



The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

Will bring out a profusely illustrated edition to mark **INDIA'S 79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY ON AUGUST 15, 2025**

Advertisements and articles are invited for the special edition, which may please be emailed to salujaindra@gmail.com by August 8, 2025.

For any questions, please email or call 646-247-9458

Trump releases revised tariffs for 70 countries; India remains at 25%, Pakistan's rate slashed by 10%

While August 1 was the tariff deadline, the new levies will come into effect from August 7



On Wednesday, July 30, Trump, through a post on his social media website Truth Social, announced the 25 per cent tariff on India and an additional penalty for New Delhi's purchases from Russia. Tariff for Pakistan was slashed to 19%. -Credit: PTI

JULY 31, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): India will face tariffs of 25 per cent on its exports to the US as President Donald Trump issued an executive order listing the various duties that Washington will impose on exports from countries around the world.

In the Executive Order titled 'Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff Rates', Trump announced tariff rates for nearly 70 nations.

A 25 per cent "Reciprocal Tariff, Adjusted" has been imposed on India, according to the list released. The executive order however does not mention the "penalty" that Trump had said India will have to pay because of its purchases of Russian military equipment and energy.

Pakistan's tariff rate has been reduced to 19% from 29%.

On Wednesday, Trump, through a post on his social media website Truth

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Canadian PM Mark Carney breaks silence on US tariffs

Prabhjot Singh in Toronto
AUGUST 1, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): August 1 would be marked as a watershed day in the bilateral relations between two strong neighbors-Canada and the USA. While the USA President Donald Trump has announced to increase the tariffs on those



"Canadians will be our own best customers, creating more well-paying careers at home, as we strengthen and diversify our trading partnerships throughout the world", PM Carney said in his statement.

disappointment over the US move but has also firmly reiterated his country's commitment to be its own best customer. Canada's refusal to bow to tariff diktats has come after the

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India announces eight new consular application centers in US

JULY 31, 2025

WASHINGTON, DC (TIP): India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Kwatra, on Thursday, July 31, announced the opening of eight new Indian Consular Application Centers across the United States, aimed at expanding access to consular services for the Indian diaspora.



With the opening of these new Indian Consular Application Centers, our presence to provide extensive consular services and related delivery capabilities would increase and expand significantly", Ambassador Kwatra said in his statement. - Photo: X

bring to our delivery service."

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Trump announces US will develop 'massive' oil reserves in Pakistan, says they might sell to 'India some day'

JULY 31, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Hours after announcing 25 per cent tariffs with additional penalties on India, US President Donald Trump



on Wednesday, July 30, announced a trade deal with Pakistan, touting a joint initiative to develop oil reserves in India's terror-harboring neighbor and even floated the idea that "some day" Islamabad might sell oil to New Delhi.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump stated that the United States and Pakistan are currently in the process of selecting the oil company for the partnership.

"We have just concluded a Deal with the Country of Pakistan, whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive Oil Reserves. We are in the process of choosing the Oil

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New Consular Services from August 1, 2025: Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan

JULY 30, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The Indian Consulate in New York is preparing to launch new services on August 1, including new satellite centers in Boston, Columbus, Ohio, and Edison, New Jersey, to provide comprehensive consular services. These centers will handle passports, visas, OCI cards, and miscellaneous services,

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Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, in an interview with The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja on July 30, disclosed that the Indian Consulate in New York is preparing to launch new services on August 1. -TIP Photo



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EVER TRUTHFUL**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,
SnapsIndia
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

Lovliien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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When Power Threatens Liberty : On Rising Autocracy in Democratic Disguise

In the theater of politics, the rules have long been simple: defeat the opponent, discredit his vision, and champion your own ideology. Nobody denies that politics is often a zero-sum game-one in which success frequently depends on the failure of the other. But even zero-sum games have rules. The boundaries, the framework, the fair play-these are the pillars that sustain the credibility of any competition, including politics. When these rules are trampled upon in pursuit of expediency, convenience, or raw power, the political game ceases to be democratic and begins to resemble despotism.

The adage "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" has never been more relevant than it is today. In an age when the democratic experiment is nearly a century old in many parts of the world, we find ourselves paradoxically fighting for the very soul of democracy. Across the globe, from mature democracies like the United States and India to fledgling republics in Africa and Eastern Europe, the rise of authoritarianism under a democratic garb is unmistakable. A power-drunk politician, once elevated by the people's mandate, quickly transforms into a custodian of tyranny, eroding the very rights he was elected to protect.

THE AUTOCRATIC DRIFT IN DEMOCRACIES

The disturbing trend is that this transformation often happens not by coup or violent revolution, but within the legal framework of democracies. Leaders are increasingly using legislation, state institutions, media control, and even the courts to suppress dissent and consolidate authority. The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán calls this model "illiberal democracy." In practice, it means elections are held, but freedom of the press is stifled, judiciary is weakened, opposition is intimidated, and civil liberties are curtailed-all under a veil of constitutional legality.

In India, the world's largest democracy, there are concerns over growing intolerance of dissent, misuse of investigative agencies against political opponents, internet blackouts, and a shrinking space for civil society. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, regardless of one's political leanings, are seen by many as examples of sweeping changes enforced without meaningful debate or consensus.

In the United States, the storming of Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, showcased what can happen when political demagoguery goes unchecked. A former President refusing to accept election results, falsely crying foul, and inciting supporters to violence was not just an American crisis-it was a global warning sign. If such disregard for democratic norms can happen in the most powerful democracy in the world,

it can happen anywhere.

Democracy Under Siege: By the Numbers

A 2023 report by the Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute noted that 72% of the world's population now lives in autocracies-up from 46% a decade earlier. In fact, the number of electoral autocracies-regimes that hold elections but fail to meet minimum standards of democracy-has surpassed the number of liberal democracies globally.

Freedom House's 2024 report marked the 18th consecutive year of democratic decline worldwide. Of the 195 countries assessed, 84 (43%) were rated "Not Free." Only 20% of the global population lives in "Free" countries. Democracies are not just failing to expand; they are shrinking in size, scope, and spirit.

Even in countries where the facade of democracy remains, surveillance technologies, media capture, and state-sponsored propaganda are becoming tools to control the narrative and suppress opposition. The digital realm, once a space of empowerment, is increasingly weaponized by governments to monitor citizens, manipulate elections, and spread disinformation.

ROBBERS IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY

Democracy's greatest irony is that the very systems built to protect liberty can be manipulated to destroy it. Elections, parliaments, courts, and constitutions-each of these can be undermined from within. Adolf Hitler, after all, was elected Chancellor of Germany through democratic means before becoming the architect of history's most notorious dictatorship.

Today's autocrats don't wear jackboots; they wear suits. They don't silence dissent with guns; they use sedition laws, tax raids, and defamation lawsuits. They don't ban newspapers; they buy them. They don't cancel elections; they manipulate voters through hate speech, fake news, and polarization.

The modern-day threat is not an external invasion but the internal corrosion of democratic values. Robbers of liberty now sit in legislatures, not jungles. The war on democracy is fought not with bullets but with bills and ballots.

ETERNAL VIGILANCE: THE NEED OF THE HOUR

The phrase "eternal vigilance is the price of liberty" is more than a warning; it is a moral imperative. Citizens cannot outsource their responsibility to guard democracy to politicians or institutions. They must stay informed, ask questions, and resist authoritarian temptations.

But vigilance alone is not enough. Civic education needs a renaissance. In many parts of the world, including India and the U.S., political literacy is shockingly low. Voters must be equipped with the tools to distinguish propaganda

from fact, debate from hate, and authority from authoritarianism.

Moreover, institutions-courts, media, election commissions-must be fiercely independent and ethically uncompromised. Civil society organizations need to be strengthened, not stifled. Whistleblowers must be protected, not prosecuted.

THE GLOBAL DEMOCRATIC COMPACT

There is an urgent need for democratic nations to collaborate-not just for economic and military alliances, but for the preservation of democratic norms. Just as there is NATO for collective defense, there should be a global democratic compact that watches over the conduct of its members, much like a peer-review mechanism.

Countries that trample on press freedom, imprison opposition leaders, or interfere in judicial appointments should face consequences-not just rhetorical condemnation but diplomatic, economic, and legal pressure.

The United Nations and international human rights bodies must evolve from being mere report card issuers to active defenders of democratic rights.

THE INESCAPABLE CONFLICT: POWER VS LIBERTY

Ultimately, we stand at the edge of a defining conflict: Will the powerful relinquish their grip, or will the people surrender their freedoms? This is not merely a political debate; it is a civilizational question.

History teaches us that tyrants don't stop until they are stopped. The march toward authoritarianism never pauses of its own accord; it is halted by protest, by vote, by law, and by courage. The people's silence is the tyrant's strength. The people's resistance is democracy's hope.

We are reminded of the French philosopher Montesquieu's belief: "The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy." That apathy, that fatigue, that normalization of authoritarianism must end now.

The battle lines are clear. On one side stand the power-hungry who manipulate democracy to monopolize authority. On the other side stand ordinary citizens, fighting to retain their dignity, rights, and freedom.

Who wins this battle will determine the future not just of individual nations, but of humanity itself. For when liberty is lost in one corner of the world, it threatens to vanish everywhere. Democracy is not self-sustaining; it needs nourishment, defense, and above all, a citizenry that refuses to bow.

Because in the final analysis, it is not the strength of dictators but the weakness of the people's resistance that brings democracy to its knees. Let us not kneel. Let us stand. Let us fight-for the right to be free.

By Indrajit Saluja



New Consular Services from August 1, 2025: Consul General Binaya Srikanta Pradhan

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with a uniform service fee of \$19. The consulate also aims to engage more with the Indian American community, particularly students, who number 117,000 in their jurisdiction, and the second and third-generation Indian Americans. The consulate is also working to support Indian women facing challenges and promote Indian culture, which is increasingly mainstream in the U.S.

This information was provided by Mr. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, in an interview with The Indian Panorama Chief Editor Prof. Indrajit S Saluja on July 30.

HERE ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW.

TIP : I want The Indian Panorama readers to know what is going to come from you on the coming Independence Day.

CG : Let's come to that. So, from first of August, we are going to have a few additional services in a decentralized manner. For example, in this consular jurisdiction, will be having three new satellite centers which will be providing all Indian consular services. And when I say consular services, it is not only passport, visa and OCI card. It also includes the miscellaneous services, which include, like attestation, power of

attorney, giving a death certificate, a birth certificate, registering your will, giving the notary, and any kind of consular services that we offer. The same services would now be dealt with by the satellite centers. At the moment, our service provider is a company called VSF Global. At present, people deal with VSF Global in New York City. From the first of August we will be having centers from VSF Global opened in Boston, in Columbus, Ohio, and in Edison, New Jersey. So, these are the three new centers which are being opened here. Similar centers are being opened in other parts of the country. But in our jurisdiction, we are having three additional centers. In other words, people in those regions do not have to come to New York City to avail those services. They can go to those centers. The second thing we are doing is that hereafter, VSF would not be limited to dealing with passport, OCI and visa. They will be dealing with all the miscellaneous services which were so far being dealt with by only the consulate in this building. So now you are going to be getting those facilities in all the VSF centers, from New York to Boston to in addition to Ohio, Columbus. Third, people will be paying a uniform service fee of \$19 that is one nine- \$19, which would be taking care of, almost all needs. If you are coming to a VSF center and you require somebody to help you to fill up the application, that will be

provided as part of the services. If you have not got your right photographs, or you have forgotten to get your photographs, the VSF center will take your photograph, and provide you four photographs free of cost. Photocopy of your documents will be provided free of cost. And the courier service, the return courier service, is a part of that \$19 service charge. So earlier, you give an envelope with the required fees so that the envelope can go back to you. Now it is provided as part of the \$19 service fee. I would say that these are the new services that we are providing and helping people to fill in the application form, so that they are not having trouble understanding the guidelines or understanding the instructions. It is going to be a new thing, because many a time we come across complaints that people are unable to understand how to complete the application form. Now you can go to the VFS center. They will help you to fill it up without any additional charge. So, that is the new features in this service. And more importantly, earlier VSF was open from Monday to Friday. Hereafter, it would be open from Monday to Saturday. So only Sunday would be the holiday. So, Monday to Saturday, all these four places in our jurisdiction, New York, Boston, Edison and Columbus in Ohio, would be open from 9 am to 6 pm. I would say this is a substantial improvement in terms of both the duration of time that they

would be open to quality service they would provide in a more intimate engagement with the people who would come for services. So, I'm sure this would improve the experience that our people had in terms of getting Indian consular services.

TIP : Surely. There are people who work for five days a week, and they can't leave their job to go to VS. And if it is open now on Saturdays, it becomes very convenient for them to visit a VSF center in case they have to transact a business with it. And also, nobody would mind paying a fee of \$19 and be assured of all the services you have just mentioned. I think people will be happy with the new services being launched from August 1.

CG : For comparison, I would urge you to check about the service fees other countries charge. You would find that this is a very small amount compared to what other countries will charge. \$19 which would include your photocopy to photograph, to return courier service. I would say, it is a very, very competitive service,

TIP : The services that you have just now detailed would probably be taken as an Independence Day gift by the community here. Thank you for thinking of launching the new services a few days before the 79th Independence Day of India.

What Every Protester Should Know: NYC Defense Attorney Details Five '911' Warning Signs

JULY 29, 2025

BROOKLYN, NY (TIP): David Secular is a defense attorney in New York City with over 30 years of experience. He has specific expertise in the courtroom process and the law, particularly regarding immigration issues. Here, he is adding insight regarding the risks that protesters face, particularly if they are non-citizens.

According to David Secular, any protester puts themselves in harm's way or risks unlawful arrest because they are viewed as obstructing the administration of justice. They are often harshly detained until an arraignment and must respond to criminal charges, which are unlikely to withstand judicial scrutiny.

Secular also notes that when it comes to non-citizens, particularly those who are permanent residents, the charges can be far more severe.

"An arrest by federal law enforcement, even for permanent residents with a green card who have lawfully lived and worked in the United States for decades, can trigger deportation," he explained. "If the arrestee is undocumented and turned over to ICE, deportation will loom even if the charges are dismissed."

For American citizens and those hoping to become citizens, Secular details five crucial warning signs to be aware of before attending a protest:

1. Listen to Law Enforcement: If law enforcement gives you instructions to stop your activities or leave the area, it is critical to comply with those instructions to avoid arrest or charges.

2. Make Immigration Status a Priority: As a non-



David Secular, defense attorney in New York City, and the author of the novel A Hate Crime in Brooklyn.

citizen, your current and future immigration status, as well as your visa applications, could be affected if you are arrested, charged, or convicted while participating in a protest.

3. No Need to Answer to ICE: If questioned by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement), you are not obligated to answer questions or provide information about your immigration status.

4. Know Your Rights: If you are detained, remain silent. If you choose to speak to the police, what you say can be used against you. Request a lawyer immediately.

5. Your Home is Still Your Temple: If INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) or law enforcement officials try to enter your home after your release, do not open the door unless they have a judicial warrant. This is based on the Fourth Amendment, which protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures.

ABOUT DAVID SECULAR

Born in Brooklyn, New York, David Secular grew up in New Rochelle with parents who ensured he kept his feet firmly on the ground, rather than chasing a basketball. A dual U.S. and U.K. citizen, Secular attended the London School of Economics and graduated from New York University School of Law. He has spent his career as a criminal defense attorney and legal writer, having tried and argued cases in federal courts throughout the United States, as well as in the state courts of New York. He has appeared and prepared appellate briefs that have been heard before the U.S. Supreme Court. He has crossed paths and been involved in numerous notable cases with legendary counsel, such as William Kunstler, and presided over by renowned jurists, including Jack Weinstein.

Secular is also the author of the novel A Hate Crime in Brooklyn (Central Park South Publishing; ISBN-13: 978-1956452648). If you interview him, please reference his book in the credits.

INDIAN AMERICAN GEORGIA FATHER DROWNS IN HILTON HEAD TRAGEDY



Saumen Kundu drowned on Thursday, July 24, evening while swimming with his young son at Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island.

JULY 25, 2025

ATLANTA, GA (TIP): Saumen Kundu, 49, a Georgia resident originally from Bengal and an employee of Cognizant, tragically drowned on Thursday, July 24, evening while swimming with his young son at Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island.

According to the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office and local media reports, the incident occurred around 7:51 p.m. when Kundu and his son were swept into a rip current.

At about 7 p.m., Hilton Head Fire Rescue's 911 Center received a report of multiple swimmers in distress in the area of South Sea Pines Drive at beach marker 5.

When Hilton Head Fire Rescue arrived at the scene, they located two people in the water. Fire Rescue and Shore Beach Services went into the water and got both of the swimmers out. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office confirms that a father and son were the two swimmers. They were caught in rip current while in the water.

Once on shore, lifesaving efforts were started on the father. Despite those efforts, he was later pronounced dead.

The son was rescued unharmed.

The body of the father is now in the custody of the local mortuary.

Community members in Atlanta shared that Kundu, who was in the U.S. on an H1-B visa, had traveled to Hilton Head earlier that day with his wife Nivedita, their son, and Nivedita's mother for a short family trip.

Local Indian American organizations and support groups have begun mobilizing to assist the grieving family. Messages of condolence have been pouring in from friends, colleagues, and community members.

The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation into the drowning, which occurred during what authorities described as hazardous rip current conditions along parts of the South Carolina coast.

A GoFundMe has been set up to help his family cover funeral and other essential expenses. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-saumen-kundus-family-after-tragedy>

Indian-origin workers in Singapore presented with appreciation coins for rescuing driver from sinkhole

JULY 28, 2025

SINGAPORE (TIP): Seven Indian workers were presented with tokens of appreciation by Singapore's Ministry of Manpower (MOM) for rescuing a driver after her car plunged into a sinkhole, according to a media report on Monday.

The sinkhole developed along the city-state's Tanjong Katong Road South thoroughfare on Saturday.

The migrant workers -- Pitchai Udaiyappan Subbiah, Velmurugan, Saravanan, Veerasekar, Ajithkumar, Chandrisekaran and Rajendran -- pulled to safety the driver whose car had fallen into it.

Each of them received an 'MOM Ace coin' from Minister of State for Manpower Dinesh Vasu Dash on Sunday,



Pitchai Udaiyappan Subbiah, Velmurugan, Saravanan, Veerasekar, Ajithkumar, Chandrisekaran and Rajendran -- pulled to safety the driver whose car had fallen into a sinkhole

Channel News Asia reported.

In a video posted on Facebook, Dinesh said that he met the workers at their

dormitory after they had finished their work.

"I think this is a very good example of how our migrant workers help society in general," the report quoted him as saying.

"All of them have in their own ways (leaned) forward to support the lady who was in need, and that made a big difference to a situation that would have otherwise been very, very different," he said.

He also wrote in the post that he is "grateful" to the contributions of the workers not only to Singapore's progress but also their "many selfless acts and for helping to make Singapore a gracious society".

The Arrested Indian American Delta Co-Pilot's Ex-Girlfriend Also Taken Into Custody



Jennifer Powell is accused of allowing - and at times joining in - the abuse that prosecutors allege began when her daughter was just six years old and continued for several years.

JULY 29, 2025

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP) : A Delta Airlines co-pilot was arrested moments after landing at San Francisco International Airport over the weekend, in connection with alleged child sexual assault charges.

The Indian-origin suspect, Rustom Bhagwagar, 34, was taken into custody by agents from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and deputies from the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office.

The arrest occurred just 10 minutes after Delta Flight 2809, a Boeing 757-300 from Minneapolis, touched down at SFO.

According to eyewitnesses, at least 10 federal and local officers boarded the aircraft immediately after it arrived at the gate, moved quickly through the cabin, and entered the cockpit.

There, Bhagwagar was handcuffed and escorted off the plane while passengers were still preparing to disembark.

One passenger told the San Francisco Chronicle: "The officers were pushing their way through the aisle with badges, guns, and different agency vests. They went straight into the cockpit and took him out in cuffs."

Authorities said Bhagwagar's co-pilot was unaware of the impending arrest, a precaution taken to prevent any chance of tipping off the suspect.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department confirmed that Bhagwagar had been under investigation since April 2025, following a report involving suspected crimes against a child. A Ramey arrest warrant - issued before formal charges - was later secured.

According to a statement posted on the sheriff's official Facebook page, Bhagwagar is facing five felony counts of oral copulation with a child under the age of 10. He is currently being held at the Martinez Detention Facility, with bail set at \$5 million.

In a statement to the media, Delta Air Lines said: "Delta has zero tolerance for unlawful conduct and is fully cooperating with law enforcement. The individual in question has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation."

The widening investigation into a Delta Air Lines co-pilot accused of child sex abuse has led to the arrest of his former girlfriend, who prosecutors say participated in the alleged crimes against her own daughter.

Jennifer Powell, 45, was taken into custody this week and charged alongside Rustom Bhagwagar, 34, a Delta co-pilot dramatically arrested on July 26 after landing at San Francisco International Airport. Powell is accused of allowing - and at times joining in - the abuse that prosecutors allege began when her daughter was just six years old and continued for several years.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

30-year-old British Sikh Gurmukh Singh stabbed to death in London attack

JULY 31, 2025

LONDON (TIP): A 30-year-old British Sikh man has been stabbed to death in east London in an attack involving people known to each other, the UK police believe.

Gurmukh Singh, known as Gary, died last week in Felbrigg Road, Ilford in East London, and was formally named by Metropolitan Police on Thursday, July 30.

The force said its officers had arrested Amardeep Singh, 27, on suspicion of the murder that took place on July 23. He has since been charged with one count of murder and remains in custody until his next court appearance at London's Old Bailey for trial on January 5, 2026.

"Police were called by the London Ambulance Service to reports of an altercation at a residential address," said the Met Police statement. "Officers attended as Gary was treated for stab wounds. Despite the best efforts of the paramedics, he sadly died at the scene," it said.

Detectives also arrested a 29-year-old man and three women aged 29, 30 and 54 in connection with the fatal stabbing. They have all since been released on bail until October while the police investigation continues.

"Gary was a well-loved man who had a remarkable ability to connect with everyone he met," his family said in a statement released by the police.

"A true social butterfly, nothing brought him more joy than being surrounded by his family. Gary will be deeply missed, but his memory will live on in our hearts forever," they said.

A post-mortem examination has indicated the cause of death as a stab wound to the left thigh, with an inquest opened and adjourned while the police investigation into the attack is ongoing.

Detective Chief Inspector Joanna Yorke from the Met's Specialist Crime North unit said at the time of the attack that detectives believed it was an "isolated incident".

"An incident of this nature sends shockwaves throughout the local area and we understand the direct impact on the community. People can expect to see an uptick in police presence while officers conduct initial investigations. Please do not hesitate to speak to them if you have any concerns at all," she said.



Gurmukh Singh was stabbed to death in east London in an attack involving people known to each other

No Bond for Indian American Pediatrician Neha Gupta in Daughter's Alleged Murder

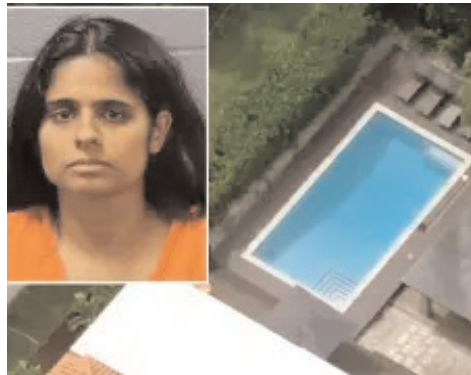
JULY 31, 2025

MIAMI, FL (TIP): An Oklahoma pediatrician accused of killing her four-year-old daughter and staging the death as a drowning at a South Florida vacation rental has been denied bond, according to Miami-Dade court records.

Dr. Neha Gupta, 41, was arrested in Oklahoma City on July 1 and extradited to Florida earlier this month. She faces first-degree murder charges in the death of her daughter, Aria Talathi, whose body was found in a pool at a rental property in the village of El Portal on June 27.

Investigators allege that Gupta smothered the child and placed her in the pool to make it appear as though she drowned. An autopsy found no water in the child's lungs or stomach but did reveal bruising inside her cheeks and lacerations to her mouth, injuries authorities say are consistent with asphyxiation rather than accidental drowning.

During her bond hearing, prosecutors



Dr. Neha Gupta faces first-degree murder charges in the death of her daughter, Aria Talathi.

cited inconsistencies in Gupta's statements about the events of that night. Gupta told police she had fallen asleep around 12:30 a.m. and awoke three hours later to find the sliding door open and her daughter missing. She claimed she attempted to rescue Aria from the pool despite not being able to swim. Detectives questioned this timeline and noted other details that raised suspicion,

including evidence of a custody dispute.

The mother and daughter had traveled from Oklahoma to Miami just days earlier and were staying in an Airbnb rental. Following the incident, Gupta returned to Oklahoma, where she was later taken into custody by U.S. Marshals. Bodycam footage of her arrest, which was recently released, shows Gupta hiding in a laundry room as officers entered her home.

Gupta's attorney, Richard Cooper, has maintained her innocence and criticized the investigation as rushed and circumstantial. "There is no direct evidence proving she harmed her child," Cooper said in court, arguing for her release on bond. The judge denied the request, citing the severity of the charge and the strength of the evidence presented by prosecutors.

Gupta remains in custody at the Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center in Miami-Dade County. She is scheduled to be arraigned on August 7.

INDIAN-ORIGIN KILLED IN PLANE CRASH IN CANADA



Gautam Santhosh died in a plane crash near Deer Lake in eastern Canada, the Consulate General of India in Toronto said on Tuesday, July 29.

JULY 29, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): An Indian national has died in a plane crash near Deer Lake in eastern Canada, the Consulate General of India in Toronto said on Tuesday, July 29.

The plane crashed shortly after take-off near the Deer Lake Regional Airport on Saturday evening, according to CBC news.

"With deep sorrow, we mourn the tragic passing of Mr. Gautam Santhosh, an Indian national, who lost his life in an accident involving a commercial survey aircraft near Deer Lake, Newfoundland," the Consulate said on social media.

It said it is in close contact with the bereaved family and local authorities in Canada to provide all necessary assistance and support. "We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time," it added.

The Transportation Safety Board said a Piper PA-31 Navajo aircraft registered with Kisik Aerial Survey Inc. crashed about a kilometer south of Deer Lake Airport after taking off on a local flight on July 26.

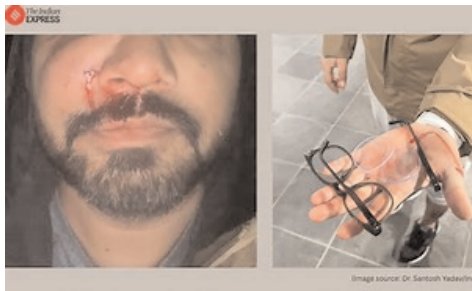
According to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the crash prompted the immediate closure of the Trans-Canada Highway (TCH) near the Deer Lake Airport for several hours to allow emergency personnel to respond to the scene.

"Two persons were on board the flight: the pilot, a 54-year-old man, and his lone passenger, a 27-year-old man. Both occupants were pronounced deceased at the scene," it said in a statement. The cause of the crash remains under investigation, it added.

"We are devastated and heartbroken by this loss," Kisik Aerial Survey Inc. owner Andrew Naysmith said in a statement.

"Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go out to the families of the deceased and their loved ones," Naysmith said. "We will not be releasing the names of anyone involved with this incident - that information will be provided by the proper authorities." "The cause of the accident is under investigation by the Transport Safety Board of Canada and Kisik will support that investigation in any and every way possible," Naysmith added.

INDIAN-ORIGIN DATA SCIENTIST BRUTALLY ASSAULTED IN DUBLIN



Santosh Yadav has alleged that he was brutally assaulted by a group of teenagers near his apartment in Dublin in what appears to be a racially motivated attack.

JULY 31, 2025

DUBLIN (TIP): An Indian-origin data scientist, Santosh Yadav, has alleged that he was brutally assaulted by a group of teenagers near his apartment in Dublin in what appears to be another racially motivated attack.

In a detailed LinkedIn post, Yadav said the attackers beat him across the head, face, and body, leaving him bloodied and with a fractured cheekbone.

The incident follows a similar mob assault on another Indian man in the Tallaght area on July 19, which has sparked widespread outrage and anti-racism protests across Ireland.

Yadav claims such attacks on minorities are increasing and criticized the lack of response from Irish authorities.

In the post, he has requested authorities to take action against the people racially targeting minorities, Yadav tagged several government agencies, including the Government of Ireland, the Embassy of India in Dublin, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, and Akhilesh Mishra.

Indian-origin gets 14 years in jail for sexually assaulting minor girl in Singapore

JULY 31, 2025

SINGAPORE (TIP): An Indian national was sentenced to over 14 years in jail in Singapore on Thursday, July 30, for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl twice.

Sentenced by the Singapore High Court, Ramalingam Selvasekaran, 58, will not be caned, as he is over 50. However, his sentence of 14 years, three months and two weeks includes additional jail time in lieu of 15 strokes of the cane, reported The Straits Times.

He was found guilty on July 7 of all three charges - one count of rape and two counts of outrage of modesty - after a trial in which he represented himself.

During sentencing arguments on July 30, Ramalingam maintained his innocence and said he would be appealing against his conviction. After he was sentenced and granted bail of SGD80,000 pending appeal, he bargained with the judge regarding his bail conditions.

Justice Aidan Xu rejected Ramalingam's requests to remove his electronic tag (usually attached to the leg to track a convicted person movement) and forgo regular check-ins at the Police Cantonment Complex. Ramalingam also objected to Deputy Public Prosecutor Susanna Yim's proposal to return to the girl SGD8 in cash while the court was determining the fate of various trial exhibits.

"The SGD8 was taken from my shop," he said. The judge told the prosecution to look into the matter.

The offences took place between about 4.50 pm and about 5.05 pm on October 28, 2021, at his provision store in Jurong West on the west coast of Singapore. The girl visited his store and returned later that day to buy ice cream.

Ramalingam, who was 55 years old then, was accused by the prosecution of leading the girl to the inner confines of his shop to



Ramalingam Selvasekaran was sentenced to over 14 years in jail in Singapore on Thursday for sexually assaulting an 11-year-old girl twice.

touch her and make her perform oral sex on him.

Following the assaults, the girl sought help from a passerby, who called the police.

At the end of the trial, which began on January 16, Ramalingam argued that the girl's testimony should not be believed.

He said it was unbelievable that she would have gone to a stranger for help when she could have gone to someone she knew.

He argued that it was suspicious that there was no police camera footage of her returning to her home after the incident.

He added that he could not have raped the victim as he was suffering from erectile dysfunction, and noted that his DNA was not found on her body.

In convicting Ramalingam on July 7, Justice Xu said the prosecution's case had been established beyond a reasonable doubt.

The judge found no significant weaknesses in the girl's recounting of events.

"The fact that she had not run off after the first act of molest, or that she did not resist the assaults, or inform her grandfather, were all to my mind sufficiently explained, particularly given that she was still young and immature," the Singapore daily quoted the judge as saying.

(Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news)

Tirlokh Malik, Chandra Barot - Director of "DON" - and the 3D Dream That Could Have Changed Bollywood

JULY 30, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): When Chandra Barot passed away recently at the age of 86, obituaries rightfully celebrated him as the man who gave Indian cinema the cult classic *Don* (1978), starring Amitabh Bachchan, Zeenat Aman, and Pran, and based on a script by Salim-Javed. But among the many fascinating chapters of his life, one unfinished dream stood out—a forgotten film project that could have changed the course of Indian cinematic history: *Big Daddy*, India's first planned 3D feature film, starring Dharmendra, Zeenat Aman, and Shammi Kapoor.

The year was 1983. The country was still new to the concept of three-dimensional cinema. Hollywood had just tasted success with *Friday the 13th Part III* (1982), a slasher film that became notable not just for its gore but for its groundbreaking use of the DePex 3D camera system. That technology, developed by American inventors Alvin and Mortimer Marks, captured the left and right eye perspectives on a single 35mm film frame. An innovation that made stereoscopic 3D cinema more accessible than ever before.

In a bold and visionary move, Indian American filmmaker Tirlokh Malik—then a young dreamer deeply passionate about cinema—sought to bring this very system to Indian screens. Malik had already begun conversations with Mortimer Marks, who agreed to collaborate and adapt the DePex technology for *Big Daddy*. It was a story of scale and spectacle—a heist action-adventure film infused with music, dance, and the unique charisma of its three superstars. And with Chandra Barot, fresh off the success of *Don*, agreeing to direct, the project was poised to become a landmark.

But as with many visionary ventures, destiny had other plans. "The idea was way ahead of its time," Tirlokh Malik recalls. "We were trying to bring Hollywood technology to Bollywood storytelling, but the infrastructure, the costs, and the skepticism from producers held us back."

Malik stayed with Barot at his Peddar Road residence for two months, as they worked towards getting the project rolling. "After *Don*, Barot was in talks with Dilip Kumar, who had shown interest in working with him. Barot was fixated on the idea of directing two of India's finest actors, one after the other. But that project could never materialize, and Barot missed the opportunity to encash the success of *Don*," explains Malik.



Chandra Barot, Amitabh Bachchan, and Tirlokh Malik

Despite the initial excitement, the project ran into insurmountable hurdles—technical, financial, and logistical. The Indian film industry in the early '80s wasn't ready to fully support the complexities of stereoscopic filmmaking. The sets were designed, camera tests were conducted, and preliminary footage was even discussed—but the film never went into full production. "I invited Chandra Barot to New York and introduced him to Mortimer Marks. Subsequently, Barot signed the three stars for the film—Dharmendra, Zeenat Aman, and Shammi Kapoor, who was to play the antagonistic titular character," reveals Malik.

Yet for Malik, *Big Daddy* was not the end; it was a beginning. In the early 1990s, he shifted his focus to the U.S., where he would go on to pioneer a new wave of Indian American cinema. His 1991 feature *Lonely in America*, which he wrote, produced, and starred in, became a festival favorite and is today regarded as one of the earliest South Asian diaspora films to gain international recognition. The film was a heartfelt exploration of immigrant identity and the challenges of straddling two worlds—an experience Malik knew all too well.

Things came full circle when Malik collaborated with the creative minds behind India's first released 3D film *Chhota Chetan*, on another film: *Chhota Jadugar* (also known internationally as *Magic Magic 3D*, directed by Jose Punnoose and produced by Navodaya Appachan and Allu Aravind. It combined Indian mythology, 3D innovation, and charming performances. Malik not only served as the U.S. producer on the film but also played a pivotal on-screen role, sharing screen space with the



Teaming up with Dharmendra

beloved playback singer and actor S. P. Balasubrahmanyam, who played his father. The film ran for five weeks at #1 at the Indian box office. It was also proved to be a technical triumph.

Years later, Chandra Barot and Malik met again at a film event. By then, Barot had retreated into semi-retirement, and Malik had become a torchbearer of Indian American storytelling. The meeting was emotional. Barot, ever gracious, congratulated Malik on *Magic Magic 3D*, even as he expressed a bittersweet regret: "*Big Daddy* could have been something truly historic. Alas, sometimes destiny has other plans."

Over the years, Malik never let go of his love for family-oriented, visually rich storytelling. He went on to make films like *Khushiyaan* and *On Golden Years*, continuing to craft stories rooted in emotion and cross-cultural values. Today, Tirlokh Malik remains a bridge between cultures, generations, and cinematic traditions. Based in New York, he is currently developing multiple international film projects, including a children's feature inspired by folklore and spirituality.

As we remember Chandra Barot and the luminous, if unfulfilled, vision of *Big Daddy*, we are reminded of a simple truth: not all dreams are meant to be realized. "Chandra Barot, unfortunately, hasn't gotten his due yet. He was a visionary filmmaker, a trailblazer whose legacy will continue to illuminate the way for the coming generation of filmmakers," sums up Malik.

IOCUSA Vice-Chair denounces the arrest and detention of Catholic Nuns

JULY 30, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): "The arrest and detention of Sisters Preethi Mary and Vandana Francis of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate in the state of Chhattisgarh is a blatant violation of their fundamental rights under the constitutional laws. The relentless harassment and intimidation of Christians in BJP-ruled states is deplorable and a stark sign of diminishing religious tolerance in the country, posing a grave threat to the very secular fabric of India," said George Abraham, Vice-Chair of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA. The plight of these nuns is part of a larger pattern of attacks on Christian tribals, Pastors, and female religious workers that have been occurring for some time. When a government fosters and defends religious fanaticism, communalism, and mob rule, the freedom and liberty of all citizens are



in jeopardy.

On July 25, 2025, Sisters Preethi Mary and Vandana Francis of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate were taken into custody at Durg railway station.

They were accused under the Chhattisgarh Religious Freedom Act and India's trafficking law for allegedly converting and trafficking three young tribal women from Narayanpur - all

adults with documented parental consent for convent work in Agra.

The Central government's consistent silence in the face of atrocities against minorities, particularly Christians, is alarming. They are entrusted with safeguarding the constitutional rights and equal justice for all citizens. However, the erosion of freedom and democracy under the current BJP rule is a distressing reality.

This incident serves as a stark warning for all Christians in Kerala who may be considering voting for the BJP in the upcoming election. The BJP's actions in Kerala are nothing but a facade, and it is crucial to remain vigilant. They may offer sweet words and distribute cakes during Christmas, but remember, what you see in Kerala BJP is nothing but a wolf in sheep's clothing. Beware and be prepared to defend your rights and freedom!

The Indian Diaspora, which shouts for religious freedom all across the globe, should demand the immediate release of these nuns without charges that have further tarnished the status of Indian democracy with this morally reprehensible action.

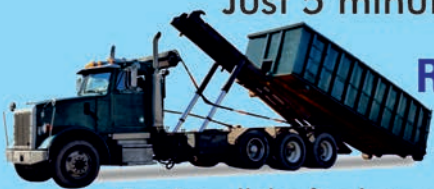
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When Parliament should have spoken as one

A unanimous resolution should have been adopted by both Houses against Pak terror. It would have been a signal of India's unity on terror



By Vivek Katju

Was it too much to hope that after all the political point-scoring on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor was done, a unanimous resolution would have been adopted by both Houses of Parliament against Pakistani terror? A resolution would have been a natural corollary to the sending out of the seven all-party delegations to show that India stood together after the Pahalgam attack and had endorsed the government's kinetic action.

It would have also been a potent signal to the international community that the unity displayed by India's political class on Pakistani terror was not ephemeral but a reflection of national

the ruling dispensation decided to regurgitate all the mistakes made by the Nehru-Gandhis. Thus, these issues were lost in an avalanche of rhetoric, which was only occasionally punctuated by some important diplomatic and strategic points. Perhaps, the most significant were made by PM Modi on India's position on the Indus Waters Treaty. The operationalization of India's intentions will not be easy for the rivers allotted to Pakistan under the treaty, except for the Chenab.

It was legitimate for the Opposition to ask questions relating to the security and intelligence aspects of the attack. After all, the terrorists freely roamed the Baisaran valley on April 22 for over an

language, he reported how abjectly the Pakistani Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) asked his Indian counterpart to end hostilities. This may appeal to a section of the ruling dispensation's faithful, but would not put to rest the global narrative that India did not gain a decisive military edge over Pakistan in Op Sindoor. Modi's revelation that India neutralized Pakistan's aerial attack on May 9-10 was useful, but would it contribute to correcting international perceptions on Operation Sindoor?

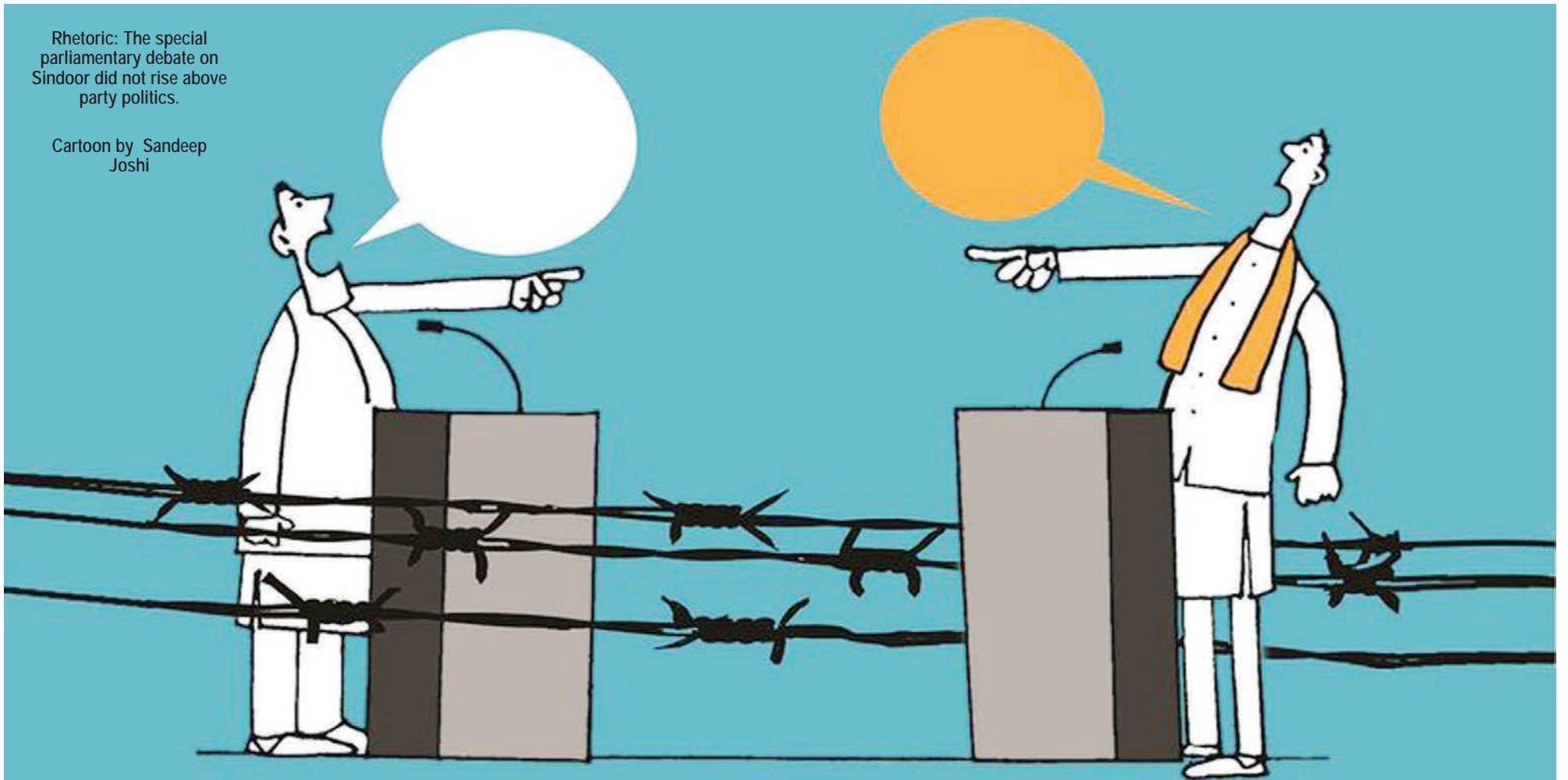
The government avoided direct refutation of US President Donald Trump's claims of mediating between India and Pakistan. External Affairs

dispensation speaker. It was equally important for the Opposition to have endorsed it. But that would have required backroom discussions to be held prior to the debate on the message that should go out to the nation and world from the Parliamentary debate. Obviously, no such conversation took place.

Jaishankar said this about India's future approaches towards Pakistan: "There is now a new normal. The new normal has five points: One, terrorists will not be treated as proxies. Two, cross-border terrorism will get an appropriate response. Three, terror and talks are not possible together. There will only be talks on terror. Four, not yielding to

Rhetoric: The special parliamentary debate on Sindoor did not rise above party politics.

Cartoon by Sandeep Joshi



determination. Alas, the thought of a resolution did not even cross the minds of our leaders, whether in government or opposition; such is our current polarized polity.

Consequently, the special parliamentary discussion did not rise above party politics. It became mainly an exercise in political declamation, of levelling accusations and counter-accusations, of evasion and silence. Of course, Parliament is quintessentially a political platform, but it is also the highest constitutional forum for serious debate to forge a national strategic consensus on security issues. This discussion gave a chance to leaders for an intense, constructive probing of these vital matters.

Some strategic concerns were raised by the opposition - such as the nature of Sino-Pak nexus and its impact on India's defense. Instead of responding positively,

hour, killing 26 men at will. The government did not respond to these queries but took credit for the elimination, just a day before the discussion, of three of the Pakistani perpetrators. The security forces did a good job in killing these men, but the questions on the absence of security will not go away with their avoidance by the rulers.

The government also maintained a stony silence on the global narrative that India had lost aerial platforms on the first day of Operation Sindoor. The Opposition pressed in vain for it to come clean. The government could have chosen to adopt the valid position taken by the Indian military that despite some initial losses, it was able to decisively find pathways through Pakistani aerial defenses to strike nine of its airbases. Clearly, Modi sought to bypass the question when, in somewhat colorful

Minister S Jaishankar clarified that there was no conversation between Trump and Modi from April 22 to June 17. That, of course, proves nothing. Modi asserted, "No world leader had asked India to pause Operation Sindoor." While no country may have specifically used such a formulation, in all their conversations with their Indian counterparts, the representatives of major powers were wanting armed India-Pakistan hostilities, which began with Operation Sindoor, to end.

What India needs to conclusively establish is that an unacceptable terrorist attack by one nuclear state on another is the first step on the escalatory ladder; hence, Pakistan must strike out the use of terror against India from its security doctrine. Regrettably, this most important strategic point was not unequivocally stated by any ruling

nuclear blackmail. And finally, terror and good neighborliness cannot coexist. Blood and water cannot flow together."

Apart from a few sections of the political class who favor that the doors of dialogue with Pakistan should not be shut, the points mentioned by Jaishankar enjoy wide acceptance with the Indian people. A parliamentary resolution containing these issues, with an appropriate part regarding India's desire for good ties with Pakistan but that it needs to abandon terrorism, would have found acceptance with all sections of Parliament. That is what should have emerged from these discussions. It would have carried global credibility. But that needs a political leadership, which despite political bickering, is in conversation on major national issues. That seems absent today.

(Vivek Katju is a retired diplomat)

US Tariff Threats and Geopolitical Penalties on India: Strategic, Economic, and Diplomatic Implications



By H S Panaser

The recent pronouncements by the United States regarding the potential imposition of a 25% tariff on all Indian imports, coupled with an unspecified "penalty" tied to India's energy purchases from sanctioned countries like Russia or Iran, signal a significant shift in bilateral relations. This aggressive stance carries profound strategic, economic, and diplomatic implications for both nations. This analysis delves into the potential gains and losses, supported by market data and strategic considerations.

FOR INDIA: POTENTIAL LOSSES AND MITIGATING FACTORS

The direct economic impact of a 25% tariff on India's exports to the U.S., which stood at approximately \$87 billion in 2024, cannot be overstated.

1. EXPORT DISRUPTION AND ECONOMIC HEADWINDS:

- **Reduced Competitiveness:** A 25% tariff would immediately erode the price competitiveness of Indian goods in the U.S. market. Sectors particularly vulnerable include:

- **Textiles and Apparel:** India is a major exporter of textiles, and a tariff would disadvantage its products against those from countries with lower or no tariffs, potentially leading to job losses in this labor-intensive sector.

- **Pharmaceuticals:** India is globally recognized as the "pharmacy of the world," supplying 20% of global generic medicines by volume and 40% of generic demand in the United States. With the U.S. accounting for over 30% of India's pharma exports, the inclusion of pharmaceuticals in the tariff bracket would be particularly damaging. Disruption here could not only impact India's export earnings but also global drug supply chains. Presently this segment seems to be out of tariff list.

- **Gems and Jewelry:** This sector relies heavily on the U.S. market, and tariffs could significantly reduce demand.

- **Auto Parts:** As part of global automotive supply chains, Indian auto parts exports would face competitive challenges.

- **IT Services:** While less directly impacted by goods tariffs, broader trade tensions could affect outsourcing contracts and investor sentiment in India's IT sector.

- **GDP Impact:** Economists at ICRA have indicated that such a tariff, being higher than previously anticipated, is "likely to pose a headwind to India's GDP growth." While specific percentage points are hard to predict without the exact scope and duration, significant disruption to a major trading partner would undoubtedly exert downward pressure on economic expansion.

- **Job Losses:** Export-oriented industries, especially labor-intensive ones, would likely face contraction, leading to potential job losses.

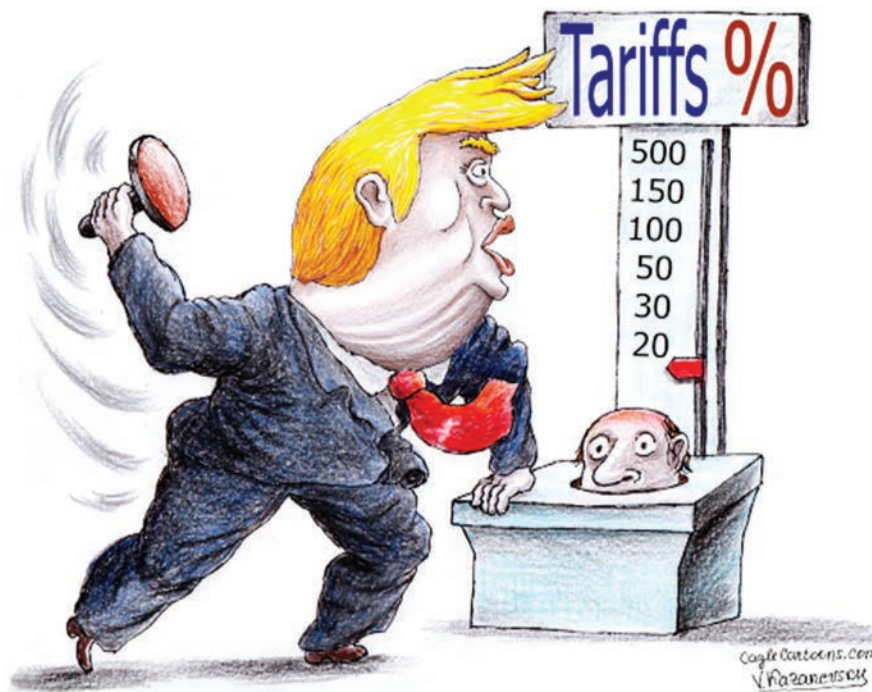
2. INVESTOR CONFIDENCE EROSION:

- Trade instability and escalating

diplomatic tensions can deter foreign direct investment (FDI) into India. Investors seek predictability and stable policy environments, and recurring tariff threats undermine this confidence. This could impact not only new investments but also expansions by existing foreign companies in India.

3. ENERGY SECURITY PENALTIES AND GEOPOLITICAL CONSTRAINTS:

- **Disruption of Energy Contracts:** The "penalty" linked to energy purchases from sanctioned nations like Russia and Iran directly targets India's energy security strategy. India's reliance on Russian oil has surged dramatically, now accounting for 35-40% of total crude imports, up from a mere 0.2% before the Russia-Ukraine war. This surge was primarily driven by attractive discounts (e.g., Urals crude trading at a substantial discount to Brent). Penalties could disrupt long-term contracts, forcing India to seek more expensive alternative sources,



Trump tariffs and people - By Vladimir Kazanevsky, Ukraine, PoliticalCartoons.com

thus increasing its energy import bill and inflationary pressures.

- **Risk of Secondary Sanctions:** The U.S. has a history of imposing secondary sanctions on entities dealing with sanctioned countries. While India has largely navigated these, an explicit "penalty" suggests a more direct attempt to curtail these purchases, potentially impacting Indian refiners like Nayara Energy (which has already faced EU sanctions-related challenges).

- **Limited Strategic Autonomy:** U.S. pressure to conform to Western sanctions, particularly on energy, could be perceived as an attempt to limit India's strategic autonomy in foreign policy and energy diplomacy. This is a sensitive point for India, which champions a multi-aligned foreign policy.

POTENTIAL GAINS (MITIGATING FACTORS & STRATEGIC SHIFTS):

1. ASSERTION OF NATIONAL AUTONOMY:

- Maintaining its stance on diverse energy sourcing, despite U.S. pressure, reinforces India's image as a sovereign decision-maker. This could resonate domestically and with other nations seeking to resist external pressures.

2. ACCELERATED DIVERSIFICATION OF EXPORT MARKETS:

- The tariff threat serves as a strong catalyst for India to intensify efforts to diversify its export markets. This strategy is already underway with ongoing negotiations for Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with regions like the UK (where the India-UK FTA is expected to significantly boost agricultural exports) and the EU, alongside a focus on Southeast Asian and African markets. This proactive diversification would reduce over-

FOR THE UNITED STATES: POTENTIAL GAINS AND LOSSES

The U.S. seeks to use these measures as leverage but faces significant risks to its broader strategic objectives.

1. POTENTIAL GAINS:

- **Diplomatic Leverage and Policy Alignment:** The tariff threats serve as a powerful diplomatic tool to pressure India into closer alignment with U.S. foreign policy objectives, particularly regarding sanctions against Russia and Iran.

- **Protectionist Objectives:** Higher tariffs could offer short-term protection to specific U.S. domestic industries, such as textiles or chemicals, from Indian competition. This aligns with a broader protectionist trade agenda.

- **Geopolitical Messaging:** A strong stance against India's energy purchasing decisions sends a clear message to other allies and partners about the potential consequences of defying U.S. sanctions or strategic priorities. This reinforces the perception of U.S. leadership in global economic governance.

2. POTENTIAL LOSSES:

- **Damage to Bilateral Relations and Strategic Alliance:** Imposing tariffs and penalties risks significantly straining the strategic partnership between the U.S. and India. At a time when the U.S. is actively seeking to counterbalance China's influence in the Indo-Pacific, alienating a key partner like India could undermine its regional strategy and the Quad alliance.

- **Retaliatory Tariffs:** India has historically responded to U.S. trade actions with its own tariffs. While Indian officials have indicated caution, retaliatory tariffs on U.S. agricultural exports (e.g., almonds, apples), Harley-Davidson motorcycles, or technology firms (like Amazon, Apple, Google, which have significant investments in India) are a real possibility. This could hurt U.S. exporters and consumers.

- **Economic Backlash for U.S. Companies:** Major U.S. companies with substantial investments and market presence in India could face significant regulatory hurdles, public backlash, or reduced demand. This includes tech giants, e-commerce platforms, and fast-food chains.

- **Supply Chain Disruptions:** India is an integral part of several global supply chains, particularly in pharmaceuticals and IT services. Disruptions caused by tariffs could negatively impact U.S. importers of Indian goods and services, potentially leading to increased costs and supply shortages. For instance, India accounts for a significant portion of the U.S.'s generic drug supply, and tariffs could lead to higher drug prices or availability issues.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

(H S Panaser: Chair, Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, Consultant Business Development: Pharmaceuticals, IT, Healthcare and AI, EDP Project Management, President, Global Indian Diaspora Alliance, Prof. Harkishan Singh Foundation, Columnist)

Nudges from the Court, silence from the commission

The Special Intensive Revision of Bihar's electoral rolls is a turning point for citizens, civil society and Parliament - universal franchise must not be undone in the name of 'vigilance'



By Sanjay Hegde

"The ECI's constitutional mandate is not merely to maintain clean lists. It is to ensure free and fair elections. This means enabling the right to vote - not erecting barriers to it. In this, the ECI is failing. And the Court, while alert, must decide whether it will continue nudging it or start directing it. A soft caution is not enough when millions face disenfranchisement."

The Supreme Court of India speaks in questions. Sometimes softly, sometimes sharply. In its hearings on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) conducted by the Election Commission of India (ECI) in Bihar, the Court has asked what many in the country were thinking: Why was there a sudden need for fresh documentation? Why now? And what happens to the millions who cannot comply? Yet, the Court got a response from the ECI that did not address the underlying concern. The ECI insists that this is a technical revision. But the reality on the ground, and the implications of its policy, tell a very different story.

The SIR in Bihar requires every voter to submit new proof of citizenship - within one month - or face removal from the voter list. The stated intent is accuracy. But the effect is exclusion. This is not administrative housekeeping. It is an ideological shift in the treatment of citizens: from presumed inclusion to presumptive exclusion. This shift marks a deep departure from the constitutional vision of universal adult franchise.

TURNING AWAY FROM CONSTITUTIONAL PROMISES

When India became a republic, it did something radical: it gave the vote to all adults, regardless of literacy, income, caste or gender. The Constituent Assembly debated this extensively. Many Members doubted whether the country was ready. But Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, among others, insisted that political equality must come first as a prelude to achieving social and economic equality.

That principle was translated into practice by the first Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Sukumar Sen (March 21, 1950-December 18, 1958). Faced with 173 million potential voters, most of them illiterate, he innovated. He introduced voting symbols and designed processes that made participation easy, not difficult. India's first elections were not perfect, but they were inclusive. In contrast, the revision in Bihar by India's 26th CEC, Gyanesh Kumar, is the opposite. By demanding rare documents such as birth certificates and passports -



This is not an isolated event. We saw a similar exercise in Assam.' - Photo Credit: ANI

held by only a small fraction of the population, the ECI is setting a bar that millions cannot meet. Aadhaar cards and ration cards, widely held by the poor, are not accepted. In Bihar, over 65 lakh people may now be at risk of disenfranchisement.

This is not an isolated event. We saw a similar exercise in Assam. The classification of lungi-wearing, Bengali-speaking Muslim inhabitants as "D-voters" (doubtful voters) by the officers of the Election Commission, turned thousands into stateless persons. Many found themselves pleading before foreigners' tribunals, facing hostile bureaucracies and with no real opportunity to prove citizenship. With tribunals declaring them as foreigners and with no country ready to accept them, many have been just forcibly thrown away across India's borders, as unwanted human detritus.

Bihar is at risk of repeating that mistake. The State is poor, flood-prone, and infrastructurally weak. A rigid document deadline during the monsoon season is not just poor planning. It is a barrier, intentionally or otherwise, for the poor and the marginalized to access the ballot box. The burden of proof has now shifted. Citizens must prove that they belong, rather than the state proving they do not. This reversal may seem technical, but its moral and democratic cost is immense.

HISTORICAL LESSONS AND WARNINGS

There are disturbing echoes here of the Jim Crow era in the United States (late 19th century to the mid-20th century), where African-American voters were disenfranchised through literacy tests, poll taxes and administrative obstructions. The veneer was legal; the purpose was political. It took federal intervention and landmark

rulings such as *Reynolds vs Sims* (1964) and the Voting Rights Act 1965 to restore the right to vote as a true universal right.

India has similar legal protections. Supreme Court rulings such as *Md. Rahim Ali vs State of Assam* (2024) and *Lal Babu Hussein vs Electoral Registration Officer* (1995) have made it clear: disenfranchisement without due process is unconstitutional. Citizenship cannot be revoked or denied arbitrarily. Yet, here we are again - requiring the most vulnerable to navigate a process stacked against them.

The Court, during its hearing, asked pointed questions about the humanitarian consequences of the ECI's actions. But the ECI's response has been administrative, not empathetic. It continues to insist on timelines and technicalities, without addressing the social reality.

The ECI's constitutional mandate is not merely to maintain clean lists. It is to ensure free and fair elections. This means enabling the right to vote - not erecting barriers to it. In this, the ECI is failing. And the Court, while alert, must decide whether it will continue nudging it or start directing it. A soft caution is not enough when millions face disenfranchisement.

If this continues unchecked, we are entering dangerous territory. Voting could become a privilege of the documented middle class - urban, salaried, tech-savvy - while the poor, the displaced, and the undocumented are left behind. We risk creating two Indias: one with voting rights and one without. Political parties will then cater only to those who count - literally. Those without votes will be ignored in policymaking, welfare and justice. We are not just talking about voter lists here. We are talking about power - Who gets it. Who keeps it. And who is kept out of it.

A QUIET EMERGENCY

There is no need for tanks on the street to declare an emergency. A quiet one is already here. It arrives through missing names, unmet deadlines and unanswered questions. It arrives when state machinery treats citizenship as a favor, not a right. This moment calls for resistance - not just from the Court, but from citizens, civil society and Parliament. We must reclaim the principle that the right to vote belongs to the people, not the paperwork. Sadak, samaj and Supreme Court must loudly proclaim that Mother India belongs to all her children and that she does not discriminate on a religious or economic basis when her protection is sought.

As historian Ornit Shani reminds us in the book, *How India Became Democratic*, universal franchise was not an administrative accident, it was an imaginative leap. Bureaucrats and citizens together transformed a colonial mindset into a democratic one. That achievement must not be undone in the name of vigilance.

The ECI must remember that elections are not entrance examinations. They are acts of belonging. And in a democracy, you do not have to prove you belong. You vote because you are a citizen. And you are a citizen because the Constitution says so, not because you can find your birth certificate.

The vote is not a mere document. It is a declaration: that we are all equal. That one man has one vote and one vote has one value. That even if I have one vote out of 1.4 billion votes, it is an equal share in the republic, in which I and every Indian are equal participants. That right of ownership and participation is what is now at stake.

(Sanjay Hegde is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India)



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Democratic lawmakers sue over ICE's new policy limiting access to detention centers

JULY 30, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Twelve Democratic members of Congress have filed a lawsuit against the Trump administration, accusing it of unlawfully obstructing their efforts to visit federal immigration detention centers.

The complaint, filed Wednesday, July 30, in Washington, DC, argues that a new Department of Homeland Security policy that requires seven days' notice and limits access to certain field offices violates a longstanding federal law that permits unannounced inspections by members of Congress.

Visits by members of Congress have been one of the few ways the public has learned what's happening inside immigration detention centers. Lawmakers have reported overcrowded cells, spoiled food, medical neglect, and even the unlawful detention of US citizens.

Without access, plaintiffs argue, ICE facilities could operate in the dark as the administration detains more people than ever before.

Several lawmakers say they have already been denied entry to facilities in their districts. On Monday, Maryland Democrats - including Rep. Kweisi



A detention center

Mfume, Sen. Chris Van Hollen, Sen. Angela Alsobrooks, Rep. Glenn Ivey, Rep. Johnny Olszewski Jr., and Rep. Sarah Elfreth - were turned away from the ICE holding facility at the George H. Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore. (None of those lawmakers are plaintiffs in the new lawsuit, though another Maryland

Democrat - Rep. Jamie Raskin - is.) Reps. Robert Garcia, Jimmy Gomez, Jason Crow, and Veronica Escobar have also been blocked from facilities in California, Colorado, and Texas, and each of them have signed onto the legal challenge.

"These illegal actions have harmed

each Plaintiff's right as an individual member of Congress to conduct oversight and obtain information about DHS facilities and the conditions of immigration detention," attorneys from Democracy Forward, which is representing the lawmakers, wrote. "These harms are significant, irreparable, and ongoing as long as Defendants continue to block such visits pursuant to their unlawful policy."

Tensions around access have escalated sharply. Last month, Democratic Rep. LaMonica McIver of New Jersey was charged with allegedly assaulting law enforcement officers outside a detention center following the arrest of Newark's mayor. McIver has called the charges "purely political" and part of a broader effort to silence oversight.

"Blocking Members of Congress from oversight visits to ICE facilities that house or otherwise detain immigrants clearly violates federal law - and the Trump administration knows it," said assistant House Minority Leader Joe Neguse. "We will not sit by while this administration hides what is happening inside these facilities from the American people."

(Source: CNN)

H1B Wage Rule Changes Threaten Students, Tech Future

AISHWARYA PANDA

JULY 30, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. has made major changes to the H1B visa lottery process, focusing on higher wages. For international students, especially those in academic fields or just starting their careers, this new system could shut down their chances of building a life in America.

These students pay full tuition, supporting many universities financially. But if low entry-level salaries block them from the H1B lottery, the motivation to study in the U.S. could disappear. The impact isn't just academic-it could slow down future innovation and economic growth. Experts warn this policy shift might reduce international student numbers, weakening university budgets and the broader economy. Many tech giants were built by immigrants who began their journey in American classrooms. Losing that pipeline could hurt the country's competitive edge. While the new rule aims to prioritize high-skilled, high-paid workers, critics argue that it sidelines new graduates and academics. The result could be a talent drain at a time when the U.S. needs fresh ideas and energy to drive its tech sector forward. Indian students and skilled workers now face greater uncertainty. It's more important than ever to explore alternative visa options and consult immigration professionals. Careful planning could help manage the risks introduced by these sweeping changes. America has long been a destination for global talent, but this new regulation may undermine that promise. For many young immigrants, the American dream could now be harder to reach just as they begin to chase it.



H1B Visa - For representation only

Trump Hikes Tariffs on Canada to 35 Percent

The White House cited Canada's 'failure' to curb fentanyl trafficking and its continued use of counter-tariffs as reasons for the increase.

JULY 31, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump has followed through on his threat to raise tariffs on Canada from 25 percent to 35 percent starting on Aug. 1, with the White House saying the country has "failed" to stop the flow of fentanyl and other drugs into the United States through their shared border.

Products under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) continue to be exempt from the tariffs. The White House says products that are transhipped to evade the 35 percent tariff will be subject to a 40 percent rate. Canada is also subject to 50 percent sectoral tariffs on aluminum, steel, and copper.

"Canada has failed to cooperate in curbing the ongoing flood of fentanyl and other illicit drugs, and it has retaliated against the United States for the President's actions to address this unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States," the White House said in a statement on July 31.

"In response to Canada's continued inaction and retaliation, President Trump has found it necessary to increase the tariff on Canada from 25% to 35% to effectively address the existing emergency."

The announcement on July 31 came ahead of the Aug. 1 deadline for countries to reach new trade deals with the United States. Trump had earlier warned Prime Minister Mark Carney of his intention to raise tariffs on Canada, citing as concerns Canada's supply management, fentanyl trafficking, as well as Canada's counter-tariffs on the United States.

Unlike Canada, Mexico was spared an increase in



President Donald Trump has followed through on his threat to raise tariffs on Canada from 25 percent to 35 percent starting on Aug. 1

tariffs, with Trump saying on July 31 that he won't raise tariffs on Mexican goods for 90 days. His announcement came after he spoke on the phone with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Washington's initial tariffs on Canada and Mexico were set at the same rate of 25 percent, with Trump citing concerns about fentanyl trafficking and illegal immigration as the reasons.

Earlier on July 31, U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick noted that Canada is the only country beside China that has issued counter-tariffs against the United States. He also called Canada's decision a day earlier to recognize Palestinian statehood "tone deaf."

Trump had said earlier on July 31 that it would be "very hard" to reach a trade agreement with Ottawa after Carney said his country would recognize a Palestinian state. However, Trump said later the same day that Canada's decision on Palestine is "not a deal breaker."

The U.S. president told reporters on July 31 that Carney had called him earlier in the day, but that they hadn't spoken.

My New York City Sojourn- Time to Reminisce

BY SHEILA CHAMAN



With Denise Scotto at the UN

JULY 30, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): New York is an exotic city and holds within itself a lot of Moments and memories for everyone who visits this 'happening place'

New York City is often described with sayings that highlight its energy, diversity, and ambition. Common phrases include "The city that never sleeps," "The concrete jungle where dreams are made of," and "The capital of the world."

It is always a pleasure to be in NYC during the summer. I particularly enjoy attending the International Day of Yoga at the United Nations HQ, where I have the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. I have had the privilege of being a part of this wonderful event every year on 21st June since it was first held in 2015, efficiently organized by the Permanent Mission of India in New York. Such gatherings bring together people of different cultures from various parts of the World who come together in collective effervescence under the banner of YOGA, which is a way of Life. These experiences always leave me with a wealth of happy memories and strengthened connections. The motto for this year's International Day of Yoga was "Yoga for One Earth, One Health". This theme emphasizes the interconnectedness between personal well-being and the health of the planet, highlighting yoga's role in promoting both individual and planetary harmony.

This year the day was celebrated on 20th June and the North lawns of the UNHQ saw a record gathering of over a thousand people spread out on colorful yoga mats wearing white T shirts printed with the YOGA logo (both generously provided by the PMI). The entire programme was ably conducted by Ms. Denise Scotto whom I have known for some years. She is an attorney at law, international policy advisor, public speaker, interfaith minister & Founding Chair of a variety of international committees, most recently, the International Day of Yoga Committee at the UN.

The Brahma Kumaris ("Daughters of Brahma") is a spiritual movement that originated in Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan during the 1930s. Founded by Lekhraj Kripalani, the organization teaches the importance of moving beyond labels associated with the human body, including race, nationality, religion, and gender, through meditation that emphasizes the concept of identity as souls rather than bodies. It aims to establish a global culture centered around what they refer to as "soul-consciousness". Women continue to hold primary leadership positions within the organization and are addressed as 'Sister'. The BK (short form for Brahma Kumari) , with its spiritual headquarters in Mount



With Brahma Kumari Sister Jayanti (standing in the middle) and Sister Sabita Geer at the UN

Abu, India, comprises a worldwide network of centers in more than 110 countries and is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations accredited with General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Sister Sabita Geer is part of a team of 3 persons who coordinate its activities from Brahma Kumari's office at the United Nations NYC office situated near the UNHQ. Meetings at their Center are a soul rewarding experience with soft embalming words and meditation sessions. I was invited, along with a small group of people to the BK's UN office, to an exclusive meeting with senior Sister Jayanti Kirpalani, who is exceptionally articulate on the subject of spiritual knowledge and practice. The session lasted an hour which seemed to pass by swiftly as we drifted along spiritual waves of meditation.



With Dilip Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Mayor's Office

It was also very enriching to hear about the activities of New York State during my meeting with Mr. Dilip

Chauhan, Deputy Commissioner in the Mayor's office for International Affairs. "We break bread and build bonds" he said as the office often holds meetings with people of different faiths and religions who come together to discuss various matters of common interest and improvements to the City." They all bring their own food to the table" Mr. Chauhan told me. He is the Deputy Commissioner for Trade, Investment, and Innovation in the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs. He helps promote economic development initiatives in this role by fostering strategic international partnerships and supporting international business expansion to New York City. He works closely with the United Nations, Consulates General, Permanent Missions, and the private sector to promote NYC's economic growth and resilience.

My upcoming book, "Doordarshan Diaries: The Golden Era of Television," offers a unique look into Doordarshan's evolution from black and white to color broadcasting. Having spent three decades at India's National Television Channel, I witnessed its transition and transformation firsthand. The book promises a nostalgic journey for some, with behind-the-scenes accounts and untold stories. For others, it will be an enlightening education on how we successfully managed a broadcast channel with limited resources, covering every department from presentation and programming to production and engineering.



With Ramu Damodaran, one of the best newscasters at Doordarshan

I remain in touch with some colleagues from my days as a News anchor at Doordarshan, and we often connect to reminisce. One such friend and news colleague is Mr. Ramu Damodaran, who was among our best newscasters. Known for his photographic memory, he would read a few lines from the page below, look into the camera, and recite them from memory. We all envied his talent.

During my annual summer visit to New York, I always make sure to meet up with Ramu . A former officer of the Indian foreign services, he joined the United Nations Department of Global Communications in 1996 and concluded his career with the UN in May 2021. Our conversations are always lively, covering old times, former colleagues, friends, and, of course, Doordarshan. This year was no exception; Ramu remains as articulate and youthful as ever. I updated him on the Doordarshan book, mentioning his inclusion in the "News" section. Like many others, he's eagerly awaiting its release, which is now with the publishers.

(Sheila Chaman, a Miss India, was a popular News Anchor with Doordarshan in its heyday)



India's state refiners halt Russian oil purchases: Report

India's state refiners have not purchased Russian oil for the last week, marking a dramatic turn in one of Moscow's strongest energy relationships since the onset war in Ukraine, news agency Reuters reported, citing sources.

Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery Petrochemical Ltd are the state refiners in the country that have not acquired Russian crude in the last week or so, four sources, who were aware of the refiners' buying plans, told the news agency.

However, Indian refineries such as IOC, BPCL, HPCL and MRPL or the central government, have not made an official statement on the issue.

India, the world's third-largest oil importer, is the biggest buyer of seaborne Russian crude, a vital revenue earner for Russia as it wages war in Ukraine for a fourth year.

Russia, on the other hand, is India's leading supplier, with around 35% of India's total supplies.

The action follows narrowing price discounts on Russian crude and renewed threats from US President Donald Trump to impose punitive tariffs on countries buying oil from Moscow, the agency further reported.

With discounts now at their lowest since 2022, India's economic rationale for importing from Moscow has weakened. India is substituting Russia with alternative sources, including Middle Eastern oil such as Abu Dhabi's Murban and West African oil, to meet the supply deficit, sources said.

But business interests do not appear to be the sole aspect of the equation. On July 14, Trump threatened 100% tariffs on nations that purchase Russian oil unless Moscow clinches a grand peace agreement with Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Trump announced a 25% tariff on goods imported from India from August 1, but added that negotiations were ongoing. He also warned of potential penalties for purchase of Russian arms and oil.

Trump cut the deadline to impose secondary sanctions on buyers of Russian exports to 10-12 days from the previous 50-day period, if Moscow does not agree to a peace deal with Ukraine.

BJP, Congress trade barbs as Rahul says economy is dead

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's claim on Thursday, July 31, that mirrored US president Donald Trump's statement that the Indian economy is "dead" triggered a war of words with the ruling BJP, which said that the world recognizes India's achievements even as Gandhi tried to run it down.

"Yes, he (Trump) is right, Everybody knows this except the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. Everybody knows that the Indian economy is a dead economy. I am glad that President Trump has stated a fact... The entire world knows that the Indian economy is a dead economy..." Gandhi told journalists outside Parliament. Later on, in a post on X, he listed his criteria for his view on the state of the Indian economy.

Trump's overnight comments were made in the context of India and Russia's bilateral trade. After imposing a 25% tariff on Indian exports to the US and an additional penalty for buying Russian oil, Trump said on Truth Social: "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care..." He also alleged that tariffs in India are "too high" and "among the highest in the world".

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat slammed Gandhi for his comments. "Contrary to your political career, Rahul Gandhi, India's economy is not dead — it is fully alive and moving forward with strong momentum," he said.

In his statement, Shekhawat said that during the tenure of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government India was counted among the 'Fragile Five' countries, and today India is now counted among the 'Robust Five'. "India's economy is not only setting new standards of stability and growth, but it is also firmly moving towards becoming the world's third-largest economy," he added.

Sambit Patra, a Lok Sabha lawmaker of the BJP, said on X, "Rahul Gandhi has crossed all limits—publicly endorsing Donald Trump's slur that India is a 'dead economy'. Whose side is he really on?"

"While the world recognises India's aspiration, achievement, and wellbeing, Rahul Gandhi seems intent on running it down. IMF just upgraded India's growth forecast: 6.9% for 2025, the fastest among major economies.. World Bank calls India the



"standout growth story" of the decade. Inflation is at a 6-year low. PMI is at a 17.5-year high. Rahul Gandhi is attempting to chip away at India's collective spirit of its ambition & achievements but he's simply out of sync with a nation chasing its dreams with determination. Shameful!!" Patra said.

While no other senior Congress leader commented on Trump's statement, party leader Jairam Ramesh said that the Indian economy has never really recovered from the twin shocks of a "bizarre demonetisation" and a fundamentally flawed "GST" (goods and services tax). "The growth rate of the Indian economy will simply not accelerate with current levels of private corporate investment and current levels of private consumption. The Modi government's own policies are responsible for this twin deficit," he said.

Congress MP Rajiv Shukla, however, took a different position and told the media, "It is incorrect for Trump to say that the Indian economy is dead." Shukla added that economic reforms were ushered in by the Narsimha Rao government and the UPA government and the current government has taken more steps. "In no way, our economy is weak," he said.

Parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju cited Shukla's comment and said on X, "Now, a senior Congress leader Rajiv Shukla ji is also speaking in our country's favour! Indian economy will never be dead." *Source: HT*

Will give copies of Bihar draft roll to all parties: EC ahead of publication

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Election Commission assured contenders on July 31 that all recognised political parties in Bihar will receive physical as well as digital copies of the voters' list draft in all 38 districts. All individuals and political parties will also get a month to submit applications for addition and removal of names in the draft roll.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said the chief electoral officer (CEO) of Bihar and 243 electoral registration officers (EROs) would invite voters and political parties in Bihar to come forward and give claims and objections from August 1 to September 1, for adding names of any missing eligible elector, removing names of any ineligible elector or correction of any entry in the

draft electoral rolls.

As per the poll panel's findings, around 65 lakh voters face the possibility of their names getting deleted from the electoral roll of Bihar. It has been reported that around 36 lakh people had shifted permanently or were not found; seven lakh had enrolled themselves at multiple places and 22 lakh of the voters had passed away since the roll was last published.

The findings are likely to create fresh political uproar once the draft roll comes out on August 1.

Meanwhile, Kumar along with the other two Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi on Thursday interacted with a delegation from Janata Dal (United), led by its general secretary and authorised

representative Afaque Ahmad Khan.

The meeting was part of the poll body's outreach with all political parties, which it has been undertaking since May this year. Under this exercise, the ECI has held interactions with representatives of 15 political parties, which include five national parties -- BJP, BSP, CPI(M), AAP and National People's Party (NPP).

These interactions provide for a long-felt need of constructive discussions which enable national and state party presidents to share their suggestions and concerns directly with the Commission. This initiative aligns with the Commission's broader vision of further strengthening the electoral process in accordance with the existing legal framework with all stakeholders, it said in a statement. *Source: TNS*

Kerala nuns arrested in Chhattisgarh denied bail, NIA Court to hear matter next

The bail pleas of two Kerala nuns, arrested in Chhattisgarh in connection with alleged religious conversion, have been rejected by both the Lower Court and the Sessions Court.

Judge Aneesh Dubey (FTSC), presiding over the Sessions Court, ruled that the case falls outside its jurisdiction due to the human trafficking charges, which place it under the purview of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Court.

The case will now be heard by the NIA Court in Bilaspur. Until then, the nuns will remain in judicial custody. The complainant's lawyer, Rajkumar Tiwari, is expected to file a fresh petition before the designated court.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan accused the BJP and its ideological affiliates of targeting the Christian community. He called the arrest a "deliberate act of harassment" based on a "false complaint" filed by Bajrang Dal activists.

"This incident reveals the true nature of the Sangh Parivar. The same people who walk into Christian homes with cakes and smiles are now hunting down nuns," said Vijayan. He alleged that the crackdown was part of a broader campaign to curb religious freedom and promote divisive politics, undermining India's secular fabric.

Vijayan said he had written to the Prime Minister immediately after the arrests but had received no response. He criticised the Centre for failing to intervene and accused the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister of justifying the arrests. "Minority rights and the Constitution's guarantees are under threat. We must resist this dangerous trend," he warned. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had, on Monday defended the arrests, said it was unfortunate that the issue of safety of women was being politicised.

No evidence: All 7 acquitted in 2008 Malegaon blast case

NEW DELHI (TIP)

A special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Thursday, July 31, acquitted all the seven people charged in connection with a bomb blast in Maharashtra's Malegaon town in 2008, saying the evidence against them did not inspire confidence and that it would be unsafe to base convictions on these grounds.

The high-profile order – which came nearly 17 years after six people were killed and 95 injured in the blast during the last namaz of the day at a public compound on September 29, 2008 – cleared former Bharatiya Janata Party lawmaker Pragya Singh Thakur, 55, and Lt. Col Prasad Purohit, 53, who was an officer with the Indian army.

"Terror has no religion, as no religion promotes violence," said special NIA judge AK Lahoti while pronouncing the acquittal.

The five others who were exonerated, beside Thakur and Purohit, were retired army officer Ramesh Shivaji Upadhyay, 73, Pune-based businessman Samir Sharad Kulkarni, 53, Purohit's purported close associates Ajay Eknath Rahirkar, 56, and Sudhakar Omkarnath Chaturvedi, 53, and Sudhakar Dhar Dwivedi, also known as Swami Amritananda Devtirth, 56, a self-proclaimed Shankaracharya.

"Mere suspicion cannot take the place of real proof," the court said, adding that in the absence of any evidence, the accused persons deserve the benefit of doubt.

In its order, the trial court said there was no evidence to show that Purohit had brought the RDX from Kashmir as claimed in the charge sheet. The court also found no evidence to prove that the bomb strapped to a motorcycle and seized from the spot belonged to Thakur.

"The sadhvi had become a sanyasi (ascetic) two years before the incident, and had distanced herself from all material possessions," the court said while explaining why the two-wheeler's



Former BJP MP Pragya Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit, two of the seven acquitted in the case. PTI

ownership could not be attributed to the former MP from Bhopal. The accused thanked Lahoti and their lawyers, and Thakur said that she was able to survive the ordeal only because she was a 'sanyasi' (ascetic). "This is not my victory. This is no individual's victory. This is the victory of bhagwa (saffron), bhagwan (god) and Hindutva," she said after the court explained the verdict in Hindi.

Advocate Shahid Nadeem, who represented the blast victims, accused NIA of not prioritising their concerns, and said they would file an appeal in the high court after reviewing the judgment.

The politically sensitive case was part of a larger bouquet of terror incidents in the late 2000s dubbed by investigating agencies at the time as "saffron terror" cases. Almost every one of those cases – including the 2007 Samjhauta Express blasts, the 2007 Mecca Masjid blast and the 2007 Ajmer Sharif bombing – have since collapsed in court.

The verdict also sparked a political controversy with the BJP demanding an apology from the Congress, which was in power at the Centre and in the state when the blasts and the prosecution began.

Two RDX bombs strapped to the seat of an LML Freedom motorcycle went off during the "eesha namaz" at 9.35pm on September 29, 2008 in the Muslim-dominated town, roughly 200km from Mumbai.

Six died and 95 were injured. This was

the second terror attack in Malegaon. On September 8, 2006, on the day of Shab-e-Baraat, four bombs had gone off at the crowded Hamidia mosque complex killing 31 and injuring 312 others.

The blast was investigated by two different agencies – first by the Maharashtra Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and then by the NIA from 2011.

According to the ATS, the blast was the handiwork of an extreme Right-wing group led by Purohit, Upadhyay and Dwivedi. In its charge sheet, the agency claimed that Purohit, who at the time served in the Indian Army's Military Intelligence unit, had in February 2007 formed Abhinav Bharat, an organisation with an intention to convert India into a Hindu rashtra named Aryavart.

It also arrested Thakur, a native of Lahar in the Bhind district of Madhya Pradesh, and two others in October 2008, alleging that the motorcycle belonged to her.

On January 20, 2009, the ATS arrested 11 people and filed a charge sheet, invoking the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA). In April 2011, the case was transferred to NIA, a specialised federal agency established after the 2008 Mumbai terror attack. Throughout this time, the accused alleged that the ATS case was fabricated and their statements were coerced after torture.

Source: HT

Former Tamil Nadu chief minister OPS quits BJP alliance

CHENNAI (TIP)

The BJP's Tamil Nadu election plans took a hit after expelled AIADMK leader and former Chief Minister O Panneerselvam - from the influential Thevar community - led loyalists out of the national party-led alliance.

OPS was reportedly miffed at being excluded from meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit earlier this week. He was also excluded from the guest list when Home Minister Amit Shah visited.

This was after AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami revived BJP ties before the election.

OPS loyalist Panruti Ramachandran confirmed the withdrawal; pressed on the reason for the break-up Mr Ramachandran, flanked by his boss, told reporters "the reason is widely known".

The ex-Chief Minister's future plans will be announced shortly, Mr Ramachandran said. "... a right alliance to lead the people in the right direction will materialise in the future".

For now, he also said, OPS will travel the state ahead of the 2026 Assembly election.

There was plenty of buzz after OPS met DMK boss and Chief Minister MK Stalin this morning, but the meeting was played down as a chance encounter during a morning constitutional.

There was plenty of buzz after OPS met DMK boss and Chief Minister MK Stalin this morning, but the meeting was played down as a chance encounter during a morning constitutional.

But an alliance with the DMK could be problematic given OPS is seen as the 'true heir' of AIADMK icon and ex-Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, who hand-

picked him as her stand-in when she had to step down. Joining hands with her arch-rivals will anger his supporters.

He could contest next year's election solo. But recent solo results have been a disaster. Nevertheless, by going on his own he will split votes from the Thevar community and dent the AIADMK's prospects.

He will also almost certainly not win enough seats to form the government, but could win enough, backed by the Thevar voters, to become a 'kingmaker' and secure his own political future.

Or he could patch up with the Bharatiya Janata Party and return to the NDA fold.

The BJP and he were allies for the 2024 Lok Sabha poll; this was when the AIADMK itself had split from the national party.

India in history this Week

AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 7

01 AUGUST

1920 Mahatma Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement.

1957 National Book Trust was established.

1999 Bengali and English writer Nird.C. Chaudhary died in Britain.

1920 Mahatma Gandhi returned the Kesar-e-Hind Award given by the British Government in 1920.

1947 The partition of powers between India and Pakistan in 1947.

1985 In 1952, the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated Nationalized Airways at Safdarjung.

1953 All airlines in the country were nationalized on 1953.

1992 The then Prime Minister Narasimha Rao dedicated the Vizag Steel Plant to the nation in 1992.

2008 In 2008, the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) approved India's Special Monitoring Agreement.

1899 Kamala Nehru, the wife of the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, was born.



1932 Famous Hindi film actress Meena Kumari was born.

1916 Annie Besant, former president of the Indian National Congress, launched the Home Rule League.

2004 Sri Lanka won the Asia Cup of Cricket by defeating India.

02 AUGUST

1763 After the capture of Murshidabad, the British army defeated Mir Qasim in the Battle of Giriyah.

1876 Pingali Venkaiah, who designed the Indian flag, was born.

1858 The Government of India Act was passed by the British Government.

1858 The Government of India transferred the East India Company to the British Crown.

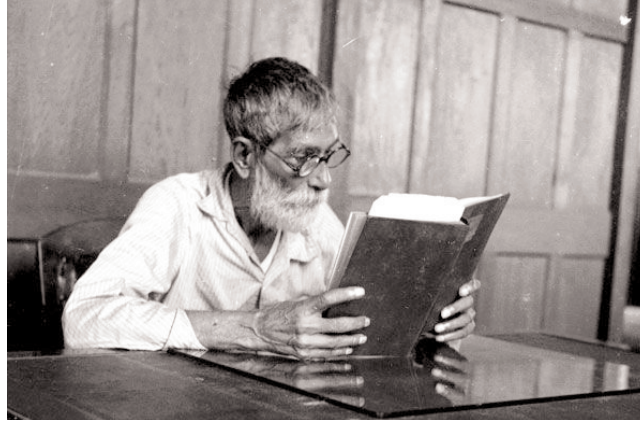


1987 Viswanathan Anand won the World Junior Chess Championship.

1999 The Brahmaputra Mail collided face-to-face with the Awadh-Assam Express at Ghasal. Both trains were running on the same track from the opposite direction.

2001 Pakistan approved Chinese imports from India.

1861 Famous scientist Prafulla Chandra Rai, who was considered the 'father of chemistry', was born.



03 AUGUST

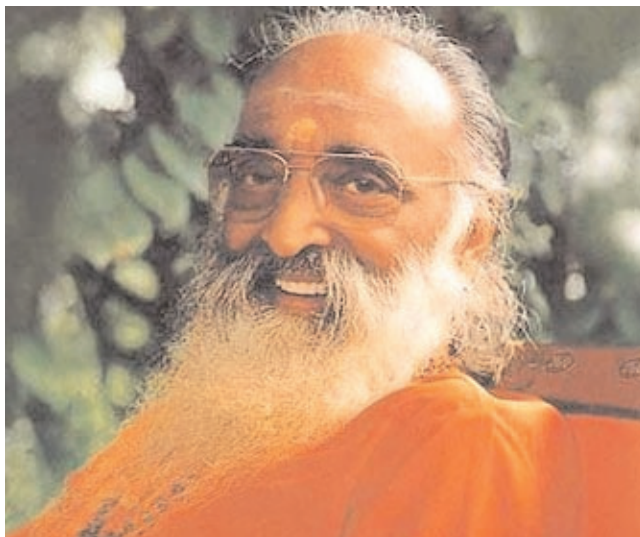


1886 Famous Hindi poet Maithilisharan Gupta was born in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

1985 Baba Amte was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for public service.

2012 The Workplace Safety Bill, 2010 passed against sexual harassment of women in 2012.

1993 Swami Chinmayananda, the famous spiritual thinker of India and world-renowned scholar of Vedanta philosophy, died in 1993.



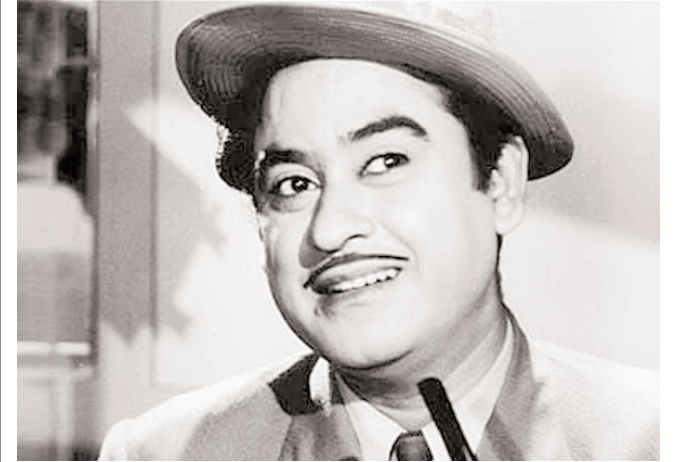
04 AUGUST

1956 Apsara, the country's first nuclear research reactor, started.

1967 Construction of Nagarjunasagar, the world's

longest masonry dam.

2008 The government gave Navratna status to the Shipping Corporation of India.



1929 Actor, singer, director Kishore Kumar was born.

05 AUGUST

1991 Justice Leela Seth became the first Indian woman to become the Chief Justice of the High Court.

1775 Nandakumar, an officer of the Bengal Nawab, was hanged in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

2008 A tremor of 5.5 magnitude earthquake was felt in the Indian Ocean 176 miles northeast of 2008 from Andaman and Nicobar island of India.

2010 A cloudburst occurred in Leh in Kashmir (India) in 2010 and 115 people died in the flood that followed.

2013 India's junior women's hockey team won the bronze by defeating England 3-2 (1-1) in the 2013 World Cup held in Germany.



2000 India's great and famous cricketer Lala Amarnath died in 2000

2020 The foundation stone of the Ayodhya Ram temple was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Das Modi on 05 November 2020.

06 AUGUST

1862 Madras High Court was established.

1906 Prominent freedom fighter Chittaranjan Das and other Congress leaders jointly started publication of 'Vande Mataram' newspaper.

1986 Birth of India's first test tube baby.

2007 An old Hindu temple in central Trinidad was damaged.

07 AUGUST

1905 The Indian National Congress boycotted British goods.

1941 Nobel laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore died.

1947 Electricity and transport system were formally transferred to Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

1985 Geet Sethi won the World Amateur Billiards Championship. He became the third Indian to achieve this feat.

Happy 79th Independence Day!

“Shahidon ko shraddhanjali”

PATRIOTIC MUSICAL EVENING

Be a part of this special celebration of independence, as we pay heartfelt tribute to the brave hearts who gave us freedom.

An evening filled with patriotic melodies, stirring memories, and a celebration of India's glorious journey.

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Long Island Marriott

Address: IOI James Doolittle BLVD, Uniondale, NY 11553

- 5 PM to 7 PM: Welcome and Dinner
- 7 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening entertainment with renowned singers, performers, and musicians from India

Ticket Options:

- Elite: \$75 per person
- Elite Preferred: \$150 per person

Special Instructions:

- Unassigned Seating for Elite ticket option
- Preferred outfit choices include Indian traditional attire in saffron, green, or white

**Checks payable to “Long Island Marriott”.
To explore other payment options, contact:**

Haridas Kotahwala at 917.842.3201

Neha Bhansali at 405.312.1047

**Organized by Navika Group of Companies and Blue Sky Hospitality Solutions
Hosted by Long Island Marriott**



BLUESKY
HOSPITALITY SOLUTIONS

214 candidates in the run; Voters to write the name of their candidate on the adapted Ballot Paper

JULY 29, 2025

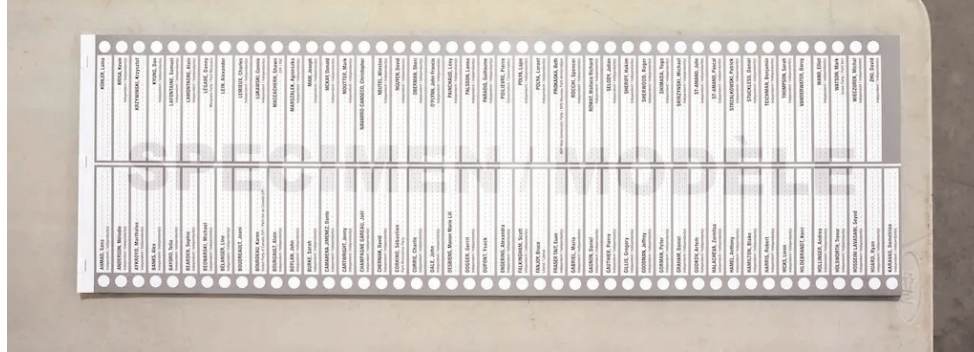
TORONTO (TIP): With a record number of 214 candidates for a single-seat by-election, Elections Canada has opted to "adapt ballot paper," wherein the voters would be required to write the name of the candidate they want to vote for.

Nominations for the Battle River-Crowfoot by-election closed on July 28. The Leader of the Opposition, Pierre Poilievre, along with candidates of nine other registered parties, including the ruling Liberals, NDP, Green, Centrist, United, Libertarian, Christian Heritage, Peoples', and Marijuana, are contesting this by-election. They have been joined by 204 independent candidates.

Never before in history have so many candidates been on the ballot paper of a single-seat election anywhere in the world.

This will be the first by-election of its kind where, instead of a traditional single printed ballot paper, an adapted blank ballot paper will be used to cast votes. It has also stirred an animated debate on whether, in a democracy, the number of contestants or candidates could be restricted to minimize the logistics or issues related to the size of the ballot paper or the subsequent processes, including the casting and counting of votes.

Though there are several technicalities involved in using the "adapted ballot paper," a blank paper that will feature blank space where electors would be required to write the name of their



The ballot paper -For representation only

preferred candidate.

Since there is a record high number of candidates-214 in all, including 10 of registered parties-in Battle River-Crowfoot (Alberta), electors voting at advance or election day polls will vote using an adapted ballot.

The adapted ballot will replace the typical list-style ballot, on which electors mark a blank circle next to the name of the candidate of their choice. For their vote to be counted, electors must write the name of their candidate of choice. As long as the elector's intention is clear, their vote will be counted, even if they misspell the candidate's name.

Along with the candidate's name, electors can also write the name of the candidate's political party. But if the elector writes only the party's name, their ballot cannot be counted-it must have the name of the elector's preferred candidate.

An unprecedented situation has been created by the ongoing campaign of the

Longest Ballot Committee (LBC), spearheading a campaign for reforms in the election process in Canada.

The LBC had successfully created a record in the last federal elections in April this year when it managed to put up more than 80 candidates as Independents, with the ballot stretched to a record length with 91 names on it.

Since the number of candidates for Battle River-Crowfoot has crossed the 200 mark, Elections Canada has come out in favor of using an adapted ballot paper.

The list of all eligible candidates will be available at every voting table so that electors can find the name of their candidate of choice. The adapted write-in ballot will feature the same security and integrity measures found on a typical ballot, Elections Canada said in a press statement.

It says, Elections Canada is aware that the changes to the ballot may reduce its accessibility for some electors. All regular accessibility tools will still be

available, but some of them, such as the braille list of candidates and adapted braille voting template, will only be available on election day (Monday, August 18) and those who may have any concerns could contact Elections Canada to find out what options and accessibility supports are available to them.

It further says that "Electors who need support when voting are welcome to bring a friend, family member, or caregiver to assist them, including helping them to complete their ballot. Election workers, who are sworn to maintain the secrecy of the vote, are also available to help."

"Elections Canada reminds electors in Battle River-Crowfoot that they may vote by special ballot at the local Elections Canada office. They can also apply online to vote by mail, or they can apply by mail or by fax. They have until Tuesday, August 12, 6 p.m., to do so."

"Because of the large number of candidates, the results of the by-election in Battle River-Crowfoot may take longer to report and publish on elections.ca," it said.

This will be the first by-election of its kind where, instead of a traditional single printed ballot paper, an adapted blank ballot paper will be used to cast votes. It has also stirred an animated debate on whether, in a democracy, the number of contestants or candidates could be restricted to minimize the logistics or issues related to the size of the ballot paper or the subsequent processes, including the casting and counting of votes.

By Prabhjot Singh



Canada Appoints Jeff David as New Consul General in Mumbai; No Word yet about New High Commissioner to India



Jeff David is taking on the role of Consul General in Mumbai, India, at a time when Canada is working to restore its relationship with India.

JULY 30, 2025

OTTAWA (TIP): Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand announced four new diplomatic appointments, including a new Consul General in Mumbai, with no word yet about the appointment of a new High Commissioner to India.

It is pertinent to mention that when the prime ministers of India, Narendra Modi, and Canada, Mark Carney, met on the sidelines of the G7 summit in

Alberta, they announced that new high commissioners would be appointed in each other's countries soon.

Though 20-odd diplomatic appointments were made by the new Carney government a couple of weeks ago, India did not figure on that list.

India and Canada had shrunk their diplomatic corps after a bitter spat last year, accusing each other of political interference. The incumbent High Commissioners were either changed or recalled. As a sequel to the diplomatic spat, stopgap arrangements were made.

Hope was raised for the restoration of bonhomie between the two nations after the two prime ministers met in Alberta, and there were some good exchanges through telephonic conversations between the foreign ministers and the prime ministers after the Alberta meeting.

Anita Anand announced four new diplomatic appointments. Jeff David will be the new Consul General of Canada in Mumbai. He replaces Diedrah Kelly.

Jeff David is an experienced Canadian diplomat with a strong background in consular affairs and international postings, including a previous role as Consul General in Chongqing, China. He

is now taking on the role of Consul General in Mumbai, India, at a time when Canada is working to restore its relationship with India.

Jeff David holds an HBA from the Ivey Business School at Western University, which he obtained in 2002.

He joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 2003, according to Canada.ca. He has a strong background in consular affairs, having served as the senior adviser to the assistant deputy minister of the International Platform Branch, director of global consular case management, and director of consular strategy at Global Affairs Canada headquarters.

He has served overseas in Afghanistan and three times in China. His most recent posting in China was as the Consul General in Chongqing, serving from 2017 to 2021.

Most recently, he was a special adviser in the Office of the Deputy Minister for International Trade.

In late July 2025, Jeff David was appointed as the Consul General of Canada in Mumbai, India. This appointment is significant as it marks the first Canadian diplomatic posting in India since a diplomatic dispute between

the two countries in late 2023.

Louis-Martin Aumais will become Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He will replace Tarik Khan.

Ghislain Robichaud will become Consul General in Sydney (Australia). Mr. Robichaud will replace André-François Giroux, who is currently serving as Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti.

Ms. Allison Stewart will become Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Libya. She will replace Isabelle Savard.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist. He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics, at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular.

His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines, and journals. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Familiarization Business Seminar on the UP International Trade Show 2025



Mr. Ramesh Khulbey, Head of Chancery highlighting the immense trade opportunities at the UP International Trade Show 2025 and encouraged local businesses to explore India's dynamic markets

JULY 26, 2025

GUATEMALA CITY (TIP): The Embassy of India in Guatemala City successfully organized a Familiarization Business Seminar on the UP International Trade Show 2025 on Friday, 25 July 2025, aimed at introducing and promoting the upcoming trade show among local companies, entrepreneurs, and business associations. The seminar was held in a hybrid format, allowing the participation of delegates and business representatives from El Salvador and Honduras through virtual means. The event drew a strong response from local industry representatives, business chambers, and potential trade partners eager to explore opportunities in Uttar Pradesh, India.

The UP International Trade Show, scheduled for 26-29 September 2025 in Greater Noida, India, is one of the largest trade platforms showcasing India's diverse industrial strengths, including handicrafts, textiles, engineering goods, food processing, electronics, MSMEs, and agricultural products. Organized by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO), the trade show provides a unique opportunity for global buyers and sellers to engage directly, explore joint ventures, and forge new partnerships. The seminar aimed to familiarize Guatemalan businesses with the



Mr. Rohit Tejpal, Dy. Director, FIEO,, delivered an informative presentation highlighting key sectors, matchmaking sessions & buyer programs



An engaging Q&A session enabled participants to gain clarity on travel plans, sectors of focus, and opportunities at UP International Trade Show.

scale, structure, and opportunities offered by the trade show, thereby encouraging participation from the region.

The program commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Ramesh Khulbey, Head of Chancery at the Embassy of India, Guatemala. In his address, Mr. Khulbey highlighted the growing trade relations between India and the Central American region and stressed that the UP International Trade Show would be an ideal platform for local businesses to expand their reach and interact directly with Indian exporters and manufacturers. He encouraged Guatemalan, Salvadoran, and Honduran entrepreneurs to take advantage of this opportunity to discover India's manufacturing excellence and emerging industrial sectors. His presentation included a promotional video and glimpses of the previous year's successful edition of the trade show, which received strong international participation.

This was followed by a detailed presentation by Mr. Rohit Tejpal, Deputy Director, FIEO, who provided insights into the upcoming trade show's layout, key sectors, matchmaking sessions, and business networking opportunities. He explained how participating companies could benefit from direct B2B interactions, product showcases, and government-supported buyer programs. The seminar also featured experience-sharing sessions by previous visitors who had attended trade fairs in India, including the earlier

editions of the UP International Trade Show. They shared their positive experiences, the quality of networking, and the opportunities that emerged from such visits.

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A session, during which participants raised queries regarding logistics, travel arrangements, and sectors of focus in the 2025 edition. Mr. Khulbey and Mr. Tejpal addressed these queries, providing clarifications and guidance. In the concluding remarks, Mr. Keshav Chodhary, Commercial Wing thanked all attendees for their participation and urged them to submit the feedback forms provided during the seminar. A large number of attendees expressed keen interest in visiting India for the trade show and acknowledged the event's usefulness in providing comprehensive information about the opportunities available. The seminar was widely regarded as a success in creating awareness and generating enthusiasm for the UP International Trade Show 2025, paving the way for stronger business linkages between India and Central America.

BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL REVISITS NYC



Dashamahavidya - Nandanik Dance Troupe, Pittsburgh -Credit: Arindam Sen

BY MABEL PAIS

BATTERY DANCE celebrates its annual art of dance in its home community of New York City this August, in partnership with Battery Park City Authority (BPCA).

DANCE @ THE NEW WAGNER PARK, SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 AT 7PM

On Saturday, August 9, Battery Dance Company celebrates the re-opening of Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park. A medley of dance companies will present a 1-hour program opened by Indigenous performer Marie Poncé, followed by tap-dancer John Manzari with a live band. Battery Dance presents 'Frontiers' by Turkish-Dutch choreographer Rutkay Özpinar and Limón Dance Company caps off the evening with the classic work 'A Choreographic Offering' created by José Limón in 1964.

BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL

August 12-16, brings the 44th Annual Battery Dance Festival enlivening Rockefeller Park with a rain date on August 17. New York City's longest-running free public dance festival brings together eight diverse dance companies from around the world coupled with a dynamic roster of eight New York-based companies. The free series of events celebrates the universal language of dance with a mix of performances, workshops, and immersive experiences for audiences of all ages.

The five-night performance line-up features a plethora of premieres and several performances featuring live music. Crowds of over 12,000 in-person and over 35,000 virtual viewers typically flock to the Festival each summer, with audiences glorying in the opportunity to experience dance against the spectacular water, sky and cityscape backdrop.

"Battery Dance stands committed to providing the enlightenment and transcendence of dance free to the public despite the shattering of precedents we had taken for granted. We prevailed through Superstorm Sandy's flooding of lower Manhattan, the financial crisis of the 2008/09 recession, and the attacks on the World

Trade Center," said Jonathan Hollander, artistic director of Battery Dance. "Thanks to our partners at Battery Park City Authority, our sponsors and donors, and the dancers and staff and Board of Battery Dance and all the participants who join us in the timeless pursuit of community gathering and beauty, we are prevailing again!"

"For more than a decade our beautiful public spaces have played host to the beauty of the Battery Dance Festival, and we're honored this year to host events both as part of Wagner Park's reopening celebration, and in Rockefeller Park for five more fantastic evenings of dance," said BPCA President & CEO Raju Mann. "A neighborhood favorite and staple of Battery Park City's summer programming calendar, the Festival provides New Yorkers a front-row seat to world-class talent, and we thank our partners at Battery Dance for this enduring partnership."

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Dance @ The New Wagner Park, Saturday, August 9 at 7pm

Battery Dance performs in this celebratory night of dance alongside Marie Poncé, The Limón Dance Company, and tap dancer John Manzari & Band in celebrating Wagner Park's reopening.

Battery Dance Festival: Tuesday, August 12 – Saturday, August 16 at 7pm

Tuesday, August 12: John Manzari & Band, excerpts of Recenter (USA); Pace University Dancing to Connect conducted by Robin Cantrell (USA); Battery Dance, Sense of Belonging, a world premiere by Faizah Grootens (USA); Faizah Grootens, While You're Here (Netherlands), Bulareyaung Dance Company, Colors (Taiwan)

Wednesday, August 13: UNARTE, Verso Roto (Spain -World Premiere); Theater Plauen - Zwickau Ballet Ensemble, Eden (South Korea/Germany); Bulareyaung Dance Company, Colors (Taiwan); Faizah Grootens While You're Here (Netherlands), Platforma 13, Balkan Ballerinas (Romania - U.S. Premiere)

Thursday, August 14: Kar-mel Small,

Sonali Skandan, Durga
Credit: Anushila ShawSubhajit Khush Das
Credit: Pratyush Roy Choudhury

La Manta de Reina (USA); Theater Plauen - Zwickau Ballet Ensemble, Eden (South Korea/Germany); Platforma 13, Balkan Ballerinas (Romania - U.S. Premiere); UNARTE, Verso Roto (Spain -World Premiere); Buglisi Dance Theatre, Sospiri (USA), Battery Dance, Empty Hand by Damani Pompey (USA - World Premiere)

Friday, August 15: India Day - SHAKTI, Divine Energy

India Independence Day - celebrates SHAKTI - Divine Energy

Sutradhar - Rajika Puri

PERFORMERS

Bharatanatyam: Nandanik Dance Troupe (Pittsburgh) 'Dashamahavidya,' choreography by Subhajit Khush Das,

Odissi: Bijayini Satpathy Dance Collective (Bangalore/New York), 'Lasya: Lathika & Mahamaya' performed by Ariaki Dandawate and Malavika Singh, choreographed by Bijayini Satpathy

Uday Shankar Style: Subhajit Khush Das (Kolkata), untitled - world premiere

Kuchipudi & Kathakali: Kalpavruksha Dance Ensemble (Hyderabad/New Jersey) Swathi Gundapuneedi-Atluri, Choreographer

Bharatanatyam: Sonali Skandan (New York), 'Durga' choreographed by Sonali Skandan and Maya Kulkarni

Bharatanatyam: Malini Srinivasan & Dancers (New York), 'Being Becoming'

Program subject to change.

BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL

New York City's longest-running free

public dance festival, was established by Battery Dance as the Downtown Dance Festival in 1982. Originally envisioned and conducted as an "art in the workplace" series, the festival brought hundreds of free noontime dance performances to lower Manhattan public spaces including South Street Seaport, One Chase Plaza, City Hall and for many years, the World Trade Center Plaza. When Superstorm Sandy flooded lower Manhattan in 2012, Battery Park City Authority offered Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park as an alternative site and the Festival refashioned itself into a nighttime event beginning in 2013. With the need to conduct an extensive resiliency plan, Wagner Park was decommissioned in 2023 and the Festival relocated again, this time to the lawn at Rockefeller Park where it continues this year. Learn more at batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival.

BATTERY DANCE

Founded by Jonathan Hollander in 1976 in lower Manhattan, Battery Dance now serves as one of America's leading cultural ambassadors, connecting the world through dance. With its exceptional team of dancers who also serve as teaching artists and choreographers, the Company pursues artistic excellence and social relevance, creating vibrant new works, performing on the world's stages, presenting dance in public spaces, serving the field of dance with low-cost studios in its home in Tribeca and teaching people of all ages with special attention to the disadvantaged and areas of conflict.

Battery Dance is committed to enhancing the cultural vibrancy of its home community in New York City, extending programming throughout the U.S., and building bridges worldwide through international cultural exchange with programs in 75 countries to date. Learn more at batterydance.org.

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



QUEENS 10TH INDIA DAY PARADE & Cultural Programs

Grand Celebration of India's Independence Day 2025

Presents

Starts at sharp
12 Noon FROM :



Amish Doshi
Hon. Judge.



Sezal Sharma
Bollywood Actress and Dancer



Meera Mathews
Miss India NY & Staten Island



Shekar Krishnan
NYC council member

Langdale st/268th Street
TO 249 Street and Hillside
Avenue, Bellerose (Queens) NY

Grand Marshalls

Cultural Programs at:

Hillside Avenue (Northwest corner) and little Neck Parkway
(west service Road) in Bellerose/Floral Park QUEENS NY

AUGUST 16, 2025
SATURDAY

BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES
DIGNITARIES
CULTURAL FLOATS
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
TRADITIONAL DANCES

TRADE SHOW
BOOTHS
FOOD STALLS
DJ ENTERTAINMENTS

BOARDS OF DIRECTORS:

SUBHASH KAPADIYA (CHAIRMAN), UJWALA SHAH (VICE CHAIRMAN), KALATHIL VARUGHESE,
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For More Info : Subhash Kapadia(917)757-1303, DINCIL GEORGE 516 637 4969, Asha Mampilly 917-488-5277, Koshy O. Thomas (347) 867-1200
Hemant Shah (516) 263-9624, Cultural Program Contact: Ujwala Shah 516-815-0198, Mary Philip (347) 254-9834

Parade Committee Chairman: Koshy O. Thomas.



Sitaare Zameen Par skips OTT release, to stream directly on YouTube for this amount

RS Prasanna's *Sitaare Zameen Par*, starring Aamir Khan and Genelia D'Souza in lead roles, will stream digitally soon after its theatrical release on 20 June. The spiritual sequel to the 2007 hit *Taare Zameen Par* is skipping OTT release and will stream directly on YouTube soon. Know all about its digital release.

On Tuesday, Aamir held a press conference in Mumbai to announce that *Sitaare Zameen Par* will not be released on any OTT platform. He announced that it will be available on YouTube from 1 August for Rs 100 in India. The film will also be available to watch in the USA, Canada, UK, Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, and Spain, with pricing localised for each market. Subtitles will be offered, along with dubs in some key languages.

Commenting on the move, Aamir stated, "For the past 15 years, I have been struggling with the challenge of how to reach audiences who do not have geographical access to theatres, or those who are unable to make it to theatres for various reasons. Finally, the time for the perfect storm has come. With our government bringing in UPI and India becoming no 1 in the world in electronic payments, with internet penetration in India having grown dramatically and growing every day, and with YouTube being on most devices, we can finally reach vast sections of people in India, and a significant part of the world."

He spoke of his dream of democratising cinema, adding, "My dream is that Cinema should reach everyone at a reasonable and affordable price. I want people to have the ease of watching Cinema when they want, where they want. If this idea works, Creative voices can tell different stories, breaking geographical and other barriers. This will also be a great opportunity for younger creative people entering the field of Cinema. If this idea works, then I see this as a win-win for all."

Sidharth Malhotra, Janhvi's 'Param Sundari' to release on Aug 29

The makers of *Param Sundari* have unveiled the motion poster of the upcoming film and announced that the cross cultural romance movie will hit the big screen on August 29, 2025.

Janhvi, Sidharth and Maddock in a collaborative post on Instagram unveiled the motion poster featuring the two stars. In the poster, Sidharth looks handsome in a shirt paired with jeans and a bag on his shoulder.

The actress looks her traditional best as she does a classical dance form in a saree. In the motion poster the two can be seen crossing paths.

The caption reads, "In cinemas worldwide. 29th August 2025. A Maddock Films Production." It also mentioned that its first song *Pardesiya* will be out on Wednesday.

The remaining caption says, "Dinesh Vijan brings to you the biggest love story of the year #ParamSundari arrives in cinemas on 29th August And in just 1 hour, feel its soul with the year's most heartfelt song — #Pardesiya."

The film was earlier scheduled to release on July 25, 2025.

The film centers on a love story between a North Indian played by Sidharth and a South Indian girl played by Janhvi, filmed in Kerala.

The film "promises a heartfelt tale of love, where two worlds collide, and sparks are bound to fly. Set against the breathtaking backwaters of Kerala, this love story is a rollercoaster of laughter,



chaos, and unexpected twists you won't see coming," as per the introduction to the film by Maddock.

"It's like those films that Mani Sir (Mani Ratnam) used to do, like *Saathiya* (the Hindi-language remake of the Tamil romance drama *Alai Payuthey*)," Maddock chief Dinesh Vijan had previously told *Variety*.

"The kind of music it has and Janhvi playing a South Indian is interesting, Sid's playing a Northern Delhi boy and the conflict is very cool. It's like maybe taking *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya* forward — there's a high tech idea in there. But we are going into the *Kantara* world of sorts — we are going a little more than that."

Fatima Sana Shaikh: Not only women, but even men face the wrath of patriarchy

Fatima Sana Shaikh has had a busy July as she had two back-to-back releases with *Metro...* In *Dino* and *Aap Jaisa Koi*. Both the films explored love in different ways, and talking about her tryst with love stories, the actor quips, "I'm living my love life through the films that I'm doing."

In both the films, her character is battling for a relationship of equals in different ways. Ask her about it and she says, "Equality in a relationship is very important. I don't have to be a man, I would love to be feminine and the man doesn't have to be me. But there is a synergy that is important to maintain. I don't want my partner to change me and I wouldn't want him to change because we got attracted to each other because we were ourselves. That's why it's important to first respect each other and once that happens, then everything is fine."

In *Aap Jaisa Koi*, Fatima Sana Shaikh is paired opposite actor R Madhavan, who plays a character whose mindset is formed by patriarchy. The actor asserts that it's not only women but also men who suffer because of it. "There are men also who are in a toxic relationship. The unfortunate fact is that when they come out with their stories, they're ridiculed. That's also because of patriarchy because boys are not supposed to cry. They can't complain as they are supposed to have this front that 'I take care of the family. I'll take care of everybody. I can't hurt. I'm not weak because it's not accepted'. So, it's not that only women are facing the wrath of patriarchy, even men are," she says.



Recently, as in the case of actor Deepika Padukone and filmmaker Sandeep Reddy Vanga's alleged feud over the film *Spirit* raised a debate about when female actors make any demands, they are termed unprofessional or difficult to work with. Ask Fatima if she feels that women taking a stand for themselves ruffles the feathers of male bigwigs in the industry even today and she agrees. "In any profession men are more, especially in corporate. There are only a few professions where women are more in numbers," she says.

Amid dating rumors, Tom Cruise, Ana De Armas spotted holding hands in US

Tom Cruise and Ana de Armas are keeping everyone guessing. The two stars, who've been at the centre of dating rumours for a while now, were recently seen spending a cosy weekend together in Vermont, USA. In pictures making rounds online, they can be spotted walking hand-in-hand, looking relaxed and completely at ease in each other's company.

Tom Cruise kept it casual in a navy T-shirt, denim and a baseball cap, while Ana paired a white tee with black skinny jeans. TMZ reported that they drove through a nearby National Park, went shopping and ended their outing with a stop for ice cream. Definitely sounds like a date.

This Vermont outing came just days after the duo was seen together at an Oasis concert at London's Wembley Stadium. As per Page Six, the two were spotted laughing, dancing, and even holding hands in the crowd. Fans at the show took note of the chemistry and could not help but wonder if there was more to their connection.

The Tom Cruise-Ana de Armas buzz first started back in February when they were seen dining together in London. At the time, a source told People that it was a casual dinner with their agents and was strictly work-related. "Potential collaborations down the line," the source said, adding that the two "appeared to have no romantic connection, just friends."

Since then, though, sightings of the duo have only become more frequent – and a lot more affectionate. There has been no official word from either Tom or Ana, but from concerts to countryside strolls, they are definitely not staying under the radar.

On the work front, Tom Cruise was last seen in Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning. The Christopher McQuarrie directorial also featured Hayley Atwell, Ving Rhames and Simon Pegg in key roles.



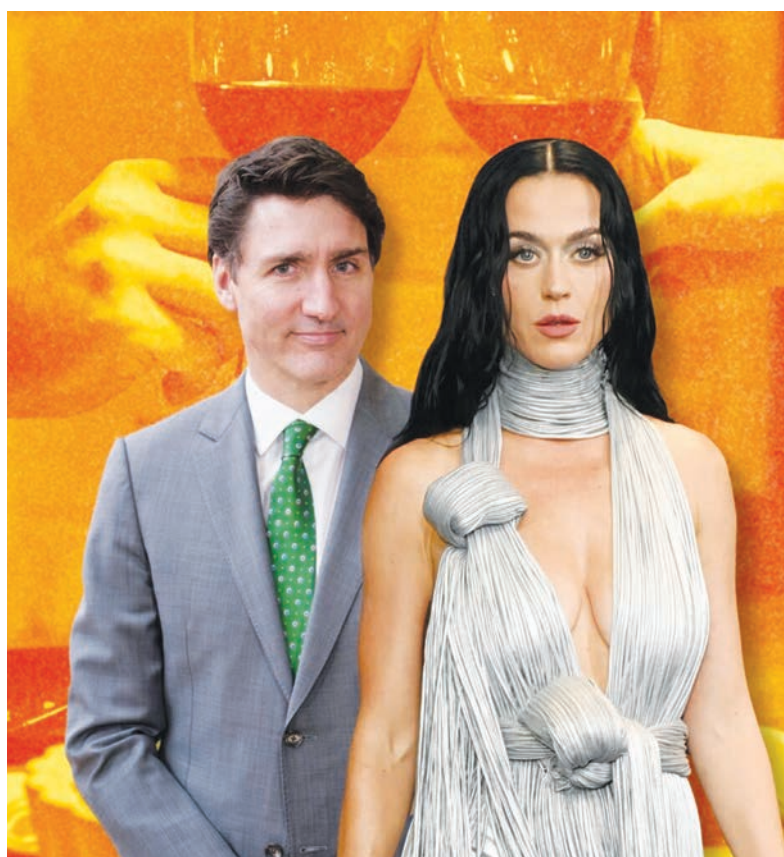
Brad Pitt returns as Cliff Booth in Once Upon a Time in Hollywood sequel

The first photos of Hollywood star Brad Pitt as Cliff Booth in The Adventures of Cliff Booth, the follow-up to Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning feature Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, are now out— and yes, the signature long hair is back.

While earlier images from the set had shown Brad sporting a buzz cut, those now appear to have been from rehearsals. Fresh paparazzi shots, from the actual shoot, taken on Tuesday night outside Los Angeles' Beverly Cinema by Just Jared, confirm that Brad is back in full costume — complete with a blonde wig and vintage '70s threads — for the upcoming film which will stream on Netflix.

According to report in Just Jared, earlier that day, Brad was also spotted in casual wear prepping for scenes alongside Girl Meets World alum Corey Fogelmanis and Anora actor Karren Karagulian. A closer look at the set reveals some key period details: notably, a poster of Richard Pryor's 1977 comedy Which Way Is Up? displayed at the cinema's entrance — a clue that the sequel unfolds nearly a decade after the events of the original film.

The new project has attracted particular attention because it brings together some of Hollywood's biggest names, both on and off camera.



Katy Perry, Justin Trudeau's dinner date sparks romance rumors

Global pop star Katy Perry and former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau were seen dining together at a high-end French bistro in Montreal last night, TMZ reported. Their secret dinner at Le Violon — an exclusive eatery known for exquisite cuisine has sparked significant gossip about a possible romance between the two public figures.

Witnesses described their interaction as warm and friendly. Seated at a private corner table, Perry and Trudeau enjoyed cocktails and appetisers, including a lobster special. Perry seemed deeply engaged in conversation, according to witnesses.

Both Perry and Trudeau were accompanied by discreet security teams stationed nearby, ensuring privacy without drawing attention. Adding to the exclusivity of the evening, the restaurant's head chef greeted the pair mid-

meal. After dinner, the two visited the kitchen to personally thank the staff.

Perry is currently touring Canada to promote her new album, 143. She recently performed in Winnipeg and is scheduled to perform next in Ottawa. Trudeau has maintained a low profile since resigning as Prime Minister in January 2025. He separated from Sophie Grgoire Trudeau in 2023, ending an 18-year marriage.

Incidentally, Perry also broke up with actor Orlando Bloom earlier this year. The exes, who have a daughter, have reportedly remained friendly and committed to co-parenting.

While some speculate that the dinner may signal the start of something romantic, those close to them remain tight-lipped. Social media, however, is buzzing with hashtags like #KatyPerryBoyfriend and #JustinTrudeauDating.

LITHUANIA PRIME MINISTER GINTAUTAS PALUCKAS STEPS DOWN AMID CORRUPTION PROBE

31 JUL 2025

VILNIUS (TIP): Lithuania Prime Minister Gintautas Paluckas stepped down on Thursday following investigations into his business dealings that prompted protests in the Baltic country's capital calling for his resignation.

Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda announced Paluckas' resignation to the media on Thursday morning. A spokesperson for Paluckas did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Paluckas, a newly established leader of the center-left Social Democrats, ascended to the role late last year after a three-party coalition formed following parliamentary elections in October.

His entire cabinet is now expected also to resign, potentially leaving the country without an effective government weeks before Russia holds joint military exercises with neighboring Belarus.

Lithuanian foreign policy is unlikely to change as a result of the government shakeup. Nausėda, who was elected separately, is the country's face on the world stage and has been one of the most stalwart supporters of Ukraine in its fight against invading Russian forces.

Paluckas has recently been dogged by media investigations into his business and financial dealings. Several media outlets published investigations in July regarding Paluckas' past and present ventures and alleged mishandlings, including ones more than a decade ago. The Baltic country's anti-corruption and law enforcement agencies subsequently launched their own probes.

In a devastating blow to his reputation, the media also revealed that Paluckas never paid a significant part of a 16,500 euro fine (\$19,039) in connection with a 2012 criminal case dubbed the "rat poison scandal."

Paluckas was convicted of mishandling the bidding process for Vilnius' rat extermination services while serving as the capital city's municipality administration director. Judges for the country's top court in 2012 ruled that he abused his official position by illegally granting privileges to the company that offered the highest price in the bid.

He was also sentenced to two years behind bars, but the sentence was suspended for one year and he ultimately was never imprisoned.

The Social Democratic party leader denied any wrongdoing regarding his business affairs, labeling the criticism as part of a "coordinated attack" by political opponents.

He resigned before the opposition could formally launch impeachment proceedings. New coalition talks are expected to start shortly to form a new cabinet. (AP)

Ukraine lawmakers vote to approve new anti-corruption bill

31 JUL 2025

KYIV (TIP): Ukraine's parliament on Thursday voted in favour of a bill to replace a law that curbed the powers of anti-graft bodies and sparked the largest public rallies since Russia invaded more than three years ago.

A live feed from parliament showed lawmakers voting for the bill, which was approved in advance by the anti-corruption bodies and provides for regular lie detector tests for anti-graft officials.

Kyiv's European allies had been worried that the law would undermine anti-corruption reforms key to Ukraine's bid to join the EU, but supported the new amendments.

The head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andriy Yermak, welcomed parliament's decision and praised Ukrainians who had protested the previous version of the law.

"Everyone is a winner, but first and foremost, democratic Ukraine is the winner," he wrote on social media.

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko said the new law "removes the risk of interference in the work of anti-corruption bodies and strengthens the



entire law enforcement system."

"This is a clear response to the expectations of society and our European partners," Svyrydenko wrote in a statement.

Dozens of demonstrators gathered ahead of the vote near the parliament building and the presidential palace to urge lawmakers to back the new bill.

It is expected to be signed speedily by President Volodymyr Zelensky -- the final

stage of the process.

The earlier law had put the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) under the direct authority of the prosecutor general, who is appointed by the president.

Critics took to the streets in protracted protests fearing the the move could facilitate presidential interference in corruption probes. (AFP)

Australian court rejects X Corp's appeal in child safety case, orders legal costs

31 JUL 2025

MELBOURNE (TIP): An Australian appeals court on Thursday ruled against X Corp., rejecting a challenge to a safety watchdog's demands for details on how the Elon Musk -owned company was combating widespread child exploitation material on its platform.

Three federal court judges unanimously rejected X's appeal against a federal court decision in October last year that the company was obliged to respond to a notice from eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant on child abuse material being shared on X, which is incorporated in Texas.

The judges also ordered X to pay the commissioner's legal costs. Inman Grant's office describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safe online.

Inman Grant has driven world-first legislation that will ban Australian children younger than 16 from social media platforms including X from December.

The federal court case goes back to early 2023, when Inman Grant asked some of the world's largest technology companies to report on what they were doing about child abuse material appearing on their platforms.

A reporting notice, issued under Australia's Online Safety Act, was sent to Twitter Inc., incorporated in Delaware, in February that year.

Twitter merged with X the following month.

X arguments against complying with Inman Grant's order included that Twitter no longer existed as a legal

entity and that X did not carry its predecessor's regulatory obligations in

X lawyer Justin Quill said he had not yet read the appeals court judges'



Australia.

Inman Grant, a former Twitter employee, welcomed Thursday's ruling.

"This judgment confirms the obligations to comply with Australian regulations still apply, regardless of a foreign company's merger with another foreign company," she said in a statement.

She said her agency would continue enforcing the Online Safety Act and "holding all tech companies to account without fear or favor, ensuring they comply with the laws of Australia."

"Without meaningful transparency, we cannot hold technology companies accountable," she said.

reasons and could not comment on the possibility of a High Court appeal.

The High Court only hears around 10% of appeal applications, so the federal court full-bench decision could be final in X's case.

X's media office did not immediately respond to an email request for comment on Thursday.

In 2023, Inman Grant's office fined X 610, 500 Australian dollars (\$385,000) for failing to fully explain how it tackled child exploitation content. X's response was considered incomplete or misleading. X refused to pay and the penalty is the subject of a separate and ongoing federal court case. (AP)

Dozens killed by IDF while seeking food in Gaza as US envoy heads to Israel



31 JUL 2025

DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP): At least 48 Palestinians were killed and dozens were wounded by Israeli troops on Wednesday while waiting for food at a crossing in the Gaza Strip, according to a hospital that received the casualties. The latest violence around aid distribution came as the US Mideast envoy was heading to Israel for talks.

Israel's military offensive and blockade have led to the "worst-case scenario of famine" in the coastal territory of some 2 million Palestinians, according to the leading international authority on hunger crises. A breakdown of law and order has seen aid convoys overwhelmed by desperate crowds.

US envoy Steve Witkoff, who has led the Trump administration's efforts to wind down the nearly 22-month war and release hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7 attack that sparked the fighting, will arrive in Israel on Thursday for talks on

the situation in Gaza.

Wooden carts ferry wounded as survivors carry flour

Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said the dead and wounded were among crowds massed at the Zikim Crossing, the main entry point for humanitarian aid to northern Gaza. It was not immediately clear who opened fire and there was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which controls the crossing.

Associated Press footage showed wounded people being ferried away from the scene of the shooting in wooden carts, as well as crowds of people carrying bags of flour.

Al-Saraya Field Hospital, where critical cases are stabilized before transfer to main hospitals, said it received more than 100 dead and wounded. Fares Awad, head of the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service, said some bodies were taken to other hospitals, indicating the toll could rise.

Israeli strikes and gunfire had earlier

killed at least 46 Palestinians overnight and into Wednesday, most of them among crowds seeking food, health officials said. Another seven Palestinians, including a child, died of malnutrition-related causes, according to the Gaza Health Ministry.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on any of the strikes. It says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, because the group's militants operate in densely populated areas.

Israel has 'eased' its blockade but obstacles remain

Under heavy international pressure, Israel announced a series of measures over the weekend to facilitate the entry of more international aid to Gaza, but aid workers say much more is needed.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, the leading world authority on hunger crises, has stopped short of declaring famine in Gaza but said Tuesday that the situation has dramatically worsened and warned of "widespread death" without immediate action.

COGAT, the Israeli military body that facilitates the entry of aid, said over 220 trucks entered Gaza on Tuesday. That's far below the 500-600 trucks a day that UN agencies say are needed, and which entered during a six-week ceasefire earlier this year.

The United Nations is still struggling to deliver the aid that does enter the strip, with most trucks unloaded by crowds in zones controlled by the Israeli military. An alternative aid system run by the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, or GHF, has also been marred by violence. (AP)



AT LEAST 21 KILLED IN ATTACK ON EAST CONGO CHURCH BY IS-BACKED REBELS, CIVIL LEADER SAYS

27 JUL 2025

KINSHASA (TIP): At least 21 people were killed on Sunday in an attack on church premises in eastern Congo by Islamic State-backed rebels, according to a civil society leader.

The attack was carried out by members of the Allied Democratic Force (ADF) around 1 am inside the premises of a Catholic church in eastern Congo's Komanda. Several houses and shops were also burnt.

"More than 21 people were shot dead inside and outside and we have recorded at least three charred bodies and several houses burned. But the search is continuing," Dieudonne Duranthabo, a civil society coordinator in Komnada, told The Associated Press.

A spokesperson for the Congolese army in Ituri province, where Komanda is located, confirmed 10 dead. (AP)

China is allegedly suppressing coverage of deadly attacks. Some people are complaining online

27 JUL 2025

BEIJING (TIP): Late last month, a car struck children near an elementary school in an outlying district of Beijing, according to a Chinese news report.

A four-sentence police statement said a 35-year-old male driver hit pedestrians due to "improper operation" of the car. It didn't mention the school or that the victims included children. Photos of the aftermath, which showed a half-dozen people lying in the street, were scrubbed from China's closely controlled internet. "We need the truth," said one post on Weibo, a leading social media platform similar to X.

The ruling Communist Party has expanded information control since leader Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, seeing it as a way to prevent unrest. More and more topics, from negative news about the economy to LGBTQ+ identity, have become subject to some form of censorship. In the past half year, mass attacks — in which a person kills or injures multiple people with a vehicle or knife — appear to have been added to the



list. Some people in China are pushing back, complaining online in at least two cases in recent months after drivers hit pedestrians. The government may be trying to prevent copycat crimes, experts have said. Another motivation could be local authorities wanting to cover up when they fail to do so.

Deadly case in November sparked government reaction

There was a spate of attacks last fall, but

it's difficult to gauge whether they are increasing, given the dearth of information.

The attacks weren't always a taboo topic. In the past, authorities released the basic details. Typically, the assailant was described as taking out their anger on society, often over financial losses.

That appears to have changed following a particularly horrific case in November that killed 35 people in Zhuhai in southern

China. Authorities said the driver was upset about a divorce settlement. Orders came from the very top — from Xi — to take steps to prevent similar attacks.

Eight days later, an SUV hit students arriving at an elementary school in Hunan province. The number of injured — 30 children and adults — wasn't made public until nearly a month later when the driver was sentenced.

The clampdown on information has tightened further since. In April, reports circulated online that a car had run into people outside a primary school in Jinhua city. At least three provincial state media outlets posted stories — but they were quickly taken down.

To date, authorities haven't released any information.

Censorship makes some people hungry for information

Twelve days later, a fast-moving car veered off a street and into people at a bus stop in the city of Tengzhou in eastern China. Authorities said nothing. Videos of the May 4 crash were taken down from social media. (AP)

MYANMAR JUNTA ENDS STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ELECTION RUN-UP

31 JUL 2025

YANGON (TIP): Myanmar's junta ended its state of emergency on Thursday, ramping up plans for a December election that opposition groups pledged to boycott and monitors said will be used to consolidate the military's power.

The military declared a state of emergency in February 2021 as it deposed the civilian government of democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking a many-sided civil war which has claimed thousands of lives.

The order gave junta chief Min Aung Hlaing supreme power over the legislature, executive and judiciary, but he has recently touted elections as an off-ramp to the conflict.

Opposition groups including ex-lawmakers ousted in the coup have pledged to snub the poll, which a UN expert last month dismissed as "a fraud" designed to legitimise the military's continuing rule.

The junta seized power making unsubstantiated claims of fraud in a 2020 election Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won in a landslide, and she remains jailed alongside their other top leaders.

"The state of emergency is abolished today in order for the country to hold elections on the path to a multi-party democracy," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said in a voice message shared with reporters.

"Elections will be held within six months," he added. An order signed by Min Aung Hlaing cancelled the emergency rule which handed power to him as the armed forces chief, returning it to the head of state.

However Min Aung Hlaing also occupies that office as the country's acting president.

"We have already passed the first chapter," Min Aung Hlaing said in a speech in Naypyidaw reported in state newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar on Thursday.

"Now, we are starting the second chapter," he told members of the junta's administration council at what the newspaper called an "honorary ceremony" for its members. Analysts predict that following the election he will keep a role as either president or armed forces chief and consolidate power in that office, thereby extending his tenure as de facto ruler.

A flurry of notices announced a new "Union Government" had been formed alongside a "National Security and Peace Commission" to oversee defence and the election process, both led by Min Aung Hlaing.

"The upcoming election will be held this December, and efforts will be made to enable all eligible voters to cast their ballots," The Global New Light of Myanmar reported, paraphrasing another part of his speech. A foreign ministry spokesman of junta ally China said Beijing supports "Myanmar's various parties and factions properly resolving differences through political means under the constitutional and legal framework". (AFP)

Pak says it's committed to meaningful dialogue; criticises comments by Indian leaders

30 JUL 2025

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistan on Wednesday criticised the statements made by the Indian leaders during the Lok Sabha debate on Operation Sindoor and said it was committed to a meaningful dialogue with India for the resolution of all outstanding issues.

In a statement, the Foreign Office (FO) said India attacked Pakistan "without any verifiable evidence or a credible investigation" into the Pahalgam terror attack.

India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10.

"As a responsible country, Pakistan remains committed to peace, regional stability, and a meaningful dialogue for resolution of all outstanding issues, including the core dispute of Jammu and Kashmir," the FO said.

India has made it clear that it will only have a dialogue with Pakistan on the return of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and the issue of terrorism.



The FO said the statements by Indian leaders "reflect a dangerous tendency to distort facts". It also said that India's "claims regarding 'Operation Mahadev' do not hold any significance" for Pakistan.

Operation Mahadev led to the elimination of three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

"For us, the only normal in bilateral relations is respect for sovereignty and

territorial integrity, and adherence to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter," it said.

It added that the Indian narrative of a "nuclear blackmail" by Pakistan is a "misleading and self-serving construct".

"We also wish to register our disapproval of the Indian leaders' misplaced assertions regarding the Indus Waters Treaty," the FO said, adding that India must immediately fulfil its treaty obligations. (PTI)

Bangladesh govt sets up probe panel to investigate jet crash into school; asks report in four weeks

28 JUL 2025

DHAKA (TIP): The Bangladesh government has formed a nine-member commission to investigate last week's crash of its Air Force training jet into a school here that killed 34 people, mostly students, according to a media report.

The F-7 BGI aircraft, a training fighter jet manufactured in China, experienced a "mechanical fault" moments after takeoff and crashed into a two-storey building of Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara area last Monday.

The probe commission headed by former secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan has been asked to submit its report within four weeks, The Daily Star newspaper cited a Cabinet Division gazette issued on Sunday.

The other members include a retired air vice marshal, three additional secretaries from three ministries, the Dhaka divisional commissioner, an urban planner, and a professor of the mechanical engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

The probe commission will examine the cause of the tragic crash, assess damage and casualties, and determine the responsibilities, the report said.

It will assess the loss of lives and injuries suffered by students, teachers, and others, and determine the extent of all damages.

Additionally, it will review the construction of Milestone School and



The other members include a retired air vice marshal, three additional secretaries from three ministries, the Dhaka divisional commissioner, an urban planner, and a professor of the mechanical engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

College, as well as other structures near the airport, assess the legal and administrative aspects concerning the location and safety of the flying zone, and make recommendations to prevent such accidents in the future.

It will also make suggestions on the operation of training aircraft, the construction of buildings in flying zones, and emergency response protocols during catastrophic events.

The Bangladesh Air Force has already formed a high-level investigation committee to determine the cause of the accident.

The crash was one of the deadliest in Bangladesh's history. In the last such aviation tragedy in 1984, a total of 49 people were killed when a passenger jet crashed as it attempted to land during a severe rainstorm at the Dhaka airport. (PTI)



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From relaxation to rejuvenation: Best oils for every massage style

Massage therapy has long been celebrated for its ability to relieve stress, ease muscle tension, and promote overall wellness. One of the essential elements that can elevate a massage from ordinary to exceptional is the oil used. The best massage oils not only provide a smooth glide for the therapist's hands but also nourish the skin and enhance relaxation through scent and therapeutic properties. Here's a guide to the best oils to use during body massage, depending on your needs and preferences:

Jojoba Oil

Jojoba oil is actually a wax extracted from the seed of the jojoba plant. It has antibacterial properties which is why this oil is highly beneficial for massage in people with back acne issues. It doesn't have any odour and is not greasy.

Sunflower oil

It is a light and non-greasy oil which makes the skin moisturised and smooth. Sunflower oil has linoleic acid the amount of which gets reduced as we age. So, regular massage with this oil can help you maintain the level of this acid. But if you have allergies with sunflower oil, then avoid it.

Almond oil

Almond oil can quickly be absorbed into the skin and doesn't irritate the skin at all. The oil is of pale-yellow colour which is highly popular amongst massage therapists.



Apricot Kernel Oil

This oil is highly beneficial for aromatherapy massage. It is rich in vitamin E which makes the skin soft, smooth and rejuvenating. After application, this oil may be a bit greasy on the skin, but that would be alright after some time of the massage.

Coconut Oil

Many people think that coconut oil is dense and greasy, but it is just the opposite. It is light and non-greasy, and it gets absorbed into the skin quickly. It contains medium-chain triglycerides and is, hence, good for massages that involve shorter strokes (used for target muscles). Coconut oil is mostly used in heavy massages, such as deep tissue and prenatal massages, Shiatsu, and reflexology. Fractionated coconut oil (also known as virgin coconut oil) is the best for massages as it has several benefits.

Peanut Oil

Peanut oil is also used in spas for massage. However, a few people might be allergic to it, which is why it is important to do a patch test before using this oil. Peanut oil is also known as groundnut oil. People generally warm up peanut oil and then massage it all over their bodies. This relieves muscle and tissue pain and soothes your aching joints.

Sesame Oil

This oil is highly regarded as a massage oil in Ayurveda. Ayurvedic texts, such as Charaka Samhita, have listed the benefits of using sesame oil for massages. A massage with sesame oil is believed to strengthen your body structure that includes the ligaments, muscles, and tendons. It is a thick oil and may leave your skin feeling oily and greasy.

Cheesy chicken fingers

Ingredients

Chicken Breast - 3, boneless, skinless
Eggs - 2, beaten
Milk - 1/2 cup
Olive Oil - 1/3 cup
Plain Flour - 1/4 cup
Breadcrumbs - 1 cup
Parmesan Cheese - 1/2 cup, grated
Salt as per taste
Black Pepper Powder as per taste

Method

- Cut the chicken breasts into even-sized strips.
- Whisk the eggs, 2 tbslp olive oil, milk and 2 tbslp water.
- Mix well.
- Add the chicken strips and keep aside for 10 to 15 minutes.
- Mix the flour, salt, cheese, pepper powder and breadcrumbs in a large bowl.
- Remove the chicken from the egg mixture, shaking off excess moisture, and dredge them in the flour mixture.
- Heat oil in frying pan over medium flame.
- Shake off any excess flour and gently add the chicken pieces.
- Fry for 10 minutes or until golden brown, turning from time to time.
- Remove and drain excess oil.
- Serve hot with a choice of dipping sauce.



Bridging the gap: Dealing with partner who doesn't support you

Dealing with an unsupportive partner can be emotionally exhausting and frustrating, especially when you're seeking encouragement, empathy, or shared responsibility in life's challenges. Whether it's about your career, emotions, goals, or even day-to-day stressors, feeling unsupported can create distance in a relationship. Here are practical and emotionally grounded ways to handle an unsupportive partner:

ASK YOURSELF

If you've been dating someone for years and this seems to be the first time they've been unsupportive, ask yourself why. Maybe they have issues with your plan that they're uncomfortable telling you about. If your partner is normally behind anything you do 100%, this isn't as much of a personality trait than something very specific to the situation at hand. He has a right to his opinion, and it may very well be different from yours.

BE COMPASSIONATE

Maybe you're subconsciously not very supportive of their projects and goals and they're just projecting that



onto you. Sit down and talk about the whole future with your partner. Maybe they're just feeling a little excluded by your most recent idea. See if you share any similar goals and try to figure out a plan together. If they continue to be negative or almost seems controlling over what you will and won't do, then it may be time to separate.

LISTEN TO HIM

There's a good chance they're not a monster — they're just viewing the situation from a completely different

perspective. Before you write them off and get into a fight about it, listen to them and take it all to heart. If they have your best interests in mind, it's worth thinking about.

KEEP HIM INFORMED

Maybe your boyfriend doesn't know how much research you've put into your planned move or work promotion. Maybe they're just hearing snippets and don't know how badly you want something to change. Or, if you're starting a business, perhaps they don't know that you're looking into buildings and permits and loans — maybe they just assume that you're hoping they'll take the lead. Tell them what you're doing and don't spare the details. If they're still not supportive, don't use that as an excuse to stop.

ADMIT YOUR RESERVATIONS

This will prove to them that you're not just willingly jumping into a project that's destined to fail. Showing them that you're aware of the pros and cons will help keep the conversation open, and also let them know that you're not acting on a whim.

Vitamin C with Zinc: A powerful duo for immunity, skin health

In today's fast-paced world, maintaining a strong immune system and healthy skin is more important than ever. One simple yet effective way to support both is through Vitamin C with Zinc tablets. These two essential nutrients, when combined, offer a range of health benefits — from defending against common illnesses to enhancing skin vitality.

Why Vitamin C and Zinc?

Vitamin C (ascorbic acid) is a water-soluble vitamin well-known for its antioxidant properties and critical role in immune function. Zinc is a trace mineral essential for immune regulation, cellular repair, and enzymatic reactions. Deficiencies in either nutrient can impair immune response and skin integrity.

How Vitamin C Supports Immunity

- **Enhances White Blood Cells:** Vitamin C stimulates the production and activity of neutrophils, lymphocytes, and phagocytes - white blood cells that detect and destroy pathogens.
- **Antioxidant Protection:** By neutralizing free radicals, Vitamin C prevents oxidative damage to immune cells, preserving their effectiveness.
- **Supports Skin Barrier:** The skin acts as the first line of defense against pathogens. Vitamin C is essential in collagen synthesis, ensuring skin strength and wound healing.
- **Increases Iron Absorption:** Vitamin C enhances non-heme iron absorption from plant-based foods, which is vital for maintaining healthy red blood cells and immune competence.

The Immune Role of Zinc

- **Immune Cell Function:** Zinc is crucial for the normal development and function of cells mediating innate immunity, including neutrophils and natural killer cells.



- **Inflammation Control:** Zinc modulates the production of inflammatory cytokines, helping prevent excessive immune reactions.
- **Antiviral Effects:** Some studies suggest zinc may inhibit replication of certain viruses, contributing to reduced severity and duration of infections.
- **Wound Healing:** Zinc's role in cell division and repair accelerates tissue recovery from injury.

Skin Health: A Dynamic Duo

- **Collagen Production:** Vitamin C is a cofactor for enzymes that hydroxylate proline and lysine residues during collagen synthesis, essential for skin elasticity and firmness.
- **Protection from UV Damage:** Vitamin C's antioxidant properties reduce photodamage caused by ultraviolet radiation.
- **Regulation of Sebum Production:** Zinc helps balance oil production, reducing acne and preventing clogged pores.
- **Anti-inflammatory Effects:** Both nutrients reduce skin inflammation, aiding conditions like acne, eczema, and rosacea.



Dementia diagnosis takes over 3 years: Study reveals why that's a problem

When we talk of dementia, it is one of the most frightening neurodegenerative diseases in the world. And, not to mention, among the fastest growing neurological conditions. Known as a brain-shrinking disease, dementia is an umbrella term for a variety of symptoms causing various brain disorders.

It includes memory, thinking, reasoning, changes in behaviour and also personality. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia.

But what makes it so frightening is that the diagnosis takes years, in fact, three years on average, a new study has found.

The research led by University College London (UCL) has found that people with dementia are often diagnosed three and a half years after symptoms first appear, and the delay is even longer, 4.1 years, for those with early-onset dementia.

Published in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, the study is the first systematic review and meta-analysis of global data examining how long it typically takes for dementia to be diagnosed.

The researchers reviewed data from 13 previous studies conducted in the US, Europe, Australia, and China, covering 30,257 participants. They looked at the average time between the first symptoms noticed by patients or their family members and the final medical diagnosis.

The study highlights how delays in diagnosis can affect patients and families, and why improving early detection must be a global priority.

Dr Vasiliki Orgeta, lead author from the UCL Division of Psychiatry, spoke to Science Direct and said, "Timely diagnosis of dementia remains a major global challenge, shaped by a complex set of factors, and specific healthcare strategies are urgently needed to improve it. Other studies estimate that only 50-65% of cases are ever diagnosed in high-income countries, with many countries having even lower diagnostic rates. Timely diagnosis can improve access to treatments and for some people prolong the time living with mild dementia before symptoms worsen."

Coronary calcium scan: A simple heart test that could save your life

When we think about a cardiac arrest, we usually imagine dramatic scenes - chest pain, ambulances, and emergency surgeries. However, the truth is, for most people, heart disease is quietly brewing long before any symptoms actually show up. That's exactly where a test called the Coronary Artery Calcium (CAC) scan comes in. It's quick, non-invasive, and surprisingly underused, especially considering how much life-saving information it can provide.

"Yes, traditional blood tests and stress tests are useful, but they don't actually show the disease. CAC scanning does," says Dr. Dinesh Narang, a senior interventional cardiologist at the Lilavati Hospital. "It's one of the few tools we have that can spot a heart attack risk that's otherwise invisible."

It is a CT scan with a very specific goal: checking for calcium deposits in the arteries that feed our heart.



These deposits are early warning signs of plaque build-up (known as atherosclerosis) which can eventually lead to cardiac arrest. The test gives you a "calcium score" which speaks volumes about your heart health and whether you need to heed warning signs.

A score of 0 translates to Zero Plaque, which means you're in the clear. No visible heart disease. Similarly, a calcium score between 1-100 is Mild Plaque, which shows some build-up, but it is usually

manageable with lifestyle changes. A score on the scan that reads between 101-400 is Moderate Plaque. That means it is time to get proactive. Medications like statins may be recommended for such patients.

A score of 401+ is known as Extensive Plaque. This simply means you're at high risk; immediate action is non-negotiable for these patients.

Dr. Aakruti Mehta, a preventive cardiologist and faculty member, believes, "a CAC score of zero is the most powerful negative predictor we have in cardiology. It's like getting a clean bill of health for your arteries." And 401 plus is also an assurance that your heart is at risk.

There's a caveat here that experts want you to be mindful of. The CAC isn't a scan for everyone. It is for those patients who fall somewhere "in-between" — when you're not low-risk, but not high-risk either.

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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



India beats China as top smartphone supplier to the US

India has become the largest supplier of smartphones to the US for the first time, overtaking China, and it's Apple that has made this possible. According to new data from research firm Canalys (now part of Omdia), Indian-made smartphone shipments to the US jumped by a massive 240 per cent in the second quarter of 2025. These phones now account for 44 per cent of all smartphones shipped into the US during this period, up from just 13 per cent a year ago. At the same time, China's share fell sharply to 25 per cent, down from 61 per cent in Q2 2024. The reason? A mix of shifting supply chains, trade tensions, and Apple's growing dependence on Indian factories to meet US demand.

Apple has been steadily ramping up its manufacturing base in India over the past few years, and that effort is now clearly paying off. "India became the leading manufacturing hub for smartphones sold in the US for the very first time in Q2 2025, largely driven by Apple's accelerated supply chain shift to India amid an uncertain trade landscape between the US and China," said Sanyam Chaurasia, Principal Analyst at Canalys.

As the US and China continue to clash over tariffs and trade policies, smartphone companies have started to rethink their manufacturing strategies. For Apple, this has meant making more of its iPhones in India — especially the standard models like the iPhone 16 and iPhone 15 — while still leaning on China for the larger-scale production of Pro models. But that balance seems to be shifting. In fact, Apple has already started assembling some iPhone 16 Pro models in India, though its main Pro production still depends on Chinese factories for now.

Other brands like Samsung and Motorola have also started sending more India-made phones to the US, but their contribution to this shift is smaller in scale compared to Apple's. Samsung, for instance, still relies heavily on Vietnam for most of its production. Motorola's supply chain is also largely rooted in China, though it has increased output from Indian facilities in recent months. The bigger picture here is that US smartphone makers are clearly looking to diversify where they get their phones assembled. Canalys analysts say that concerns over tariffs and unpredictable trade rules have forced vendors to front-load inventory (acquiring a large amount of inventory earlier than usual or in advance of anticipated needs) and quickly adjust their sourcing plans.

Isro launches Nisar: Satellite to reveal earth's heartbeat

India crossed a milestone in its space and climate ambitions on Wednesday, July 30, with the successful launch of the Nasa-Isro Synthetic Aperture Radar (Nisar) satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The 2393-kilogram satellite lifted off at 5:40 pm IST aboard Isro's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) into the vacuum of space.

The Nisar mission, a \$1.5 billion joint venture between the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), is now set to revolutionise climate monitoring and disaster response, not just for India, but worldwide.

Nisar is the world's first Earth-mapping satellite equipped with dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar.

This combination of Nasa's L-band radar and Isro's S-band radar enables Nisar to capture the faintest shifts on Earth's surface — whether under forests, clouds, or even in darkness — detecting movements as small as a few millimetres.

The synthetic aperture radar combines multiple measurements, taken as a radar flies overhead, to sharpen the scene below. It works like



conventional radar, which uses microwaves to detect distant surfaces and objects, but steps up the data processing to reveal properties and characteristics at high resolution.

Nisar is designed to orbit the planet every 97 minutes, mapping nearly all land and ice surfaces with an unparalleled imaging swath every 12 days.

The implications for India, often at the frontline of climate change impacts and natural disasters, are profound.

Nisar's freely accessible, near-real-time data will empower Indian

researchers, disaster managers, and policymakers to monitor glacier movements in the Himalayas, detect fault-line shifts before earthquakes, track agricultural cycles, and manage water resources more effectively.

With this tool, India is set to improve forecasting for floods, droughts, and landslides, enabling rapid response and informed policy decisions.

This historic mission not only cements India's position as a leader in space-based climate monitoring but also demonstrates how international collaboration can drive scientific progress for the collective good.

The development of the satellite spanned nearly a decade as the Indian and American space agencies came together for development, launch and now the operations of the satellite.

The S-Band SAR and L-Band SAR were independently developed, integrated, and tested by Isro and JPL/Nasa, respectively. The Integrated Radar Instrument Structure (IRIS), comprising both SAR systems and additional payload elements, was assembled and tested at JPL/NASA before being delivered to Isro.

The mainframe satellite elements and all payloads were then assembled, integrated, and tested at Isro's UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC).

Google to start guessing users' age using AI, these accounts could face restrictions

Google is getting ready to use AI to estimate how old you are while using YouTube. It will soon stop registering based on what you say and act based on how you behave. Starting August 13, the company will begin testing this new system in the United States, aiming to improve age-related safety features on its platform.

For years, users have been able to simply enter a random birthdate while creating a YouTube account, often choosing an older age to avoid restrictions on certain content. But now, YouTube plans to use AI to look at what kind of videos you watch, how often you engage with them, and your overall activity on the app and use that data to guess whether you are likely under or over 18.

If the system believes you are a minor, it will automatically apply stricter controls on your account. These could include removal of personalised ads, hiding certain video categories like dating or intense fitness content, and limiting access to features like live chats or comments. Even if your account says you are an adult, these changes will be applied if the AI thinks otherwise.

YouTube explained its plan in a short note. "We will use AI to interpret a variety of signals that help us to determine whether a user is over or under 18. These signals include the types of videos a user is searching for, the categories of videos they have watched, or the longevity of the account."

This means the system will look at more than just individual videos. It will study how long you have had the account, what kind of content you engage with the most, and even how you scroll and click. Over time, it will try to learn and adjust its guess about your age based on your usage patterns.



If an account is mistakenly flagged as underage, YouTube will ask the user to prove their age. This could be done by uploading an official ID, using a credit card, or clicking a selfie for verification. Until the age is verified, certain videos and features will stay restricted.

This change is part of a larger trend across the world. Countries like the UK are already enforcing stricter online age checks under new laws, and similar rules could soon come to the US and other countries. Google appears to be getting ahead of these regulations with its AI-based solution.

The feature will first be tested on a small group of US users. But if it works well, there are chances that it could eventually expand to other regions, including India. For users who have long relied on fake birthdates to bypass age restrictions, this may be the end of that workaround.

Why Trump's 25% tariff is a double whammy for India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's trade ties with the United States were jolted this week after President Donald Trump imposed a blanket 25% tariff on all Indian exports, citing unfair trade barriers and deepening defence and energy links between New Delhi and Moscow. The decision, announced on July 30 and effective August 1, also includes an additional, undefined penalty connected to India's Russian oil and arms purchases.

The move comes at a time when Indian exports are already under pressure and global demand remains uneven. It also marks a sharp deterioration in bilateral negotiations that had, until recently, appeared to be progressing toward a limited trade understanding.

"The 25% tariff on India, plus an unspecified penalty for energy and defence-related purchases from Russia, is very bad news for Indian exports and thereby on the growth prospects of the Indian economy in the short run," said Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. "This short-term hit will reflect in the stock market, too."

Indian goods worth \$87.4 billion were shipped to the US in 2024, according to the US Census Bureau. That amounts to over 17% of India's total exports and about 2.2% of its GDP.

With no exemptions currently in place, labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and auto components are seen as most vulnerable to disruption.

According to preliminary estimates from economists at NCAER and ICRIER, the new duties could shave 0.2 to 0.5 percentage points off GDP in the current fiscal if they remain in place. Small and mid-sized exporters, already facing weak global demand and high logistics costs, may bear the brunt.

Nachiketa Sawrikar, Portfolio Manager at Artha Bharat Global Multiplier Fund, said India had been on the radar for higher tariffs due to a mix of trade imbalances and perceived protectionism.

"Given that America's baseline tariffs had gone up from 10% to 15%, it is not a surprise that the tariff rate imposed on India is higher at 25%. Trump had already highlighted that India's tariffs on US goods are high and India's agriculture market is mostly closed... So it is not good news for India, but could have been worse."

Beyond trade, the move is widely seen as a signal on strategic alignment. The penalty portion—linked to India's sustained purchase of discounted Russian crude and ongoing defence deals with Moscow—has not been formally quantified but adds to the unpredictability.



A day after announcing the tariff, President Trump escalated tensions further with a blistering post on Truth Social. In the message, he lashed out at India's partnership with Moscow, declaring, "I don't care what India does with Russia. They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care."

He also reiterated familiar accusations that India imposes "among the highest tariffs in the world" and blamed New Delhi for what he called "very little business" between the two countries.

This is the first time a tariff decision has been publicly tied to India's Russia policy. While Washington has repeatedly urged India to scale down ties with Moscow, New Delhi has maintained that its decisions are guided by national interest and economic necessity.

WHAT OPTIONS DOES INDIA HAVE

India has so far not announced any retaliatory tariffs or formal protest at the World Trade Organisation. But officials privately acknowledge that talks will have to accelerate, especially with a G20 trade ministers' meet slated later this year.

Meanwhile, exporters are bracing for an extended period of volatility. Some are exploring third-country routing, while others are pressing the government for faster free trade agreements with Europe and the UK to de-risk dependence on the US.

For investors, experts recommend staying cautious in trade-exposed sectors while focusing on domestic demand stories and structural reforms.



Toyota races ahead with record sales, despite Trump's tariff turmoil

Toyota Motor Corp. saw record global sales during the first half of 2025 as strong demand for hybrid vehicles in core markets helped offset headwinds from President Donald Trump's tariffs on cars imported to the US.

Toyota's global sales — including that of subsidiaries Daihatsu Motor Co. and Hino Motors Ltd. — rose 7.4% to more than 5.5 million units between January and June, the company said Wednesday. That's mostly due to strong demand in the US, Japan and China. Production grew 8.8% to 5.5 million units during the period, including a nearly 20% jump in domestic output.

The carmaker's sales were bolstered in the early part of the year by a last-minute rush from customers to lock-in purchases before Trump's 25% tariff on car imports.

While that sparked uncertainty across the global auto sector, Japan's carmakers may be better placed than rivals following a trade pact reached this month that will see just a 15% duty on vehicles imported to the US. Toyota's shares climbed 14% on July 23 in response to the deal.

The US is the biggest export market for Japanese carmakers, with \$40.8 billion worth sold there last year and additional models imported from factories in Canada or Mexico. Toyota, which was set to face the biggest hit from tariffs among its peers, has said it hopes for improved ties between the US and Japan, and called for further reductions in duties.

The carmaker said that in June, global sales rose 2.7% to 937,246 units. Production increased 7.7% to 963,455 units.

While a rebound in the popularity of hybrids has helped its bottom line, Toyota and other legacy brands face intense competition from a wave of electric vehicle makers, led by Elon Musk's Tesla Inc. and China's BYD Co. Toyota has sold about 82,000 battery EVs so far this year, almost all of which were delivered to customers outside of Japan.

Federal Reserve leaves interest rates unchanged

WASHINGTON (TIP)

The U.S. Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) has kept interest rates unchanged at 4.25 percent to 4.5 percent in the July 29-30 meeting for the fifth straight session. The central bank maintained the same level since December 2024 amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and tariff-related volatility.

In a statement, the Federal Reserve flagged that uncertainty about the economic outlook remains elevated. "Although swings in net exports continue to affect the data, recent indicators suggest that

growth of economic activity moderated in the first half of the year. The unemployment rate remains low, and labor market



conditions remain solid. Inflation remains somewhat elevated," said the FOMC. During the FOMC meeting, the vote was not unanimous. There were two dissenting members, Michelle W. Bowman and Christopher J. Waller, who wanted the key rate to be trimmed by 25 basis points.

Despite concerns over slowing

economic growth, the Fed was widely expected to hold rates steady. Ahead of the meeting, the CME FedWatch tool showed nearly 98 percent of market participants expected no change in the key lending rate.

Ahead of the announcement, the U.S. reported a strong increase in GDP for the second quarter, with the economy growing at three percent as against expectations of 2.3 percent.

As a result, U.S. President Donald Trump posted on Truth Social, his social media platform, the reading was three percent was "WAY BETTER THAN EXPECTED!" Using his nickname for Fed Chair Powell, Trump said, "'Too Late' MUST NOW LOWER THE RATE. No Inflation! Let people buy, and refinance, their homes!"

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 28, 2025 TO AUGUST 3, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA



ARIES

Ganesha says this week marks new beginnings and positive changes in your life. Advancement is likely in both personal and professional spheres. Clarity in communication and confidence will be important for you. You will be able to express your feelings in the right way, which will strengthen your relationships. It is important to be cautious about health. Include some yoga and exercise in your routine to promote both mental and physical health. Your position in society will be strengthened, and time spent with friends and family will energize you. This week is the right time to move towards your dreams. Start working on new plans, and do not hesitate to share your ideas with others. Remember that every challenge can be faced with positive thinking and perseverance. So, move forward with strength and confidence in whatever you do.



TAURUS

Ganesha says this week, your self-confidence will increase, and you will feel motivated to achieve your goals. Some new possibilities may open up in the workplace, which will prove beneficial for you. It is important to maintain harmony with co-workers; this will make you more successful. This week, there can be positive changes in personal relationships as well. There will be a feeling of warmth and love in romantic life. If you are planning to spend time with someone special, then that time will be extremely pleasant. From a health point of view, you need to pay attention to your lifestyle. Include regular exercise and healthy eating in your routine. This will keep your energy level high and also increase mental clarity. Some new opportunities may also come up in financial matters. Be a little careful and control the necessary expenses. Taking the right decision can strengthen your financial position. Listen to your inner voice this week and stay connected with your emotions; this will bring positive changes in your life.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week will be a unique experience of living a new life. You will be busy with social activities and will meet new people and exchange your ideas. Your art of communication will come to light this week, which will strengthen your personal and professional relationships. New plans and ideas will flash in your mind, but you should be a little careful in implementing

some of these. In such a situation, make decisions wisely and consider every aspect. Taking care of health is extremely important this week; take some time out for self-care. Try to get regular exercise and a healthy diet at the end of the day. Emotionally, you may be a little sensitive, so don't forget to communicate openly with those close to you. Your partner or friends will help you understand your feelings. In social life, you will be enthusiastic and actively participate in family events. Your positive attitude will impress others and allow you to establish new friendships. Try to avoid depression and stress, as it may affect your creativity. Channel your energy in the right direction and ensure that you live a balanced life. Thus, this week paves the way for new possibilities and experiences for you. Channel your energy in a positive direction and keep moving forward.



CANCER

Ganesha says this week is a time of new energy and inspiration. You will be more sensitive to your emotions, which will provide you with an opportunity to build deeper connections with your family and friends. This week is the best time for you to have important conversations and improve relationships. Work life is likely to be a bit challenging, but you have the resolve and capabilities needed to deal with it. Focus on bringing a little more systematicity to your tasks. There are golden signs for health, but make sure to prioritize mental health. Doing yoga and meditation will keep your emotions balanced. Learning a new hobby or skill may also be important for you this week. Try something new, it will make you feel refreshed and inspired. With this in mind, try to make the most of this week and spread positivity all around you.



LEO

Ganesha says this week, you will get a lot of positive opportunities. Your confidence will increase, which will help you achieve success in your tasks. Social life will also become brighter, and you will get a chance to make new friends. You will be able to present your ideas and plans in a better way to others, which can open the way for advancement in your career. There will be an atmosphere of peace and cooperation in family matters as well. An old dispute can be resolved, which will bring new light to your relationship. There will be more understanding and harmony in love relationships than before, which will further strengthen your relationship with your partner. It is important to be cautious in financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and focus on savings. It is also important to take care of yourself in terms of health this week; exercise regularly and eat a balanced diet. Participate in social activities; this will give you new inspiration, and you will be inspired to unleash your creativity. Overall, this week will be full

of opportunities for you. Move forward with positivity!



VIRGO

Ganesha says it is advisable to plan your tasks this week. Due to your hardworking nature, you will face many new opportunities, but it is important to be cautious. In professional life, your dedication and hard work may result in praise. Express your ideas clearly; this will improve relations with colleagues. In personal life, it will be good to spend time with family and friends. This is the time to build strong bonds with your loved ones. In terms of health, follow regular exercise and a proper diet. It is important to take care of both mental and physical health. This week, maintain positivity and move towards your goals. Maintain confidence and patience to face any challenge.



LIBRA

Ganesha says this week is a time of harmony and cooperation. Your relationships are likely to improve, especially with friends and family. You will be inspired to participate in social activities, where you can meet new people. At this time, your creativity will also be at its peak. Interest in art and music can give you a new way to express your thoughts and feelings. There may be some positive changes in your work as well. If you have started a new project, there may be signs of its success. Carry forward your plans with confidence. However, take care of your mental health as well. It may be helpful to keep yourself alone for a while or meditate to get away from worries and pressures. It is important to maintain balance this week, so make time for both work and relaxation. Expect positive changes in your interests and relationships this week, which will make your life even happier.



SCORPIO

Ganesha says this week is an important time. You may get some opportunities to reach new heights in your personal and professional life. This week is also a week of self-reflection, where you will try to understand your feelings and desires. There will be sweetness in family relationships, but some family matters will need attention. You may have deep conversations with your loved ones, which will make your relationships stronger. In the field of career, your ideas and plans may get recognition. If you are working on a new project, then this is the right time to take it forward. Use your leadership skills and establish better coordination with the team. It is important to be cautious in financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and manage your budget. In terms of health, focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. Do meditation and yoga to maintain mental health. Overall, this week is a time of positive change and growth for

you. Trust your insight and take full advantage of the opportunities that come your way.



SAGITTARIUS

Ganesha says this week will be quite positive and energetic. Your creativity and curiosity can give a boost to your thoughts. This is the time to adopt new ideas and make your dreams come true. There will be harmony in your family, and you will spend happy moments with friends and loved ones. If you are facing difficulty in any project or work, maintain patience and positivity. Your hard work will pay off. In terms of health, try to add a little activity. Yoga or exercise can enhance your mental and physical health. Including meditation in your routine will give you mental peace. On the business front, there is a sign of change. If you are thinking of changing jobs, this may be the right time. Your focused thinking and hard work will take you to your destination. This week, harmony and understanding will increase in love relationships. Communicate with your partner and share feelings. This is the time to get even closer to each other. Keeping all the statistics aside, maintain positivity in your mind and move forward. This week will bring new possibilities and opportunities for you.



CAPRICORN

Ganesha says this week, new possibilities and opportunities are going to open up for you. Look for a new direction at your workplace. Your hard work and dedication will be appreciated this week. Meeting some important contacts will take you closer to your goal. Spending time with family will give you peace and relaxation. This is a good time to increase goodwill in your close relationships. This week is to understand your feelings and share your thoughts openly with your loved ones. In terms of health, balance your routine. A little exercise and meditation will help you maintain balance amidst mental stress. This week, your ability to express yourself will increase, so do not hesitate. Share your ideas and inspire others. This is the time to plan and achieve your goals.



AQUARIUS

Ganesha says this week, many important changes can happen in your life. Your creativity and spirit of innovation will be at their peak. This is the time to bring new ideas to life; you will have new energy. New opportunities in business can knock at your door. Strengthen your network and maintain good relations with colleagues. If you are thinking of changing jobs, this is the right time. In personal life, plan to spend time with friends and family. Your social activities will increase, and you will get a chance to make new friends.

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 4 TO AUGUST 10 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 4

Ganesha says today will be highly beneficial for you if you are willing to take investment and business risks. Speculation in property and stocks can yield handsome returns. Today will be highly significant for working and professional women, as they will prosper in their respective fields. A journey or pilgrimage will provide comfort and peace. Be extra careful with your jewelry and expensive items. Chances of overseas education for a few students who are looking for a better career.

AUGUST 5

Ganesha says a new contract or partnership will take shape, lifting your morale and confidence. Investment in stocks and real estate is recommended. Businessmen dealing in trading and export will benefit. If you are a student, you will find this period highly exciting, adventurous, and full of good opportunities. Religious feelings will arise, making you go for a pilgrimage later today. There are chances of marriage for the lover.

AUGUST 6

Ganesha says you would raise your work by doing consistently good work. At times, you show your introverted side, and that side of yours needs to be modified so that your close ones won't misinterpret you. Go and express your feelings without any hesitation in love matters. You could associate with or get connected with any social service organization. You would also make some strong decisions independently today. Chances of getting a big break in the entertainment industry are very high.

AUGUST 7

Ganesha says your mind is extraordinarily sharp, which can solve problems in no time. Your organized risk-taking abilities are good, but high-paid ventures may turn out to be inconsistent for you. Clashing of egos with your blood relatives may result in strain and irritation for both parties. You are well versed with the pace of the competition, as your communication skill, which is the need of the hour, are unbeatable. You try to sort out all the matters, but somewhere your immaturity may bring criticism for you.

AUGUST 8

Ganesha says you are imaginative, practical, honest, brilliant, and simple. You're a cooperative and helpful person and enjoy enormous respect in your friends' circle, but you need to check your tendency to behave jealously and stubbornly at times. Today, you will get ample chances to change your job profile, but a sense of satisfaction may not exist. You carry a down-to-earth and practical attitude. Your supporting nature and simplicity leave a lasting impression on the people you meet.

AUGUST 9

Ganesha says you are kind-hearted, generous, simple, accommodating, and love peace and harmony. You have a strong memory and an ability to impress others with your intelligence. New proposals and assignments would improve your income and prosperity. Although there would be a rise in expenses, but increase in earnings would take care of your needs. Travel would be undertaken quite frequently and would be important in establishing new and important ties.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 10

Ganesha says today plenty of important functions and religious ceremonies will be performed in the family. Social gatherings and activities would be beneficial in establishing new and long-lasting ties. Property matters will materialize. Financially, today might not bring the results that you have been dreaming of for a long time. Opportunities for a new job and assignments would be plenty, but job satisfaction seems unlikely.

Nastur Bejan Daruwalla is available for astrological consultations. He can be reached at www.bejandaruwalla.com info@bejandaruwalla.com | +91 81412 34275

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Love relationships will also become stable. From a health point of view, focus on meditation and yoga. Take some time for yourself for mental peace. This week is for you to create balance and face the challenges of life. Remember, you can achieve your goals only by staying positive.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week, you will be full of spiritual energy, which will help you bring positive changes in your business and personal life. This time of communication is very important for you; you will be able to express your feelings clearly, which will bring sweetness to your relationships. Think carefully before taking any particular decision. Due to your introverted nature, sometimes you may have difficulty expressing your thoughts clearly. Sharing your feelings openly will add depth to relationships. This week, you may get some new

inspirations, which will bring innovation to your career or education. Your creative ideas will get support, and this opportunity will be very beneficial for you. In terms of physical health, you need to pay more attention

this week. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will make you feel energetic. If you are suffering from any chronic disease, pay attention to regular medical treatment. This weekend may bring a small change,

which may challenge you to face new responsibilities. Maintain a positive attitude and keep your inner confidence intact. Pay attention to your instincts, and you will be gifted with the energy you want.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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Author Bio

Chirag Daruwalla is the best astrologer and one of the most famous names in the astrology world.

He has more than 18 years of experience. Readers may seek his advice related to career, health, finance, business, money, love and marriage. He has complete knowledge, solutions, and guidance to all the problems related to life.

Visit his website chiragdaruwalla.com. He is available for consultations on WhatsApp number +91 8141566266 or by email: info@chiragdaruwalla.com



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Sikh History This Week

AUGUST 1 TO AUGUST 7

1st August



1863 Maharani Jind Kaur, mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh, passed away in Kaesington, England and was cremated in Nasik Nagar on the outskirts of Bombay, India. She was arrested by the British government in 1847 and imprisoned at the Shaekhpura fort. After numerous efforts, she managed to join Maharaja Dalip Singh in England. She was by Lord Dalhousie as "the only woman in the Punjab with manly understandings." Jind Kaur was daughter of Sardar Manna Singh Auhlakh, a resident of village Chandh, district Sialkot, Tehsil Jafarwall. She was wife of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and mother of Maharaja Dalip Singh. Once the British government gained control of the Khalsa Raj's affairs, she was initially kept under house arrest at Saekhupura and subsequently jailed at Chunar fort (U.P. district Mizapur). However, she escaped in a beggar's attire and reached Nepal, where she lived with dignity. In 1861, Maharani Jind Kaur reached England to visit her son Maharaja Dalip Singh, where she died on Aug. 1, 1863 at the age of 46. Her body was brought back and cremated in Nasik Nagar, on the outskirts of Bombay.

On March 27, 1924, Maharaja Dalip Singh's daughter, Bamba Dalip Singh, brought the ashes of Maharani Jind Kaur from Nasik Nagar and buried it next to Maharaja Ranjit Singh's samadh. Sardar Harbans Singh Rais of Atari performed the last rights (antim Ardas) on this occasion.

1944 The Working Committee of the All Parties Sikh Conference met at Amritsar. It held that the C. Rajagopalachari's formula "was manifestly unfair and detrimental to the best interests of the country and the Sikh Community." It regarded Gandhi's approval of the same as "breach of faith" on the part of the Congress leaders and violative of assurances to the Sikhs "at its Lahore session in 1929".

1980 Khalistan Flag Hoisted for the first time. The Sikh Youth Organisation, Dal Khalsa, hoisted the flag of Khalistan at the very spot where 13 GurSikhs fell martyr while defending the Guru Khalsa Panth against the Nirankaris, on April 13, 1978.

2nd August



1764 Baba Budha Singh Ji relinquished control and bestowed the control of Sirhind to Baba Ala Singh Patiala.

3rd August

1977 Kartar Singh Khalsa Bhindrawalia was seriously injured in a car accident.

4th August

1982 Gurbakash Singh tried to hijack Indian Airline plane to Lahore.

1982 Dharam Yudh morcha to seek Sikh demands was launched by Akali Dal. Additionally, the morcha initiated by Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalia, for release of Amrik Singh was also included in this.

1987 A convention was held in Amritsar. Despite risk to their lives at the hands of Indian police gangs, some Sikh leaders attended the convention. The generals of the army of Khalistan, in this convention, confirmed their goal of total freedom from India.

Darshan Singh Ragi, chief Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat, tried to support the Hindu allies but he was snubbed by the Sikh generals. Some of his words were in complete contradiction to the Sikh fundamentals. As a result he, ipso facto, ceased to be the Granthi of Sri Akal Takhat. The Delhi regime tried to reinstate him, but the Sikh Nation with one voice, rejected the un-Sikh ideas and confirmed the goal of freedom for Khalsistan.

5th August

1992 Bhagat Puran Singh Ji, a panthic saewak who devoted his entire life in service of humankind, passed away. Bhagat Puran Singh, the legendary Saint of Amritsar. Bhagat Puran Singh died in Chandigarh on 4th August 1992. aged 88. Born Ramji Das at Rajewal, district Ludhiana, the sensitive Child, sickened by ritualism and priestly arrogance, readily embraced Sikhism with encouragement from his pious mother, Mehtab Kaur. Soon Gurbani saturated his whole being with love and compassion for all humanity, in the spirit of Guru Nanak's exhortation Jete jiv tete sabh tere, vinn seva phal kisei nahi. All living things, O Lord, reflect your glory; there is no fruit nobler than taking care of them. Thus began a remarkably humane mission when in 1924, he picked up a four-year old polio-stricken child abandoned near Gurdwara Dera Sahib in Lahore. On Partition in 1947 he set up Pingalwara at Amritsar with scores of sick and disabled, eventually moving to the present sprawling home for hundreds of destitutes, orphans and mentally ill, where he ministered personally to their physical, mental and spiritual health, to the end, with financial help from far and wide. Credited with little formal education, Bhagat Puran Singh nevertheless started a crusade for ecology and environment long before the 1992 Earth Summit. A relentless pamphleteer for every good social cause, he used only recycled, paper for printing in his press. Shy of publicity and utterly free of ambition, he returned the 1977 Padma-Sliri award in the wake of army assault on his beloved Harmandir Sahib. His nomination for Nobel Peace Prize in India and abroad, earlier this year, found him serenely unconcerned. We mourn his passing away, even as we rejoice that so great a man of God sanctified our land and illumined our lives.

6th August

1923 Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) resolved to launch Nabha Agitation at Jaito.

1925 The Nabha agitation at Jaito was successfully concluded after performing 101 akhand path as a sort of penance for disruption of one akhand path two years earlier.



1947 Sikhs meet with British government regarding Vatican status for Nankana Sahib and other Gurudwaras.

1978 Dal Khalsa came into being at Gurdwara Akalgarh, Sector 35, Chandigarh. A large number of Sikh Youth Organisations participated in this meeting and discussed the affairs of the Panth. They decided to form an organisation in the name of "Dal Khalsa."

1983 Amrik Singh and Baba Thara Singh were released. They were arrested on July 18, 1982. Jarnail Singh Bhindrawalia had organized a morcha for their release.

7th August



1765 Baba Ala Singh passed away. BABA AALLA SINGH JI was born in village Phull to father Baba Ram Singh Phulwansi and mother Saabhi. He was introduced to amrit by Baba Deep Singh Ji, in TheekriWala village. In sunmat 1810, he laid the foundation stone of a temporary structure for the Patiala fort while the construction of a permanent structure began in sunmat 1820. Simultaneously he founded the Patiala city. Barnala, Longowal, Sunaam, Bathinda, and Patiala were under his control. He passed away on 22nd Aug. 1765 in Patiala.

1925 Gurudwara Act published in Gurdwara Gazette.

1942 Independent Punjab movement initiate.

1965 Fateh Singh, then President of Shiromani Akali Dal, met with the then Prime Minister of India, Sri Lal Bahadur Shastri. This meeting is considered a significant in resolving Sikh demands.





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Chandrakant Shah, Renuka Shah

CONTD FROM PAGE 1**Trump releases revised tariffs for 70...**

Social, announced the 25 per cent tariff on India and an additional penalty for New Delhi's purchases from Russia.

While August 1 was the tariff deadline, the new levies will come into effect from August 7.

In April, Trump had announced that India will face a 26 per cent "discounted reciprocal tariff", a per cent higher than the rate announced now.

Responding to the executive order, Senior Vice President of the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) and former Deputy US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler said in a statement that India, a "promising candidate for an early agreement", was assigned a 25 per cent tariff.

This "calls into question the fate of a bilateral trade agreement. The President's annoyance with India on a range of trade and broader matters rang through his Truth Social post," Cutler said.

Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that the order provides relaxation for goods in transit and those loaded on ship for final sailing to the US by August 7.

Goods cleared for consumption in the US by October 5 will also not be subject to reciprocal tariffs, thus providing some relief to exporters of goods already shipped or likely to be shipped this week.

According to Cutler, US customs officials will face challenges implementing the executive order, particularly with the different tariff rates now applied across the world.

The seven-day breathing period before implementation will help, but importers should expect start-up problems at a minimum.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Trump announces US will develop...

Company that will lead this Partnership. Who knows, maybe they'll be selling Oil to India some day!" Trump stated.

The remarks came after Trump announced a 25 per cent tariff and additional penalty on Indian imports starting August 1, citing Washington's trade deficit with New Delhi and its purchase of Russian oil.

Trump, in his post, further stated that he had conversations on trade deals with leaders of many countries, noting "all of whom want to make the United States extremely happy."

"We are very busy in the White House today working on Trade Deals. I have spoken to the Leaders of many Countries, all of whom want to make the United States "extremely happy." I will be meeting with the South Korean Trade Delegation this afternoon. South Korea is right now at a 25% Tariff, but they have an offer to buy down those Tariffs. I will be interested in hearing what that offer is," the post read.

He also noted that many countries are currently making offers to the US for "Tariff reduction."

"Likewise, other Countries are making offers for a Tariff reduction. All of this will help reduce our Trade Deficit in a very major way. A full report will be released at the appropriate time. Thank you for your attention to this matter. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!" it further read. (Source: ANI)

India announces eight new consular...

Announcing major expansion of our Consular Services in USA beginning August 01, 2025. Here is a message from Ambassador Vinay Kwatra about this expansion and the positive changes it would bring to our service delivery. pic.twitter.com/w35fakWDT0

- India in USA (@IndianEmbassyUS) July 31, 2025

Ambassador Kwatra said in his statement that the new Indian Consular Application Centers would be in Boston, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Addison, Orlando, Raleigh, and San Jose.

"In addition, we would also be opening another Indian Consular Application Centre in Los Angeles very soon. With the opening of these new Indian Consular Application Centers, our presence to provide extensive consular services and related delivery capabilities would increase and expand significantly. Besides, it would also make the delivery of these consular services faster and

more accessible to our vibrant Indian diaspora."

The Ambassador said that starting August 1, all the Indian consular application centers would also remain open on Saturdays. He noted that this would help significantly enhance not just the availability of various consular services, but also their accessibility to the Indian diaspora.

The Ambassador also mentioned the streamlining of various miscellaneous consular services, which would be made available through the Indian Consular Application Centers, and a few of the important services would, however, continue to be dispersed and made available from the embassy premises.

"We firmly believe that people-to-people ties are at the heart of the India-US partnership. With the opening of two new consulates in Boston and Los Angeles, which the Prime Minister of India had announced a few months ago, we would be able to further strengthen not just a relationship between our two countries, but also our people-to-people ties, particularly in the areas of Boston and Los Angeles".

Ambassador Kwatra requested the members of the Indian diaspora to keep visiting the website of the Indian Embassy, where detailed information about the opening of these Indian Consular Application Centers and the availability of various miscellaneous Consular services would be made available more regularly.

As per the Ministry of External Affairs, about 5.4 million Indian origin people (per MEA data; includes 2.07 million NRIs) reside in the US. Persons of Indian origin constitute the third-largest Asian ethnic group in the US. The Indian diaspora has been a catalyst in cementing closer ties between India and the US.

Earlier this year, in January, the United States held a dedication ceremony for its new Consulate in Bengaluru, which made it the fifth US consulate in India. (Source: ANI)

Canadian PM Mark Carney breaks...

federal and provincial governments have generally, by cutting across their political affiliations, come together to fight the US tariffs unitedly.

This is the second major action of the Mark Carney government after it decided to recognize Palestine, which appears to have prompted the US president to issue an executive order on Thursday night imposing heavier tariffs on Canadian imports.

In his statement, Mark Carney made it clear that while Canada would continue to negotiate with the USA on "our trading relationship, the Canadian government is less focused on what we can control, building Canada strong. The federal government, provinces, and territories are working together to cut down trade barriers to build one Canadian economy. We are developing a series of major nation-building projects with provincial, territorial, and indigenous partners. Together, these initiatives have the potential to catalyze over half a trillion dollars of new investments in Canada.

"Canadians will be our own best customers, creating more well-paying careers at home, as we strengthen and diversify our trading partnerships throughout the world. We can give ourselves more than any foreign government can ever take away by building with Canadian workers and by using Canadian resources to benefit all Canadians," Mark Carney said in his statement.

The statement has evoked mixed reactions from various quarters in Canada. Most of the critics of the new Liberal government have lauded Prime Minister Mark Carney for his bold stand, by hailing his statement. Of late, Canada has been gradually moving away from the shadow of the US on various contentious and important issues, including its defense build-up and its fast-growing friendly policies towards the European Union.

Mark Carney's statement also says that "the US application of CUSMA means that the US average tariff rate on Canadian goods remains one of its lowest for all its trading partners. Other sectors of our economy-including lumber, steel, aluminum, and automobiles-our export markets are, however, heavily impacted by US duties and tariffs. For such sectors, the Canadian government will act to protect Canadian jobs, invest in our industrial competitiveness, buy Canadian, and diversify our export markets.

While reacting to the US president's allegation that

Canada has done little to check the smuggling of fentanyl across the borders, Mark Carney's statement stated, "The United States has justified its most recent trade action based on the cross-border flow of fentanyl, even though Canada accounts for only 1 percent of the US fentanyl imports and has been working intensely to further reduce these volumes. Canada's government is making historic investments in border security to arrest drug traffickers, take down transnational gangs, and end migrant smuggling. These include thousands of new law enforcement and border security officers, aerial surveillance, intelligence and security operations, and the strongest border legislation in our history. We will continue working with the United States to stop the scourge of fentanyl and save lives in both countries," the statement said.

CONTD FROM PAGE 9**US Tariff Threats and Geopolitical Penalties on India: Strategic, Economic, and Diplomatic Implications**

● **Increased Inflation for U.S. Consumers:** As noted by economists, a 25% tariff means that U.S. importers will likely pass on a significant portion of these increased costs to American consumers, leading to higher prices for a range of goods. The Washington Center for Equitable Growth analysis suggests such policies could raise US manufacturers' costs by 2% to 4.5%, ultimately passed on to consumers.

STRATEGIC OUTLOOK AND MARKET ANALYSIS

The current threat of tariffs and penalties is widely perceived as a negotiating tool rather than a definitive policy. The August 1st deadline set by the U.S. appears to be a lever to expedite a bilateral trade agreement with India, which has been under negotiation for months. Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has stated that India's priority is to protect national interests, particularly those of farmers, entrepreneurs, and MSMEs, and that India will not negotiate under deadlines.

● **India's Resilience:** India's cautious approach to trade negotiations, learning from challenges in U.S. agreements with Japan and other nations, indicates a commitment to securing beneficial terms rather than rushing a deal. India's recent success in finalizing the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the UK demonstrates its capability to strike significant trade deals.

● **U.S. Strategic Imperatives:** The U.S. faces a critical balancing act. While seeking to exert influence over India's energy choices and trade policies, it must weigh the significant cost of alienating India, a burgeoning economic power and a crucial strategic partner in its Indo-Pacific strategy aimed at countering China. The U.S. also stands to gain from India's growing energy demand, with U.S. LNG exports to India reaching a record 19% of India's total LNG imports in 2024.

● **Bilateral Trade Imbalance:** The U.S. ran a \$45.7 billion trade deficit in goods with India last year, importing more than it exported. This imbalance is a key driver behind the U.S.'s protectionist stance.

● **Temporary Measure?** Indian government sources anticipate that any imposed tariffs would be a temporary measure, given the progress of ongoing trade talks, with a U.S. delegation expected in Delhi by mid-August for further discussions. The aim remains a comprehensive bilateral trade agreement by October-November.

In conclusion, while the immediate threat of tariffs creates uncertainty and potential economic headwinds for India, both nations have significant incentives to de-escalate tensions and reach a mutually beneficial trade agreement. The broader geopolitical landscape, particularly the need for a strong Indo-Pacific alliance, will likely steer the U.S. towards a resolution that avoids a severe and lasting rupture in relations. India, meanwhile, continues to strategically diversify its trade and energy partners, strengthening its resilience against external pressures.



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History This Week AUG 01-07

AUGUST 1

August 1, 1838 - Slavery was abolished in Jamaica. It had been introduced by Spanish settlers 300 years earlier in 1509.



August 1, 1944 - Anne Frank penned her last entry into her diary. "[I] keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if...there weren't any other people living in the world." Three days later, Anne and her family were arrested and sent to Nazi concentration camps. Anne died at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on March 15, 1945, at age 15.

August 1, 1944 - The Warsaw Uprising began as the Polish Home Army, numbering about 40,000 Polish patriots, began shooting at German troops in the streets. The Nazis then sent eight divisions to battle the Poles, who had hoped for, but did not receive, assistance from the Allies. Two months later, the rebellion was quashed.

Birthdays - Star-Spangled Banner author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the poem originally entitled Defense of Fort McHenry which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Birthdays - Moby Dick author Herman Melville (1819-1891) was born in New York.

AUGUST 2

August 2, 1776 - In Philadelphia, most of the 55 members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the Declaration of Independence.



August 2, 1923 - President Warren G. Harding died suddenly in a hotel in San

Francisco while on a Western speaking tour. His administration had been tainted by the Teapot Dome political scandal and his sudden death prompted many unfounded rumors. He was succeeded the next day by Calvin Coolidge.

August 2, 1939 - Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

August 2, 1990 - The Iraqi army invaded Kuwait amid claims that Kuwait threatened Iraq's economic existence by overproducing oil and driving prices down on the world market. An Iraqi military government was then installed in Kuwait which was annexed by Iraq on the claim that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq. This resulted in Desert Shield, the massive Allied military buildup, and later the 100-hour war against Iraq, Desert Storm.

AUGUST 3

August 3, 1492 - Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain, with three ships, Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria. Seeking a westerly route to the Far East, he instead landed on October 12th in the Bahamas, thinking it was an outlying Japanese island.



Birthdays - War correspondent Ernie Pyle (1900-1945) was born in Dana, Indiana. His syndicated column offered sympathetic insights into the experiences of common soldiers during World War II. He received a Pulitzer Prize for his reports of the bombing of London in 1940 and later war reports from Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. He was killed by machine-gun fire near Okinawa in the South Pacific on April 18, 1945.

Birthdays - Gray Panthers founder Maggie Kuhn (1905-1995) was born in Buffalo, New York. After she was forced into mandatory retirement at age 65, she founded the Gray Panthers organization to fight age discrimination and succeeded in the banning of mandatory retirement in most professions.

AUGUST 4

August 4, 1962 - Apartheid opponent Nelson Mandela was arrested by security police in South Africa. He was then tried

and sentenced to five years in prison. In 1964, he was placed on trial for sabotage, high treason and conspiracy to overthrow the government and was sentenced to life in prison. A worldwide campaign to free him began in the 1980s and resulted in his release on February 11, 1990, at age 71 after 27 years in prison. In 1993, Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize with South Africa's President F.W. de Klerk for their peaceful efforts to bring a nonracial democracy to South Africa. In April 1994, black South Africans voted for the first time in an election that brought Mandela the presidency of South Africa.

August 4, 1964 - Three young civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, were found murdered and buried in an earthen dam outside Philadelphia, Mississippi. They had disappeared on June 21 after being detained by Neshoba County police on charges of speeding. They were participating in the Mississippi Summer Project organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to increase black voter registration. When their car was found burned on June 23, President Lyndon Johnson ordered the FBI to search for the men.



Birthdays - Jazz trumpet player Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. Known as "Satchmo," he appeared in many films and is best known for his renditions of It's a Wonderful World and Hello, Dolly.

Birthdays - Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg (1912-1947) was born in Stockholm. During the Holocaust, Wallenberg saved an estimated 33,000 Jews by issuing thousands of protective documents, by securing the release of Jews from deportation trains, death march convoys, labor service brigades, and by establishing the International Ghetto, a network of 31 protected houses. He was detained by Soviet agents on January 17, 1945, and is believed to have died in prison in 1947.

AUGUST 5



August 5, 1962 - Film star Marilyn Monroe died at age 36 from an overdose of sleeping pills. She made 29 films

during her career and came to symbolize Hollywood glamour.

August 5, 2011 - Standard & Poor's credit rating agency downgraded the United States debt from its highest rating of AAA to a lesser AA+ rating, marking the first-ever decline of credit worthiness for the U.S. The agency cited America's \$14 trillion in outstanding debt and ineffective political leadership regarding debt reduction.

Birthdays - John Eliot (1604-1690) was born in Hertfordshire, England. Known as the "Apostle to the Indians," his translation of the Bible into an Indian tongue was the first Bible to be printed in America.

AUGUST 6

August 6, 1945 - The first Atomic Bomb was dropped over the center of Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m., by the American B-29 bomber Enola Gay. The bomb detonated about 1,800 ft. above ground, killing over 105,000 persons and destroying the city. Another estimated 100,000 persons later died as a result of radiation effects.

August 6, 1962 - Jamaica achieved independence after centuries of British and Spanish rule. During 150 years of Spanish rule, African slaves were first brought to the island. The British invaded in 1655 and the slave trade greatly expanded during the 1700s. Following the abolition of slavery in the 1830s, Jamaica remained a British colony.

August 6, 1965 - The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Act suspended literacy, knowledge and character tests designed to keep African Americans from voting in the South. It also authorized the appointment of Federal voting examiners and barred discriminatory poll taxes. The Act was renewed by Congress in 1975, 1984 and 1991.

AUGUST 7

August 7, 1990 - Just five days after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, President George Bush ordered Desert Shield, a massive military buildup to prevent further Iraqi advances.

Birthdays - International spy Mata Hari (1876-1917) was born (as Margaret Gertrude Zelle) in Leewarden, Netherlands. Arrested by the French in 1917 as a German spy, she was tried, convicted and sentenced to death. At her execution, she refused a blindfold and instead threw a kiss to the French firing squad.



Birthdays - African American statesman and Nobel Prize recipient Ralph J. Bunche (1904-1971) was born in Detroit, Michigan. In 1949, as a mediator for the United Nations, he helped bring an end to hostilities in the war between Israel and the Arab League.

Kinner Kailash is an important religious place for Hindus and Buddhism. Kinner Kailash is a symbol of faith for Hindus. Kinner Kailash is located near the Tibet border in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Kinner Kailash is a mountain which is 6050 meters (about 24,000 feet) above sea level. Kinner Kailash is situated on the top of the mountain, whose height is approximately 40 feet and the width is about 16 feet. In Hindu religion, this khand is worshiped as Lord Shiva's natural Shiva Ling. There is also Parikrama of Kinner Kailash, which is one of the pilgrimage pilgrimages to the Himalayas for Hindus.

The Himalaya Mountains are not only related to Hindu mythology, but it also has a deep attachment to the belief of Hindu society. This is the same Himalaya from where the origin of the river Ganges is originated from Ghumukh. Kullu, the valley of the Gods, also comes in the same Himalayan range. There are more than 350 temples in this valley.

Travel to Kinner Kailash is considered as difficult as traveling to Mansarovar and Amarnath. This journey begins every year in the month of Savan. It takes about 2 to 3 days to complete the journey. This visit has been opened for tourists since 1993. During the journey, flowers of Brahma Lotus can be seen in thousands of thousands. This flower is very much like Lord Shiva.

According to Hindu mythology this place is associated with Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is believed that the meeting of Lord Shiva and Parvati has happened in this place.

It has been said in mythology that Lord Shiva organized the Deities and Gods assembly on Kinner Kailash Peak in every winter. Every year, hundreds of Shiv devotees travel in the month of July and August through the inaccessible route to Kinner Kailash. In order to start the journey of Kinner Kailash, devotees have to cross the Sutlej river and reach Tangling village from Powari, located on National Highway-5, about seven km from the district headquarter. Parvati Kund is about five hundred meters away from Ganesh Park. There is a belief about this Kund that if the coin is cast from reverence, it will be fulfilled. Following the holy bath in this kund, after passing a rough 24-hour hard journey, the Kinner can see the Shiva at Kailash. One feature of this Shiv Ling of Kinner Kailash is that it changes color several times a day. White before sunrise, yellow after sunrise, red before sunset and it becomes black after sunset.

Kinner Kailash vs. Mount Kailash

While Mount Kailash in Tibet is globally recognized as a spiritual epicenter, Kinner Kailash offers a more accessible and intimate pilgrimage within India. The mystical aura, combined with its tough terrain and deeply rooted legends, gives it a unique spiritual identity.

Deeper Spiritual Significance

The Kinner Kailash Yatra is far more than a test of physical endurance - it is a sacred journey of inner awakening, symbolic of the pilgrim's ascent toward

Kinner Kailash Yatra: A sacred trek to the abode of Shiva



moksha (liberation), self-realization, and union with the divine.

In Hindu cosmology, the Himalayas are not just mountains - they are considered the abode of gods, especially Lord Shiva, the lord of transformation, destruction, and deep inner stillness. Kinner Kailash, in particular, holds a mystical aura as a lesser-known seat of Shiva, radiating raw spiritual power and silence. To tread its path is to symbolically leave the material world behind and ascend toward spiritual truth.

The Lingam as the Cosmic Pillar

At the summit of the yatra stands a natural rock formation known as the Shiva Lingam - rising like a cosmic axis, representing Shiva's presence in his formless form (Nirguna Brahman). The changing hues of the rock at different times of day reflect Shiva's many moods and cosmic roles - as creator, destroyer, and preserver of the universe.

The Lingam is not carved by man but sculpted by nature, seen by devotees as a divine self-manifestation (Swayambhu). Reaching this sacred spot is considered equivalent to receiving direct darshan (vision) of Shiva himself - an incredibly rare spiritual merit.

Metaphor for Spiritual Evolution

The grueling climb to the summit -

through forests, scree, ice, and thin air - is symbolic of the path of the yogi. In spiritual terms, it mirrors the inner journey through the chakras, from base survival instincts (Muladhara) to ultimate consciousness (Sahasrara).

- The initial steep climbs test the ego and willpower - just as spiritual seekers must confront doubt, pride, and attachment.
- The solitude and silence of the high altitudes reflect the inner silence a seeker must cultivate.
- The final push to the summit, where air is thin and mind becomes still, represents the merging of the individual self with the cosmic self - Shiva.

Tapa (Austerity) and Bhakti (Devotion)

The Kinner Kailash Yatra is traditionally performed with strict vows of celibacy, purity, silence, and mental discipline - similar to the tapasya (austerity) performed by sages and ascetics.

Many devotees undertake the journey barefoot or with minimal supplies, seeing it as an offering of their suffering and surrender to the divine. This self-denial is not for punishment, but to burn away karmic impurities and purify the inner being.

Every step taken in devotion becomes

an act of bhakti yoga - the yoga of surrender and love - transforming the yatra into a moving prayer.

Mythical Connections and Divine Presence

In local Kinnauri mythology, Kinner Kailash is where Shiva and Parvati reside during the winter months, and where gods gather to hold celestial meetings (Deva Sabha). It's believed that the high vibration of the mountain still echoes with the chants of sages, the music of cosmic drums, and the silent gaze of Mahadev.

Some say that only those who are "called by Shiva" can complete the yatra - aligning with the belief that the divine grants darshan only when the seeker is truly ready.

Transformation and Inner Peace

Many pilgrims report experiencing a profound sense of stillness, oneness with nature, and inner clarity upon completing the yatra. This transformation mirrors Lord Shiva's own nature - beyond time, beyond mind, beyond form.

In a world consumed by noise, speed, and distraction, the Kinner Kailash Yatra offers a sacred pause, a place to return to one's essence. It's not just a pilgrimage - it's a path to remembering the Self.

Hampi: A journey through the lost empire of stones and stories

Tucked away in the rugged, boulder-strewn landscapes of Karnataka, Hampi is a destination that whispers tales of grandeur, devotion, and resilience. Once the capital of the mighty Vijayanagara Empire, this UNESCO World Heritage Site is more than just ruins - it's a living museum where history and myth converge in stone.

A Walk Through Time

As you enter Hampi, the first impression is surreal - massive granite boulders stacked precariously over undulating terrain, dotted with ancient temples, market streets, and royal pavilions. It's as if time forgot to move forward here.

Virupaksha Temple

The temple is so constructed that its main entrance faces east and homes to two courtyards. No sooner you enter the temple, there is a statue of Nandi with three heads. There is a pillared hall in the center which is reckoned as the Ranga Mandapa.

In case you are an international traveler, you have to register yourself at a police outpost with all your essential details. Mostly, this temple remains crowded in December; whereas it celebrates its annual festival in February and it is one of the best places to visit in Hampi.

Vijaya Vittala Temple

Vijaya Vittala Temple or Vijaya temple of Hampi amongst the ancient Places to Visit In Hampi worthy of visiting. There are fantastic stone structures all around, and the pillars here appear as if they are playing music.

This is true architectural excellence of Hampi as it exemplifies remarkable creativity and the beauty of architecture's imagination. The architecture of this temple dates back to the Dravidian era and reflects South Indian traits.

Three towering gateways are encircling the temple along with high compound walls. Maha Mantapa, Stone chariot, musical pillars are amongst the tourist attractions of this Vijaya Vittala Temple.

Lotus Mahal

Lotus Mahal or Kamal Mahal exhibits an explicit architectural design amongst all the other Hampi tourist places. It is so called as it more or less resembles the shape of a lotus flower.

Central dome of this Mahala resembles the bud of lotus and the balcony and passages as petals. The roof illustrates a multi-layered design reflecting an Indo architectural style. There are around 24 pillars to provide excellent support to the arched windows of this palace.

Yantroddharaka Hanuman Temple

Yantroddharaka Hanuman Temple is present at a distance of around 2km from the famous Virupaksha temple. This temple is a part of a cave standing at the peak of a hill and is dedicated to the Hindu deity Lord Hanuman.

Also, the Tungabhadra river flows



through the steps of this hill. Here, you can find Lord Hanuman indulged in a state of deep meditation. Within a distance of five minutes from here, you can find another temple dedicated to Lord Srinivasa. In case you feel hungry, you can approach small stalls nearby selling either mangoes, biscuits or cucumbers.

Hippie Island

Another area which is amongst the most visited Places to Visit In Hampi is Hippie Island, named after its vibrant culture. Virapapur Gadde is a small

island located across the Tungabhadra River. Known to be a backpacker's delight, this island is stunning and is popular amongst the locals as well as tourists for its laid back ambience and cosy lodges.

Tourists can spend their time relaxing at one of the many cafes and shacks, like Green Garden Restaurant, Laughing Buddha Café, etc. while gorging on great food, and soaking in the view of beautiful rice paddies. This location is also known to be a centre for people to conduct sunset jam sessions with musical instruments for a fun party-like

atmosphere.

Queen's Bath

Reckoned as a large bath of Hampi, Queen's Bath exemplifies the Vijayanagara's architectural excellence. It lies close to one of the most awful places to visit in Hampi- the Royal Enclosure.

Although built around 500 years ago, this magnificent structure still remains intact in its construction. It's simplest exterior perfectly blends with an ornate interior to embrace its overall appearance.

It a rectangular building admeasuring around 30 square meters and has a large sunken bath at its center. It may interest you to find arched corridors all around this Royal bath.

Matanga Hill

Out of all the places to visit in Hampi, Matanga Hill is the one which is most talked about. It represents the highest point of Hampi, and it's a picturesque destination for the travel photographers to capture some aerial vies of Hampi.

North portion of this hill terminates into Tungabhadra river where you have another religious place to visit-Kodanda Rama temple. Towards the south of this hill, you have a twisting valley with a zigzag Turthu canal. Low-lying Northern section exhibits a trekking trail that connects straightaway to Hampi bazaar.

Elephant Stables

Elephant Stables is amongst the significant tourist places to visit in Hampi to witness a little to absolutely no destruction. It is a long building homing to a series of dome-shaped chambers which once were used for the parking of royal elephants.

These chambers are around 11 in their total count; some of which are interconnected. The whole building gives a symmetrical appearance, and the central hall tower reflects the shape of most of the temples here. This central hall has five domes on either side of it which reflects an Islamic style of architecture.

Monolithic Bull

Situated at the east end of the Hampi Bazaar, the Monolith Bull or Nandi is a grand piece of ancient architecture that is housed in a two-story pavilion. This huge structure, which mythologically is the vehicle of Lord Shiva, is placed just opposite to the famous Virupaksha Temple. This Monolithic Bull, although partially mutilated, exhibits a coarse style of carving. The statue is so beautiful that it attracts a large number of visitors every day. It is also one of the frequently visited historical Tourist Places in Hampi. It is also surrounded by huge boulders and rock pillars.

India fight back after losing quick wickets in Oval Test, Karun Nair scores a half-century

LONDON (TIP)

A resilient and much-needed half-century for Karun Nair and his unbeaten half-century partnership with a resolute Washington Sundar helped India fight back after losing quick wickets during the first day of the fifth Test against England at The Oval on Thursday, July 31.

At the end of the day's play, India was 204/6, with Nair (52*) and Sundar (19*) unbeaten, having stitched a 51-run stand so far after the visitors had stumbled to 153/6.

India resumed the final session at 85/3, with Nair and Sai Sudharsan (28*) at the crease.

The duo kick-started the session with positive intent, with Sudharsan getting two boundaries against Jamie Overton. India reached the 100-run mark in 34.3 overs. However, he edged a Josh Tongue delivery to wicketkeeper Jamie Smith, ending his 108-ball stay at the crease at 38 runs, with six fours. India was 101/4.

Ravindra Jadeja's stay at the crease was short-lived for a 13-ball nine, with Tongue once again getting the wicket and Jamie getting the catch. India was halfway done, at 123 runs.

Jurel looked solid, getting two boundaries. Despite surviving an lbw appeal against Gus Atkinson, he was out on the next ball, with an outside edge off his bat landing into Harry Brook's hands at slips. Jurel was gone for 19 in 40 balls. India was 153/6.

Undeterred, Nair continued scoring, getting two fours against Overton. He weathered the storm with Washington Sundar, reaching his half-century in 90 balls, with seven fours. India reached the 200-run mark in 61.1 overs.

Nair and Sundar made sure that India

India's Karun Nair and Washington Sundar return to the pavilion after end of play on the first day of the fifth Test cricket match between India and England, at The Oval, in London, England, on July 31, 2025. PTI



ended the day without any further loss of wickets.

India kick-started the second session at 72/2, with Gill (15*) and Sudharsan (25*) unbeaten. Things went well for India until the skipper Gill attempted a quick single, which turned out to be a suicidal one, with Gus Atkinson running him out for 21 in 35 balls, with four boundaries. India was 83/3, with a 45-run stand over.

After rain interrupted the proceedings, the Tea was taken and the second session ended at 85/3, with Nair (0*) and Sudharsan (28*) unbeaten.

After a sudden downpour forced an early end to the first session, India piled up 72/2 in 23 overs, with Gill and Sudharsan unbeaten with scores of 15* and 25*.

The rain had already marked its presence twice before the beginning of the game. Under the overcast conditions and

the ground slightly drenched, Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul tried to see off a tricky phase.

In the absence of tearaway Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, returning to the Test fold, rattled India's top order with his blistering pace at his home venue. With an inward angling delivery and a hint of movement, Atkinson struck Jaiswal just below the knee-roll of his pads.

There were two sounds, and the England players were confused. The opinion was split, with players voicing their opinions, but Pope decided to trust his instincts, which left Ben Duckett less than pleased.

Even designated captain Ben Stokes appeared confused before switching his eyes to see the replay. During the check, the ball cleanly whistled past Jaiswal's bat and his fate was sealed as he walked back to the dressing room cheaply on 2(9).

Not looking good: England sweat on Chris Woakes' injury in Oval Test

Gus Atkinson provided an update on Chris Woakes, who suffered a shoulder injury in a major blow for England during the fifth and final Test at The Oval. In the post-Tea session, Woakes left the field grimacing in pain after injuring his left shoulder while chasing a boundary.

The incident occurred on the fifth ball of the 57th over when Karun Nair drove Jamie Overton down the ground. Woakes sprinted to stop the ball, successfully preventing a boundary as Nair ran three, but landed awkwardly and immediately clutched his shoulder before walking off. Liam Dawson replaced him as a substitute fielder. Atkinson, who dismissed Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, admitted the injury didn't look pretty but expressed hope for Woakes' swift recovery.

"I don't know too much, but it doesn't look great. It's the last game of the series, and it's always a big shame when anyone gets injured. I'm hoping it's not too serious, and whatever it is, he'll have everyone's full support," Atkinson said in the press conference after the day's play.

Woakes had figures of 14-1-46-1, taking the wicket of KL Rahul. It now remains to be seen if Woakes gets fit enough to take part in the remainder of the Test.

Atkinson, drafted in as one of the pace options in place of Brydon Carse and Jofra Archer, has stepped up impressively. In addition to claiming the key wickets of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel, he also ran out Shubman Gill with a sharp direct hit at the striker's end.

Speaking after play, Atkinson said he's prepared to take on additional responsibility if Woakes is ruled out for the remainder of the match.

Coco Gauff overcomes 14 more double-faults to advance in Montreal



MONTREAL (TIP)

Coco Gauff overcame 14 more double-faults to beat Veronika Kudermetova of Russia 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 on July 30 National Bank Open. Two days after surviving 23 double-faults and a third-set tiebreaker against fellow American Danielle Collins, the top-seeded Gauff rallied from a set and break down against Kudermetova to reach the round of 16.

"It was a tough match," Gauff said. "I thought I did well mentally, especially on the return. I was playing an opponent that served really well. Obviously, I would like to serve better on my end, but overall, just happy to get through."

Gauff, No. 2 in the world behind Aryna Sabalenka, entered the week having lost two straight matches since winning the

French Open, falling in her opening matches in Berlin and Wimbledon.

"It does give positives that I am winning these matches having literally one part of my game on a crutch," Gauff said. "If I can stand on both feet, then I can only imagine that it will be a lot more straight-forward and a lot easier for me."

Gauff set up a match with 18-year-old Canadian Victoria Mboko, a 1-6, 6-3, 6-0 winner over Marie Bouzkova of Czechia in the night session.

Mboko is the last of the 10 Canadians left.

McCartney Kessler of the United States upset fourth-seeded Mirra Andreeva of Russia 7-6, 6-4. Tenth-seeded Elina Svitolina beat Kamilla Rakhimova of Russia 7-5, 6-2.



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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