citing the Telangana State Development Planning Society, Narayanpur in Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri district received 97.8 mm of rainfall, while the GHMC head office area in Hyderabad recorded 91 mm.

# PM Modi, Bangladesh's Yunus hold first talks after Hasina's ouster

NEW DELHI/BANGKOK (TIP)

Prime minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh's interim government head Muhammad Yunus met in Bangkok on Friday, April 4, Indian TV channels said, their first talks amid tensions since the ouster of long-time Bangladeshi premier Sheikh Hasina last year.

Ahead of the likely meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in Bangkok, the government has informed the Parliament that it expects that Dhaka will thoroughly investigate violations of human rights against minorities, particularly Hindus, while ensuring justice without justifying any of these killings or arson as "politically motivated."

In a written reply submitted by Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, before the Parliament, the government has said, "The Government of India has taken note of incidents of human rights violations of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and raised the issue with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. On December 10, 2024, the Government of Bangladesh announced in a press briefing that 70 people had been arrested in 88 cases related to attacks against minorities in Bangladesh; subsequent police investigations in January 2025 had verified only 1,254 incidents. As per updated information, over 2,400 minority-related incidents have been reported from August 5, 2024, till March 23, 2025."

The government added, "It is expected that Bangladesh will thoroughly investigate these incidents and bring all



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh chief advisor Muhammad Yunus during a bilateral meeting in Bangkok on Friday, April 4. (ANI)

perpetrators of killings, arson, and violence against minorities to justice without justifying any of these killings or arson as politically motivated."

The government has said these expectations were reiterated during the meeting of External Affairs Minister with Foreign Adviser of Bangladesh, Md. Touhid Hossain on February 16, 2025.

The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh, the government said.

## 'Sonia Gandhi maafi maango': Lok Sabha treasury benches protest Cong leader's remark on govt

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned till 12 noon on April 4 amid high-pitched protest by treasury benches over remarks by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi against the government.

As soon as the House met for the day, members from the treasury benches started raising slogans such as "Sonia Gandhi maafi maango" (Sonia Gandhi apologise) over her remarks against the government.

The opposition benches, too, raised slogans, demanding answers from the government over US tariff imposition.

Speaker Om Birla adjourned the House within minutes till 12 noon.

Hours after the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf Amendment Bill, Gandhi had said the Bill was "bulldozed" through in the lower house.

### Congress set to challenge Waqf Bill in SC

The Congress said it would challenge the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2025, in the Supreme Court "very soon".

In a post on X, General Secretary Incharge of Communication, Publicity and Media Jairam Ramesh recounted several past legal challenges the party has mounted to a range of controversial issues and how they remain pending.

"The INC's challenge of the CAA, 2019, is being heard in the Supreme Court.



The INC's challenge of the 2019 amendments to the RTI Act, 2005, is being heard in the Supreme Court. The INC's challenge to the validity of the amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules (2024) is being heard in the Supreme Court. The INC's intervention to uphold the letter and spirit of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, is being heard in the Supreme Court...

"The INC will very soon be challenging in the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2024," Jairam said.

He said the party was confident and would continue to resist all "assaults" of the Narendra Modi government on the principles, provisions and practices that were contained in the Constitution of India.

## India ranks 36 out of 170 nations on readiness for frontier technologies global

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India ranks 36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies, improving its ranking from last year, according to a UN report.

The 2025 Technology and Innovation Report, issued by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), stated that India ranked 36th in 2024 on the 'Readiness for Frontier Technologies' index, improving its position from 48th in 2022.

The index combines indicators for ICT deployment, skills, research and development (R&D) activity, industrial capacity, and access to finance.

India ranks 99th for ICT, 113th for skills, 3rd for R&D, 10th for industrial capacity, and 70th for finance. Bhutan, India, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, and Timor-Leste improved their positions in human capital due to more years of schooling and a greater share of high-skill employment in their working populations, the report said.

The report further noted that Brazil, China, India, and the Philippines are developing countries outperforming in technology readiness.

"It might be expected that countries with higher per capita GDP are better prepared for frontier technologies. Overall, this is true but... some

countries perform far better than their levels of income may suggest, as indicated by their distance from the regression line of the index score on GDP per capita," it said.

Developing countries need to prepare themselves for a world that is rapidly being reshaped by AI and other frontier technologies. A useful measure in assessing national preparedness to use, adopt, and adapt frontier technologies is the UNCTAD Frontier Technologies Readiness Index.

"Developed countries lead the ranking, but some developing countries, notably Singapore, China, and India, hold prominent positions." The report also notes that China, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States show scientific strength in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The United States leads the world in terms of private investment in AI, at USD 67 billion in 2023, or 70 per cent of global AI private investment. The only developing countries with significant investments were China in second position, with USD 7.8 billion, and India in tenth position, with USD 1.4 billion.

The report noted that AI is expected to reach USD 4.8 trillion in market value by 2033, becoming a prominent force in digital transformation.

# India in history this Week

## APRIL 4 TO APRIL 10

### 04 APRIL



1905 Earthquake in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh kills about twenty thousand people.

1889 Famous Hindi poet, writer, playwright and journalist Makhanlal Chaturvedi is born in Madhya Pradesh.

1910 Philosopher Sri Aurobindo arrives at Pondicherry (now Puducherry) where he opens a Yoga and spiritual center.

### 05 APRIL



1957 For the first time in the country and for the first time in the world after the democratically held elections in Kerala, the Communist Party came to power and EMS Namboodiripad took oath as Chief Minister.



1979 The country's first Naval Museum opened in Bombay (now Mumbai).

1949 Bharat Scout and Guide was established in 1949.

1961 The first Indian drugs and pharmaceutical limited company sponsored by the Government of India was established in 1961.

1964 The Navy celebrated National Maritime Day for the first time in 1964.

2002 India, Myanmar and Thailand agree to complete More-Kalawa-Mandalay road project in 2002.

2017 The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in 2017.

### 06 APRIL

1664 Sikh Guru Har Kishan died on 6 April 1664.

1606 Prince Khusro revolted against his father, the Mughal ruler Jahangir, in 1606.

1919 Mahatma Gandhi called for the first All India strike in 1919 as part of the Civil Disobedience Movement launched against the Rowlatt Act.

1966 Indian swimmer Mihir Sen swam across the Palk Strait in 1966.

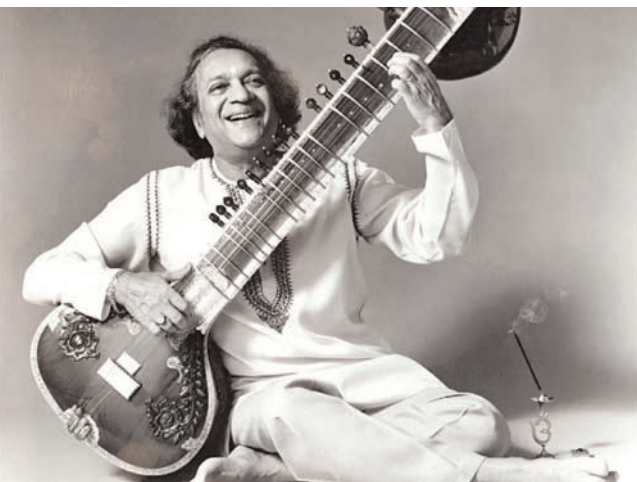


1980 The Bharatiya Janata Party, the political party of India, was established on this day in 1980.

2010 India's Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee and US Finance Minister Timothy Geithner signed an economic partnership agreement.

### 07 APRIL

1920 Famous sitar player Pandit Ravi Shankar was born in 1920.



1948 United Nations Health Affairs Agency World Health Organization was established. That is why today's day is also celebrated as World Health Day.

2000 The Delhi Police uncovered a racket of fixing and betting cricket matches worth crores of rupees in 2000.

### 08 APRIL

1857 On the day of 1857, Mangal Pandey, a soldier of the Barrackpore Regiment of British India, was hanged for the crime of breaching military discipline and murder.

1894 Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the author of

India's national song "Vande Mataram", died in 1894.

1929 On this day in 1929, revolutionary Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in Delhi assembly.

1950 After the 1950 India-Pakistan partition, on this day both countries had entered into an agreement with a view to securing the rights of the minorities living in their respective countries and ending the possibilities of war between the two countries in future.

1831 The famous social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy arrived in England in 1831.

2008 The governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka declared Sikhs as a minority in their state.

### 09 APRIL

1669 Aurangzeb, the emperor of the Mughal Empire, ordered the demolition of all Hindu schools and temples in 1669.



1965 A battle broke out between the Indian and Pakistan Army in the Rann of Kutch.

2004 The Supreme Court of Portugal asked for a re-review of the extradition order of India, the wanted mafia kingpin Abu Salem, in several criminal cases in India.

2011 IIPM Rabindranath Tagore International Peace Prize was announced to Anna Hazare for anti-corruption campaign in 2011.

1893 Rahul Sankrityayan was born, he is given the title of Mahapandit. Rahul Sankrityayan is counted among the leading writers of Hindi. His research on Buddhism is considered epoch-making in Hindi literature.

### 10 APRIL

1894 Birth of Indian industrialist Ghanshyamdas Birla.

1912 Titanic leaves for Southampton harbor in Britain on its first and last voyage.

1995 Fifth Prime Minister of India Morarji Desai passed away with Bharat Ratna.

1875 Swami Dayanand Saraswati founded the Aryasamaj in 1875.

1889 Ram Chandra Chatterjee became the first Indian to fly in a hot balloon in 1889.

1930 Synthetic Rabak was first produced in 1930.

1982 Successful launch of India's multi-purpose satellite "INSAT-1A" in 1982.

2001 Tehran Declaration signed between India and Iran.

1897 Born in 1897 to Prafulla Chandra Sen, a prominent Congress leader of Bengal, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and a freedom fighter.

1894 Birth of Indian industrialist Ghanshyamdas Birla in 1894.



*Homage to Late Pt A. Kanan & Late Bidushi Malabika Kanan*



## Suromurchhana

Presents

# An evening of Indian Classical Music

with

## Two Great Maestros



**Pt. Tanmoy Bose**  
(Tabla)



Padma Shri  
**Pt. Tejendra Narayan Majumdar**  
(Sarod)

Tickets: \$100, \$75, \$50 & \$25

For tickets go to:  
<https://suromurchhana.org>

Saturday 26th April, 2025  
6 pm onwards

at Scandinavia House, New York  
58 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016



Suromurchhana's programmes are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Media partner :

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

Community partner :

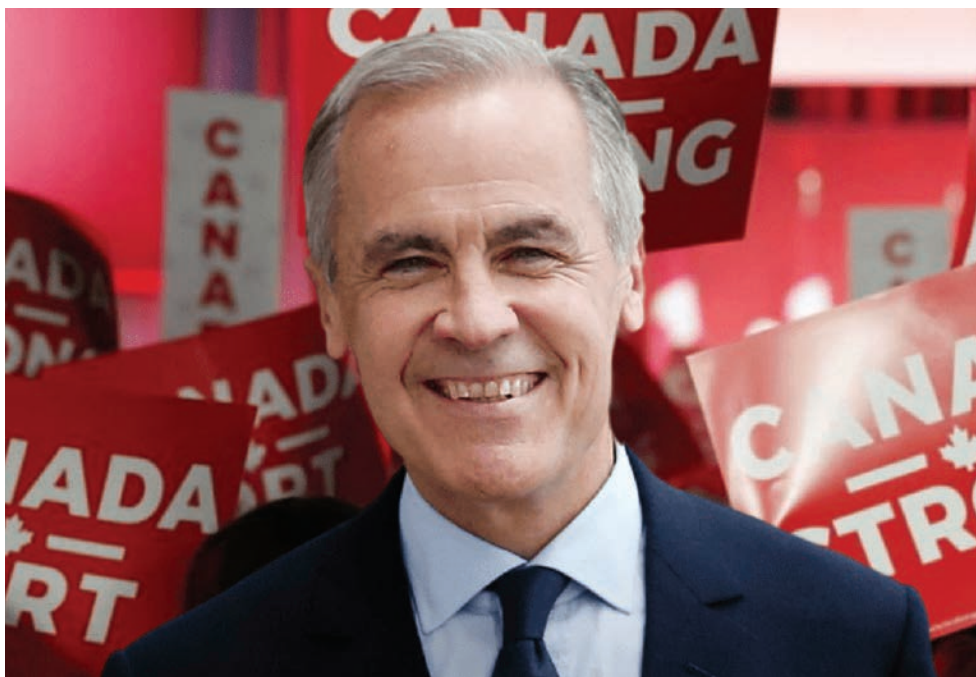


# War of attrition for political supremacy is getting murkier



By Prabhjot Singh

"AS CANADA APPROACHES ITS FEDERAL ELECTION ON APRIL 28, 2025, THE TWO LEADING CONTENDERS, PRIME MINISTER MARK CARNEY OF THE LIBERAL PARTY AND CONSERVATIVE LEADER PIERRE POILIEVRE, ARE UNDER INCREASED SCRUTINY. CARNEY, WHO SUCCEEDED JUSTIN TRUDEAU, FACES ALLEGATIONS OF PLAGIARIZING PARTS OF HIS 1995 OXFORD UNIVERSITY THESIS, WITH CLAIMS OF UNCREDITED USE OF WORK BY SCHOLARS LIKE MICHAEL E. PORTER. HIS PREVIOUS ROLE AT BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT HAS ALSO DRAWN ATTENTION DUE TO THE FIRM'S USE OF TAX HAVENS. POILIEVRE, KNOWN FOR HIS POPULIST APPROACH, HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR HIS PAST SUPPORT OF THE 2022 FREEDOM CONVOY PROTESTS AND ALLEGED FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN HIS 2022 LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN. THESE CONTROVERSIES ADD COMPLEXITY TO AN ELECTION ALREADY INFLUENCED BY U.S. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP'S TRADE POLICIES AND ANNEXATION THREATS."



Liberal Mark Carney

Photo: Liberal International

The war of attrition for political supremacy is getting murkier with allegations and counter-allegations flying high with each of the main political players trying to woo voters with promises of cutting down the cost of living and making life more affordable.

Led by rookie Mark Carney, the ruling Liberals face an uphill task in countering the well-orchestrated campaign of the main Opposition party, the Conservatives.

After two terms of running minority governments, the Liberals are fighting with their backs to the wall. The change of leadership weeks before the electoral battle may have augured well for Marc Carney and his party. But that alone may not be enough to prevent the Conservatives from achieving their single-point agenda of wresting back the power they lost to Justin Trudeau and his Liberals in 2019.

Though Liberals have been rallying behind Marc Carney, he continues to be the target of all Opposition criticism and attacks. He has been accused of plagiarism in his Ph.D. thesis. A national daily came out with a startling revelation in this regard.

A report in the National Post has accused him of taking other people's ideas as his own in the federal election campaign.

"It isn't new," the report said.

The newspaper obtained a copy of Carney's 1995 thesis for his doctorate in economics from Oxford University titled "The Dynamic Advantage of Competition."

It showed 10 instances of apparent plagiarism, according to the judgment of three university academics who reviewed the material.

The newspaper report further says that in several sections of his thesis, Carney used full quotes, paraphrases, or slightly modified quotes from four previous works without proper acknowledgement or attribution.

"He's just directly repeating without quotations. That's what we call plagiarism," said Geoffrey Sigalet, an assistant professor and member of UBC Okanagan president's advisory committee on student discipline, which handles plagiarism cases for the university.

The National Post provided the 10 examples to Carney's campaign team. He was sworn in as prime minister on March 14, and is currently running in an election that will be held on April 28.

Marc Carney heaved a sigh of relief as some academicians came to his rescue. "I believe you are mischaracterizing this work. As an academic of nearly 40 years, I see no evidence of plagiarism in the thesis you cited nor any unusual academic practices," said American economist Margaret Meyer, Official Fellow of Economics at Nuffield College, in the provided statement.

"Mark's thesis was evaluated and approved by a faculty committee that saw his work for what it is: an impressive and thoroughly researched analysis that set him apart from his peers," added Meyer.

Besides the plagiarism controversy, power seekers - Liberals and Conservatives - are sparing no opportunity to convince an average Canadian of their policies and programs through which they promise to make life affordable by cutting down costs of groceries, house rent and taxes.

Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre gestures after speaking at a campaign event in Toronto on April 2, 2025  
Photo: Cole Burston / The Canadian Press

Liberals, NDP and Bloc Québécois have been accusing Pierre Poilievre of benefiting from "external" support in his leadership run a couple of years ago. The accusing fingers point towards India. They have been mounting an attack on the Conservative Leader and Prime Ministerial candidate for refusing to go for security checks that enable the national leaders to get confidential security briefings.

One of the major issues facing Canada is its future relationship with its big brother, neighbor and biggest trade partner, the US, besides trying to rein in immigration and making housing affordable.

Excitement of the immigrant communities in general and the Indo-Canadians can be judged from the number of candidates they are putting up for the April 28 polls.

The response of the Indo-Canadian community is massive. Going by the lists of the contestants makes interesting revelations. Of all political parties, the largest number of candidates of Indian origin are being fielded by the Conservatives. It reveals a visible and significant shift from the Liberals to the Conservatives.

Three of the long-standing members of Indian descent who will be missing from the next house are Harjit Singh Sajjan, Arif Virani (both were Cabinet Ministers in Justin Trudeau's government) and Chandra Arya, an ardent supporter of India.

While Harjit Singh Sajjan and Arif Virani decided to give a miss to the next election, the candidacy of Chandra Arya was revoked by the Liberal Party. Earlier, his candidature for the leadership race, too, was rejected.

*(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with five decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than four decades, besides covering 10 Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis, please visit [probingeye.com](http://probingeye.com) or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye))*

JULY 24, 1937 --- APRIL 4, 2025

# Bollywood's original patriot and veteran actor Manoj Kumar dies at 87

Veteran actor, filmmaker, and writer Manoj Kumar — the man who gave India its most enduring image of cinematic patriotism — died in Mumbai on April 4 at the age of 87. Born Harikrishan Goswami in Abbottabad (now in Pakistan), Kumar wasn't just an actor; he was a movement. He was an emotion.

Inspired by his favourite actor Dilip Kumar's character in the 1949 film *Shabnam*, Manoj Kumar decided to change his stage name.

At the tender age of 10, he and his family were forced to flee to Delhi after the Partition. Amid the chaos, he suffered a personal tragedy—losing his infant brother to the violence.

The veteran star made his acting debut in the 1957 film *Fashion*, where he played a beggar, but the film didn't help him gain any recognition.

During his early days, Manoj Kumar worked as a ghostwriter in various studios, where he earned just Rs 11 per scene.

Long before nationalism became a marketable trend in Bollywood, Manoj Kumar owned that space. He was the poster child of patriotic cinema in India — crafting characters named Bharat and delivering stirring monologues on sacrifice, identity, and love for the motherland that still echo today.

In *Upkar* (1967), inspired by Lal Bahadur Shastri's slogan "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan," Kumar's portrayal of a humble farmer-turned-soldier captured the soul of a young nation. The image of him, wounded and draped in the tricolour, crawling on a blood-soaked battlefield with "Mere Desh Ki Dharti" playing in the background, remains one of Indian cinema's most powerful visuals.

His storytelling continued in *Purab Aur Paschim* (1970), *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan* (1974), and the grand epic *Kranti* (1981). Each film was a reflection of India's evolving identity — tackling issues like cultural erosion, unemployment, and freedom.

Honoured with the Padma Shri in 1992 and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2015, Kumar's influence extended beyond the screen. He became a symbol of what it meant to love your country — without spectacle or propaganda, but with sincerity.

## Manoj Kumar's top iconic Bollywood films

### *Upkar* (1967)

Before Bollywood made patriotism trendy, *Upkar* (1967) had already set the gold standard. Manoj Kumar didn't just direct this film; he embodied Bharat, the farmer-soldier who made self-sacrifice look heroic. The film's anthem, "Mere Desh Ki Dharti," didn't just top charts—it became the unofficial soundtrack of national pride. *Upkar* didn't just win awards; it cemented Manoj Kumar's legacy as "Mr. Bharat," the face of patriotic cinema.

### *Shaheed* (1965)

In the 1965 film *Shaheed*, Manoj Kumar doesn't just play the Indian revolutionary Bhagat Singh—he channels the rebel's fiery spirit with such conviction that it's almost as if Singh himself coached him. This wasn't your typical, sanitised biopic; it was a raw, unflinching look at a man who laughed in the face of colonial oppression and made the ultimate sacrifice before hitting his mid-twenties. The film's soundtrack, featuring lyrics by actual freedom fighters, didn't just tug at heartstrings—it yanked them. *Shaheed* didn't just win awards; it set the bar for patriotic cinema so high that others are still trying to reach it.



### *Purab Aur Paschim* (1970)

*Purab Aur Paschim* explores the cultural dichotomy between Eastern and Western values. Manoj Kumar stars as Bharat, the son of a martyred freedom fighter, who travels to London for higher studies. There, he encounters Indians who have abandoned their cultural roots in favor of Western lifestyles. Bharat's interactions, especially with Preeti (played by Saira Banu), a Westernised Indian woman, highlight the challenges of preserving one's heritage amidst external influences. The film serves as a commentary on identity, patriotism, and the importance of cultural pride.



### *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan* (1974)

In the 1974 film *Roti Kapada Aur Makaan*, Manoj Kumar doesn't just play Bharat; he is Bharat—the educated yet unemployed everyman shouldering his family's burdens while society throws him nothing but curveballs. This isn't your typical sob story; it's a gritty exposé on corruption, moral dilemmas, and the relentless societal pressures that make you question if a college degree is worth the paper it's printed on. With a powerhouse ensemble featuring Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, and Zeenat Aman, the film tugs at your heartstrings. And let's not forget the soundtrack; "Main Na Bhoolunga" isn't just a song, it's an emotional rollercoaster. No wonder this film topped the box office in 1974 and snagged Manoj Kumar the Filmfare Award for Best Director.



### *Kranti* (1981)

Set against the backdrop of India's struggle for independence between 1825 and 1875, *Kranti* is an epic saga of revolution and patriotism. The film chronicles the efforts of revolutionaries, including Bharat (Manoj Kumar) and Sanga (Dilip Kumar), as they lead the fight against British colonial rule. The narrative showcases their sacrifices, strategic battles, and the collective spirit of those yearning for freedom. *Kranti* was notable for bringing together a stellar cast, including Shashi Kapoor, Hema Malini, and Shatrughan Sinha. The film's grandeur, compelling storyline, and memorable music contributed to its status as one of the highest-grossing films of its time. ?



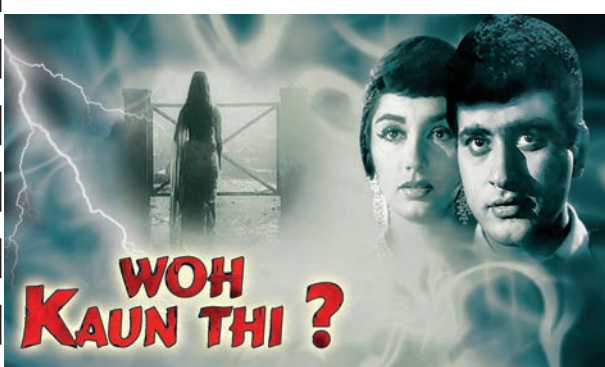
### *Woh Kaun Thi* (1964)

A classic mystery thriller, *Woh Kaun Thi?* revolves around Dr. Anand (Manoj Kumar), who encounters a mysterious woman on a stormy night. This enigmatic meeting sets off a series of eerie events that blur the lines between reality and the supernatural. The film is renowned for its suspenseful narrative, atmospheric cinematography, and haunting melodies composed by Madan Mohan, including the iconic "Lag Ja Gale." Sadhana's portrayal of the mysterious woman adds to the film's allure, making it a standout in the thriller genre.



### *Shor* (1972)

*Shor* isn't just a movie—it's a full-blown emotional rollercoaster with a side of heartbreak and hope. It's old-school Bollywood at its most stirring—melodrama, music, and a man on a mission. Manoj Kumar stars as Shankar, a man who's already lost his wife and now faces every parent's nightmare: his son goes mute after a tragic accident. But does he wallow? No. Shankar hustles like a hero, doing whatever it takes to fund his boy's surgery. Cue the drama, the sacrifice, and a whole lot of teary-eyed resilience. And let's talk about the anthem of feels—"Ek Pyar Ka Nagma Hai". If you're not ugly-crying by the end of that song, check your pulse.



# New York City Mayor Eric Adams' historic federal corruption case has been dropped

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

In his filing to the court, Clement argued the case should be dropped with prejudice to prevent the appearance that Adams remains under political pressure.

The outcome appears to put an end to the legal jeopardy that Adams had been in ever since he was indicted last September on five counts of bribery, conspiracy and campaign finance violations.

"The case against Eric Adams should have never been brought in the first place-and finally today that case is gone forever. From Day 1, the mayor has maintained his innocence and now justice for Eric Adams and New Yorkers has prevailed," Adams' attorney Alex Spiro said.

"This case was an example of political weaponization and a waste of resources. We are focused on arresting and prosecuting terrorists while returning the Department of Justice to its core mission of keeping Americans safe," the Department of Justice said in a statement.

In the DOJ request to drop the case, prosecutors said having it hang over Adams interfered with his 2025 mayoral campaign and his ability to cooperate with the Trump administration's crackdown on immigration.

The initial request to drop the charges made note that the decision was not based on "the strength of the evidence or the legal theories on which the case is based."

That triggered concerns that Adams could not effectively govern the city because he would be beholden to the Trump administration, as long as the possibility of the charges returning remained in place.

Adams and his attorneys have vehemently denied any wrongdoing.

Mayor Adams responds to charges being dropped

Adams spoke at Gracie Mansion after the case against him was dropped.

"As I've said all along, this case should have never been brought and I did nothing wrong," Adams said. "I am now happy that our city can finally close the book and focus solely on the future of our great city. I want to thank New Yorkers who stood by my side, who prayed for me, who supported me from day one and stuck with me while we focused on the work at hand."

He offered an apology to New Yorkers.

"I also want to apologize to New Yorkers for having to go through this with me, a baseless case that should have never been brought in the first place," Adams said.

Adams said New Yorkers are his "north star" and he thinks about them every day.

"I'm a New Yorker, and this is the greatest city on the globe, and it's a privilege being your mayor, something I did not take for granted one day, and I'm going to continue to serve you," Adams said. "As I have repeatedly said, I have always been solely beholden to the people of this city. No special interests, no political opponents, but just everyday

New Yorkers. Just you, and I'm going to continue to do that. So today we turn the page, we move forward together."

Before he went back into Gracie Mansion, Adams held up a copy of "Government Gangsters," a book by FBI Director Kash Patel.

"Read it and understand how we can never allow this to happen to another innocent American," Adams said.

## MORE ON THE JUDGE'S RULING

Judge Ho's decision includes words Adams' opponents are sure to focus in on: "Everything here smacks of a bargain, dismissal of the indictment in exchange for immigration policy concessions."

In his ruling to dismiss the case with prejudice, Judge Ho took issue with the Department of Justice's request to dismiss the case without prejudice, meaning he could've faced trial on the same charges again at a later time.

Judge Ho summarized the DOJ's reasoning to drop the case as based on three things: It's tainted with impropriety, detrimental to national security and immigration enforcement, and was a weak case to begin with.

"There may or may not be good reasons to drop this prosecution. But the reasons articulated by DOJ, if taken at face value, are inconsistent with a decision to leave the charges in the Indictment hanging like the proverbial Sword of Damocles over the Mayor," Judge Ho wrote. "And there are many reasons to be troubled by DOJ's proffered rationales-further supporting dismissal with prejudice."

Judge Ho also addressed why he couldn't continue to pursue the case after the DOJ moved to dismiss it.

"Some will undoubtedly find today's decision unsatisfying, wondering why, if DOJ's ostensible reasons for dropping this case are so troubling, the Court does not simply deny the Motion to Dismiss altogether. But, as explained above, the Court cannot order DOJ to continue the prosecution, and it is aware of no authority (outside of the criminal contempt context) that would empower it, as some have urged, to appoint an independent prosecutor," Judge Ho wrote. "Therefore, any decision by this Court to deny the Government's Motion to Dismiss would be futile at best, because DOJ could-and, by all indications, unequivocally would-simply refuse to prosecute the case, inevitably resulting in a dismissal after seventy days for violating the Mayor's right to a speedy trial. That route would simply postpone finality in this case to a date uncomfortably close to the June 24 mayoral primary. The public interest would not be served by such an outcome."

"To be clear, the Court again emphasizes that it does not express any opinion as to the merits of the case or whether the prosecution of Mayor Adams 'should' move forward," Judge Ho added.

"Legally speaking, he is innocent until proven guilty, and he will never be proven guilty - that is an unequivocal, it is rare when we can rarely say things

that definitively - but he will never face legal consequences for the allegations that were against him in this case," Hofstra Law Professor James Sample said.

## IMPACT ON THE MAYOR'S RACE

The timing of the decision to drop the case was critical for Adams, who faced a Thursday deadline to file petitions to run for mayor in New York City's Democratic primary. He later announced he will run as an independent candidate.

The decision means Adams is now free to run without the threat of going to jail, or facing a politically damaging trial.

CBS News New York has learned that Adams is immediately jumping into the political fray, and he plans to participate in a mayoral candidates forum sponsored by the National Action Network Thursday, April 3.

"He looks forward to engaging with fellow candidates and community leaders to discuss the future of our great city," a spokesman said.

Since there's no possibility of the charges against him resurfacing, Adams can also say he is not beholden to President Trump or his administration, since they can no longer bring the same case against him. Adams has repeatedly said that, and just Tuesday night, New York City joined a suit against the Trump administration to challenge cuts that would cost New York City \$100 million in CDC funding.

"When federal policies directly impact our city, we have been, and will continue to be, the first and loudest to advocate for New Yorkers. These funds are crucial in protecting public health, and the reversal will have serious consequences for communities across the five boroughs," Adams said in his statement Tuesday night.

Even before Adams officially learned that his case had been dropped, Adams made it clear at a National Action Network event Wednesday that suggestions he was "under the finger" of President Trump were, in his mind, false.

"I do not know who you think I'm under the finger of," Adams said Wednesday morning. "But I'm on the finger of Eric Adams, the mayor of the city of New York, and I'm going to continue to do so."

Adams also made an argument voters can expect to hear if he seeks another term.

"I'm the same person that made sure we put \$17 billion in the [minority and women-owned businesses] in this city, that invested in foster care children, that built more housing in year one and year two of our administration than in the history of this city," Adams said.

Adams has previously told CBS News New York's Marcia Kramer to expect twists and turns in the upcoming mayoral election.

## ADAMS' OPPOSITION SPEAKS OUT

The mayor's detractors were also speaking out.

"Either way, I think there was tremendous damage that was done to

this city because of an Adams administration, so the quickest we can get away from this administration, I think the better for the city," Public Advocate Jumaane Williams said.

"It's absolutely disgusting. You have a man that broke the law. We want to remind people that it wasn't just about flight upgrades. This was a man who illegally held a campaign donor scheme, and the fact that the judge unfortunately bowed to Trump is appalling," mayoral candidate Michael Blake said.

"The ruling does not change the facts: Eric Adams works for Donald Trump, not New Yorkers," mayoral candidate and city Comptroller Brad Lander said.

"Eric Adams has sold out New Yorkers and put himself above the public at every chance he could. Even the judge in the case agrees: this slimy deal reeks of a quid pro quo with the Trump administration. In exchange for his freedom, Adams has looked the other way while the federal government detains and disappears New Yorkers, steals money from our city, and wages war on working people. Adams should resign in disgrace," mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani said.

## MOVE TO DROP CHARGES SPARKED RESIGNATIONS

The DOJ memo seeking to drop the charges set off a spate of resignations that started in City Hall, at the very heart of Adams' inner circle, and reached all the way to the U.S. attorney's office. At issue was then-Acting U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of New York Danielle Sassoon's allegation that the request to dismiss the case amounted to a quid pro quo, namely Adams' cooperation on President Trump's immigration enforcement in exchange for his charges being dropped. Sassoon resigned, rather than drop the charges, as did several other people in the U.S. attorney's office.

The mayor and his attorney pushed back strenuously against the notion of a quid pro quo.

"The idea that there was a quid pro quo is a total lie. We offered nothing and the department asked nothing of us," Adams' attorney Alex Spiro said.

Allegations that Adams had been compromised by the Trump administration and was operating, essentially, under its thumb led four New York City deputy mayors to resign and spurred numerous calls for Adams to step down. Gov. Kathy Hochul, who has the power to remove Adams from office, then met with key leaders to discuss his future. She ultimately acted to limit Adams' powers in a bid to restore trust in government, but said she wouldn't remove him.

## WHAT ADAMS HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF

Last September, federal prosecutors alleged Adams had been abusing his power for almost a decade. They said he solicited illegal campaign donations from wealthy foreigners and corporations, including a Turkish government official.

In the 57-page indictment, Adams was accused of receiving gifts he didn't disclose, including luxury travel, worth more than \$100,000, in return for political favors.

CONTD ON PAGE 42

# SETON HALL'S BUSINESS LEADERSHIP MAG PROVIDES THOUGHT-PROVOKING ADVICE FROM TODAY'S TOP GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADERS

BY MABEL PAIS



In The LEAD, magazine front cover

Seton Hall University has released its Spring 2025 edition of their Business Leadership Magazine, 'IN THE LEAD.' The magazine explores the theme of 'INNOVATION in LEADERSHIP' to achieve success, with thought-provoking advice provided from some of today's top global business leaders in a variety of fields. Readers can access all the content from the link at [https://issuu.com/setonhallmagazine/docs/in\\_the\\_lead\\_magazine\\_spring\\_2025](https://issuu.com/setonhallmagazine/docs/in_the_lead_magazine_spring_2025)

This issue explores how forward-thinking leaders across industries are redefining leadership through technology, strategy and bold decision-making. Thought-provoking articles examine the advantages and challenges of founder-led companies and draw connections between strategic risk-taking life choices and business success.

'In The Lead' is a magazine focused on sharing leadership perspectives from the field, with content that is curated from leaders across industries and focused on sharing lessons learned from real-world experiences versus academic literature.

"This issue of 'In the Lead' explores the many faces of innovation, offering a rich collection of perspectives from leaders across industries. You will find that innovation takes on many definitions - each shaped by the unique context of its contributors," explained RUCHIN KANSAL, M.B.A., in his Letter from the Editor.

**FOUNDING EDITOR, RUCHIN KANSAL**



Ruchin Kansal

The founding editor, Ruchin Kansal ([ruchinkansal.com](http://ruchinkansal.com)), is a professor of practice at Seton Hall University's Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies, as well as teaches Management at the Stillman School (Business School at Seton Hall). He is the founder of Kansal & Co., a business advisory practice. Prior, he led the Business Leadership Center at the Stillman School of Business, and held senior leadership roles at Siemens Healthineers, Boehringer Ingelheim & Deloitte, with a distinguished record in strategy and innovation, digital health, strategic partnerships, and business launches, and co-founded The Ganesha Group ([theganeshagroup.com](http://theganeshagroup.com)) to solve the most pressing corporate leadership challenges.

Ruchin is an educator, a C-suite executive, and a leadership coach with strong business, strategy, innovation, and digital acumen. He enjoys working with leaders to enable change and build a better society. He is a speaker and is frequently featured in news media and publications.

"I'm a builder at heart. I am at my best when I am building new companies, business units, products, and high-performing teams."

"I coach bright, ambitious and well-meaning individuals in becoming transformative leaders. I do so by helping them find their purpose and the courage to drive for change that they, their organizations, and their employees deserve" - Ruchin Kansal

The Ganesha Group's philosophy is that specialists get the job done, whether they are Physicians, Lawyers, Scientists, Public Servants, or Special Forces. They become specialists through years of mastering their craft and intense training.

Special leaders empower people to get the job done. They lead organizations with a clarity of vision, are driven by results, and build cultures where employees and customers thrive.

## A PEEK INTO SOME ARTICLES OF 'IN THE LEAD'

Some of the articles of note are 'Quantum Leap' by Reena Dayal Yadav, 'Real Estate's Next Frontier' by Pay Wu, and 'The Heart of Innovation' by Apurv Gupta.

### REENA DAYAL YADAV - ARTICLE: 'QUANTUM LEAP'



Reena Dayal Yadav

In the article 'Quantum Leap' by Reena Dayal Yadav, founder CEO for QET Council of India, she writes on building innovation pathways and shaping the future of quantum technology in India. In her article she emphasizes "building innovation pathways and shaping the future of quantum technology in India."

"Innovation occurs at various spheres of influence - at an individual level, within companies, across industries, or even at the ecosystem level in a country. It can arise naturally and spontaneously from human ingenuity, emerge out of necessity, or, in the case of industries, be spurred by competition, the desire to carve new niches, or disrupt markets altogether."

"In emerging technologies, understanding ecosystems and using Innovation Management strategies play a key role in shaping how these technologies develop and at what speed."

"With a career spanning three decades, I have spent two of those focusing on innovation management, particularly in emerging technologies. This work has involved different spheres of influence, but for the past decade or so, my primary focus has been on emerging technology ecosystems."

Pay Wu - Article: 'Real Estate's Next Frontier'

'Real Estate's Next Frontier' by Pay Wu, co-founder of MWBE Unite Inc., writes on redefining spaces for changing society by creating inclusive and sustainable communities.

Pay Wu is an executive who excels at strategy and execution. In 2022, she co-founded MWBE Unite Inc., a 100 percent minority and female-owned firm focused on increasing supplier diversity and workforce diversity in commercial real estate. She led the outsourcing business for Cushman & Wakefield in the East region, and has been an executive leader at Deloitte, American Express and TD Bank. In 2020, she was named a "Woman of Influence" by Globe Street.

In her article, "Real Estate's Next Frontier," Wu states that "Real Estate is a cornerstone of the economy contributing nearly 20 percent to the US gross domestic product. Its significance extends beyond asset value, playing a crucial role in the tax base of municipalities. However, the COVID-19 pandemic sparked extensive debate about the industry's downward trajectory, driven in part by digitization and online transformations that are redefining the purpose of physical spaces. While market discussions often center on declining valuations, they also reveal opportunities for renewal and reinvention."

### APURV GUPTA - ARTICLE: 'THE HEART OF INNOVATION'

APURV GUPTA, physician, is the founder of 'A Loving Organization Consortium' and an advisor to the 'Trustworthy Technology and Innovation Consortium.'

He is Vice President of Medical Intelligence 10.



Dr. Apurv Gupta

In his article, 'The Heart of Innovation' (Case Study) looks at how empathy, compassion and human connection drive organizational growth.

He says, "In a loving organization, employees can express ideas without fear of judgment or failure. This is a breeding ground for innovation and encourages experimentation and learning from mistakes."

He continues, "LOVE AND innovation are seemingly disparate concepts. On the surface, love is an emotional, human experience, while innovation suggests a mechanical, cerebral process focused on problem-solving and improvement."

"However, when we drive deeper, we discover that love fuels innovation, while innovation amplifies our ability to express and experience love. Together they are instrumental in shaping human progress, fostering creativity, and enhancing well-being."

The Buccino Leadership Institute

Buccino Leadership Institute develops leaders who aren't afraid to speak truth to power and who serve before they are asked to be served. Their confidence is recognizable and their vision contagious. That's what it means to be a Seton Hall leader.

## STILLMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS :

The Stillman School's mission is to cultivate principled leaders through an educational experience that transforms concepts into business practice.

## IN THE LEAD

'In the Lead' magazine is a collaboration between the University's Buccino Leadership Institute and the Stillman School of Business's Department of Management. The publication reaffirms Seton Hall's commitment to fostering innovative, ethical and impactful leadership, noted Kansal, the founding editor. It is a semi-annual magazine focused on sharing leadership perspectives from the field, with content that is curated from leaders across industries. 'In the Lead' seeks to inform future leaders, generate global dialogue on leadership and build a community that sees more effective leadership as a prerequisite to building a better world.

To read more and the rest of the articles, visit [https://issuu.com/setonhallmagazine/docs/in\\_the\\_lead\\_magazine\\_spring\\_2025](https://issuu.com/setonhallmagazine/docs/in_the_lead_magazine_spring_2025)

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



## Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Paresh Rawal begin shooting for Hera Pheri 3

Fans have been eagerly awaiting an update on the cult comedy franchise Hera Pheri and the excitement has only grown following the confirmation earlier this year that filmmaker Priyadarshan will return to direct the third instalment. In a recent update, the 68-year-old filmmaker shared that he plans to start writing Hera Pheri 3 sometime next year.

However, we've exclusively learnt that the first scene of the film, starring the original cast — actors Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, and Paresh Rawal — was shot on April 3. A source close to the production confirmed the news, saying, "Yes, it's true. The first scene was indeed shot today with Akshay, Suniel, and Paresh, who will be bringing back the memories of their iconic roles."

Speaking about the challenge ahead, Priyadarshan had earlier stated, "It is going to be very challenging to make the third part because there will be too many expectations. Characters have gotten older and accordingly people should believe...these are important things. I am taking it as a challenge."

This much-awaited third instalment comes 19 years after Phir Hera Pheri (2006) and 24 years after the original Hera Pheri (2000).

# Salman Khan film struggles as earnings drop 50 percent

Salman Khan's Eid release, *Sikandar*, also starring Rashmika Mandanna, Sathyaraj, and Kajal Aggarwal, among others, is struggling to draw audiences to cinemas. On its fourth day, the film's earnings dropped by nearly 50 percent.

According to industry tracker Sacnilk, *Sikandar* earned Rs 19 crore at the box office on Wednesday. The film had an overall 12.08 per cent Hindi occupancy, with the maximum footfall coming in the night shows. After four days of release, the total nett collection of *Sikandar* in India stands at Rs 84.25 crore.

Worldwide, the AR Murugadoss directorial has earned Rs 123.75 crore, with Rs 35 crore coming from the overseas market. However, the production house behind the film, Salman Khan Films, claimed that the film has earned Rs 141.5 crore globally.

*Sikandar* is turning out to be one of Salman's weakest box office performers. His last theatrical release, *Tiger 3*, had earned Rs 21.1 crore on its fourth day. Before its release, trade experts had anticipated *Sikandar* to be one of the biggest box office earners of 2025, but it is unlikely to see significant growth over the weekend.

Released on 30 March, *Sikandar* hasn't received a favourable response from the audience either. Adding to its woes, the film was leaked on the internet even before its theatrical release, which hampered its box office performance.

In a recent interview, Salman Khan addressed not receiving a shout-out for his film. He told Bollywood Bubble, "Unko aisa lagta hoga ki zaroorat nahin padti mujhe (Maybe they think that I



don't need their support)."

However, he then added, "But, sabko zaroorat padti hai. (Everybody needs support)."

'*Sikandar*' does nothing for the lovers of quintessential Hindi cinema. It fails to even serve the ardent fan base of Salman Khan - people who, over the years, have made him one of the most revered stars of the country. These are the people who have spent their hard-earned money every year, especially during Eid festivities, to clap and whistle for him, celebrating his gigantic screen presence.

The actor has always maintained that his films are meant for a particular segment of movie-goers - those who have forgiven over-the-top cinema as long as it is entertaining. However, with '*Sikandar*', that threshold appears to have been crossed. The audience's most basic expectations have been ruined - clean entertainment and a full package

of action, drama, romance and emotions that nobody else can deliver the way Salman Khan does.

What has gone wrong this time? Do Khan and people around him not believe in self-assessment? Are we learning nothing from our past mistakes? Are we too arrogant to understand that times have changed, the industry has moved on, and audience expectations have risen? For how long can we pretend to not see that the new bottle you're using for old wine is already broken?

'*Sikandar*' can be seen as the ultimate showdown between Salman Khan and his audience. The problem emerges when the team of '*Sikandar*' takes the audience for granted, but the bigger problem arises when Khan starts taking himself for granted. The entire '*Sikandar*' team let Khan down, and he let himself down too.

## Kareena says no to botox: 'Doing little work on my own rather than skin treatments'

Going under the knife to look younger might have become a norm for many in showbiz, but Kareena Kapoor doesn't prefer that. Instead, the actor has her own ways and tricks to steer away from botox.

Kareena recently attended the launch event for nutritionist Rutuja Diwekar's recent book, *The Commonsense Diet*, in Mumbai. At the event, the actor spoke about embracing her age, and her own set of strategies to keep her skin looking healthy and radiant without relying on such procedures.

Expressing her desire to be fit and healthy in the later years of her life, Kareena shares, "For that, I need to eat right with her (Rutuja) guidance. That's what for me, ageing and life is. I love it, I'm embracing it, but I'm taking all these particular things, like eating ghee, eating khichdi, doing a little bit of weight training for muscle strength, walking a little, my Surya Namaskars, doing my little work on my own rather than skin treatments and botox".

Kareena also opened up about her relationship with food. The mother of two shared, "In my early years when I was chubby, my relationship with food was amazing. It's not like I ever tried to starve myself. I'm very comfortable in my own skin. In my teenage years also, I think I was always really happy to pick up a packet of chips. But I was a confident girl... In the last 10-15 years, I have just gone back to the same food. I'm always very happy with it. Because whether it's good for me or bad for me, I just love the fact that it comforts me, it makes me feel happy. I feel amazing. And that's the most important thing for me".

On the work front, Kareena had three projects in 2024 - *Crew*, *The Buckingham Murders* and *Singham Again*. The last of the three was directed by Rohit Shetty and featured Ajay Devgn, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, and Deepika Padukone in lead roles. She is working with *Raazi* director Meghna Gulzar for her next film.



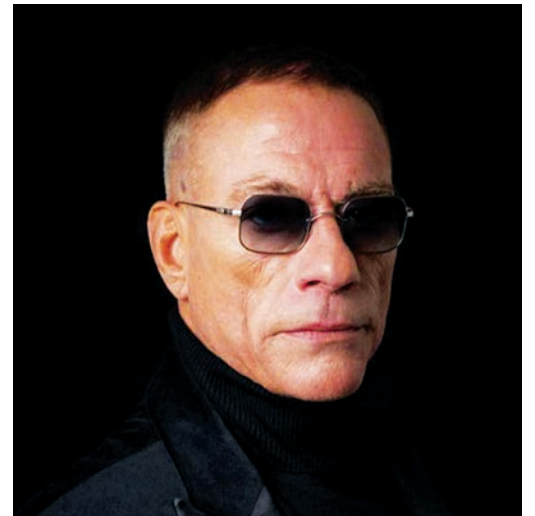
# Glen Powell's mother debunks his dating rumors with Sydney Sweeney

Hollywood actor Glen Powell's mother, Cyndy Powell, has addressed the rumours about her son and actor Sydney Sweeney, stating that they are not in a romantic relationship. Speaking to The Daily Mail, Cyndy described the speculation as a "silly misunderstanding" and clarified that Sydney is a "really close friend" of the Powell family.

The rumors began after Sydney attended the wedding of Glen's sister, following her breakup with fiancé Jonathan Davino. Despite the internet buzz, Cyndy emphasised that Glen and Sydney have been friends for years, long before the rumors started.

She noted that both have chosen to remain "close friends", with no romantic involvement, stating, that "they're definitely not together."

When asked about the possibility of a future romance between Glen and Sydney, Cyndy responded that it is "none of my business," but she expressed a desire for her son to find "somebody that loves him unconditionally and he loves unconditionally." However, she reiterated that Sydney is just a "really, really good friend" of the family. Cyndy also mentioned that Glen is currently "too busy" to focus on finding a romantic partner, indicating that he is not in a rush to settle down. She remains optimistic about his future, whether it involves Sydney or someone else. Rumors of a possible romantic relationship between Sydney Sweeney and Glen Powell surfaced during the promotion of their film *Anyone But You*.



## Van Damme accused of having sex with trafficked women in Romania

Actor Jean-Claude Van Damme has been accused of having sex with five Romanian women he knew were trafficked. Several criminal charges have reportedly been filed against him in Romania.

According to CNN affiliate Antena 3, a criminal complaint was filed with the Romanian Directorate for Investigating Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT) against the *Streetfighter* star, 64, alleging that he knowingly engaged in sexual relations with women trafficked by a criminal group led by Morel Bolea, reports PageSix.

The complaint alleges that the married martial artist-turned-actor, 64, engaged in sexual relations with five women trafficked by a criminal group believed to be led by Romanian businessman and modeling agency owner Morel Bolea.

It further claims that the women were allegedly presented to Jean-Claude as a "gift," and the alleged acts took place in Cannes at an event he organized, according to Antena 3 CNN. A timeframe for the alleged acts was not noted.



## Why Megan Fox is letting Machine Gun Kelly stay with her post-breakup

Megan Fox and Machine Gun Kelly have welcomed their first child together despite separating before the baby's birth. The rapper, Colson Baker, announced their daughter's arrival through an emotional social media post. Despite their breakup last year, they remain committed to co-parenting.

As reported by Page, Fox has allowed Kelly to stay at her place to ensure he spends quality time with their baby. A close friend of the ex-couple informed, "They are not cohabiting, but Megan has welcomed him to her home temporarily so that he gets lots of time with their baby girl."

The former couple has yet to establish an organised co-parenting plan. An insider disclosed that, for now, Fox and Kelly are concentrating on enjoying these initial days with their baby girl. "They just

want to enjoy this time and celebrate their baby girl," the source continued.

Kelly was present in the delivery room when their daughter was born, demonstrating his commitment as a father. His sister, Kristi, also supported Fox during the birth.

Last week, Kelly posted the good news with his Instagram followers, releasing a black-and-white video showing his hand cradling his newborn. "She's finally here!! Our little celestial seed," he captioned the post.

Fox and Kelly's new baby joins their blended family, which includes children from their previous relationships. The rapper already has 15-year-old Casie from ex-girlfriend Emma Cannon. Fox, however, has three sons — Noah (12), Bodhi (11), and Journey (8)—with her ex-husband Brian Austin Green.

## ISRAELI STRIKE ON SCHOOL IN GAZA KILLS AT LEAST 27 PEOPLE, PALESTINIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS SAY

04 APR 2025

**DIER EL BALAH (TIP):** An Israeli airstrike on Thursday killed at least 27 Palestinians sheltering at a school in northern Gaza and wounded 70 more, said Health Ministry spokesman Zaher al-Wahidi, as Israeli forces have expanded their strikes and evacuation orders across the war-torn territory in recent days.

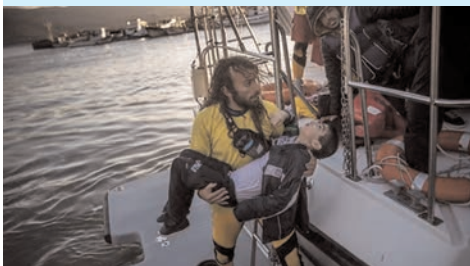
The bodies of 14 children and five women were recovered from the school in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City, and the death toll could still rise because some of the wounded had critical injuries, al-Wahidi said.

The Israeli military said it struck a Hamas command and control centre in the Gaza City area, and said it took steps to lessen harm to civilians.

It was not immediately clear if the military statement was referring to the strike on the school.

Israel gave the same reason -- striking Hamas militants in a command and control centre -- for attacking a United Nations building used as a shelter on Wednesday, killing at least 17 people. (AP)

## MIGRANT BOAT SINKING KILLS FOUR IN GREECE: COAST GUARD



03 APR 2025

**ATHENS (TIP):** Four asylum seekers died Thursday in a migrant boat sinking near the Greek island of Lesbos, the coast guard said.

The coast guard in a statement said a boat with around 30 people on board had capsized in mild weather conditions near Lesbos, a short distance from the coast of neighbouring Turkey.

It said it had rescued 23 people and was looking for other survivors.

According to the UN refugee agency, nearly 9,000 people have entered the country since the start of the year, most of them by sea.

There were over 54,000 entries in 2024 according to the agency's figures.

Greece's conservative government has hardened the country's stance on migration.

"If you want to enter Greece illegally and are not entitled to asylum, we will do whatever we can to send you back where you came from," Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said in parliament on Wednesday.

"Smugglers and NGOs cooperating with them will not determine who enters our country," he said. (AP)

# More than a dozen migrants die as boats sink off Greece and Turkey

04 APR 2025

**ATHENS (TIP):** Two boats carrying migrants sank in the early hours of Thursday in the narrow stretch of sea between Turkey and a nearby Greek island, leaving at least 16 people dead, one missing and more than 40 survivors, Greek and Turkish officials said. At least three children were among the dead.

The two accidents reportedly occurred several hours apart in the narrow stretch of the Aegean Sea between the Greek island of Lesbos and the Turkish coast, with authorities on either side unaware of the other nation's rescue efforts.

On the Greek side, the country's coast guard said that in the early hours of Thursday, one of its patrol boats came across a small dinghy of about five meters in length that was taking on water, with many of its passengers having already fallen into the sea. Twenty-three people - 11 minors, eight men and four women - were rescued, while survivors told authorities that 31 people had originally been in the dinghy.

A sea and land search and rescue operation was launched, including helicopters, vessels from the coast guard and the FRONTEX European border agency, as well as vehicles and a diver. Authorities later recovered the bodies of seven people - three women, two boys, one girl and one man.

The coast guard said the search and rescue operation was continuing into Thursday evening for a young girl who survivors had reported as missing.

One of the survivors, identified only as a 20-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of being a migrant smuggler after other passengers allegedly identified him as having piloted the



dinghy, the coast guard said.

Weather in the area was reported to have been good. The nationalities of those on board were not immediately known.

Separately in Turkey, the Canakkale governor's office said the Turkish coast guard received an emergency call for help from a migrant boat early Thursday morning and deployed three boats and a helicopter. The statement said that nine bodies had been recovered and the search for one missing person continued, while 25 people were rescued. Turkish media said the survivors were taken to a hospital in Turkey. Greece is one of the main entry points into the European Union for people fleeing conflict and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, with many making the short but often treacherous journey from the Turkish coast to nearby Greek islands in

inflatable dinghies or other small boats. Many are unseaworthy, or set out in bad weather, and fatal accidents have been common. The Greek government has cracked down with increased patrols at sea, and many smuggling rings have shifted their operations south, using larger boats to transport people from the northern coast of Africa to southern Greece. Last year, more than 54,000 people used what has become known as the eastern Mediterranean route heading to Greece, and more than 7,700 crossed Greece's small land border with Turkey, according to figures from the U.N. refugee agency. There were 125 people reported dead or missing.

By March 30, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said there had been just over 8,000 people arriving in Greece by sea and 755 by land since the start of 2025. (AP)

## China concludes military drills around Taiwan

02 APR 2025

**BEIJING (TIP):** China concluded its two-day high-intensity military drills around Taiwan on Wednesday, saying that it completed all designated tasks of the joint exercises.

The Strait Thunder-2025A drills in the central and southern Taiwan Strait focussed on blockade enforcement of the estranged island.

China claims Taiwan as part of its mainland.

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command has successfully completed all designated tasks of the joint exercises carried out on Tuesday and Wednesday, a spokesperson for the theatre command, Senior.

Colonel Shi Yi, was quoted as saying by the state-run Xinhua news agency.

The drills tested the troops' integrated joint operation capabilities, Shi said, adding that the troops of the theatre command remain on high alert at all times and will continue to strengthen combat readiness with intensive



training to resolutely thwart all separatist activities seeking "Taiwan independence."

"The PLA said earlier that drills, which began on Tuesday, were aimed at showing Beijing's anger against separatist statements by Taiwan President Lai Ching-te. The drills serve as a "stern warning and forceful deterrence" against those seeking the island's independence.

China has been angered by Lai's move to prevent China's infiltration and espionage activities in the self-ruled territory, categorising China as a "foreign hostile force" last month.

The drills, the first during the second

tenure of US President Donald Trump, were strongly criticised by the US, EU and Japan, who said they were opposed to unilateral changes to the status quo, including through force or coercion.

They said there is no justification for China's irresponsible threats and military pressure operations near Taiwan.

Refuting the criticism against the drills, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said the accusation of a handful of countries and organizations against China is a mischaracterisation of the facts and truth and an interference in China's internal affairs.

"China deplores and opposes this. The Taiwan question is purely China's internal affairs that brook no external interference," he said at a media briefing on Wednesday.

"Taiwan independence separatist activities and external forces that abet and aid them are the ones that undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait. (AFP)

# Orban welcomes Netanyahu as Hungary moves to quit ICC, which issued warrant for Israeli PM

03 APR 2025

**BUDAPEST (TIP):** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Hungary's capital early Thursday to red carpet treatment despite a warrant for his arrest issued by the world's top war crimes court.

Hungary's government, led by its populist prime minister and Netanyahu ally, Viktor Orbán, used the occasion of the Israeli leader's visit to announce it will begin the procedure of withdrawing from the International Criminal Court.

Just as Netanyahu met with Orbán for a welcome with full military honors in Budapest's Castle District, Orbán's chief of staff, Gergely Gulyás, wrote in a brief statement that "the government will initiate the withdrawal procedure on Thursday, in accordance with the constitutional and international legal framework."

At the welcoming ceremony kicking off Netanyahu's visit, only his second foreign trip since the ICC issued the warrant against him in November, he stood alongside Orbán as a military band played and processions of soldiers on horseback and carrying swords and bayoneted rifles passed by.

The two leaders were set to hold talks later on Thursday. Netanyahu will spend several days in Hungary before departing on Sunday.

The ICC, based in The Hague, Netherlands, said when issuing its warrant there was reason to believe Netanyahu and former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and intentionally targeted civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas — charges that Israeli officials deny.

Member countries of the ICC, such as



Hungary, are required to arrest suspects facing a warrant if they set foot on their soil, but the court has no way to enforce that and relies on states to comply.

After the ICC issued the warrant in November, Orbán accused the world's only permanent global tribunal for war crimes and genocide of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes," saying the move undermined international law and escalated tensions.

His invitation to Netanyahu was in open defiance of the court's ruling. Hungary joined the court in 2001 during Orbán's first term as prime minister.

Reacting to Hungary's decision to leave the court, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar thanked Orbán for the move, writing on X: "I commend Hungary's important decision to withdraw from the ICC."

"The so-called 'International Criminal Court' lost its moral authority after trampling the fundamental principles of international law in its zest for harming Israel's right to self-defense," Saar wrote.

"Thank you Hungary for your clear and strong moral stance alongside Israel and the principles of justice and sovereignty!"

Netanyahu in February met US President Donald Trump in Washington, where Trump suggested that displaced Palestinians in Gaza be permanently resettled outside the war-torn territory and proposed the US take "ownership" in redeveloping the area into "the Riviera of the Middle East."

Neither the United States or Israel are signatories to the ICC. Trump in February issued sanctions against the court for its investigations into Israel's conduct of the war in Gaza which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of them children.

The ICC has criticized Hungary's decision to defy its warrant for Netanyahu. The court's spokesperson, Fadi El Abdallah, said it's not for parties to the ICC "to unilaterally determine the soundness of the Court's legal decisions." (AP)

## ITALY'S BIGGEST UNION JOINS PROSECUTION OF FARM OWNER OVER DEATH OF INDIAN MIGRANT WORKER

02 APR 2025

**ROME (TIP):** Italy's main trade union confederation on Tuesday said it was joining the prosecution of a farm owner charged with the murder of an Indian migrant worker who bled to death after his arm was cut off by a piece of equipment.

Antonello Lovato, 39, has been accused of abandoning the injured and bleeding Satnam Singh, 31, and failing to call an ambulance following the incident in Latina, a largely agricultural province south of Rome, on June 17, 2024. Prosecutors originally considered charging Lovato with manslaughter, but raised it to murder with malice after the fact since he was aware the actions could cause death.

At the opening of his murder trial on Tuesday, Lovato said that "he lost his head," when he saw Singh, who was working in the country illegally, bleeding. "I wasn't myself. I didn't want him to die," he was cited by the news agency ANSA as saying.

Outside the court, dozens of union members, including Sikh workers wearing turbans, demonstrated against the system of exploitative, underpaid migrant labor in Italy's agricultural sector, called, "caporalato."

"I believe that what happened was apparent to everyone," Maurizio Landini, the secretary-general of the powerful CGIL trade union federation, told the crowd. "As is the logic of exploitation known as 'caporalato,' which allows for people to be treated like merchandise, like parts of a machine that can be easily bought and sold for the lowest price. And I insist that it is this culture that needs to be changed."

The CGIL is joining the prosecution as civil complainants, Landini was cited by the LaPresse news agency as saying. Under Italian law, parties recognized by the court as injured in the commission of crime can join the prosecution, question witnesses and possibly win damage awards in the case of conviction.

"We think it is important to seek justice, above all to put in motion everything necessary to change the way of doing business so episodes like this can never be repeated," Landini said. "We don't think this is an isolated case. It is a mistake to think this problem can be resolved with this trial. We are worried because the season is starting again."

The trial continues May 27. (AP)

## Four Chinese nationals arrested for retrieving 'documents' from Bangkok building collapsed in quake

31 MAR 2025

**BANGKOK (TIP):** Bangkok police have arrested four Chinese nationals for illegally entering the collapsed State Audit Office (SAO) building and removing official documents, despite the site being declared a restricted disaster zone. The arrests took place on March 29, 2025, after authorities received public reports about unauthorized individuals retrieving files from the area, Thai news outlet Nation Thailand reported.

According to Police Major General Nopasin Poolswat, Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Bureau, officers tracked down one of the suspects near the site. The man, who claimed to be a project manager for a construction firm, was found to have a valid work permit. He and his group were employed by a joint venture working with Italian-Thai Development

Public Company Limited, the primary contractor for the collapsed structure, reported Nation Thailand.

Following questioning, authorities located all four individuals and seized 32 documents they had removed. The men reportedly told police that the files were related to an insurance claim and had been stored in a container office at the construction site.

On March 30 at 3 PM, a lawyer from the Chatuchak District Office formally filed a complaint against five Chinese nationals, including the four arrested individuals and their employer. They are accused of violating a public order prohibiting entry into the disaster zone.

The suspects face charges of unauthorized entry into a restricted area, which carries a penalty of up to three

months in prison, a fine of 6,000 baht (Rs 15000), or both. Their employer remains under investigation.

Police are also scrutinizing the seized documents to determine if they have any connection to the building's collapse. Investigators will continue questioning all relevant parties as part of the ongoing probe into the disaster.

Officials confirmed 19 deaths due to the building collapse in the earthquake, with 32 injured and 83 still missing — most of them construction workers.

According to reports, while Bangkok's skyline is dotted with numerous high-rise buildings, none suffered similar damage during the earthquake, raising serious concerns about the structural integrity of the collapsed State Audit Office (SAO) building. (AP)



## GAS FIRE IN MALAYSIA INJURES MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE AND DAMAGES 49 HOUSES

01 APR 2025

**KUALA LUMPUR (TIP):** A fire caused by a burst gas pipe spread to several homes and sent a fireball soaring into the sky outside Malaysia's largest city Tuesday, injuring more than 100 people.

The towering inferno near a gas station in Putra Heights outside Kuala Lumpur was visible for kilometers (miles) and lasted for several hours. It happened during a public holiday as Muslims, who are the majority in Malaysia, celebrate the second day of Eid.

National oil company Petronas said the fire started at one of its gas pipelines at 8:10 a.m. and the affected pipeline was later isolated. Disaster management officials said shutting the valves will eventually snuff out the fire.

The flames, 20 stories high at one point, were small enough for firefighters to approach around 2:45 p.m., the Selangor state fire department told the Star newspaper.

At least 49 houses were damaged and 112 people were injured, with 63 sent to the hospital for burns, breathing difficulties and other injuries, Selangor Deputy Police Chief Mohamad Zaini Abu Hassan was quoted by national Bernama news agency as saying.

Selangor Chief Minister Amirudin Shari said the fire department evacuated nearby homes as a safety measure and the residents will be placed in mosques nearby until the situation is under control.

Pictures and videos of the fireball went viral on social media, with some residents saying they felt a strong tremor with the doors and windows of their homes shaking.

Lee Weng Ken, who suffered burns to his left leg, said he was shocked when the ceiling of his house collapsed and crushed his vehicle parked in the compound of the house.

"I rushed out of my house but fell and suffered burns due to the heat from the blaze near my house," he told Bernama.

Another victim who only wanted to be known as Andy, told Bernama he ran out of his home with his children when they felt tremors and saw the raging fire about 100 meters (yards) away. "I could only take the car out. My 18-year-old daughter injured her foot when she fell while climbing the fence due to the heat, he said.

Petronas said three gas stations were closed as a precaution, though they weren't affected, and investigations are still underway. (AP)

# Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar to visit Dhaka after 13 years

31 Mar 2025

**DHAKA AND ISLAMABAD (TIP)**

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday spoke with Muhammad Yunus via phone, exchanging Eid ul-Fitr greetings and reaffirming their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

During the call, Sharif reiterated his invitation for Yunus to visit Pakistan and extended an invitation to a Bangladeshi cultural troupe, including legendary singer Runa Laila, to perform in Pakistan, as shared in a post by the Prime Minister on X.

Sources said that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan Ishaq Dar will visit Bangladesh from April 22 to April 24. During the visit, he is scheduled to meet Muhammad Yunus and hold formal talks with Bangladesh's Foreign Adviser Towheed Hossain and other cabinet members and officials. Several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and agreements are expected to be signed during this meet, focusing on enhancing trade, commercial ties, and people-to-people connections. Hina Rabbani Khar was the last foreign



minister to visit Bangladesh in 2012.

Dhaka and Islamabad have been looking at ways to increase the trade ties after starting first ever direct trade link via sea. The two countries have already agreed to start direct flights. After the exit of Sheikh Hasina government, the two sides also are looking at improving defence ties.

Lt-Gen S M Kamr-ul-Hassan, Principal

Staff Officer (PSO) of the Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh, who is the second in command, was the first top Bangladeshi general to have travelled to Islamabad in many years in January, marking a difference in the priorities of the new administration in Dhaka. Following Hasina's exit, India raised concerns over 'targeted attacks' on minority Hindus in Bangladesh. (PTI)

## Myanmar earthquake death toll rises to 3,145 as more bodies found



04 APR 2025

**BANGKOK (TIP):** The number of people who died in the Myanmar earthquake has increased to 3,145, the military government said on Thursday. Search and rescue teams found more bodies as humanitarian groups rushed to help survivors with medical care and shelter. Information Minister Maung Maung Ohn said at a meeting in Naypyitaw, the capital, that 4,589 people were injured and 221 were missing, according to state television MRTV. The earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.7, struck on March 28 near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. It caused thousands of buildings to collapse, damaged roads, and destroyed bridges in many areas.

Local news reports say the number of deaths could be higher than the official count. With phone lines down and many places hard to reach, officials say the numbers might increase as more information comes in.

A United Nations report released on Thursday said more than 17 million people across 57 townships were affected by the earthquake. Of these, more than 9 million were severely affected. The UN said the coming days will be important in understanding the full damage and planning the response to help those affected. UN Secretary-General António Guterres said that UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher and special envoy Julie Bishop will travel to Myanmar on Friday. He asked the international community to provide more financial support for the victims and called for full access to those in need. (AP)

## Sri Lanka faces protest over stray dog crackdown before PM Modi's visit

03 APR 2025

**COLOMBO (TIP):** Sri Lankan animal rights activists marched on Thursday to protest the round-up of stray dogs ahead of a visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Authorities in Colombo and the Buddhist pilgrim city of Anuradhapura have reportedly deployed dog catchers to impound hounds ahead of Modi's visit, which began on Friday.

Many of Colombo's strays are beloved by their adopted neighbourhoods despite lacking formal owners -- and are dubbed "community" canines rather than street dogs.

Around a dozen protesters from the Rally for Animal Rights and Environment (RARE) waved placards outside President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's office in Colombo after submitting a petition to India's high commission.

"Stop the cruel removal of our community dogs," one placard read.

Protesters said that many of the dogs in public parks had been vaccinated and neutered and were cared for by locals and animal welfare groups.

"How can Sri Lanka promote tourism when we are a country known for animal cruelty?" another placard read.

Protesters urged New Delhi's intervention to "prevent the cruel and unnecessary removal of these dogs", saying that the round-up of dogs would create "displacement, suffering, and potential harm."

Modi is set to receive an official welcome at Colombo's Independence Square, where dog catchers are reported to have been busy in this week.

He is also set to visit Anuradhapura, 200 kilometres (124 miles) north of the capital, to pay homage to a fig tree believed to have grown from a cutting from the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

The tree is both an object of worship and a symbol of national sovereignty on the majority Buddhist island of 22 million people. (AFP)



RADIO PARTNER



DANCE PARTNER



VENUE PARTNER



EVENT PARTNER



SAREGAMA LIVE  
PRESENTS  
**RANG**  
Fest 2025



**BROADWAY MALL  
HICKSVILLE NEW YORK**

**APRIL 27TH SUNDAY,  
12PM TO 6PM**

eventbrite Sulekha

**TICKETS LIVE NOW**

ALL AGES, KIDS UNDER 5 FREE

FOR SPONSORSHIP/MEDIA/GROUP SALES/FOOD BOOTHS CONTACT

RANGFESTUSA@GMAIL.COM

347-453-9786 212-300-6511 859-490-0156

**PARTNERS**

THE METROPOLITAN



HUMANITY FIRST  
COMPASSION IN ACTION



The South Asian Times  
excellence in journalism

The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

हम हिंदुस्तानी  
USA

# Detox waters to burn body fat

When it comes to slimming down through detoxification, drinking plenty of water comes as the 'evergreen' piece of advice. It is even better to start your day with a glass of lemon water to flush out the toxins and prevent further buildups. But what if your fat burning as well as weight loss procedure becomes a bit more delicious? Well, here some tasty fat-burning detox water recipes for you.

## Aloe Vera Detox Drink

An aloe infused drink is highly effective in improving digestion, strengthening the immune system, and supporting detoxification. Scoop the pulp out of a large fresh aloe leaf and add it to two cups of purified water. Also, add the juice of a large lemon. Blend everything well in a blender and enjoy!

## Watermelon Detox Water

The best thing about watermelon is that it can nourish our body with essential vitamins and minerals while flushing the toxins out of it. Hence, cut a handful of chunks or slices of watermelon and keep these submerged in a bottle of water for 2-3 hours. The simple detox drink is ready.

## Lemon And Ginger Detox

Both lemon and ginger are wonderful natural detox agents. Hence, prepare this infusion by adding the juice of half a lemon and one-inch freshly grated ginger to a bottle of water. Drink it every morning in an empty stomach and you will get rid of unwanted body fat within a few months.

## Apple And Cinnamon Detox

This apple-cinnamon concoction is a perfect slimming water with absolutely zero calories. All you need to do is to add a thinly sliced red apple and a couple of cinnamon sticks to a bottle of distilled water. Keep it in the refrigerator for a couple of hours and you



will be good to go.

## Pineapple And Sugarcane Detox

Those who have an inclination towards tropical flavor would love this delicious infusion with amazing fat-burning power. Add a cup of fresh pineapple chunks and two medium-sized sugarcane sticks to a jug full of purified water. Let it stay in the fridge for the whole night. Add a few ice cubes before sipping.

## Lemon, Mint And Cucumber Detox

Make thin wedges of a small cucumber, slice up a whole lemon, and take a handful of fresh mint leaves. Add all these ingredients to a pitcher full of distilled or spring water and keep it in the refrigerator overnight for seeping. This concoction helps a lot in hydration, digestion, and detoxification.

# Home remedies for dark circles

Tired of dark circles and want to get rid of them. Avoid chemically induced serums and gels, by using these interesting remedies, which can be prepared easily at home, to reduce dark circles naturally. Just be careful and avoid getting them into the eyes when applying it.

## Rose water

Soak two cotton balls in rose water and place them over the eyelids. Keep them for 10 minutes and then remove them.

## Cucumber

It is a known fact that cucumber has skin-lightening properties and acts as a great astringent. Take a fresh green cucumber and cut it into thick slices. Chill them in the refrigerator. After half an hour, take them out and put them over closed eyes for 10 - 15 minutes. Wash off with normal water.

## Tomato

Tomato too acts as a great skin lightening agent. Take one teaspoon of fresh tomato juice mix it with one teaspoon of lemon juice. Gently apply the mixture around your eyes on the dark circles. After keeping it for around 10 minutes, wash it off with cold water.

## Potato slices

Peel and cut potato into thin slices. Immediately put them over closed eyes for 15-20 minutes. Wash off with normal water. Almond oil - Before going to bed every night, gently massage almond oil into the skin around your eyes.



## Mint

Crush six to seven fresh mint leaves and apply them around the eye. Keep it for around 10 - 15 minutes and then wash it off with cold water.

## Silver spoon

Silver teaspoon is not only a beautiful and elegant kitchen accessory, you can also use it to get rid of dark circles under your eyes. Put a silver spoon in your fridge for 3 minutes and then, gently touch your under eye area with it (yes, only a gentle touch, no squeezing or pressing). Cold spoon will tone the skin under your eyes and the silver metal will help to get rid of under eye circles.

## FOOD CORNER



# Tawa chicken fry

A delicious lip-smacking dish, the Tawa Chicken Fry is easy to make and can be served as a starter or as an appetizer to a meal.

## Ingredients

Chicken - 500 gms  
Gram Flour - small handful  
Juice of 1 Lemon  
Ginger Garlic Paste - 2 tblsp  
Turmeric Powder - 1/3 tsp  
Coriander Powder - 1/3 tsp  
Curry Leaves - few  
Red Chilli Paste - 3 tsp  
Saunf - 1/2 tsp  
Cumin Seeds - 1/2 tsp  
Salt as per taste  
Oil as required

## Method

- Clean, wash and dice the chicken into bite-sized pieces.
- Combine the gram flour, lemon juice, ginger garlic paste, turmeric powder, coriander powder, curry leaves, red chilli paste, saunf, cumin seeds and salt in a bowl.
- Mix well with a little water.
- Add the chicken pieces and mix until evenly coated.
- Keep aside for 45 to 75 minutes.
- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
- Fry the chicken pieces until golden brown and cooked.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve with mint chutney.

# Handi Paneer

## Ingredients

200 gms paneer, 2 ginger, grated, 1/2 tsp turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp chilli powder, 1/2 tsp garam masala powder, 1 tomato, 1/2 cup water, 2 stalks coriander leaves, 2 pinches powdered black pepper, 4 tbsp refined oil, 3 onion, chopped, 1/2 cup beaten curd

## Method

- Put oil in a handi, stir fry the chopped onions on medium flame, when done, reduce the flame to low. Then add two pieces of grated ginger, turmeric powder, chilli powder, garam masala and mix well.
- Add the finely chopped tomato and green chilli, and cook on low flame for about 10 minutes.
- Add half cup beaten curd and cook till dry, before adding salt. Add half cup water and bring it to a boil.
- Mix in malai paneer and chopped coriander, cook till the masala dries.
- Add pepper and remove from the flame. Serve in a large bowl and sprinkle coriander leaves over the dish.

# Silent heart attack: Warning signs you shouldn't ignore

When we think of a heart attack, we often picture someone clutching their chest in severe pain, struggling to breathe. However, not all heart attacks are this dramatic. Some heart attacks occur without the person even realizing it—these are called silent heart attacks.

## Understanding a Silent Heart Attack

A silent heart attack, also known as a silent myocardial infarction (SMI), occurs when the blood supply to the heart is blocked, but the symptoms are mild or go unnoticed. Unlike a typical heart attack, which presents with severe chest pain and obvious distress, a silent heart attack may feel like minor discomfort, fatigue, or even indigestion.

Despite the lack of noticeable symptoms, a silent heart attack can cause significant damage to the heart muscle, increasing the risk of future heart problems, including another heart attack, heart failure, or irregular heart rhythms.

## Symptoms of a Silent Heart Attack

Since the symptoms of a silent heart attack are subtle, they are often mistaken for less serious conditions. Some common signs include:

- Mild chest discomfort, pressure, or tightness
- Unexplained fatigue or weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Lightheadedness or dizziness
- Pain in the jaw, arms, back, or stomach
- Nausea or indigestion-like discomfort

Many people dismiss these symptoms, attributing them to stress, acid reflux, or exhaustion. This is why silent heart attacks often go undiagnosed until a doctor detects signs of past heart damage during a routine check-up.

## Who Is at Risk?

Several factors can increase the risk of experiencing a silent heart attack, including:

- High blood pressure, High cholesterol, Diabetes, Smoking, Obesity, A sedentary lifestyle, A family history of heart disease, High levels of stress

People with diabetes are particularly at risk because nerve damage caused by the condition can make it harder to sense pain, potentially masking heart attack symptoms.



## How Is a Silent Heart Attack Diagnosed?

Since the symptoms are not obvious, a silent heart attack is often discovered later through medical tests. These may include:

- Electrocardiogram (ECG or EKG): Detects irregularities in heart activity that may indicate a past heart attack.
- Blood tests: Measure enzyme levels released by the heart during a heart attack.
- Echocardiogram: Uses ultrasound to assess heart function and detect areas of damage.
- Stress test: Evaluates how well the heart functions under exertion.

## Prevention and Treatment

The best way to prevent a silent heart attack is to maintain a heart-healthy lifestyle. This includes:

- Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains
- Exercising regularly
- Managing stress
- Avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption
- Keeping blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels in check

If a silent heart attack is detected, a doctor may recommend medications such as blood thinners, cholesterol-lowering drugs, or beta-blockers to reduce the risk of future heart problems. In some cases, medical procedures like angioplasty or bypass surgery may be necessary.



## Tips to lose weight without starving

Losing weight doesn't have to mean constant hunger or extreme dieting. Many people believe that the only way to shed pounds is by drastically cutting calories, but this approach often backfires, leading to frustration and unhealthy eating habits. The good news is that you can achieve sustainable weight loss without starving yourself. Here's how:

### Eat Nutrient-Dense Foods

Instead of focusing on reducing food intake, shift your focus to eating the right foods. Nutrient-dense foods, such as fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, whole grains, and healthy fats, keep you full longer while providing essential vitamins and minerals. Fiber-rich foods, like legumes and leafy greens, help with digestion and prolong satiety.

### Prioritize Protein

Protein is a key macronutrient for weight loss. It helps build and repair tissues, supports metabolism, and keeps you feeling full. Include protein-rich foods like chicken, fish, eggs, tofu, beans, and Greek yogurt in your meals to reduce cravings and maintain muscle mass while losing fat.

### Stay Hydrated

Thirst is often mistaken for hunger. Drinking enough water throughout the day helps regulate appetite and prevents unnecessary snacking. Aim for at least eight glasses of water daily, and consider drinking a glass before meals to help control portion sizes.

### Eat Smaller, Frequent Meals

Rather than skipping meals or eating large portions at once, opt for smaller, well-balanced meals throughout the day. Eating every 3-4 hours helps stabilize blood sugar levels and keeps your metabolism active, reducing hunger pangs and energy crashes.

### Avoid Processed Foods and Sugary Snacks

Highly processed foods and sugary treats can cause rapid spikes and crashes in blood sugar, leading to cravings and overeating. Instead, choose whole, unprocessed foods.

# Skipping sleep can mess up your metabolism

A poor night's sleep can leave you feeling tired and sluggish, but did you know it can also lead to weight gain?

In recent years, researchers have found a strong connection between sleep deprivation and obesity. A study conducted at the University of Chicago sheds light on how lack of sleep affects appetite and food choices.

Sleep helps the body recover and repair itself. It gives time to the brain to filter out toxins and makes the body ready for the next day.

The link between sleep and weight gain is essential to understand, since a night's rest impacts how well your metabolism works. Studies show that around 30-40% of obese patients have obstructive sleep apnea. They



usually stay awake during the night, resulting in insomnia.

Chronic sleep deprivation can have serious health consequences, especially causing overeating.

Dr. Sunita Nagpal, General Physician at Salubritas Medcentre, warned that chronic sleep deprivation can have serious health

consequences, especially causing overeating.

"Lack of sleep affects the hormones leptin and ghrelin, which regulate hunger. Less sleep leads to lower leptin levels, making the body feel hungrier, while ghrelin levels increase, stimulating appetite. This imbalance often results in late-night snacking and overeating."

Lack of sleep can also feel too tired to exercise. So, reduced physical activity can also lead to weight gain. She explained that inadequate sleep can disrupt insulin production, increasing the risk of diabetes and obesity. "Sleep is also essential for hormone production, including testosterone and growth hormone, which are necessary for muscle growth and repair," said Dr. Nagpal. *Source: HT*

### PAGE SPONSORED BY

## DR. SATISH AND GITANJLI ANAND



**DR. SATISH ANAND**  
Former Chairman, Board of Trustees, AAPI National  
E-Mail: sanandmd@gmail.com

**GITANJLI ANAND**  
Former President, India Association of Long Island (IALI)  
E-mail: gitanjlianand@gmail.com

## New brain to voice technology makes it possible for paralyzed people to talk in real-time

Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco have developed a new brain-computer interface that restores “naturalistic speech for people with severe paralysis.” In a study published by Nature Neuroscience, the innovation addresses a huge challenge in speech neuroprostheses and is a huge step forward since it allows people who lost the ability to speak to engage in real-time communication.

Researchers say they used artificial intelligence to develop a streaming method that translates brain signals into audible speech almost instantly.

The method is similar to how voice assistants like Alexa and Siri quickly decode speech, resulting in “near-synchronous voice streaming” that sounds natural.

According to the study’s co-load author Cheol Jun Cho, neuroprostheses works by sampling neural data from the motor cortex, a part of the brain that controls speech and then uses AI to decode these brain signals into speech. Researchers say they tried this on a 47-year old woman named Ann, who has been unable to speak for the last 18 years. In the clinical trial, Ann was implanted with electrodes on her brain surface, which recorded neural activity when she tried to speak sentences on a screen.

# WhatsApp scam: How fraudsters hijack accounts using OTP trick

A new WhatsApp scam is making waves on social media, with users reporting that they are being logged out of their accounts and losing access to all their messages, contacts, and media. The scam involves cybercriminals tricking users into handing over their one-time passwords (OTPs), giving them full control over the victim’s account.

Several users on X described their experiences with this scam, which begins with a WhatsApp message from a friend, family member, or acquaintance already in their contact list. The message asked the user to check for an OTP or verification code that was sent to the user by mistake, and requested that they share it back over WhatsApp.

Trusting the sender, many users retrieve the OTP and send it over without realising they are handing cybercriminals the key to their WhatsApp account. Moments later, they are logged out of all their devices, and regaining access becomes a challenging task.

This scam is a form of phishing. The attacker gains control of a user’s WhatsApp account and then uses their contact list to target new victims. When a victim shares the requested OTP, the attacker uses it to verify a login attempt, locking the victim out of their own account. Once in control, they



continue the cycle by messaging the victim’s contacts and repeating the scam.

By the time users realise their accounts have been hijacked, the cybercriminals might have already scammed multiple others.

### How to protect yourself

Follow these security measures to safeguard your WhatsApp account from this growing scam:

- Never share OTPs or verification codes with anyone, even if the request comes from a trusted contact.
- Be sceptical of unusual requests. If a friend or family member suddenly asks for an OTP, verify their identity through a phone call or another platform before responding.
- Enable two-step verification in WhatsApp settings to add an extra layer of security.
- Ignore and report suspicious messages directly to WhatsApp/Meta.
- Let OTPs expire if you receive them unexpectedly. They can be regenerated later, in a secure environment.

Source: TNS

## ChatGPT free users will soon be able to use Deep Research

Earlier this year, ChatGPT maker OpenAI unveiled Deep Research, a new feature which it says “conducts multi-step research on the internet for complex tasks.” As of now, the functionality is currently exclusive for Plus and Enterprise customers, but according to a recent post on X by Tibor Blaho, OpenAI’s member of technical staff Isa Fulford has confirmed that Deep Research will soon be available for those on the free tier.

Powered by a new version of the o3 model optimised for web browsing and data analysis, OpenAI says Deep Research allows users to quickly find, analyse, and synthesize hundreds of online sources and generate reports that mimic the levels of a research analyst. This is done by searching through, interpreting and going through text, images and PDFs available on the internet.

For example, a user can describe a scene from a movie or a TV show and ask ChatGPT to get more information about it, including the episode of where it happened.

To initiate ‘Deep Research’, use prompts like “Create a report on smartphone adoption around the world and highlight the latest trends and changes.” These AI generated reports may also feature synthesised graphs and images from websites alongside clear citations and summary of the AI chatbots thought process. ChatGPT also lets you upload your own files and spreadsheets to add some more context to the prompt.

Since OpenAI hasn’t shared any timeline on when Deep Research will be available for free users, it might take some time before the AI startup rolls out the new



feature to everyone.

### OpenAI plans to release a new ‘open’ AI language model in the coming months

OpenAI says that it intends to release its first “open” language model since GPT-2 “in the coming months.”

That’s according to a feedback form the company published on its website Monday. The form, which OpenAI is inviting “developers, researchers, and [members of] the broader community” to fill out, includes questions like, “What would you like to see in an open-weight model from OpenAI?” and “What open models have you used in the past?”

“We’re excited to collaborate with developers, researchers, and the broader community to gather inputs and make this model as useful as possible,” OpenAI wrote on its website. “If you’re interested in

joining a feedback session with the OpenAI team, please let us know [in the form] below.”

OpenAI plans to host developer events to gather feedback and, in the future, demo prototypes of the model. The first developer event will take place in San Francisco within a few weeks, followed by sessions in Europe and Asia-Pacific regions.

OpenAI is facing increasing pressure from rivals such as Chinese AI lab DeepSeek that have adopted an “open” approach to launching models. In contrast to OpenAI’s strategy, these “open” competitors make their models available to the AI community for experimentation and, in some cases, commercialization.

It has proven to be a wildly successful strategy for some outfits. Meta, which has invested heavily in its Llama family of open AI models, said earlier in March that Llama had racked up over 1 billion downloads. Meanwhile, DeepSeek has quickly amassed a large worldwide user base and attracted the attention of domestic investors.

In a recent Reddit Q&A, OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said that he thinks OpenAI has been on the wrong side of history when it comes to open sourcing its technologies.

“[I personally think we need to] figure out a different open source strategy,” Altman said. “Not everyone at OpenAI shares this view, and it’s also not our current highest priority [...] We will produce better models [going forward], but we will maintain less of a lead than we did in previous years.”

# India's gold jewelry, shrimp, carpet exports to take hard blow

India's export sectors such as shrimp, carpet, medical devices and gold jewellery will face the impact of the 27 per cent additional import duties announced by the US on April 2, an official said.

However, export segments such as textiles, and pharma will get an edge over its competitor countries in the US.

The US is the largest market of domestic shrimp industry.

Shrimp will now become significantly less competitive in the US market due to the higher tariffs. America already has anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Indian shrimp.

Out of India's total shrimp exports, the country ships 40 per cent to America. Ecuador and Indonesia are major competitors of the domestic exporters in the US market.

Similarly, America is the largest importer of carpets from India. It was about USD 2 billion in 2023-24.

In 2023-2024, India exported gems and jewellery worth USD 32.85 billion globally, with the US accounting for 30.28 per cent (USD 10 billion).

In 2024, India exported diamonds, gold, and silver worth USD 11.88 billion in exports. It has a tariff differential of 13.32 per cent.

The country exports wide range of products, including cut and polished diamonds, studded gold jewellery, plain gold jewellery, lab-grown diamonds, and silver jewellery.

"The gems and jewellery sector will be the most affected as import tariffs may be up to 20 per cent from the current zero on loose diamonds and 5.5-7 per cent on gold jewellery. The US is one of India's largest jewellery export markets, accounting for almost 30 per cent of the share," Kama Jewellery's MD said.

Imposition of 27 per cent reciprocal tariff on medical device exports to US may pose challenges to the sector's growth, Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) said.

In 2023-24, India's medical device exports to the US stood at USD 714.38



million, while imports from the US to India were significantly higher at USD 1.52 billion.

On the positive side, despite the steep hike of tariff for India, it prima facie seems to be a case of India advantage for the apparel sector, with India's major competing countries like China, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka having been slapped higher tariffs by the US.

## Pharma trade to grow

The Trump administration has exempted the Indian pharma sector from reciprocal tariffs, recognising the vital role played by the domestic industry in supplying affordable medicines across the globe, including the US, according to industry players.

The decision underscores the critical role of cost-effective, life-saving generic medicines in public health, economic stability, and national security, Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA) Secretary General Sudarshan Jain said.

India and the US share a strong and growing bilateral trade relationship, with a shared vision to double trade to USD 500 billion under the Mission 500 initiative, he added.

Pharmaceuticals remain a cornerstone of this partnership, as India plays a vital

role in global and US healthcare by ensuring a steady supply of affordable medicines, he noted.

As per industry sources, medicines from Indian companies provided USD 219 billion in savings to the US healthcare system in 2022 and a total of USD 1.3 trillion between 2013 and 2022. Generics from Indian companies are expected to generate an additional USD 1.3 trillion in savings over the next five years.

## Time to be clever: Rajan

Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan described the reciprocal tariffs on about 60 countries by the Trump administration a "self goal" and said its impact on India will be "smaller".

"Let us recognise that in the short run, this will adversely affect the US economy first and foremost. Coming to the effects on other countries, the direct effect of any tariff on India's exports will be to raise prices for US consumers, reducing their demand, and hence Indian growth," he said. For India now, Rajan said, looking east toward the ASEAN and Japan, looking southwest to Africa, and looking northwest to Europe all make sense. While noting that working out a more equitable relationship with China should be a priority, he said, "equally, let us build stronger bridges within SAARC."

## Gold Prices To Drop 38%? Market Analysts Predict Major Decline In Coming Years

The soaring price of gold, which has reached record highs in recent months, has been a boon for investors but a burden for consumers purchasing jewellery. However, market analysts suggest a significant downturn could be on the horizon, potentially offering relief to buyers. Some forecasts predict a dramatic 38% drop in gold prices, a shift that could reshape investment strategies worldwide.

On April 4, the price of 24-carat gold was recorded at Rs 94,350 per 10 grams in India. If the anticipated decline materialises, prices could plummet to around Rs 55,496 per 10 grams, marking a substantial decrease.

John Mills, a market strategist at US-based financial services firm Morningstar, projected that gold could fall to \$1,820 per ounce, a stark contrast to its current price of approximately \$3,080 per ounce. This would equate to a nearly 38% reduction, a scenario that could dramatically alter the gold market.

Gold's recent surge was driven by a mix of geopolitical uncertainty, economic instability, and inflation concerns. Investors flocked to gold as a safe haven, fearing fluctuations in the US economy and global markets. The ongoing trade tensions initiated during former US President Donald Trump's administration exacerbated these concerns, further boosting demand for gold. Despite the current bullish trend, Mills and other analysts believe a combination of factors could trigger a sharp decline in gold prices:

The global supply of gold has been rising rapidly. The second quarter of 2024 saw gold mining profits reaching \$950 per ounce, their highest levels in years. This has incentivised increased production, with global gold reserves growing by 9% to 2,16,265 tonnes. Australia, in particular, has ramped up its gold production, while the recycling of old gold has also surged, adding further supply pressure that could drive prices down.

# Tesla's quarterly sales plunge as backlash against Elon Musk grows

Tesla's quarterly sales plunged 13% to the weakest in nearly three years, hurt by a backlash against CEO Elon Musk's politics, rising global competition and people waiting for a refresh to its highest-selling electric vehicle Model Y.

The stumbling sales during the first quarter indicate that the one-time leading brand is reeling from the fallout of the company delaying launches for years, and Musk's foray into politics in the United States and Europe.

Tesla shares were down early on Wednesday but reversed course after a



Politico report that Musk was planning to step down from his role as an adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump soon, as administration insiders increasingly view the billionaire as a political liability.

But the White House dismissed the report, saying the tech billionaire will

stay on to complete his mission to slash government spending and downsize the federal workforce.

"Shareholders are hoping Musk will now have the time to focus on rebuilding the Tesla brand," said Stock Trader Network Chief Strategist Dennis Dick, who has a position in Tesla, referring to the Politico report.

Following Trump's steeper-than-expected tariffs against U.S. trading partners, Tesla shares fell more than 7% in after-market trading. While Tesla will be less affected than rivals, Tesla imports parts and Musk has said the cost impact from tariffs will not be

trivial.

Musk's role in spearheading federal cost-cutting in the United States and support of far-right parties in Germany and other nations have produced a sharp response around the world.

Protests against Musk outside Tesla showrooms have spiked, and the EV maker's cars and charging stations globally have become targets for vandalism. Some Tesla owners have been looking to disassociate themselves from Musk and data has shown many are trading in their vehicles.

## WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - APRIL 7, 2025 TO APRIL 13, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



## ARIES

Ganesha says this week your energy and enthusiasm will be extremely high. You will not only perform better in your work, but some new ideas of yours may also take shape. Your ability to communicate with others will increase, which will strengthen social and professional relationships. However, keep in mind that a little patience is also required. Sometimes, you may have to make some changes in your plans. Put your points clearly to avoid any kind of dispute. In personal life, the chances of getting love and support are increasing. If you are in a relationship, promoting dedication and understanding will strengthen the bond between the two. On the health front, this week indicates that you should take some rest and recharge your energy. Practicing meditation and yoga will improve your mental health. This week, the flow of positivity will be around you. Take advantage of it, and do not miss out on embracing new opportunities!

## TAURUS

Ganesha says this week new possibilities are visible for the people of Taurus. Sweetness will increase in your close relationships, and you will spend special time with your family and friends. The exchange of ideas will strengthen your relationships. On the work front, you will soon see the fruits of your hard work and dedication. However, there may be some mental stress this week, but you will face it with your perseverance. Your plans are moving in the right direction to succeed; just be patient. On the financial front, it is important to be cautious in terms of investment. Think well before making any major decision. Be health conscious too; regular exercise and proper diet will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. Self-reliance and positive thinking will prove to be the keys for you this week. Recognize the energy within you and use it for your progress. Focus on your goals and move forward.

## GEMINI

Ganesha says Gemini will experience a new vigor and energy this week. Your social relationships will strengthen, and you will be looking for new acquaintances. This week, your natural ability to talk and communicate will provide you with many opportunities. At work, your creativity and freshness of ideas will impress your colleagues. You may receive praise for a

particular project or task. Express your plans clearly, this can open doors for you. In personal life, love relationships will remain warm. If you are single, you may meet an interesting person. Express your feelings openly, this will strengthen your relationship. In terms of health, focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. This week is also important for mental health, so resort to meditation and yoga. Keep your thoughts positive this week, and face the challenges of life with self-confidence. This is the time of new beginnings and opportunities for you.



## CANCER

Ganesha says this week is a time of new beginnings for Cancer natives. You will be able to understand your emotional side and feel a special depth in your relationships with your family. This week, people around you will understand your feelings, which will make you feel more confident and secure. At work, your efforts will be well-recognized. You will take an interest in new projects and experience positive energy in working with colleagues. This is the time to unleash your creativity, so use your imagination and work on new ideas. In terms of health, this week is expected to be generally good. However, some fatigue or mental stress may be felt. Therefore, do not forget to practice regular relaxation and meditation. Prioritize your mental health and engage in peaceful activities when needed. In community and social life, you can play the role of a leader. Your sensitivity and empathy will make you a source of inspiration for others. Spending time with friends or loved ones will make you happy and strengthen your relationships. Absorb the positivity of this week and keep moving forward. This time may be full of fruits for your efforts; just maintain your hard work and dedication.



## LEO

Ganesha says this week there will be a new wave of positivity and strength. You will be seen moving rapidly towards your goal. Your self-confidence will be high, allowing you to share your thoughts fearlessly. In business matters, your hard work and dedication will bear fruit. Focus on a project, as success is about to be delivered to your doorstep. Communicating with the bankrupt person will also be easy for you. In my personal life, try to spend time with family and friends. This will prove to be quite beneficial for your mental health. You may be invited to a special event or get-together, which will also provide an opportunity to increase your social organization. Pay attention to health and try to have a balanced diet. Regular exercise will help maintain your energy level. This week, present your thoughts through positive posts and socialize with people around you. This will prove to be a successful and happy time for you.



## VIRGO

Ganesha says this week there will be an overall flow of positive energy for Virgo natives. This is the time to focus on your work and your goal. Your determination and hard work will show results soon. In terms of health, it will be bad for you to include poor fitness in your unique. Practicing yoga or meditation gives mental peace. In business life, focus on maintaining good relations with colleagues. The solution for the semester will be possible with the help of your colleagues. It is a good time to plan and determine the enterprise. At home and family level, try to maintain harmony in the relationship. Small things can stress you, so be patient and open the dialogue. From the financial point of view, no new investment option may come up. Make decisions thoughtfully, because small things can bring big benefits. Find a clear approach to make your dreams come true this week. You will have faith in the power and ability within you, and you will move forward.



## LIBRA

Ganesha says this week's prediction for Libra may open the doors of new ownership for you. There will be novelty and depth in your relationship, which will make the bond of friendship and love even stronger. However, you will be expected to maintain your balance, as some challenges help you to clarify your thoughts. You may get an appointment with higher authorities based on your hard work and style of work, documents. This is the right time to work on new telecoms and share your ideas. Your suggestion will be heard, so maintain self-confidence. On the instructions of health, try to keep yourself active. A little exercise and meditation can help you improve your mental and physical health. This week brings gifts, love, and new beginnings for you. Communicate your positive energy and try to establish connections with shares.



## SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week, conditions are going to be very encouraging for Scorpio natives. There is a possibility of progress in your history, which leads to relics and remnants. In the field of work, you will make your ideas impressive by presenting them in an impressive manner, which will have a positive impact on your colleagues and fans. In your personal life, your relationship will deepen. Nakshatra-bandhs will be strong with those who are close. If you are single, there is a possibility of meeting someone special who can touch your heart. In terms of health, keep in mind that mental health is as important as physical health. Include yoga and meditation in your special things so that you can live a more destination and destination. From the

financial point of view, some new investment opportunities may arise for you this week, but do not make decisions without thinking. This week will be an important achievement for you. Try to spend time with your favorite friends and relatives, which will give you mental peace. Summarizing this week will prove to be beneficial for you from both personal and professional points of view.

## SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week your energy and positivity will be at their peak. You will feel that the environment around you is boosting your enthusiasm. Your ideas and dreams will get support at the workplace, which will inspire you to start new projects. Openness and honesty will be important for you in personal relationships. There is a possibility of developing a deep bond with someone special. Maintain honest communication with your partner so that mutual understanding and love can be promoted. Your health also needs attention this week. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your mental and physical health. Meditation and yoga will help you experience inner peace. Overall, this week will open doors to new possibilities for you. Pursue your desires, and don't forget to take advantage of opportunities.



## CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week will bring many new opportunities for you. Your efforts will be appreciated in work life, and you may be entrusted with some important responsibilities. Focus on partnerships and collaboration; your colleagues will understand and support you. Your personal life will also be refreshed. Spending time with family will give you mental peace. Try to resolve any old differences, which can improve relationships. In terms of health, focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. Taking care of mental and physical health is very important at this time. Therefore, to make the most of this week, move forward with an open mind and welcome new opportunities.



## AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week's prediction for Aquarius is going to fill you with new energy and inspiration. There will be innovation in your thoughts and approach, which will enable you to move more strongly towards your life goals. Your social activities will increase this week. There will be many good opportunities to spend time with friends and family. This is an ideal time to share your thoughts and ideas, which will strengthen your relationships. Some important changes can also be seen in the field of careers. If you are thinking of doing something new in your work, then this week is right

CONTD ON PAGE 33

## BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : APRIL 7 TO APRIL 13 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

### APRIL 7

Ganesha says today, the universe unveils a tapestry of creativity and inspiration. As the celestial bodies dance in harmonious patterns, you're encouraged to delve deep into your innermost passions. This isn't just about fleeting hobbies; it's about the core of what makes your spirit sing. Perhaps you've been sidelining a project or idea, thinking it's not the right time. Today, the cosmos whispers that the time is now. Embrace this wave of energy, and you might just stumble upon talents and passions you never knew lay dormant within you. Reflect on your aspirations, and let the universe guide you towards your true calling.

### APRIL 8

Ganesha says balance is the keyword for today. The celestial energies are weaving a narrative of harmony, urging you to find equilibrium in all aspects of your life. Whether it's work-life balance, reconciling past disagreements, or simply finding inner peace, today is the day to address it. The universe is in a forgiving mood, making it a perfect time to mend fences and build bridges. Approach

conversations with empathy, and you'll find that even the most challenging discussions can lead to fruitful resolutions.

### APRIL 9

Ganesha says a day of transformation awaits you. The cosmic forces are in a state of flux, emphasizing growth, evolution, and metamorphosis. While challenges might rear their heads, they come bearing gifts of wisdom and experience. Instead of viewing them as obstacles, see them as teachers guiding you towards a higher version of yourself. Every setback and every hurdle is a lesson in disguise. Embrace these teachings, and you'll find that by day's end, you've evolved in ways you hadn't imagined.

### APRIL 10

Ganesha says love is in the air, and it's not just about romantic love. Today, the stars shine a spotlight on all forms of love - be it familial, platonic, or self-love. It's a day to wear your heart on your sleeve, to express, to connect, and to cherish. If there's someone you've been meaning to reach out to, now's the time. The universe is in a generous mood, amplifying every

gesture of love and kindness tenfold.

### APRIL 11

Ganesha says introspection is the theme of the day. The celestial energies are urging you to take a step back from the hustle and bustle and embark on an inward journey. This isn't about isolation but about self-discovery. Dive deep into your psyche, and explore your dreams, fears, and aspirations. Today, the universe grants you clarity, helping you decipher the messages your inner self has been trying to convey. It's a day of epiphanies, revelations, and most importantly, understanding oneself.

### APRIL 12

Ganesha says action and ambition drive today's energies. The cosmos is pulsating with a dynamic force, pushing you to chase your dreams with renewed vigor. Every goal, and every aspiration is within reach, provided you're willing to take that leap. Fear might try to hold you back, but remember, it's just an illusion. Use it as a stepping stone, channel it as motivation, and let it propel you towards your destiny. The universe is cheering you on, reminding you that you're capable of



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

greatness.

### APRIL 13

Ganesha says today, the stars urge you to embrace gratitude. As you navigate through the day, take moments to pause and reflect on your journey. Every experience and every encounter has shaped you, and today is the day to acknowledge and appreciate these blessings. The universe reminds you that even in moments of despair, there's always a silver lining. Seek it out, embrace it, and let it illuminate your path.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at [www.bejandaruwala.com](http://www.bejandaruwala.com)  
info@bejandaruwala.com | +91 81412 34275

### CONTD FROM PAGE 32

for you. The support of your colleagues will inspire you and your ideas will get recognition. Think about health. A better diet and regular exercise will make you mentally and physically strong. It will be important to channel your energy in the right direction. Try to work hard towards your goals this week, and your efforts will surely pay off. Don't forget to stay positive and enjoy new experiences.

### PISCES



Ganesha says this week is going to be very favorable for Pisces natives. Your sensitivity and empathy will become your biggest strength during this time. You will get the opportunity to understand the feelings of people around you and help them. This week is likely to bring positive changes in your personal and professional life. If you are working on a new project, this is the time for it to succeed. Your ideas will be appreciated, and your contribution to the team will prove to be important. In terms of health, it will be beneficial for you to engage in activities like yoga and meditation at this time. Take some time

for yourself to achieve mental peace. Venus and love will also bring closeness

in relationships. Spending time with your loved one will strengthen your relationship. This week, your intuition and imagination will guide you in all

your actions. This is the right time to move in the direction of your dreams. Listen to your heart and focus on

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMAH ||



# Know/Buy your Lucky Gemstones

From the House of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

To buy any Gemstone, visit [www.BejanDaruwalla.com](http://www.BejanDaruwalla.com)

Contact us for all kind of Astrology Services

Call/ Whatsapp +91 8141234275

Email: [info@bejandaruwala.com](mailto:info@bejandaruwala.com)



World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

### AUTHOR BIO

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world. He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life. Visit his website [chiragdaruwalla.com](http://chiragdaruwalla.com). He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: [info@chiragdaruwalla.com](mailto:info@chiragdaruwalla.com)

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

**Trump slaps 26% 'discounted...**

destiny was reclaimed, and the day that we began to make America wealthy again. We are going to make it wealthy, good, and wealthy," Trump said in his remarks from the Rose Garden at the White House on Wednesday, April 2.

He said that the United States charges other countries only a 2.4 per cent tariff on motorcycles, but Thailand and others are charging much higher rates, like 60 per cent, India 70 per cent, Vietnam 75 per cent, and others charge even higher rates.

As he announced the tariffs, he held up a chart that showed the tariffs that countries such as India, China, the UK, and the European Union charge, along with the reciprocal tariffs that these countries will now have to pay.

The chart indicated that India charged 52 per cent tariffs, including currency manipulation and trade barriers, and America would now charge India a discounted reciprocal tariff of 26 per cent. But according to the White House documents, there will be a 27 per cent duty on India.

"India, very, very tough. Very, very tough. The prime minister just left. He's a great friend of mine, but I said, you're a friend of mine, but you're not treating us right. They charge us 52 per cent. You have to understand, we charge them almost nothing for years and years and decades, and it was only seven years ago, when I came in, that we started with China," Trump said.

Describing the tariffs as a "mixed bag and not a setback", an official in India said the commerce ministry is analyzing the impact of 27 per cent reciprocal tariffs imposed by the US on India.

According to the official, the universal 10 per cent tariffs will come into effect on all imports into the US from April 5 and from April 10, 27 per cent duty will come into play.

"The ministry is analyzing the impact of the announced tariffs," the official said, adding there is a provision that if a country would address the concerns of the US, the Trump administration can consider reducing the duties against that nation.

India is already negotiating a bilateral trade agreement with the US. The two countries are aiming to finalize the first phase of the pact by fall (September-October) of this year.

"It is a mixed bag and not a setback for India," the official said.

Exporters' body FIEO stated that the duties on India will undoubtedly affect domestic players but early conclusion of the trade agreement would provide relief from these tariffs.

"We have to assess the impact, but looking at the reciprocal tariffs imposed on other countries, we are in a lower band. We are much better placed compared to our key competitors such as Vietnam, China, Indonesia, Myanmar, etc. We will definitely be affected by the tariffs, but we are much better placed than many others," Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai told PTI.

From 2021-22 to 2023-24, the US was India's largest trading partner. The US accounts for about 18 per cent of India's total goods exports, 6.22 per cent in imports, and 10.73 per cent in bilateral trade.

With America, India had a trade surplus (the difference between imports and exports) of USD 35.32 billion in goods in 2023-24. This was USD 27.7 billion in 2022-23, USD 32.85 billion in 2021-22, USD 22.73 billion in 2020-21, and USD 17.26 billion in 2019-20.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations and biologicals (USD 8.1 billion), telecom instruments (USD 6.5 billion), precious and semi-precious stones (USD 5.3 billion), petroleum products (USD 4.1 billion), gold and other precious metal jewelry (USD 3.2 billion), ready-made garments of cotton, including accessories (USD 2.8 billion), and products of iron and steel (USD 2.7 billion).

Imports included crude oil (USD 4.5 billion), petroleum products (USD 3.6 billion), coal, coke (USD 3.4 billion), cut and polished diamonds (USD 2.6 billion), electric machinery (USD 1.4 billion), aircraft, spacecraft and parts (USD 1.3 billion), and gold (USD 1.3 billion). (Source: PTI)

**Indian-American lawmakers criticize...**

Khanna alleged that Trump's economic policies are incompetent and incoherent.

Raja Krishnamoorthi said the new tariffs announced by President Donald Trump are reckless and self-destructive.

"Donald Trump's blanket tariffs are a tax on working families so that he can cut taxes for the wealthiest Americans. These latest so-called 'Liberation Day' tariffs are reckless and self-destructive, inflicting financial pain on Illinois at a time when people are already struggling to keep their small businesses afloat and put food on the table," Krishnamoorthi said.

Trump announced a 10 per cent tariff on goods imports from all countries. He also announced reciprocal tariffs on about 60 nations, which were calculated based on the nature of trade barriers the countries have in place on US goods and the size of US deficits.

"Don't listen to Trump - these do nothing to strengthen our economy or national security. These tariffs isolate the United States on the global stage, alienate our allies, and empower our adversaries - all while forcing America's seniors and working families to bear the brunt of higher prices," Krishnamoorthi said.

"I urge all Americans to join me in calling on President Trump to end his disastrous tariff policies before he sends our country into a recession," he said.

Indian-American Congressman Dr Ami Bera also slammed Trump. "Let me be clear: these tariffs will not 'make America wealthy again. These costs will be passed onto YOU - the American consumer. This is not a tax cut. This is a tax hike," he said.

"I don't know what President Trump means by 'Liberation Day' but what I do know is that across-the-board tariffs will increase costs for American families. His trade wars place a major burden on working class families at a time when Democrats and Republicans should be working together to lower costs," Bera said.

Indian-American Congressman Suhas Subramanyam said these tariffs will raise costs on every American and actually hurt manufacturing in our country. "Small businesses and working families will suffer the most," he said. (Lalit K Jha is a Washington-based freelance journalist)

**Canada Retaliates; imposes 25% tariff...**

Canadian acronym for an existing North American free trade agreement.

The tariffs on Can\$8 billion (US\$5.7 billion) worth of U.S. vehicles are to come into force in the coming days, his office told AFP.

The Canadian tariffs will impact cars and light trucks that are made with less than 75% North American parts - roughly 10% of all vehicles shipped from the United States to Canada, or about 67,000 vehicles annually.

Canada was largely spared from the sweeping global tariffs Trump announced on Wednesday, April 3, 2025, as Washington granted an exemption to goods compliant with the U.S.-Canada-Mexico free trade agreement, which covers most products.

But Canada, which is one of America's largest trading partners, is still facing tariffs on steel, aluminum and other products, in addition to the levies on automobiles.

Mr. Carney said Trump's trade war "will rupture the global economy."

"The system of global trade anchored in the United States that Canada has relied on since the end of the Second World War... is over," Mr. Carney said.

"The 80-year period when the United States embraced the mantle of global economic leadership, forged alliances rooted in trust and mutual respect, championed the free and open exchange of goods and services is over," he added, calling the development "a tragedy."

Ottawa has previously imposed retaliatory tariffs on Can\$30 billion worth of U.S. consumer goods and Can\$30 billion of U.S. steel and aluminum imports into Canada.

Mr. Carney and Mr. Trump spoke by phone last week. They agreed Washington and Ottawa should negotiate the future of bilateral trade after Canada's April 28 election. (Source: AFP)

**Parliament clears Waqf Amendment Bill...**

Instead, it only aims to bring transparency in the administration of Waqf properties, while the Opposition alleged that it was aimed at reducing Muslims as "second-class citizens" and questioned both "intent and content" of the bill.

The gap between the treasury benches and opposition was much narrower in the Upper House in comparison to the Lok Sabha, where it was cleared on Thursday, April 3, by a margin of 56 votes. Earlier, an amendment against the clause on inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf Board and Central Waqf Council was moved by DMK MP Tiruchi Siva, which was negated, with 125 votes against it and 92 in favor.

Some of the opposition MPs in the Upper House were wearing black as a mark of protest against the Bill. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju began his concluding remarks at 12:55 p.m. He reiterated that the government had heard all opinions, which is reflected in the difference between the original Bill and the one cleared by Parliament. He asserted the Opposition's overwhelming objection to the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf Board and Central Waqf Council as unfounded and baseless.

He also dismissed the Opposition's comparison with other religious endowment boards where there is no provision of including members from other religions. "The Waqf Boards are statutory bodies and not religious bodies like the Hindu endowment boards. A statutory body should be secular," he said. He also clarified again that non-Muslims members in these administrative bodies cannot dictate the decision, "they are here only to contribute".

"I have said repeatedly that in the Central Waqf Council of 22 members there can only be four non-Muslim members... still the Opposition repeatedly raised the issue," he said.

Earlier in the day, opening the attack, Congress MP Syed Naseer Hussain called it a "targeted legislation against the Muslim community" and said that it intends to make Muslims second-class citizens in the country. He alleged that the ruling party brought the legislation in 2024 in order to strengthen its vote bank as it was only able to win 240 seats in the Lok Sabha election.

"They have brought this Act just for communal polarization. Everybody knows who benefits when communal polarization takes place," the Congress leader said. He added that everyone knows which political party tries to portray one community as a villain and build a narrative against it.

Mr. Hussain, pointing at the inclusion of non-Muslims in the Waqf Board as per the proposed law asked, "Will you allow me to be part of a Hindu temple trust?"

On the Waqf By User clause which has been removed in the Bill, Mr. Hussain asked how temples will, churches or even gurudwaras which have been around for centuries bring proof that is being demanded from Waqf properties.

Referring to Mr. Hussain's statement, Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda attacked the Congress, accusing it of reducing the Muslim women as "second-grade citizens". The government, he said, believes in real service and not lip service. Giving a global perspective on the issue, he said, that other Muslim countries have brought in reforms far before India did.

He instead sought to attack the Congress, citing the practice of Triple Talaq which remains legal in India, long after it was discontinued in many countries. "You made the Indian Muslim ladies second-grade citizens," Mr. Nadda said. The opposition picked on various aspects of the Bill. RJD MP Manoj K. Jha, highlighting the various incidents of mistreatment of minorities across the country, said that both the "content and intent" of the Bill is questionable. Mr. Jha also said that the provision of nomination of non-Muslims in Waqf board is being dressed as a secular clause, except such a provision is not available in endowment boards of other religions. Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi also pointed out Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and TDP President Chandrababu Naidu's objection to the inclusion of non-Hindus in the Tirupati Board.

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

# Sikh History This Week

APRIL 4 TO APRIL 10

## 4th April



1914: Nanak Jahaz (Kama Gata Maru) sailed from Hon Kong to Canada under the leadership of Bhagat Baba Gurdit Singh Sarhali.

1946: Master Tara Singh and Mohammad Ali Jinnah discussed the Sikh-Muslim union.

1949: The Conference of Sikh Intellectuals condemned the arrest of Master Tara Singh.

1983: 26 more Sikhs were killed by Indian police at Malerkotla, where Sikhs were peacefully sitting on the trafficless road and reciting Shabads. This was part of the Rasta Roke Agitation.

## 5th April



1846 Treaty signed between the British Government in India and Maharaja Dalip Singh of Punjab.

1849 Punjab was annexed by the British.

Dalhousie was clear about annexing Punjab. Henry Lawrence told the Council of Regency not to protest. They were assured of their Jagirs! They persuaded the 11yr old Maharaja to follow suit. He was granted pension of half a million rupees per annum if he remained loyal.

1982 Negotiation talks on Sikh demands broke down. Negotiation talks on sikh demands that were initiated on October 16, 1981, between the Akali dal and the Indian Central Government fell apart.

## 6th April



1849 Maharani Jinda moved to maximum security facilities at Chunar Fort.

## 7th April

1924 3rd Shaheedhi Jatha of 500 Akali Satyagrahies, led by Sardar Santa Singh courted arrest upon reaching Gangsar, Jaito.

1948 Akali Dal passed resolution to keep its independent entity.

## 8th April

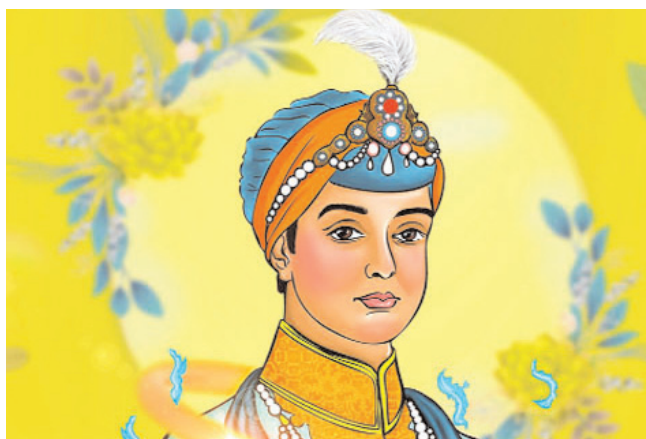
1929 Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw bombs in Legislative Assembly, Delhi.



1938 Karam Singh Jhingar dies on the last day his imprisonment.

1982 Akali Agitation initiated for the Waters Issue: Satluj-Yamuna link.

## 9th April



1656 Jotti Jot, Eighth Patshah, Guru Har Krishan Ji. Guru HAR KRISHAN Patshah (1656-1668), was born on monday, Sawan 8 sunmat 1713 (July 7, 1656) at Kiratpur, to father Sri Guru Har Rai Patshah and mother Matta Krishan Kaur. On Katak 8 sunmat 1718 (Oct. 7 1661), Guru Sahib ascended to Gur Gadhi. Based on the complaints of Baba Ram Rai, Guru Sahib were summoned to Aurangzeb's court in Delhi. While in Delhi, Guru Sahib suffered from small pox (Chaechak) and subsequently left for heavenly abode on Vaisak 3 sunmat 1721 (March 30, 1664). Two historical Gurudwaras marking Guru Sahib's visit to Delhi include Balla Sahib and Bangla Sahib. Guru Har Krishan, served as the eighth Guru of GurSikhism for a total of 2 years, 5 months and 26 days. Guru Sahibs's entire journey through our planet totaled to 7 years, 8 months, and 26 days.

Gur Gadhi, Ninth Patshah, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. 1746 Orders to shoot Sikhs at sight leading to the "Small Holocaust" in Sikh history.

1748 Mir Mannu was appointed Governor fo the Punjab that brought some of the darkest period in Sikh History.

1796 Khalsa Dal restores the belongings of Udasi Sadhus that were snatched by the Vairaghis during Kumbh Mela.

1921 Kishan Singh Gargaj leaves his position as Howaldar Major of the 35 Sikh platoon and became the Secretary of Akali Dal.

## 10th April



1754 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia given Jathaedari of Sikh Nation.



1762 Kalandar Khan attacked Sri Harmandir Sahib under Abdali's influence. Sri Harmandir Sahib was destroyed with dynamites and the sarowar filled with debri. One of Sri Harmandir Sahibs brick hit Abdali's nose. This injury proved to be deadly for him.

1763 Panth Khalsa resolved to liberate a Kasur Brahmin's wife who was abducted by the Nawab (Chief) of Kasur, Punjab.

1973 The Articles of Incorporation of the Sikh Dharma Brotherhood were endorsed by the Secretary of the State of California. This act established Sikh Dharma as an official religious organization.



**CALL FOR ALL YOUR LIFE INSURANCE NEEDS!**  
"MAKING FRIENDS THROUGH SERVICE"



**SHIV KUMAR SAHANI**

Agent, New York Life Insurance Co.  
**646-644-0174**

**OUR TEAM OF AGENTS ARE READY TO HELP!**

**PRIYA SAHANI - (917) 723-6684**

**RAVI SURTI - (614) 578-7070**

**ARISH K. SAHANI - (718) 271-0453**

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1972**



**INDO US EXPRESS, INC.**

Worldwide Couriers / Freight Forwarders  
Domestic Rush Delivery / Import / Export  
Custom Clearance / Trading Consultant

Gurinder Singh  
CEO

**SALES OFFICE**

224 West 30th St., #604, New York, NY 10001  
Mail: P.O. Box 7304, Hicksville, NY 11802

Office: 212.447.5720 Fax: 516.932.3750  
Delhi: 98.1849.0552  
Mumbai: 92.2453.1807  
New York: 347.538.7041

Visit US Online: [www.indousexpress.com](http://www.indousexpress.com)  
Email: [indousexpress@gmail.com](mailto:indousexpress@gmail.com)

**Indian Visa Center**

VISA / OCI PIO / PASSPORT  
APPLICATION ASSISTANCE CENTER  
349 S. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

**DEEPAK BANSAL**

Email: [deepakbansalny@gmail.com](mailto:deepakbansalny@gmail.com)

Cell: 516.304.8808 Fax: 516.218.8009



**BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY**

Join our team and

**Build Your Own Business**  
In Financial Services domain

- \* No Investment
- \* Part-time and full-time opportunity
- \* Extensive Training & Support

**Call Now**

901.335.7521

[FinFreeServicesLLC@gmail.com](mailto:FinFreeServicesLLC@gmail.com)

Get  
to the  
Point



The INDIAN PANORAMA  
EVER TRUTHFUL

A DELIGHTFUL READING EVERY WEEK

**Widest Coverage**

Your Trusted Partner in Business

**The Indian Panorama**

P.O. Box No. 190067, South Richmond Hill, NY 11419, Tel: 646-247-9458  
Dallas Edition - P.O. Box 121695, Arlington, TX 76012

[www.theindianpanorama.news](http://www.theindianpanorama.news)



**Do you want to succeed in a very rewarding career?**

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
**IS HIRING**

Do you want to capitalize on your ability to produce?

**COME CHECK IT OUT!**

CALL MR. ROHAN HANDA **718-286-1132 | 516-435-6120**

Rohan Handa  
Executive Partner  
New York Life

Conveniently located at:  
95-25 Queens Blvd., 4th Floor  
Rego Park, N.Y. 11374



# Ram Navami: The birth of Lord Rama

Ram Navami is one of the most significant Hindu festivals, celebrated with devotion and grandeur across India and in many parts of the world. It marks the birth anniversary of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, who is revered as Maryada Purushottama—the embodiment of righteousness and virtue. Observed on the ninth day (Navami) of the Chaitra month (March-April) in the Hindu lunar calendar, Ram Navami holds deep spiritual and cultural importance.

This festival is not just a commemoration of Rama's birth but also a celebration of his ideals, principles, and the values that his life exemplified. It is a day of fasting, devotion, and recitation of the Ramayana, particularly the Bala Kanda, which narrates Rama's birth. Let us delve into the history, mythology, and significance of Ram Navami in detail.

## The Mythological Background

According to the Hindu epic Ramayana, King Dasharatha of Ayodhya was childless despite having three queens—Kaushalya, Kaikeyi, and Sumitra. Desiring an heir, he performed the grand Putrakameshti Yagna under the guidance of Sage Vashistha. As a result, the deity Agni (the fire god) emerged from the sacrificial fire with a divine kheer (sweet rice pudding) and instructed the king to distribute it among his queens.

Kaushalya consumed the largest portion and gave birth to Rama, Kaikeyi to Bharata, and Sumitra to Lakshmana and Shatrughna. Thus, the divine manifestation of Lord Vishnu was born on Navami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Chaitra month in Treta Yuga to uphold dharma and vanquish evil.

## The Purpose of Rama's Incarnation

The birth of Lord Rama was destined to destroy the demon king Ravana, who had become invincible due to a boon that protected him from gods, demons, and celestial beings but not from humans. Lord Vishnu took birth as Rama, a human prince, to fulfill this cosmic purpose.

Ravana's tyranny had spread fear and suffering across the three worlds. He had misused his powers, abducted women, and disturbed the balance of nature. The gods, sages, and celestial beings prayed to Vishnu to put an end to Ravana's reign of terror. Thus, the divine plan was set in motion, leading to the birth of Lord Rama.

## Significance of Ram Navami

Ram Navami holds immense religious, spiritual, and cultural importance. The festival signifies:

- **Victory of Good over Evil:** Lord Rama is the epitome of truth and righteousness, and his birth symbolizes the triumph of dharma (righteousness) over adharma (unrighteousness).



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Ram Navami 2025**

**Sunday, 06 April 2025**

**Navami Tithi Begins - 05 April 2025 at**

**07:26 pm**

**Navami Tithi ends - 06 April 2025 at**

**07:23 pm**

- **Devotion to Duty and Honor:** Rama's life is a lesson in dharma, devotion, and duty-values that remain relevant across ages.
- **Spiritual Awakening:** It is believed that chanting Rama's name or listening to his stories on this day grants moksha (liberation) and washes away sins.
- **Celebration of Maryada Purushottama:** Lord Rama is considered the ideal son, husband, brother, and ruler. His unwavering commitment to truth and justice makes him an eternal role model.
- **Symbol of Ideal Leadership:** Rama's governance, known as Rama Rajya, is regarded as the golden era of justice, prosperity, and peace.

## How Ram Navami is Celebrated

Ram Navami is observed with great fervor across India and among Hindu communities worldwide. The celebrations vary across regions but commonly include the following:

### Temple Worship and Special Puja

Devotees visit Rama temples and offer

special prayers. Temples are decorated with flowers and lights, and idols of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, and Hanuman are worshipped with bhajans (devotional songs), aarti, and offerings.

### Recitation of Ramayana and Ramcharitmanas

On this day, people recite or listen to readings from the Ramayana and Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas, which narrate the divine life of Rama. Special focus is given to the Bala Kanda, which details his birth.

### Fasting and Devotional Activities

Many devotees observe a day-long fast (vrat), breaking it only after sunset with satvik (pure) food. Some undertake nirjala vrat (without food and water) as an act of extreme devotion.

### Rath Yatras (Processions)

Grand processions are held in cities like Ayodhya, Varanasi, Rameswaram, and Hyderabad, featuring beautifully decorated chariots carrying Rama's idols. Devotees chant Jai Shri Ram! as they sing bhajans and enact episodes from the Ramayana.

## Kirtans and Bhajans

Devotional singing of Rama bhajans and Nama Japa (chanting of Rama's name) is a significant part of the celebrations, creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere.

## Celebrations in Ayodhya

Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama, witnesses the grandest Ram Navami festivities. Lakhs of devotees take a holy dip in the Sarayu River; visit Ram Janmabhoomi, and participate in religious gatherings. Special Rama Leela performances (dramatic reenactments of Ramayana) are also staged.

## Regional Variations of Ram Navami

While the essence of the festival remains the same, different regions in India have unique ways of celebrating:

- **North India (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh):** Ram Navami is marked by grand temple processions and recitations of the Ramayana.
- **South India (Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh):** People perform Kalyanotsavam (symbolic marriage of Rama and Sita) in temples.
- **Maharashtra:** Temples like Panchavati (Nashik) host large-scale celebrations.
- **West Bengal and Odisha:** Devotees observe the festival by reading the Adhyatma Ramayana.
- **Nepal:** As the birthplace of Sita, Nepal, particularly Janakpur, witnesses grand celebrations.

## The Spiritual Message of Ram Navami

Ram Navami is more than a religious festival; it is a reminder of the eternal values that Lord Rama personified:

- **Truth and Righteousness:** Rama's commitment to truth, even at great personal cost, teaches us the importance of ethical living.
- **Devotion and Faith:** The devotion of Hanuman, Bharata, and Sita toward Rama exemplifies selfless love and surrender to the divine.
- **Duty and Responsibility:** Rama's life highlights the virtues of duty towards family, society, and nation.
- **Compassion and Justice:** Despite being a warrior, Rama's heart was filled with love, compassion, and justice.
- **Self-Sacrifice and Service:** Rama gave up his royal comforts to fulfill his father's promise, teaching the importance of honoring commitments.

Ram Navami is not just a celebration of Lord Rama's birth but a day to reaffirm one's commitment to righteousness, duty, and devotion. Whether through fasting, prayer, or chanting his name, devotees seek to imbibe Rama's virtues in their lives. As we celebrate this sacred occasion, may we strive to follow the path of truth, courage, and righteousness exemplified by Shri Ram.

Mahavir Jayanti is one of the most significant festivals for Jains across the world. It marks the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, who is revered for his teachings of non-violence (Ahimsa), truth (Satya), non-possessiveness (Aparigraha), celibacy (Brahmacharya), and non-stealing (Asteya). His life and teachings continue to inspire millions of people to lead a righteous and peaceful life. Celebrated with great fervor, Mahavir Jayanti provides an opportunity to reflect on the values he espoused and their relevance in contemporary society.

### Historical Background of Lord Mahavir

Lord Mahavir, also known as Vardhamana Mahavira, was born in 599 BCE (according to the traditional Jain belief) in the royal family of King Siddhartha and Queen Trishala of the Ikshvaku dynasty. His birthplace, Kundagrama (now in Bihar, India), was a significant location in ancient India. Queen Trishala had a series of auspicious dreams before his birth, which were interpreted by the Jain scholars as signs that the child would grow up to be a great spiritual leader.

Despite being born into a royal family, Mahavir displayed detachment from materialistic pleasures from an early age. He exhibited remarkable patience, wisdom, and a deep inclination toward spiritual practices. His life in the palace was marked by luxury, but his quest for truth led him to renounce worldly possessions at the age of 30.

### Renunciation and Spiritual Pursuit

At 30, Mahavir left his princely life and embarked on a spiritual journey. He undertook rigorous penance, practicing extreme austerities and meditation for 12 years. During this period, he endured hardships such as fasting, enduring extreme weather conditions, and facing opposition from various elements of society. His unwavering commitment to spiritual realization ultimately led to his enlightenment at the age of 42.

### Enlightenment and Teachings

After attaining Kevala Jnana (omniscience), Lord Mahavir spent the next 30 years of his life preaching the principles of Jainism. His teachings emphasized the importance of self-discipline, ethical conduct, and compassion for all living beings. He propagated the Five Great Vows (Mahavratas), which form the foundation of Jain ethical principles:

- Ahimsa (Non-violence): The belief in non-violence extends to all forms of life, emphasizing that even the smallest creatures have the right to live without harm.
- Satya (Truthfulness): Speaking the truth is considered a fundamental virtue in Jainism.
- Asteya (Non-stealing): One must not take anything that is not willingly given.
- Brahmacharya (Celibacy): Restraining from sensual pleasures and leading a life of purity.
- Aparigraha (Non-possessiveness): Letting go of material possessions

# Mahavir Jayanti: Birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir

and attachments to attain spiritual liberation.

Mahavir's teachings were compiled by his disciples and later formed the core of Jain scriptures known as the Agamas.

### Significance of Mahavir Jayanti

Mahavir Jayanti is celebrated with devotion and enthusiasm by Jains worldwide. It is an occasion to reflect on the values of compassion, self-discipline, and non-violence that Lord Mahavir advocated. The festival is also an opportunity for individuals to strengthen their commitment to Jain principles and engage in acts of charity and service.

### Rituals and Celebrations

Mahavir Jayanti is observed with various religious and cultural activities. Some of the key traditions associated with the festival include:

#### Processions and Prayers:

- Devotees gather at Jain temples to offer prayers and seek blessings.
- Grand processions, known as "Rath Yatras," are carried out, featuring idols of Lord Mahavir placed in chariots, accompanied by chanting and devotional music.

#### Puja and Offerings:

- Special prayers and rituals, including "Abhisheka" (ceremonial bathing of the idol), are performed in Jain temples.
- Devotees offer flowers, fruits, and sweets to the idol as a mark of devotion.

#### Lectures and Discourses:

- Religious scholars and monks deliver discourses on Lord Mahavir's life and teachings.
- Many Jain organizations conduct seminars and lectures to spread awareness about Jain philosophy and its relevance.

#### Acts of Charity and Non-Violence:

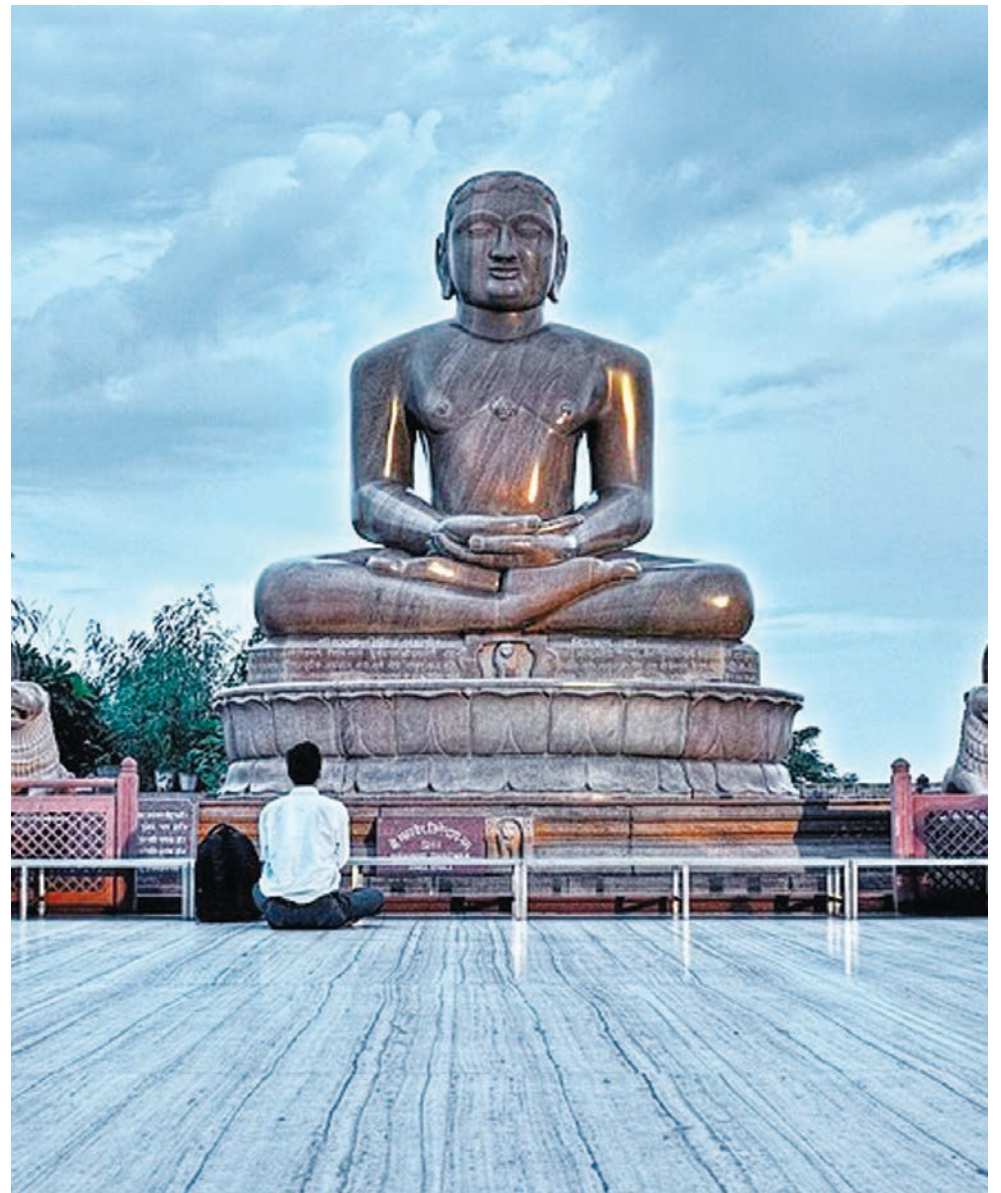
- Jains engage in charitable activities such as distributing food, clothing, and medical aid to the needy.
- Many followers practice complete vegetarianism and abstain from consuming root vegetables to minimize harm to living beings.

#### Fasting and Meditation:

- Devout Jains observe fasting as a means of self-purification and spiritual upliftment.
- Meditation and chanting of Jain scriptures are encouraged to attain inner peace.

#### Educational and Cultural Events:

- Schools and universities conduct essay-writing and quiz competitions on Jain philosophy.
- Jain communities organize cultural



programs, including plays and storytelling sessions depicting the life of Lord Mahavir.

### Relevance of Mahavir's Teachings in Modern Society

Lord Mahavir's teachings are not only confined to religious followers but are universally relevant in today's world. In an era marked by violence, materialism, and ethical dilemmas, his principles serve as a guide for leading a meaningful and compassionate life.

#### Non-violence and Peace

Ahimsa, or non-violence, is one of the most significant teachings of Lord Mahavir. In a world plagued by conflicts, war, and cruelty toward animals, embracing non-violence can promote harmony and global peace. Many leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, were inspired by Jain principles in their advocacy for non-violent resistance.

#### Environmental Sustainability

The principle of non-possessiveness (Aparigraha) aligns with modern environmental concerns. Overconsumption and greed have led to ecological imbalances, and adopting a minimalist lifestyle can contribute to sustainability and conservation efforts.

#### Ethical Living and Integrity

Mahavir's teachings on truthfulness and ethical conduct encourage individuals to live with honesty and integrity. In professional and personal life, adhering to moral values fosters trust and mutual respect.

#### Compassion and Animal Welfare

The Jain doctrine of non-violence extends to all living beings, advocating vegetarianism and cruelty-free living. Today, the growing awareness of animal rights and ethical consumption aligns with these principles, promoting kindness and responsible choices.

Mahavir Jayanti is not just a religious festival but a celebration of timeless values that can bring peace, harmony, and righteousness to the world. Lord Mahavir's teachings continue to guide humanity in overcoming greed, violence, and ethical conflicts. By embracing his principles, individuals can contribute to a more compassionate and just society. Whether one follows Jainism or not, the wisdom of Lord Mahavir remains relevant in cultivating a life of integrity, empathy, and mindfulness. The observance of Mahavir Jayanti serves as a reminder to integrate these principles into daily life, fostering a culture of peace, non-violence, and ethical responsibility.

# Life and teachings of Lord Mahavir

Though Mahavira or Mahavir was the founder of the historical Jainism, the jaina traditions maintained that there were 23 Tirthankars or prophets of that faith before the birth of Mahavira.

Mahavira thus is regarded as the twenty-fourth Tirthankara of the Jainas. It is said that the first of those prophets was Rishabha, and the last Tirthankara before Mahavira was Parsvanath.

The lives of the earlier Tirthankaras are unknown to history. Parsvanath, however, lived nearer to historical times and there-more, some accounts of him are available to history. But he, too, is said to have died 250 years before Mahavira, after living a full life of hundred years.

Parsvanath was the son of Asvasena, a Kshatriya king of Banaras. At the age of 30, he abandoned home in search of truth, and got his enlightenment after hard penance. He collected a large number of disciples to whom he preached his doctrines. The followers of his faith were asked to take four great vows, namely, to give up violence or injury to life, to be ever truthful, not to take property of others, and not to possess property of one's own.

His successor to the faith, Mahavira, added the fifth vow, namely, to maintain celibacy, or Brahmacharya. Parsva believed in the eternity of all matter. Mahavira" also believed in that. This leads some historians to suggest that Parsvanath was the real founder of the Jaina faith. Mahavira Jina, however, gave that faith its real and historical form, and made it a great religion. He was the last Tirthankara or 'the Ford-maker across the stream of existence'.

The original name of Mahavira was Vardhamana. He was born in a village named Kundagrama near the ancient city of Vaisali. His father Siddhartha was the chief of a Kshatriya clan, famous as Jnatrikas. His mother was princess Trishala, sister of the ruler of Vaisali, Chetaka. She was also related to some other royal families of that time. This shows that Vardhamana was born in a highly aristocratic family of fame and wealth.

The date of the birth of Vardhamana Mahavira is controversial. According to one calculation, he was born in 618 B.C. and died in 546 B.C. after a life of 72 years. According to another calculation, he was born in 540 B.C. and died in 468 B.C. Though some other dates are also suggested, the date of Mahavira's death in 468 B.C. is accepted as a more probable date.

It is based on a tradition recorded by the famous Jaina monk Hemachandra that Chandragupta Maurya came to the throne after 155 years of Mahavira's death. But, this calculation also creates difficulties when related to other historical events. The dates of Mahavira thus remain yet doubtful.

It is enough to know, that Mahavira belonged to sixth century B.C., was a contemporary of Buddha, and according to Buddhist sources, he died before



Buddha. Vardhamana started his life like others. In his youth he married Yoshoda. A daughter was born to him. But the worldly attractions did not make him worldly-minded. At the age of 30, after the death of his parents, he renounced the world and became a monk.

He took to a life of extreme penance and a wandering monk. In search of truth he struggled for long twelve years. He subjected his body to all kinds of pain while moving from place to place. According to a description in a Jaina text: "He wandered naked and homeless. People struck him and mocked at him. Unconcerned, he continued in his meditations. In Ladha, the inhabitants persecuted him and set dogs on him.

They beat him with sticks and with their feet, and threw fruits, clods of earth and potsherds on him. They disturbed him in his meditations by all sorts of torments. But like a hero in the forefront of the battle, Mahavira withstood it all. Whether he was wounded or not, he never sought medical aid. He took no kind of medicaments; he never washed, did not bathe and never cleaned his teeth. In winter, he meditated in the shade; in the heat of the summer he seated himself in the scorching sun. Often he drank no water for months. Sometimes he took only every sixth, eighth, tenth or twelfth meal and pursued his meditations without craving".

Such was the life of hardship that Vardhamana passed through. Finally, in the thirteenth year of his penance, he got enlightenment or the supreme knowledge or the Kevala Jnana. With that he became the Jaina or the Conqueror, Mahavira or the Great Hero and Kevalin or the All Knowing. After gaining the supreme knowledge Mahavira Jina preached his faith for long thirty years. He travelled far and wide and visited such places as Mithila, Sravasti, Champa, Vaisali and Rajagriha. Kings and commoners heard his doctrines with devotion. Among the rulers, kings Bimbisara and Ajatasatru paid him their respects.

It is known from the Jaina sources that he came as far as Kalinga and preached his doctrines from the Kumari Hill (the Udayagiri Hill near Bhubaneswar) to the people of Orissa. Everywhere, the common people as well as the kings

listened to him. He was venerated as a great prophet. While wandering and preaching his gospels tirelessly, Mahavira Jaina died at the age of 72 at a place named Pava near the city of Rajagriha. His remarkable life was an example of austerity, purity and morality. To an India of spiritual hunger, Mahavira presented great doctrines to awaken men's mind to a higher religious level.

## Teachings of Mahavir

Tri-Ratna-Mahavira laid the greatest emphasis on a truly good life of the human beings. According to him, the three absolute conditions for good life were the Right Faith, the Right Knowledge, and the Right Action. These principles of life were described as the Tri-Ratna or the three jewels.

For such a good life, man was required to discover his own soul which was 'The highest, the noblest and the fullest manifestation of all the powers'.

Mahavira did not bring God into his religious faith. While the universe was eternal, he did not find a creator behind it. Nor did he find the role of a creator to control and regulate the universe. According to him, all manifestations of power lay in the creation itself. The later Jainas came to believe that God might be just a 'spiritual ideal' which man could find in his own purified Atma.

When Mahavira did not give any importance to God, his religion kept no place for the priests to work between God and man. Thus came an opposition to the Brahminical supremacy in the spheres of religion. As the worship of Gods, offering of prayers, value of mantras, and the need of priestly class were denied, the Vedas and the Upanishads were also not given importance in the Jain thought.

## Karma and Rebirth

In Jainism, the faith in the theory of karma and rebirth was absolute. Man has to work in order to live. His soul therefore, is engaged in various work. Mahavira gave the maximum stress on Karma. He divided all existing things into two categories, the living and the non-living. All the living beings were described as the Jivas. Each Jiva in the body was the Atma.

Since the Jiva existed in physical or

material form, it got bound to action or Karma. Man was thus bound to exist with mental, verbal and physical activities. Naturally, therefore, his Atma became subject to his Karma. It was this Karma which decided the future of the Atma. If man did not do the correct Karma through his mind, speech and body, he was bound to suffer the results of his karma.

The Karma was thus the eternal law. Bad or good karma would go by bad or good results. And, there was no escape from it. Man was bound to suffer punishment for sins through birth and rebirth. The unending cycle of rebirth would continue as long as man did not perfect his thoughts, words and deeds to get released from rebirths.

## Ahimsa

Absolute faith in Ahimsa or the non-violence received the highest place in Jainism. The life of every living being was regarded as sacred. The smallest of the small creatures also possessed life as did the human beings. It was therefore a supreme sin that man should destroy the life of other creatures. As man himself does not want to be injured or killed, so also no creature would like to be injured or killed. According to Jainism, it was the duty of man to protect and preserve the life of every living creature. To Mahavira Jaina, the practice of Ahimsa was like the highest duty of every man.

## Reformism

Jainism rose as a new religion. Side by side, it challenged many existing evils of the Brahmanic faith. Mahavira Jaina was one of the greatest reformers of ancient India. He raised his voice against many social and religious systems of his time. In an age when religion mainly meant worship of many deities, practice of meaningless ceremonies, and sacrifice of animals, Jaina drew the attention of man towards higher spiritual goals. According to him, sins of life cannot be washed away by worship or prayers. Man can avoid sins by a virtuous conduct.

## Jain Doctrines:

The jain canons may broadly be divided into two parts, the philosophical and the practical. The philosophical part contains ontology (a part of metaphysics dealing with the essence of things at the abstract level), metaphysics and psychology. The practical aspect relates to ethics and asceticism, monasticism and the life to be led by the laity.

Parsvanatha, who preached before Mahavira, had given four principles for a pure life. Those were, non-violence, truth, non-stealing, and non-possession. Mahavira Jaina added another principle namely Brahmacharya or celibacy. According to him, these five qualities were necessary for leading a life towards perfection and to cross the stream of existence. Mahavira gave up all attachments towards worldly things. He even gave up the use of clothes.

# History This Week APR 04- APR 10

## APRIL 4

April 4, 1887 - The first woman mayor was elected in the U.S. as Susanna M. Salter became mayor of Argonia, Kansas.

April 4, 1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.



April 4, 1968 - Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, Tennessee. As head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he had championed non-violent resistance to end racial oppression and had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. He is best remembered for his I Have a Dream speech delivered at the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington. That march and King's other efforts helped the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. In 1986, Congress established the third Monday in January as a national holiday in his honor.

**Birthdays** - American social reformer Dorothea Dix (1802-1887) was born in Hampden, Maine. She founded a home for girls in Boston while only in her teens and later crusaded for humane conditions in jails and insane asylums. During the American Civil War, she was superintendent of women nurses.

**Birthdays** - Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto (1884-1943) was born in Nagaoko, Honshu. He was the main strategist behind the failed Japanese attack on Midway Island in June of 1942, which turned the course of the war against Japan. He was killed on April 18, 1943, after Americans intercepted radio reports of his whereabouts and shot down his plane.

## APRIL 5

April 5, 1986 - A bomb exploded at a popular discotheque frequented by American military personnel in West Berlin, killing two U.S. soldiers and a Turkish woman. American intelligence analysts attributed the attack to Muammar Qaddafi of Libya. Nine days later, President Ronald Reagan ordered a retaliatory air strike against Libya.



**Birthdays** - African American educator Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) was

born a slave in Franklin County, Virginia. Freed by the Civil War, he taught himself the alphabet and eventually graduated from an agricultural institute. In June of 1881, he was asked to become the principal of a new training school for blacks at Tuskegee, Alabama. The Tuskegee Institute began in single building with 30 students but through his efforts grew into a modern university.

## APRIL 6

April 6, 1896 - After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 6, 1917 - Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the U.S. entered World War I in Europe.

April 6, 1994 - The beginning of genocide in Rwanda as a plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi was shot down. They had been meeting to discuss ways of ending ethnic rivalries between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes. After their deaths, Rwanda descended into chaos, resulting in genocidal conflict between the tribes. Over 500,000 persons were killed with two million fleeing the country.



**Birthdays** - Renaissance artist Raphael (1483-1520) was born in Urbino, Italy. He created some of the world's greatest masterpieces including 300 pictures with a Madonna theme. He died on his 37th birthday in Rome.

## APRIL 7

April 7, 1712 - In New York City, 27 black slaves rebelled, shooting nine whites as they attempted to put out a fire started by the slaves. The state militia was called out to capture the rebels. Twenty one of the slaves were executed and six committed suicide.

## APRIL 8

April 8th - Among Buddhists, celebrated as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 millions persons currently profess the Buddhist faith.



April 8, 1952 - President Harry S. Truman seized control of America's steel mills to prevent a shutdown by strikers. However, on April 29th, the seizure was ruled unconstitutional by a U.S. District Court. Workers immediately began a strike lasting 53 days, ending it when they received a 16-cents per-hour wage increase and additional benefits.

April 8, 1913 - The 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified requiring direct popular election of U.S. senators. Previously, they had been chosen by state legislatures.



April 8, 1990 - Ryan White died at age 18 of complications from AIDS. As a young boy, White, a hemophiliac, contracted the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from a blood transfusion. At age ten, he was banned from school. He then moved with his mother to Cicero, Indiana, where he was accepted by the students. As his plight was publicized, he gained international celebrity status and helped promote understanding of the dreaded disease.

## APRIL 9

April 9, 1865 - After over 500,000 American deaths, the Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 9, 1866 - Despite a veto by President Andrew Johnson, the Civil Rights Bill of 1866 was passed by Congress granting blacks the rights and privileges of U.S. citizenship.



**Birthdays** - African American actor and

singer Paul Robeson (1898-1976) was born in Princeton, New Jersey. Best known for his performance in *The Emperor Jones*, he also enjoyed a long run on Broadway in Shakespeare's *Othello*. In 1950, amid ongoing anti-Communist hysteria, Robeson was denied a U.S. passport after refusing to sign an affidavit on whether he had ever been a member of the Communist Party.

## APRIL 10

April 10, 1942 - During World War II in the Pacific, the Bataan Death March began as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 10, 1945 - The Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated by U.S. troops. Located near Weimar in Germany, Buchenwald was established in July 1937 to hold criminals and was one of the first major concentration camps. It later included Jews and homosexuals and was used as a slave labor center for nearby German companies. Of a total of 238,980 Buchenwald inmates, 56,545 perished. Following its liberation, Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other top U.S. commanders visited the sub-camp at Ohrdruf. U.S. Troops also forced German civilians from nearby towns into the camp to view the carnage.

April 10, 1998 - Politicians in Northern Ireland reached an agreement aimed at ending 30 years of violence which had claimed over 3,400 lives. Under the agreement, Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland would govern together in a new 108-member Belfast assembly, thus ending 26 years of "direct rule" from London.



**Birthdays** - Publisher Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He came to America in 1864 and fought briefly in the Civil War for the Union. He then began a remarkable career in journalism and publishing. His newspapers included the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the *New York World*. He also endowed the journalism school at Columbia University and established a fund for the Pulitzer Prizes, awarded annually for excellence in journalism.

# Andaman and Nicobar Islands: Tropical paradise

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an enchanting archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, are a tropical paradise known for their pristine beaches, crystal-clear waters, lush greenery, and rich historical significance. Whether you are a nature lover, adventure enthusiast, or history buff, these islands offer an unforgettable experience.

## Geography and Climate

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of around 572 islands, of which only a few are inhabited. The capital, Port Blair, serves as the entry point to the islands. The tropical climate makes it an all-year-round destination, but the best time to visit is from October to May when the weather is pleasant and conducive to sightseeing and adventure activities.

## Seasons in Andaman and Nicobar:

- Summer (March to May): Warm and humid but ideal for water activities.
- Monsoon (June to September): Heavy rainfall and rough seas can affect travel plans.
- Winter (October to February): Cool and dry, making it the best season for tourism.

## Top Tourist Attractions

### Radhanagar Beach (Havelock Island)

Ranked among the best beaches in Asia, Radhanagar Beach boasts powdery white sand, turquoise waters, and breathtaking sunsets. It is ideal for swimming, sunbathing, and photography.

### Cellular Jail (Port Blair)

A reminder of India's colonial past, Cellular Jail, also known as 'Kala Pani,' is a must-visit historical site. The light and sound show narrates the sacrifices of freedom fighters who were imprisoned here.

### Ross Island

Once the British administrative headquarters, Ross Island is now an abandoned yet captivating island with ruins of colonial buildings, old churches, and lush forests inhabited by deer and peacocks.

### North Bay Island

A haven for adventure seekers, North Bay Island offers thrilling water sports such as snorkeling, scuba diving, and sea walking to explore the vibrant coral reefs and marine life.

### Neil Island

Famous for its laid-back vibe, Neil Island features stunning beaches like Laxmanpur, Bharatpur, and Sitapur. It is a perfect getaway for relaxation and exploring marine biodiversity.

### Baratang Island

Home to natural wonders like limestone caves and mud volcanoes, Baratang Island offers a unique experience for those keen on exploring untouched landscapes.

### Barren Island

The only active volcano in South Asia,



Barren Island is a fascinating sight, though tourists can only view it from a boat at a safe distance.

### Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

This marine park near Wandoor is home to vibrant coral reefs, exotic marine species, and lush mangroves, making it an excellent spot for eco-tourism and snorkeling.

### Chidiya Tapu

Known as the "Bird Island," Chidiya Tapu is a paradise for birdwatchers and sunset lovers. The biological park and mangrove creeks enhance its beauty.

### Jolly Buoy Island

Part of the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park, Jolly Buoy Island is famous for its stunning coral reefs and

clear waters, making it an excellent spot for glass-bottom boat rides and snorkeling.

## Adventure Activities

### Scuba Diving and Snorkeling

The Andaman Sea is rich in coral reefs and exotic marine species, making scuba diving and snorkeling at sites like Havelock Island, Neil Island, and North Bay a thrilling experience.

### Sea Walking

At places like North Bay and Elephant Beach, sea walking provides an extraordinary chance to walk on the seabed and witness the underwater world up close.

### Kayaking and Mangrove Tours

Explore the dense mangrove forests in Mayabunder and Havelock Island through kayaking, offering a serene and unique way to connect with nature.

### Trekking

Mount Harriet and Madhuban trails offer breathtaking views and a chance to experience the diverse flora and fauna of the islands.

### Glass-Bottom Boat Rides

Ideal for non-swimmers, these boat rides provide an opportunity to observe corals and marine life without getting wet.

### Game Fishing

For fishing enthusiasts, Andaman offers game fishing experiences where you can catch species like tuna, marlin, and barracuda.

### Jet Skiing and Parasailing

Adventurers can enjoy thrilling jet ski rides and parasailing at Rajiv Gandhi Water Sports Complex in Port Blair and at Elephant Beach in Havelock.

# New York City Mayor Eric Adams' historic federal corruption case has been dropped

CONTD FROM PAGE 20

"These upgrades and freebies were not part of some frequent flyer or loyalty program available to the general public. As we allege, this was a multi-year scheme to buy favor with a single New York City politician on the rise," then-U.S. District Attorney for the Southern District Damian Williams said as he announced the indictment.

Prosecutors accused Adams of pressuring FDNY officials to approve the Turkish consulate building in Manhattan, despite fire safety concerns.

The Adams campaign was also accused of using "straw donors" for illicit contributions, enabling it to tap into \$10 million in matching funds.

"These are bright red lines, and we allege that the mayor crossed them again and again for years," Williams said.

Before the DOJ stepped in, prosecutors appeared to be ramping up their case, claiming they had uncovered "additional criminal conduct."

## ADAMS' ASSOCIATES ARE ALSO UNDER INVESTIGATION

The historic indictment came amid multiple investigations into Adams' campaign, as well as other administration officials.

Numerous top members of the Adams administration resigned before the indictment was announced, including former NYPD Commissioner Edward Caban and his twin brother, James Caban. Former Schools Chancellor David Banks and his wife, former Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, and his brother, former Deputy Mayor Philip Banks III, were also investigated.

Ingrid Lewis-Martin, a longtime Adams advisor, pleaded not guilty to bribery, money laundering and conspiracy in a case involving her son and two real estate developers. The mayor's former liaison for the Muslim community, Mohamed Bahi, was also charged with conspiracy for his role in collecting illegal donations for Adams' 2021 mayoral campaign and has agreed to plead guilty, according to court documents.

Here is a timeline of his alleged crimes and the investigation swirling around his inner circle.

According to the indictment, Adams received free airplane tickets and upgrades on several occasions between 2016-2021, when he was Brooklyn borough president.

2016: Received two free upgrades to business class on a roundtrip from New York to India via Turkey, valued at over \$12,000

2017: Received three free business class tickets on a roundtrip from New York to France, Turkey and China, along with a "heavily discounted" stay in a suite at the luxury St. Regis Istanbul hotel, valued at over \$41,000

2017: Received two free business class tickets on a roundtrip from New York to China via Turkey, valued at over \$16,000

2018: Received two free upgrades to business class on a roundtrip from New York to Hungary via Turkey, valued at

over \$12,000

2019: Received a free upgrade to business class on a flight from New York to Turkey, along with a free stay at a suite at the St. Regis Istanbul hotel, free meals, free transportation and free entertainment, valued at over \$9,000

2021: Received two free upgrades to business class on a roundtrip from New York to Ghana via Turkey, along with a free meal and transportation during a layover in Istanbul, valued at over \$12,000

Adams was also accused of soliciting and accepting two free upgrades to business class on a roundtrip from New York to Turkey in 2021, along with free or "steeply discounted" luxury hotel and resort stays, transportation, entertainment and meals, but he later canceled.

## NYC MAYOR ERIC ADAMS' INNER CIRCLE UNDER INVESTIGATION

Nov. 2, 2023 -- Adams abruptly cancels a trip to Washington, D.C. to discuss the asylum seeker crisis with senior White House officials. A spokesperson says the mayor returned to New York City to deal with a matter related to the campaign.

CBS News New York later reports that the FBI carried out a raid at the home of one of the mayor's top fundraisers, Brianna Suggs, that morning.

Adams later insists he complied with the rules of the campaign and says he was surprised by the investigation.

Nov. 3, 2023 -- The Adams campaign announces its own investigation into contributions.

Nov. 6, 2023 -- FBI agents seize Adams' iPhones and iPad (This was not known until Nov. 10).

Nov. 8, 2023 -- For nearly an hour, Adams fields questions from reporters about why he suddenly left the White House meeting.

Nov. 13, 2023 -- Adams and City Hall officials ask the FBI to stop leaking information about the investigation.

Nov. 17, 2023 -- Sources tell CBS News New York the FBI searched the homes of Rana Abbasova, who worked in the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, and Cenk Ocal, a former Turkish Airlines executive on Adams' transition team.

Nov. 18, 2023 -- Adams sets up a legal defense fund amid the corruption investigation into his 2021 campaign.

Nov. 28, 2023 -- Adams says Suggs was reassigned and no longer raising money for his reelection campaign.

Dec. 6, 2023 -- A Quinnipiac University poll says Adams' approval rating sunk to a record low.

Feb. 29, 2024 -- The FBI raids the homes of Winnie Greco, Adams' director of Asian affairs and a prolific fundraiser who worked with him for over a decade.

April 5, 2024 -- CBS News New York reports the FBI is investigating expensive upgrades Adams received on flights to Turkey.

May 21, 2024 -- CBS News New York reports Abbasova, Adams liaison to the Turkish community, is cooperating with federal investigators probing the 2021 campaign.

Aug. 15, 2024 -- CBS News New York

reports Adams and members of his staff were issued new subpoenas in July.

Sept. 4, 2024 -- Federal agents raid the homes of four top members of the Adams administration, including Police Commissioner Edward Caban, First Deputy Mayor Sheena Wright, Deputy Mayor Philip Banks, and Timothy Pearson, an advisor to the mayor and former high-ranking NYPD official.

Sept. 12, 2024 -- Caban resigns as New York City police commissioner, saying the raids had "created a distraction."

Sept. 14, 2024 -- Adams' chief counsel Lisa Zornberg resigns.

Sept. 21, 2024 -- Federal agents search multiple homes belonging to Interim NYPD Commissioner Tom Donlon. Donlon says the agents "took materials that came into my possession approximately 20 years ago and are unrelated to my work with the New York City Police Department."

Sept. 23, 2024 -- New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasani submits his resignation for personal and family reasons, effective in January 2025.

Sept. 24, 2024 -- Adams addresses reports of the federal investigation expanding to his dealings with six foreign governments, including Turkey.

Sept. 25, 2024 -- Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez joins the calls for Adams to resign "for the good of the city." Hours later, CBS News New York reports Adams will be indicted.

Sept. 26, 2024 -- Adams is indicted on federal bribery, conspiracy and campaign finance charges in the Southern District of New York, becoming the first sitting mayor of New York City to be criminally charged.

Sept. 27, 2024 -- Adams is arraigned in Lower Manhattan and pleads not guilty to all charges. Federal agents also subpoena Adams' chief advisor, Ingrid Lewis-Martin, and seize her phone in another incident involving the mayor's inner circle.

Sept. 28, 2024 -- Adams speaks publicly for the first time since his arraignment before a church event in Queens.

Sept. 30, 2024 -- Adams' attorney, Alex Spiro, moves to dismiss the bribery charge. The same day, Pearson announces his resignation.

Oct. 1, 2024 -- Spiro asks the court to sanction federal prosecutors for allegedly leaking details of the case to the media. The mayor also fills two appointments, nominating Muriel Goode-Trufant to serve as corporation counsel and naming Allison Stoddart as his chief counsel.

Oct. 2, 2024 -- Prosecutors say they will likely file a superseding indictment that could include more charges against Adams and additional defendants. Later that evening, Schools Chancellor David Banks says his retirement will be effective Oct. 16, months earlier than he had announced.

Oct. 7, 2024 -- Adams confirms Philip Banks III, the schools chancellor's brother, is stepping down. Later that night, CBS News New York learns three other top officials are leaving: Abbasova, Greco and Mohamed Bahi.

Oct. 8, 2024 -- Another federal

indictment drops, charging Bahi with destroying evidence and witness tampering. Hours later, Adams confirms Wright's resignation and names Housing, Economic Development, and Workforce Maria Torres-Springer as her replacement.

Oct. 9, 2024 -- Reports say a fifth investigation has been launched into Adams' inner circle, involving the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and the city's Department of Investigation. Sources say it involves the leasing of commercial properties and a number of officials, including Lewis-Martin, who has been his confidant for decades.

Oct. 10, 2024 -- Adams is said to be considering Sanitation Commissioner Jessica Tisch or former NYPD First Deputy Police Commissioner Ben Tucker to fill the police commissioner role on a permanent basis.

Also, that day, the NYPD School Safety Division's former commanding officer, Kevin Taylor, has his home searched and phones seized, sources say. The New York Times reports investigators are looking into a consulting firm run by Terence Banks and a potential bribery scheme involving city contracts, including one with SaferWatch, a company that sells panic buttons to schools and police across the country.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams' case dropped before reaching trial

Nov 1, 2024 -- A judge sets Adams' corruption trial to start in April 2025.

Nov. 15, 2024 -- President-elect Donald Trump announces he will replace U.S. Attorney Damian Williams, sparking questions about the future of the Adams investigation once he takes office.

Nov. 16, 2024 -- Trump says he might consider pardoning Adams, adding, "I think he was treated pretty unfairly."

Dec. 15, 2024 -- Lewis-Martin announces her retirement from the Adams administration amid reports that Manhattan prosecutors presented new evidence against her to a grand jury. Lewis-Martin later says she is "being falsely accused of something."

Dec. 17, 2024 -- A federal judge refuses to dismiss the bribery charge against Adams.

Dec. 19, 2024 -- Lewis-Martin is indicted for bribery, money laundering and conspiracy by the Manhattan district attorney. She denies doing anything wrong.

Jan. 7, 2025 -- Federal prosecutors say they uncovered "additional criminal conduct," by Adams, but do not disclose the nature of the allegations.

Jan. 10, 2025 -- Court papers reveal a grand jury looking into corruption charges against Adams hears from more witnesses.

Jan 17, 2025 -- Adams meets with President-elect Trump at his golf club in Palm Beach, Florida, provoking opponents who suspect the mayor is seeking a pardon. After the meeting, Adams releases a statement saying, "To be clear, we did not discuss my legal case."

Jan. 20, 2025 -- Adams attends Mr. Trump's presidential inauguration after accepting a last-minute invite to Washington, D.C. and later in the week dismisses criticism.

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

IPL 2025

# Venkatesh, Arora help KKR consign Sunrisers to their biggest-ever defeat

KOLKATA (TIP)

Venkatesh Iyer answered his critics with a match-winning 60 off 29 balls, propelling Kolkata Knight Riders to a convincing 80-run win against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL here on April 3.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi's classy 50 off 32 balls in an 81-run stand with skipper Ajinkya Rahane (38 off 27) laid the foundation, while Iyer and Rinku Singh (32 not out off 17 balls) provided the late fireworks with a 91-run partnership off 41 balls to lift KKR to 200/6 — their highest total of the season.

Seamer Vaibhav Arora set the tone by removing the dangerous Travis Head (4) and Ishan Kishan (2) in successive overs to return with impressive figures of 3/29.

Harshit Rana dismissed Abhishek Sharma (2), leaving SRH reeling at 9/3 in 2.1 overs, while Andre Russell and Sunil Narine also chipped in with a wicket each to make it 66/5 inside 10 overs.

Varun Chakravarthy then cleaned up the lower order taking two wickets in two balls en route to his 3/22 as SRH crumbled to 120 all out — their explosive batting lineup lasting just 16.4 overs.

The defending champions thus returned to winning ways after losing two of their first three matches. Meanwhile, SRH, endured their third straight defeat.

After being reduced to 9/3, Nitish Reddy (19) counterattacked Arora with two fours and a six, while Kamindu Mendis (27 off 20 balls) lifted hopes by taking on Russell with a pick-up shot over deep square leg. But Russell struck back to remove Reddy before Narine accounted for Mendis in the 10th over, reducing SRH to 66/5 at the halfway mark and effectively ending their chase.

Earlier, KKR's new-look opening pair



Venkatesh Iyer scored 60 runs off 29 balls. Reuters

continued to struggle, with Quinton de Kock (1) and Narine (7) once again falling cheaply after Pat Cummins opted to bowl first.

Rahane and Raghuvanshi steadied the innings, countering early movement with intelligent shot selection. Rahane's back-to-back pull-shot sixes off Mohammed Shami and Cummins broke the shackles, as KKR reached 53/2 after the powerplay.

Raghuvanshi showcased his stroke-making prowess with exquisite drives and a stunning reverse hit past backward point, reaching his fifty in 30 balls.

Zeeshan Ansari eventually ended the partnership, dismissing Rahane in the same over Raghuvanshi was dropped on 43.

However, the youngster didn't last long, falling to a stunning forward-diving catch

off IPL debutant Mendis. Mendis bowled left-arm spin to right-hander Raghuvanshi before switching to off-spin against the left-handed Rinku Singh in the same over, a rare sight in the competition.

Boundaries dried up for 16 balls before Iyer, KKR's costliest player this season (Rs 23.75 crore), broke the shackles with a desperate pull off a Simarjeet Singh beamer.

Rinku followed with three successive boundaries off Harshal Patel before Iyer tore into Simarjeet, hammering him for consecutive fours. Rinku finished the over with a towering six over long-on, while Iyer went berserk against Cummins in the 19th over, smashing him for 4, 6, 4, 4 in succession as KKR amassed 78 runs in the last five overs.



## Don't judge Rohit after couple of low scores: Pollard

Mumbai Indians batting coach Kieron Pollard played down the chats surrounding Rohit Sharma's lukewarm start to the IPL, saying the ace batter should not be judged on the back of a couple of low scores.

Former skipper Rohit, who landed MI five IPL titles, has failed to fire so far in this edition of the tournament, making 0, 8 and 13. "Rohit has etched his name in history, in record books, in different situations, in different formats of the game. He is a legend of the game. So, let's not judge him on a couple of low scores," said Pollard.

Pollard said a big innings from the 37-year-old is just around the corner, and he should not be put under undue pressure. "There are times when you will have a couple of low scores. As an individual, he is enjoying his cricket and not being pressurised in certain situations. I am sure we will be singing his praises when he comes and he gives us that big score and then we will be on to the next hot topic," said Pollard.

Mumbai have unearthed some young talent this season and the Trinidadian was delighted to see them chipping in for the team.

"We have young guys coming in at different times and doing well. We tend to put a lot of expectations on their shoulders and straight away start to think that the senior guys who have nurtured them should be out of the reckoning. There should be a balance," he said.

# Barca beat Atletico to set up Copa final against Madrid

MADRID (TIP)

Barcelona have made it back to the Copa del Rey final. Atletico Madrid are left enduring yet another elimination. Barcelona defeated Atletico 1-0 on Wednesday to reach their first Copa final in four seasons, setting up a "clasico" against Real Madrid.

Ferran Torres scored a first-half winner for the Catalan club, who advanced 5-4 on aggregate after a 4-4 draw in the first leg in Barcelona in February. Madrid eliminated Real Sociedad in extra time, also advancing 5-4 on aggregate. The rivals will meet in the Copa decider for the first time since the 2013-14 season, when Madrid won the title.

"It feels great to win here, and it's even more special that it means we have qualified for the final," Torres said. "It's always good motivation to be in a final, even more so when it's against a direct rival."

It was yet another disappointing home elimination for Atletico after they lost on penalties to Madrid in the Round of 16 of the Champions League last month.



Barcelona's Ferran Torres scores against Atletico Madrid. REUTERS

"We are just as sad as our fans," Atletico defender Jose Maria Gimenez said. "We have to raise our heads and try to finish the season the best way possible."

The Copa was Atletico's only realistic hope for a title

this season, as they trail first-placed Barcelona by nine points after 29 matches in the league. "Our team has competed really well," Atletico coach Diego Simeone said. "It did it in the Champions League, in the Copa and in the league."

## Reds restore 12-point lead with 1-0 win

LONDON: Diogo Jota scored the goal that settled the Merseyside derby on Wednesday and kept Liverpool's Premier League title challenge on track. The Portugal international's second-half strike sealed a 1-0 win at Anfield and restored Liverpool's 12-point lead over Arsenal at the top of the standings.

With just eight games remaining this season, this was one of the biggest hurdles standing in the way of a record-equalling 20th English title for Arne Slot's team. And it was Jota who came up with the decisive moment in the 57th minute when he twisted his way through the box and lashed a shot past Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.



## An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautifully facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

**Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins**



**New Goutami Institute building to be constructed 2024**

**3.5 + million served**  
**325,000 + vision restoring surgeries**  
**30,000 + surgeries on children**

Services Include:

- Treating disease and vision problems
- performing free cataract surgeries
- distributing glasses and visual aids
- conducting community research
- providing education to physicians and the public

**Join our Vision.**  
**Give the gift**  
**of sight today.**

**Visit [eyefoundationofamerica.org](http://eyefoundationofamerica.org)**

695 WESTVIEW AVENUE, MORGANTOWN, WV 26505  
 TAX ID # 55-062-1735



In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.