



“Land of the free, home of the brave.”



Happy 4th of July

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US House passes tax and immigration bill, sends it to President Trump

Legislation to extend tax cuts and fund border and defense programs would increase the national debt by close to \$4 trillion over the next decade.



House Speaker Mike Johnson and lawmakers celebrate after voting on the final passage of President Donald Trump's tax and immigration bill at the U.S. Capitol on Thursday, July 3

Photo credit: Demetrius Freeman/The Washington Post

JULY 3, 2025 WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Republicans on Thursday notched the first major legislative victory of President Donald Trump's second term, a mammoth tax and immigration agenda the GOP hopes will reshape the U.S. economy and unwind many of the Biden administration's accomplishments, a Washington Post report says.

The House, in a 218 to 214 vote, passed Trump's so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," a \$3.4 trillion measure to extend tax cuts from Trump's first term and implement new campaign promises - such as eliminating income taxes on tips and overtime wages - while spending hundreds of billions of dollars on immigration enforcement and defense. It raises the country's borrowing cap by \$5 trillion, staving off a debt default that the Treasury was weeks away from breaching.

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PM Modi praises the Indian community's journey in Trinidad and Tobago as a courageous one



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar, dressed in traditional Indian attire, participate in a welcoming ceremony at Piarco International Airport in Piarco, Trinidad and Tobago, July 3, 2025.

Photo Credit: Reuters

JULY 4, 2025

PORT OF SPAIN (TIP): The journey of the Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago is one of courage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, emphasizing that the hardships their ancestors endured could have "broken even the strongest spirits".

Mr. Modi made the comments at a community event at the National Cycling Velodrome, Couva, on Thursday (July 3, 2025). He arrived in Trinidad and Tobago earlier in the day for a two-day visit. The Prime Minister, whose first engagement in the Caribbean nation was

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'Not scared', says Zohran Mamdani after Trump threatened to 'arrest' and 'strip' his citizenship

JULY 2, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Trump said Mamdani should be arrested if he tries to stop US immigration agents (ICE) from doing their job in the city. He also called Mamdani a "communist" and questioned if he is even a legal US citizen.

Mamdani responded strongly, saying: "The President of the United States just threatened to have me arrested, stripped of my citizenship, put in a detention camp and deported. Not because I have broken any law but because I will refuse to let ICE terrorize our city. His statements don't just represent an attack on our democracy but an attempt to send a message to every New Yorker who refuses to hide in the shadow: if you speak up, they will come for you. The Democrat also attacked Trump for praising New York's current Mayor, Eric



Indian-origin New York City's Democratic mayoral candidate Zohran Mamdani says he will not be scared by threats from former President Donald Trump.

Adams, "in his authoritarian threats". He said Trump's praises for Adams-who was elected in 2021 as a Democrat but is running as an independent-are unsurprising, "but highlights the urgency of bringing an end to this Mayor's time in City Hall.

CONTD ON PAGE 52

Amnesty International says Israel using starvation to commit Gaza genocide

JULY 3, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Amnesty International issued a report Thursday, July 3, 2025, claiming a controversial Israeli- and U.S.-backed system to distribute aid in Gaza uses starvation tactics against Palestinians to continue to commit genocide in the Gaza Strip during Israel's war with Hamas.

CONTD ON PAGE 52



This photo, provided by an American contractor on condition of anonymity, shows Palestinians behind gates before entering a food distribution site operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation in May 2025, shortly after the start of the organization's distribution sites.

Photo Credit: AP

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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

Lovlien Kaurr

972-330-3139

editor@theindianpanorama.news

The Indian Panorama

P.O. Box No. 190067, South

Richmond Hill, NY 11419,

Tel: 646-247-9458

Email:

editor@theindianpanorama.news

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COMMENT

Congratulations, the Free and the Brave: A 249-Year Reflection on American Independence

On this Fourth of July, 2025, Americans celebrate the 249th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence-an extraordinary milestone in human history. As fireworks light the skies and parades roll down Main Streets, this moment also marks the beginning of a year-long journey toward the 250th anniversary of American independence in 2026-a quarter of a millennium since the birth of a bold experiment in liberty, equality, and self-governance.

On July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, 56 signatories affixed their names to a document that changed the world-the Declaration of Independence. Drafted by Thomas Jefferson and edited by John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and others, the document proclaimed that "all men are created equal" and are endowed with "unalienable Rights," among them "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." With that bold stroke, 13 colonies severed ties with the British Crown and gave birth to a republic founded not on ethnicity or religion, but on ideals.

The United States would go on to adopt a Constitution in 1787, creating a system of checks and balances among three coequal branches: the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary. The Bill of Rights, added in 1791, further secured individual liberties: freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and due process.

WHERE DO WE STAND IN 2025?

Nearly 250 years later, Americans are justly proud of the nation's accomplishments: a beacon of democracy, a global leader in innovation, and the custodian of a still-powerful vision of freedom and opportunity. But amid the celebrations, there is an undertone of unease. Voices across the political spectrum now ask: Are we still guided by the vision of our Founding Fathers, or have we strayed from the path?

One of the most troubling signs is the perceived erosion of American institutions. The Legislative Branch, designed to represent the will of the people, is increasingly deadlocked. Bipartisanship has all but vanished. According to Pew Research (2024), just 21% of Americans express trust in Congress, down from over 60% in the 1970s.

Judiciary, once a proud symbol of impartiality and reason, is increasingly seen as politicized. The U.S. Supreme Court's decisions on abortion, voting rights, and gun control have split public opinion sharply along partisan lines. Gallup polling from late 2024 showed only 41% of Americans have confidence in the Court, a historic low.

And the Executive Branch, far from being a steward of national unity, has often acted in self-interest. Successive presidents, from both major parties, have expanded executive powers,



Credit: Worksheets Library

frequently sidestepping Congress via executive orders or emergency declarations.

The Statue of Liberty, gifted by France in 1886, still stands tall in New York Harbor, holding her torch aloft. But her promise-the sanctuary for the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free"-feels increasingly hollow. U.S. immigration policies have become more restrictive. The number of refugee admissions has dropped sharply: from 85,000 in 2016 to just 25,000 in 2023, despite growing humanitarian crises worldwide.

Meanwhile, civil liberties are under strain. In the name of national security and public safety, surveillance technologies have expanded. Laws curbing protests, tightening voting rules, and limiting free speech on college campuses are growing more common.

Even economic liberty, once considered America's strong suit, is faltering. Income inequality is at a record high. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the top 1% of earners now hold more than 30% of the nation's wealth, while nearly 40 million Americans live below the poverty line. The American Dream is no longer a given; for many, it's a memory.

IS THE AMERICAN NATION LOSING ITS COMPASSION?

America has always prided itself as a nation of compassion-evident in its philanthropy, its welcoming of immigrants, its role in rebuilding Europe after WWII, and its commitment to civil rights. But in recent years, critics say, the nation has grown harder, more divided, less empathetic.

A January 2025 poll by the Brookings Institution found that 57% of Americans feel the country has "become more selfish and less community-oriented" than a generation ago. Homelessness has risen in major cities, mental health support remains underfunded, and health care continues to be a struggle for millions, despite being the world's most expensive system.

Worse, political discourse has become toxic. Social media platforms are battlegrounds of disinformation and vitriol. Civil disagreement has devolved into cultural warfare, making compromise seem like betrayal rather than democracy in action.

GREATNESS MISUNDERSTOOD

In recent years, slogans like "Make America Great Again" have animated

By Indrajit Saluja



political movements. But what is greatness? If it is power, America remains unmatched: a military budget of \$816 billion (FY2024), more than the next 10 nations combined. If it is wealth, the U.S. GDP of over \$28 trillion (as of early 2025) is still the world's largest.

But if greatness means moral leadership, compassion, unity, innovation with purpose, and global goodwill-then America's position is more precarious. Once widely admired, the U.S. is now often viewed with skepticism or fear. A 2024 Pew Global Attitudes survey found that favorable views of the United States have declined in major European and Asian democracies, particularly due to perceptions of domestic instability, racial inequality, and inconsistent foreign policy.

So, as we stand at the threshold of America's 250th birthday, the celebration must not be merely ceremonial. It must be reflective and aspirational. The spirit of 1776 was not static-it was revolutionary. It was meant to evolve, to perfect, to be self-correcting. That's why the Constitution begins with "We the People"-a mandate for every generation to uphold and renew the social contract.

The founding fathers, though products of their time and flawed in many ways, envisioned a government of laws, not of men. A republic where truth mattered, institutions endured, and power was exercised with humility and restraint.

In his farewell address, George Washington warned against the "spirit of faction" and urged Americans to place national interest above personal or party ambition. Today, those warnings ring louder than ever.

The path forward requires courage-not the kind displayed on battlefields, but in town halls, courtrooms, classrooms, and voting booths. Courage to listen, to compromise, to reform, to dream again.

The next year-leading to the 250th anniversary in 2026-should be a national period of introspection. Civic education must be revived. Electoral reforms must be pursued. Judicial independence must be restored. Compassion must be rekindled.

Only then can we say with honesty that the United States is still a "more perfect union."

So, congratulations to the free and the brave on this 249th Independence Day. May we celebrate not just with fireworks, but with a fiery determination to live up to the ideals of our forefathers. In trying to become great again, let us not lose the greatness we already have-the greatness of our Constitution, our diversity, our values, and our enduring hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

The American experiment is not over. It is merely at a crossroads. Let us choose the road that leads not backward into fear, but forward into freedom.

God Bless America!

Foundation of Indian-Americans (FIA) Celebrates 249th U.S. Independence Day in Northborough, MA



Children from Padamini Dance Academy singing the US anthem



FIA President Abhishek Singh honoring a local law enforcement officer



Message from former U.S. Congressman Joe Kennedy III

an integral part of the fabric of the U.S. society and has always stood for the welfare and progress of this nation."

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE, FREEDOM & COMMUNITY

The event was a vibrant expression of Indian-American pride and American patriotism, showcasing cultural performances, music, and cuisine. The festivities underscored the importance of inclusivity, multiculturalism, and civic unity.

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special recognition goes to:
Mitesh & Padamini and her dance team for their tireless efforts since day one
Santosh & Bhawana for their musical contributions & Maharshi & Jassi and American Band led by Mark Femino
Pramod Kumar Ji for capturing moments through photography
Hardyal Singh Ji for the flavorful cuisine

Kudos to the core FIA team: Rakesh-Deepti Kavarsi, Amol-Piyusha & Pranita, Santosh-Girish Soni, Mohan Ji, Chanukya Rao, Divya Prakash, Naveen Kumar, Abhinav Yadav, Vishant Mahajan, and Himanshu Chouhan.

This year's July 4th celebration was not just an event, but a true reflection of unity in diversity-celebrating America's freedom through the lens of Indian-American values and culture.

Happy July 4th & Happy 249th Independence Day!

JULY 3, 2025

NORTHBOROUGH, MA (TIP): The Foundation of Indian-Americans (FIA) New England, in association with The Boston Group, hosted a grand celebration of the 249th Independence Day of the United States on Sunday, June 29th. The event was held in Northborough, Massachusetts, bringing together communities to honor the values of freedom, unity, and cross-cultural pride.

The celebration began with a warm welcome by Jyoti Singh, FIA Board of Directors, and was emceed by Maggie Lemay, a U.S. military veteran, survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attack, and Ms. Continental Worldwide.

Sanjay Gokhale, Vice President of FIA, opened the ceremony with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a stirring rendition of the U.S. National Anthem performed by children from Padamini Dance Academy, accompanied by a local band.

HONORING AMERICAN HEROES

A central highlight of the event was the honoring of American war veterans and local law enforcement. The following heroes were recognized:

Elizabeth Barry - U.S. Army Veteran
Bruce DeGraff - U.S. Marine Corps Veteran

Northborough Police Department, represented by Chief Brian Griffin and Officer Spencer



The attendees

Community leaders Meetu Gupta and Irvin Victoria King were also honored for their civic contributions.

Veterans shared powerful memories of their service, including reflections on World War II, providing a moving moment that resonated deeply with attendees.

These heroes were presented with special honors by Ms. Shruthi Purushottam, Deputy Consul General of India, Boston, and FIA President

Abhishek Singh, along with other FIA executives.

MESSAGES OF UNITY & SUPPORT

A surprise video message from Former U.S. Congressman Joe Kennedy III extended heartfelt greetings and praised the Indian-American community for its contributions to the American fabric.

Subu Kota, founder of The Boston Group, remarked:

"The Indian-American community is

Jones Beach July 4 fireworks at 9.30 PM; Officials advise early arrival

JULY 4, 2025

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The skies over Long Island's most popular oceanfront park will be illuminated in dazzling colors Friday night as throngs of New Yorkers head to Jones Beach to catch a glimpse of the annual July 4 fireworks show., Newsday reports.

But a word to the wise for those looking to enjoy the annual show: get there early as parking at Jones Beach tends to fill up hours before the show.

The 25-minute Jovia Financial Credit Union Fireworks Spectacular at Jones Beach begins at 9:30 p.m. and is expected to paint the night sky with colorful patterns and floral designs.

Last year's show drew 195,000 people - more than the 175,000 guests that were

expected, according to state officials.

And with the forecast clear all day Friday, with temperatures in the low-80s and upper-70s, officials expect large crowds and crowded parking lots.

State officials advise people to get to the park early for the fireworks and then linger afterward to let traffic ease.

"We are advising that for those who wish to attend the fireworks program to plan on arriving by 7:30 p.m.," said George Gorman, regional director of New York State Parks. "Traffic begins to back up significantly at 8 p.m."

The show is expected to include patriotic tunes such as "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue," "America" and "God Bless the U. S. A," along with modern sing-along anthems like

"Defying Gravity," "Levitating," "Hot to Go."

The fireworks are included in the \$10 parking admission. Radio stations WALK 97.5 FM and KJOY-98.3 FM will simulcast music during the fireworks presentation.

Costumed characters from Beauty and the Beast and Spiderman will walk the boardwalk from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. to interact and take photos with the public.

A band will be playing live music beginning at 8 p.m. until the start of the fireworks and then from 10 p.m. until 11 p.m. following the show.

During the day, guests can head to the boardwalk for an interactive green screen photo booth experience featuring patriotic and summer scenes.



Spectacular Fourth of July fireworks at Jones Beach
File photo

Happy 4th of July!
(With inputs from Newsday)

Documentary Screening on Vivek Tankha draws a large crowd of Indian Diaspora Leaders at the New York Indian Film Festival



Photos of documentary viewing of film "The Renaissance Man: Life and Times of Vivek Tankha" at the New York Film festival on June 21, 2025. showing Shri Vivek Tankha ji (sitting in center) responding to questions from the audience.



JUNE 21, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): The Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) USA hosted a remarkable celebration on Saturday, June 21, at the iconic Village East by Angelika theater in Manhattan, marking the screening of "The Renaissance Man", a documentary film chronicling the inspiring life and legacy of Vivek Tankha. The event was part of the New York Indian Film Festival and drew an enthusiastic audience, including senior leaders of IOC-USA and distinguished members of the Indian diaspora.

The documentary highlights the extraordinary journey of Shri Vivek Tankha ji -Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of India, former Additional Solicitor General, sitting Rajya Sabha MP, and a dedicated humanitarian. His contributions span multiple sectors, including public interest litigation, tribal healthcare, education, disability rights, and disaster relief. The film captures both his legal brilliance and his compassionate leadership, especially through his widely acclaimed initiative "Rahat", which has provided critical medical and disaster aid to marginalized communities in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and beyond.

During the post-screening interaction, Mr. Tankha shared powerful insights into his motivations and lifelong mission to use law and public service as instruments for justice and upliftment. He spoke of landmark cases, including his pivotal legal work for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims, and emphasized the need for ethical and

empathetic leadership in contemporary India.

The event was held under the leadership of Mohinder Singh Gilzian, President of the Indian Overseas Congress USA, who opened the celebration with high praise for Mr. Tankha.

"If even one percent of India's population embodied the intellect, integrity, and compassion of Vivek Tankha," said Mr. Gilzian, "India would be a different country. His life offers a blueprint for the kind of leadership our nation urgently needs."

Adding to the evening's grace and significance, Mr. Sam Pitroda, Global Chairman of Overseas Congress Department of A.I.C.C., sent a heartfelt video message applauding Mr. Tankha's decades of service in law, policy, and social reform.

"Vivek is not just a legal scholar; he's a people's advocate. His work touches lives where it matters most," Mr. Pitroda said.

The celebration was inaugurated with an inspiring and powerful opening remarks by Harbachan Singh, Secretary-General of IOC-USA, who recognized very highly Mr. Tankha's awesome enduring legacy of justice and social responsibility. He likened all the solid attributes of Shri Vivek Tankha ji to those of Mahatmas and Heros and made a moving equation of his personality and service to them. Mr. Tankha embodied humility, softness and a profound depth of knowledge and human experience which has drawn crowds of people to him in total acceptance of him as no less than acclaimed Mahatmas and

Heros.

The screening was more than a celebration of an individual-it was a tribute to a life of purpose, service, and vision. It resonated as a rallying call to the Indian diaspora to identify, support, and champion leaders like Vivek Tankha, whose integrity and impact go far beyond the boundaries of law and politics.

The event was graced by a wide array of IOC-USA leaders who honored Mr. Tankha with a bouquet and a traditional shawl, a symbolic gesture of respect and admiration. Among the IOC USA senior leaders present were: Working President (North East Zone) Pradeep Samala; Vice President John Joseph; Vice President Baldev Randhawa; General Secretaries; Sharath Chandra, Sophia Sharma and Rajeev Mohan; President of Maryland Chapter Chaudhry Pratap Singh; President of Andhra Chapter Srinivasrao Bhimineni; Chairman of the Punjab Chapter; Phuman Singh Ibrahimpur; Secretary, IOC.USA Jaswinder Singh Kang and his team; Dr.Yogesh Dayma from Boston; Rockland Chapter President Shaimi Jacob; Amanpreet Aman and Mukesh (Mike) from New Jersey; Patel Sridhar Reddy from Telengana Chapter Detroit: Harpreet Singh Happy and Sunny Singh; Harvendar Singh and Qayam Masumi representing the New Jersey Chapter, among others.

In addition, several local IOC-USA leaders, business professionals, lawyers, dignitaries, activists, and scholars from across the United States traveled to New

York to attend the event and personally extend their congratulations to Mr. Tankha.

The event concluded with a vibrant Q&A session, where attendees engaged with Mr. Tankha on a range of topics-from his legal battles and legislative work in Parliament to his grassroots efforts for the underprivileged and youth empowerment.

The screening was more than a celebration of an individual-it was a tribute to a life of purpose, service, and vision. It resonated as a rallying call to the Indian diaspora to identify, support, and champion leaders like Vivek Tankha, whose integrity and impact go far beyond the boundaries of law and politics.

At the reception, Secretary General Harbachan Singh led with the award of a Proclamation of Honor by Shri Vivek Tankha ji and Mohinder Singh ji to Attorney Jaspreet Singh in appreciation of his outstanding leadership, benevolent services and support of the community.

Following the above, Harbachan Singh requested the entire gathering to rise in solemn observance of a moment of silence in condolence and sympathy of the victims of the recent Air India airplane crash and sharing the sorrow and pain with the aggrieved families. Similar solemn observance was also observed to grief the sudden, shocking and painful to bear demise of the brother of Shri Vivek Tankha ji in India the day before this event accelerating the swift return to India of Mr. Vivek Tankha ji. May all the departed souls Rest in Peace! by the grace of Almighty God.

Indian American Entrepreneur Balaji Srinivasan Launches 'Technocapitalist College Town' on Private Island

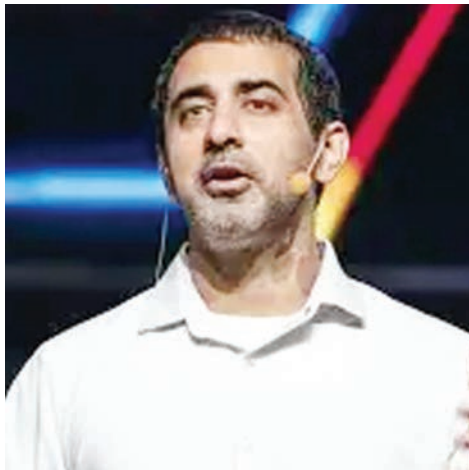
JULY 3, 2025

SINGAPORE (TIP):

Indian American tech entrepreneur Balaji Srinivasan has launched an ambitious new initiative called "Network School" on a private island near Singapore. The 90-day experimental program is designed as a "technocapitalist college town" that brings together innovation, technology, and community-building in a physical setting.

The pilot program, which ran from late 2024 through early 2025, selected 128 participants from over 4,000 applicants spanning more than 80 countries. The island-based campus hosted an immersive curriculum focused on cryptocurrency, longevity science, decentralized governance, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship. The goal, Srinivasan said, is to foster a new generation of thinkers and builders aligned with the ideals of the "network state"—a digital-first society with shared values and the potential to gain physical territory.

The concept draws inspiration from Srinivasan's 2022 book *The Network State*, which envisions online communities forming self-governing physical jurisdictions. Network School



Balaji Srinivasan has launched an ambitious new initiative called "Network School" on a private island near Singapore

aims to translate these ideas into practice, creating a model for future digital-native societies.

Participants followed a rigorous daily schedule that included lectures, workshops, fitness routines, and communal living. The program featured health and longevity guidance from experts and emphasized personal development alongside technological innovation.

Srinivasan has described the school as

a hybrid between a startup incubator, university, and wellness retreat. Attendees could earn cryptocurrency through learning modules and contribute to building early-stage experiments in network governance and decentralized systems.

While the project has garnered praise for its bold vision, it has also drawn criticism for its exclusivity and opaque application process. Some applicants voiced concerns about the lack of transparency around costs and selection criteria. Others have questioned the ideological underpinnings of the program, citing its alignment with libertarian and technocratic philosophies.

Despite the criticisms, Srinivasan is already expanding the project. A second, larger cohort of 256 participants began a year-long program in March 2025, with plans underway to replicate the model in cities such as Dubai, Miami, and Tokyo.

The initiative marks one of the most concrete efforts to date to blend physical community-building with the values of decentralized digital networks. Whether Network School becomes a blueprint for the future or remains an ambitious experiment remains to be seen.

Indian American media executive Vivek Shah elected new chair of CUNY journalism school foundation



Vivek Shah has been elected as the new chair of the foundation board at CUNY to help further its mission to provide accessible, high-quality journalism education.

JUNE 27, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP):

Indian American media executive Vivek Shah has been elected as the new chair of the foundation board at CUNY to help further its mission to provide accessible, high-quality journalism education.

As Chief Executive Officer of Ziff Davis, a vertically focused digital media and internet company, Shah brings extensive experience in digital transformation and media leadership, according to a news release.

His background includes senior management positions at Time, Inc., where he served as Digital Group President and President of the Fortune/Money Group.

Shah takes over from Arthur Sulzberger Jr., a board member since 2018 and former chairman of The New York Times Company, who continues as chair emeritus.

Four professionals have also joined the board: vice chair Robin Sparkman, president of ProPublica; Sarah Alvarez, James B. Steele Chair in Journalism Innovation at Temple University; Marjorie D. Parker, President and CEO of JobsFirstNYC, and Richard Stengel, former Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs in the Obama administration.

"The new leadership comes at a historic moment for the school," said the release noting, "In 2024, thanks to a generous gift from Craig Newmark Philanthropies, the school announced a campaign to become the first tuition-free journalism school in the nation by 2027."

"This board represents the caliber of leadership needed to achieve our ambitious tuition-free goals," said Dean Graciela Mochkofsky. "Their combined expertise in media, technology, public service, and innovative journalism perfectly aligns with our mission."

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian American professor Prateek Prasanna wins award for AI-driven medical image analysis

JULY 3, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Prateek Prasanna, an Indian American professor has received the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award for his project to harness eye gaze data as a key resource for guiding model learning.



Prateek Prasanna has received the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award for his project to harness eye gaze data as a key resource for guiding model learning.

Prasanna, an assistant professor from the Department of Biomedical Informatics at Stony Brook University, aims to integrate how radiologists and pathologists visually interpret medical images with artificial intelligence.

Titled "CAREER: Towards Gaze-guided Medical Image Analysis," the project will enhance the interpretability and diagnostic performance of machine learning systems in both radiology and digital pathology, according to a university release.

The award recognizes Prasanna's innovative approach to bridging human expertise and artificial intelligence in service of better healthcare outcomes.

"I'm thrilled to receive the NSF CAREER award to advance AI for medical image interpretation. This

support will help us build models that learn from the way expert clinicians see, think, and reason," said Prasanna. "By integrating how experts visually navigate complex medical images, particularly through their gaze patterns, we hope to improve both the accuracy and interpretability of AI-driven diagnostic tools."

"Our work not only advances the science of human-AI collaboration but also has the potential to transform training, decision-making, and patient care across a wide range of clinical applications," he said.

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news

Indian-origin young tech prodigy from Jalandhar honored at UK Parliament with global award

JUNE 30, 2025

LONDON / JALANDHAR (TIP): Indian-origin Meedhansh Kumar Gupta, a young tech prodigy from Jalandhar, has garnered global recognition at the prestigious Global Child Prodigy Awards (GCPA) 2025, held recently at the House of Commons, British Parliament, United Kingdom.



Meedhansh Kumar Gupta, a young tech prodigy from Jalandhar, has garnered global recognition at the prestigious Global Child Prodigy Awards (GCPA) 2025, held recently at the House of Commons, British Parliament, United Kingdom

when he developed a telemedicine portal. Since then, Meedhansh has become a multi-award-winning tech innovator, using his skills for social welfare. His achievements include national and world records, notably being recognized as the Youngest Website Developer in 2020.

Passionate about knowledge-sharing, Meedhansh has trained thousands of peers under the NGO Mission Aatmanirbhar. Demonstrating a relentless pursuit of learning, he completed 50 technology courses in just one week via LinkedIn Learning, a feat that earned him a world record.

In 2022, Meedhansh was awarded India's highest civilian honor for children, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



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Bat for Happier Childhoods!

Join CRY New Jersey Annual Cricket Tournament & help children lead brighter, happier lives. Enjoy refreshments and Bollywood performances at the event.

Venue: Johnson Park, Violet Drive, Piscataway, NJ

Date: Saturday, July 19, 2025
Time: 7AM – 7PM

Contact: haresh.lala@gmail.com | hisharad@hotmail.com
kumar_avay@yahoo.com

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Let's get on the pitch as one team with one dream
- a better future for our children!

CRYKET 2025 - CRICKET FOR A CAUSE

Individuals to play their part, giving Child Rights a sporting start

JULY 1, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): The spirit of the CRYket, CRY - Child Rights and You America's annual cricket tournament, is about creating awareness for the cause of child rights. This year, CRYket will unite more than 10 teams on the pitch at Johnson Park, Piscataway, NJ to help eliminate issues of child labor, malnutrition and discrimination against the girl child.

The CRY New Jersey CRYket event is being held on July 19th in Piscataway and promises to be a cricket event with a difference. Going far beyond conventional charitable events, it will bring together cricket lovers, pitching their skills and testing their abilities on the cricket pitch for the cause of CRY America and underprivileged children.

Shefali Sunderlal, President of CRY America, said, "CRY America believes in collective action where people pledge their strengths and work in partnership for a common cause. We work to involve the community through innovative platforms like CRYket to ensure that underprivileged children have a better childhood."

Arshia and Haresh Lala, the father and daughter duo who have been

organizing this successful event for the past few years, believe that "Every champion was once a beginner who refused to give up. Today, we play not just for victory, but for the dreams of every child who deserves a brighter tomorrow."

The proceeds raised through CRYket will go towards removing obstacles that lead to deprivation, thus ensuring children have their basic rights to live, learn, grow and play.

ABOUT CRY AMERICA:

CRY, Child Rights and You America Inc (CRY America) is a 501c3 non-profit driven by its vision of a just world in which all children have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential and realize their dreams. With the support of over 35,334 donors and 2,000 volunteers, CRY America has impacted the lives of 825,539 children living across 5,064 villages and slums through support to 111 Projects in India and the USA.

For more information: contact Renuka Ramachandran at 617-981-2826; visit <http://cryamerica.org> or write to renuka.ramachandran@cryamerica.org

NAVA Organizes Dinner- Dance and Awards Presentation Ceremony



JUNE 20, 2025

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): 18th annual Dinner Dance and Award Ceremony of New American Voters Association (NAVA) was held at Flushing Marina on June 19, 2025 and was organized by NAVA's Founder and President Dr. Dilip Nath. It was also a Juneteenth Celebration and was presented by "Joy of Dance". Honorees who have dedicated themselves to public service and community service were awarded. Several elected officers gave speeches at the occasion namely, Hon. Borough President Donovan Richards, NYC public Advocate Hon. Jumaane Williams, Manhattan



Dr Hari Shukla, Chairman of the New American Voter Association was presented with a Proclamation by United States Senator Hon. Charles Schumer

Borough President Hon. Mark Levine, Queens District Attorney Hon. Melinda Katz, NYS Senator Hon. John Liu, NYS Senator Hon. Leroy, Representative of Hon Senator



Dr. Hari Shukla and his wife are flanked by elected officials and NAVA organizers

Charles Schumer, Hon. Governor Kathy Hochul.

Dr Hari Shukla, Chairman of the New American Voter Association, was presented with a Proclamation by United States Senator Hon. Charles Schumer who stated that Dr Shukla is the Pioneer in the United States of

using Surfactant in the preterm infants. He also mentioned that Dr Shukla's formula for umbilical Catheter is used in 400 million children throughout the world . The event was attended by over two hundred members and supporters.

Bhagalpur's Celebrated Maldah Mangoes Reach New York in First-Ever Direct Shipment

Collaborative effort led by Upajguru, Government of Bihar, APEDA, and Bihar Foundation brings India's prized mango variety to the U.S.

JUNE 30, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): In a landmark moment for Indian agriculture and diaspora pride, the very first direct shipment of Maldah (popularly known as Langra) mangoes from Bhagalpur, Bihar has successfully arrived in New York City, USA. This historic initiative was made possible through the collaboration of Upajguru, an agri-supply chain innovator, the Government of Bihar, APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority), and the Bihar Foundation USA East Coast Chapter.

"It's a dream come true," said Mr. Ravi Soni, Founder of Upajguru. "Transporting a perishable fruit like Maldah mango across continents is no small feat. But with belief, technology, and community support, we made it happen. This isn't just about mangoes-it's about building bridges between farmers and global consumers."

A POWERFUL COLLABORATION

The successful arrival of these mangoes was the result of tireless coordination across institutions and borders:

- o Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar, and Shri Nitish Mishra, Hon'ble Industries Minister,



A Mango orchard

- o Shri Kundan Kumar, CEO of Bihar Foundation, for seamless coordination between Bihar and the diaspora.
- o APEDA, for ensuring compliance, certifications, and critical logistics that enabled international export.
- o Mr. Nimesh Rai, the dedicated farmer from Bharatam Vatika, whose orchard in Bhagalpur produced the mangoes with care and organic practices.
- o The U.S.-based support team of Abhishek Kumar, Lata Shree, and Bishwanath Sharma, who oversaw final delivery and local outreach.
- o Alok Kumar, Chairman of Bihar Foundation USA East Coast, whose



Upajguru tending the mango trees



A basket of Bhagalpur's celebrated Maldah Mangoes

vision and community mobilization were instrumental in bringing the project to life.

"This shipment was more than fruit crossing borders-it was emotion, culture, and identity wrapped in every box," said Alok Kumar. "After years of trying to get Bihar's mangoes to the U.S., it finally happened thanks to the determination and dedication of Upajguru and every hand that helped."

COMMUNITY SUPPORT WAS THE KEY

This effort succeeded because the Indian-American community-especially Biharis-stood behind it. Hundreds pre-ordered mangoes, supported logistics, and promoted the initiative across states. Even with increased

transportation costs and the risks of spoilage, the community's trust and enthusiasm helped make this trial a success.

WHAT'S NEXT

While this was a pilot run, its success has paved the way for future scale. Plans are underway to increase volume and improve the cold-chain infrastructure for the 2026 season.

A SALUTE TO THE FARMERS

Above all, deep gratitude goes to the farmers of Bihar-especially Mr. Nimesh Rai of Bharatam Vatika-whose devotion to the land and to their mango trees made this export possible. Their quiet dedication is now being tasted and celebrated halfway across the world.



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6 things you probably didn't know were in Trump's mega-bill



By Natasha Sarin

Eliminating tax on silencers. Taxing remittances. A garden of heroes. Congress could have done better.

"THE BILL'S TOPLINES ARE UNDERSTANDABLY SEIZING MUCH ATTENTION. IT WILL REMAKE THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET, POTENTIALLY TAKING AWAY FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM 5 MILLION OF THE NEEDIEST AMERICANS AND KICKING AT LEAST 17 MILLION PEOPLE OFF OF THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE - RESULTING IN PREMATURE DEATHS FOR AT LEAST 100,000 OF THEM, ACCORDING TO ESTIMATES. IT WILL INCREASE THE NATIONAL DEBT BY MORE THAN \$3 TRILLION OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS, RAISING THE COST OF BORROWING FOR THE GOVERNMENT - AND U.S. HOUSEHOLDS, WHICH WILL PAY THOUSANDS MORE EACH YEAR IN INTEREST ON THEIR MORTGAGES."

President Donald Trump's tax and spending bill moved through Congress so quickly that members who voted for the legislation have registered surprise about what it contains. Because the Senate-approved bill that the House passed on Thursday is 887 pages long, it's easy to see why it's hard to track all that is in there.

The bill's topline are understandably seizing much attention.

It will remake the social safety net, potentially taking away food assistance from 5 million of the neediest Americans and kicking at least 17 million people off of their health insurance - resulting in premature deaths for at least 100,000 of them, according to estimates. It will increase the national debt by more than \$3 trillion over the next 10 years, raising the cost of borrowing for the government - and U.S. households, which will pay thousands more each year in interest on their mortgages.

BUT BURIED IN THOSE 887 PAGES ARE CHANGES THAT YOU LIKELY HAVEN'T HEARD AS MUCH ABOUT. HERE ARE SOME THAT STUCK OUT TO ME:



House Speaker Mike Johnson in D.C. on Wednesday, July 2. Photo credit: J. Scott Applewhite/AP

1. Some guns and silencers will be cheaper: The bill eliminates the tax on gun silencers and certain types of rifles and shotguns, weakening the National Firearms Act that was passed a century ago. That means silencers, which have been deployed in recent mass shootings, will be less expensive. In a country that ranks No. 1 by a significant margin for gun violence, it is hard to see why making silencers more accessible is good policy.
2. States whose food stamp programs are less accurate will be rewarded: Republicans plan to cut \$186 billion over the next decade in federal funding for food stamps. The professed logic was to shift funding to states that administer these programs to ensure they have "skin in the game" and will do so carefully. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) ultimately agreed to vote for the bill but only if her state was exempted from the skin. So, lawmakers delayed federal cuts for states such as Alaska that had previously registered high rates of erroneous payments. It is incomprehensible why the states with the most error-ridden food stamp programs should see the lowest funding cuts.
3. Student borrowers who have been defrauded are more vulnerable: The bill delays regulations aimed at helping students who borrowed to fund an education they ultimately did not receive because their school misled them or closed while they were enrolled. (The regulations had been on hold because of ongoing litigation.) The basic idea behind these provisions was that some students take out high-cost loans because schools advertise certain benefits of their programs, such as likely job prospects. These regulations would protect borrowers who
4. (Some) remittances will be taxed: Often immigrants in the United States send money home to their families. In 2022, more than \$20 billion was sent from the U.S. to India alone. These funds are most important to poorer countries such as Lebanon and Nicaragua, where they total about 30 percent of gross domestic product. The Senate-passed bill aims to discourage remittances by taxing them. But it exempts certain types of payments: for example, those made through banks (which lobbied aggressively against the proposal) and those made with digital assets. The purported rationale for the remittance tax is to encourage self-deportation by making it more costly to ship money abroad. It is problematic in the complexity it introduces to the tax code because the applicability of the tax is dependent on how money is sent abroad. The bill gives certain financial intermediaries, such as banks, advantages over others.
5. The tax code got less fair: Tax experts believe in "horizontal equity" in the code - or the idea that taxpayers with similar resources should face similar tax burdens. This bill delivers horizontal inequity. It includes new tax breaks for tipped and overtime workers, seniors and people who borrow to buy cars that result in similarly situated people of different ages or in different industries facing dramatically different tax rates. This is bad

policy because people will spend energy on tax avoidance to earn income in the most tax-advantaged way.

6. We're building that garden of heroes: As one of Trump's final acts before leaving office in his first term, he affirmed his commitment to building a statue garden of American heroes - ranging from George Washington to Julia Child to Kobe Bryant - by July 2026. Upon returning to office, he picked those plans up, calling for the construction of the garden "as expeditiously as possible." The Senate bill moves the garden closer to reality by allocating \$40 million for its construction.

There's a lot more in these 887 pages. We are planning on going to Mars, ending unemployment benefits for millionaires and starting new - and highly complex - Trump-branded savings accounts for children born in the next few years.

What are perhaps even more revelatory than the legislative text are the testimonies we've seen from the lawmakers who drafted it. Sen. Jim Justice (R-West Virginia) voted for it but said "I wish to goodness" the Medicaid cuts that will hit low-income families had been excised. Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Missouri), also a yes, said he would plan to spend the coming years trying to pass legislation to reverse those cuts. Murkowski, who was the deciding vote in the Senate, voted for it even though she thinks it is "not good enough."

It is hard to disagree. The House-passed bill spends more than \$3 trillion to make the tax code more complex and vulnerable Americans less healthy. Instead of curbing fraud, the legislation encourages it. In every regard, it is a mistake: It grows deficits but shrinks the economy, makes gun silencers more available but healthy food less so. What is so baffling is that Congress had months to land on a better bill before the expiration of the Trump tax provisions that has pushed this debate to the fore. Lawmakers should have taken the time they needed to craft legislation they could have read, debated and, ultimately, taken pride in - not a bill they voted for begrudgingly while trying to disown.

(Natasha Sarin, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a professor of law at Yale Law School with a secondary appointment at the Yale School of Management in the Finance Department. Previously, she served as deputy assistant secretary for economic policy and later as a counselor to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. Follow on XNatashaRSarin)

Can the Democratic Nominee Deliver? New Yorkers Ask for Realism, Not Rhetoric

Mamdani's promises speak to a deep hunger for change. But unless he and his campaign begin to share detailed, actionable, and financially viable plans, these promises risk becoming yet another chapter in New York's long book of political disillusionment.



By Prof. Indrajit S Saluja

In a city as iconic and vibrant as New York, promises from political candidates are often met with both enthusiasm and skepticism. The Democratic mayoral nominee, Zohran Mamdani, has captured the imagination of many with a progressive platform that promises to transform New York City into a more affordable, equitable, and livable space for all. His ambitious agenda includes raising the minimum wage to \$30 per hour, providing free bus rides citywide, ensuring juice for children in public schools, and launching sweeping infrastructure and cleanliness reforms. These pledges have excited many working-class residents, youth groups, and progressive voters who are weary of rising rents, stagnating wages, and decaying public services.

But amid the applause lies a pressing question: can these promises actually be fulfilled? With the city grappling with chronic fiscal constraints, rising crime, decaying infrastructure, and persistent urban blight, New Yorkers are right to demand clarity and realism. Can Mamdani's vision be more than campaign rhetoric? Or are these bold declarations just the sweet music of electoral populism?

THE \$30 MINIMUM WAGE: ECONOMICS OR ELECTION SLOGAN?

One of Mamdani's most headline-grabbing promises is his commitment to raise the minimum wage in New York City to \$30 per hour—nearly double the current minimum wage of \$16/hour, which was implemented in 2024 under a state mandate. At first glance, this sounds like a dream for low-wage workers, especially those in retail, hospitality, and the gig economy, who have long struggled to meet the city's ever-increasing cost of living.

But the economic implications are profound. According to the New York State Department of Labor, there are approximately 3.8 million workers in the city, of which about 1.2 million earn less than \$30/hour. To elevate all of them to the proposed wage would require massive adjustments from private employers—many of whom are still recovering from the post-pandemic economic disruptions and inflation shocks. Small businesses, in particular, could be crushed under such a wage mandate, leading to layoffs, business closures, or relocation to other states.

More importantly, wages are not solely determined by political will; they are tightly bound to productivity, profit margins, and market dynamics. Without significant subsidies or tax relief to offset these costs, this promise, while noble, could backfire on the very workers it aims to uplift.

FREE BUS RIDES: A TRANSIT DREAM THAT NEEDS A BUDGET

Another key promise is free bus service across New York City, an initiative aimed at promoting equity in transit access, reducing car dependency, and alleviating



the burden on working-class commuters. New York City Transit runs approximately 5,700 buses serving more than 300 routes, carrying over 2 million passengers per weekday.

Currently, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) faces a budget shortfall of nearly \$2.5 billion over the next few years, despite receiving federal aid during the pandemic. Free bus service would add hundreds of millions in lost fare revenue annually—estimated at \$800 million according to MTA's latest financial reports.

If the city or state does not provide a dedicated funding stream—such as new congestion pricing tolls, higher taxes on the wealthy, or increased federal grants—such a plan is unlikely to be sustainable. As appealing as "free buses" sound, transportation experts warn that without adequate funding, the quality of service—frequency, maintenance, driver salaries—could collapse.

JUICE FOR SCHOOLKIDS AND OTHER POPULIST PROMISES

Mamdani's pledge to provide free juice for children in public schools may seem trivial in scale compared to wage hikes and transit reform, but it symbolizes a broader political messaging style—populist, emotive, and symbolic. While such a program might cost just a few million dollars annually, it raises a broader concern: how many similar small-ticket promises are being made without clarity on funding or execution?

New York City's public school system serves approximately 920,000 students. Even a basic nutrition expansion program, including juice or snack supplementation, requires coordination with food vendors, health compliance, logistics, and recurring budgeting—none of which are currently detailed in Mamdani's policy outline.

LAW AND ORDER: A CRISIS IGNORED?

While the nominee's focus has been on affordability and social equity, many residents point to a rapidly deteriorating

law-and-order situation as the most pressing issue in the city today. NYPD staffing has been cut drastically in recent years—from 36,000 uniformed officers in 2020 to about 32,500 in 2025—partly due to budget cuts and partly in response to calls for police reform following mass protests.

Yet the reality is sobering. According to NYPD crime statistics, felony assaults rose by 11% in 2024 compared to the previous year, and property crimes increased by 9%, including widespread retail thefts and subway violence. Public confidence in safety, especially among elderly residents, women, and small business owners, has sharply declined.

If the city is to be made truly "affordable," it must first be safe. No amount of free bus rides or wage raises will be meaningful if New Yorkers feel unsafe on the streets or in the subways. Mamdani's campaign has so far not outlined a clear public safety strategy—raising fears that crime will worsen under an administration focused more on slogans than security.

A CRUMBLING CITYSCAPE: POTHOLES, TRASH, AND CONCRETE

Beyond wages and law enforcement, the very physical state of New York City is a daily frustration for its 8.3 million residents. Roads are cracked and riddled with potholes. Public housing units are in disrepair. Litter clogs sidewalks. According to NYC's Department of Sanitation, the volume of trash complaints has increased by 18% since 2023. The problem worsens in outer boroughs like the Bronx and Queens, where waste collection has been deprioritized.

Meanwhile, green cover remains poor: Beyond Central Park and a handful of city-maintained green belts, most neighborhoods look like concrete jungles. Tree canopy coverage, according to the NYC Parks Department, has fallen to 21%, down from the city's goal of 30% by 2025. Residents in low-income neighborhoods face higher heat indexes due to this lack of greenery, exacerbating climate inequality.

While Mamdani promises to "revitalize" the city, few specifics have been shared. What's the budget for green renewal? How will sanitation be improved in areas with underfunded services? Where will the investment in roads, bike lanes, and pedestrian infrastructure come from?

FISCAL REALITIES: WHERE WILL THE MONEY COME FROM?

Perhaps the biggest elephant in the room is this: how will all of this be paid for? The city's 2025 operating budget stands at \$112 billion, and it is already stretched thin across schools, police, sanitation, housing, and healthcare. The city also faces a looming pension burden and debt repayments nearing \$6 billion annually.

Mamdani has vaguely gestured toward taxing the rich, ending corporate subsidies, and redirecting funds from NYPD to social programs. But these are not new ideas—and they've already been met with stiff political and legal resistance in Albany and beyond. Moreover, wealth taxes are largely state-level powers and cannot be unilaterally imposed by the city government.

There is also the question of private capital flight. Over the past five years, over 350 financial firms have either downsized or relocated from New York, citing high taxes and crime. If the tax burden grows heavier, the trend could accelerate, further eroding the city's tax base.

NEW YORKERS DEMAND REAL PLANS, NOT JUST POETIC PROMISES

To be clear, Mamdani's campaign is inspiring for many, especially those disillusioned by decades of establishment politics. His message resonates with younger voters, communities of color, and workers exhausted by rising rent, stagnant wages, and urban decay. But inspiration is not a substitute for implementation.

New Yorkers are asking: where is the blueprint? Where is the spreadsheet that matches spending with revenue? Where is the timeline? Where is the team that will ensure these ideas are realized in a city as complex and politically fragmented as New York?

City governance is not a Broadway production. It demands not just slogans, but spreadsheets; not just rhetoric, but roadmaps. New York City is at a critical juncture. It is both a symbol of global aspiration and a city burdened with deeply entrenched problems. The next mayor—whatever he or she may be—must lead with both vision and realism.

Mamdani's promises speak to a deep hunger for change. But unless he and his campaign begin to share detailed, actionable, and financially viable plans, these promises risk becoming yet another chapter in New York's long book of political disillusionment.

As one lifelong resident put it: "Give us fewer dreams. Give us more answers."

(Author is the chief editor of The Indian Panorama. He can be reached at salujindra@gmail.com)

Socialism and Secularism are the Spirit of the Constitution



By M.A. Baby

The call to erase 'socialism' and 'secularism' from the Constitution is a calculated move to have an oppressive majoritarian state

India's Constitution is not merely a legal document. It is the embodiment of the ideals and the aspirations of a nation that was forged in the crucible of an anti-colonial struggle. Among its most fundamental principles are socialism and secularism, values that are not confined to the Preamble alone but which are woven throughout its text, reflected in the Directive Principles of State Policy, in the Fundamental Rights, and in its very structure. Recent calls by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leadership to remove the words socialism and secularism from the Preamble are not just an attack on semantics but is also a direct assault on the foundational vision of the Indian republic itself.

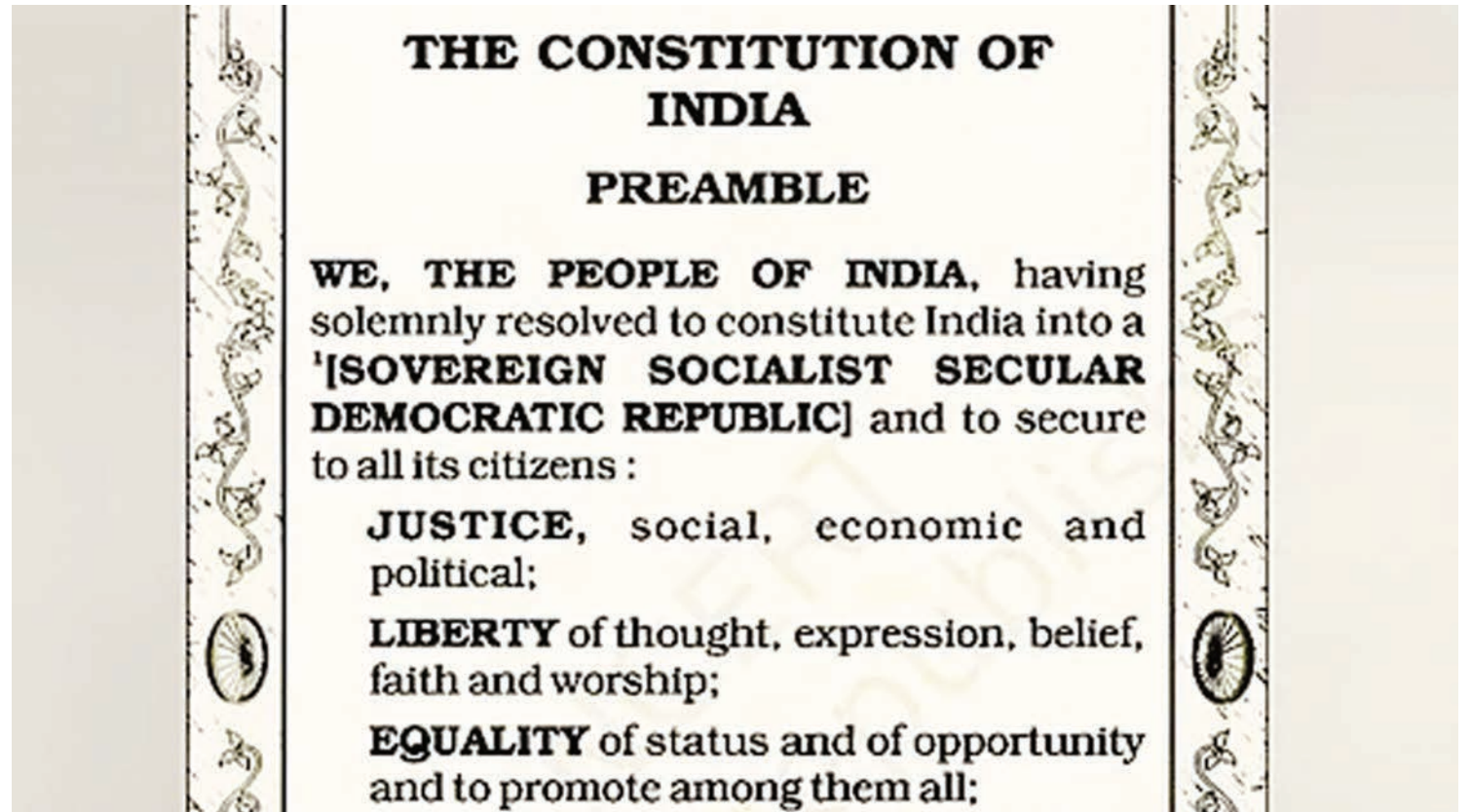
The RSS General Secretary made this call recently under the garb of criticizing the Emergency, which happened 50 years ago, as the words socialism and secularism were added in the Preamble under the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976 during the Emergency. It is a deceitful move by the RSS to invoke the Emergency in order to discredit these principles, especially when it colluded with the Indira Gandhi government during that time for its own survival. To use that event in history to now undermine the Constitution reflects the RSS's hypocrisy and opportunism.

REFLECTED IN THE PREAMBLE AND BEYOND

Socialism, in the Indian Constitution, is a commitment to social and economic justice, the eradication of inequality, and the creation of a welfare state. The Preamble promises "Justice, social, economic and political" to all citizens, and seeks "Equality of status and of opportunity". It underlines the fact that even before the 42nd Amendment, the spirit of socialism was always present in our Constitution.

There were significant efforts in the Indian Constitution to increase the freedoms of citizens and to reduce the inequalities prevalent in society. The Fundamental Rights were major steps in that direction. Article 14 guarantees equality before law. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. Article 16 ensures equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. These rights, read together with the Preamble and Directive Principles, enshrine a vision of a society free from exploitation, where the dignity of every individual is upheld.

The Directive Principles of State Policy have the clearest articulation of the socialist vision, in the Indian Constitution. Articles 38 and 39 clearly lay it out, and is further explained in Articles 41, 42 and 43. These provisions



'Any attempt to destroy the idea of India must be resisted'

are not just aspirational; they have guided landmark legislation and judicial interpretation in India.

Secularism in the Indian Constitution is not mere religious neutrality but the positive assurance that the state will treat all religions equally, protect the rights of minorities, and ensure that no citizen suffers discrimination on the basis of faith. The original text of the Preamble, even before the addition of the word secular in 1976, had already promised "Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship" and "Fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual...".

Under Fundamental Rights, Articles 25 to 28 provide the Right to Freedom of Religion and further underscore the secular nature of the Indian Republic. Articles 29 and 30, on Cultural and Educational Rights, too reiterate this. These articles ensure that the state neither identifies with nor privileges any religion, and that every citizen, regardless of faith, enjoys equal rights and protections. Even the Supreme Court of India has repeatedly affirmed that secularism is part of the Constitution's 'basic structure'.

The Basic Structure Doctrine was introduced in 1973 in the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in Kesavananda Bharati. It holds that while Parliament can amend the Constitution, it cannot alter its fundamental structure, i.e., the basic structure of the Constitution is inviolable. As mentioned earlier, the 42nd Amendment which introduced the words socialism and secularism in the Preamble of the Constitution was enacted in 1976, three years after this

historic verdict. Yet, the additions could be made precisely because they did not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.

INSEPARABLE FROM THE CONSTITUTION'S FABRIC

It is a fallacy to claim that socialism and secularism in the Preamble of the Constitution are mere 'additions' or 'impositions' from the 1970s. The Objective Resolution of the Constituent Assembly, the Constituent Assembly debates themselves and the lived experience of India's glorious anti-colonial freedom struggle all testify that these values were central to the vision of the Republic's founders.

DEBATES SHOW WHY PREAMBLE'S ORIGINAL TEXT LEFT OUT THE TWO WORDS

The Constitution's commitment to social and economic justice, equality, and fraternity is inherently socialist. Its guarantee of religious liberty, non-discrimination and minority rights is inherently secular. Even if the words socialist and secular (the word secular was there in Article 25(2)(a) even before the 42nd Amendment) were to be removed from the Preamble, the Constitution's core philosophy, structure and provisions would remain unchanged in their essence.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's final speech to the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, offers profound insights that reinforce the argument that the notion of equality (which forms the foundation of the ideas of socialism and secularism) is embedded in the Constitution's spirit and structure. B.R. Ambedkar's words

remain a guiding light against any attempt to dilute these foundational values.

THE REAL AGENDA HAS BEEN EXPOSED

The RSS's demand to remove socialism and secularism from the Preamble of the Constitution is a calculated move to undermine the very foundations of the Indian Republic. It exposes its long-standing agenda to replace the Constitution with a veiled Manusmriti, subvert the secular democratic republic of India, and create a theocratic Hindu Rashtra. The attempt to erase socialism and secularism from the Preamble is an attempt to rewrite history, to delegitimize the legacy of India's anti-colonial freedom struggle, and to pave the way for an oppressive majoritarian state.

The Constitution of India is a living document that is designed to secure justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity for all. Socialism and secularism are the pillars on which the edifice of the Indian Republic stands. To attack them is to attack the very soul of India's democracy. All those who cherish the values of the freedom struggle - a struggle that the RSS was not part of - must stand united in defense of the lofty values of the Constitution, and resist any attempt to destroy the idea of India.

(M.A. Baby is the general secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist))



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Stage II	\$22

Unveiling of Mahatma Gandhi Bust at the Embassy of India by Hon'ble Vice President of Guatemala



Hon'ble Vice President H.E. Dr. Karin Herrera and Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra jointly unveil the bust of Mahatma Gandhi



Hon'ble Vice President H.E. Dr. Karin Herrera delivers her remarks during the unveiling ceremony, highlighting Mahatma Gandhi's timeless legacy and the strong bonds between India and Guatemala



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra addresses the gathering, emphasizing Mahatma Gandhi's enduring relevance and the shared values of peace and non-violence that strengthen India-Guatemala relations.

JUNE 25, 2025

GUATEMALA (TIP): In a landmark event symbolizing the enduring values of peace, non-violence, and India-Guatemala friendship, the Hon'ble Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala, Dr. Karin Herrera, and the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, H.E. Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, jointly unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Embassy premises today. The solemn and graceful ceremony was attended by around 200 distinguished guests, including Ambassadors and diplomats, senior government officials, dignitaries from various institutions, members of the Indian diaspora, and friends of India.

The programme commenced with the national anthems of India and Guatemala, followed by the formal unveiling of the bust. Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra

welcomed the guests and highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's timeless relevance in today's world, emphasizing that Gandhi's ideals continue to resonate globally and inspire movements for justice, peace, and human dignity. In her remarks, Vice President Dr. Karin Herrera expressed admiration for Mahatma Gandhi's life and legacy, underlining his influence on world leaders and his message of non-violence as particularly relevant to today's interconnected yet divided world. The cultural segment of the programme featured soulful renditions of songs dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and performances by local artists and members of the Indian community, creating a deeply reflective and festive atmosphere. The event concluded with light refreshments and interaction among attendees.

This bust is one of four recently received from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi, as part of India's continued effort to promote the universal values embodied by Mahatma Gandhi. The other three busts were handed over to the Association of Don Bosco to be installed at their institutions across the Alta Verapaz region. With the addition of these four, Guatemala now hosts seven busts of Mahatma Gandhi in various prominent locations. The first Gandhi bust in Guatemala was installed in Tecpan. The second bust at the prestigious premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was jointly unveiled by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, and the Guatemalan Foreign Minister in January 2023. The third was installed at the Municipality of Livingston and unveiled in December 2023 by Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra and Hon'ble Mayor Mr. Daniel Esaú Pinto Peña to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala. One the three busts handed over to Association of Don Bosco was unveiled on 23 June 2025 in Raxruha. Other two will be unveiled shortly.

The unveiling of this seventh Gandhi bust at the chancery premises today holds special significance. Positioned at the heart of India's diplomatic presence in Guatemala, this installation stands as a permanent reminder of India's moral and spiritual contribution to the world and serves as a source of inspiration for all visitors. Globally, busts and statues of Mahatma Gandhi have been placed in over 100 countries, including in front of parliaments, universities, and city squares. Each of these installations reinforces India's commitment to the values of peace, non-violence, dialogue, and democratic coexistence. The presence of Gandhi's likeness at the Indian Embassy in Guatemala is not only a tribute to the Mahatma's philosophy but also a symbol of the deepening bilateral partnership between India and Guatemala.

The event concluded with renewed commitment from both nations to uphold Gandhian values in international cooperation, people-to-people ties, and efforts to build a more peaceful and sustainable world.



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Farewell Letter from the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras as he says Gracias A Dios



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in his office
Photo : The Indian Panorama

Dear Friends and Esteemed Partners,

As I come to the conclusion of my tenure as the Ambassador of India to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, I write this letter with a deep sense of gratitude, affection, and fulfillment. Serving in this beautiful and dynamic region of Central America over the past three years has been both a professional privilege and a personal honor.

To come straight, as I am, this posting has been a blessing in disguise for me. After serving as India's Head of Commerce Wing in Washington D.C., transitioning to work in the so-called "backyard" of the United States was not particularly difficult from a diplomatic standpoint. However, the cultural and commercial gaps between our worlds were stark and deeply revealing. Despite being in the same hemisphere as the U.S., the geopolitical landscape in Central America is vastly different—more community-driven, shaped by historical challenges and aspirations for inclusion, development, and dignity. Yet, far from being a limitation, this contrast opened my eyes to the immense untapped potential that exists in Central America.

What truly struck me was the infectious enthusiasm of the governments in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras - eager to build meaningful partnerships with India across sectors. Business stakeholders, many operating in challenging environments, consistently demonstrated a willingness to explore new opportunities, embrace innovation, and engage constructively with Indian counterparts. Perhaps even more inspiring was the genuine curiosity and warmth shown by the local public toward India - its culture, traditions, technology, and global outlook. Whether in remote municipalities or bustling capital cities, I was often met with heartfelt interest in knowing more about India, and how we could work together for mutual benefit. The region's natural beauty, rich heritage, and resilient spirit left a lasting impression on me. But beyond that, what impressed me most was the sincere desire for progress, reform, and transformation that I encountered at every level. It was this blend of aspiration and authenticity that made my tenure here not only meaningful but truly memorable.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in discussions with H.E. Mr. Bernardo Arévalo, President of the Republic of Guatemala

This genuine regional aspiration for progress, reform, and transformation motivated me to actively support the entry of Indian companies and financial institutions into Central America, paving the way for key infrastructure and development initiatives. These collaborative efforts led to significant investments by Indian enterprises such as Pakka Inc. and Pearl Global, among others. During my tenure, I had the privilege of witnessing the steady expansion of leading Indian BPO companies like 24x7.ai, HCL, and TCS, which now collectively provide employment to over 10,000 Guatemalans. These companies have emerged as trailblazers, laying a strong foundation for future Indian ventures in the region, especially in the rapidly growing data center ecosystem.

The automobile sector also saw remarkable growth, particularly with the introduction of Indian-manufactured tuk-tuks, which have become a familiar sight across many Guatemalan towns and villages, an encouraging testament to the rising demand for Indian vehicles. Similarly, Indian pharmaceutical firms such as Krisper, Lukah Medicos, and Caplin Point have established a trusted presence in the local market. Their quality and affordability have made Indian generics a household name across the region, reinforcing India's reputation as the "Pharmacy of the World." The remarkable growth in trade relations between India and Guatemala, from around USD 300 million in 2021 to USD 662 million in 2023-24, was the result of sustained and targeted efforts to identify synergies, expand market access, and build mutual confidence among business stakeholders.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra with H.E. Mr. Nayib Bukele, President of El Salvador

Efforts to promote India's growing infrastructural development in the region encouraged Governments of El Salvador, Honduras and several local municipalities in Guatemala to provide their citizens with similar facilities. Signing of MoU for a landmark USD 1.2 billion urban infrastructure project with Xela, USD 10 billion dry canal projects across Guatemala, metro project in El Salvador, supply of buses in the region, several solar projects, waste to management project, cable car projects were initiated first time in the region.

India has made parallel strides in deepening its bilateral relations with El Salvador and Honduras, emphasizing innovation, digital connectivity, and capacity building. In El Salvador, India is supporting pilot projects in cybersecurity and disaster preparedness, including the introduction of an Early Warning System and Cell Broadcasting technology developed by C-DOT. Meanwhile, India is extending technical and commercial support for the deployment of 5G networks in both El Salvador and Honduras, tailored to each country's needs. These strategic engagements are reinforced through development cooperation under Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), demonstrating India's sustained commitment to the long-term resilience, growth, and digital transformation of its Central American partners.

Through the SICA-India framework, India is

enhancing regional disaster resilience with the deployment of Early Warning Systems. In partnership with UNDP, the Open Learning Exchange initiative is expected to transform education access for over one million learners in Guatemala. Humanitarian efforts included the donation of 650 tailor-made prosthetic limbs to Guatemalan beneficiaries under the Jaipur Foot initiative.

Although my primary expertise has always been in the commercial domain, I have been truly fortunate to experience the rich cultural heritage and historical depth of this region. The overwhelming public enthusiasm for International Day of Yoga celebrations each year is a powerful reflection of the growing admiration for India among the people. What began as a modest gathering of 200-400 participants in 2021 has remarkably grown into a massive celebration, with over 10,000 participants joining us at a single venue in San Pedro Carchá—setting a historic milestone as the largest-ever IDY gathering outside India. It is heartening to see how India, once relatively unfamiliar to many in the region, is now embraced with warmth and curiosity. Today, Indian festivals like Holi and Diwali are celebrated with great enthusiasm and large public participation, becoming part of the local cultural calendar. I will forever remain grateful for the love, respect, and genuine affection extended to me and to India by the wonderful people of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra with H.E. Ms. Xiomara Castro, President of Honduras

I remain especially grateful for the warm friendship extended to me by the governments, local authorities, business communities, academic institutions, and the Indian diaspora. The hospitality I received in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras was truly exceptional and will always remain etched in my memory. I have had the opportunity to travel to some of the remotest corners of the region—each time discovering something new about the spirit and resilience of its people.

As I bid farewell, I carry with me not only the memories of landscapes and institutions but, more importantly, of the wonderful people who enriched my experience here. I am confident that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Central America will continue to grow stronger in the years ahead.

Please accept my sincere thanks for the unwavering support extended to me and the Embassy team. I leave with a heart full of gratitude and the hope that our paths may cross again. With warm regards and best wishes for your continued success and prosperity,

Adanis, Indigo rule Indian aviation as government agencies are getting elbowed out



--->By Prabhjot Singh

A lot has been said and written about air disasters in general, and the recent crash of AI 171, a flight from Ahmedabad to Gatwick (London), in particular. The flight was carrying 169 Indians, 53 Britons and seven Portuguese nationals in addition to a lone Canadian (a woman dentist).

The plane, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, crashed just minutes after taking off from Ahmedabad International Airport.

Going by the Aviation Safety Network database, it was the first crash of a Boeing 787 aircraft. It is not only Air India, the national flag carrier of India, that has Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners in its fleet; Air Canada has eight Boeing 787-8 aircraft in its fleet and 32 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners. Another Canadian carrier, WestJet, has seven Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners in its fleet.

Incidentally, the ill-fated Air India Dreamliner took off from Ahmedabad, one of the eight Indian airports maintained by Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL). Of late, the Indian aviation industry has quickly moved from the public sector to the public-private sector mode. These are not only the airports, but also the airlines that have witnessed a change in management and control. Air India was taken over by the Tata Group in 2022.

Though the civil aviation sector has witnessed phenomenal growth in India, issues related to safety have at times been compromised.

But has the growth of the aviation industry been supplemented by the trained staff, including pilots, cabin crew and ground staff? Both Indigo and Air India have been announcing their ambitious plans to expand their fleet. But are they getting a sufficient number of trained and experienced pilots to operate the new, sophisticated and technologically advanced aircraft?

The issue was highlighted in one of my latest blogs, reproduced below:

"Who is killing civilian pilots?"

The death of a promising Air India pilot earlier this month (April) has set in motion an animated debate about the health and well-being of pilots employed by national and international airlines. Did Captain Arman Singh Chaudhary have his promising career cut short due to the non-implementation of Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL)?

Captain Arman Singh Chaudhary, an Air India Express pilot, reportedly died of a cardiac arrest shortly after landing a Srinagar - Delhi flight earlier this month.

His death was not an isolated incident of its kind. There had been instances when pilots had died in distress while on duty. In August 2023, an IndiGo pilot, Manoj Balasubramanian, fell unconscious while on duty at Nagpur airport and passed away soon after. "He took ill at Nagpur airport and was rushed to the hospital where he unfortunately passed away," IndiGo Airlines had said in a statement on August 17, 2023.

A substantial percentage of air disasters are blamed on "human factors"



Air India Express 1344 after crash

Photo credit: Prince Shanavas Khan

or human failures. "Fatigue" or "overload" on pilots who fly more than the stipulations is equally important causes of air accidents.

"Fatigue" or long hours at the wheel used to be the major factor for devastating accidents on roads, as poorly paid truck and bus drivers would doze off while at the wheel, leading to huge losses of human lives. Now, the same "fatigue" factor has come to worry the aviation sector.

The deaths of pilots have been sending alarming signs for a long time. Intriguingly, little or no serious attention is paid to such "unnatural deaths" of an extremely scarce trained manpower. The question being asked in aviation circles is: How many pilots have lost their lives due to the non-implementation of FDTL rules as per standards of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)?

Pilot FDTL Rules are designed in favor of corporate airlines so that they can make more money at the expense of pilots. Since the issue has been a subject of judicial adjudication, there is a court direction that the new FDTL rules be implemented in a phased manner from July 1. The airlines, as the reports indicate, are reluctant to implement these directions as they would be forced to employ more and more pilots.

Trained and experienced individuals are an asset for any airline. Though they are highly paid but they always carry a huge responsibility on their shoulders by flying hundreds of passengers across different destinations day in and day out.

Pilots are assets as they are heavily paid. If civil aviation is considered one of the safest modes of travel or communication, it is because of the competence of pilots.

Under the present rules, a commercial pilot is not supposed to travel more than 35 hours a week. But revenue crazy airlines are expanding their operations by flouting the FDTL regulations with

impunity.

The Pilots' associations have been seeking the intervention of the courts. The corporate houses, as major airlines in India are, just want profits and profits. Their appetite for more and more revenue is not getting satiated.

While airlines want their cake to grow bigger, pilots are getting rubbed on the wrong side. Prima facie, fatigue is killing pilots as they are overworked.

Though the Director-General of Civil Aviation has ordered an investigation into the circumstances leading to the death of a young and bright pilot, Capt. Arman Singh Chaudhary. According to reports, he wanted to report on the fateful flight. But his plea was turned down, and he was made to fly. All these things are expected to come out when the Inquiry Committee set up by the Director-General of Civil Aviation comes out with its report in its stipulated six months.

The aviation industry has its issues and problems. While the managements want more and more revenue, the deserved attention to the well-being and health of the crew and other stakeholders is compromised. This is supported by a statement made at a FAA symposium in 2016.

"It has been estimated that 4-7% of civil aviation incidents and accidents can be attributed to fatigued pilots. "In the last 16 years, fatigue has been associated with 250 fatalities in air carrier accidents." Robert Sumwalt, NTSB vice chairman, said at an FAA symposium in July 2016.

The ball is now in the court of the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation as well as its front agency, the Director-General of Civil Aviation.

Fingers have also been raised at the growing control of the private sector not only for the operation, management and development of airports but also on sensitive issues like security and safety of air travel. Some big players already have their own security teams in

operational mode at important airports that are generally under the operational, management and maintenance control of private players. The role of the state agencies, including paramilitary forces, has been marginalized.

Introduction of multiple layers of security has also been reportedly responsible for the growing incidence of "conflict of interest" between private agencies and the state paramilitary agencies. While the personnel of the State paramilitary forces are deployed at airports with proper training, the same cannot be said of the private agencies engaged by the private players given the mandate to operate, maintain and manage important airports.

Going by its website, the Adani Group (AAHL) claims that it made its maiden venture into the airports sector by emerging as the highest bidder for the operation, management, and development of six airports: Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangalore, Jaipur, Guwahati, and Thiruvananthapuram. It signed concession agreements with the Airports Authority of India for all six airports.

AAHL also holds a 73% stake in Mumbai International Airport Ltd, which in turn holds a 74% stake in Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd. With eight airports in its management and development portfolio, AAHL is India's largest airport infrastructure company, accounting for 25% of passenger footfalls and 33% of India's air cargo traffic.

"The Adani Group is committed to offering best-in-class airport infrastructure to passengers, ensuring a seamless and secure airport experience. Through Adani Airports, it envisions redefining the city-airport relationship by building shared facilities that cater to the ever-evolving global travel, lifestyle, and work requirements," claims the website.

Other than airports, the most important component of the aviation sector is the airlines. The government-run or public sector airlines no longer hold sway. At present, the biggest player is Indigo as it has become one of the fastest-growing low-cost carriers in the world and the largest airline in India. Its success has been attributed to its unique business model, which reduces costs. According to Wikipedia, it operates a single type of aircraft, the Airbus A320 family, in a similar seating configuration, which simplifies crew training and maintenance. The airline strikes bulk deals with Airbus, reducing unit costs. The airline targets a quick, 20-minute turnaround time to prepare the aircraft for the next flight, ensuring planes fly about 12 hours per day. Employees share multiple roles, with a check-in staff doubling as baggage handlers.

(Prabhjot Singh is a senior journalist who writes with equal aplomb on sports and politics. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Read full story at
www.theindianpanorama.news

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How Trump's 'Big Beautiful Bill' affects Indians: From sending money to making investments

NEW DELHI (TIP)

After the US Congress cleared President Donald Trump's massive legislation about government spending, focus is now on its impact not only in the US but on the world. For India, one of the most visible and direct impacts will be on remittances, that is, the money sent to or invested in India by NRIs. Migration is also in focus.

Since the 900-page details of what Trump has named 'One Big Beautiful Bill' are now in, let's break down the immediate impact on Indians.

Charges on sending money home

The originally proposed 5 per cent tax on remittances sent from US to foreign countries was slashed to just 1 per cent in the final draft, which has now passed. There are about 4.5 million or 45 lakh Indian citizens or persons of Indian origin in the US, many of them big earners for families back in India.

"US bank and card-based remittances remain exempt, but NRIs who make high-value or recurrent transfers may need to reconsider their financial plans," Ram Naik, co-founder and director, The Guardians Real Estate Advisory, told HT. This comes into affect from January 1, 2026.

Tax on foreign income

While the bill deals with a humungous number of things – some of which even led to fights between Trump and his ex-BFF Elon Musk – there are no changes to the existing

TRUMP'S BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL				
HOW IT IMPACTS REAL ESTATE DECISIONS FOR US-BASED NRIS				
	REMITTANCE TAX	RENTAL INCOME	CAPITAL GAINS	INVESTMENT TIMING
Details	1% tax on cash remittances to India from Jan 1, 2026 (was 5%).	No change to U.S. tax on foreign rental income; DTAA credits apply.	No change to capital gains tax on Indian property; DTAA credits.	No tax rule changes; weak rupee, stable prices favor investment.
Impact on NRIs	Adds cost to high-value transfers; bank/card-based exempt.	Report Indian rental income; claim credits to avoid double tax.	Sale proceeds may face 1% remittance tax post-2025.	Ideal time to invest before 2026 tax; bank/card transfers exempt.
Key Considerations	Plan remittances before 2026; consult tax experts.	Continue DTAA benefits; no tax changes.	Factor in remittance tax for 2026; seek tax advice.	Invest now; monitor rupee and market.

rules on foreign-source rental income earned by US residents, including NRIs holding a green card or US citizenship.

"Such income will continue to be taxed under current law," says Sandeep Bhalla, Partner, Dhruva Advisors, a tax and regulatory advisory services firm. This means tax paid in India can be claimed as tax credit in the US, as before, to avoid double taxation on the same income.

Border crackdown

Immigrants from India, especially undocumented border-crossers and those who take the 'donkey route', are not immune to the crackdown

proposed in Trump's bill. It gives about billions of additional funds towards immigration-control and national security efforts, in line with Trump's pledge to carry out the "largest mass deportation operation in American history."

The US is reported to have identified about 18,000 Indian nationals who entered illegally. The Indian government has said it would take back these people and break the "human trafficking ecosystem".

Unauthorised immigrants make up 3% of the US population, as per research cited by the BBC. The number of Indians among them is contested, however: estimates vary

from 2.2 lakh as per US government data, to 7 lakh as per the Pew Research Center, making them the third-largest group after Mexico and El Salvador. Yet Indians make up only a small share of the overall unauthorised migrant population in the US.

A 2025 Johns Hopkins University research paper essentially says illegal Indian population in the US grew in numbers and as a percentage of total unauthorised migrants: from 0.8% in 1990 to 3.9% in 2015, before dropping to 2% in 2022 as per latest data available.

Fees for applications

Trump's bill raises the costs for those trying to stay in the US legally too.

Bloomberg reported that the bill increases the fees for work permits, asylum applications and other humanitarian protections. Cuts to Medicaid and other government safety-net programmes will also impact immigrants and low-income groups. Fees include a minimum \$100 to apply for asylum, \$550 for employee authorisation applications, \$500 for Temporary Protected Status and \$1,000 for humanitarian parole. There is to be a fine of \$5,000 for anyone caught crossing the border between ports of entry. There are to be no fee waivers for low-income applicants either.

These appear to be some of the immediate impacts, while medium- and long-term effects in Indians and the Indian economy remain to pan out. *Source: HT*

Policy in works to block Pannun videos, other anti-India content

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The posting of anti-India videos by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who is a designated terrorist, was discussed extensively during a meeting of a parliamentary panel on home affairs, with Intelligence officials informing the MPs that efforts were afoot to take down such content.

Sources said a policy was also in the works to block offensive anti-India websites and content.

The Rajya Sabha panel, which undertook a six-hour-long discussion on the ramifications and prevention of cybercrime, was informed by intelligence officials that Pannun's videos, which were released at regular intervals and were available on the Internet, would be blocked in coordination with US agencies.

Led by Rajya Sabha BJP MP Radhamohan Das Agarwal, the panel is learnt to have told the officials that the agencies were "on

the job and necessary action was underway".

Several members also sought to know from CBI and NIA chiefs Praveen Sood and Sadanand Date, who were present at the meeting, as to what action was being taken to check the rising cases of digital fraud. A few members cited data on digital arrest between 2022 and 2024, saying cases rose by 21 times and their cumulative worth was Rs 2,000 crore.

Opposition members are learnt to have asked the officials of the Ministry of Corporation Affairs why despite the Centre's 'Digital India' push, cases of digital fraud and arrest were on the rise.

In January and February 2025 itself, around 17,000 cases of digital arrest (worth Rs 200 crore) had been detected.

The CBI chief is learnt to have told the panel that the agency could not act on its own, and that it was awaiting approval from several states to proceed in many cases. *Source: TNS*

No insurance payout for reckless driving deaths, says Supreme Court

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Insurance companies are not liable to pay compensation to families of individuals who die as a result of their own rash and reckless driving, the Supreme Court has said.

A Bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice R Mahadevan refused to grant Rs 80 lakh compensation sought by the wife, son and parents of a man who died while driving a car at high speed.

Refusing to interfere with the Karnataka High Court's November 23, 2024, order dismissing the plea filed by the legal heirs of the deceased claiming compensation, the Bench on Wednesday said, "We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment passed by the high court. Hence, the Special

Leave Petition is dismissed."

While driving his car from Mallasandra village to Arasikere town on June 18, 2014, NS Ravisha met with an accident. His father, sister and her children were also travelling in the car. The court concluded that Ravisha drove the car in a negligent manner without following traffic rules and lost control over the vehicle, leading to the accident. Ravisha sustained fatal injuries in the accident.

The high court had held that because "the accident occurred due to the rash and negligent driving of the deceased himself and he being self-tort-feasor, the legal heirs cannot claim any compensation for his death, otherwise it would amount to a person who committed breach getting the compensation for his own wrongs."

IAF to get more missiles that blunted Pak threats

Nearly two months after air defence missiles played a key role in thwarting threats from Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, the Ministry of Defence has approved the procurement of more such weapons along with 12 specialised warships that can lay mines undersea and even detect them.

In military parlance, these are called surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) and are fired from the ground at airborne targets such as drones, planes and jets. The SAMs are mated with air defence radars that direct the missiles towards incoming targets.

During Operation Sindoor, Pakistan fired hundreds of drones and missiles at India, which were shot down by the layered air defence system that included the SAMs.

The SAMs are part of the acquisition proposals amounting to nearly Rs 1.05 lakh crore, a process to be undertaken through indigenous sourcing. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the apex decision-making body on procurements in the MoD, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, today accorded the acceptance of necessity (AoN) for the purchase of 10 separate equipment for the forces.

Source: TNS

Only Dalai Lama can decide his successor, says India

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a terse message to China, India asserted on Thursday, July 3, that the right to pick the 14th Dalai Lama's successor rests with the incumbent and the institution, a day after Beijing said that his reincarnation must have its approval.

India added that Union ministers Kiren Rijiju (BJP) and Rajiv Ranjan Singh (JDU), Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu and Sikkim CM Prem Singh Tamang will attend the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday celebrations in Dharamshala on July 6.

On Thursday, Rijiju said that the institution of the Dalai Lama is the most important and defining institution for Tibetans not just in Tibet but across the world.

"And all those who follow the Dalai Lama feel that the Incarnation is to be decided by the established convention and as per the wish of the Dalai Lama himself... Nobody else has the right to decide it except him and the conventions in place," Rijiju said.

The minister said the Indian



government's decision to depute two senior ministers to attend the celebrations is not a political issue.

India has for long stated that the process of naming the successor is a long standing tradition that the Dalai Lama undertakes and no third party has a role to play here.

The Dalai Lama said on Wednesday that the 600-year-old institution of spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists will continue after his death and a trust created by him will be the sole authority to recognise his reincarnation, effectively shutting out any role for China in choosing his successor.

Speculation has swirled about the future of the institution since the Nobel

laureate head of Tibetan Buddhism said in 2011 that he would decide on his 90th birthday – which falls on July 6 this year – whether the position should continue. His Wednesday announcement, which clarifies matters, came at a Tibetan religious conference in McLeodganj, near Dharamshala, that is part of a week of celebrations to mark his birthday.

Hours later, an irate Beijing, which describes the Dalai Lama as a "separatist", countered that the spiritual leader's reincarnation "must be approved by the central (Chinese) government".

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told a regular news briefing, "The reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, the Panchen Lama and other great Buddhist figures must be chosen by drawing lots from a golden urn, and approved by the central government."

"The Chinese government implements a policy of freedom of religious belief, but there are regulations on religious affairs and methods for managing the reincarnation of Tibetan living Buddhas," she added. Source: HT

Centre to soon collect MPs' signatures for motion to remove Justice Varma

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prominent opposition parties have given their in-principle approval to support the motion to remove Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma and the process of collecting signatures could begin soon, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday, July 3.

He said the government was yet to decide whether the motion would be brought in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

For the Lok Sabha, signatures of a minimum 100 MPs is required. For the Rajya Sabha, the requirement is the support of at least 50 MPs.

He said the signatures would be collected after the government decides on the House where the motion will be brought.

The monsoon session will commence from July 21 and end on August 21.

According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act of 1968, once a motion to remove a judge is admitted in any of the Houses, the Speaker or the Chairman, as the case may be, will constitute a three-member committee to investigate the grounds on which the removal (or, in popular term, impeachment) has been sought.

The committee consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the Chief Justice of one of the 25 high courts and a "distinguished jurist". Rijiju said since the matter involves corruption in the judiciary, the



Justice Yashwant Varma.

government wants all political parties to be on board.

On being asked about the report of the in-committee which proved the cash discovery incident at Justice Varma's official residence here, he said the report of the three-judge panel had not indicted Justice Varma and was meant to recommend future course of action as Parliament can only remove a judge.

A fire incident at Justice Varma's residence in the national capital in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of banknotes in the outhouse. Though the judge claimed ignorance about the cash, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him after speaking to a number of witnesses and recording his statement. Source: PTI

BJP may get first woman president; who are top contenders

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is reportedly considering appointing a woman as its next national president.

This decision comes as the party looks to fill the leadership vacuum after JP Nadda's term ended in January 2023.

Nadda was given an extension until June 2024 to guide the party through the then Lok Sabha elections.

Among the leading contenders for the post are Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, former Andhra Pradesh state president D Purandeswari, and Tamil Nadu MLA Vanathi Srinivasan.

Per India Today, Sitharaman recently held a meeting with Nadda and General Secretary BL Santhosh at the party headquarters in New Delhi.

Her extensive experience and leadership potential make her a strong contender for the position.

If appointed, Sitharaman, who was born in the temple town of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, could help the party strengthen its presence in southern India.

Her leadership would also represent the party's support for the proposed 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha.

Sitharaman joined the BJP in 2008 and has previously served as defense minister. As the finance minister, she has presented seven straight budgets, including an interim one in February 2024.



Purandeswari, a multilingual leader with cross-party political experience, is another key name in the mix.

She was part of "Operation Sindoor," a multi-party international delegation.

Srinivasan, a lawyer-turned-politician from Tamil Nadu who currently serves as MLA from Coimbatore South, is also being considered for the post.

She has held several key roles, including state secretary, general secretary, and vice president of Tamil Nadu, since joining the party in 1993.

The BJP's ideological parent, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has backed the idea of appointing a woman to the party's top post, sources told India Today.

This is seen as both a symbolic and strategic move considering women voters have been instrumental in BJP's victories in recent elections across states like Maharashtra, Haryana, and Delhi.

If the BJP goes ahead with this decision, it will be a historic first for the party.

India in history this Week

JULY 4 TO JULY 10

04 JULY

1789 The East India Company entered into a treaty with the Nizam against Tipu Sultan.

1881 Start of toy train between Siliguri and Darjeeling.

1902 Swami Vivekananda passed away.



1963 Death of freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya who designed the Indian national flag, the Tiranga.

05 JULY

1954 Andhra Pradesh High Court was established.

1968 India's first submarine arrived from Soviet Russia.

1981 Rajan Mahadevan made a world record by calculating 31 thousand 811 digits of 'pi' of mathematics.

06 JULY



1787 Establishment of Indian Botanic Garden at Shibpur, West Bengal.

1901 The birth of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, an acute nationalist politician, educationist and founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.

1944 Mahatma Gandhi was first addressed by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose as 'Father of the Nation'.

1959 Vellore Hospital successfully underwent open heart surgery for the first time.

2006 The Nathula Pass, which had been closed since the war between India and China, was opened for business after 44 years.

1901 Birthday of Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.

2002 Dhirubhai Ambani died.

1787 The Indian Botanical Garden was established in 1787 at Shibpur in West Bengal.

07 JULY

1753 The British Museum was established by an Act

of Parliament.

1763 Mir Jafar was crowned again as the Nawab of Bengal.

The British East India Company announced the resignation of Mir Qasim, the Nawab of Bengal.

1799 Maharaja Ranjit Singh captured Lahore.

1948 Damodar Valley Corporation was established.

1656 Birth of Har Kishan, the eighth Guru of the Sikhs.

1758 Raja Martand Verma, the creator of modern Travancore, died.

1896 Cinema's entry into India. The Lumir brothers performed films for the first time at Mumbai's Watson Hotel.

1999 Paramvir Chakra winner Captain Vikram Batra died while defending the country during Kargil war.

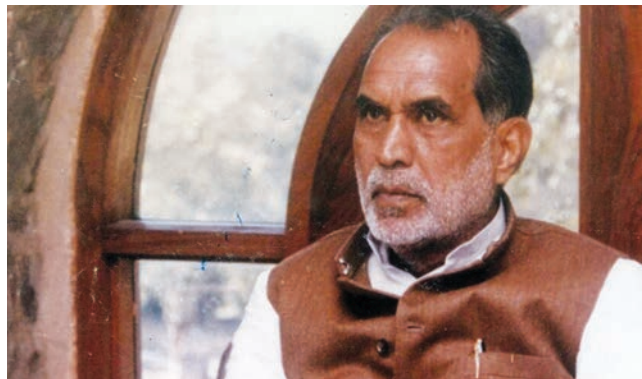


08 JULY

1497 On this day, Vasco de Gama left Europe to reach India with a team of 170 people on the way to the sea.

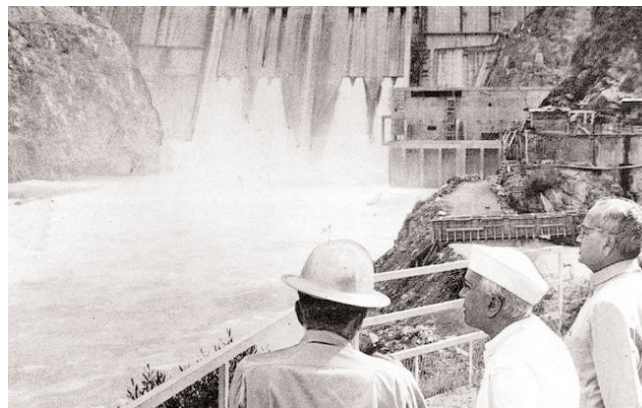
1914 Jyoti Basu, the chief minister of the world and the basis of leftist politics, was born for the longest time.

2007 The 9th Prime Minister of the country Chandrashekhara died.



1918 The Montague Chelmsford Report was published in 1918 to reform the Indian Constitution.

1954 In 1954, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru started the hydroelectric project on Bhakra-Nangal in Punjab, the world's largest canal.



1932 Indian singer Ghulam Hassan Sophie was born.

09 JULY



1875 Bombay Stock Exchange was established. It was the first stock exchange in the country.

1944 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose accepted the leadership of Azad Hind Fauj to make India independent from British rule.

1951 India's First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) began.

1925 Birth of Gurudutt, one of the most powerful actors and best directors of Indian cinema.



2001 In 2001, India announced the establishment of two posts on the Pak border.

2007 Indian-American scientist Himanshu Jain was awarded the Otto Scott Research Award 2007 for his focus in the field of Glass Science.

10 JULY

1800 The British Government in India established Fort William College.

1965 The first NCC college for women was established in Gwalior.

2017 There was a terrorist attack on Amarnath Yatra in which 10 devotees died.

1966 Construction of Air Force fighter aircraft 'MiG' started in Nashik district of Maharashtra.

1972 Launching of the fully air-conditioned vessel Harsh Vardhan from Mazgaon port in Mumbai.

1986 India beat England by 5 wickets to win the first Test at Lord's.

2005 Signing of two agreements related to education and community development in India and Sri Lanka.

1806 The Vellore Rebellion was the first revolt by the Indian soldiers against the East India Company.



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The Fourth of July: America's celebration of freedom and identity

Every year on July 4, the United States of America erupts in a grand spectacle of fireworks, parades, music, and patriotic displays to mark Independence Day, one of its most cherished national holidays. Known popularly as the Fourth of July, this day commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776—a defining moment when thirteen North American colonies formally broke ties with Great Britain to become a new, sovereign nation.

Independence Day, in the United States, the annual celebration of nationhood held on July 4. It commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. This document announced the separation of the 13 North American colonies from Great Britain. In 1870 the U.S. Congress made Independence Day an unpaid holiday for federal workers, and in 1938 it became a paid federal holiday. Also called the Fourth of July, the holiday is celebrated across the United States with parades, fireworks shows, picnics, concerts, and other festivities. Independence Day is also notable for its displays of patriotism, as many Americans commemorate the day by flying the American flag and dressing in the flag's colors of red, white, and blue.

History of Independence Day

The Continental Congress had voted in favor of independence from Great Britain on July 2 but did not actually complete the process of revising the Declaration of Independence—originally drafted by Thomas Jefferson in consultation with fellow committee members John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and William Livingston—until two days later. The celebration of the declaration's completion was initially modeled on that of the British king's birthday, which had been marked annually by bell ringing, bonfires, solemn processions, and oratory. Such festivals had long played a significant role in the Anglo-American political tradition. Especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when dynastic and religious controversies racked the British Empire (and much of the rest of Europe), the choice of which anniversaries of historic events were celebrated and which were lamented had clear political meanings. The ritual of toasting the king and other patriot-heroes—or of criticizing them—became an informal kind of political speech. This was formalized in the mid-18th century, when the toasts given at taverns and banquets began to be printed in newspapers.

In the early stages of the revolutionary movement in the colonies, during the 1760s and early '70s, patriots used such celebrations to proclaim their resistance to the British Parliament's legislation while lauding King George III as the real defender of British liberties. However, in many American



towns the marking of the first days of independence during the summer of 1776 took the form of a mock funeral for the king, whose "death" symbolized the end of monarchy and tyranny and the rebirth of liberty.

During the early years of the republic, Independence Day was commemorated with parades, oratory, and toasting in ceremonies that celebrated the existence of the new country. These rites played an equally important role in the evolving federal political system. With the rise of informal political parties, they provided venues for leaders and constituents to tie local and national contests to independence and the issues facing the national polity. By the mid-1790s the two nascent political parties were holding separate partisan Independence Day festivals in most larger towns. Perhaps for this reason, Independence Day became the model for a series of (often short-lived) celebrations that sometimes contained more-explicit political resonance, such as George Washington's birthday (February 22 but celebrated on the third Monday in February, or Presidents' Day) and the anniversary of Jefferson's inauguration as U.S. president (1801-09).

The bombastic torrent of words that characterized Independence Day during the 19th century made the holiday both a serious occasion and one sometimes open to ridicule—like the increasingly popular and democratic political process itself in that period. With the growth and diversification of American society, the Fourth of July commemoration became a patriotic tradition that many



groups—not just political parties—sought to claim. Abolitionists, women's rights advocates, the temperance movement, and opponents of immigration (nativists) all seized the day and its observance—in the process, often declaring that they could not celebrate with the entire community while an un-American perversion of their rights

prevailed.

With the rise of leisure, the Fourth of July emerged as a major midsummer holiday. The prevalence of heavy drinking and the many injuries caused by setting off fireworks prompted reformers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries to mount a Safe and Sane Fourth of July movement.

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Later in the 20th century Independence Day declined in importance as a venue for politics, although it remained a national holiday marked by parades, concerts of patriotic music, and fireworks displays. It continues to be a potent symbol of national power and of specifically American qualities—even the freedom to stay at home and barbecue.

Notable celebrations

The first organized Independence Day celebrations were held in Philadelphia and Boston in 1777. In Philadelphia the festivities included fireworks and bell ringing. In honor of the 13 colonies, a fleet of ships fired 13-cannon salutes, and a cannon was fired from each of 13 galleys. In Boston the day was celebrated with fireworks and shells fired over the city's commons.

In the 21st century both cities continue to host annual Fourth of July celebrations that also focus on their ties to the history of the American Revolution, including performances by military bands and events held at important sites. In Boston the USS Constitution—a warship that was launched in the city in 1797—is sailed around Boston Harbor and fires a 21-gun salute.

In Williamsburg, Virginia, where the Virginia Convention had passed resolutions on May 15, 1776, urging the Continental Congress to declare American independence from Britain, the celebrations include a public reading of the Declaration of Independence, marching bands, and sing-alongs of patriotic songs. In Washington, D.C., the U.S. capital, the holiday is marked with free concerts and a fireworks display over the National Mall.

Fourth of July traditions

Parades and fireworks are typically the most popular ways that Americans commemorate Independence Day. Alameda, California, is believed to have the longest Independence Day parade route in the country, at 3.3 miles (5.3 km) long. Many communities also host carnivals and concerts featuring local entertainment or military bands performing patriotic tunes. The American flag is ubiquitous on the Fourth of July, as many Americans like to display their patriotism by flying the flag outside their home and dressing in red, white, and blue. Parks, parade vehicles, and even pets are often festooned in patriotic decorations.

Popular foods to eat on the Fourth of July are barbecue, hot dogs, fried chicken, corn on the cob, watermelon, and ice cream as well as local favorites, such as clam chowder in Boston and chili in Texas. Eating contests, especially involving hot dogs or pies, are a time-



honored tradition in some towns. Other activities, depending on the region, include corn roasts, picnics, beach parties, and rodeos. Because of the crowds that Independence Day festivities attract, some communities use the opportunity to attempt to break world records. In Carmel, Indiana, for example, more than 14,000 attendees at the 2023 Independence Day parade broke the record for most people wearing red plastic fire helmets. Some record-breaking attempts do not go according to plan, however. In Washington, D.C., in 2024 an initiative to form the world's largest human ice-cream cone, featuring hundreds of people dressed in red, white,

and blue ponchos, failed because the organizers were not able to confirm the number of participants in the group photograph. One of the organizers told a local news organization, "There was not a very clear image of the ice-cream cone up to the caliber that we would require to consider this a broken record. But it was still a valiant attempt."

Fireworks

Fireworks have been a part of Fourth of July festivities since the first organized celebrations, in 1777. Modern fireworks often feature red, white, and blue colors, but those of the earliest celebrations were orange. It was not

until the early 19th century that more colors became widely available, with the addition of metals such as barium and strontium.

In the 21st century, Americans spend an estimated \$1 billion per year on Fourth of July fireworks. Some states have passed laws limiting the kinds of explosives available for purchase and use, and some counties have banned fireworks completely, especially in areas prone to wildfires. However, most communities host a pyrotechnics show for the holiday. Such events are regulated by a state's fire marshal, whose bureau requires that the fireworks be shot off a safe distance from celebrants.



Forging a Nation: The war for American independence & declaration that changed history

Before the fireworks, the flags, and the annual festivities of the Fourth of July, there was rebellion. There were skirmishes, sacrifices, strategy, and statesmanship. There was a war—a revolution—that would forge a new nation. The American War of Independence, fought between the thirteen North American colonies and Great Britain, was more than a military conflict. It was a war of ideas, identity, and aspiration. And at the heart of it stood a powerful document: the Declaration of Independence, drafted in 1776, that proclaimed to the world the birth of a nation and the death of monarchy in the American colonies.

This is the story of how a collection of diverse and often divided colonies rose up against the mightiest empire in the world, and how the dream of liberty became the bedrock of the United States.

Seeds of Rebellion: Tensions Between Britain and the Colonies

Long before musket shots rang out at Lexington and Concord in 1775, tensions had been simmering between Great Britain and its American colonies. The end of the French and Indian War (1754-1763) left Britain deeply in debt. To recover its finances, Parliament began imposing a series of taxes and regulations on the colonies—the Stamp Act (1765), the Townshend Acts (1767), and the Tea Act (1773) among them.

The colonists responded not with gratitude for British protection, but with outrage. They argued that taxation without representation in Parliament was a violation of their rights as Englishmen. Protests escalated into boycotts, political pamphlets, and eventually violent confrontations, most famously the Boston Tea Party, in which American patriots dumped British tea into Boston Harbor.

From Protest to Revolution: The Road to War

As British troops arrived to suppress dissent, American resistance grew more determined. In April 1775, open warfare broke out at Lexington and Concord, marking the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

By this point, the colonies were no longer simply asking for fair treatment—they were questioning the very legitimacy of British rule. As the war spread, colonial leaders began to seriously consider the idea of independence.

The Declaration of Independence: A Revolutionary Document

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, formally adopted the



Declaration of Independence, oil on canvas by John Trumbull, 1818; in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, Washington, D.C.



Declaration of Independence. Written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, with input from John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman, and Robert Livingston, the document was both a political manifesto and a moral declaration.

It asserted that "all men are created equal," and endowed with "unalienable Rights" such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It charged King George III with tyranny and declared the colonies to be "Free and Independent States."

The declaration wasn't just a message to Britain—it was a rallying cry to the world, signaling that a new kind of nation was emerging, one founded not on bloodlines and monarchy, but on liberty, self-governance, and the consent of the governed.

The War for Independence: David vs. Goliath

With the Declaration of Independence signed, the colonies had drawn a clear line. But their military prospects were grim. The British Empire boasted the most powerful navy in the world, seasoned soldiers, and deep financial resources.

The colonial army, led by General George Washington, was under-

trained, underfunded, and often outnumbered. Yet the Americans had advantages: they were fighting on home turf, had strong motivations, and—crucially—eventually gained foreign support, most notably from France, which provided military aid and ships after 1778.

Major turning points included:

- Battle of Saratoga (1777): A decisive American victory that convinced France to ally with the colonies.
- Winter at Valley Forge (1777-78): A period of extreme hardship that became a symbol of American perseverance.
- Battle of Yorktown (1781): The final major battle, where Washington and French troops forced the surrender of British General Cornwallis.

After years of fighting, the war formally ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783, in which Britain recognized the independence of the United States.

Not a Civil War: Clearing the Confusion

It's a common misconception to confuse the Revolutionary War with the later American Civil War. While the Civil War (1861-1865) was fought

between the Northern Union and the Southern Confederacy over slavery and states' rights, the American Revolution was fought nearly a century earlier, and its primary purpose was liberation from British colonial rule.

The terms "North" and "South" in the context of the Revolutionary era referred more to regional differences among colonies than opposing factions in a civil conflict. While some colonists remained loyal to Britain (known as Loyalists or Tories), the war was fundamentally one of colonial independence rather than internal division.

The Legacy of Independence

The ideas set forth in the Declaration of Independence continue to resonate today. The assertion that governments derive their power from the consent of the governed, and that individuals have inalienable rights, has inspired countless democratic movements around the globe.

Yet the Revolution also exposed contradictions. Slavery persisted. Women, Indigenous people, and the poor were excluded from many of the liberties proclaimed. These contradictions would ignite future movements for civil rights and justice.

Still, the Declaration remains one of history's most powerful statements of universal human freedom, and the Revolutionary War one of the most defining struggles for self-determination in modern history.

A Nation Born in Boldness

The birth of the United States was not a quiet affair—it was a bold, dangerous, and unprecedented act. Thirteen disparate colonies took up arms against a world superpower and declared their right to govern themselves. Through a combination of resilience, diplomacy, and vision, they prevailed.

Each Fourth of July, as Americans gather beneath fireworks-filled skies, they commemorate more than just a historical milestone. They celebrate the enduring promise of a nation conceived in liberty, tested in battle, and continually striving to live up to its founding ideals.

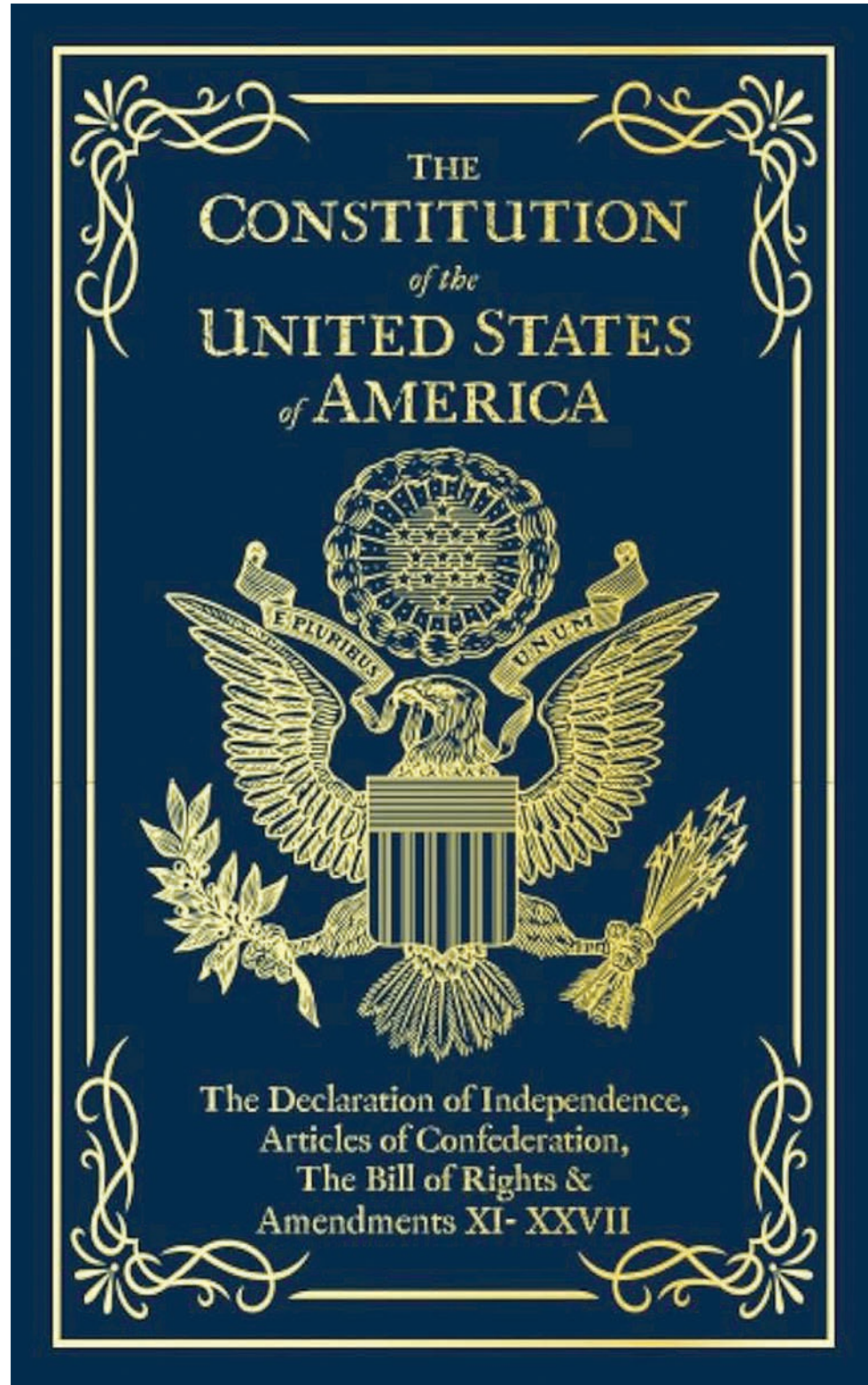


Constitution of the United States of America

Constitution of the United States of America, the fundamental law of the U.S. federal system of government and a landmark document of the Western world. The oldest written national constitution in use, the Constitution defines the principal organs of government and their jurisdictions and the basic rights of citizens.

The Constitution was written during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by 55 delegates to a Constitutional Convention that was called ostensibly to amend the Articles of Confederation (1781–89), the country's first written constitution. The Constitution was the product of political compromise after long and often rancorous debates over issues such as states' rights, representation, and slavery. Delegates from small and large states disagreed over whether the number of representatives in the new federal legislature should be the same for each state—as was the case under the Articles of Confederation—or different depending on a state's population (see New Jersey Plan and Virginia Plan). In addition, some delegates from Northern states sought to abolish slavery or, failing that, to make representation dependent on the size of a state's free population. At the same time, some Southern delegates threatened to abandon the convention if their demands to keep slavery and the slave trade legal and to count slaves for representation purposes were not met. Eventually the framers resolved their disputes by adopting a proposal put forward by the Connecticut delegation. The Great Compromise, as it came to be known, created a bicameral legislature with a Senate, in which all states would be equally represented, and a House of Representatives, in which representation would be apportioned on the basis of a state's free population plus three-fifths of its enslaved population. (The inclusion of the enslaved population was known separately as the three-fifths compromise.) A further compromise on slavery prohibited Congress from banning the importation of enslaved people until 1808 (Article I, Section 9). After all the disagreements were bridged, the new Constitution was signed by 39 delegates on September 17, 1787, and it was submitted for ratification to the 13 states on September 28.

In 1787–88, in an effort to persuade New York to ratify the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison published a series of essays on the Constitution and republican government in New York newspapers. Their work, written under the pseudonym "Publius" and collected and published in book form as *The Federalist* (1788), became a classic exposition and defense of the Constitution. In June 1788, after the Constitution had been ratified by nine



states (as required by Article VII), Congress set March 4, 1789, as the date for the new government to commence proceedings (the first elections under the Constitution were held late in 1788). Because ratification in many states was contingent on the promised addition of a Bill of Rights, Congress proposed 12 amendments in September 1789; 10 were ratified by the states, and their adoption was certified on December 15, 1791. (One of the original 12 proposed amendments, which prohibited midterm changes in compensation for members of Congress, was ratified in 1992 as the Twenty-seventh Amendment. The last one, concerning the ratio of citizens per member of the House of Representatives, has never been adopted.)

The authors of the Constitution were heavily influenced by the country's experience under the Articles of Confederation, which had attempted to retain as much independence and

sovereignty for the states as possible and to assign to the central government only those nationally important functions that the states could not handle individually. But the events of the years 1781 to 1787, including the national government's inability to act during Shays's Rebellion (1786–87) in Massachusetts, showed that the Articles were unworkable because they deprived the national government of many essential powers, including direct taxation and the ability to regulate interstate commerce. It was hoped that the new Constitution would remedy this problem.

The framers of the Constitution were especially concerned with limiting the power of government and securing the liberty of citizens. The doctrine of legislative, executive, and judicial separation of powers, the checks and balances of each branch against the others, and the explicit guarantees of individual liberty were

all designed to strike a balance between authority and liberty—the central purpose of American constitutional law.

Provisions

The Constitution concisely organizes the country's basic political institutions. The main text comprises seven articles. Article I vests all legislative powers in the Congress—the House of Representatives and the Senate. The Great Compromise stipulated that representation in the House would be based on population, and each state is entitled to two senators. Members of the House serve terms of two years, senators terms of six. Among the powers delegated to Congress are the right to levy taxes, borrow money, regulate interstate commerce, provide for military forces, declare war, and determine member seating and rules of procedure. The House initiates impeachment proceedings, and the Senate adjudicates them.

Article II vests executive power in the office of the presidency of the United States. The president, selected by an electoral college to serve a four-year term, is given responsibilities common to chief executives, including serving as commander in chief of the armed forces, negotiating treaties (two-thirds of the Senate must concur), and granting pardons. The president's vast appointment powers, which include members of the federal judiciary and the cabinet, are subject to the "advice and consent" (majority approval) of the Senate (Article II, Section 2). Originally presidents were eligible for continual reelection, but the Twenty-second Amendment (1951) later prohibited any person from being elected president more than twice. Although the formal powers of the president are constitutionally quite limited and vague in comparison with those of the Congress, a variety of historical and technological factors—such as the centralization of power in the executive branch during war and the advent of television—have increased the informal responsibilities of the office extensively to embrace other aspects of political leadership, including proposing legislation to Congress.

Article III places judicial power in the hands of the courts. The Constitution is interpreted by the courts, and the Supreme Court of the United States is the final court of appeal from the state and lower federal courts. The power of American courts to rule on the constitutionality of laws, known as judicial review, is held by few other courts in the world and is not explicitly granted in the Constitution. The principle of judicial review was first asserted by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), when the court ruled that it had the authority to void national or state laws.

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Beyond the body of judicial rulings interpreting it, the Constitution acquires meaning in a broader sense at the hands of all who use it. Congress on innumerable occasions has given new scope to the document through statutes, such as those creating executive departments, the federal courts, territories, and states; controlling succession to the presidency; and setting up the executive budget system. The chief executive also has contributed to constitutional interpretation, as in the development of the executive agreement as an instrument of foreign policy. Practices outside the letter of the Constitution based on custom and usage are often recognized as constitutional elements; they include the system of political parties, presidential nomination procedures, and the conduct of election campaigns. The presidential cabinet is largely a constitutional “convention” based on custom, and the actual operation of the electoral college system is also a convention.

Article IV deals, in part, with relations between the states and privileges of the citizens of the states. These provisions include the full faith and credit clause, which requires states to recognize the official acts and judicial proceedings of other states; the requirement that each state provide citizens from other states with all the privileges and immunities afforded the citizens of that state; and the guarantee of a republican form of government for each state.

Article V stipulates the procedures for amending the Constitution. Amendments may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by Congress on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states. Proposed amendments must be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures or by conventions in as many states, depending on the decision of Congress. All subsequent amendments have been proposed by Congress, and all but one—the Twenty-first Amendment (1933), which repealed prohibition (the Eighteenth Amendment [1919])—have been ratified by state legislatures.

Article VI, which prohibits religious tests for officeholders, also deals with public debts and the supremacy of the Constitution, citing the document as “the supreme Law of the Land;...any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.” Article VII stipulated that the Constitution would become operational after being ratified by nine states.

The national government has only those constitutional powers that are delegated to it either expressly or by implication; the states, unless otherwise restricted, possess all the remaining powers (Tenth Amendment). Thus, national powers are enumerated (Article I, Section 8, paragraphs 1–17), and state powers are not. The state powers are often called residual, or reserved, powers. The elastic, or



necessary and proper, clause (Article I, Section 8, paragraph 18) states that Congress shall have the authority “To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution” the various powers vested in the national government. Thus, it follows that, in addition to the delegated powers, Congress possesses implied powers, a proposition established by Chief Justice Marshall in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819). The issue of national versus state power was not fully resolved by this decision, however, and many political battles in American history—including debates on nullification, slavery, racial segregation, and abortion—often have been disputes over constitutional interpretations of implied and residual powers.

Competing concepts of federal supremacy and states’ rights were brought into sharp relief in questions about commercial regulation. The commerce clause simply authorized Congress “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.” Particularly since a series of decisions in 1937, the court has interpreted Congress’s regulatory power broadly under the commerce clause as new methods of interstate transportation and communication have come into use. States may not regulate any aspect of interstate commerce that Congress has preempted.

Civil liberties and the Bill of Rights

The federal government is obliged by many constitutional provisions to respect the individual citizen’s basic rights. Some civil liberties were specified in the original document, notably in the provisions guaranteeing the writ of habeas corpus and trial by jury in criminal cases (Article III, Section 2) and forbidding bills of attainder and ex post facto laws (Article I, Section 9). But the most significant limitations to government’s

power over the individual were added in 1791 in the Bill of Rights. The Constitution’s First Amendment guarantees the rights of conscience, such as freedom of religion, speech, and the press, and the right of peaceful assembly and petition. Other guarantees in the Bill of Rights require fair procedures for persons accused of a crime—such as protection against unreasonable search and seizure, compulsory self-incrimination, double jeopardy, and excessive bail—and guarantees of a speedy and public trial by a local, impartial jury before an impartial judge and representation by counsel. Rights of private property are also guaranteed. Although the Bill of Rights is a broad expression of individual civil liberties, the ambiguous wording of many of its provisions—such as the Second Amendment’s right “to keep and bear arms” and the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of “cruel and unusual punishments”—has been a source of constitutional controversy and intense political debate. Further, the rights guaranteed are not absolute, and there has been considerable disagreement about the extent to which they limit governmental authority. The Bill of Rights originally protected citizens only from the national government. For example, although the Constitution prohibited the establishment of an official religion at the national level, the official state-supported religion of Massachusetts was Congregationalism until 1833. Thus, individual citizens had to look to state constitutions for protection of their rights against state governments.

The Fourteenth Amendment

After the American Civil War, three new constitutional amendments were adopted: the Thirteenth (1865), which abolished slavery; the Fourteenth (1868), which granted citizenship to those who had been enslaved; and the Fifteenth (1870), which guaranteed

formerly enslaved men the right to vote. The Fourteenth Amendment placed an important federal limitation on the states by forbidding them to deny to any person “life, liberty, or property, without due process of law” and guaranteeing every person within a state’s jurisdiction “the equal protection of its laws.” Later interpretations by the Supreme Court in the 20th century gave these two clauses added significance. In *Gitlow v. New York* (1925), the due process clause was interpreted by the Supreme Court to broaden the applicability of the Bill of Rights’ protection of speech to the states, holding both levels of government to the same constitutional standard. During subsequent decades, the Supreme Court selectively applied the due process clause to protect from state infringement other rights and liberties guaranteed in the Bill of Rights, a process known as “selective incorporation.” Those rights and liberties included freedom of religion and of the press and the right to a fair trial, including the right to an impartial judge and to the assistance of counsel. Most controversial were the Supreme Court’s use of the due process clause to ground an implicit right of privacy in *Roe v. Wade* (1973), which led to the nationwide legalization of abortion, and its selective incorporation of the Second Amendment’s right to “keep and bear Arms” in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010).

The Supreme Court applied the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment in its landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), in which it ruled that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. In the 1960s and ’70s the equal protection clause was used by the Supreme Court to extend protections to other areas, including zoning laws, voting rights, and gender discrimination. The broad interpretation of this clause has also caused considerable controversy.

The Constitution as a living document

Twenty-seven amendments have been added to the Constitution since 1789. In addition to those mentioned above, other far-reaching amendments include the Sixteenth (1913), which allowed Congress to impose an income tax; the Seventeenth (1913), which provided for direct election of senators; the Nineteenth (1920), which mandated women’s suffrage; and the Twenty-sixth (1971), which granted suffrage to citizens 18 years of age and older.

In more than two centuries of operation, the United States Constitution has proved itself a dynamic document. It has served as a model for other countries, its provisions being widely imitated in national constitutions throughout the world. Although the Constitution’s brevity and ambiguity have sometimes led to serious disputes about its meaning, they also have made it adaptable to changing historical circumstances and ensured its relevance in ages far removed from the one in which it was written.

America since independence: A journey through conflict and progress

When the ink dried on the Declaration of Independence in July 1776, a bold experiment was set in motion. Thirteen colonies, born in resistance and united by ideals of liberty, broke from one of the world's most formidable empires. What followed was more than just a revolution—it was the birth of a nation destined to become a global power. But that journey from fledgling republic to superpower was far from smooth.

The story of America since independence is one defined by conflict and compromise, civil strife and international warfare, economic booms and social revolutions. It is a tale of contradictions: of a nation founded on freedom that grappled with slavery, of a democratic republic tested by division, and of a powerful country continually reshaped by internal debates and external battles.

The Fragile First Steps: 1776-1812

The early years of the United States were dominated by questions of survival. After defeating Britain in the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the new country faced economic hardship, political instability, and disputes among states. The Articles of Confederation, America's first constitution, proved too weak, prompting the creation of the more robust U.S. Constitution in 1787.

George Washington's presidency set vital precedents, but the young republic quickly found itself embroiled in political factionalism—Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans. Tensions with Britain never fully disappeared, leading to another war in 1812, which saw the burning of Washington, D.C., but ended with America intact and more confident on the world stage.

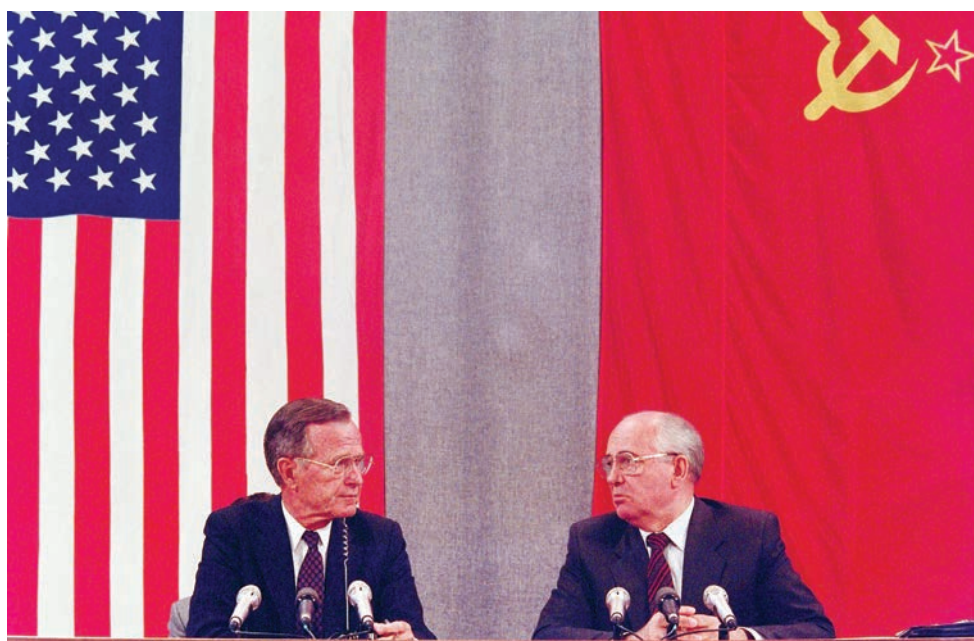
Expansion and Division: 1820s-1860s

The 19th century brought territorial expansion, fueled by the ideology of Manifest Destiny—the belief that the U.S. was destined to stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The Louisiana Purchase (1803), Mexican-American War (1846-1848), and westward migration transformed the map—but also inflamed debates over slavery.

As new states joined the Union, political battles intensified over whether slavery should expand. The Missouri Compromise (1820) and Compromise of 1850 temporarily held the Union together. But these were band-aids over deep wounds.

The issue exploded in 1861, when eleven Southern states seceded to form the Confederate States of America, triggering the Civil War—America's deadliest internal conflict. Lasting until 1865, the war resulted in over 600,000 deaths, the abolition of slavery (13th Amendment), and the preservation of the Union.

Reconstruction and Resistance: 1865-1900



After the Civil War, the U.S. entered the Reconstruction era, attempting to rebuild the South and integrate freed African Americans into civic life. Despite the 14th and 15th Amendments, which guaranteed citizenship and voting rights, progress was met with violent resistance, particularly from groups like the Ku Klux Klan. The federal government's waning will to enforce civil rights allowed Jim Crow laws to take hold, institutionalizing segregation.

Meanwhile, the U.S. became a rapidly industrializing nation. Cities swelled, railroads connected coasts, and immigration boomed. Yet this era also saw labor unrest, the rise of monopolies, and growing inequality—conflicts that gave birth to powerful progressive reform movements.

Becoming a World Power: 1898-1945

The end of the 19th century marked America's debut on the global stage. The Spanish-American War (1898) resulted in U.S. acquisition of overseas territories including Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines. This ushered in a period of American imperialism.

In the World Wars, America moved

from reluctant participant to decisive power. It entered World War I in 1917, helping to tip the balance. After two decades of isolationism and the economic hardship of the Great Depression, the U.S. joined World War II in 1941 following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Victory in 1945 brought not only triumph but new global responsibilities. America emerged from WWII as one of two superpowers in a bipolar world, ushering in the Cold War era.

The Cold War and the Battle of Ideologies: 1945-1991

The Cold War pitted the U.S. against the Soviet Union in a global ideological contest between capitalism and communism. Though they never engaged in direct conflict, proxy wars erupted:

- Korean War (1950-53)
- Vietnam War (1955-75)
- Bay of Pigs Invasion (1961) and Cuban Missile Crisis (1962)

Domestically, fear of communism led to the Red Scare and political repression, while civil liberties were tested.

Yet this era was also one of

unprecedented social progress. The Civil Rights Movement, led by figures like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X, forced the nation to confront its legacy of racial injustice. Landmark laws—the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965—reshaped the American legal landscape.

Turbulence at Home, Influence Abroad: 1970s-1990s

The latter decades of the 20th century brought economic change, political scandal, and foreign entanglements. The Watergate scandal forced President Nixon's resignation in 1974, shaking public trust in government.

In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan revived conservative ideals and intensified the arms race with the USSR, ultimately contributing to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

America had won the Cold War—but now faced the complexities of a unipolar world.

Post-9/11 America and New Global Challenges: 2001-Present

The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks marked a defining moment in 21st-century America. The U.S. launched the War on Terror, invading Afghanistan (2001) and later Iraq (2003). These wars reshaped American foreign policy, raised questions about civil liberties, and stirred long-term debates over military intervention.

Internally, the 21st century has seen sharp political polarization, debates over immigration, gun violence, racial justice movements like Black Lives Matter, and a growing struggle to balance free speech and misinformation.

Yet the country has also seen breakthroughs: the election of Barack Obama, America's first Black president (2008); the legalization of same-sex marriage (2015); and the growth of movements advocating for climate action, gender equality, and reform.

A Nation Still Evolving

From its revolutionary roots to its role as a global power, America's journey since independence has been defined by conflict and reinvention. The country has endured civil war, world wars, and ideological struggles. It has battled inequality within and adversaries abroad. But through each crisis, America has not only survived—it has evolved.

The United States today remains a complex and diverse democracy, constantly negotiating its founding ideals with the realities of its time. Its history of internal and external conflict is not merely a record of war and politics—it is a reflection of a nation striving, again and again, to become "a more perfect union."

The Movement for the Rights of Black Americans: A Legacy of Struggle and Triumph

From the bitter legacy of slavery to the global outcry of "Black Lives Matter," the movement for the rights of Black Americans is among the most powerful and transformative in United States history. It is a story of pain and perseverance, of chains broken and voices raised. Over centuries, Black Americans have fought not just for civil rights, but for human rights, for recognition, for justice, and for equality under the law.

The movement has taken many shapes—abolition, legal challenges, street protests, cultural revolutions—and it has changed the very fabric of American society. Yet, it remains a living movement, still fighting in courtrooms, classrooms, legislatures, and city streets across the country.

The Roots of Resistance: Slavery and Emancipation

The struggle began as early as 1619, when the first enslaved Africans were brought to the American colonies. For over two centuries, slavery thrived, especially in the South, where Black labor fueled the economy under brutal and dehumanizing conditions.

But even within bondage, resistance grew. Enslaved people escaped, rebelled, and built communities that preserved African identity and dignity. Abolitionists, both Black and white, like Frederick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman, became the first generation of civil rights activists, demanding freedom and justice in a hostile world.

The Civil War (1861-1865), triggered largely by slavery, ended with the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865. But freedom did not bring equality. The South entered a new era of racial oppression under Jim Crow laws, which legalized segregation and denied Black Americans basic rights.

Early Civil Rights Advocacy: 1870s-1940s

After emancipation, Black Americans worked tirelessly to build schools, businesses, churches, and communities. Leaders like Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois debated how best to achieve racial uplift—through education, economic self-reliance, or direct political activism.

The early 20th century saw the founding of civil rights organizations:

- NAACP (1909): National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which used the legal system to challenge segregation and discrimination.
- National Urban League (1910): Focused on economic empowerment and housing.
- Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (1925): One of the first Black labor unions, led by A. Philip Randolph.



Despite these efforts, lynchings, voter suppression, and racial violence—such as the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921—continued to plague Black life in America.

The Civil Rights Movement: 1950s-1960s

The modern Civil Rights Movement exploded onto the national stage after World War II, as Black veterans returned from fighting fascism abroad only to face racism at home. Fueled by moral urgency, organizational strength, and bold leadership, this era transformed American democracy.

Key Figures and Actions:

- Rosa Parks: Sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955) by refusing to give up her seat.
- Martin Luther King Jr.: Led nonviolent protests, inspired millions with his dream of racial harmony.
- Malcolm X: Championed Black self-determination and spoke boldly against systemic oppression.
- SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) and CORE (Congress of Racial Equality): Mobilized youth for sit-ins, voter registration, and freedom rides.

Major Achievements:

- Civil Rights Act of 1964: Banned segregation in public spaces and discrimination in employment.
- Voting Rights Act of 1965: Protected the right to vote, especially in the South.
- Fair Housing Act of 1968: Outlawed racial discrimination in housing.

The televised brutality of attacks on peaceful protestors—such as those in Selma, Alabama—awakened the conscience of the nation. The movement brought real legislative victories but also suffered losses, including the assassinations of King (1968) and Malcolm X (1965).

Black Power and Cultural Pride: 1970s-1980s

Frustrated by slow progress, a new wave of activism emerged in the late 1960s emphasizing Black pride, political power, and cultural affirmation.

- The Black Panther Party, founded by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, called for self-defense, free food programs, and an end to police violence.
- The slogan "Black is Beautiful" celebrated African heritage and identity.

- Artists and writers like James Baldwin, Maya Angelou, and Nina Simone used culture as a weapon for justice.

This era also saw the rise of Black political figures such as Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman elected to Congress, and Jesse Jackson, who ran for president in the 1980s.

Continuing the Struggle: From Rodney King to BLM

In 1991, the brutal beating of Rodney King by Los Angeles police, followed by the officers' acquittal, triggered the 1992 LA Riots—a fiery reminder that police violence was still a national crisis.

The mass incarceration of Black Americans, especially under the "war on drugs" policies of the 1980s and 1990s, led to a new wave of activism centered on criminal justice reform.

The Rise of Black Lives Matter

Formed in 2013 after the killing of Trayvon Martin, Black Lives Matter (BLM) quickly became a decentralized yet global movement against police brutality, racial profiling, and systemic racism.

The deaths of Michael Brown, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and many others sparked massive protests, art campaigns, and policy initiatives across the country and beyond.

Current Challenges and the Road Ahead

Though significant progress has been made, the movement for Black rights is far from over. Persistent challenges include:

- Systemic racism in policing and justice
- Economic and educational inequality
- Voter suppression in many states
- Healthcare disparities
- Underrepresentation in media, business, and government

Yet, the movement continues to adapt—with activists using social media, grassroots organizing, legislative advocacy, and intersectional approaches that connect race with gender, sexuality, immigration, and environmental justice.

A Movement, Not a Moment

The struggle for the rights of Black Americans is not confined to a particular decade or set of laws—it is a living, breathing movement shaped by generations of visionaries and everyday heroes. From enslaved rebels to young organizers today, each has added their voice to the unbroken call for justice, dignity, and equality.

It is a movement that demands not just sympathy, but solidarity. Not just awareness, but action. It continues—bold, defiant, and deeply rooted in the belief that Black lives matter, and always have.

Inside the American political system: Democracy in action

From the chambers of Congress to the courtroom of the Supreme Court, from ballot boxes in small-town precincts to power lunches on Capitol Hill—the American political system is a vast and intricate engine, designed to serve one grand ideal: government by the people, for the people.

Since its founding in 1789 under a visionary Constitution, the United States has experimented with a bold concept: that political power flows not from kings, clergy, or conquest, but from the will of the governed. Over centuries, the American political system has endured wars, rebellions, economic depressions, civil rights crises, and ideological rifts. Yet it remains remarkably resilient and deeply influential in the global arena.

But beneath its patriotic surface lies a structure of checks, balances, debates, and elections that few truly understand. In this in-depth feature, we take you on a tour through the roots, functions, challenges, and enduring spirit of the American political experiment.

The Constitutional Foundation: A Living Document

The U.S. Constitution, written in 1787 and ratified in 1789, is the supreme law of the land. Inspired by Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke and Montesquieu, it created a system with:

- A federal structure, sharing power between the national and state governments
- A tripartite division of power, separating legislative, executive, and judicial functions
- Checks and balances, ensuring no single branch dominates
- A bill of rights, protecting individual liberties

It consists of just 7 articles and 27 amendments, but its language and intent have been debated for over two centuries—its interpretation shifting with social norms, landmark court cases, and political ideologies.

Three Branches of Government: The Pillars of Power

1. Legislative Branch - The Congress

At the heart of American democracy is Congress, the bicameral legislature created by the Great Compromise of 1787, balancing power between populous and smaller states.

House of Representatives

- 435 members, based on state population
- Serve 2-year terms
- Directly represent the people in their districts
- Initiate revenue bills and impeach federal officials

Senate

- 100 members, 2 from each state
- Serve 6-year terms, staggered every two years



- Confirm presidential appointments
- Ratify treaties
- Conduct impeachment trials

Congress holds the "power of the purse", which means it controls federal spending and taxation. It can declare war, override presidential vetoes, and investigate executive misconduct.

But in modern times, Congress is often characterized by partisan gridlock, filibusters, and intense lobbying pressure, leading to a perception of dysfunction even as it continues to wield enormous influence.

2. Executive Branch - The Presidency

The U.S. President is not a monarch, but holds significant executive power—serving as:

- Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces
- Chief diplomat, negotiating with foreign nations
- Legislative influencer, through the State of the Union, veto power, and executive orders
- Crisis manager, especially in emergencies like 9/11 or COVID-19

Presidents appoint Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, ambassadors, and heads of independent agencies like the CIA, NASA, and the Federal Reserve. Their leadership style shapes the nation's tone at home and image abroad.

Presidential power has grown considerably since the 20th century, particularly under Franklin D. Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush. Modern presidents are expected to be legislators, moral leaders, and global statesmen all at once.

The Electoral College system—an indirect method of electing presidents—remains controversial, as it can produce results that diverge from the national popular vote.

3. Judicial Branch - The Supreme Court and Federal Courts

The judiciary interprets the

Constitution and reviews the legality of laws and executive actions.

Supreme Court

- 9 justices, appointed for life
- Decides landmark cases that affect national policy and civil rights
- Can strike down laws or executive actions it deems unconstitutional (judicial review)

The States and Federalism: Unity in Diversity

The American system is federal, meaning power is shared between national and state governments. Each state has:

- Its own constitution
- A governor
- A bicameral legislature
- Courts and police powers

This means the laws governing education, healthcare, gun ownership, abortion, marijuana, and voting can differ drastically from California to Texas, or New York to Florida.

This decentralized system allows for local experimentation, but also creates friction when state and federal laws conflict—especially in areas like:

- Immigration enforcement
- Environmental regulations
- Civil rights
- Public health mandates

Political Parties: The Power Behind the Curtain

Although the Constitution doesn't mention political parties, they've come to dominate American politics.

1. Democratic Party

- Founded in the 1820s
- Generally supports liberal and progressive policies
- Advocates for social safety nets, civil rights, labor rights, climate action, and healthcare access
- Strong in urban areas, among minorities, young people, and

coastal states

2. Republican Party

- Founded in 1854 as an anti-slavery party
- Favors conservative values: low taxes, limited government, traditional social norms
- Strong in rural areas, among evangelical Christians, older voters, and Southern/midwestern states

Elections and Voting Rights

Election Types:

- Presidential Elections: Every four years
- Midterm Elections: Every two years, for Congress
- State & Local Elections: Vary by state; often overlooked but highly impactful

Modern Governance: Challenges in the 21st Century

1. Polarization and Gridlock

Partisan politics has intensified since the 1990s, making bipartisanship rare. This results in:

- Government shutdowns over budget disputes
- Delayed legislation
- Court nominations turned into political warfare

2. Influence of Money

The Citizens United decision allowed unlimited corporate spending in politics. Today, Super PACs, wealthy donors, and interest groups shape political messaging and candidate viability.

3. Media and Misinformation

Partisan media and social media have fragmented the public sphere, contributing to misinformation, conspiracy theories, and echo chambers.

4. Threats to Democratic Norms

The events of January 6, 2021, when the Capitol was stormed by rioters seeking to overturn a legitimate election, raised alarms about the fragility of democratic institutions. Since then, questions of election integrity, rule of law, and civic trust have intensified.

The Resilience of a Republic

Despite all challenges, the American political system has shown a remarkable capacity for reinvention. From the Civil Rights Act to marriage equality, from Watergate to impeachment trials, the Constitution continues to serve as a living compass, guiding reform and accountability.

The strength of American democracy lies not just in its documents or institutions, but in active citizenship—people marching, organizing, voting, suing, campaigning, and running for office.

As Benjamin Franklin famously said when asked what kind of government the framers had created:

"A republic—if you can keep it."

America's economic powerhouse: The past, present and future of the US economy

Walk through the glimmering skyline of New York, the innovation labs of Silicon Valley, the sprawling cornfields of Iowa, or the oil rigs of Texas-and you'll find one common thread weaving through them all: America's economic spirit.

The economy of the United States isn't just a set of numbers or market charts. It's a living organism-bold, restless, inventive, and at times deeply unequal. It is the pulse of the American dream, the driver of global finance, and a powerful symbol of both opportunity and complexity.

In this feature, we trace the roots, realities, and reinventions of the U.S. economy-from the rugged days of cotton fields and railroads to the algorithm-driven age of AI and digital dollars. This is the story of the most influential economy in the world, and where it might be headed next.

From Colonies to Capitalism

The economic story of America begins long before skyscrapers and Silicon Valley.

In the 18th century, the American colonies thrived on trade, farming, and natural resources. Tobacco from Virginia, cotton from the South, timber from New England-raw exports fed the British Empire. But the desire for economic self-determination helped spark the American Revolution.

By the 19th century, the country exploded into an industrial age-railroads, steel, oil, and factories redefined wealth. Titans like Carnegie, Rockefeller, and Ford rose, reshaping cities and lives. The Great Depression in the 1930s was a crushing blow, but out of it came reforms like Social Security, labor rights, and banking protections.

Post-World War II, America entered its golden economic era. Manufacturing boomed. The middle class swelled. Suburbs expanded. For much of the world, the "American Way" meant jobs, homes, and two cars in every garage.

Fast forward to today: the U.S. leads a digital, service-oriented economy. But the landscape is more complex-and contested-than ever.

Sectors That Shape the U.S. Economy

- Services: The Economic Backbone**
Roughly 77% of U.S. GDP comes from the service sector. It's where Americans bank, stream, shop, treat illness, teach children, and litigate disputes. Key pillars include:
 - Finance & Banking: Wall Street alone moves trillions daily.
 - Technology & Software: Google, Apple, Amazon-names synonymous with modern life.
 - Healthcare: A \$4 trillion industry with sprawling hospitals, insurance firms, and biotech labs.
 - Education, Legal, Media, Travel:



America's soft power lies here, too.

- 2. Manufacturing: Resilient, Not Extinct**

Though manufacturing now forms a smaller share of GDP (?18%), the U.S. is still a global manufacturing power. From Boeing jets to Tesla cars, it leads in:

- Aerospace and defense
- Medical devices and pharmaceuticals
- Semiconductors and AI chips
- High-end machinery and robotics

Automation has cut jobs, but output remains high, with growing interest in reshoring industries post-pandemic.

3. Agriculture: Feeding the World

It's easy to forget, but American farms are global giants. With vast land, advanced tech, and strong exports, the U.S. leads in:

- Corn, soy, wheat, and cotton
- Livestock and dairy
- High-efficiency agribusiness

Despite employing less than 2% of the workforce, agriculture is strategically vital to food security and trade influence.

Innovation: The American Secret Sauce

From Thomas Edison to Elon Musk, America's economy is wired for innovation. The U.S. invests heavily in:

- Research & Development: Top spender globally.
- Universities & Labs: MIT, Stanford, NIH-fountains of ideas.
- Startups & Venture Capital: The Silicon Valley model is mimicked worldwide.

Emerging frontiers include:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Quantum computing
- Clean energy and electric vehicles
- Space technology and private exploration

Innovation fuels not just economic growth, but strategic dominance in diplomacy, defense, and digital influence.

The Fed, Inflation & Financial Control

Behind the scenes, the Federal Reserve-America's central bank-guides

the economy's course. It sets interest rates, manages inflation, and oversees financial stability.

Recent years have seen:

- 0% rates during COVID-19 to stimulate the economy
- Aggressive hikes in 2022-23 to combat inflation
- A delicate balancing act between growth and price stability

The Fed's decisions impact mortgages, loans, credit cards, and Wall Street sentiment-making it one of the world's most powerful institutions.

The People and the Paycheck: Labor in a New Age

The U.S. workforce is about 160 million strong, but the shape of work is evolving:

- Shift to gig economy: Uber, DoorDash, freelancing
- Remote work revolution: Fueled by the pandemic
- Skills gap: Tech jobs boom, but many go unfilled
- Union resurgence: Starbucks, Amazon workers organize

Wages have lagged behind productivity for decades, and while unemployment remains low (~4%), many workers face:

- Student debt burdens
- Healthcare insecurities
- Housing unaffordability

The American dream of upward mobility remains-but it's harder to reach for millions.

Wealth vs. Inequality: A Nation Divided

Despite its riches, the U.S. is one of the most unequal developed nations:

- The top 1% owns over 30% of national wealth.
- Racial wealth gaps persist: A typical white family has 5-10 times more wealth than a Black or Latino family.
- Healthcare, housing, and education access often depend on income or ZIP code.

From Wall Street bonuses to Main

Street struggles, this divide has sparked political polarization, populist movements, and calls for economic justice.

Trading with the World: Friends, Rivals, and Tariffs

America trades with nearly every country-but also fights over it. Key facts:

- Top partners: China, Mexico, Canada, Japan, Germany
- Exports: Aircraft, software, oil, soybeans, pharmaceuticals
- Imports: Electronics, vehicles, textiles, semiconductors

The U.S.-China trade war, reshoring trends, and semiconductor chip battles reveal a growing desire for economic sovereignty-even at the cost of globalization.

National Debt: The Elephant in the Treasury

The U.S. government's debt has ballooned to over \$34 trillion (as of 2025), sparking fierce debates. While most economists agree that some debt is healthy, concerns grow over:

- Rising interest payments
- Entitlement spending (Social Security, Medicare)
- Military budget demands

Solutions are politically risky: raise taxes, cut spending, or both. For now, the U.S. still benefits from global trust in the dollar.

Tomorrow's Economy: Green, Digital, and Decentralized

Where is America's economy headed next? The road forks toward both promise and peril:

- AI and automation could boost productivity-or displace millions
- Climate change demands a transition to clean energy
- Cryptocurrency, blockchain, and digital banking are challenging traditional finance
- Aging population raises concerns over pensions, healthcare, and labor shortages

America's economic success will depend on how it manages inclusion, education, climate adaptation, and innovation in an era of uncertainty.

Still the World's Marketplace of Dreams

For all its volatility and contradictions, the American economy remains a magnet for ambition, talent, and capital. It's a system that rewards risk, reinvents failure, and encourages reinvention. From skyscrapers to startups, Main Street to Nasdaq, the U.S. economy is not just about GDP figures-it's a mirror of its people's grit, greed, hope, and hustle. It may be battered, flawed, or challenged-but it's still the most influential marketplace on Earth, and its next chapter is already being written.

Top 10 Presidents in American history

From the powdered wigs of the 18th century to the digital battlegrounds of the 21st, the office of the American President has evolved from a symbol of modest republican virtue into the most powerful political post on Earth. Some presidents have been caretakers. Others-architects of transformation. The greatest among them faced crises with courage, crafted policy with vision, and left a legacy that shaped not only the United States, but the world.

Here is a comprehensive feature on the 10 most consequential presidents in U.S. history, judged by their impact, leadership during upheaval, vision for the nation, and influence on future generations.

1. Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865)

The Great Emancipator and Savior of the Union

"A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Key Achievements:

- Preserved the Union during the Civil War
- Issued the Emancipation Proclamation
- Championed the passage of the 13th Amendment
- Redefined the moral purpose of the Republic
- Legacy: Lincoln navigated the bloodiest conflict in U.S. history with moral clarity and strategic skill. He held the Union together, abolished slavery, and gave the nation a new birth of freedom. His assassination in 1865 elevated him to near-mythic status.
- Why He Matters: Lincoln redefined what it meant to be American-not merely united by geography, but by shared principles of equality and liberty.

2. George Washington (1789-1797)

The Reluctant President and Father of the Nation

"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty... is finally staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

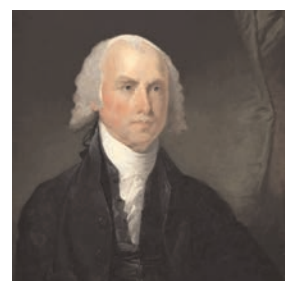
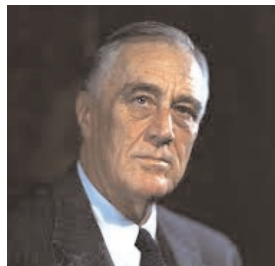
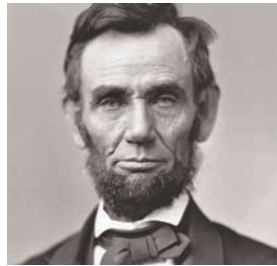
Key Achievements:

- Established the precedents of the presidency
- Kept the fragile Union intact post-Revolution
- Oversaw the Bill of Rights' adoption
- Steered the U.S. away from European entanglements
- Legacy: Washington's leadership set a lasting tone for the presidency-nonpartisan, restrained, and dignified. His voluntary departure after two terms set a precedent that endured for 150 years.
- Why He Matters: Without Washington's personal credibility and leadership, the new nation might have faltered under the weight of internal division.

3. Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945)

The Reformer Who Reshaped Government

"The only thing we have to fear is fear



itself."

Key Achievements:

- The New Deal: Social Security, labor rights, public works
- Led the U.S. through the Great Depression and World War II
- Founded the modern welfare state
- Strengthened the role of the presidency
- Legacy: The only president elected to four terms, FDR transformed the federal government into a direct force in American economic and social life. His leadership through global war and domestic despair redefined public expectations of government.
- Why He Matters: FDR proved that bold government action could preserve capitalism and democracy during its greatest tests.

4. Thomas Jefferson (1801-1809)

The Philosopher of the American Ideal
"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

Key Achievements:

- Primary author of the Declaration of Independence
- President during the Louisiana Purchase
- Championed religious liberty and separation of church and state
- Founded the University of Virginia
- Legacy: Jefferson's presidency doubled the size of the U.S. and laid the foundation for westward expansion. His political philosophy profoundly shaped American identity, though his legacy is complicated by his status as a slaveholder.
- Why He Matters: Jefferson infused American politics with Enlightenment ideals, envisioning a republic built on civic virtue, agrarian independence, and liberty.

5. Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909)

The Modern President and Progressive Crusader

"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."

Key Achievements:

- Trust-busting monopolies
- Created the National Parks System
- Built the Panama Canal

- Mediated the Russo-Japanese War (Nobel Peace Prize winner)
- Legacy: A force of nature, TR expanded the power of the presidency, reined in corporate excesses, and made conservation a national priority. He also reasserted American influence abroad, laying groundwork for global leadership.
- Why He Matters: Roosevelt made the presidency a tool for reform and progress, aligning it with the interests of ordinary citizens.

6. Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)

The Stabilizer in a Nuclear Age
"Plans are worthless, but planning is everything."

Key Achievements:

- Ended the Korean War
- Authorized the Interstate Highway System
- Maintained peace during peak Cold War tensions
- Warned against the military-industrial complex
- Legacy: A moderate Republican and former WWII Supreme Allied Commander, Ike's steady leadership preserved peace and prosperity in the post-war years. His infrastructure legacy transformed American transportation.
- Why He Matters: Eisenhower ensured continuity, balance, and global credibility in the early Cold War, all while modernizing the nation at home.

7. Harry S. Truman (1945-1953)

The Man Who Decided
"The buck stops here."

Key Achievements:

- Made the decision to use atomic bombs to end WWII
- Launched the Marshall Plan
- Founded NATO
- Desegregated the U.S. military
- Legacy: Initially unpopular, Truman is now admired for decisive leadership at the dawn of the Cold War. His doctrine shaped global politics for half a century.
- Why He Matters: Truman transitioned the U.S. from war to peace and from isolation to global superpower-with clarity, resolve, and democratic values.

8. Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)

The Conservative Icon and Cold Warrior
"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Key Achievements:

- Revived American economy through Reaganomics
- Ended Cold War tensions through diplomacy and defense buildup
- Restored national optimism and global confidence
- Major tax reforms and deregulation
- Legacy: A polarizing figure in life, Reagan is widely credited with helping to end the Cold War and reshaping conservative politics for a generation.
- Why He Matters: Reagan redefined American conservatism and the modern presidency-blending charisma, simplicity, and ideological conviction.

9. Barack Obama (2009-2017)

The Symbol of Change in the 21st Century

"Yes We Can."

Key Achievements:

- Passed the Affordable Care Act
- Rescued the economy post-2008 crash
- Killed Osama bin Laden
- Restored U.S. international image after Iraq War
- Legacy: As the first Black president, Obama's symbolic importance was historic. His pragmatic, tech-savvy presidency left a deep imprint on domestic and foreign policy.
- Why He Matters: Obama changed the image of America around the world, emphasized inclusion, and expanded access to healthcare and civil rights.

10. James Madison (1809-1817)

The Constitutional Strategist
"If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

Key Achievements:

- Co-authored The Federalist Papers
- Architect of the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Led the U.S. during the War of 1812
- Strengthened national identity
- Legacy: Though his presidency was marred by the burning of Washington, Madison's earlier contributions as a constitutional theorist solidify his place among the greats.

America Today: A Nation at crossroads of change

From the bustling tech hubs of Silicon Valley to the rolling farmland of the Midwest, from the activism-filled streets of New York to the quiet towns of the Deep South, America in 2025 is a nation both in motion and in reflection. It is a country grappling with its past, navigating turbulent present realities, and attempting to chart a bold yet uncertain future.

This is America today: a land of contradictions and creativity, of wealth and inequality, of democracy in tension and innovation in overdrive. It remains the world's most powerful country-and also one of the most deeply scrutinized. What defines the American identity in this moment? What challenges loom? And where might the journey go next?

Politics: Democracy Under Tension

America's political system in 2025 remains robust in structure but increasingly strained in spirit. The post-pandemic, post-Trump, post-George Floyd years have reshaped how Americans see government, democracy, and each other.

Polarization Persists

- The political divide between Democrats and Republicans has hardened into distinct cultural identities.
- Congress remains divided, with razor-thin majorities making meaningful bipartisan legislation rare.
- State-level politics-especially on abortion rights, gun laws, education, and LGBTQ+ issues-have taken on increased national significance.

Economy: Strong Yet Unequal

The U.S. economy in 2025 is a story of strength and strain.

Key Indicators (2025)

- GDP: \$28+ trillion
- Unemployment: ~4%
- Inflation: Moderately stable (~3.4%)
- Interest Rates: 4.75% (Federal Reserve benchmark)

Booming Sectors

- Technology (AI, biotech, green energy)
- Healthcare
- Financial services
- Defense and aerospace

Challenges

- Student debt and housing costs are major burdens for the middle class and young professionals.
- Wealth inequality has deepened: the top 1% owns over 30% of U.S. wealth.
- Wage stagnation affects blue-collar and service workers even as productivity rises.

Despite these issues, America remains the global economic leader, a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and foreign investment.

Foreign Policy: Global Leader in Transition



After two decades of wars, retreats, and resets, America in 2025 is recalibrating its place in the world.

Key Foreign Engagements

- Ukraine: Continued support with weapons, aid, and diplomacy against Russian aggression.
- China: A tense strategic rivalry marked by trade competition, tech restrictions, and Pacific military posturing.
- Israel-Palestine: Ongoing tensions see America balancing its historic alliance with Israel while encouraging peace talks.
- Climate diplomacy: The U.S. has re-emerged as a climate leader, hosting major summits and investing in clean tech collaborations with Europe and India.

The U.S. military remains the most powerful on Earth, but soft power-cultural exports, technology, and diplomacy-is once again a central part of American global influence.

Society: Diverse, Divided, and Dynamic

America's population in 2025 is older, more diverse, and more digitally connected than ever before.

Demographic Shifts

- Non-Hispanic whites now make up less than 58% of the population.
- Latino, Black, Asian American, and mixed-race communities are growing and reshaping cultural and political landscapes.
- The U.S. is approaching becoming a majority-minority nation by the 2040s.

Social Challenges

- Racial justice movements continue

to push for police reform, voting rights, and economic equity.

- Gun violence and school shootings persist as flashpoints in national debate.
- Anti-immigrant rhetoric, though reduced from past years, resurfaces in political discourse during economic downturns or border crises.

Despite this, grassroots activism, inclusive media, and a new generation of multicultural leaders are helping to reimagine what it means to be American.

Technology and Innovation: The Digital Frontier

America's economy, identity, and power are increasingly tied to its technological prowess.

Key Trends

- AI Integration: From ChatGPT in classrooms to AI-assisted medical diagnostics and autonomous logistics, artificial intelligence is transforming daily life.
- Clean Energy: Solar, wind, and electric vehicles are booming, with Tesla, Ford, and startups battling for green dominance.
- Space Race 2.0: NASA and SpaceX are planning missions to Mars, while Blue Origin builds lunar cargo systems.
- Cybersecurity: Rising threats from state and non-state actors have prompted federal crackdowns and a "digital NATO" alliance among democratic countries.

Tech remains both a tool of progress and a source of anxiety, especially around privacy, employment, and misinformation.

Culture: Loud, Global, and Liberated

American culture in 2025 is vibrant, diverse, and increasingly global in reach.

Media & Entertainment

- Streaming platforms dominate-Netflix, Apple TV+, and niche platforms like CuriosityStream fuel a "content-first" era.
- Hip-hop, K-pop, and Latin music dominate charts, reflecting America's multicultural youth.

Social Media

- TikTok, Instagram, and Threads shape discourse, trends, and even policy influence.
- Misinformation remains a major concern, especially during elections.

Cultural Movements

- LGBTQ+ visibility is high, but battles over school curricula and gender identity fuel "culture wars" in many states.
- Youth activism-on climate, justice, and student debt-is reshaping public consciousness.

America Tomorrow: A Nation in Progress

Despite all its challenges, America remains the world's great unfinished experiment-resilient, self-critical, and restlessly forward-looking.

Hopeful Signs

- Voter turnout in 2024 was the highest in 50 years.
- Renewable energy now powers over 40% of the U.S. grid.
- Youth civic engagement is on the rise.
- Black, Latino, and Asian communities are reshaping business, arts, and politics.

America may be divided, but it is not defeated. Its strength lies in its openness to reinvention.

Trump's Tax Proposals: Summary & Tax Changes



By Lisa Greene-Lewis



WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill brings significant changes to the tax code and beyond. The bill permanently extends certain provisions from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) that were set to expire, including an increased state and local tax (SALT) deduction cap, and introduces changes to taxes on tips and overtime for certain workers. Impacts to energy credits, Medicaid, the debt ceiling, and student loans are also included.

KEY THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Most of the new tax laws under the One Big, Beautiful Bill don't kick in until tax year 2025 (i.e. the taxes you file in 2026) and some for tax year 2026. A few uncommon provisions are retroactive to tax year 2024, and TurboTax will be up-to-date with those when it's time for you to file.

TurboTax will be updated in accordance with the new tax laws and IRS guidance when the new tax laws take effect.

As you follow the news about the One Big Beautiful Bill, you might be wondering about the key tax provisions that have passed. Questions like: Are tips and overtime now tax-free? What's happening with SALT? And most importantly, how do the new tax laws impact your financial situation?

HERE ARE SOME OF THE TOP QUESTIONS WE'RE GETTING, ALONG WITH THE ANSWERS.

What key provisions passed under the One Big Beautiful Bill?

Key provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill include:

- Raises SALT cap to \$40,000 if you earn up to \$500,000
- Above-the-line deduction for tip income
- Above-the-line deduction for overtime pay for certain workers
- Above-the-line deduction for auto loan interest for certain vehicles
- Child Tax Credit expansion
- Enhanced deduction for seniors
- Repeal of energy efficient credits for EVs, hybrids, charging, and energy efficient home improvements beginning in 2025
- Permanently extends the deduction for qualified business income at 20%
- Reforms Medicaid
- Reforms Pell Grants and student loans

When do the new tax laws go into

effect?

The majority of the tax provisions will go in effect in tax year 2025 (i.e. the taxes you file in 2026) and some for tax year 2026. A few uncommon provisions are retroactive to tax year 2024. TurboTax will be up-to-date in accordance with these provisions, including our done for you experiences, tax experts, and tools.

What passed from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) and what does that mean for my taxes?

The One Big Beautiful Bill permanently extends certain tax provisions from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, including:

- Lower individual tax rates (10%, 12%, 22%, 24%, 32%, 35%, 37%)
- Nearly doubled standard deduction
- Child Tax Credit expansion
- Elimination of personal and dependent exemptions, and itemized deductions for miscellaneous expenses like unreimbursed employee expenses

If you don't qualify for new tax benefits, your tax outcome may look similar to last year's since many provisions under the TCJA are being made permanent. However, if you're a homeowner who paid property taxes and state income or sales tax, you may see tax savings due to the increased SALT deduction cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000, allowing you to claim a larger deduction.

What is the new tax law for no taxes on tips?

In previous years, including tax year 2024, cash and non-cash tips were considered income subject to federal taxes, Social Security, and Medicare taxes, and were required to be reported to your employer if they exceeded \$20 a month. The new provision creates a temporary above-the-line deduction for tips up to \$25,000 for tax years 2025 through 2028. This deduction is available regardless of whether you itemize your deductions or not.

If you earn tips as a waitress, barista, or in another tipped occupation and your income is below \$150,000, you may be eligible to claim this deduction. However, the tax benefit begins to phase out for income above \$150,000. It's essential to understand that this deduction doesn't directly reduce your taxes dollar-for-dollar, and your actual tax savings will depend on your tax rate.

For example, if you earned \$5,000 in tips and are in the 12% tax bracket, your tax savings would be \$600 (\$5,000 x 12%).

What is the new tax law for no tax on overtime?

Like the new tax provision for tips, the new provision for overtime introduces an above-the-line deduction for qualified overtime income up to \$12,500 for tax years 2025 through 2028 and phases out for income above \$150,000.

Certain workers, such as police officers, firefighters, nurses, and retail workers, may benefit from this deduction. However, while this deduction can lower your taxable income, it is not a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your taxes and the actual tax savings will depend on your tax rate.

For example, if you're a nurse with \$12,500 in qualified overtime and 22% tax rate, then your tax savings would be \$2,750 (\$12,500 X 22%).

Are there any additional benefits for seniors under the new law?

Yes, there's an enhanced deduction for seniors up to \$6,000 for individuals over 65 for tax years 2025 through 2028. The deduction phases out at \$75,000 for single filers and at \$150,000 if you're married filing jointly.

How do I get a deduction if I pay a car note?

A new temporary tax deduction allows you to deduct up to \$10,000 in car loan interest per year for qualified auto loans. To qualify, the vehicle must be for personal use and assembled in the United States. This deduction phases out for single filers with incomes above \$100,000 and married couples with incomes above \$200,000.

What is the new law for parents?

Starting in tax year 2025, the Child Tax Credit will permanently increase to \$2,200 per child under 17, with annual adjustments for inflation every year. To claim this credit, both taxpayers and children must now have a valid Social Security number.

What has changed for homeowners who pay property taxes?

A significant change relates to the state and local tax (SALT) deduction including local income, sales, and property taxes. Previously, the TCJA capped SALT at \$10,000, set to expire in 2025. The new bill increases this cap to \$40,000, effective from tax year 2025 through 2029. The deduction begins to phase out for single and married filing joint filers earning more than \$500,000 and married couples filing separately earning more than \$250,000.

This change benefits filers in states

with high state and property taxes, allowing them to deduct more of their related expenses.

I made energy efficient improvements to my home. Can I still get a credit?

Energy efficient credits for home improvements under the Inflation Reduction Act will end for property placed in service after 2025. You can still claim these credits for improvements made in 2025 on your 2025 taxes (i.e. the ones you file in 2026), but this will be the last year they're available.

I purchased an electric vehicle; can I still get a credit?

The new bill eliminates the clean vehicle credit for electric vehicles purchased after September 30, 2025. If you bought an electric vehicle before this date, you may be eligible for a clean vehicle credit up to \$7,500 for a new EV or \$4,000 for a used EV.

Will personal and dependent exemptions be reinstated?

No, personal and dependent exemptions are permanently eliminated. Although they were set to return in 2026 if the TCJA expired, the new bill makes the elimination permanent.

I work from home. Can I claim unreimbursed employee expenses again?

The TCJA temporarily eliminated miscellaneous itemized deductions, including unreimbursed employee expenses, from 2018 to 2025, and this elimination is now permanent. However, if you're self-employed, you can still deduct expenses related to your home office.

I'm self-employed. What are the new tax benefits that I can claim?

If you're self-employed or a business owner has a partnership or S-corp, you may be eligible for two significant tax deductions.

First, the 20% Qualified Business Income Deduction allows you to deduct up to 20% of your qualified business income. The new tax bill permanently extends this 20% deduction and increases the phase in ranges to \$75,000 single and \$150,000 married filing jointly.

Second, if you purchased equipment for your business, the new tax law also permanently allows you to write off 100% of your expenses for purchases like business equipment in the year you bought them.

Navigating the new tax laws can be complex, but we're here to help you get the best outcome for your taxes. TurboTax will be up-to-date with the latest changes and guide you through the filing process, whether you want to do your taxes yourself or have a TurboTax Live expert do them for you.

(Lisa has over 20 years of experience in tax preparation. Her success is attributed to being able to interpret tax laws and help clients better understand them. She has held positions as a public auditor, controller, and operations manager. Lisa has appeared on the Steve Harvey Show, the Ellen Show, and major news broadcast to break down tax laws and help taxpayers understand what tax laws mean to them. For Lisa, getting timely and accurate information out to taxpayers to help them keep more of their money is paramount. More from Lisa Greene-Lewis)

(Source: Turbo Tax)

STAY COOL WITH NJ SYMPHONY SUMMER CONCERTS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony continues in Jersey City this summer with the 'Chamber Music After Hours' series on select Wednesday nights through July and into August.

The 'Chamber Music After Hours' series is a return of the New Jersey Symphony to Jersey City's Provost Square Plaza — in front of the future Symphony Center venue at 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, NJ — after a very successful first season of presenting chamber music performances through summer 2024.

Area residents and community members from across Hudson County and beyond greatly enjoyed the sound of music filling the plaza. The concerts also featured guest performers who occasionally add a visual element to the program, such as the dancers from Kulture Kool.

The 2025 series expands on the favorite themes from last season while also providing new experiences, such as a program featuring music from the Far East, India and a concert that explores the idea of home featuring an appearance by Allison Loggins-Hull, the New Jersey Symphony's Resident Artistic Partner.

TICKETS & RESERVATION, FOOD & BEVERAGES, PARKING

These free events are open for all Jersey City residents and beyond to enjoy. No reservations are required. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets for seating.

Parking: Street parking is available around Provost Square. Enter through the main entrance of the building.

There are many options nearby for beverages and food, and some events may feature on-site vendors.

**CHAMBER MUSIC AFTER HOURS SERIES
AN EVENING WITH ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL**

Kulture Kool.

Credit: njsymphony.org

Join the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players for an evening of chamber music featuring musical trailblazer Allison Loggins-Hull, plus music by other composers you know and love.

WHAT: AN EVENING WITH ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL**WHEN: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 @ 6 PM****WHERE: Provost Square Plaza, 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302****COST: Free****CONCERT INFORMATION**

Allison Loggins-Hull - flute, curator & host

New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

Duration: 1 hour

*Programs and artists are subject to change.***SOUNDS OF THE RISING SUN**

Embark on a musical journey featuring the rich culture of Far East Asia. With a selection of traditional Chinese songs and contemporary works by Asian composers in arrangements by American composers, this performance will immerse you in the festivities

and stories of Asia as you hear Eastern music performed on Western instruments.

WHAT: SOUNDS OF THE RISING SUN**WHEN: Wednesday, July 30 at 6 pm****WHERE: Provost Square Plaza, 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, NJ****COST: Free****CONCERT INFORMATION**

New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

James Tsao violin

Maya Shiraishi violin

Brett Deubner viola

Hyewon Kim cello

Duration: 1 hour

*Programs and artists are subject to change.***THE MUSIC OF INDIA WITH KULTURE KOOL**

Rhythm and dance are on the musical menu for this performance as the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players and featured guest artists perform themes from Bollywood, plus works for string quartet that feature Hindustani melodies and rhythms. Come sing, clap, and dance along in our summer celebration of Bollywood and Indian classical music.

WHAT: THE MUSIC OF INDIA WITH KULTURE KOOL**WHEN: Wednesday, August 13 at 6 pm****WHERE: Provost Square Plaza, 151 Bay Street, Jersey City, NJ****COST: Free****CONCERT INFORMATION**

Kulture Kool co-curators & dancers

Indrajit Roy-Chowdhury sitar

New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players

Duration: 1 hour

Programs and artists are subject to change.

WITNESS A FILM CONCERT FOR ALL AGES

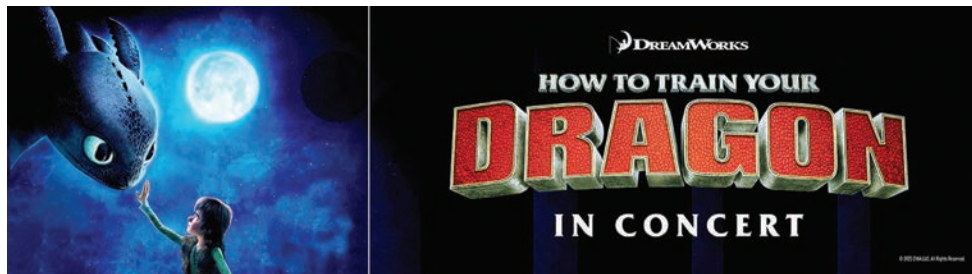
BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Symphony presents 'How to Train Your Dragon' in Concert this summer with Lawrence Loh conducting. This happens July 11-13 at locations in New Jersey (see program schedule below).

A winner with audiences and critics alike, DreamWorks' 'How to Train Your Dragon' is a captivating and original story that combines humor, fire-breathing action, and epic adventure!

Hiccup is a young Viking who defies tradition when he befriends one of his deadliest foes — a ferocious dragon he calls Toothless. Together, these unlikely heroes must fight against all odds to save both their worlds.

'How to Train Your Dragon' in Concert features this acclaimed film presented in HD, with composer John Powell's Academy Award-nominated score performed live to picture by a full symphony orchestra in a thrilling experience for all ages.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE**How to Train Your Dragon in Concert****New Jersey Symphony at the Movies****Lawrence Loh** conductor**New Jersey Symphony****Morristown** - Friday, July 11, 7 pm, Mayo Performing Arts Center**New Brunswick** - Saturday, July 12, 2 pm, State Theatre New Jersey**Newark** - Sunday, July 13, 2 pm,

How To Train Your Dragon.

NJSPAC

For more information on concerts and tickets, visit njsymphony.org/events.**Lawrence Loh**Learn more at lawrenceloh.com.**John Powell**Learn more at johnpowellmusic.com.**Film Concerts Live!**

Film Concerts Live! is a co-venture of IMG Artists and The Gorfaine/Schwartz Agency. Through Film Concerts Live!, IMG and GSA have developed a growing slate of major feature films for presentation in concert venues with orchestras performing the scores live to picture, including classics. Learn more at filmconcertslive.com.

THE SYMPHONY CENTER

In August 2024, the New Jersey Symphony with Mayor Steven M. Fulop, announced the renowned Symphony's relocation to a new state-of-the-art, 44,000-square-foot, theater called the Symphony Center in Jersey City's downtown Powerhouse Arts District at 151 Bay Street. The Symphony will continue to deliver its statewide

Credit: njpac.org.

activities from the new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026.

The new Symphony Center offers a multipurpose 550-seat theater, space for education and community programs, and 8,000 square feet for administrative offices. Additionally, it will provide a permanent space for artistic, educational and community offerings in Jersey City and throughout Hudson County.

"This represents a significant milestone in Jersey City's cultural evolution, creating a key destination for our region with permanent space for world-class performances and community-driven initiatives," said Mayor Fulop. "We started these conversations over a year ago, and we couldn't be more excited to welcome the New Jersey Symphony to their new home in Jersey City. This new endeavor will enhance our economic and cultural landscape and, more importantly, offer unparalleled opportunities to our residents and community."

Music Director Xian Zhang says, "I am

very excited for the Symphony Center and the many opportunities the new venue will make possible for the organization. It will provide a space for artistic innovation and growth and expand the Symphony's artistic offerings that communities across New Jersey have enjoyed for more than a century."

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

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

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

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

Connect with NJ Symphony
Follow NJ Symphony on Facebook,
Instagram, TikTok, X, and YouTube

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

NEW YORK'S PUBLIC RADIO WQXR BRINGS CLASSICAL KIDS FAIR TO NEW JERSEY



KIDS CLASSICAL MUSIC FAIR.

Credit: njpac.org.

BY MABEL PAIS

For the first time, New York's classical music station WQXR (105.9 FM and wqxr.org) in partnership with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and the New Jersey Symphony brings its much-enjoyed CLASSICAL KIDS FAIR to New Jersey. The fair will occur at NJPAC's Chambers Plaza from 12-3 PM on July 13, 2025. Admission is free; but reservations are encouraged at njpac.org/event/wqxrs-classical-kids-fair.

PROGRAM

WQXR's Classical Kids Fairs provide families a free and fun way to introduce children ages 4-10 to classical music through engaging live performances, workshops, arts and crafts, and other hands-on experiences.

The debut New Jersey Classical Kids Fair will include performances by the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players, Nimbus Dance, Paterson Music Project, and Keys 2 Success.

The NJ Symphony, NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra, and Keys 2 Success will host an "instrument discovery zone," where kids can try different musical instruments. Arts and crafts projects will include coloring with WQXR and egg shaker maraca crafting with the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey, with additional programming from Paterson Music Project and STEAM Urban.

The afternoon will also feature a beat-making workshop with Grounded Music Education; a 'cool conductors' activity with the NJ Symphony, where participants can craft their own baton and learn how to conduct; a drum circle with Paterson Music Project; an opportunity to meet the Nai Ni Chen Dance Company dragon and performers; classical-themed cookie decorating with Cupcake Carriage in their mobile baking truck; musical storytime from NJPAC's

'Books on the Move' and an exploration of the sounds of everyday objects in the Girl Scouts' Mobile Classroom.

"We're delighted to partner with NJPAC and the New Jersey Symphony to bring the Classical Kids Fair to New Jersey," said LaFontaine E. Oliver, President and CEO, New York Public Radio, which includes WQXR. "The Classical Kids Fairs are an important part of our commitment to making this treasured art form accessible, even to our littlest listeners. We want everyone to have pathways to experience the joy, fun, and wonder of classical music, and enjoy a great family day together."

The Classical Kids Fair coincides with a New Jersey Symphony concert scheduled to be performed in NJPAC's Prudential Hall that same afternoon. That concert will feature the animated film 'How To Train Your Dragon,' with the score performed live by the orchestra as the complete film is projected on a large movie screen.

What:

New Jersey Classical Kids Fair featuring live music and dance performances, an instrument discovery zone, interactive workshops, arts & crafts, and more!

Who:

NJPAC, New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players and NJ Symphony Youth Orchestra, Nimbus Dance, Paterson Music Project, Keys 2 Success, Nai Ni Dance Company, Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey, STEAM Urban and Grounded Music Education.

Where:

1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

When:

Sunday, July 13, 2025, 12 - 3 PM

TICKETS

Tickets for the concert event are available on the New Jersey Symphony's website at njsymphony.org/dragon.

WQXR

WQXR is New York City's only all-classical music station, immersing listeners in the city's rich musical life on-air at 105.9 FM, online at WQXR.org, and in the community through live events and performances. An essential partner to the city's musical and cultural organizations, WQXR presents new and archival classical recordings and performances from New York City's esteemed performance venues. Signature programs include Carnegie Hall Live, Metropolitan Opera Saturday Matinee Broadcasts, New York Philharmonic This Week, New York in Concert, and the Young Artists Showcase. WQXR also produces podcasts that showcase compelling storytelling and powerful music: The Open Ears Project, Made in New York: the NY Philharmonic Story, Every Voice with Terrance McKnight, Helga, and Aria Code, a joint project with the Metropolitan Opera. As a public media station, WQXR is supported through the generosity of its members, donors, and sponsors, making classical music relevant, accessible, and inspiring for all.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the most diverse performing arts center in the country, and the anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational, and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

NJPAC brings communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists,

while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts.

NJPAC Arts & Well-Being develops initiatives and programs that amplify the health benefits of the arts and measure the impact of the Arts Center on community health and well-being.

NJPAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org for more information.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

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

In 2024, the Symphony announced it would continue to deliver its statewide activities from a new, permanent office, rehearsal, and concert space in Jersey City, set to open in 2026. For more information about the New Jersey Symphony, visit the website at njsymphony.org.

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

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HORIZON SOUNDS OF THE CITY CONTINUES ITS CHERISHED OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERTS

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center's (NJPAC) cherished, free, outdoor concert series this season, 'Horizon Sounds of the City' continues after the end of the 2025 'Prudential North to Shore (Arts) Festival.' This summer, the series began on Friday, June 27, at 5PM, with DJ Felix Hernandez's Rhythm Revue Dance Party headlining a weekend of concerts presented as part of the 'Prudential North to Shore Festival.'

For almost 30 years, 'Horizon Sounds of the City' has attracted thousands of fans to NJPAC's Chambers Plaza for Newark's largest outdoor dance party. Each performance feels like a festival thanks to the weekly presence of food trucks, sponsor giveaways and resource tables run by healthcare organizations and Newark nonprofits.

This summer's concert series marks the first large public event held in the newly redesigned Chambers Plaza, which celebrated its grand reopening on May 14, 2025. The Arts Center's "front yard" now also includes a beautiful grassy lawn edged with permanent seating, Essex County Green, made possible thanks to support from Essex County, led by Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo.

Chambers Plaza now features a larger, level floor composed of gray and merlot-red bricks, complemented by new lighting and audio equipment, and native plantings. The redesign is part of a \$336 million campus-wide redevelopment project that will create a new, arts-infused neighborhood on the NJPAC campus by 2027.

"The return of 'Horizon Sounds of the City' is extra special this year because we will welcome our community for a first look at our new campus," says John Schreiber, President and CEO of NJPAC. "Horizon Sounds of the City has always been the summer's best party, but in this reimagined space, with a bigger 'dance floor,' new lights, audio equipment and more, these performances will be even more exciting."

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

The Legendary Wailers with Junior Marvin

Horizon Sounds of the City
Thursday, July 10, 2025 @ 5PM
Chambers Plaza
FREE

It's nothing but good vibes at this outdoor reggae jam. Bob Marley's former guitarist Junior Marvin carries on the legacy of 'The Wailers,' playing their hits the way Bob intended. You'll hear 'One Love,' 'Get Up, Stand Up,' 'No Woman No Cry' and so much more.

Lyfe Jennings
Horizon Sounds of the City
Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 5PM
Chambers Plaza
FREE

For R&B star Lyfe Jennings ("Must Be Nice"), music is life — and life is worth singing about. The platinum-selling artist brings you on an intimate musical journey with his raw talent and personal lyrics.



Performers, Lettuce.

Credit: pranamarketing.com / Jeremy Elder

DJ Tunez
Horizon Sounds of the City
Thursday, July 24, 2025 @ 5PM
Chambers Plaza
FREE

DJ Tunez and his live band throw a party that'll keep you dancing all night long. On a mission to spread Afrobeats culture around the world, he blends classic Afrobeat with hip hop and today's club hits.

Cimafunk
Horizon Sounds of the City
Thursday, July 31, 2025 @ 5PM
Chambers Plaza
FREE

Move to the Afro-Cuban sounds of Cimafunk! The GRAMMY®-nominated cultural phenomenon celebrates Blackness across borders. It's "a euphoric soul train, serving up funkadelic grooves ... with the joy of being alive in its every note" (NPR).



Dancers at 'Sounds of the City

Courtesy, njpac.org / pranamarketing.com

MC Lyte
Horizon Sounds of the City
Thursday, Aug 7, 2025 @ 5PM
Chambers Plaza
FREE

MC Lyte, the legendary pioneer of hip hop, brings you back to the old school (and beyond). She's been making history since the 1980s, as the first female rapper to release a solo album ('Lyte as a Rock'), earn a GRAMMY® nomination, perform at Carnegie Hall and receive a gold single ('Ruffneck').

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

NJPAC, located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the most diverse performing arts center in the country, and the anchor cultural institution for both the city of Newark and the state of New Jersey. It is an artistic, cultural, educational and civic center where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

NJPAC brings communities together, providing access to all and showcasing the state's and the world's best artists, while acting as a leading catalyst in the revitalization of its home city. Through its extensive Arts Education programs, NJPAC is shaping the next generation of artists and arts enthusiasts.

NJPAC Arts & Well-Being develops initiatives and programs that amplify the health benefits of the arts and measure the impact of the Arts Center on community health and well-being.

NJPAC has attracted more than 12 million visitors (including more than two million children) since opening its doors in 1997, and nurtures meaningful and lasting relationships with each of its constituents. Visit njpac.org for more information.

PRUDENTIAL NORTH TO SHORE FESTIVAL

The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival,' launched in 2023, features all the talent, diversity and creativity that New Jersey has to offer, packed into two extraordinary weeks of performances, parties and conversations. Learn more at northtoshore.com.

THE HORIZON FOUNDATION FOR NEW JERSEY

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey's philanthropic arm, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey, is focused on making New Jersey healthier by supporting non-profit organizations that expand access to health care, remove barriers to good health and increase opportunities for everyone to achieve their best health, no matter who they are or where they live. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey and The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. For more information, visit community.horizonblue.com.

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



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Paresh Rawal returns to Hera Pheri 3, calls Akshay Kumar his longtime friend

Actor Paresh Rawal clarified that he is back to being a part of 'Hera Pheri 3' over a month after announcing his exit from the film. During his appearance on a podcast recently, the popular actor said things have been sorted with the film's team, and he has joined his 'friends for many years' Akshay Kumar and Suniel Shetty in the Priyadarshan-directorial.

Rawal, who played the iconic Baburao Ganpatrao Apte in the comedy franchise, told Himanshu Mehta on his podcast, "Nahi controversy kuch nahi hai (No, there is no controversy). I believe that when people have loved something so much, then you have to be extra careful."

He shared that he just wanted everyone associated with the film to put more effort into work. "It is our responsibility toward the audience. The audience has given you so much adulation. You can't take things for granted. Mehnat karke unko do (Work hard and give them the film). So I was of the opinion that sab saath mein aaye, mehnat karein. Aur kuch nahin (Everyone should come together, work hard). It is all resolved now," he explained.

When asked to comment on the trio finally coming back to lead the beloved franchise, Rawal talked about his wish



Paresh Rawal, who was recently in the spotlight for exiting Hera Pheri 3, has now officially rejoined the much-loved comedy franchise. As per recent updates, the seasoned actor has ironed out the differences that earlier prompted his departure, which were reportedly tied to a legal disagreement involving Akshay Kumar

for everyone to be doing better.

"Pehle bhi aane hi waali thi (The film was being released earlier as well), but it's just that we had to fine-tune ourselves (laughs). After all, all of them are creative, be it Priyadarshan, Akshay or Suniel. They are friends for many, many, many years," he said.

After Rawal's abrupt exit from the film, Akshay Kumar's production house filed a Rs 25 crore suit against him, claiming that his actions caused financial losses and disrupted the production schedule.

The shooting for 'Hera Pheri 3' is scheduled to begin in January next year.

Aamir Khan defends romancing Fatima Sana Shaikh in Thugs

Actor Aamir Khan shared that he had no issues playing the role of a lover in 'Thugs Of Hindostan' opposite his co-star Fatima Sana Shaikh. The actor was speaking in an interview when he said Vijay Krishna Acharya (the director) offered to remove the romantic angle between them since Shaikh had played his daughter in 'Dangal'. However, the 60-year-old said he didn't mind playing Shaikh's lover because he only played her father in a film, not in real-life.

In a conversation with Lallantop, Khan revealed that the director had said, "We won't have a romantic track between you and her because she was your daughter in 'Dangal'. How can she play your girlfriend here? Audience will reject this."

To this, the actor responded, "I don't believe in all of this. Main asal mein thode uska baap hun, aur na asal mein main uska boyfriend hun. Hum log film bana rahe hain bhai (I am not her father in real life, and neither am I her boyfriend in real life. We are making a movie)."

Deepika Padukone scripts history, to get a star on Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2026



Deepika Padukone has created history by becoming the first Indian actor to be named one of the honourees for the Hollywood Walk of Fame Class of 2026 in the Motion Pictures category. The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce revealed the list live, placing Padukone alongside international stars like Demi Moore, Rachel McAdams, Emily Blunt, Timothee Chalamet, Rami Malek, and Stanley Tucci.

The honourees were chosen from hundreds of nominations by a panel during a meeting held on June 20. The selection was later approved by the Chamber's board of directors. At the event, which was streamed live, Peter Roth, former CEO of Warner Bros, Television and chairman of the Walk of Fame selection committee, said, "We are excited to announce the newest selections of 35 esteemed individuals who will be enshrined on the Walk of Fame as part of the prestigious Class of 2026."

He further added, "These talented individuals have made significant contributions to the world of entertainment,

and we are thrilled to honour them with this well-deserved recognition."

Deepika has long been regarded as a trendsetting figure beyond India. In 2018, she was included in TIME magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world. She also received the TIME100 Impact Award for her work on mental health awareness and film campaigns.

Her unveiling of the FIFA World Cup trophy at the 2022 final in Qatar was yet another major milestone in her international career. Beyond acting, Padukone has redefined Indian celebrity visibility on the world fashion scene. She was the first Indian face endorsed by high-end brands Cartier and Louis Vuitton, paving the way for others on the world fashion platform.

While her international stature continues to rise, Deepika is still among the strongest and best-paid female actors in Indian cinema. With a string of successful movies and even more big projects in the line, including one with director Atlee, Deepika is all set to be back at work, after a break to embrace motherhood.

Tom Holland, Matt Damon stun in leaked trailer of Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey*

The first trailer for Christopher Nolan's highly anticipated Greek mythology film, 'The Odyssey' has leaked online. Although the critically acclaimed filmmaker wanted to release it only in cinemas, like he did with 'Oppenheimer', fans with smartphones recorded it anyway.

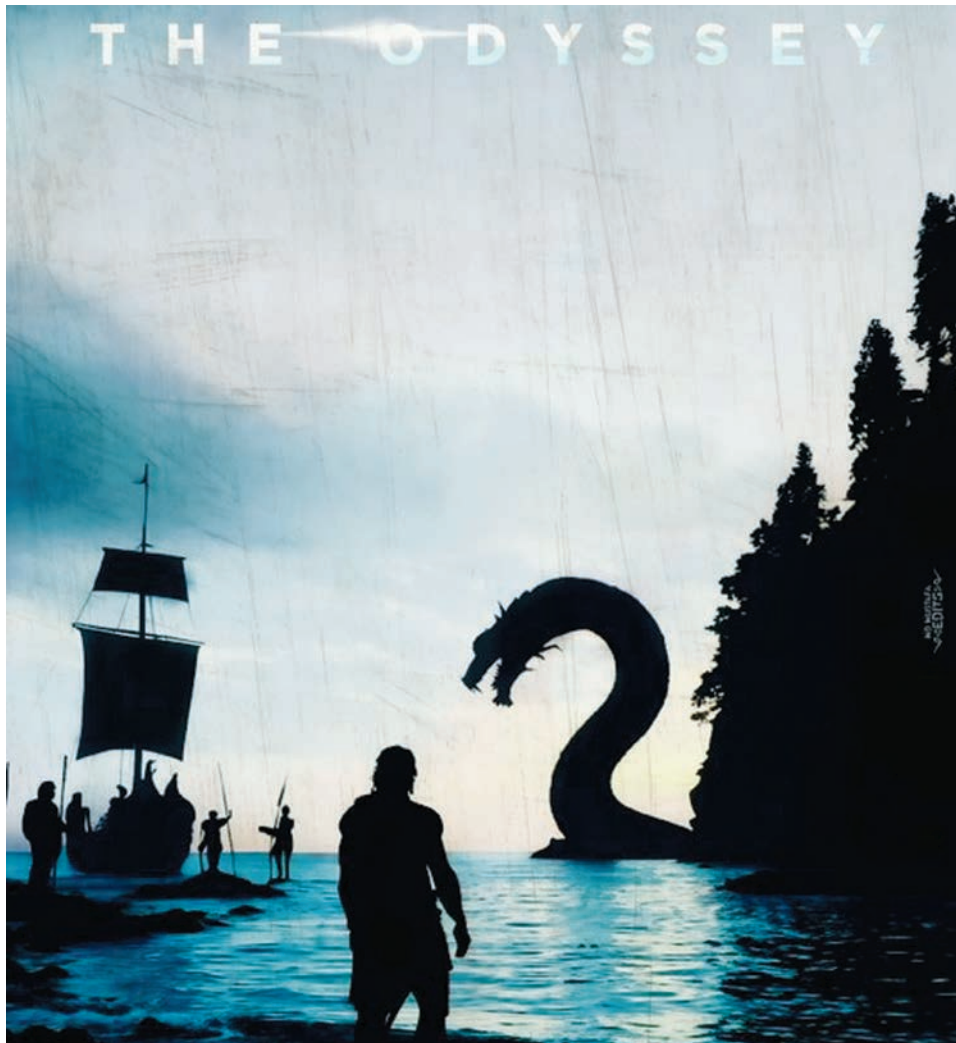
The trailer was intended to debut exclusively in theatres, but clips quickly appeared on TikTok and YouTube. Universal Pictures actively removed most videos using copyright strikes, but not before fans got a glimpse of Tom Holland, Jon Bernthal, and Matt Damon.

The trailer opens with a wide shot of the sea and a rough voiceover saying, "Darkness. Zeus' law was broken. A kingdom without a king since my master died. He knew the war was unwinnable. Yet somehow, he won."

The scene then shows Holland as Telemachus, son of Odysseus, who is on a mission to find his missing father. He talks with Jon Bernthal's character, whose role is still unknown. Holland says, "I have to find out what happened to my father." Bernthal replies, "Interested in rumours? Gossip. Who has a story about Odysseus?" Then he asks the crowd, "You? You have a story?"

The video then showcased Greek soldiers marching by torchlight, a shadowy Trojan Horse submerged in water, and Matt Damon's Odysseus clinging to driftwood at sea, all capturing the film's epic scale and visual grandeur.

Based on Homer's classic 'The



Odyssey', the film follows Odysseus' journey home to Ithaca after the Trojan War. It shows his famous Trojan Horse trick and the long, dangerous trip filled with monsters like the Cyclops.

Shot entirely on IMAX cameras, 'The Odyssey' is Nolan's biggest and most

expensive film yet, with a USD 250 million (approx Rs 2143 crore) budget. Filming is happening in Greece, Morocco, and Italy, staying true to the story's Mediterranean setting.

'The Odyssey' is set to release worldwide in theatres on July 17, 2026.

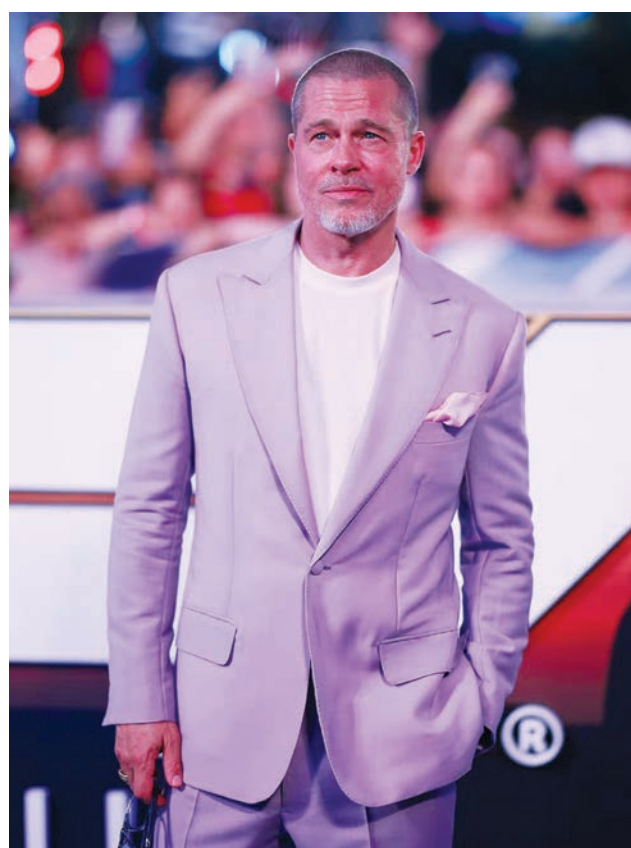


Sydney Sweeney 'is not interested in dating' despite Orlando Bloom, Tom Brady 'love triangle' rumors

Sydney Sweeney may have been seen mingling with Hollywood's biggest names at Jeff Bezos and Lauren Sanchez's luxurious Venice wedding bash, but she's not romantically involved with anyone. The actress, who recently ended her engagement to longtime partner Jonathan Davino, has made it clear she is prioritising her work and personal well-being. Despite being spotted with Orlando Bloom and Tom Brady over the wedding weekend, sources with direct knowledge told TMZ that she is very much single - and intends to stay that way for now.

Rumors swirled after photos surfaced of the Euphoria star walking through the streets of Venice with both Brady and Bloom. But insiders were quick to shut it down, saying nothing romantic was happening. "She's not dating anyone and isn't interested either. Right now, it's all about her career and enjoying life," the source told TMZ.

Sweeney and Davino split earlier this year, with the breakup confirmed in January. Though neither has publicly commented on the reason, the actress seems content keeping her focus away from relationships for now.



Brad Pitt doesn't want young actors to do superhero and franchise films

Actor Brad Pitt has warned young actors about the pressures of the film industry, advising them not to get caught up in this trend of working on a superhero film or franchise, cautioning that such roles can limit their creative potential.

Brad spoke about the thing when he joined Travis and Jason Kelce on the New Heights podcast during his F1 promotional tour.

Brad said, "I like watching what the new generation is coming in with. I like to see what they are up against and the way they negotiate and work their way through it. They enjoy it more. We were more uptight, and it had to be about acting... like, you didn't sell out, you didn't sell out".

He added, "But now it's like, 'We can be artists in many different arenas, so let's do it and let's enjoy it.' But they also get caught up in you 'have to have a franchise' or 'have to have a superhero.' But I keep saying, 'Don't! Don't! They'll die'".

The actor feels getting sucked up in franchise fare or comic book movies can lead to exhaustion for young actors.

While Brad had a cameo in *Deadpool 2*, he has avoided superhero movies. He has also steered clear of big Hollywood franchises outside of his Ocean's trilogy with George Clooney and Matt Damon.

Brad's recent film, the racing drama *F1*, is currently running in theatres. Directed by Joseph

Kosinski, the film tells the story of Sonny Hayes, a veteran Formula One driver, who makes a comeback to the sport after a 30-year hiatus. A talented and promising driver, a severe accident ended his career.

In the film, Brad's character, Sonny, is brought back into the world of Formula One by his former teammate Ruben Cervantes (played by Javier Bardem), who now owns a struggling F1 team. As Sonny attempts to help the team make a comeback, he faces challenges both on and off the track, including reconciling with his past. *F1* also stars Javier Bardem, Damson Idris, Kerry Condon, Tobias Menzies, and Sarah Niles. The film has taken a \$144-million opening in the US, the highest of Brad's career.

MEXICAN BOXER JULIO CÉSAR CHÁVEZ JR. ARRESTED BY ICE FOR DEPORTATION, FEDERAL OFFICIALS SAY

04 JUL 2025

LOS ANGELES (TIP): Famed Mexican boxer Julio César Chávez Jr. has been arrested for overstaying his visa and lying on a green card application and will be deported to Mexico, where he faces organized crime charges, U.S. federal officials said Thursday.

The arrest came only days after the former middleweight champion lost a match against influencer-turned-boxer Jake Paul in Anaheim, California.

The Department of Homeland Security said officials determined Chávez should be arrested on June 27, a day before the fight. It was unclear why they waited to act for days after the high-profile event.

The boxer was riding a scooter when agents detained him.

The 39-year-old boxer, according to his attorney Michael Goldstein, was picked up Wednesday by a large number of federal agents while he was riding a scooter in front of a home where he resides in the upscale Los Angeles neighborhood of Studio City near Hollywood.

"The current allegations are outrageous and simply another headline to terrorize the community," Goldstein said.

Many people across Southern California are on edge as immigration arrests have ramped up, prompting protests and the federal deployment of National Guard troops and U.S. Marines to downtown Los Angeles.

Goldstein did not know where Chávez was being detained as of Thursday morning, but said he and his client were due in court Monday in connection with prior gun possession charges.

Chávez's family issued a statement Thursday afternoon in support of him, the Los Angeles Times reported.

"We have full confidence in his innocence," the statement said. "We firmly believe that the proper course is to allow the competent authorities to carry out their work without external pressure or speculation."

Before his recent bout, Chavez fought once since 2021.

Before his bout with Paul on Saturday, Chávez had fought just once since 2021, having fallen to innumerable lows during a lengthy boxing career conducted in the shadow of his father, Julio César Chávez, one of the most beloved athletes in Mexican history and a member of the International Boxing Hall of Fame who won championships in several weight classes. The son, who has battled drug addiction for much of his career, has been arrested repeatedly. In 2012, he was convicted of drunk driving in Los Angeles and sentenced to 13 days in jail and in January 2024 he was arrested on gun charges. (AP)

'This is not life': Gazans reel from Israeli strike on school-turned-shelter

03 JUL 2025

GAZA CITY (TIP): Young children wandered through the charred shell of what had been a school sheltering displaced Palestinians on Thursday, after a pre-dawn Israeli strike killed 15 people there according to the civil defence agency.

Tattered clothes hung from the blackened exterior of the building in western Gaza City, as rubble still smouldered below in the morning light.

Bloodstains dotted the ground strewn with the remnants of daily life. Clothing, metal chairs, tins of food and part of an electric fan lay amongst the wreckage, AFP footage showed.

"This is not a life," said Umm Yassin Abu Awda, a Gaza City resident who stood amongst mourners at the city's Al-Shifa Hospital following the strike.

"Either you strike us with a nuclear bomb and end it all, or people's conscience needs to finally wake up."

Contacted by AFP, the Israeli military said it "struck a key Hamas terrorist who was operating in a Hamas command and control center in Gaza City".

"Prior to the strike, numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians," it added.

Mahmud Bassal, spokesman for Gaza's civil defence agency, told AFP that most of the 15 killed in Thursday's strike were women and children.

He also reported a large number of injuries in the "Israeli air strike on the Mustafa Hafez School, which shelters displaced persons, in the Al-Rimal neighbourhood".

They were among 69 people that the agency reported killed by Israeli forces on Thursday in the Palestinian territory, where Israel has recently expanded its military operations.

Nearly all of Gaza's population has



been displaced at least once during the nearly 21-month war, which has created dire humanitarian conditions for the more than two million people living there.

Many have sought shelter in school buildings, but these have repeatedly come under Israeli attacks that the military often says target Hamas militants hiding among civilians.

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details provided by the civil defence.

At Mustafa Hafez School, a colourful mural on a wall next to the wreckage showed a smiling boy walking past a tree and a woman next to a Palestinian flag.

A small group sat on chairs in what was once the playground of the school.

Inside the building, a group of young boys surveyed the damage and climbed on upturned furniture while others sifted through the debris.

Crowds of mourners gathered at Al-Shifa Hospital, where men and women wept over the bodies of the dead.

"We have no life left. Let them just annihilate us so we can finally rest," said one woman who lost relatives in the strike and did not give her name.

"There's nothing left for us. My two daughters are gone -- and now my niece, along with her six children and her husband, were burned to death," she said, her voice breaking with emotion.

At least 57,130 people have been killed in Israel's military campaign in Gaza, mostly civilians, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry. The United Nations considers its figures reliable.

The war was triggered by Palestinian militant group Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel which resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people, also mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on Israeli official figures. (AFP)

Indonesian rescuers intensify search for 30 people missing after ferry sinks near Bali

04 JUL 2025

GILIMANUK (TIP): Indonesian authorities intensified on Friday a search operation for 30 people missing after a ferry sank near the tourist island of Bali.

The KMP Tunu Pratama Jaya sank almost half an hour after leaving Ketapang port in East Java late Wednesday for a trip of about 5 kilometers (3 miles) to Bali's Gilimanuk port. The search and rescue operation was halted Thursday evening due to visibility problems and resumed on Friday morning with more than 160 rescuers including police and soldiers, said Ribut Eko Suyatno, the deputy chief of operations at the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Three helicopters and a thermal drone were deployed to conduct an aerial search over the waters of the Bali Strait, while about 20 vessels were mobilized for the sea search, Suyatno said. As weather



forecasts predict high waves and rough waters around the Bali Strait on Friday, he said at least three navy ships to be deployed to replace small boats.

Videos and photos released by the agency showed rescuers looking desperately from rescue boats in the waters but no new survivors.

The agency released the names of 29 survivors and six people confirmed dead late Thursday. It didn't release names of the missing, but according to the passenger manifest there were 30 people missing. On Friday, survivors were being treated at Bali's Jembrana Regional

Hospital, while the bodies have been handed over to the families for funerals. Distraught relatives gathered at the port office in Gilimanuk, hoping for news of missing family members.

Indonesian authorities are investigating the cause of the accident. Survivors told rescuers there appeared to be a leak in the engine room of the ferry, which was carrying 22 vehicles including 14 trucks.

Ferry tragedies occur regularly in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, with weak enforcement of safety regulations often to blame.

Fifteen people were killed after a boat capsized off Indonesia's Sulawesi in 2023, while another ferry sank in rough seas near Bali in 2021, leaving seven dead and 11 missing.

In 2018, an overcrowded ferry sank with about 200 people on board in a deep volcanic crater lake in North Sumatra province, killing 167 people. (AP)

South Korea's leader says trade deal with US remains unclear ahead of Trump's deadline

03 JUL 2025

SEOUL (TIP): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung said that it remained unclear whether Seoul and Washington could conclude their tariff negotiations by the deadline set by US President Donald Trump for next week, noting Thursday that both nations were still working to clarify their positions and identify areas of agreement.

Speaking at his first news conference since taking office last month, Lee also reiterated his intentions to improve badly frayed ties with North Korea, though he acknowledged that mutual distrust between the Koreas is too deep to heal anytime soon.

Trump's tariff hikes and other "America First" policies are major challenges for Lee's month-old government, as are North Korea's expanding nuclear program and domestic economic woes.

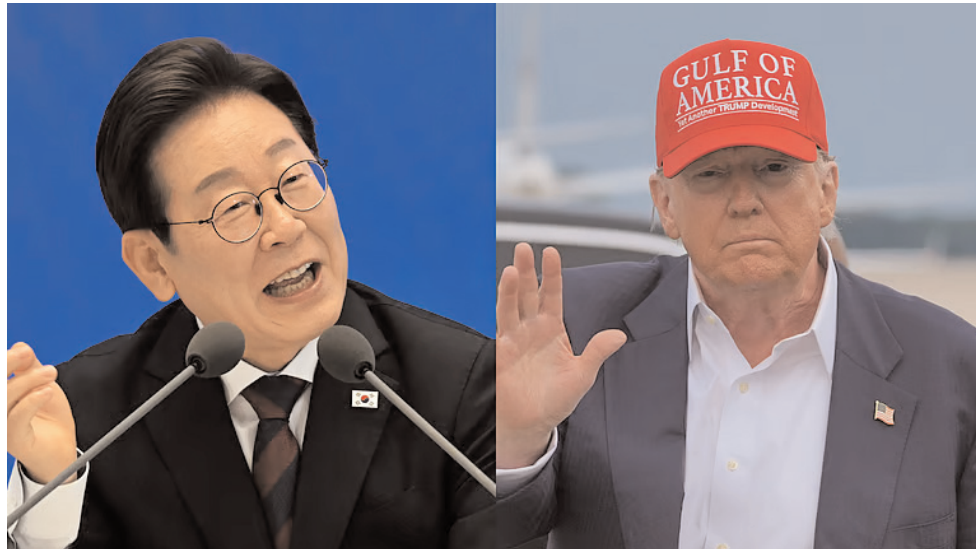
Lee, a liberal, came to power after winning a snap presidential election caused by the ouster of conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol over his ill-fated imposition of martial law in December.

Lee said the tariff negotiations with the US have been "clearly not easy" and stressed that the countries must reach mutually beneficial outcomes.

"It's difficult to say with certainty whether we will be able to reach a conclusion by July 8. We are now doing our best," Lee said.

"What we need is a truly reciprocal outcome that benefits both sides and works for everyone, but so far, both sides are still trying to define exactly what they want."

Trump's 90-day pause in global reciprocal tariffs is set to expire on July 9, potentially exposing South Korean



products to 25% tax rates.

Washington has separately been seeking higher duties on specific products such as automobiles and semiconductors, which are key exports for South Korea's trade-dependent economy.

There are growing concerns in Seoul that Trump may also demand a broader deal requiring South Korea to pay significantly more for the 28,000 US troops stationed on the peninsula to deter North Korean threats.

Lee has consistently urged patience on tariffs, arguing that rushing to secure an early deal would not serve the national interest. His trade minister, Yeo Han-koo, was reportedly arranging a visit to Washington for possible meetings with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

On North Korea, Lee said he would seek to restore long-dormant talks with Pyongyang, whose expanding military

cooperation with Russia pose major security concerns to their neighbors.

"I think we should improve relations with North Korea based on a reliable coordination and consultation between South Korea and the US," Lee said. "But I expect that won't be easy as mutual antagonism and distrust are too serious."

Lee previously faced criticism that he was tilting toward North Korea and China and away from the US and Japan. But since the election, Lee has repeatedly vowed pragmatic diplomacy, saying he would bolster the alliance with the US while also seeking to repair ties with North Korea, China and Russia. Some critics say it's too difficult to satisfy all parties.

Lee's government has made proactive efforts to build trust with North Korea, halting frontline anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts and taking steps to ban activists from flying balloons carrying propaganda leaflets across the border. (AP)

STABBING ATTACK WOUNDS SEVERAL IN FINLAND; SUSPECT HELD

03 JUL 2025

HELSINKI (TIP): Several people were stabbed and wounded on Thursday near a shopping centre in the Finnish city of Tampere, and the suspect has been arrested, police said.

"The situation no longer poses a danger to outsiders. The victims are being given first aid," police said in a statement, adding that they were unable to immediately provide more details, including the number of victims.

Several police cars and ambulances rushed to the scene after the violence, local media reported.

Police said they were alerted to the stabbing at 4:23 pm (1323 GMT), and the area outside the Ratina shopping centre was cordoned off and police were still talking to witnesses more than an hour later.

Tampere, a city of around 260,000, is located around 180 kilometers (112 miles) north of Helsinki. (AFP)

AN OIL-DRILLING SHIP CAPSIZED IN THE GULF OF SUEZ, KILLING AT LEAST 4 CREWMEN, EGYPT SAYS

02 JUL 2025

CAIRO (TIP): An oil-drilling ship capsized in the Gulf of Suez, killing at least four crewmen and leaving four others missing, authorities said Wednesday.

The drilling ship overturned Tuesday evening off the city of Ras Ghareb, on the African side of the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea's northwestern arm and a crucial shipping route, the Petroleum Ministry said in a statement.

There were 30 workers on board when the drilling ship capsized, said Amr Hanafy, governor of the Red Sea province.

Rescue teams recovered four bodies and rescued two 22 others who were taken to hospitals, he said.

He said ships from the Egyptian navy joined the search-and-rescue efforts which were still ongoing overnight for four missing crewmen.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the drilling ship to capsize and authorities say investigations were ongoing. Local media reported it was being tugged for excavations in another area when it overturned.

The capsizing happened in an area called Gabel el-Zeit, a prominent Egyptian oil production site around 300 kilometers (186 miles) south of the Suez Canal, the ministry said in a statement.

The capsizing didn't disrupt vessels transiting through the canal, which links the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean Sea, Adm. Ossam Rabei, head of the canal authority, said.

Rabei said in a statement that 33 vessels were scheduled to transit Wednesday through the global waterway. (AP)

A look at the tensions with Cambodia that led to Thailand prime minister's suspension

03 JUL 2025

BANGKOK (TIP): Thailand's Constitutional Court suspended Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra from office Tuesday pending an ethics investigation over a leaked phone call with a senior Cambodian leader that followed a border row that erupted on May 28.

The leaked call has set off political turmoil in Thailand as Paetongtarn faces growing dissatisfaction over her handling of the conflict. Here's what to know about the latest controversy and the dispute between the two Southeast Asian neighbors.

WHAT WAS SAID IN THE LEAKED CALL

The phone call between Paetongtarn and Cambodian Senate President Hun Sen was reportedly made on June 15 and was leaked days after. Hun Sen said on his Facebook post that he recorded the conversation and had shared it with at least 80 people.

In the call, the two were heard talking



through a translator discussing the tensions at the border, and about whether they should lift restrictions imposed after the deadly clash.

Paetongtarn could be heard addressing Hun Sen as uncle. He is a longtime friend of her father, Thaksin Shinawatra, a popular but divisive former Prime Minister. She urged him not to listen to a Thai regional army commander who had publicly criticized

Cambodia about the border dispute, and called him "an opponent." She also told Hun Sen to let her know what he wanted, and she would try to manage that.

Critics said she went too far in appeasing Hun Sen, and that what she said, especially her comments about the army commander, damaged Thailand's interests and image.

Paetongtarn has apologized but said she didn't do any damage to Thailand, arguing that her comments were a negotiating tactic.

The recent dispute was triggered in May after armed forces of Thailand and Cambodia briefly fired at each other in a relatively small contested border area that both countries claim as their own. Both sides have said they acted in self-defense. One Cambodian soldier was killed.

While the countries said afterwards they have agreed to de-escalate the situation, Cambodian and Thai authorities continue to implement or threaten measures short of armed force, keeping tensions high. (AP)

TIBETANS IN EXILE WONDER, WILL THE NEXT DALAI LAMA BE AS CHARISMATIC AS THIS ONE?

03 JUL 2025

DHARAMSHALA (TIP): The Dalai Lama has announced that he intends to reincarnate, paving the way for a successor to take on a mantle stretching back 500 years after his death. But as he approaches his 90th birthday, that news hasn't eased the worries of Tibetan Buddhists who wonder: What will happen when this Dalai Lama is gone?

For decades, the 14th Dalai Lama has been more than a spiritual leader. He has sustained a nation in exile and managed to build a community that's kept the Tibetan culture and identity alive.

He is the China-reviled spokesperson for a Tibetan homeland that many, like him, can see only from afar. He has received a Nobel Peace Prize and been courted by royalty, politicians and Hollywood stars, helping him draw global attention and support for Tibet.

When his death comes, it will pitch the global Tibetan community into uncertainty, perhaps for years. His successor will have to be found through the traditional process of reincarnation. China, whose troops took control of Tibet in 1950, says it will reject anyone chosen without Beijing's consent.

Tibetans in India's Himalayan town of Dharamshala, the Dalai Lama's home in exile, and scattered around the world fear a new onslaught on their cultural and religious identity.

"The absence of His Holiness would be a huge setback for the Tibetans," said Penpa Tsering, the head of the democratically elected Tibetan government-in-exile. "The responsibility lies on us as to how we carry forward the legacy of His Holiness."

The Dalai Lama has become one of the world's most recognizable figures while leading a Tibetan diaspora through their struggle for autonomy and opposition of China's control of Tibet. He has not named a successor, but he says they will be born in the "free world" — outside China.

Previous Dalai Lamas have been identified by senior monastic disciples, under strict religious rituals meant to identify their predecessor's reincarnation. Monks interpret signs, consult oracles and send search committees to Tibetan households looking for a child who exhibits the qualities of the Dalai Lama.

All of this takes years of effort, leaving a leadership vacuum. Years of religious education and training are needed before the identified successor grows up and takes up full responsibilities as spiritual leader.

China has already sought to elevate other spiritual figures, particularly Tibetan Buddhism's No. 2 figure, the Panchen Lama, whose legitimacy is highly contested by many Tibetans at home and in exile. (AP)

Punish Pahalgam attackers without delay, Quad tells Pakistan

JUL 03, 2025

ISLAMABAD / US (TIP): Amid sustained pressure by India on recognising cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan, the Quad has condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and called for acting against the perpetrators, organisers and financiers of the April 22 massacre without any delay.

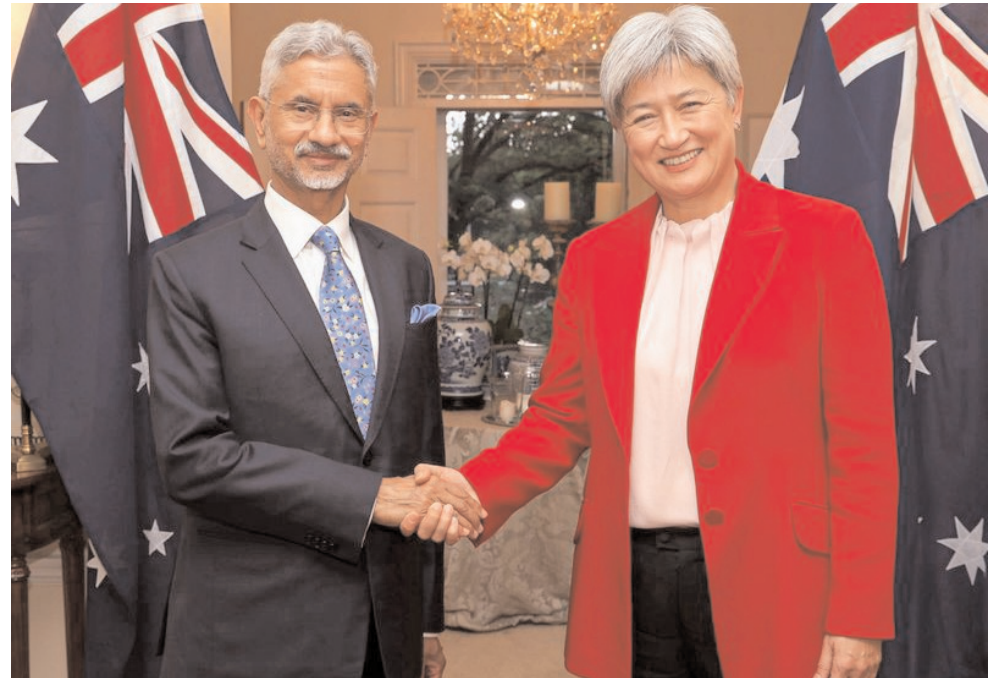
The foreign ministers of the four-nation grouping—India, US, Japan and Australia are its members—met in Washington on Tuesday to firm up a broad agenda for the bloc's annual summit in India later this year.

In its joint statement, the Quad did not mention Pakistan but made it amply clear where it was hinting. The statement used the words "cross-border terrorism" and followed it up by condemning the Pahalgam attack.

The statement, which was posted by the US State Department on its website, said, "We condemn in strongest terms the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which claimed the lives of 25 Indian nationals and a Nepali citizen."

Blaming Pakistan for aiding, abetting, financing and providing logistical support for the attack, India carried out airstrikes to dismantle the terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor.

"We unequivocally condemn all acts of



terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and renew our commitment to counterterrorism cooperation," the statement said.

The Quad urged all UN member states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar,

Australian and Japanese Foreign Ministers, Penny Wong and Takeshi Iwaya, respectively, were at the event.

Pakistan is a UN member and now heads the UNSC for a fixed term as a non-permanent member of the association. The UNSC, in a resolution on April 25, mentioned the Pahalgam attack and underlined the need to hold the perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of the reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. (TNS)

Ousted Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina sentenced to six months in contempt case

02 JUL 2025

NEW DELHI (TIP): In an escalation of legal action against Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a three-member bench of the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Wednesday sentenced her to six months in prison for contempt of court. This marks the first time that the Awami League leader has been sentenced in any case.

The verdict, delivered by ICT Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortaza Mozumder, marks the first conviction against the former Prime Minister since her removal from office in August 2024 following a student-led uprising. The tribunal ruled that Hasina's recent remarks made in exile had "undermined the dignity and authority" of the court.

The prosecution filed a complaint against former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over a phone call in which Hasina allegedly claimed she had a "license to kill" 227 people. After repeated failures to appear before the tribunal, public notices were issued for her summoning.

Ironically, the ICT was established by Hasina herself in 2008 to prosecute those accused of war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War. But since her ouster and subsequent escape from Dhaka, the tribunal has undergone sweeping



changes under the interim government led by Chief Adviser Mohammed Yunus that include the appointment of new judges and prosecutors.

The contempt verdict comes just a day after prosecutors filed five charges of crimes against humanity against Hasina, including abetment, incitement, complicity, and conspiracy related to mass killings during the July-August

2024 unrest. Hasina denied all charges, calling them politically motivated.

In a statement issued from London, the now-banned Awami League, which Hasina continues, slammed the ruling as a "show trial," accusing the interim government of turning the ICT into a political tool.

"With the selective appointment of loyal prosecutors and denial of legal rights to detainees, the regime has weaponized the judicial process," the party said. It alleged the trial was "rigged" to silence dissent and claimed that thousands have been falsely implicated in murder cases and detained without due process.

The Awami League also condemned the ban on its operations, and alleged a "blanket indemnity" had been granted to pro-Yunus forces accused of killing police and unleashing violence during the transition of power.

Further accusing the interim regime of courtroom intimidation, the party said judges were removed under pressure from Yunus-backed mobs, while lawyers and detainees were assaulted in court with impunity. It also expressed alarm that lawyers who had previously defended 1971 war criminals were now serving as prosecutors in Hasina's trial. (ANI)

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Best position to sleep when you are pregnant

Between midnight bathroom runs, a racing mind, cramping legs, heartburn and a hopped-up metabolism that's turning up your internal thermostat — plus a growing baby bump that makes getting comfortable increasingly difficult — sleep can be challenging during pregnancy. Consider it preparation for the sleepless nights that lie ahead.

That said, getting enough sleep is more important than ever now that you're snoozing for two. Here's what you need to know about sleep during pregnancy, from the best positions to solutions for common problems and tips for getting a better night's rest.

Why is sleep so important during pregnancy?

Sleep is the time when your body resets and repairs itself. It's when your brain makes memories, making it an ally in your battle against baby brain. It's how your blood vessels restore themselves, which is especially important now that they're under increased pressure from the extra blood flow required to support your baby.

Sleep also keeps your immune system — which is suppressed to support your pregnancy — healthy. And sleep controls how your body reacts to insulin; not getting enough results in a higher blood sugar level, upping your risk of gestational diabetes.

So even if life is getting in the way, make it a priority to set aside at least seven hours a night for sleep.



Best sleeping positions when you're pregnant

The best sleep position when you're expecting is on your left side — though your right is also perfectly acceptable. This position is ideal for your circulation, optimizing the oxygen and nutrients that get to your baby, as well as kidney function, reducing swelling. Past your first trimester, it becomes impossible to lie on your stomach for obvious reasons.

You should also avoid lying flat on your back all night long. The weight of your growing uterus presses on your vena cava, the artery running blood from your lower body back to your heart, disturbing circulation and possibly making you dizzy. Your womb also weighs on your intestines and back, making common pregnancy symptoms like backaches and hemorrhoids worse.

Common pregnancy sleep problems & solutions

All of the following pregnancy sleep problems can make getting a solid night of shut-eye harder. A few tips to help you sleep better:

You don't like sleeping on your side. Place pillows between your legs and behind your back; full-body and wedge pillows, in particular, are a pregnant woman's best friend. Otherwise try sleeping in a recliner or other comfy armchair, if you have one, in a semi-upright position.

You're restless. Work out during the day, and you'll likely feel sleepier at night — though try to avoid exercising within a couple of hours of bedtime, since that can ramp you up.

You've got a busy mind. If stress at work or about your impending new arrival is keeping you up at night, talk to a friend, parent or your partner earlier in the evening to get your worries off your mind before your head hits the pillow.

Kadai chicken

INGREDIENTS

1 kg chicken, washed, cleaned and cut into big pieces
4 tablespoons oil
1/2 cup onion, sliced
1 1/2 cups tomatoes, peeled and sliced
2 tablespoons fresh coriander leaves, chopped,
1 tablespoon ginger paste
1 tablespoon garlic paste
4 teaspoons garam masala powder
2 bay leaves
4 whole red chillies
2 teaspoons coriander seeds
1 teaspoon red chili, powder, salt

METHOD

- Grind coriander seeds and whole red chillies into a coarse powder.
- Heat oil in a kadai.
- Add bay leaves.
- After about 30 seconds, add onions and saute till they turn light golden brown.
- Add ginger-garlic paste.
- Saute for 2 minutes on medium flame.
- Add the above coarse powder.
- Stir well.
- Add tomatoes and cook till they are fully cooked.
- Add chicken pieces, salt to taste and red chilli powder.
- Mix well.
- Cover the kadai.
- Cook till the chicken becomes tender.
- Sprinkle garam masala powder over the chicken.
- Garnish with coriander leaves and onion rings.
- Serve hot with rotis or parathas.



Home remedies to get rid of blemishes



There are some home remedies for treating blemishes naturally that can fight them off without any side effects. The home remedies offer a more painless and cheaper alternative to the clinical ones along with having long-term benefits. The best part is that they cost nothing except few household items laying around and some time.

Tomato juice

Apply on blemishes and massage. Leave it for 15 minutes. Use this remedy daily for removing skin blemishes naturally.

Lemon juice

Apply fresh lemon juice for 20 minutes on the blemishes for a month or two for lightening up the blemishes.

Cocoa butter

Massage blemishes with cocoa butter and leaves it overnight. Cocoa butter has anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidants which help in fighting blemishes.

Baking soda

Mix few drops of olive oil or water to baking soda and make

a paste. Apply the paste on the blemishes and leave for 10 minutes. Scrub off the paste and wash with clean water.

Egg white

Apply egg white on a clean face and wash it after 10 minutes. Apply a moisturizer. This would lighten your skin and blemishes.

Tips to Prevent Blemishes

- Preventing the blemishes from occurring on your skin is always a better option than trying to fight with it. Here are some tips to prevent blemishes
- It is vital to keep your face cleaned daily with occasional exfoliation to remove impurities, dirt, oil and dead skin cells that lead to blemishes.
- Use a noncomedogenic moisturizer on your skin for hydration.
- Avoid using excessive makeup on a breakout skin. Wash off the makeup after the day and sleep with a clean hydrated face.
- Certain hair oils can clog your face. It is a good idea to keep your hair away from your face.

Why vitamin C can increase iron absorption from plant foods

Did you know that a squeeze of lemon in your greens or dal isn't just for taste? It actually supports your iron levels. Even a small amount of Vitamin C — like 100 mg taken with a meal — can increase the absorption of iron from plant foods by more than 60 per cent.

Pairing nutrients for better absorption isn't just theory — it's something we consistently see backed by research. How well the body takes in vitamins and minerals can improve noticeably when certain combinations are used.

This holds true for turmeric as well. Curcumin, its active ingredient, isn't easily absorbed on its own. But when paired with black pepper — because of the piperine it contains — absorption improves sharply. Some studies show this can raise its bioavailability by up to 2,000 per cent. So what's often thought of as a traditional kitchen habit is, in fact, a powerful example of how the right pairing can make all the difference in how our body uses what we eat.

HOW NUTRIENTS BACK EACH OTHER UP

Vitamin D and calcium are another well-known pair. Without adequate vitamin D, the body can only absorb a fraction of the dietary calcium. Meanwhile magnesium plays a crucial role in converting vitamin D into its active form — without it, even supplements may be less effective. Additionally, fat-soluble vitamins like A, D, E and K need dietary fat for proper absorption; hence, they should be taken with meals that include healthy fats such as ghee, nuts and fish.

AVOIDING CONFLICTS

These principles aren't difficult to apply — they can be woven into everyday eating with a little mindfulness. If supplements have been medically advised, understanding when and how to take them is just as important. Fat-soluble vitamins work best with meals that include healthy fats, while iron is often paired with



vitamin C but should be kept separate from calcium. Magnesium and calcium should ideally be spaced out to avoid absorption conflicts.

These small adjustments — timing, pairing, and food context — can significantly improve how well the body utilises each nutrient. Following your doctor's instructions and not self-medicating is key to getting the intended benefit.

NO SUPPLEMENTS WITHOUT MAKING ADVICE

That said, it's important not to start adding supplements on your own without medical advice. They're meant to address specific needs — not to follow trends or assumptions.

Taking unnecessary doses can upset your body's nutrient balance and sometimes lead to side effects. In most cases, your body responds better to nutrients from real, well-paired foods than from isolated capsules. For generally healthy individuals, combining lentils with vitamin C or having fat alongside fat-soluble vitamins is a simple, effective way to support absorption.



Curd can help you lose weight, here's how

We all know that our diet plays a major role in the weight loss process. Swapping oily, unhealthy food with healthy and protein-rich food can help you a lot in losing unwanted kilos. One such protein-rich food is curd which is known for its numerous health benefits. It is packed with a variety of nutrients like calcium, vitamin B-2, vitamin B-12, potassium, and magnesium which are beneficial for our health. Moreover, it helps in lowering high blood pressure and promoting a healthy heart. Yogurt contains several enzymes that can fight disease-causing germs and keep us safe from various ailments. Apart from this, researchers also claim that curd facilitates weight loss. But is it really true? Scroll on to find out.

According to a study published in the International Journal of Obesity, adults who consumed three servings of fat-free yogurt per day lost 22% more weight and 61% more body fat than those who simply cut down their calorie intake and didn't bone up on calcium. Moreover, it is packed with several vitamins and nutrients, which keeps you full and satisfied for a longer period of time and prevents you from bingeing on junk food.

If you are trying to lose weight, you need to eat a good amount of protein, which is present in curd. According to USDA data, curd contains 8.5 grams of protein in a cup of whole milk yogurt, 13g per cup of low-fat yogurt, and 10g of protein in a cup of non-fat yogurt. Protein helps you keep full for longer hours, thus preventing you from overeating and gaining weight.

Improves digestion

Curd has a good concentration of pro-biotic elements that are beneficial for our digestive system. According to a research review published in Nutrition and Metabolism in February 2016, it was found that intestinal microflora plays a major role in boosting metabolism and regulating body weight.

Natural ways to increase glutathione levels

Glutathione is a powerful antioxidant found in every cell of the body. It plays a crucial role in protecting cells from oxidative stress and damage caused by free radicals. It comprises three amino acids: glutamine, glycine, and cysteine. Glutathione is primarily used for skin lightening. It helps reduce melanin levels and improves skin texture. Glutathione levels typically decline with age and due to factors like poor nutrition, environmental toxins, and stress.

How does it work?

Glutathione lowers melanin levels by suppressing the tyrosinase enzyme, which results in brighter and more even-coloured skin. As a potent antioxidant, glutathione also helps combat oxidative stress and slows down skin ageing. Beyond its skin benefits, glutathione is important for immune function. Not many know that glutathione levels can be boosted naturally. It can be achieved through various lifestyle choices and dietary adjustments. Here we have some effective methods.

Ways to boost glutathione levels naturally

There are a few dietary sources of glutathione which can effectively help lower oxidative stress. Some notable options include: Avocados, Spinach, Okra, Tomatoes, Asparagus

Consume sulfur-rich foods

Sulfur is an important mineral which is required for

synthesis of glutathione. Incorporate garlic, onions, and cruciferous vegetables like broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and kale into your diet.

Increase your vitamin C intake

Glutathione is usually combined with vitamin C to enhance its effectiveness. It plays a vital role in maintaining glutathione levels. Vitamin C further boosts collagen production, improving skin tone and texture. Citrus fruits, strawberries, kiwi, and bell peppers are excellent sources of vitamin C.

Consume selenium-rich foods

Selenium has been shown to support glutathione production. Include nuts (especially Brazil nuts), fish, and eggs in your diet.

Prioritize sleep

Studies show that chronic lack of sleep may decrease glutathione levels. Ensure good quality sleep to regenerate and recover, which helps in maintaining healthy glutathione levels.

Exercise regularly

According to research, engaging in regular physical activity is a natural way to stimulate the body's antioxidant defences, including increasing glutathione levels. However, it is also crucial to eat a nutritious diet along with training to promote glutathione levels.

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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

Microsoft claims its AI tool can diagnose complex cases better than doctors

Microsoft claims that it has developed an AI tool that, in a recent experiment, diagnosed patients with four times more accuracy than human doctors.

The technology, called MAI Diagnostic Orchestrator (MAI-DxO), works by combining multiple advanced AI models, including ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Anthropic's Claude, Meta's Llama, and xAI's Grok. The system mimics a team of doctors working together, sharing opinions and debating symptoms before reaching a diagnosis.

To test the system, researchers used 304 real-life case studies published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. These were turned into a series of patient scenarios, where the AI had to figure out the illness just as a doctor would by analysing symptoms, ordering tests, and narrowing down possibilities step-by-step.

The results were surprising: the AI system correctly diagnosed 80% of the cases, compared to just 20% by a group of human doctors. And it wasn't just about accuracy. The AI also managed to lower the cost of diagnosis by about 20%, by choosing more affordable tests and avoiding unnecessary procedures.

"This is a genuine step toward medical superintelligence," said Mustafa Suleyman, CEO of Microsoft AI, highlighting the tool's potential to transform healthcare decision-making.

According to the company, as demand for healthcare continues to grow, costs are rising at an unsustainable pace, and billions of people face multiple barriers to better health, including inaccurate and delayed diagnoses.

While AI has already been used to help doctors interpret medical scans, this latest development suggests it could take on broader diagnostic roles, possibly becoming a first point of contact for patients in the future.

Experts involved in the project say this could help reduce healthcare costs and speed up access to care. "Our model performs incredibly well—both getting to the diagnosis and doing so cost-effectively," said Dominic King, a Microsoft vice president.

However, like all AI systems, these tools must be carefully monitored. There are concerns about whether they work equally well across different populations, since much of the training data may be skewed toward certain groups.

"This research is just the first step on a long, exciting journey. We're excited to keep testing and learning with our healthcare partners in pursuit of better, more accessible care for people everywhere," Suleyman said.

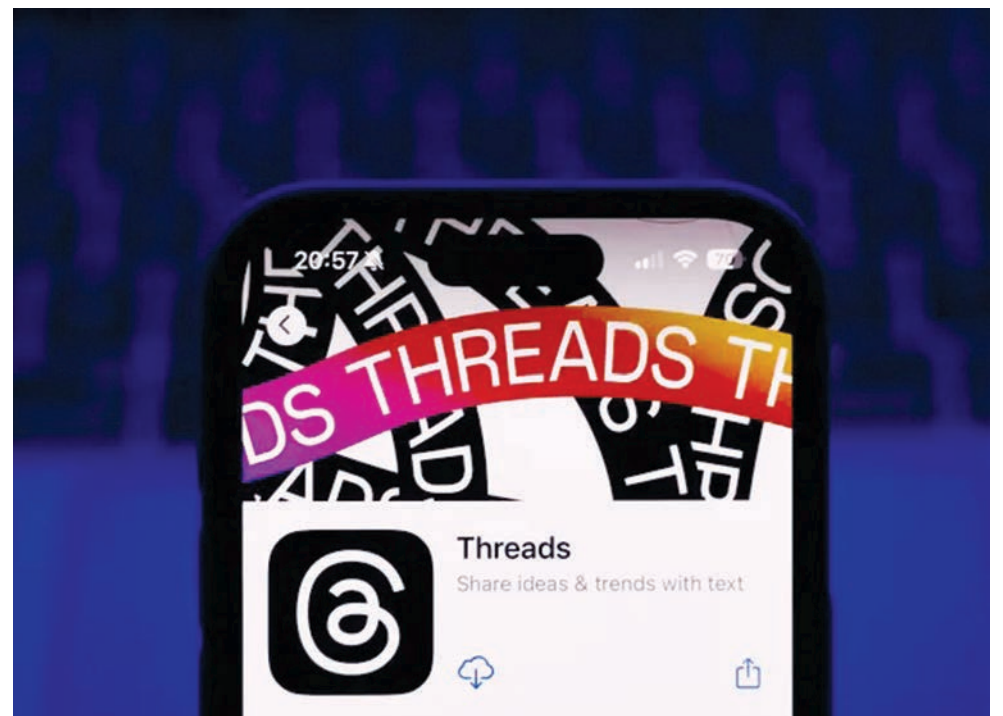
Meta adds DM chatting feature to Instagram spinoff Threads on popular demand

Meta is finally rolling out the direct messaging feature for its Instagram spinoff app, Threads. The feature has been one of the most requested by users ever since its launch in 2023. The company has announced that, starting from the first week of July, users around the world will be able to privately message others directly within the Threads app. The feature will finally eliminate the consistent hassle for users of having to switch over to Instagram for private conversations.

For now, Threads will offer only basic DM functionality. Users will be able to initiate one-on-one chats, react using preset emojis, mute conversations, and report spam. In the future, Meta is likely to roll out additional features such as group chats, message filters, and expanded messaging controls, similar to Instagram.

Notably, at present, the feature is limited to users aged 18 and over, and will not be available in Japan, Australia, the UK, or the EU. Threads will only allow messaging between followers or mutual Instagram connections at this stage.

While the feature is certainly much anticipated, it is also raising privacy concerns. Messages on Threads will not be end-to-end encrypted. Unlike WhatsApp or competitors such as X (formerly Twitter), which offer encrypted messaging, Threads DMs are not end-to-end encrypted. A Threads spokesperson, Alec Booker, confirmed to



The Verge that "Threads will not support end-to-end encryption for messaging." However, he emphasised that Threads will "continue evolving DMs on Threads based on feedback from the community."

Once the feature appears on Threads, users can start a DM by tapping the envelope icon at the bottom of the app. From there, one can compose a new message using the pencil icon in the top-right corner.

Alongside DMs, Threads is also getting a new visual feature called Highlighter. This feature will showcase

"unique perspectives that lead to thoughtful conversations" and trending topics within the For You feed. The company says this addition will help users initiate meaningful discussions by highlighting posts that spark engagement and community interest.

Additionally, Meta is testing increased account flexibility. In Europe, users can log in using Facebook or create Threads-only accounts. The company is also exploring options to browse Threads on the web without logging in, aiming to further differentiate the app from its Instagram roots.

iPhone 17 Pro Max may get the biggest battery jump so far, new leak suggests

In what could be a welcome shift for iPhone fans tired of living near a charger, Apple appears to be gearing up for a meaningful battery boost with next year's flagship. According to a new leak, the iPhone 17 Pro Max may finally surpass the 5,000mAh barrier — a milestone that would mark a significant leap forward for Apple's battery technology.

According to the tipster, Instant Digital on Weibo shared that the iPhone 17 Pro Max is expected to get the biggest battery jump. While we've seen modest improvements in battery life over the years, this jump, if accurate, would represent one of the most dramatic increases yet in the Pro Max line. To put things in perspective, the current iPhone 16 Pro Max carries a 4,676mAh cell, while its predecessor, the iPhone 15 Pro Max, comes in at 4,422mAh. Reaching



5,000mAh would be the largest battery ever packed into an iPhone.

This isn't just a numerical upgrade either. For everyday users, that extra capacity could spell real-world freedom: fewer low-battery warnings, more time for snapping photos, endless social

media scrolling, longer Netflix binges, and extended gaming sessions, all without desperately searching for a charging cable before bedtime.

Of course, raw battery size isn't the only metric that matters. Apple has always leaned heavily on its A-series chips and iOS optimisations to squeeze out maximum efficiency. The combination of a beefier battery and Apple's expected next-gen chip, likely the A19 Bionic, could offer a sweet spot of power and endurance.

It's also worth noting that larger batteries often go hand-in-hand with larger devices. The Pro Max, already known for its expansive display, is the natural candidate for such an upgrade. That extra chassis space allows Apple's engineers a bit more wiggle room to fit in a chunkier cell — something standard and even Pro models often miss out on.

Asian equities mixed as Trump's tariff deadline looms

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Asian markets showed mixed movement on Friday, July 4, as investors treaded carefully ahead of a looming US tariff deadline set by President Donald Trump. The uncertainty overshadowed positive cues from Wall Street, where a strong US jobs report lifted major indexes to record highs.

Trump told reporters on Thursday, July 3, that he planned to begin sending letters to trading partners detailing new tariffs, as his July 9 deadline approaches. "My inclination is to send a letter out and say what tariff they're going to be paying," he said, adding that letters could start going out "probably tomorrow, maybe 10 a day."

The move follows his sweeping announcement of new levies on "Liberation Day" in early April, sparking a global rush for trade deals to avoid the tariffs. So far, only Britain and Vietnam have signed agreements, while China has reached a framework deal with Washington to reduce mutual tariffs and ease restrictions on some goods.

Tariff uncertainty grips investors as negotiations continue, investors worry that countries like Japan, South Korea, India, and Taiwan could soon face higher tariffs. The uncertainty weighed on markets across Asia. Tokyo, Shanghai, Sydney, Wellington, and



Jakarta posted small gains, while Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, and Manila ended lower. Despite these concerns, Wall Street closed strong ahead of the US Independence Day holiday. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq hit fresh record highs after US jobs data showed the economy added 147,000 jobs in June, above expectations, while unemployment fell to 4.1%.

However, the upbeat headline figures masked underlying weakness, analysts warned. MUFG said hiring in the private sector appeared to be stalling, with more than 750,000 people having exited the labor force over the past two months. "We continue to view labour

demand as being fundamentally weak relative to the past several years," they noted.

The labor data reduced expectations of a July interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve. Markets are now pricing in two rate cuts by year-end, the first likely in September.

Meanwhile, the passage of Trump's "Big, Beautiful Bill," which extends major tax and spending cuts, added to market confusion. While the legislation includes a \$5 trillion debt limit increase, preventing a potential US default, it is also projected to add \$3 trillion to the national debt.

Source: TOI

BMW Group India records highest-ever H1 car deliveries, on fast-track with 10% growth

Propelling its robust performance in the current year, BMW Group India has posted its highest-ever car deliveries in H1 2025. The company sold 7,774 BMW and MINI cars and 2,569 motorcycles between January to June 2025. BMW sold 7,477 units and MINI 297 units.

In the second quarter (April - June), each month recorded best-ever sales.

Vikram Pawah, President and CEO, BMW Group India said, "Carrying forward the impressive performance of Q1 into H1, BMW Group India is steering the success story for this year with tremendous fervour. We are on a fast track, posting +10% growth despite a challenging environment as we continue to unfold new opportunities in luxury segment. Changing the game with our thrust on electric mobility, we are the most preferred Indian luxury EV brand with phenomenal +234% growth. Among SAVs as well as sedans, our long wheelbase luxury models are in great demand due to their seamless blend of comfort and performance. Coupled with the ongoing RetailNext transformation and Relax.We Care customer support initiatives, we are redefining our customers' journey with joy and complete peace of mind."

For last three years, BMW Group India is the leader in luxury EV sales in India. In H1 2025, this lead continues with 1,322 BMW and MINI EVs sold. The company achieved enormous +234% growth in EV sales in the first half of the year. The BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase was the highest-selling electric car during this period, followed by the flagship BMW i7 in second spot. Electric cars now hold 18% share in total sales of BMW Group India.

At the start of the year, BMW Group India announced many new initiatives for its EV customers including services like BMW Destination Charging, Smart E-Routing and Charging Concierge. Combined with complimentary Wallbox chargers and 24x7 open access to the company's fast-charging dealership network across the country, customers are able to embrace progressive e-mobility with complete peace of mind. BMW Group India currently offers six electric cars and two scooters - BMW i7, BMW iX, BMW i5, BMW i4, BMW iX1 Long Wheelbase, MINI Countryman E, BMW CE 04 and BMW CE 02. Stunning performance and driving dynamics are hallmark of the entire EV portfolio and each model stands for next level digitalisation and sustainability.

Source: ANI

Nvidia to become world's most valued company ever with \$3.9 trillion market cap

WASHINGTON (TIP)

Nvidia NVDA.O was on track to become the most valuable company in history on Thursday, July 3, with the chipmaker's market capitalisation reaching \$3.92 trillion as Wall Street doubled down on optimism about AI.

Shares of the leading designer of high-end AI chips were up 2.2 per cent at \$160.6 in morning trading, giving the company a higher market capitalisation than Apple's AAPL.O record closing value of \$3.915 trillion on December 26, 2024.

Nvidia's newest chips have made gains in training the largest artificial-intelligence models, fuelling demand for products by the Santa Clara, California, company.

Microsoft MSFT.O is currently the second-most valuable company on Wall Street, with a market capitalisation of \$3.7 trillion as its shares rose 1.5 per cent to \$498.5.

Apple rose 0.8 per cent, giving it a market value of \$3.19 trillion, in third place.

A race among Microsoft, Amazon.com



AMZN.O, Meta Platforms META.O, Alphabet GOOGL.O and Tesla TSLA.O to build AI data centres and dominate the emerging technology has fuelled insatiable demand for Nvidia's high-end processors.

"When the first company crossed a trillion dollars, it was amazing. And now you're talking four trillion, which is just incredible. It tells you that there's this huge rush with AI spending and everybody's chasing it right now," said Joe Saluzzi, co-manager of trading at Themis Trading.

The stock market value of Nvidia,

whose core technology was developed to power video games, has increased nearly eight-fold over the past four years, from \$500 billion in 2021.

Nvidia is now worth more than the combined value of the Canadian and Mexican stock markets, according to LSEG data. The tech company also exceeds the total value of all publicly listed companies in the United Kingdom.

Nvidia recently traded at about 32 times analysts' expected earnings for the next 12 months, below its average of about 41 over the past five years, according to LSEG data. That relatively modest price-to-earnings valuation reflects steadily increasing earnings estimates that have outpaced Nvidia's sizeable stock gains.

The company's stock has now rebounded more than 68 per cent from its recent closing low on April 4, when Wall Street was reeling from President Donald Trump's global tariff announcements. US stocks, including Nvidia, have recovered on expectations that the White House will cement trade deals to soften Trump's tariffs.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JULY 7, 2025 TO JULY 10, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week, new possibilities will open up for you. Move ahead with confidence and focus on your goals. Your ideas and efforts will be appreciated at work, which can give you some new responsibilities and opportunities. Focus on communication in personal relationships. Avoid aggression and express your ideas calmly. This is the time to resolve old differences. Spending time with family will give you emotional balance. Be health conscious. Exercise and a balanced diet will give you mental and physical strength. Overall, this week will bring you opportunities for progress and positive change. Use your adventurous nature and try to get things your way.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week will be a mixed bag. This week, you will see a flow of positivity and energy in your work. You will be ready to work a little harder to achieve your goals, and this hard work will give you good results. Your family relationships will strengthen during this time. Spending time with family will give you mental peace. An old dispute may also be resolved, which will make you feel mentally light. From an economic point of view, this week you may get a chance to do something new. New investment opportunities are waiting for you, but be a little cautious and use discretion in your decision-making. From a health point of view, this week is important for you. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy levels. Resort to meditation and yoga to reduce mental stress. In short, this week is a good time for you to bring balance to your personal and professional life. Think with a cool head before making any major decisions.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week is going to be particularly active and positive. Your intelligence and communication skills will be high at this time, which will open up new possibilities in your work life. You will be able to express your ideas and create a positive atmosphere in your team. Good changes can also be seen in personal relationships. Communicating with your loved ones and understanding emotions will be beneficial for you. You will get a chance to spend time with friends and family, which will help you get away from your worldly worries and be full of new energy. From a health point of view, be a little cautious this

week. Regular exercise and adopting a balanced diet will improve your mental and physical health. The situation will also be satisfactory in financial matters, but do not forget to think before taking major financial decisions. Your curiosity and creativity can lead to many new opportunities. This week, you will be in search of sources of inspiration, which will allow you to focus on your interests and goals. Spending time with your friends and close ones will give you a new vision and energy.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week is an important period. Go deep into your inner self and understand your feelings. This week indicates new possibilities in relationships. Spending time with family members will strengthen your relationship. In the field of work, your hard work and dedication will start showing fruit. This is the most suitable time to complete an important project. Colleagues will appreciate your efforts, which will increase your confidence. In terms of health, take a little caution. You will benefit from doing yoga or meditation to reduce mental stress. Do not forget to take time for yourself, as it will give you freshness and energy. The essence of this week is to connect with your inner feelings and give priority to your relationships. There will be a flow of positive energy around you; make full use of it.

LEO



Ganesha says this week, you will feel the energy around you, and your creativity will be at its peak. This is the right time to share your ideas, especially with people you like. The planetary positions are in your favor to start new projects and take on new challenges. There will be some new things in your social life as well. Spending time with friends and family will help boost your morale. Your leadership skills will be recognized, so if you are part of a group, do not hesitate to express your opinion. During this time, there is a need to be cautious in financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and manage your funds wisely. In terms of health, physical activity will be important for you; doing some exercise or yoga will make you feel better. Your confidence will remain high, but do not forget to control your emotions. Listening and understanding others will be beneficial for you. Try to tone yourself this week, so that you can improve your abilities. All these aspects will help take your life in a positive direction.

VIRGO



Ganesha says many positive opportunities will come your way this week. You will feel full of energy, which will speed up your work. Your focus will be on staying organized and achieving your goals. Increasing communication with

colleagues at the workplace will be beneficial for you. In terms of health, this is the time to take some time for yourself. Focus on yoga or a nutritious diet, so that you can improve physical and mental health. Spending time with family will also lift your mood. Be a little careful in personal relationships. You need to keep your intentions clear. Differences may arise over a small matter, so present your ideas politely. This week is the time to experiment with your ideas. You can learn new things by adopting creativity. Whatever challenges come up, try to take them with positivity. Recognize your inner strength and move forward with confidence. This week will be full of successes for you.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week, it is a time of balance and dedication for you. You may get entangled in more tasks than you can handle, but keep in mind that it is important to give priority to your mental and emotional health. Increase communication in relationships, and ensure that your feelings come out in the right way. During this period, you can make new plans that can benefit you. Your creativity will be at its peak, so it will be good for you to try your hand at art, music, or a new project. Make a thoughtful decision in terms of money. Wait a while for any big investment and consider your options. Overall, this week is a time to face challenges and personal growth. Maintain a positive attitude and try to connect with your loved ones.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says today, you will feel a new energy and enthusiasm within you. Your infectious, enthusiastic spirit will inspire others as well. Disappointment has no place for you in work, as you are ready to face all challenges with your hard work and dedication. An inclination towards spirituality will make you feel relaxed. Spending some time with meditation or yoga will be beneficial for your mental health. You need to be cautious in communication to maintain harmony in relationships. Spending time with your loved ones and understanding their feelings is important for you today. Be careful in financial matters, too. There is a possibility of some sudden expenses, so it is better to maintain a budget. Take advantage of the positivity coming from all around and look for new opportunities. Focus on your goal today and keep moving forward. Your efforts will be successful.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week, many new possibilities are going to open up in your life. This time will be challenging but exciting for you. In the professional field, your hard work is expected to be

rewarded. If you have faced difficulties in the past, now is the time when your efforts will pay off. This week can bring new opportunities for businessmen. There is a possibility of getting help from an old friend or colleague. Express your ideas clearly, as this will make you more effective. In personal life, this is the right time to strengthen relationships. Spending time with family members will deepen your relationship. If you are in a new relationship, you can think of taking it forward. Be cautious about your health this week. A little meditation and exercise will help maintain your energy. Do meditation and yoga for mental health. These will help maintain your mental balance. The main thing for Sagittarius people this week is to take their experiences positively and embrace new challenges. Move forward with determination and heartiness to get what you want.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week is a crucial one. Your hard work and dedication will bring you fruitful results this week. At work, your resourcefulness and organisational abilities will earn you appreciation among your colleagues. Your crucial role in a particular project can take your career to new heights. In personal life, you will get an opportunity to spend quality time with family members. Take time to strengthen your emotional bonds. Try to increase mutual communication, so that relationships can get even deeper. In terms of health, this week is for you to stay balanced. Yoga or meditation will help you maintain your mental peace. Focus on regular exercise and ensure you get good nutrition. In financial matters, it is important to keep expenses under control. Think well before making any big investments. Be cautious and prioritise your savings. The company of worthy friends and colleagues will give you courage and encouragement this week. You may get many positive opportunities in the coming days. This week is yours, use it properly.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week is the time for new possibilities to open up for you. This is a great period for your social life and networking. You will feel inspired to spend time with your friends and family, and your conversations will deepen. At work, your creativity and stream of unexpected ideas can bring positive changes to your career. If you are working on a project, slightly changing your approach will reveal new opportunities for you. This week is also a good time for personal growth. You will feel encouraged to improve yourself. If you want to work on a particular skill, then put in your efforts. In terms of health, meditation and yoga will give you mental peace. You should focus on

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

JULY 7

Ganesha says today is an action-packed day for you. Your energy is at an all-time high, and your mind is racing with new ideas. Whether it's a business project or a personal ambition, the time has come to take the first step. Your excitement, on the other hand, may overwhelm others around you. Keep in mind that not everyone can keep up with your pace. Today is a wonderful day to assess your investments, but avoid making any rash decisions. Your charisma is attractive in partnerships. Use this energy to repair any broken relationships or to strengthen current ones.

JULY 8

Ganesha says you'll find yourself in a reflective mindset today. Today is ideal for reflection and self-discovery. Financial opportunities abound, but they necessitate cautious planning. Don't make any decisions without first assessing the benefits and drawbacks. Your attention to detail will capture the notice of someone prominent in your professional life. Be open to partnerships because this could be the start of a profitable partnership. You may experience an emotional desire for steadiness. Reach out to loved ones; their support will give you the stability you need.

JULY 9

Ganesha says it is a good day to practice your communication talents. Whether you're giving a presentation at work or having a heart-to-heart with a loved one, your words will have a big impact. Be cautious, however, as misinterpretation is possible. Check your emails twice and think before you speak. You're on fire creatively. If you've been considering beginning a new project, now is the moment. Today, your intuition is especially strong, helping you through critical judgments. Listen to your inner voice; it is currently your finest advisor.

JULY 10

Ganesha says today is a day for emotional equilibrium. You may be juggling several duties at work and home. While it may be difficult, your natural inclination to nurture people will bring you through. Professionally, you will most likely be recognized for a job well done. Enjoy the moment, but remember that it is only the beginning. Financially, the day is stable, although an unexpected expense may arise. Make a backup plan in case something goes wrong. Your empathic disposition can help you connect on a deeper level with your loved ones in partnerships.

JULY 11

Ganesha says today is a day of contrasts for you. On the one hand, your self-assurance is out of this world, making you the focus of attention wherever you go. On the other hand, you may experience a sudden desire for isolation. Balance is essential. Professionally, a difficult scenario will develop, but your leadership abilities will help you effectively navigate it. Today is not the day for high-risk investments; it is not the day for gambles. Your charisma is unstoppable in love and relationships. However, keep your partner's needs in mind; it's not all about you.

JULY 12

Ganesha says your analytical thinking is sharper than ever today. You'll discover solutions to issues that have been bugging you for some time. Your productivity at work will not go unnoticed. Expect favorable feedback, which could lead to larger possibilities in the future. It's a terrific day to go over your budget and make any required changes. Your realistic attitude will save you money in the future. You may feel a little disconnected in relationships. To avoid misunderstandings, it is critical to explain your feelings openly.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

JULY 13

Ganesha says today is a day of harmony and balance for you. Your diplomatic abilities will be tested in both professional and personal contexts. You may find yourself negotiating conflicting parties at work. Your sound judgment will gain you respect and, maybe, a larger role in future projects. Today is a good day to indulge financially. While pampering oneself is important, don't overdo it. Your charisma is on full display in relationships. It's a great day for meaningful chats and developing relationships with loved ones.

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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balancing your emotions. Take care of your mental health, and in case of any dilemma, share your feelings with your close ones. This week, there are opportunities to bring positive changes to your life. Embrace them openly and be ready to make your dreams come true.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week is a very exciting time for Pisces natives. You will get an opportunity to hone your inner creativity, which will allow you to express your ideas in a new and unique way. Your intuition will be very strong at this time, due to which you will be able to understand the feelings of people around you correctly. Social relationships will be of special importance this week. Spending time with friends and family will give you new energy. At the workplace, your cooperative spirit will strengthen your relationship with colleagues. There are possibilities of new opportunities in professional life, so do not hesitate to work hard. This week can remain stable for financial matters. Make a thoughtful

decision before making any big investment or expenditure. Focus on long-term plans to strengthen your financial position. In terms of health,

resort to meditation and yoga to maintain mental balance. Keeping a positive attitude will be beneficial for you. Overall, this week will prove to be

very positive and progressive for relationships, career, and personal growth. Listen to your inner voice and move forward with courage.

|| 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

JULY 4 TO JULY 10

4th July

1955 Indian police entered Darbar Sahib complex and arrested several Akali leaders.

1965 Nalwa conference Ludhiana asserted Sikh's right to self-determination.

5th July



1856 Nihal Singh, alias Bhai Maharaj Singh, died a hero's death in the Singapore prison. His death was due to the cancer that had developed as a result of his fast while in prison.

Bhai MAHARAJ SINGH: Born in village Rabbon, near Malud, Ludhiana Dist. Parents named him Nihal Singh. As a young lad, he went to stay at Bhai Bir Singh's Dera at Naurangabad. Did sewa for many years, took Amrit at the hands of Bhai Bir Singh, was given the name Bhagwan Singh, and eventually became his chela. The Dera was practically a military camp with 1200 musketeers and 3000 horsemen. It had always been a sanctuary for political refugees. It became the centre of the Sikh revolt against Dogra dominance over the Punjab.

Hira Singh Dogra, the chief minister of the Punjab, attacked the Dera in 1844 with 20000 troops and 50 cannon. Several hundred Sikhs, including General Attar Singh Sandhanwalla, Prince Kashmira Singh and Bhai Bir Singh were killed. Bhagwan Singh became the head of the Dera.

The British, who had been waiting for the right moment to intervene and establish their authority, made their move in 1847. They deported Rani Jinda. The Sikh chiefs revolted, including Bhagwan Singh. He was welcomed by Sikhs saying "Ah Wo Maharaj", because of his sanctity, thus, soon he came to be referred to as Bhai Maharaj Singh.

During the second Anglo-Sikh war that followed, at the battles of Ram Nagar, Chillianwall and Gujrat, he was very active providing personal inspiration and organizing supplies for the Sikh Army. Soon after the defeat at Gujrat, all the other Sikh chiefs had been captured or had surrendered.

Bhai Maharaj Singh was one of the first people of Punjab to launch a freedom movement in Punjab after the British took over Punjab. He said in 1849:

"There will be another National War, let all the true Sikhs rise on the day fixed."

1984 Nine Sikhs hijacked an Indian Airliner to Lahore (1984).

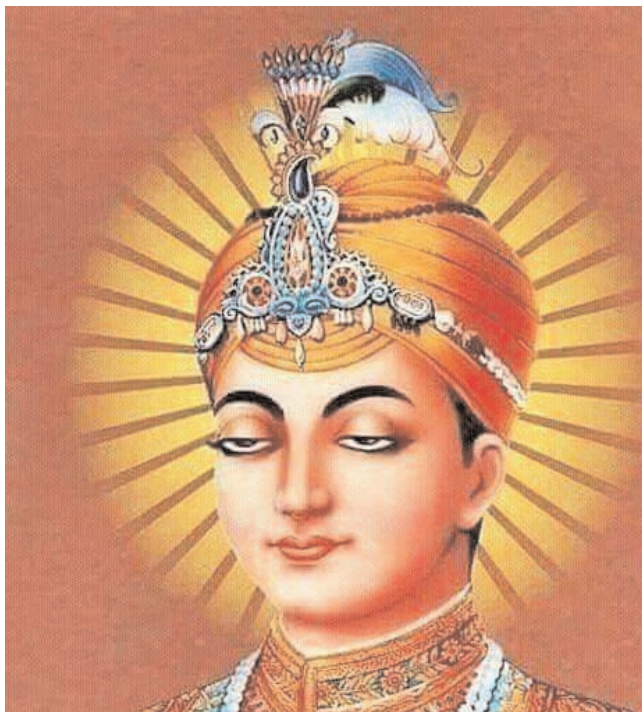
6th July

1946 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru assured fruits of freedom for Sikhs.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, first prime minister of India, assured the Sikhs in Calcutta session that all

steps will be taken to create a region in which Sikhs could enjoy the fruits of freedom. Such promises remain unfulfilled todate.

7th July



1656 Prakash Utsav, Eighth Patshah, Guru Har Krishan Ji.

Guru HAR KRISHAN Patshah (1656-1668), was born on Monday, Sawan 8 sunmat 1713 (July 7, 1656) at Kiratpur, to father Sri Guru Har Rai Patshah and mother Matta Krishan Kaur. On Katak 8 sunmat 1718 (Oct. 7 1661), Guru Sahib ascended to Gur Gadhi. Based on the complaints of Baba Ram Rai, Guru Sahib were summoned to Aurangzeb's court in Delhi. While in Delhi, Guru Sahib suffered from small pox (Chaechak) and subsequently left for heavenly abode on Vaisak 3 sunmat 1721 (March 30, 1664). Two historical Gurudwaras marking Guru Sahib's visit to Delhi include Balla Sahib and Bangla Sahib.

1926: Sardar Teja Singh Samundri passed away in Lahore Fort as a result of the strain from the lengthy detention there. He was among the main Panthic leaders around the Gurudwara Sudhar period and had been jailed for a long period. His antim saskar was conducted the following day on July 18. To his memory Teja Singh Samundri Hall was erected, where the general body meetings of SGPC are usually held. Master Tara Singh elected the leader of the Akali Dal.

8th July



1923: Maharaja Ripduman Singh Nabha forced to abdicate his throne. As a result the jaito morcha was

launched. He was well-known for his pro-Tat Khalsa proclivities. But he had a dispute with the Maharaja of Patiala, known for his pro-government role. Although Maharaja of Nabha had no dispute with the government, but as a result of mediation he was forced to abdicate. Col. Michin, with the help of troops and armored cars, took Maharaja by Surprise and taunted him with the query, Where is that Akali? The announcement of deposition by the government, helped raise a storm of protest against Government interference on Nabha and was described as a challenge to the Akali movement.

1951: Akali Dal passed a resolution for Punjabi Suba and independent organization.

9th July

1609 The foundation stone of 12 feet high Akal Bunga (Sri Akal Takhat Sahib) was laid by Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji himself in front of the harimandir Sahib. The five story building was completed in 1609. The Akal Takhat was carefully constructed by Baba Buddha Ji and Bhai Gurdas Ji. No mason was employed as per Guru's instructions that no labour would be acquired for its construction.

1850 Bhai Maharaj Singh arrived in Singapore aboard the Mahomed Shaw, accompanied by his disciple, Khurruck Singh, and moved to Outram Jail.

1922 Kishan Singh Gargaj considers merger of both the Chakarvarti Jathas. He alongwith Assa Singh, reaches Hayatpur to meet Karam Singh.

1975 Akali Dal initiated their protest against the emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi and launched an agitation. It should be noted that Akali Dal was the only organization to raise such protests. This agitation was successfully concluded on Jan. 17, 1977. A total of 43,472 Sikhs had courted arrest during this agitation.

10th July



1620: Guru Hargobind had to marry Mehrai despite his refusal. This was an unfortunate upshot of the jubilation in Sikh community caused by Guru Sahib's release from seven years of incarceration. Within a few months two brides were pledged to him by their parents. Under the customs prevalent at that time, on Guru Hargobind's refusal, those girls would have remained unmarried throughout their life. So he had to marry Nanaki on March 28, 1620, and Mehrai also called Marwahi on July 10, 1620. The first incident occurred too close to his release. Taken aback at the second incident, he announced that no one should pledge his daughter to him in future.

1923: Akali leadership formally took up the question of the restoration of Maharaja of Nabha. However, they waited for the completion of SGPC elections before proceeding this case vigorously. This culminated into what is known as the Nabha agitation.

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

US House passes tax and immigration...

The House's approval sends the bill to Trump's desk to be signed into law in time to beat a self-imposed July 4 deadline. The Senate passed its edition of the legislation Tuesday.

"Any of these individual achievements would be historic victories for a Republican Congress or any Congress. And today we're delivering on all of them in one big, beautiful bill. That's what Americans can count on when we pass this legislation," House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) said on the House floor.

To offset the cost of the bill, the legislation cuts about \$1 trillion from Medicaid, the federal health insurance program for low-income individuals and people with disabilities, and other health care programs. It reduces spending on anti-hunger programs, including SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program formerly known as food stamps, by \$185 billion.

Nearly 17 million people will lose health care coverage or health care subsidies over the next decade if the bill becomes law, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and the bill would add roughly \$4 trillion to the debt over the next decade, when factoring in debt service payments.

The vote came after Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York) held the House floor for nearly nine hours to protest the measure, setting the record for the longest remarks by a party leader in the history of the lower chamber.

"This bill is a deal with the devil," Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-New York) said earlier during the debate on the House floor. "It explodes our national debt. It militarizes our entire economy and it strips away health care and dignity of the American people."

Republicans heralded the legislation as a boost for the working class coalition that swept the party to victory in November's elections, giving it unified control of Congress and the White House.

"It is the principal vehicle for advancing President Trump's America First agenda, unleashing a rising tide of prosperity, securing our border, modernizing our national defense and supercharging energy, agriculture, all the sectors of our economy that our government has kept in a choke hold for too long," Budget Committee Chair Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) said during debate.

As talks dragged on, leaders left open two votes for over five hours - a sign of the Republican conference's dysfunction and also the furious backroom dealing to get Trump's agenda over the finish line by an arbitrary July 4 deadline.

Lawmakers spent Wednesday into the wee hours Thursday shuttling between talks with party leaders, Trump administration lieutenants and the president himself at the White House.

But as Wednesday turned into Thursday morning, Johnson was still working to convince 10 lawmakers to vote to advance the bill. Republicans opened debate on the measure after 3 a.m.

Holdouts said the prospect of forthcoming executive orders from the White House and another Republican budget bill helped ease some concerns.

"The president is the most gifted and skilled negotiator and whip," said Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason T. Smith (R-Missouri), one of the lead negotiators. Trump's proposal to end taxes on tips - up to \$25,000 - came from a Nevada restaurant server, the president bragged on the campaign trail. He often speaks about ending taxes on overtime during political events with production line workers. Trump pledged to exempt Social Security benefits from taxes; instead, Republicans passed a \$6,000 bonus to the standard deduction for seniors.

The GOP borrowed a Democratic proposal to launch savings accounts for newborns seeded with \$1,000 of taxpayer money; Republicans in earlier versions of the legislation called them "Trump accounts."

"No one puts a deal together like President Trump. He's a master. But I think one of the other persuasive things was just looking at the Democrats' reaction to it," said Rep. Warren Davidson (R-Ohio), who voted against an earlier iteration of the package. "Maybe the bill is better than I thought."

But for the lowest-income Americans the benefits of those provisions are wiped out by the cuts to social safety net programs, according to independent analyses of the bill, and its gargantuan debt impact could slow the U.S. economy.

Republican Reps. Thomas Massie (Kentucky) and Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennsylvania) joined Democrats to vote against the measure.

By 2033, the bottom 60 percent of U.S. taxpayers would be worse off because of the measure, the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton Budget Model reported. The top 0.1 percent of taxpayers - those earning at least \$5.1 million - would be more than \$83,000 better off.

"This bill is a middle finger to working people," Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Massachusetts) said on the House floor.

Republicans, citing their own rosy economic growth projections, insist that it would improve those household's fortunes, and hundreds of billions of dollars of homeland security and defense spending would goose job-creating industries.

Nearly \$170 billion in the bill funds the Trump administration's border and immigration crackdown and it would impose \$69 billion in fees on immigrants and visitors to the country. An additional \$160 billion would flow to the Defense Department, partially for Trump's proposed "Golden Dome" continental missile defense system.

The legislation would make permanent a trio of corporate tax deductions that make it easier for companies to invest in research and purchase new equipment while rescinding more than half a trillion dollars in clean energy programs from President Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

Many of the tax proposals changed as the bill pinged between the two chambers of Congress. The House passed legislation in May that had a smaller debt impact while cutting less from Medicaid.

The Senate swiftly overhauled the measure, making it simultaneously more expensive and more punitive toward Medicaid. Republicans used the budget reconciliation process to bypass a Democratic filibuster in the Senate; that meant when the upper chamber sent its approved legislation back to the House, the lower chamber was unable to alter it and still beat Trump's deadline. Amendments would have restarted many of the cumbersome processes needed to pass tax legislation on party lines.

The Senate made the corporate tax cuts more generous and temporarily preserved some of the climate credits. On health care, it imposed strict limits on taxes that states charge medical providers as a roundabout way of collecting more federal Medicaid dollars. That prompted concern among some lawmakers about the fate of rural hospitals, which rely heavily on Medicaid patients.

The Senate's changes managed to frustrate both ends of the House's GOP conference. From the center, moderates raged about the approach to health care spending. "I'm not happy with it at all," raged Rep. Greg Murphy (R-North Carolina), a practicing physician. "That's horrible policy."

From the right, lawmakers grumbled about the bill's debt effects. A group of budget hawks in April extracted a promise from House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) that the amount in tax cuts would not exceed the amount of spending the bill cut.

"It wasn't achieved. It was failed," harrumphed Rep. Chip Roy (R-Texas). "The Senate failed."

Members of the archconservative House Freedom Caucus circulated a three-page memo with a list of nearly two dozen deficiencies with the legislation at a Wednesday meeting at the White House.

"Leave it to the Senate to find a way to aggravate both the moderates and the conservatives in the Freedom Caucus," said Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-New Jersey), who had concerns about cuts to health care programs. "That's extraordinary that they did that. That is a real art and science to be able to aggravate everyone in the House."

We had a really good bill, a good work product, got everybody on board, and they just had to play with it." That White House meeting, though, seemed to be enough to unify Republicans. (Source: Washington Post)

'Not scared', says Zohran Mamdani...

At the very moment when MAGA (make America great again) Republicans are attempting to destroy the social safety net, kick millions of New Yorkers off of healthcare and enrich their billionaire donors at the expense of working families, it is a scandal that Eric Adams echoes this President's division, distraction and hate. Voters will resoundingly reject it in November," he said. Trump spoke at an immigration event and said Mamdani is a "true communist" and "crazy." He also claimed Mamdani might not be in the country legally and that he would keep a close watch on him.

"We don't need a communist running New York," Trump said. "Maybe we'll have to arrest him." Some Republicans are now trying to cancel Mamdani's citizenship, even though he legally became a citizen seven years ago.

Polls show Mamdani is currently leading in the race for mayor, ahead of both Eric Adams and Republican candidate Curtis Sliwa. The general election will be held in November.

Mamdani says his campaign is winning because it focuses on helping working people and immigrant communities and not fear or hate.

"We proved that when we give people something real to vote for, they will come back. We surprised everyone - even ourselves," he said.

Amnesty International says Israel using...

The U.K.-based human rights group condemned Israel and the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, which the U.S. and Israel have backed to take over aid distribution in Gaza from a network led by the United Nations.

Israel's foreign minister denounced the Amnesty report, saying the organization has "joined forces with Hamas and fully adopted all of its propaganda lies."

Gaza's Health Ministry says more than 500 Palestinians have been killed at or near GHF distribution centers over the past month. The centers are guarded by private security contractors and located near Israeli military positions. Palestinian officials and witnesses have accused Israeli forces of opening fire at crowds of people moving near the sites.

The Amnesty report said Israel has "turned aid-seeking into a booby trap for desperate starved Palestinians" through GHF's militarized hubs. The conditions have created "a deadly mix of hunger and disease pushing the population past breaking point."

"This devastating daily loss of life as desperate Palestinians try to collect aid is the consequence of their deliberate targeting by Israeli forces and the foreseeable consequence of irresponsible and lethal methods of distribution," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty's secretary general.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

PM Modi praises the Indian...

with the Indian community, said that it felt completely natural, as "we are part of one family". Trinidad and Tobago has a population of approximately 1,300,000, 45 per cent of whom are of Indian origin. "The journey of the Indian community in Trinidad and Tobago is about courage. The circumstances your ancestors faced could have broken even the strongest of spirits. But they faced hardships with hope. They met problems with persistence," he said. "They left the Ganga and Yamuna behind but carried the Ramayana in their hearts," he said, calling them messengers of a "timeless civilization".

"The community programme in Port of Spain was spectacular. The energy and warmth of the people made it truly unforgettable. Evidently, our cultural bonds shine brightly!" he said in an X post.

In his address, the Prime Minister stressed that the Indian community members' contribution has benefited Trinidad and Tobago "culturally, economically and spiritually". Citing eminent Indian-origin figures in the country including Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and President Christine Carla Kangaloo, he said the descendants of Girmityas are no longer defined by struggle, but by their "success, service, and values".

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

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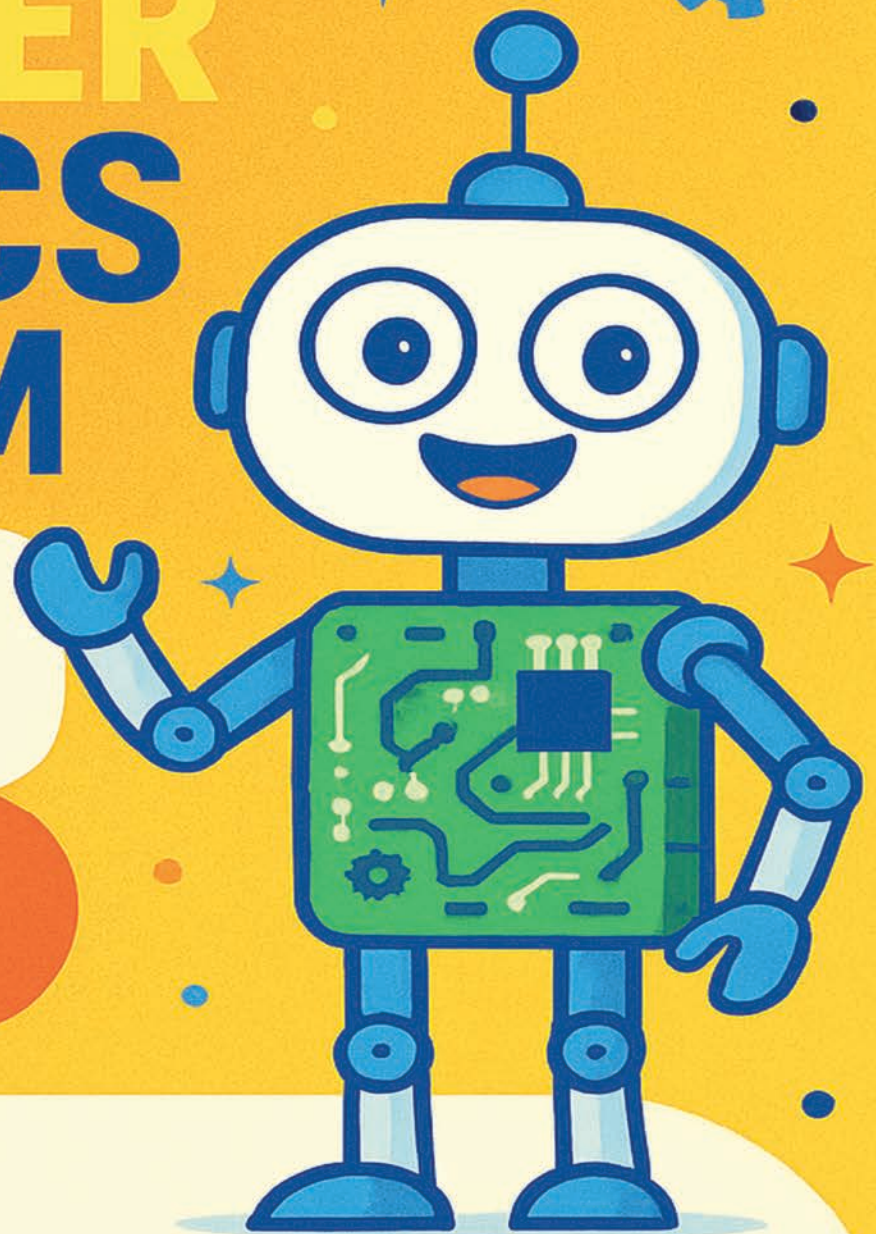
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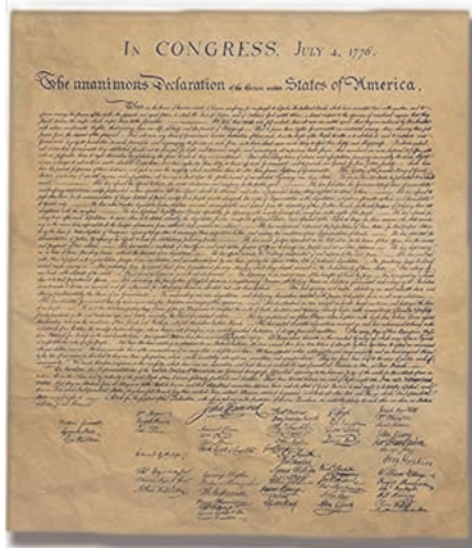
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subash.midha@gmail.com



History This Week JULY 04 - JULY 10

JULY 4



July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

July 4, 1863- Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

July 4, 1882 - The "Last Great Buffalo Hunt" began on Indian reservation lands near Hettinger, North Dakota as 2,000 Teton Sioux Indians in full hunting regalia killed about 5,000 buffalo. By this time, most of the estimated 60-75 million buffalo in America had been killed by white hunters who usually took the hides and left the meat to rot. By 1883, the last of the free-ranging buffalo were gone.

Birthdays - Novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. His works included; *The Scarlet Letter*, *The House of the Seven Gables* and *The Blithedale Romance*.

Birthdays - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Among his nearly 200 songs were; *Oh! Susanna*, *Camptown Races*, *Swanee River*, *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, and *Beautiful Dreamer*. He died in poverty at Bellevue Hospital in New York.



Birthdays - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) the 30th U.S. President was born in Plymouth, Vermont. He became President on August 3, 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1924, Coolidge was elected President but did not run for re-election in 1928.

JULY 5



July 5, 1775- The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.

Birthdays - Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

Birthdays - Promoter and showman P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) was born in Bethel, Connecticut. His American Museum opened in 1842, exhibiting unusual acts such as the Feejee Mermaid, Siamese Twins Chang and Eng, and General Tom Thumb. In 1871, Barnum opened "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn, New York. He later merged with rival J.A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

Birthdays - Cecil J. Rhodes (1853-1902) was born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. As a South African millionaire and politician, he was said to have once controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. His will established the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for young scholars aged 18-25. Rhodesia was also named for him.

JULY 6

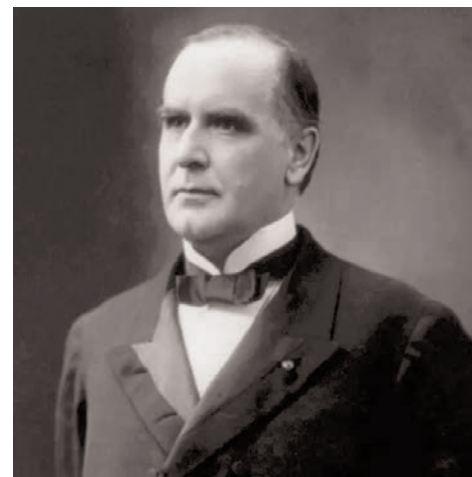
July 6, 1885 - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.



Birthdays - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents

seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

JULY 7



July 7, 1898 - President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959.

Birthdays - Baseball pitcher Leroy R. (Satchel) Paige (1906-1982) was born in Mobile, Alabama. Following a career in the Negro Leagues, he became, at age 42, the first African American pitcher in the American League. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

JULY 8

July 8, 1776 - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.



July 8, 1943 - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Gestapo. He had been sent by the Allies into France in 1942 to unite the fledgling Underground movement. In June of 1943, he was arrested in Lyon, tortured for eleven days but betrayed no one. He died aboard a train while being transferred to a concentration camp.

Birthdays - Nelson Rockefeller (1908-1979) was born in Bar Harbor, Maine. He served as Governor of New York from 1958 to 1973. He became vice-president under Gerald Ford in 1974, serving until January 20, 1977.

JULY 9

July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals

involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.

JULY 10

July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.



July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

Birthdays - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.

Birthdays - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait *Whistler's Mother*.

Birthdays - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in *The Past Recaptured*, "is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."



Birthdays - Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S. men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a \$5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.

Sawan Maas: A journey through faith, fasting and the flow of grace

As the skies open up with the first showers of monsoon and the scent of wet earth rises, India enters a spiritually rich and deeply symbolic time of the year-Sawan Maas, also known as Shravan Month. It is the fifth month of the Hindu lunar calendar and is considered the holiest for the worship of Lord Shiva, the destroyer and regenerator in the Hindu Trinity.

Marked by devotion, fasting, pilgrimages, and vibrant rituals, Sawan (typically falling in July-August) is not just a time of religious observance but of inner transformation. During this sacred period, the air echoes with chants of "Har Har Mahadev", rivers brim with pilgrims, and temples overflow with faith and fervor.

The Significance of Sawan Maas

Sawan Maas is imbued with spiritual energy due to its cosmic alignment. According to Hindu scriptures, this is the month when Lord Shiva saved the universe by consuming the lethal poison (Halahala) that emerged during the Samudra Manthan (churning of the cosmic ocean). His act of sacrifice and compassion is revered with heightened devotion throughout Sawan.

Additionally, the month is ruled by the Moon (Soma), which is closely associated with the calming, meditative aspect of Shiva. It is also believed that during Sawan, the celestial energies are most conducive for spiritual practices like meditation, mantra chanting, and self-purification. The month of Shravan brings an opportunity to be bestowed with divinity. Shravan month is an auspicious period to worship the deities. Among all the deities, Lord Shiva is considered to be the most divine. It is believed that worshipping Lord Shiva during the month of Shravan brings in favourable results. Shravan is the fifth month of Hindu Calendar. The entire month is primarily devoted to Lord Shiva, and Shravan Somvar fast is followed to invoke his blessings. As the name suggests, Shravan Somvar Vrata is performed on Mondays, especially by women in the desire of a safe and protected household. Unmarried girls who desire for an ideal husband also perform the fast of Sawan Somvar Vrat.

Sawan Somvar Vrat

It is believed that Sawan Somvar fasts are highly beneficial for the unmarried girls. By observing the Somvar Vrat, they get married to the person of their choice. Sawan Somvar Vrat is significant because it fulfils the desire of a person and all dreams come true. By observing the Sawan Somvar fast and worshipping Lord Shiva, devotees can achieve desired results.

Legend

According to Purana, Samudra

The sacred month of Shravan in 2025, dedicated to Lord Shiva, will be observed with fasting and prayers across India. Dates vary regionally due to different lunar calendars. North India follows Purnimanta (July 11-August 9), while South and Western India use Amanta (July 25-August



Manthan took place in the Shravan month, when the gods and the demons churned the ocean. As a result, fourteen divine items emerged out of the ocean. Halahala (a deadly poison) also came out as a by-product. Lord Shiva swallowed the poison to save the world from destruction. It could not seep through his throat.

The swallowing of poison turned his throat blue. Hence, he is known as Neelkantha (blue throat). It eventually was the reason of observing Sawan Somvar Vrat (in the month of Sawan) in honour of Lord Shiva.

Celebrations and Rituals

Sawan Somvar Vrat is categorised as following:

- Savan Somvar is the fast that is observed on Mondays, in the month of Savan.
- Solah Somvar Vrats is the observance of sixteen fasts on consecutive Mondays which commence in the month of Savan.
- Saumya Pradesh is observed till the evening in Shravan month.
- Devotees should wake up early in the morning and take a bath. Visit Lord Shiva temple and offer milk to Shiva Lingam. At home, clean the Puja place (worshipping place) and adorn your soul to welcome the Lord. A Sankalp (oath) is taken to perform the Sawan Somvar Vrat with total devotion. Shiv Puja is performed twice in a day. Devotees must cleanse themselves properly to venerate the Lord once again after the Sun sets. Solah Somvar Vrat Katha or Sawan Vrat Katha is an important element. Somvar Vrat Katha is recited on every Monday of Sawan vrat. Solah Somvar Vrat Katha portrays the life of Lord

Shiva and Goddess Parvati. After the Puja, Prasad is distributed among the friends and family members.

Things to do

Devotees fast to please Lord Shiva:

- Fasting during this entire month is considered very auspicious. Waking up early morning, visiting the Shiva temple, and offering a mixture of milk, ghee, yogurt, ganga jal, and honey also known as Panchamrut along with Bilva leaves is a must. One can have milk and milk products, fruits and other fasting approved items during this time.
- Fasting on all Shravan somvar, especially for unmarried women who are seeking a good husband.
- As Rudraksh is symbolic to Lord Shiva, wearing the Rudraksha is considered very auspicious as well. Devout devotees of Lord Shiva make sure to wear a Rudraksh during this time of the year to please him. Devotees also do japa with Rudraksh mala to please Lord Shiva.
- Offering Panchamrut, bilva leaves, gangajal, dhatura, along with Honey or sugar and Bibhuti to Lord Shiva is considered very auspicious.
- The Mangal Gauri Vrata is also done by married women during this month for the health and prosperity of their households.

Religious & Cultural Practices

1. Sawan Somvar (Mondays)

Each Monday of Sawan is considered supremely auspicious and is marked by the observance of Sawan Somvar Vrat (fasting and special puja). Devotees

through Shiva temples to offer milk, water, belpatra (bilva leaves), honey, curd, and fruits on the Shiva Lingam.

Women, especially unmarried girls, fast and pray for an ideal husband like Lord Shiva, while married women seek the long life and prosperity of their spouses. Chanting the Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra and Om Namah Shivaya is considered especially potent during this time.

2. Kanwar Yatra

One of the most visually striking and spiritually intense rituals of Sawan is the Kanwar Yatra. Every year, millions of Kanwariyas (devotees of Shiva) embark on foot pilgrimages to collect holy water from the Ganga River and offer it at prominent Shiva temples like Haridwar, Deoghar (Baidyanath Dham), Sultanganj, and Varanasi.

Dressed in saffron, carrying decorated kanwars (yokes), and chanting "Bol Bam," these pilgrims walk for miles as an act of devotion and penance.

3. Shravan Shivratri

While Maha Shivratri is observed in Phalguna (Feb-Mar), Shravan Shivratri, falling on the Krishna Paksha Chaturdashi of Shravan, is equally sacred. Devotees fast, perform night-long vigils, and worship Shiva with full rituals.

4. Daily Puja and Fasting

Many devotees follow daily fasting throughout the month-some consuming only fruits and milk, others doing nirjala vrat (without food and water) on specific days. Daily pujas include Shiva Abhishekam, lighting of lamps, and reading of scriptures like the Shiva Purana, Shiv Chalisa, and Sawan Vrat Katha.



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CHANGE OF PROGRAM NOTICE

As previously announced our program The Life of Gautama Buddha will not be performed due to unforeseen visa denials.

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Sikkim: The hidden jewel of the Himalayas

In the northeast of India, nestled between Nepal, Bhutan, and Tibet, lies one of the most mesmerizing yet underexplored states of the country—Sikkim. With its snow-capped peaks, lush green valleys, Buddhist monasteries, glacial lakes, and vibrant cultural tapestry, Sikkim is an exquisite blend of nature, spirituality, adventure, and sustainable living. This tiny Himalayan paradise, despite being India's second smallest state, offers experiences far larger than its size.

Whether you're a trekking enthusiast, a nature lover, a seeker of peace, or a cultural explorer, Sikkim promises a journey like no other.

Nature's Wonderland

From the subtropical forests of the south to the alpine meadows of the north, Sikkim is a land of astounding ecological diversity. Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain at 8,586 meters, is not just a spectacular backdrop—it's a spiritual guardian, revered by the locals. The entire state seems to revolve around this sacred peak, and every glimpse of it feels like a blessing.

Gurudongmar Lake

Located at a height of 17100 feet above sea level, Gurudongmar Lake in Sikkim is the second-highest lake in India. Needless to say, with an altitude of such magnitude, the lake defies all description. Located just about 5 km south of the Indo-China border and about 190 kilometers from the capital city of Gangtok, the lake has a massive shore length of about 5.34 kilometers and a surface area of about 118 hectares. The lake is considered to be a holy lake by both Sikhs, Hindus, and Buddhists and believed to have some divine power. The lake also provides a beautiful view of Mount Siniolchu and Khanchendzonga among other snow-capped mountains. It acts as a source to the river Teesta. Reaching Sikkim Gurudongmar Lake takes around 8-9 hours by road from Gangtok to reach Gurudongmar Lake. The Gurudongmar Lake in Sikkim is located en route Lachen, a small town in North Sikkim. A night stay at Lachen is recommended before heading for the lake. It takes around 3-4 hours to reach the lake from Lachen.

Tsomo Lake

The Tsomgo Lake, also popular as the Changu Lake, is a water body made of a glacier making it one of the best places to visit in Gangtok. Located at the altitude of 12310 feet, the Tsomgo Lake is one of Sikkim's prime tourist attractions. The lake is located 38 km from Gangtok, en route to the Nathula Pass. This is one of India's highest altitude lakes and it's known for its natural beauty. The sight of the surrounding snow cover hills reflecting on the Tsomgo Lake is one memory that you can cherish forever. The lake is about 1 km long and it's shaped like an egg.

Nathula Pass

Nathula Pass is located at a height of 14140 feet and this is the best place to be for the trekking enthusiasts when



visiting Sikkim. The border trade market, Sherathang, is a popular place where tourists can buy different kinds of Tibetan items at a cheap price. This Sikkim point of interest is famous among travelers. Near to that, there is a tiny place called Kupup. It always stays under clouds, which surely will be a nice

experience for you. The view from the Nathula Pass is remarkable too.

Kanchenjunga Base Camp

Located at the height of almost 14,000ft above sea level, the Kanchenjunga Base camp is one of the best Sikkim tourist places and a heaven

for all the adventurers. Together forming one of the most beautiful parts of the Himalayas, the Kanchenjunga range is one of the most picturesque regions of Sikkim, and all that can be seen in utmost clarity and mightiness from the base camp.

The real adventure for people is to see the third highest mountain in the world up close to here, and that is why this place is worth the visit at least once in a lifetime.

Yumthang Valley of Flowers

The undulating meadows, the grazing yaks by the banks of wild Teesta river and the many hot springs amid the towering mountain peaks position Yumthang valley among the top places to visit in Sikkim. The valley of flowers is carpeted at a height of more than 11,000 feet above sea level at around 128 kilometres from Gangtok. You can book one of our Gangtok Tours from a vivid choice of packages we have for you so that you don't miss out the best of Gangtok.

Come to visit the valley in late February to march when the Losar festival is celebrated by the locals. During the month of April and June, the Rhododendrons bloom and envelop the valley in full glory.

Goechala

Standing at a height of about 4,940 m above sea level, the high mountain pass of Goechala (Goecha La) is one of the best places to visit in Sikkim. Being in the proximity of some of the highest mountains of the Himalayas, the pass is an amazing destination for all the trekkers visiting Sikkim. The best thing about this place is the beautiful view of Mt. Kanchenjunga's southeast face.

The view from the pass is so breathtakingly beautiful that it was featured on the back of the 100 Rupee note of India. Acting as the base of the summit for Kanchenjunga, this place is a must visit for the beauty of it.

Green Lake

Fix your eyes to the jade-green lake surrounded by snow-covered glaciers and mountains. Green Lake is still an unexplored and unhindered destination in Sikkim. It serves as a base to the those willing to climb Mount Kanchenjunga and Zemu glacier.

Starting from Thangu village, the trek to Green lake passes through the magnificent Kanchenjunga National Park and also brings forth the scenery of the confluence of the Zemu Chu and Lachen Chu which are two very significant rivers of the region.

From Gangtok, you drive to Lachen via Mangan and then Thangu to start your trek. Keep your eyes open for wildlife, especially for the rarely found Red Panda in the region.

Shubman Gill's dazzling 269 breaks raft of records

EDGBASTON (TIP)

It was just over six months ago that Shubman Gill paid the price for not making the most of his starts in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. He was dropped from the 11 for the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the head-down trudge off the ground even before the warm-ups ended on Day 1 had spoken of a fire that burned deep within.

There was disappointment. It hurt. This wasn't something he wanted to understand. But when asked about it, all he had done was smile. Now, playing at a venue where India have never won, Gill did more than just grab his chance. His 269 (387 balls, 30x4, 3x6) was the cornerstone around which India's massive total of 587 runs was built.

It is the highest score by an Indian in England, surpassing Sunil Gavaskar's majestic 221 at the Oval in 1979. It is also the highest score by an Indian captain in Tests, surpassing Virat Kohli's 254* against South Africa in 2019.

In reply, England reached 77/3 at close of play. The hosts still trail by 510 runs.

For most of the innings, Gill just smiled. When he was beaten, when he was forced to scramble, when he was joined by Ravindra Jadeja (89) with India on 211/5 but it was only when he got to the milestones did the fire burst out onto the surface. Usually, he just bows to the crowd. But here he let all the pent-up emotion out when he reached his century and then the double. He wanted this more than anything else and sometimes that's where it all begins.

Gill seemed unflappable. A calm presence in the middle that is perhaps only distinguished by the sound of the ball hitting his bat. It is that sound that he was looking for in Australia but it is only now, in England, that he has found it again. The IPL helped. He scored 650 runs at an average of 50.00 and came into England in a good frame of mind. But the



thing that has stood out the most in his batting in England has not been the shots but the defence. He looked to play everything right under his eye... as late as possible and the start to the innings had a very measured tone to it. While Yashasvi Jaiswal went for his shots, Gill took his time and the tight defence allowed him to do that. It also made the England look rather helpless. On a wicket like this, the bowling side have to keep plugging away and hope the batters make a mistake. But while many of India's batters did that, Gill simply didn't bite.

The knock will ensure that Gill's away Test record won't be questioned for a long time and that, in turn, should make him an even more confident skipper. There are some who might say that this is a flat track and they aren't wrong but how many of the other Indian batters truly made the opportunity count?

Gill, however, didn't do it alone. He found an able ally in Jadeja, who showed why he is the world's top allrounder once again and then in Washington Sundar. The 203-run stand between Gill and Jadeja, followed by the 144-run stand

between Gill and Washington helped India take complete charge of the match.

The definition of an allrounder is a player who would get into the team either as a batter or a bowler. But these days we have batters who can bowl and bowlers who can bat. Jadeja fits the original definition to the T. He averages 34.75 with the bat and 24.54 with the ball — just the numbers alone place him among India's best batters and bowlers. Nothing bits and pieces about that and there are no caveats there either.

The last time he played at Edgbaston, he had scored a century (104 off 194 balls) and this time, he got close again. His consistency is what sets him apart and that is something Washington would love to incorporate. Not yet an allrounder in the Jadeja mould, Washington has shown over the course of his short career that he certainly has the batting chops.

His 42 (103 balls) ensured that India's innings didn't come to an abrupt end as it did twice in the first Test and that allowed the visitors to put up a total that will allow their bowlers to keep attacking for the rest of the match. *Source: HT*

Asia Cup: Pak teams allowed to visit India

There will be no bar on Pakistan sports teams travelling to India for international events despite the low in bilateral ties following the Pahalgam terror attack and India responding with Operation Sindoor, sports ministry officials said on Thursday, July 3.

That decision included an agreement that Pakistan teams will be allowed to play ICC tournaments hosted by India at a neutral venue. Cross-border political tension saw the Rohit Sharma-led side play the Champions Trophy, hosted by Pakistan, in the UAE and emerge winners.

While the union sports ministry is willing to let BCCI address the neutral venue issue — Pakistan will play their games in the ICC Women's World Cup being staged by India in late September in Colombo — hockey will be different. The Asia Cup hockey is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 29 to September 7 and Pakistan will be free to travel for it, the ministry sources said.

India also host the junior hockey World Cup in Chennai and Madurai in November where India and Pakistan are in the same group. "For international sports no one is barred from going," the sources said. The government also is conscious of its build-up to bidding for the 2036 Olympics and would not like any step to hurt its image as a welcoming country. "It won't be nice in the international sports world (if there are any such restrictions)," the officials said.

Senior officials of the Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) and Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) however said they are yet to receive clearance from the government to take part in two major hockey events in India this year.

The cabinet approved the new sports policy this week which the union sports ministry is confident will usher in a "360 degrees reform" in Indian sports. The sports ministry has prepared a roadmap for the implementation of the wide-ranging aspects addressed by the policy document and a monitoring group comprising the sports, education and culture ministries will be set up for development of sports at the grassroots. While the government acknowledges the role states have in education, and sports in these institutions, the ministry sources also said: "Sports is a state subject but international sports is a central subject."

A Khelo India Water Sports Festival will be held in Srinagar's Dal Lake from August 21-23.

Djokovic cruises past Evans in statement win

LONDON (TIP)

After all these years, Novak Djokovic knew this particular Wimbledon tradition well. The post-match winner's on-court speech.

On Thursday, in front of packed stands on the fabled Centre Court of the All England Club, Djokovic stepped up to the microphone for the 99th time in his 20th year of competing at the Grand Slam in London.

"It means that I've been playing quite a long time," Djokovic said. "Nineteen times (reaching the third round at Wimbledon), that's probably almost as much as (Jannik) Sinner and (Carlos) Alcaraz have years in their life."

The mood in the post-match interview was jovial. But in that hour and 47



minutes just before, the seven-time Wimbledon champion was in no mood for fun. Days after he needed some "magic pills" to help him overcome a stomach bug in the first-round match against Alexandre Muller, Djokovic played a solid game to pick up a 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 win over

British player Dan Evans. "I had prepared well for the match," he said. "Technically, tactically, I knew what I needed to do. I executed it perfectly. Sometimes you have these kinds of days."

Djokovic hammered home 46 winners to Evans' 19, and committed 14 unforced errors to his opponent's 18. The serve, too, remained unbroken throughout the match. This was a statement win against an opponent who had beaten Djokovic the only time the duo had met previously, at the Monte Carlos Masters in 2021.

For a man driven by statistics, there are quite a few on offer at Wimbledon this year for Djokovic. The win on Thursday, July 3, takes him one step closer to a century of wins at Wimbledon.



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Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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