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Very big deal coming, says Trump

June 27, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Just as an Indian delegation reached Washington to resume discussions on a bilateral trade agreement with the Americans, US President Donald Trump said a "very big deal" with India was coming.

"We are having some great deals. We have one coming up, maybe with India, a very big one, where we are going to open up India," Trump said at a White House event promoting passage of the GOP's tax and spending cuts legislation on Thursday.

Continued on P48

Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani, 33, wins Democratic race for New York Mayor polls

MAMDANI WOULD BE THE CITY'S FIRST MUSLIM AND INDIAN-AMERICAN MAYOR, IF ELECTED

June 25, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Tuesday, June 24, conceded to state lawmaker Zohran Mamdani in the Democratic primary election for New York City mayor, setting up the 33-year-old democratic socialist Mamdani to win the party's nomination in the heavily Democratic city.

Mamdani was born on October 18, 1991, in Kampala, Uganda, into a family of Indian descent.

His parents are Mahmood Mamdani, an Indian-Ugandan colonialism and postcolonial studies professor at Columbia University of Gujarati Muslim descent, and Mira Nair, an Indian-American filmmaker of Punjabi descent.

Mamdani, a 33-year-old democratic socialist member of the state Assembly, started to pull ahead with more than an estimated 80 per cent of ballots counted.

Cuomo, in a speech to supporters, said Mamdani "won" and that "we are going to take a look and make some decisions".

CONGRATULATIONS

Zohran Mamdani



Zohran Mamdani. Photo: @ZohranKMamdani/X

"Tonight is his night," Cuomo said.

Mamdani would be the city's first Muslim and Indian-American mayor if elected. Cuomo is trying to make a comeback from a sexual harassment scandal.

Incumbent Mayor Eric Adams skipped the primary. He's running as an independent.

The race's ultimate outcome could say something about what kind of leader Democrats are looking for during President Donald Trump's second term.

The vote takes place about four years after Cuomo, 67, resigned as governor following a sexual harassment scandal. Yet he has been the favorite throughout the race, with his deep experience, name recognition, strong political connections and juggernaut fundraising apparatus.

The party's progressive wing, meanwhile, had coalesced behind Mamdani. A relatively unknown state legislator when the contest began, Mamdani gained momentum by running a sharp campaign laser-focused on the city's high cost of living and secured endorsements from two of the country's foremost progressives, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Continued on P48

Trump cuts off trade talks with Canada

June 27, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): US President Donald Trump has said he is cutting off trade talks with Canada "immediately" as the country looks to start enforcing a tax policy targeting big tech companies.

The latest move, which he announced on social media, comes as the neighboring nations had been working to agree on a trade deal by mid-July.

Both countries have imposed tariffs on each other's goods after Trump sparked a trade war earlier this year and threatened to annex Canada using "economic force".

On Friday, June 27, the US president said he was ending talks due to what he called an "egregious tax" on tech companies and added he would announce new tariffs on goods crossing the border within the next week. "We are hereby terminating ALL discussions on



"We are hereby terminating ALL discussions on Trade with Canada, effective immediately," Trump wrote on Truth Social. File photo

Trade with Canada, effective immediately," he wrote on social media.

"We will let Canada know the Tariff that they will be paying to do business with the United States of America within the next seven day period."

In brief comments to reporters, Prime Minister Mark Carney suggested that talks would continue.

Shubhanshu Shukla and his Axiom-4 crew launch into intensive space research

June 27, 2025

NEW DELHI / NEW YORK (TIP): A day after docking with the International Space Station (ISS), the four-member crew of the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission-including Indian Air Force officer Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla-has commenced a rigorous schedule of scientific experiments as part of their two-week mission in low Earth orbit.

"On Friday, Ax-4 quickly got to work unloading sample-packed hardware and portable science freezers from inside Dragon for installation in station incubators and research refrigerators ahead of upcoming experiments," NASA stated in an update posted on Saturday morning.

"Station safety hardware was also temporarily transferred inside Dragon as is customary for visiting spacecraft. The private astronaut quartet later



Members of the Axiom-4 mission (in blue) with members of Expedition-73 (in white) on board the International Space Station. Photo: NASA

joined the Expedition-73 crew for more safety reviews to learn their roles and responsibilities and communication protocols with mission controllers in the unlikely event of an emergency on the orbital outpost," the post added.

Continued on P48

Punjab cadre IPS officer Parag Jain to head R&AW, played key role in Op Sindoor

June 27, 2025



Parag Jain.

NEW DELHI (TIP): Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Parag Jain, widely known for his expertise in intelligence gathering and affairs related to India's neighborhood, has been appointed as the new head of the country's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), officials said on Saturday.

Continued on P48



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COMMENT

Zohran Mamdani's Stunning victory in NYC Mayoral Primary: A tale of promises, populism, and political miscalculation



BY
INDRAJIT SALUJA

In a stunning upset that has sent shockwaves through the American political landscape, 34-year-old Zohran Mamdani, a first-generation Ugandan-Indian-American and Democratic Socialist, emerged victorious in the Democratic primary for Mayor of New York City, defeating political heavyweight and former Governor Andrew Cuomo. Mamdani's win underscores a significant shift in New York City's political temperament - one that favors bold rhetoric, grassroots campaigning, and progressive populism over establishment experience and presumed loyalty. The victory, while shocking to many mainstream analysts, can be understood in light of several converging factors: Mamdani's energetic, theatrical campaign; a deepening economic crisis among New York City's working class; demographic realignments; and the complacency of Cuomo's establishment-driven strategy. The race offers both a warning and a lesson to political veterans who underestimate the power of youth-led movements, economic despair, and the lure of utopian promises in times of hardship.

A Grassroots Movement Fueled by Economic Discontent

Mamdani, who first entered politics in 2020 as a State Assemblyman from Queens, built his mayoral campaign on a highly populist agenda, promising free bus rides citywide, rent stabilization and freezes, and a \$30 minimum wage - nearly double the state's current standard of \$17 per hour. For a city in which over 58% of residents are renters, and where one in five lives below the poverty line, such pledges were not just enticing - they were electrifying. According to data from the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (2024), the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in New York City had reached \$3,300, an 18% increase over the last two years. Meanwhile, inflation-adjusted wages for service sector jobs - which employ a majority of the city's working poor - had stagnated. In this context, Mamdani's call for a "City for the Many, Not the Millionaires" struck a resonant chord.

While many critics have dismissed his platform as unrealistic or financially untenable, the political efficacy of his promises was undeniable. Exit polls conducted by Spectrum News found that 72% of Mamdani's supporters cited his "economic justice proposals" as their primary reason for voting. Among voters under 30, his support was overwhelming, capturing nearly 82% of the demographic, according to a Gotham Trends survey.

An Ethnic and Youth Coalition Built on Identity and Inclusion

Zohran Mamdani's campaign smartly mobilized the diverse demographics that define New York City. As the son of renowned

Indian filmmaker Mira Nair and a Ugandan economist, Mamdani speaks with an authenticity that resonated with immigrant communities. His campaign saw remarkable traction among Muslims, Hispanics, African-Americans, and South Asians, often drawing crowds in Jackson Heights, the Bronx, and Harlem - areas largely ignored by Cuomo's campaign.

New York City's Muslim population, estimated at over 800,000, has long felt marginalized by mainstream candidates. Mamdani, who frequently opened his rallies by acknowledging Islamophobia and pledging inclusive governance, earned over 75% of the Muslim vote, according to the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). Similarly, the Hispanic population - around 29% of NYC's residents - was energized by Mamdani's promises of tenant protections and expanded public services.

His rallies often featured street theatre, spoken word poetry, and hip-hop performances - all designed to draw in young and first-time voters. He succeeded. The NYC Board of Elections reported that youth turnout increased by 36% compared to the 2021 primaries, with over 400,000 new voters under the age of 35 participating in the Democratic primary - the highest in over two decades.

Cuomo's Fatal Miscalculation: Experience Isn't Enough

Andrew Cuomo entered the race assuming he could coast on his name recognition and gubernatorial experience. A three-term governor and son of former Governor Mario Cuomo, he launched a lackluster campaign heavy on television ads but light on ground-level mobilization. His strategy presumed that traditional Democratic voters would support him by default, especially older and middle-class voters in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and Manhattan.

But this presumption proved fatal. The Cuomo campaign suffered from a glaring disconnect with the electorate's present-day concerns. It lacked clear solutions to rising costs, growing homelessness, and deteriorating public services. While Cuomo spoke of "restoring competence" and "bringing leadership back," Mamdani spoke of "bringing justice," "empowering the forgotten," and "breaking the politics of the billionaire class." In working-class neighborhoods, Mamdani campaign offices outnumbered Cuomo's by a factor of 5 to 1. Door-to-door canvassing by volunteers - many from the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), which endorsed Mamdani - created a wave of personal connection that the Cuomo team, reliant on legacy media, failed to match.

The Freebie Effect and the Desperation of the Marginalized

The core of Mamdani's success was his ability to speak directly to the city's most economically vulnerable populations. Promises like free citywide buses may raise eyebrows among budget analysts - with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) already facing a \$1.2 billion shortfall -

but to the average New Yorker spending \$127 per month on transit, the proposal meant real money in their pockets.

Similarly, the proposal to raise the minimum wage to \$30 per hour - though dismissed by economists as potentially inflationary - ignited hope among low-income workers struggling with skyrocketing living costs. With groceries in NYC up 26% since 2022, and childcare costs averaging \$21,000 annually per child, the working poor are desperate for immediate relief, not fiscal prudence. Many analysts are now calling Mamdani's approach "aspirational populism" - promises made with little clarity on how to fund them, but enough emotional pull to win votes. Indeed, it remains unclear how a Mayor Mamdani could deliver on these pledges. New York City's annual budget already exceeds \$112 billion, and federal aid has been steadily declining since the COVID-19 pandemic. The wealth tax proposals floated by Mamdani - targeting billionaires and luxury real estate - would likely face legal hurdles and resistance from Albany. But for now, the promises worked - not because voters were naïve, but because they were desperate.

The Symbolism of the Moment

The symbolism of Mamdani's victory cannot be overstated. A Muslim, South Asian, immigrant-born, openly socialist candidate defeating a scion of New York's most powerful political family is a dramatic inflection point in the city's political narrative. It speaks of a generational realignment - where identity, economic pain, and grassroots passion are overtaking legacy and establishment endorsements. Progressive groups have hailed the victory as a "rebutal of neoliberalism." Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who endorsed Mamdani in the final weeks, tweeted: "This is what people-powered politics looks like. The old guard is collapsing. The future is here."

What Comes Next?

While Mamdani's triumph in the primaries is historic, the real test lies ahead. He now faces a likely Republican opponent in the general election, who will almost certainly run a campaign focused on fiscal responsibility, public safety, and the dangers of "socialist excess." Meanwhile, Mamdani will have to pivot from promises to policy - a far trickier terrain. The challenge of governance looms large. If he fails to fulfill even a fraction of his pledges, the same energy that powered his campaign may quickly turn into disillusionment. Moreover, he will need to build coalitions within the City Council, negotiate with Albany, and manage a skeptical business community that fears capital flight under his leadership.

Still, for now, Zohran Mamdani has changed the game. He has shown that charisma, conviction, and connection can outmaneuver experience and legacy. In a city where survival is a daily struggle for millions, his utopian campaign gave people a reason to dream again.

How long that dream lasts will depend not on rhetoric, but on reality.

India hosts 11th International Day of Yoga at the United Nations



The Yoga session in progress at the United Nations on June 20, 2025.

June 20, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations organized the 11th edition of the International Day of Yoga on 20 June 2025 at the North Lawn Area of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This year's theme, "Yoga for One Earth, One Health" is rooted in the "One Earth, One Health" approach introduced during India's G20 Presidency in 2023. The theme

underscores the vital truth that personal wellness and planetary health are inseparably linked.

On December 11, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly designated June 21 as the International Day of Yoga. The proposal was first introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his address at the 69th session of the UNGA, in which he said: "Yoga is not just about exercise; it is a way to discover the sense of



Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in his opening remarks, reflected on the growing global resonance of Yoga over the years, noting its evolution into a powerful force for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

oneness with yourself, the world and the nature." The Resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was endorsed by a record 175 Member States. Since then, millions of people around the globe, united by the practice of yoga, have celebrated this day each year. In 2023, the International Day of Yoga celebration at the United Nations Headquarters created a Guinness World Record for the participation of yoga enthusiasts of most nationalities.

Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, in his opening remarks, reflected on the growing global resonance

of Yoga over the years, noting its evolution into a powerful force for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being across geographies, age groups, and backgrounds. He emphasized that Yoga, rooted in India's ancient wisdom and guided by the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-the world is one family-is much more than physical movement; it is a holistic discipline that cultivates inner balance, mindfulness, and a sense of responsibility in daily life.

The Chair of the International Day of Yoga Committee at the UN, Ms. Dennis Scotto, served as the Master of Ceremony. The event featured Common Yoga Protocol sessions and an advanced yoga demonstration with music, conducted by the 'Art of Living' foundation. A guided meditation session led by Dr. Deepak Chopra, a noted physician and a leading authority on integrative well-being and spiritual intelligence, added depth to the celebration. The event witnessed the participation of over 1,200 yoga enthusiasts, including UN envoys, personnel, officials, members of various yoga organizations, and representatives of the Indian diaspora. The celebration met with enthusiastic applause and widespread appreciation from all attendees.

'Afghan Women Have Not Given Up - Nor Can We': UN Warns of Deepening Crisis for Afghan Women Amid Global Apathy

I.S. Saluja

June 23, 2025

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK (TIP): At a poignant session of the United Nations Security Council on Monday, UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous delivered a grave briefing on the worsening plight of women and girls in Afghanistan. Calling on the global community to resist complacency, Bahous declared: "Afghan women have not given up - nor can we. We must not look away."

Bahous commended the Security Council's renewal of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)'s mandate earlier this year, which reaffirmed the fundamental rights of Afghan women. However, she emphasized that the situation for women and girls has grown increasingly desperate in the face of systematic repression by the Taliban regime.

Restrictions Harden into Law

"Since my last briefing nine months ago, not a single restriction has been reversed," Bahous reported. "Repression has become more systematic and has calcified into structure and law." Despite repeated UN resolutions demanding access for female aid workers, legal and bureaucratic barriers imposed by the Taliban have made it nearly impossible to reach women in need. Compounding the crisis are dramatic funding cuts to aid operations, forcing the UN and its partners to operate in increasingly constrained and dangerous conditions. UN Women and its partners continue to work within these confines,



UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous delivered a grave briefing on the worsening plight of women and girls in Afghanistan on Monday, June 23.

Photo: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

employing strategies such as providing separate facilities and negotiating for the presence of male chaperones to ensure Afghan women can access essential services.

A Crisis Beyond Numbers

Illustrating the human impact behind the statistics, Bahous shared the story of Sama, a woman entrepreneur in Bamyan who runs a small shop in a women's market. With solar panels provided by UN Women, Sama and her peers have doubled their incomes over the past year - a rare but powerful example of resilience.

But such success stories are exceptions in an otherwise bleak landscape. One-third of Afghanistan's population - mostly women

and children - face malnutrition, while maternal mortality and mental health issues are sharply rising. Girls are increasingly losing access to education and food, and some now pray to fail exams just to remain in school longer. Rates of child marriage and teenage pregnancy are also increasing. "This is not just a crisis for girls," Bahous said. "This is generational damage."

A Grim Gender Index

UN Women's 2024 Afghanistan Gender Index, released last week, presents a stark statistical portrait of life under Taliban rule:

Nearly 78% of Afghan women aged 18-29 are neither in work, nor education, nor training - one of the highest rates in the world.

Men are nearly three times more likely than women to have access to bank accounts or mobile money services.

Rates of intimate partner violence are on the rise.

The ongoing education ban is projected to cost Afghanistan \$1.5 billion in economic losses by 2030.

"Four years after the Taliban's return, the rollback of women's rights has been swift and nearly total," Bahous said. "The very presence of women in public life has been erased." Urgent Recommendations to the Security Council

In response to this mounting crisis, Bahous laid out four urgent recommendations:

Avoid Normalizing Discrimination: International engagement with the Taliban

- including via the Doha process - must avoid legitimizing discriminatory policies. Afghan women must be full and equal participants in all discussions about the country's future.

Strengthen Accountability: The Security Council should support efforts to investigate and document human rights violations through an independent mechanism. She urged the Council's 1988 Committee to consider including violations of women's rights in its listing criteria.

Increase Funding for Women and Girls: Donors must ensure that at least 30% of all aid to Afghanistan directly supports women and girls, particularly through women-led grassroots organizations.

Invest in Digital Literacy: With many Afghan women now relying on digital means for education, training, and economic activity, Bahous called for greater investment in online access and skills development.

A Call to Conscience

Bahous concluded with an impassioned plea to the international community: "The systematic oppression of 20 million people simply because they are women is utterly unacceptable. We must not grow used to their situation. There is no justification for delay."

The Security Council chamber fell silent as Bahous's words echoed a stark truth - the women of Afghanistan continue to resist, even as the world turns its gaze elsewhere.

Their message, as delivered by Bahous, remains clear: They have not given up. Nor can we.



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Lotus shows way to celebrate Yoga Day - with a twist



Presenters and community leaders joined the hosts for the lighting of the lamp ceremony



Dr Anjali Grover presented the story of yoga in dance

JUNE 22, 2025

GREAT NECK, NY (TIP): In a soulful celebration to rekindle yoga's spiritual roots, over 200 people came together to celebrate the International Day of Yoga here. Instead of yoga postures, they were introduced to the higher steps of the discipline that originated in India. The Spirit of Yoga event on June 22 was co-hosted by Parveen Chopra, founder of ALotusInTheMud.com, and the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization.

along with Erik Larson, Director of Brahma Kumaris WSO. Sister Anjali Seepersaud, Coordinator of the Global Harmony House venue, introduced them.

While acknowledging that almost all Yoga Day programs and yoga studios focus only on asanas and pranayam, Chopra pointed out, "Asana practice will lead many to explore the spiritual side of yoga."

India's Consul General In New York Binaya Srikanta Pradhan was Chief



Eddie Stern had the audience practice Brahma Mudra

Parveen Chopra played a video of the Lotus web magazine he founded three years ago and moderated the evening,

Guest. He was represented by Piyush Singh - Consul, Press, Information, and Culture. Singh relayed the message from



For Anjali, Desena and Parveen: Jennifer DeSena, Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead, flanked by Sister Anjali Seepersaud and Parveen Chopra.



Parveen Chopra presented a crystal lotus to Piyush Singh, who represented the Indian Consulate in New York.

the Consulate: "We are privileged to support this inspiring initiative. The energy and intent that radiate from this gathering truly reflect the deeper essence of yoga. Not merely asanas, yoga is a profound spiritual discipline that harmonizes body, mind, and soul."

Guatemala, organized by the Indian embassy there, even though only 100 Indian families live in that city.

Eddie Stern, yoga instructor and founder of the Ganesha Temple in Manhattan, positioned postures in the 8-limb yoga discipline and led the audience



Saeed Hassan, Director Interfaith Outreach for NYS Senator Steve Rhoads, presented citations on behalf of the Senator to A Lotus In The Mud (accepted by Parveen Chopra) and the Brahma Kumaris (accepted by Erik Larson and Sister Anjali Seepersaud).

Piyush Singh was introduced by Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja, who mentioned that he was witness earlier this month to a record 10,000 people attending a yoga session in San Pedro Carcha in

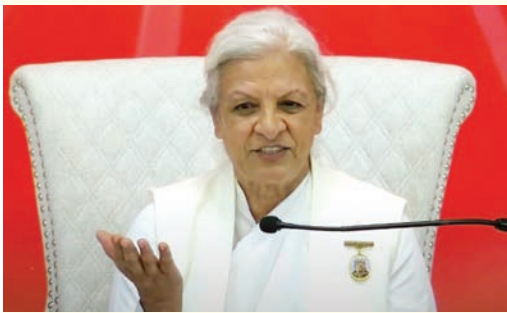
in doing Brahma Mudra exercise.

Jennifer DeSena, Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead, thanked

CONTD ON PAGE 7

CONTD FROM PAGE 6

Rajyoga presented as a path to world peace



Sister Gayatri Naraine spoke and led a brief meditation

It was an afternoon of inspiration, serenity, and inner connection at the Global Harmony House on June 22. Both Mohini Didi, the Brahma Kumaris' Chief Administrative Head, and Sister Gayatri Naraine, their NGO representative to the United Nations, spoke of Rajyoga meditation as the pathway to peace and happiness as we connect to the supreme and remember the eternal qualities of the soul.

"The light of love is ignited in the heart," explained Mohini Didi. "When we connect to the supreme, our vibrations touch the hearts of everyone in the world, so we can have peace." A recording of BK Mohini Didi's blessings message was screened at the event

"The first quality of Raj Yoga is love," affirmed Sister Gayatri. "When you see your true self as love, you see everyone as brothers and sisters from your heart, not your mind. She explained that "it is the practice of Rajyoga meditation by individuals of a collective coming together that has the greatest impact on the world."

Earlier in the day, Steven Weinberg, Mayor of the Village of Thomaston in Great Neck, dropped by to present a Proclamation commending the Brahma Kumaris.

Chopra and the Global Harmony House for hosting a meaningful celebration of Yoga Day, adding. "Yoga is not just movement-it's a journey inward, a practice of stillness in a restless world."

Rakesh Bhargava, President of the World Vegan Vision (NY chapter), discussed the vegan lifestyle and yoga. Dr Anjali Grover danced the story of yoga and Andonia Fthenakis presented sound

bath meditation.

In an expression of India's call of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World is One Family), the speakers and attendees represented diverse religions and communities.

Prominent people at the event included Arvind Vora, Chair of Shanti Fund and founding trustee of Lotus, Dr Faroque Khan, Chair of Interfaith Institute of



Rakesh Bhargava spoke about veganism and yoga and was introduced by Kamlesh Mehta, Chairman of The South Asian Times.



Prof Indrajit Singh Saluja chatting with Piyush Singh



After the program, people enjoyed vegetarian and vegan refreshments in the sunny outdoors.

(Photos by Kripa Ranjan Prasad, courtesy of Parveen Chopra/ALotusinTheMud.com)

Long Island, Paul Chellani, head of the Sant Nirankari Mission - New York, Kamlesh Mehta - Chairman of The South Asian Times, Prof Indrajit Saluja - Editor-Publisher of The Indian

Panorama, Mohan Wanchoo, Varinder Bhalla, Mukund Padmanabhan, Chandra Bhansali, Ashok Vyas, Dr Urmilesh Arya, Rashmin Master, Jyoti Gupta and yoga teacher Anita Rana.

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The Pottery Barn Rule: Do We Owe People Whose Countries We Break? Who Should Pay?

Anonymous

“Mangu-Ward is correct in her assessment that there needs to be accountability and consequences for military adventurism to keep it in check. However, the Pottery Barn rule in the form of liberalized immigration is not the best means to impose that accountability. In addition to the risk of simply flipping the political parties' positions on war rather than actually reducing the overall penchant for war, the results of the Pottery Barn rule would befall the entire country-which in large part already does not support military adventurism-rather than those directly responsible. Instead of liberalized immigration policies as a form of reparations, what we owe those in countries we've broken is the right to hold the decisionmakers pursuing unnecessary wars personally liable for their decisions.”

In a recent article, Katherine Mangu-Ward, the editor-in-chief of Reason Magazine, posits the question: "What do we owe to people whose countries we have broken [through our foreign policy]?"

The question is an excellent one and one worth discussing.

The author attempts to answer the question by suggesting we adopt a less restrictive immigration policy for those in countries we have broken through our foreign policy as a means of recompense. This is dubbed the "Pottery Barn rule," based on Colin Powell's characterization of his 2002 admonition of "You break it, you own it" to George W. Bush in relation to the decision on whether to invade Iraq.

Mangu-Ward argues that the Pottery Barn rule would create a "virtuous cycle" and "provide a useful reminder that we'd better not pick a fight unless we're sure it will make people better off or unless we're willing to welcome thousands or even millions of additional immigrants to our shores." Specifically, she argues that this-tying military intervention to more liberal immigration policies-would disincentivize the pursuit of unnecessary wars by those foreign policy hawks who are also immigration restrictionists (a pairing she characterizes as being predominantly within the GOP, although that characterization may no longer be accurate on the war question).

Currently, the decisionmakers in government who choose to launch wars are completely immune to the consequences of those decisions.

However, Mangu-Ward does not consider the flip side of the equation. How would such a policy affect those decisionmakers who are not necessarily military hawks but are supportive of more lenient immigration policies? Could such a policy change not provide an incentive for those types of decisionmakers to become more



US Marine Tanks in Baghdad Image Credit: Wiki Commons-Public Domain.

hawkish? And would this not especially be the case if those decisionmakers believed that immigrants from such countries would be more likely to vote for their party in the future?

In essence, military adventurism could actually become a long-term political strategy for certain decisionmakers if the United States were to adopt the Pottery Barn rule, and it could also simply serve to accelerate the flipping of positions on war among the mainstream political parties.

Mangu-Ward is correct in her assessment that there needs to be accountability and consequences for military adventurism to keep it in check. However, the Pottery Barn rule in the form of liberalized immigration is not the best means to impose that accountability. In addition to the risk of simply flipping the political parties' positions on war rather than actually reducing the overall penchant for war, the results of the Pottery Barn rule would befall the entire country-which in large part already does not support military adventurism-rather than those directly responsible. Instead of liberalized immigration policies as a form of reparations, what we owe those in countries we've broken is the right to hold the decisionmakers pursuing unnecessary wars personally liable for their decisions.

Currently, the decisionmakers in government who choose to launch wars are completely immune to the consequences of those decisions under the Westfall Act. The Westfall Act was a statute passed in 1988 in response to the US Supreme Court's decision in *Westfall v. Erwin*, 484 US 292 (1988), from which the law's name originated. In *Westfall v.*

The best way to disincentivize warmongering is to hold the decisionmakers directly accountable. Currently, however, decisionmakers are immune from the consequences of their decisions under the Westfall Act

Erwin, the Supreme Court rejected a broad reading of government official immunity to tort claims and attempted to delineate certain limits on such immunity. In response, Congress reacted by passing the Westfall Act, which granted broad sweeping immunity to government officials with very few limitations.

The best way to disincentivize warmongering is to hold the decisionmakers directly accountable.

This broad-sweeping immunity under the Westfall Act was recently considered by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Saleh v. Bush* (9th Cir. 2017). *Saleh v. Bush* involved a class action suit against Bush administration officials brought on behalf of Iraqi civilians for damages incurred as a result of the Iraq war. In that case, the Court held that Bush administration officials could not be sued in their personal capacities because the Westfall Act provided them with absolute immunity from suit and that "this immunity covered even heinous acts." Thus, despite Colin Powell's admonition to George W. Bush in 2002 of the Pottery Barn rule with regard to Iraq, no members of the Bush administration actually had to "own it" even though they unquestionably "broke it."

Supporters of the broad immunity conferred by the Westfall Act would likely argue that without such immunity, the decisionmakers in our government

would become unduly timid in taking action for fear of the prospect of ensuing litigation. On its face, this should be an unpersuasive argument for anyone who already desires smaller government. However, for those who truly believe the government should do more rather than less, the cost and tradeoffs for such far-reaching immunity need to be understood and considered.

The late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall summarized those costs and tradeoffs best in *Westfall v. Erwin* when he stated,

Official immunity comes at a great cost. An injured party with an otherwise meritorious tort claim is denied compensation simply because he had the misfortune to be injured by a federal official. Moreover, absolute immunity contravenes the basic tenet that individuals be held accountable for their wrongful conduct.

If you want to create a "virtuous cycle" and disincentivize warmongering, the best way to do that is to hold the decisionmakers directly accountable and eliminate, or at least pare down, the broad-sweeping immunity they enjoy from the consequences of their decisions. In essence, we should require those decisionmakers to have some of their own skin in the game when they are literally playing with other people's lives.

(The author of this article requested to remain anonymous)



BY
DINESH C SHARMA

Attack on Iran N-sites & the 'nuclear apartheid' argument

WHILE MANY COUNTRIES SUPPORT THE IAEA'S ROLE IN NON-PROLIFERATION, THEY DEMAND RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND EQUAL ACCESS TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY.

“Safety of nuclear facilities - enrichment plants, fuel fabrication units, power plants, waste storage sites - has always been a matter of concern for the global community. Any mishap - accidental or deliberate - can lead to the release of radioactivity, posing danger to humans and the environment. In the ongoing conflict, it has been reported that the aerial raids aimed at nuclear facilities have spared nuclear reactors and have resulted in the destruction of only peripheral facilities at the three nuclear sites. In the recent past, the risks of nuclear facilities in Ukraine, like Zaporizhzhia, being targeted raised concerns in its war with Russia. Another nuclear flash point is North Korea, which has refused to subject itself to international inspections.”

American and Israeli aerial attacks targeted Iranian nuclear sites at Fordow, Natanz and Esfahan this week, one was reminded of a conversation with the head of the Indian atomic energy establishment soon after the Chernobyl nuclear accident in 1986. In response to a question about the safety of nuclear plants in India, he said, 'Our nuclear reactors are so safe that even if a missile hits or an aircraft crashes on them, nothing would happen.'

The point is that when setting up a nuclear power plant or related facilities, nuclear engineers plan for every eventuality, including a war. The most crucial step in ensuring the safety of any nuclear installation is choosing the right location. Besides, factors like geological stability and distance from populated areas, such facilities are located away from international borders for strategic reasons. In the case of Iran, the key Fordow uranium enrichment facility was built deep inside a mountain in the central region.

Safety of nuclear facilities - enrichment plants, fuel fabrication units, power plants, waste storage sites - has always been a matter of concern for the global community. Any mishap - accidental or deliberate - can lead to the release of radioactivity, posing danger to humans and the environment. In the ongoing conflict, it has been reported that the aerial raids aimed at nuclear facilities have spared nuclear reactors and have resulted in the destruction of only peripheral facilities at the three nuclear sites. In the recent past, the risks of nuclear facilities in Ukraine, like Zaporizhzhia, being targeted raised concerns in its war with Russia. Another nuclear flash point is North Korea, which has refused to subject itself to international inspections.

The global nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), is not only supposed to police fissile materials but also keep an eye on accidents involving nuclear radiation. The agency, which has been monitoring the situation in Iran, has not found any off-site radiation so far. If a reactor is



Verification and inspection by IAEA is vital to mitigate the risk of nuclear terrorism.

Photo credit: Reuters

attacked and damaged, it could lead to the release of radioactivity that could travel far, as happened in the Chernobyl and Fukushima disasters. It would be grossly irresponsible on the part of any party involved in the conflict to attack or destroy a nuclear reactor.

In the years after the Second World War, the need for global cooperation in science was widely felt. This was one of the motivations for the creation of the IAEA in 1957. The idea was to bring governments together, guide them on technological issues and collate information on peaceful uses of atoms. These included electricity production, the use of isotopes in medicine, agriculture, or the basic and life sciences. India was a part of the deliberations that led to the creation of the IAEA. It is a founder member of the agency and has played a pivotal role as a member of its Board of Governors over the decades.

Because nuclear energy is used as a dual-use technology, it is shrouded in secrecy, and information sharing is difficult. The agency depends on national nuclear regulators for information about nuclear installations like power plants, enrichment, waste disposal, etc. The main task of the IAEA is not only to ensure the safety of the handling of nuclear material, but also to prevent its diversion for making nuclear weapons. However, some sort of inequality has been embedded in the

functioning of the watchdog from the beginning.

Homi Jehangir Bhabha, who presided over the Scientific Advisory Committee of IAEA, was the first to take a tough stand on the nature of safeguards proposed in the 1960s - one type of regulation for certain countries, which recognized no inspection and another type of rules for European countries. The rest were subjected to stringent checks and inspections. It was argued that the first set of countries was exempt from safeguards as they were the victors of the Second World War, while Europeans could take care of their security because they were more advanced in this sector. Others who did not agree with this system had to face embargoes.

The classic case of such bias was the Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE), which was defined as the non-military use of nuclear detonations for civilian purposes such as large-scale engineering, mining, excavation, or creating underground reservoirs. PNEs conducted by America, like Project Rulison, were celebrated as scientific achievements and incurred no sanctions. India conducted a PNE in 1974 for which it was subjected to sanctions. The premise behind current US attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities is the fear that Iran could develop the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Atomic energy has long passed its

early period of scientific cooperation and the 'atoms for peace' motto. It is now connected to large industrial operations involving the safety of plants and potential environmental hazards. And it is closely linked with massive financial investments and geopolitics. The private sector is projected to enter the sector for electricity generation sector in many countries, including India. Private nuclear power plants fall under IAEA oversight indirectly. The responsibility to ensure compliance lies with the government, but the IAEA can inspect any facility using nuclear material, regardless of ownership.

IAEA should prepare itself for such challenges, along with its traditional watchdog role under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to ensure countries do not divert nuclear material for weapons. The verification and inspection regime is vital for global stability and to mitigate the risk of nuclear terrorism, but it should be transparent and unbiased. While many countries support the IAEA's role in non-proliferation, they also demand respect for national sovereignty and equal access to nuclear technology. They advance the 'nuclear apartheid' argument that nuclear-armed states block others from developing nuclear technology. The present conflict is a grim reminder of this sore point.

(Dinesh C Sharma is a science commentator)

There's something about Zohran K Mamdani



BY
JYOTI MALHOTRA

Who's afraid of Zohran Kwame Mamdani? The 33-year-old Democrat candidate for New York mayor, whose many names are clearly more than a sum of its parts, has stirred and shaken half the globe in recent days - from Donald Trump ("he's a Communist lunatic") to Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi ("when he opens his mouth, Pakistani PR takes the day off"), to frothing right-wingers like Kangana Ranaut ("he's ready to wipe out Hinduism").

So what is it about this suited-booted young man that's got the whirlwind in his sail? Let's start with the names - the middle a reference to the Marxist Socialist first prime minister of Ghana; the last to his father, a Gujarati-Muslim scholar from Uganda, now a professor of international affairs and anthropology at Columbia University; the first to an Arabic word that means 'a ray of light.' As for his mother, she is the Hindu Punjabi documentary filmmaker Mira Nair, who we all know has made both *Monsoon Wedding* and *Mississippi Masala*. Zohran's wife, meanwhile, is Syrian and works in animation.

The young man himself identifies as "democratic socialist". He reached across New York City's several divides - Black and South Asian, Hispanic and White and Chinese - to win 92 per cent of the Democratic vote to secure his seat as the party candidate earlier this week. He fought for basic issues like free bus fares, free child-care and controlled public housing rentals. He and his large band of volunteers invoked the old-fashioned principles of politics to go from house-to-house to ask for votes - a bit like what the RSS still does, what the Congress has forgotten to do, and what the Aam Aadmi Party once did back in the day.

Some of Zohran's comments are, clearly, more hearsay than fact - and, yes, he should be far more careful, even if he's 33. For example, he said last month that so many Muslims were killed in the 2002 riots in Gujarat that "people don't even believe we exist anymore." (In fact, there are 5.8 million Muslims in Gujarat.) He has likened PM Modi to Benjamin Netanyahu, who he described as a "war criminal." (In 2022, the Supreme Court upheld the SIT's clean chit and cleared the PM of any connection with the 2002 riots.)

Notwithstanding the blood-letting in states like Mizoram - when the Indian Air Force in 1966 strafed Mizoram seeking to secede from India - and later in Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and



ALL ABOUT BASICS: Zohran Kwame Mamdani and his large band of volunteers invoked the old-fashioned principles of politics to go from house-to-house to ask for votes. Photo credit: Reuters

Chhattisgarh, the Indian state has largely stayed away from carrying out mass violence against its own people; even in Chhattisgarh, Congress rulers gave up the 'Salwa Judum' vigilante movement it had orchestrated in 2005 to contain Left-wing extremism, which meant that tribals were killing tribals, as a bad idea.

And yet there's something about Zohran. In 2023, as a member of the New York state Assembly, he read from the notes of jailed student Umar Khalid about "the stillness in Tihar jail" - where he remains jailed, under several sections of the UAPA, for his alleged role in the 2020 Delhi riots. It will be 1,749 days, today, of Khalid's incarceration, nearly five years of living in a cell, but charges have still not been framed against the young man.

Perhaps some of Zohran's incredible popularity is simply a reminder of what we once were - less cynical, braver, and determined to rearrange our societies so as to make them more egalitarian. He clearly likes to break down the walls, as Robert Frost once wrote, wondering what the functions of walls were - what were they walling in, or walling out. He likes to open the windows and let the air come in, as

The Indian American New York mayoral candidate is perhaps reminding us of the idea of India, a sort of One Nation, Many Melting Pots.

Gandhi once said was the function of windows.

In an interview with *Vogue India* in 2020, soon after he became a member of the NY Assembly, Zohran talked about the run-up to his campaign when he was advised to be "less desi." Instead, he spoke of his own immigrant experience and called it "Roti and Roses." There was a video called 'Nani,' a "woke granny," featuring the star Madhur Jaffrey. As he walked across the city, he said, he listened to Meesha Shafi, Ali Sethi and Dr Zeus.

Perhaps the fact that he's simply not embarrassed to be a bit of this and a bit of that, is what's so charming about Zohran. He reminds us of the ceaseless ebb and flow that is the dharma of the Indian subcontinent - aham brahmasmi, I am brahma, the idea of a philosophy that incorporates the spurning of hierarchy, the inclination to pray to a multitude of gods or none, the refusal to be defined

by inherited caste, class, gender.

Zohran's father told *The New York Times* this week that when they lived in South Africa when he was a child and all the children in Zohran's class were asked to identify themselves as White, Black or Colored, Zohran described himself as "mustard." Yellow. The color of haldi in a khichri.

Perhaps it is this idea of a khichri that is really the idea of India, a sort of One Nation, Many Melting Pots. Zohran K. is reminding us that the possibilities are endless.

(Jyoti Malhotra is Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune group of newspapers. She has been a journalist for 40 years, working in print, TV and digital, both in English and Hindi media, besides being a regular contributor on BBC Radio. She is also interested in the conflation between politics and foreign policy. Her X handle is @jomalhotra Insta handle @jomalhotra Email: jyoti.malhotra@tribunemail.com)

Happy 79th Independence Day!

“Shahidon ko shraddhanjali”

PATRIOTIC MUSICAL EVENING

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

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

Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: Long Island Marriott

Address: IOI James Doolittle BLVD, Uniondale, NY 11553

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

Ticket Options:

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

Special Instructions:

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

Checks payable to “Long Island Marriott”, or call Neha Bhansali at 405.312.1047 or Madhu Pareek at 917.535.9903 for more details.

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AAPI's 43rd Convention Offers An Enriching Experience Of Networking, Learning, And Celebration



JUNE 24, 2025

CINCINNATI, OH (TIP): "It is my great pleasure to personally invite you all to the 43rd Annual Convention and Scientific Assembly of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI), being held in vibrant Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 24th to 27th, 2025," said Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI, while inviting AAPI members to the prestigious event that will bring together nearly 1,000 delegates including Physicians, Academicians, Researchers and Medical students, along with guests to the Convention in Cincinnati from across the country for an enriching experience of networking, learning, and celebration.

Elaborating on the highlights of the convention, Dr. Kathula said, the Convention will offer 10-12 hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) sessions delivered by world-renowned speakers, a dynamic CEO Forum, Women's Forum, and specialized tracks on Medical Education and Medical Licensing.

This conference will host acclaimed



Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI

Physicians, Healthcare professionals and leaders from across the world for a dynamic exchange of ideas, serving as a collaborative effort to shape the future of healthcare on a global scale. In addition to the academic and professional offerings, attendees will enjoy three nights of world-class entertainment, making this a well-rounded and memorable gathering.

"Whether you are a physician, a healthcare professional, or an industry partner, this convention presents a valuable opportunity to showcase your business and connect with influential leaders in the medical field," said Dr. Sunil Kaza, Chair of AAPI BOT. "We look forward to welcoming you all to Cincinnati for this exceptional event."

Dr. Mario Capecchi, a Nobel laureate, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine/Physiology in 2007 for his

contributions to the development of "Mouse knockout technology," will deliver the keynote address during the 43rd annual AAPI Convention.

Other confirmed Speakers at the Convention include Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, president-elect of the American Medical Association; Dr. Lyuba Konopasek, MD, Senior Vice President, Intealth/ECFMG, Executive Director, FAIMER; Michael Suk, MD, BOT Chair, AMA; George Abraham, MD, Chair, Federation of State Medical Boards; and Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, a Padma Vibhushan awardee.

"We have convened a dedicated group of people to meet the needs of the 2025 convention and are very excited about this year," Dr. Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, President-Elect of AAPI said. "We invite you to the AAPI 43rd Annual Convention and take advantage of the Early Bird Special that is going on at the moment. Please reach out to any one of the Convention Team with questions or comments."

Dr. Meher Medavaram, Vice President of AAPI, while describing how AAPI's mission has evolved in the past 43 years, said, "Today, AAPI is strong representing over 120,000 Indian American physicians, 130 local Chapters, who make up of 10% of total physicians in the US and nearly 50% of International Medical Graduates, rooted in every corner of the nation, who serve every 7th patient in the US. We are proud of our achievements and our contributions to the healthcare industry and the millions of people we

serve."

Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country will convene and participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year.

The annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events, in addition to offering an exciting venue to interact with leading physicians, healthcare industry leaders, academicians, and scientists of Indian origin. Physicians and healthcare professionals from across the country will participate in the scholarly exchange of medical advances, to develop health policy agendas, and to encourage legislative priorities in the coming year.

"The annual convention offers extensive academic presentations, recognition of achievements and achievers, and professional networking at the alumni and evening social events. We invite you to be an active participant in this transformative journey and be part of the Convention," said Dr. Kathula. For more details on AAPI and the convention, please visit: www.aapiconvention.org and www.aapiusa.org

(Based on a Press Release issued by Ajay Ghosh, Media Co-Ordinator, AAPI)

Harmony in Diversity: AMEC's 14th Congressional Global Champions Gala Shines Bright

VIBRANT VOICES: AMEC'S 14TH ANNUAL GALA UNITES A GLOBAL COMMUNITY
COLORS OF COURAGE: AMEC'S 2025 GALA HONORS THE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS



Distinguished guests and organizers

SURESH BODIWALA

JUNE 23, 2025

CHICAGO, IL (TIP) : On a warm June evening in Naperville, Illinois, the Yellow Box at 1635 Emerson Ln pulsed with the heartbeat of humanity. The American Multiethnic Commission (AMEC) unfurled its 14th Annual Congressional Global Champions Gala on June 14, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 11:00 PM, weaving a vibrant tapestry of 38 ethnic communities into a celebration of unity, culture, and shared dreams. Guided by the indomitable Dr. V J Prabhakar, popularly known as Dr. VGP that sparked 15 years ago by Congressman Danny K. Davis's vision, this gala wasn't just an event, but it was a movement, a kaleidoscope of music, dance, and stories that lit up the night with hope and harmony.

The evening burst into life with "Around the World in 60 Minutes," a whirlwind of performances that whisked the audience across continents without a passport.



Nation comes first. Guests standing for the US National Anthem

Korean American percussionist Chansoo Lee ignited the stage with a thunderous drumroll, setting the tone for a global journey. The Polonia Dance Ensemble spun

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The power of youth. A captivating dance number

Poland's traditions into mesmerizing twirls, while the Ghunguru Dance Group unleashed Bollywood's dazzling beats. The Chicago Nightingales brought the Philippines' soulful grace, and Russia's Kalinka Group stomped with fiery footwork. The Chicago Flying Fairies floated through Chinese culture's elegance, Mexico's Ballet Folklórico Quetzalcoatl swirled with vibrant joy, Indonesia's Consulate Performing Arts radiated exotic splendor, and Chinese traditional dance by Mei Dance Academy stirred hearts with serene artistry. The segment closed with South India's Mohiniattam by the Bharathanali School of Dance, weaving devotion into every step. As Congressman Raja Krishnamurthy declared, "This is what America looks like. This is the reality we're taking into the future."



Young performers with the distinguished guests of honor

The Gala's heart lay in its awards, honoring those who embody AMEC's mission to elevate communities through social justice, education, and cultural diplomacy. Each recipient, draped with a Royal Tanish Silk Scarf or a token from gold sponsors Alok and Krisha Dalal of Tanish Midwest Business Partners, reflected the brilliance of service. Arman Yousefzai, a kindergarten dynamo, earned Outstanding Child of the Year, saying, "Thank you, Dr. VJ, for supporting me." Brothers Thomas and Charles Tao, ages six and four, were named Child Prodigies for their storytelling across Beijing and Yantai, with Thomas vowing to "make this earth fancy and beautiful." Ellen Chua, the Outstanding Student, shone for her breast cancer fundraising, humbly noting, "I'm grateful for my family's support." Machi Josiah Nelson, Young Sportsman, soared with over 900 basketball points, thanked his coaches for "pushing me to be the best."

Sunil Shah, recipient of the Golden Eagle Award, rallied support for Neil Khot's congressional bid, saying, "I'm proud of my team." Sirmukh Singh Manku, Photojournalist of the Year, credited Congressman Davis for Capitol Hill access, while Steven C. Hugh, honored with the President John F. Kennedy Award, championed Asian American unity and announced a fundraiser for Murthy's Senate campaign. Shanthi Vijay Rajan, awarded the Lily Prabhakar Changemaker Award, reflected, "This honor inspires us to serve our community." Renato Mariotti, Attorney of the Year, praised the gala for "bringing people together instead of tearing them apart." Janadhan Rajagopal, Agri Vision Leadership Award winner, empowered women through seaweed farming, and Delorse C. Morrison, Outstanding Senior Citizen at nearly 90, earned a standing ovation, simply saying, "We love you."

Manish Gandhi, Business Leadership Award



Time to recognize and honor distinguished personalities

recipient, advised, "Stay focused, work hard, and give back to society," dedicating his honor to Air India crash victims. Jeff Wang, Outstanding Community Activist, transformed law into access, noting, "Small actions make a huge impact." Nagarjuna Malempati, Innovator of the Year, shared his fintech vision: "A global platform with no borders." Lufti Syed Hassan, Lifetime Achievement Award winner, urged AMEC to expand, saying, "Houston will follow through." Pastor Steve Munsey, Man of the Year, called Dr. VJ "the greatest showman," adding, "Thank God for our freedom." Elizabeth Ru Jia, Woman of the Year, declared, "Diversity transforms, like art turns ordinary into extraordinary." Rohini Singh, Young Woman of the Year, quipped, "My daughter thought they made a mistake calling me young!" Yesoe Yoon, Mir Ali Ethnic Singer of the Year was thrilled to be recognized, Naveenchandra Karna, Volunteer of the Year, honored all the volunteers, and Paul H Luu, Civic Leadership Award winner, accepted on behalf of 600 employees. The Bharatiya Senior Citizens of Chicago, Organization of the Year, united 1,600 members under Haribhai Patel's leadership.

The stage blazed with a Whitney Houston tribute by Sherry Withers, belting "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," and a powerful fashion show by the Prosthetic Foundation of America, led by Vikram Choudhary, showcased resilience through models like Ali and Jerry Herardo. Chris noted, "This is a tribute to strength and confidence." The grand finale dance competition saw nine teams vie for glory, with Sridevi Pandalai's Ghunguru team winning for its "total



package performance," as judge Hardik Rawat from India praised their "dance concept, formations, and tricks."

Dignitaries amplified the evening's impact. Congressman Danny K. Davis called it "a radiant celebration of humanity's finest colors." Congressman Jonathan Jackson saw "God's magnificent rainbow," while LaShawn K. Ford dubbed it "medicine for the soul." Raja Krishna Murthy inspired, "You make me proud to be the best congressman I can be." Chinese Ambassador Wang Boddong emphasized, "We count on everyone to fight for common interests." India's Consul General Somnath Ghosh's message, read by Katherine Thorat, highlighted the Indian diaspora's role in driving bilateral trade toward \$5,000 billion by 2030.

Tanishq Midwest Business Partners, led by Alok and Krisha Dalal, elevated the event with raffles and tokens. Krisha shared, "Jewelry creates joy and cherished memories." The gala closed with a call to continue AMEC's mission, as Dr. VJ Prabhakar's team and volunteers, including stage managers and curator Seeta Bala, made the night seamless.

Editorial notes by Mr. Suresh Bodiwala Chairman of Asian Media USA: The AMEC Gala was a vibrant mosaic of cultures, a reminder that unity is our strength. Dr. VJ Prabhakar and Congressman Danny K. Davis have crafted a legacy where every voice shines, from young Arman to wise Delorse. This night proved that together, we build a brighter, bolder future.

(Photographs and Press release by
Asian Media USA)

Lawrence Bishnoi hawks media headlines, this time in Canada



--->By Prabhjot Singh

JUNE 21, 2025

TORONTO (TIP): When Narendra Modi and Mark Carney were discussing the restoration of diplomatic ties with the appointment of High Commissioners in each other's countries, an unsavory controversy was waiting to unfold. NDP Premier of British Columbia, David Eby, called on the federal Liberal government to classify India's Bishnoi gang as a terrorist group. Conservative Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown, seconded his demand and three of his immediate deputies.

Mayor Patrick Brown, who ran for the leadership of the Conservative Party but later withdrew his candidature, was joined by Deputy Mayor Harkirat Singh and Regional Councillors Gurpartap Singh Toor and Navjit Kaur Brar, in formally submitting a request to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree, urging the Government of Canada to designate the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity.

Before Narendra Modi left the shores of Canada after attending to the G7 summit on June 16 and 17, the demand for declaring Lawrence Bishnoi, currently lodged in Sabarmati Jail in Gujarat, started hawking media headlines as the constituents of two main Opposition parties - New Democrats and Conservatives - wanted the Liberal government led by Mark Carney to act.

Though initial demand for action against Lawrence Bishnoi gang came from constituents of both the NDP and Conservatives, the call for action has grown louder countrywide demanding action against Lawrence Bishnoi, a transnational criminal network led from India, linked to a growing wave of violence, extortion, and intimidation targeting South Asian communities in Surrey in British Columbia and Brampton in Ontario. The gang's operations-allegedly involving hundreds of international operatives-have created a climate of fear and instability, particularly through the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, including international students.

A day before David Eby made the initial demand, a meeting of victims of extortion and transnational crime was held in Surrey.

Surrey and Brampton have the largest Sikh population in Canada.

The demand to declare the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity has set a political storm in motion, holding that the gang was carrying out its activities in Canada at the behest of certain agencies and agents. Intriguingly, no police force has come out openly with any evidence linking Lawrence Bishnoi to threats, kidnappings, extortions and killings.

Premier David Eby called on the federal government early this week to classify India's Bishnoi gang as a terrorist group.

Eby said he plans to write to the federal government this week to request the terrorist listing for the Bishnoi gang.

"This is a serious step," he said. "It gives police significant investigative tools. We don't make this recommendation lightly, but this activity strikes at public confidence in the justice system, in our democracy and the safety of the community, and it erodes public confidence in the rule of law."

A terrorist listing means the federal government can freeze any property of that group in Canada. It also gives police more tools to prosecute terrorist offences, including those related to financing, travel and recruitment.

Since British Columbia in general and Surrey in particular have witnessed a steep hike in cases of extortion and threats, police have been generally reluctant to comment on a link between the extortion and the gang. It could be the reason that the Opposition in British Columbia was taken by surprise at the demand made by David Eby.

Elenore Sturko, Opposition critic in British Columbia, while questioning David Eby's demand, said she was not aware that police had "definitively" linked the Bishnoi gang to any extortion cases. "The police have not come



The Mayor of the City of Brampton and his team have requested the Prime Minister of Canada to designate the Bishnoi Gang as a Terrorist Entity

out and told my community that this gang is responsible for these incidents," she told the media, calling the announcement "dramatic" and "headline-grabbing."

Former B.C. solicitor general Kash Heed accused Eby of "raising Bishnoi's profile" by linking him to terrorism: "It's a political response when what is needed is an operational response." He said that while Bishnoi's name has certainly been mentioned by extortionists in their threats, it is unclear if the gang is behind the extortion or if it is simply being invoked as an intimidation tactic.

In Brampton, Mayor Patrick Brown said, "The safety of residents is our top priority. Designating the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist organisation would provide law enforcement with the tools they need to disrupt and dismantle this dangerous network. This is about protecting our communities from violence, intimidation, and criminal exploitation."

Mayor Brown and members of Brampton Council reaffirm their commitment to working with all levels of government to keep communities safe.

The police organisations hold that once the Bishnoi gang was declared a non-entity, it would enhance their investigation powers.

Essentially, an organized crime group in northern India, the Bishnoi gang had reportedly spread its tentacles to many parts of the world, including North America, which appears to have extended its influence to North America in recent years. Its main source of funding, Indian media reports suggest, has been extortion.

Though lodged in a Gujarat jail, the head of the gang, Lawrence Bishnoi, has been able to maintain communication with his associates. One of his confidants, Goldy Brar, initially believed to be based in Canada, had allegedly claimed responsibility for the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala. Brar has been eluding arrest.

Though both BC police and Peel regional Police in Ontario have received dozens of extortion reports for the past couple of years, they have been reluctant to reveal any evidence against Lawrence Bishnoi or any other gang of Indian origin. Even the victims have been reluctant to come out openly for police assistance, fearing the worst. There has been an uptick in the number of people receiving letters, phone calls and social-media messages demanding money under threat of violence.

Several houses and businesses, both in British Columbia and Ontario, have also been targeted in recent weeks in cases linked to extortion.

After British Columbia Premier David Eby's revelation that the gang had been linked to some extortions and other crimes against South Asian community members in B.C., Alberta and Ontario, now the Brampton Mayor and his senior deputies, too, have come out openly against growing gang operations.

Maninder Singh Dhaliwal, 35, is believed to be the leader of the criminal group responsible for the extortions. Police had previously said he was affiliated with the Brothers Keepers gang. Earlier this year, he was arrested on unrelated charges in the United Arab Emirates. Canada has applied to extradite him to face charges in the extortion scheme.

The arrest of four Indian nationals in the murder of Surrey Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in 2024 renewed interest in the Bishnoi gang's links to Canada. All four - three Edmonton residents and a fourth arrested

in Ontario - allegedly had some association with the group.

Media quoted Brenda Winpenny of the anti-gang Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit of British Columbia saying the "agency was aware of individuals operating under this name, Bishnoi, and we are working with our partners to share any kind of intelligence or information."

Balpreet Singh of the World Sikh Organisation of Canada said he supported Eby's request, claiming the Indian government has been using the gang as a proxy to commit violent acts.

Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had said in 2023 that "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India" and Nijjar's killing.

Here is the Letter from the Mayor and his team written to PM Mark Carney:

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Anandasangaree,

Subject: Request to Designate the Bishnoi Gang as a Terrorist Entity

We, the undersigned, are writing to urgently request that the Government of Canada designate the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity. This criminal organization, led by Lawrence Bishnoi from within Sabarmati Central Jail in India, poses a significant threat to public safety in Canada, particularly in the Region of Peel, through its involvement in heinous crimes terrorizing our communities.

The Bishnoi gang has been linked to several high-profile criminal activities in Canada, including murder and extortion, with a particular impact on the South Asian diaspora.

In the Region of Peel, the Bishnoi gang's activities extend beyond murder to include widespread extortion schemes targeting South Asian business owners. These schemes involve threats of death or violence, creating an atmosphere of fear and undermining public confidence in law enforcement and our justice system. The gang exploits vulnerable individuals, including international students and those struggling with addiction, recruiting them as "shooters" to carry out these crimes. This predatory recruitment strategy destabilizes our communities and disproportionately harms marginalized groups. Peel Regional Police are also in support of this designation as a helpful investigative tool, enhancing their ability to combat this criminal network.

The Bishnoi gang's operations, reportedly involving over 700 operatives internationally, mirror the tactics of terrorist organizations by publicly claiming responsibility for high-profile murders to intimidate and assert influence over the Indian diaspora. Their actions threaten the safety and security of residents in Brampton and the broader Region of Peel, necessitating immediate federal action.

Designating the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity would empower law enforcement with critical tools to investigate, disrupt, and dismantle their operations. This step would also send a clear message that Canada will not tolerate transnational criminal networks that endanger our citizens. We echo the call of British Columbia Premier David Eby and the World Sikh The organization is urging this designation to address the escalating crisis of violence and extortion in our country.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter. We are available to discuss this request further and provide any additional information required.

Sincerely,

Patrick Brown

Mayor, City of Brampton

Harkirat Singh,

Deputy Mayor, City of Brampton

Gurpartap Singh Toor

Regional Councillor, Wards 9 and 10

Navjit Kaur Brar

Regional Councillor, Wards 2 and 6

Remembering the Victims of the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182



--->By Prabhjot Singh



The ill-fated Air India Flight 182, named Kanishka, on June 23, 1985, was blown up by a bomb at an altitude of 9,400 meters and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while in Irish airspace. A total of 329 people, including 268 Canadians, were killed.

With tears running dry and emotions flying high, relatives and friends of the victims of the Air India Flight 182 disaster assembled at various venues in Canada, Ireland, and India at commemoration ceremonies to mark the 40th anniversary of one of the worst terrorist attacks in modern history.

On June 23, 1985, Air India flight AI 182, Air India, operating on the Montreal-London-Delhi route, was blown up by a bomb at an altitude of 9,400 meters and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while in Irish airspace.

A total of 329 people, including 268 Canadians, were killed in the bombing. Two more people were killed in a separate, but related, bombing at the Narita Airport in Japan.



Picture of a tree being planted at Canada House in New Delhi to perpetuate the memory of the victims

Relatives of the victims travelled to Ireland in the days following the bombing. The Irish Naval Service led a recovery operation to retrieve the remains of the victims and the wreckage of the flight. Many of the relatives stayed with the villagers of Ahakista, County Cork, during this time. A permanent memorial was erected by the village in 1986, and a commemoration is held there each year on the morning of 23 June.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, in a message remembering the families and friends of the victims, said, "Forty years ago, innocent civilians, including over 250 Canadians, were killed in the bombing of Air India Flight 182. This terrorist attack remains the deadliest attack in our country's history-one we must never forget.

"As we mark the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism, we remember the victims of the Air India bombing and all others who have lost their lives to terrorism.



A Commemoration Ceremony

Canada will continue to work with our allies and partners, at home and around the world, to better detect, prevent, and respond to the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. We are also increasing funding for national security, defense, and law enforcement, and enhancing intelligence sharing with our allies.

"Canada's new government unequivocally stands against terrorism, and we will deliver on our mandate of change to keep communities safe," Mark Carney concluded.

In New Delhi, the Charge d'affaires of Canada, Jennifer Daubeny, and the Irish Ambassador to India, Kevin Kelly, joined families of the victims, including the crew members of the ill-fated Air India Flight 182 disaster, at a commemoration ceremony at Canada House to mark the 40th anniversary of the terrorist attack.

Senior officials from the Government of India and members of the diplomatic community attended the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Daubeny said, "Today is the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism in Canada-a day that marks the anniversary of the bombing of Flight 182 and the lives lost. As we mark its 40th anniversary, we join with the families of the victims in paying homage to each one of the precious lives lost in this tragedy. This anniversary is a reminder that we need to work together to defeat the forces of terrorism and support the peace and safety of our citizens."



Another Commemoration Ceremony

Photos: courtesy Canadian High Commission in New Delhi

Ambassador Kelly said, "40 years on from the tragedy of Flight 182, we remember with sorrow the 329 innocent lives lost to an evil act of terror. It is with some solace that we recall how the people of Ahakista in County Cork came out to support the families of those who died. Today, here in India, in Ireland, and in Canada, we stand in solidarity with their families. May their memory live on and be a reminder of the fact that innocent civilians need to be safe from terror wherever they are in the world."

Guests signed a remembrance book on the occasion and planted a tree in memory of the victims. A minute's silence was also held to remember those who died on Flight 182 and those who lost their lives in the very recent tragic air crash in Ahmedabad.

Embassy of India Concludes International Day of Yoga 2025 Celebrations with a Grand Event in Raxruhá



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra unveiling the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Association of Don Bosco, Raxruhá

JUNE 23, 2025

RAXRUHA, ALTA, VERAPAZ, GUATEMALA (TIP): As part of the concluding ceremony of the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2025, the Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with the Association of Don Bosco, organized a vibrant yoga event in Raxruhá, Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 800 individuals, predominantly students and youth from Association of Don Bosco, nearby schools and communities. Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, joined by the Hon'ble Mayor of Raxruhá and representatives of the Don Bosco Association.



Group photo with Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, representatives of Don Bosco, and local authorities after unveiling the Gandhi bust.

The programme began with a performance by a local music band, setting a lively tone for the celebrations. This was followed by addresses from Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra, the Mayor of Raxruhá, and a representative of the Don Bosco Association, all of whom highlighted the relevance of yoga in promoting holistic health and inner well-being. The speeches were followed by a collective yoga session led by trained instructors, with participants performing various asanas in unison. Branded t-shirts and refreshments, generously sponsored by Indian companies, were distributed among participants, adding to the enthusiasm and spirit of the occasion.

As part of the concluding celebrations of IDY2025 and in continuation of efforts to strengthen cultural ties between India and Guatemala, a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi was unveiled at the premises of the Association of Don Bosco in Raxruhá. The bust, measuring 20 inches, was donated by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) as a symbol of peace, non-violence, and the enduring relevance of Gandhian ideals. The unveiling ceremony was led by Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar

Mohapatra, in the presence of senior representatives from the Don Bosco Association, local municipal authorities, and students of the institution. In his remarks, Ambassador Mohapatra highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's timeless message of truth and non-violence and its importance in today's world, especially for the youth. Representatives of Don Bosco expressed their gratitude to the Government of India for the generous donation and reaffirmed their commitment to upholding values of social harmony and education. The installation of the bust marks yet another milestone in India's cultural outreach in the Alta Verapaz region and serves as a lasting tribute to the friendship between the two countries.



Students and youth participating in the yoga session during the concluding IDY2025 event at Raxruhá.

The event in Raxruhá marked the final leg of a series of large-scale IDY2025 celebrations organized by the Embassy across Guatemala and the region. The flagship event was held on 13 June 2025 in San Pedro Carchá, where over 10,000 people, mostly students, participated in a massive yoga demonstration. In addition, two separate events were organized in El Salvador and Honduras on 21 June 2025, which brought together 1500 yoga enthusiasts. Leading up to the main event, the Embassy conducted several countdown and outreach programs in Cobán, Chahal, Izabal, and Guatemala City to engage local communities and raise awareness about yoga.



Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra delivering his address during the closing ceremony of IDY2025 in Raxruhá

Over the past three years, the Mission's sustained outreach efforts and collaboration with local partners have resulted in a steady rise in participation and interest in yoga across Guatemala. The growing numbers each year reflect the increasing popularity and acceptance of yoga as a tool for physical and mental well-being. From a few hundred participants in 2022, to over 12,000 across various locations in 2025, yoga is now becoming a recognizable and respected element of India's cultural diplomacy in the region.

The Embassy of India expresses its gratitude to all local authorities, sponsors, volunteers, and educational institutions for their support in making IDY2025 a grand success. Through such initiatives, the Mission continues to strengthen people-to-people ties between India and Guatemala and promote yoga as a universal practice for health, harmony, and peace.

(Based on a press release issued by Ramesh Khulbey)



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A Diplomatic Legacy Rooted in Culture, Commerce, and Compassion

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in Conversation with Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja



Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra recently created history when he mobilized more than 10,000 participants in a Yoga session in celebration of the International Day of Yoga in Guatemala

Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, India's Ambassador to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, recently made headlines by leading the largest-ever International Day of Yoga event outside India. Over 10,000 participants gathered at Carchá, Guatemala, on June 13, 2025, for a celebration of wellness, unity, and Indian philosophy. Days before concluding his term, Ambassador Mohapatra sat down with Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja, Editor of The Indian Panorama, to reflect on his tenure, the deepening of Indo-Central American relations, and his vision for India's role in the region.

EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW.

TIP: Good morning, Ambassador Mohapatra. Congratulations on organizing a historic yoga event here in Guatemala. With over 10,000 participants and only a small Indian diaspora in the country, it's astonishing. How did you manage to mobilize such a massive gathering, especially with so many young participants?

Amb. Dr. Mohapatra: Thank you so much, Professor. We've been friends for over a decade, and you've seen me work in New York and Washington, D.C. My goal has always been to promote Indian culture globally-and yoga, as a gift of India to the world, is central to that mission.



A view of the mammoth presence at the Yoga session in Carchá, Guatemala, on June 13, 2025

Now, regarding the International Day of Yoga in Carchá, our strategy focused on engaging youth. Young people are the future of any nation, and in a country like Guatemala, where awareness of India is still growing, targeting schoolchildren created an organic way to connect with families and communities. This wasn't just about organizing an event; it was about creating a movement.

Despite the Indian community here being fewer than 100 families, we intentionally focused on local participation. Our goal has always been people-to-people contact. We wanted Guatemalans to experience Indian culture firsthand. That's why we worked hard to include school administrations, youth groups, municipal authorities, and the education ministry.

And it's been building up. Three years ago, our Holi and Diwali celebrations had around 2,000 participants. Last year, it was 5,000. This year, more than 10,000 came together. It became a regional festival. The enthusiasm of the local people, the support from the government, and the underlying message of this year's theme-"One World, One Health"-all came together beautifully.

I believe this was likely the largest International Day of Yoga celebration outside of India.



Addressing the gathering at the Yoga celebrations in Carchá, Ambassador Mohapatra spoke about Yoga as a unifier of body, mind, and soul.

TIP: Truly remarkable. It's not something easily replicated. You've clearly established a strong cultural bridge between India and Guatemala. I recall the Holi and Diwali festivals you've organized-massive local participation.

Amb.: Absolutely. Beyond Guatemala, I've extended this outreach to El Salvador and Honduras as well. Two years ago, we celebrated Holi in San Salvador with over 7,000 people. This year, even with shifting political landscapes, more than 3,000 attended.

We've celebrated everything-from Gandhi Jayanti and Durga Puja to plantation drives under the "Green Earth" initiative. Over 500 children planted saplings last year. We've implemented campaigns aligned with India's national initiatives, such as "Ek Ped Mahakalyanam" and "LiFE Mission," while always ensuring inclusivity and local participation.

This year, for example, we took the yoga event 250 kilometers away from the capital to reach communities that would otherwise never interact with India. The idea was to move beyond the capital, beyond our comfort zones.

I must thank the governments of all three countries, the municipal bodies, and especially the young people. Their response has been heartening.

TIP: After more than three and a half years in these three countries, how do you look back at your tenure?



Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra sharing joyous moments with Romeo Roderiguez, Minister of Public Works, and Mr. Russell Alexander Luther Rodas of Laxmi Capital after signing the MoU

Amb.: I see it holistically. Wherever I'm posted, I ask myself: what legacy can I leave in this short time?

When I arrived, the total bilateral trade between India and the three countries was modest. Today, it exceeds \$1 billion. Guatemala alone, with a population of 17 million, is leading among the three-El Salvador has 6.7 million, and Honduras about 10 million.

We've facilitated major Indian investments, especially in renewable energy. One company has established a paper production facility using sugarcane bagasse-environmentally friendly and sustainable. Another entered the vegetable oil industry, and Indian businesses are also active in textiles and digital infrastructure.

These aren't short-term deals. They are long-term engagements. Giants like Adani and Reliance are exploring opportunities, and Jio is laying groundwork for telecom infrastructure. India is no longer just a cultural friend-we are becoming an economic partner.

TIP: What potential do you see for further strengthening these trade relationships?

Amb.: Immense potential. While India traditionally doesn't interfere in the

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internal affairs of other nations, geographical distance and limited awareness about India's rise remain challenges. But every challenge brings opportunity.

When I came here from Washington, D.C., I had extensive experience in economic diplomacy. That experience helped me identify strategic sectors and bring in Indian businesses. We organized 30 to 40 B2B meetings annually.

To guide our work, I introduced the acronym "SPEED":

S - Supply Chain Management

P - Pharmaceuticals

E - Education

E - Energy

D - Digital

In each of these areas, we've seen real results.

India now supplies up to 30% of the pharmaceutical requirements for these countries. Our energy sector, particularly solar, is competitive. Supply chains are stabilizing post-pandemic. Education and digital infrastructure are next frontiers. And we're positioning India as a dependable long-term partner.



Ambassador Mohapatra at the launch of TVS Motors in Guatemala

TIP: Central America's economy is closely tied to the United States. Given the evolving U.S. political and economic climate, how can India strengthen its engagement with the region?

Amb.: That's an important question. While these countries have historical and trade ties with the U.S., they are now seeking to diversify.

India's growth-6.5 to 7.5% consistently-has caught their attention. They want to reduce dependency on a single partner. That helps us. But again, geographical distance is a factor.

If India and the U.S. can maintain excellent relations across such distance, why not between India and Central America?

We don't impose political conditions. Our engagement is apolitical, focused purely

on development, commerce, and culture. I believe we've succeeded in converting challenges into opportunities.

TIP: India still has a significant trade imbalance with China. Isn't it necessary for India to find new markets-like these Central American nations-for its goods?

Amb.: Absolutely. But trade is never one-sided. For it to be sustainable, it must be mutually beneficial.

India is one of the largest consumer markets in the world, with over 1.4 billion people. So, while we aim to export, we also import. It's a two-way street.

Rather than just selling products, we're encouraging Indian companies to manufacture locally-particularly in textiles and consumer goods. That way, semi-finished goods from India can be processed here and shipped quickly to the U.S. or other Latin American countries.

It's a classic win-win.

TIP: You've worked closely with businesses and governments here. What would you say were your biggest achievements? And were there any regrets or things left unfinished?

Amb.: I wouldn't call them failures-perhaps areas needing more time.

We've laid a strong foundation. For instance, the largest investment in Guatemala in recent years is by an Indian company. We've created thousands of jobs. A company that had 400 employees now has 1,500. Another in the energy sector is scaling up rapidly.

India's presence in sectors like digital infrastructure, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy has deepened.

And on the diplomatic side, Honduras has opened an embassy in New Delhi. That's a significant milestone.

I've also worked hard to build genuine friendships. I often say these countries are like Lord Hanuman-they don't always realize their own strength until reminded. My job was to help them see India as a reliable, rising partner.

TIP: So you've built the foundation. Now the next ambassador has a platform to build upon.



Ambassador Dr. Mohapatra is honored for his instrumental role in strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between India and Guatemala

Amb.: Precisely. I arrived during the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Guatemala. I leave on the 53rd. Three years may seem short, but we've made it count.

Continuity is key. As T.S. Eliot said, "Time past is present in time future." I've built on the work of my predecessors and laid the groundwork for my successor. That's how diplomacy should function.

TIP: You've often spoken of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"-the world is one family. That was a powerful message during the yoga session. Would you like to elaborate?

Amb.: Of course. That phrase isn't just a slogan-it's a philosophy that guides all our actions.

We don't undertake initiatives for personal or national gain alone. We share knowledge, technology, and experience generously. That's India's ethos.

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" means we see everyone as part of one global family. One sun, one moon, one earth, one health. Our yoga event, the prosthetic limb donation, the medical camps-we did all this to connect people, not to chase headlines.

I'm proud of how the Indian community, our partners in the U.S., and local authorities came together. That's what diplomacy is truly about.

TIP: Thank you so much, Ambassador Mohapatra. Your vision, leadership, and deep sense of service have left a lasting mark. On behalf of The Indian Panorama and all our readers, we wish you continued success wherever you go next.

Amb.: Thank you, Professor. Your support and that of the Indian diaspora have meant a lot. This isn't goodbye-it's just the continuation of a journey. We've built a bridge between India and Central America. Now it's time to walk across it together.

14 Cities across 8 States of US Pacific Northwest host the 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations

JUNE 22, 2025

SEATTLE (TIP): Consulate General of India in Seattle organized a grand multi-city celebration of the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) across 14 cities in 8 states of the Pacific Northwest region of USA, on 21 June

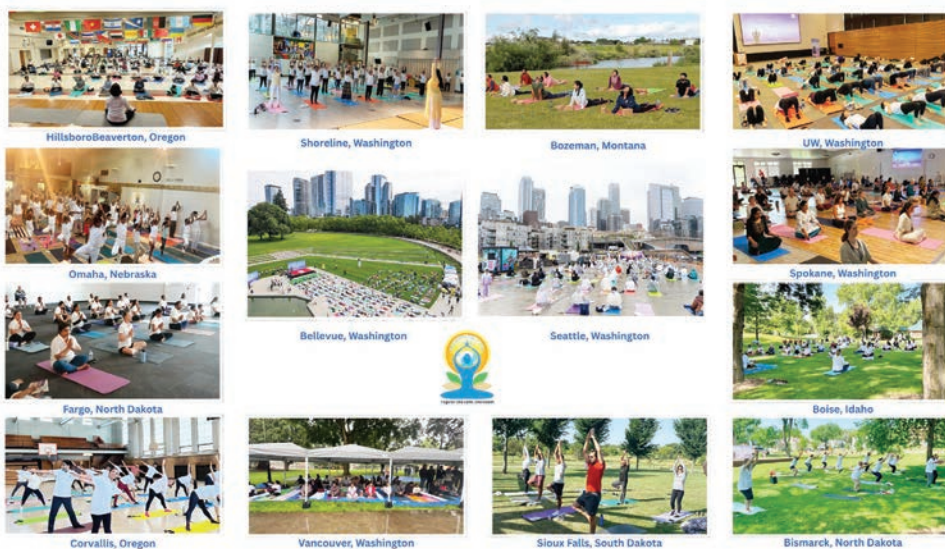
2025.

Thousands of Yoga enthusiasts participated in IDY sessions at iconic locations in cities of Seattle, Shoreline, Spokane and Vancouver in Washington State, Corvallis and Hillsboro in Oregon,

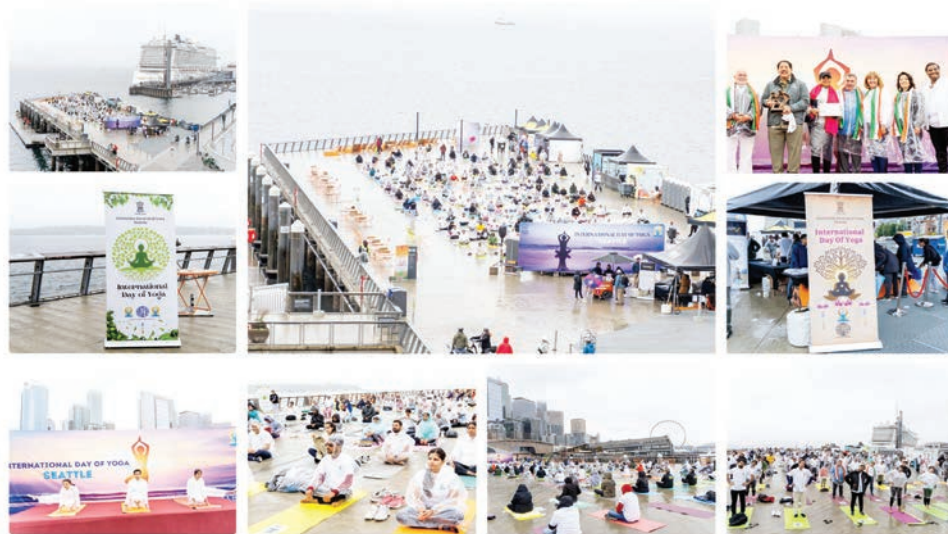
Omaha in Nebraska, Fargo in North Dakota, Vermillion and Sioux Falls in South Dakota, Boise in Idaho, Bozeman and Missoula in Montana and Laramie in Wyoming. Yoga lovers from cross cultural background participated along with leading dignitaries

from local city governments, and leaders of the Indian American community.

The signature event in Seattle was hosted at the iconic Waterfront Park, amidst the backdrop of the Olympic Mountains and the Puget Sound.



14 cities across 8 states of the US Pacific Northwest host the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations (21 June 2025, US Pacific Northwest states)



11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations at the iconic Waterfront Park in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



Dignitaries being felicitated at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



Yoga enthusiasts participating in Yoga session at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



Yoga enthusiasts participating in Yoga session at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



Consul General of India in Seattle addressing the participants at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)

CONTD FROM PAGE 20



Lucky draw winners being presented with Ayurvedic gift hampers at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations at the iconic Waterfront Park in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



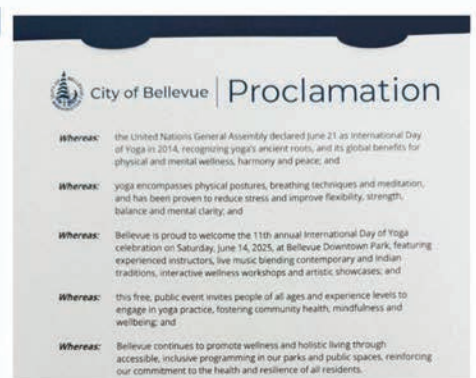
Seattle City Mayor Bruce Harrell addressing the participants at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations in Seattle, Washington (21 June 2025, Seattle)



MAITRI" - A Nature sculpture from Santiniketan, India, inspired by a tribal dance and gifted to the people of Seattle at the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations (21 June 2025, Seattle)

Mayor of Seattle Bruce Harrell, addressed the gathering and issued an official proclamation recognizing Yoga, "originating in India, over 5000 years ago,

and first mentioned in the ancient sacred texts of the Rig Veda, is a profound practice that continues to benefit humanity, by promoting both physical



Several official proclamations marking the 11th International Day of Yoga 2025 (21 June 2025, Washington State)

health and mental well-being"!

Earlier, curtain raiser IDY events were hosted by the Indian Consulate in Seattle at Foster School of Business in University of Washington on 21 May and at the Bellevue downtown park on 14 June 2025, which too had witnessed considerable participation of youth and yoga lovers.

In another special gesture of

recognition for IDY, the Mayors of Bellevue, Seattle, Spokane and King County in Washington State issued official proclamations recognizing the International Day of Yoga and acknowledging India's contribution in introducing yoga to the world.

(Based on a Press release issued by Consul Saumith Raju)

GOPIO and Indian Consulate Celebrate International Day of Yoga 2025 Hosted by Happy Life Yoga Guru and Filmmaker Tirlok Malik



India's Consul General at New York, Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, inaugurating the event with a message.

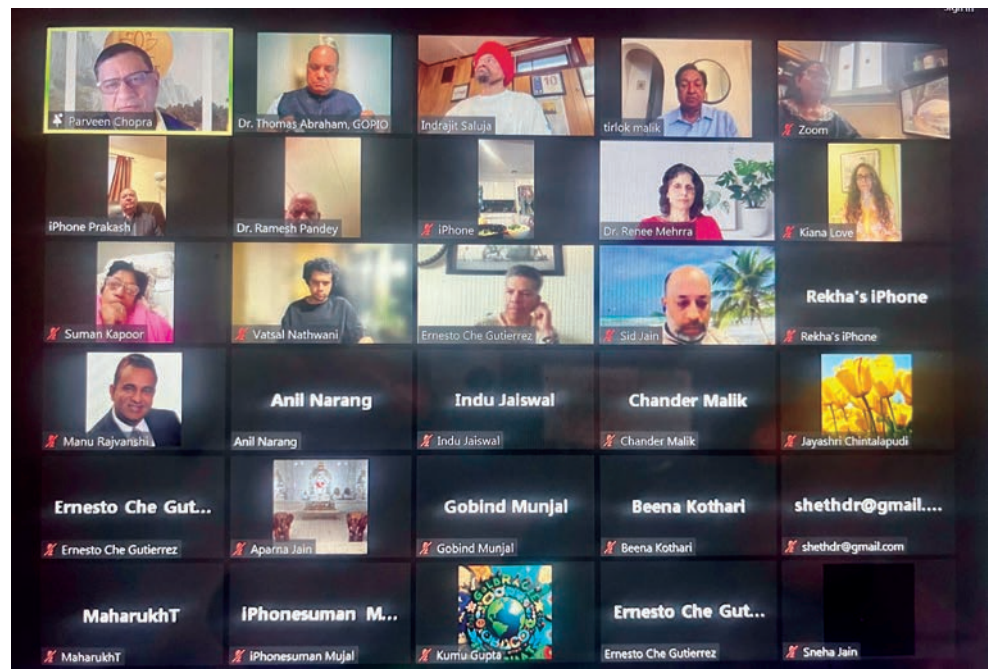


June 22, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): GOPIO's International Day of Yoga 2025 (IDY-2025) celebration hosted by Happy Life Yoga Speaker and Emmy Nominated Filmmaker Tirlok Malik on Sunday, June 22nd from 10:00am - 11:30am (EST, US | Canada) was a resounding success. This

year, GOPIO-Manhattan joined hands with Consulate General of India in New York with GOPIO-Manhattan, Happy Life Yoga, The Indian Panorama & Indian American Forum, hosted a highly interactive and informative virtual Yoga event featuring experts and speakers from various walks of life. GOPIO-Manhattan started Happy Life Yoga in 2021 during Covid on the Zoom. GOPIO International and its chapters have cooperated and participated with the Indian Missions in the celebration all over the world and GOPIO chapters have also organized sessions with their own initiatives in many cities.

Yoga Day Celebration on the Zoom has been continuing for the last four years since GOPIO could bring speakers and participants from all over the world



A screenshot of the participants in the video conference.

together. The Session on the Zoom had light Yoga exercise while sitting in the chair, meditation and on breathing and of course, a lot of laughter and was entertaining as well.

Consul General of India in New York Shri Binaya Srikanta Pradhan in his message welcomed the diaspora and encouraged them to practice Yoga in their day-to-day lives. GOPIO International Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, who serves as an advisor to GOPIO-Manhattan, in his welcome address, spoke about the objectives of GOPIO and urged those who

are not members yet to join the GOPIO International organization or a nearby chapter. The theme for this year was centered on the universal question: "HOW TO STAY PEACEFUL AND HAPPY IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD TODAY?"

GOPIO International President Prakash Shah spoke about the monthly events starting with Yoga as the first such monthly event in the series of events that will be organized globally by GOPIO Chapters locally to engage the Diaspora and enrich each other with the learnings.

Continued on Page 48

Shree Siddhivinayak Temple's ninth anniversary celebrated



Shri Siddhivinayak Idol.

June 25, 2025

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Shree Siddhivinayak Temple joyously celebrated its 9th anniversary on June 21 and 22, 2025, with a series of sacred rituals and vibrant cultural events. Devotees from across the state and beyond gathered to seek the divine darshan and blessings of Lord Siddhivinayak during this auspicious occasion.

The religious ceremonies were led by

our esteemed temple priests, Dr. Ganesh Prasad Ojha and Vashist Kumar Ojha. The spiritual proceedings included:

Swasti Vachanam
Atharvashirsha Paath
Ganesh Pujan
Shivabhishek
Punyahavachanam
Kalash Sthapana & Kalash Yatra
Vaastu Homam
Shree Siddhivinayak Main Murti Abhishek
Shree Ganesh Sahasranamavali with



Devotees at the temple.

Ladoo offerings

Concluding with Maha Aarti and Maha Prasad

The temple, originally inaugurated in 2016 with the highest Vedic rituals in the presence of revered Brahmin pandits, has continued to flourish through the devotion and support of both local and visiting devotees. Over the years, it has hosted numerous religious and community-centered

programs, including health camps and musical events, serving as a spiritual gathering place and the cultural heartbeat of the community.

On this occasion, a Sangeet Sandhya with dinner was held, attended by special guests Dr. Tushar Patel, Dr. Jignesh Vakil, and Mr. Anant Haidale, who participated in the musical evening alongside local community singers.

Consulate General of India in New York and Times Square Alliance Team up for an Impressive Yoga Session at the Iconic Times Square

June 20, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Consulate General of India in New York, in partnership with Times Square Alliance, celebrated the 11th International Day of Yoga at the iconic Times Square of New York City, on June 20, 2025.

The day-long celebration of Yoga, also known as 'Solstice at Times Square', featured seven yoga sessions, in which about 10,000 people from across nationalities participated, showcasing the widespread enthusiasm for yoga in New York City and the US.

Consul General greeted the participants and highlighted the benefits of Yoga for both physical health and spiritual well-being, as well as its role in promoting harmony with nature. This year's celebration was also graced by Mr. Anupam Kher who is a globally acclaimed actor with a distinguished career spanning over 35 years. He spoke about



Julia Sheykman practices yoga during the 23rd annual "Solstice in Times Square: Mind Over Madness Yoga" event to celebrate the summer solstice in New York City, U.S., June 20, 2025.

Photo Credit: Reuters

the importance of yoga which is from the stillness of a single breath rises the strength to heal the whole world.

This year marks the 11th year celebration of International Day of Yoga and is being celebrated under the theme 'Yoga for One Earth, One Health'.

The United Nations, in December 2014, had unanimously adopted a resolution piloted by India to celebrate International Day of Yoga on June 21, which is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

Since 2015, International Day of Yoga is being celebrated on a large scale across the globe enhancing awareness about the multifaceted benefits of Yoga.

The Consulate is organizing month-long celebration of International Day of Yoga in States under its jurisdiction such as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Connecticut, etc., which are very well received and have seen active participation from yoga enthusiasts.

Tirloak Malik Lights Up New York with Laughter and Joy

June 24, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): International Yoga Day 2025 was marked with uplifting energy, deep spiritual resonance, and a dash of humor as Emmy-nominated filmmaker and wellness advocate Tirloak Malik brought smiles to faces worldwide with his signature "Happy Life Yoga" session at Central Park, New York. The event was "UPLIFTNY2025," an inspiring celebration of International Yoga Day hosted by philanthropist Meera Gandhi and her foundation, "The Giving Back Foundation".

Held on June 21, the event blended yoga, mindfulness, laughter, and storytelling - all elements that have come to define Malik's unique approach to wellness. With the backdrop of Central Park's summer bloom, participants from various walks of life gathered in person and online, connecting across continents through yoga and joy.

On June 22, the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) hosted its Annual Global Virtual Celebration, continuing its tradition of organizing large-scale online gatherings since the pandemic. Now in its fourth consecutive year of going digital, the GOPIO event has evolved into a truly global affair, connecting Indian-origin professionals, leaders, and changemakers across time zones.

Ambassador Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, served as the Chief Guest for this virtual event, which GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham and President Prakash Shah led. Participants included individuals from diverse regions - North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia - and professions ranging from scientists and authors to entrepreneurs and even a Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Tirloak Malik participated in the event as both a wellness advocate and filmmaker, sharing insights into how joy and positive



Tirloak Malik featured in the UpliftNY25 Yoga poster.

thinking can serve as bridges between cultures. "Whether it's yoga or storytelling, the aim is to touch lives and spread happiness," he said during the virtual gathering.

On the cinematic front, Malik was also present at The New York Indian Film Festival, which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary, marking a significant milestone in its journey as the oldest and most respected Indian film festival in North America.

Tirloak Malik, who has attended every edition of the festival, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Aseem Chhabra, the festival director, and the entire team for consistently organizing this enriching event for New Yorkers. He also praised the festival as a vibrant space where audiences can enjoy the premieres of thought-provoking, artistic films and engage with members of the film fraternity in an atmosphere brimming with creative energy.



Tirloak Malik with acclaimed actor Anupam Kher.



Malik starrer Hello Dad poster

Among the showcased films was Tanvi

the Great, a moving feature directed by the legendary Anupam Kher, which received heartfelt appreciation for its powerful performances and universal theme. There was also Mr Anupam Kher's friend, a Hollywood and New York's most loved actor, Robert De Niro.

Meanwhile, Malik's short film Hello Dad - directed by Neha Lohia and co-starring Swiss actress Ankita Makwana - continues to gain critical acclaim. The touching father-daughter story, filmed in New York, has been honored with the prestigious Environmental Media Association (EMA) Green Seal Award. This recognition is reserved for productions that adhere to eco-friendly filming practices while delivering compelling narratives.

From breathing joy into yoga mats in Central Park to sparking emotional introspection through film, Tirloak Malik continues to inspire across mediums and platforms. His work - grounded in joy, wellness, and consciousness - reminds us that happiness isn't a luxury, but a daily practice.

India refuses to sign draft statement at SCO meet over silence on Pahalgam terror attack

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers' meeting couldn't issue a joint communique on Thursday, June 26, after India refused to endorse the document because it didn't address its terrorism-related concerns, officials aware of the matter said.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh, who attended the meeting at Qingdao in China, refused to sign the joint communique as it was silent on the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed but mentioned Balochistan and the hijacking of the Jaffer Express by Baloch militants in March, the officials said, asking not to be named.

Pakistan's insistence on not having any reference to the Pahalgam attack, while retaining the reference to the situation in Balochistan, stymied the finalisation of a joint statement, the officials said. The SCO works by consensus and a joint communique cannot be issued if even one member state doesn't endorse it.

China, the current president of the SCO, has deep military and strategic ties with Pakistan, which it strongly supported during the recent four-day clashes with India under Operation Sindoor. The operation was India's direct military response to the Pahalgam terror strike, the worst attack on civilians since the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded to a question about the SCO

meeting's failure to issue a joint communique by tacitly pointing to Pakistan's role in the matter.

"I understand [the meet] could not adopt a joint statement. I also understand that certain member countries could not reach consensus on certain issues and hence the document could not be finalised. On our side, India wanted concerns on terrorism reflected in the document, which was not acceptable to one particular country, and therefore the statement was not adopted," he said.

A press release issued by the Indian side is "very instructive in how we look at the threat of terrorism", he said.

"The defence minister, in his address, called upon these 11 countries to come together to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations... He also reiterated the need to uphold that the perpetrators, organisers, financiers, sponsors of reprehensible acts of terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, need to be held accountable and brought to justice," Jaiswal said.

Singh further said SCO members must be "in lockstep in our endeavour in strengthening stability and security in our neighborhood", he added.

In his address, Singh said every act of terrorism was criminal and unjustifiable, and the bloc must unite in eliminating the menace for collective safety and security. He said India launched Operation Sindoor, exercising its right to defend itself against terrorism and pre-empt and deter further cross-border attacks.

India suggests 4-pronged plan to China to manage border tensions, better ties

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh suggested a four-pronged plan to ease border tension and better diplomatic ties with China during a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Qingdao, sources told India Today TV.

The four-point formula includes: adherence to the 2024 disengagement plan, continued efforts to de-escalate, accelerated efforts to achieve the goal of demarcation and delimitation at the borders, and the usage of the existing special representative level mechanism to prepare new processes to manage differences and improve relations.

During the meeting, Rajnath Singh also raised the matter of Pakistan-sponsored cross-border terrorism. In this context, he stressed that Operation Sindoor is now "India's principled position" against the issue.

Sharing a picture on X following the meeting, the Defence Minister stressed on both New Delhi and Beijing maintaining the "positive momentum" in diplomatic ties. He also expressed happiness at the restarting of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after a gap of around six years.

"Held talks with Admiral Dong Jun, the Defence Minister of China, on the



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presents a Madhubani art painting titled "Tree of Life" to his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun during their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting, in Qingdao, China, on June 27. PTI Photo

sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao. We had a constructive and forward-looking exchange of views on issues pertaining to bilateral relations. Expressed my happiness on restarting of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after a gap of nearly six years. It is incumbent on both sides to maintain this positive momentum and avoid adding new complexities to the bilateral relationship," Singh tweeted.

Drop 'secular, socialist' from Constitution, says RSS; Rahul Gandhi hits back

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The RSS on Thursday, June 26, called for reviewing the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the preamble of the Constitution, saying these were included during Emergency and were never part of the Constitution drafted by BR Ambedkar.

Addressing an event on 50 years of Emergency here, RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale said, "Babasaheb Ambedkar never used these words in the preamble. The words were added during Emergency, when fundamental rights were suspended, Parliament did not function and the judiciary became lame." He said discussions were held on this issue later but no effort was made to remove the two words from the preamble.

"So whether these words should remain must be considered. The preamble is eternal. Are the thoughts of socialism as an ideology eternal for India," he asked.

The suggestion from the RSS' second most

senior functionary to consider removing the terms secular and socialist came as he hit out at the Congress for the excesses during Emergency, demanding an apology from the party.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday upped the ante against Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh after its general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale made a strong pitch to remove "socialist and secular" from the Preamble of the Constitution.

The leader of opposition in Lok Sabha claimed that the Constitution irks RSS because it speaks about equality, secularism, and justice. "The mask of RSS has come off once again. The Constitution irks them because it speaks of equality, secularism, and justice," Rahul said in a social media post on X. "RSS-BJP doesn't want the Constitution; they want Manusmriti. They aim to strip the masses and the poor of their rights, seeking to enslave them once more. Their real agenda is to snatch away a powerful weapon like the Constitution," he added.

PM to begin five-nation tour next week, visit Brazil for Brics Summit

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to embark on a five-nation tour next week to participate in the Brics Summit in Brazil and to bolster India's relations with several key nations of the Global South, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday, June 26.

The main engagement of the week-long visit, expected to begin on July 2, will be Modi's participation in the Brics Summit in Rio de Janeiro during July 6-7, the people said on condition of anonymity. This will be clubbed with a bilateral visit to Brazil to strengthen relations between two important members of the Brics grouping.

In addition to focusing on measures to strengthen economic cooperation between members of Brics - it brings together Brazil,

Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - the summit is expected to discuss the fallout of conflicts around the globe.

The Indian side is expected to seek the bloc's support for its campaign against cross-border terrorism in the wake of last month's clashes with Pakistan, the people said.

Brazil, the current president of Brics, has listed Global South cooperation and partnerships for social, economic and environmental development as its priorities for the summit. Other members of Brics such as Russia have been pushing for an alternative payments system with greater trade settlement in domestic currencies to reduce dependence on the US dollar.

Ahmedabad crash: Tata-linked firm fires four senior executives for partying

Airport services management firm Air India SATS Services (AISATS) has dismissed four senior executives for hosting a party at its office, days after a video clip of the gathering in the backdrop of the fatal Air India plane crash elicited criticism from various quarters. AISATS is a joint venture between Tata Group-owned Air India and Singapore's SATS Ltd, a global provider of gateway and food solutions. In a statement on Friday, AISATS said it has taken "firm disciplinary action" against the people responsible for the party but did not disclose specific details.

A source said the company has terminated the services of four senior executives for their direct role in hosting the party. "At AISATS, we stand in solidarity with the families affected by the tragic loss of AI 171 and deeply regret the lapse in judgment reflected in a recent internal video. The behaviour does not align with our values, and firm disciplinary action has been taken against those responsible as we reaffirm our commitment to empathy, professionalism, and accountability," the company said in the statement.

India denies entry to UN aviation expert in Air India investigation

WASHINGTON (TIP)

India would not allow a UN investigator to join a probe of a crashed Air India jet that some safety experts had criticised for delays in analysis of crucial black box data, two senior sources familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Earlier this week, the United Nations aviation agency took the unusual step of offering India one of its investigators to provide assistance following the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner crash killing 260 people in Ahmedabad on June 12.

Previously, the International Civil Aviation Organisation has deployed investigators to help with certain probes, such as the downing of a Malaysian plane in 2014 and a Ukrainian jetliner in 2020, but those times the agency had been asked for assistance.

ICAO had asked for the investigator who was in India to be given observer status, but Indian authorities refused the offer, the sources said. The news was first reported on Thursday by the Indian news channel Times Now.

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is leading the probe into the world's deadliest aviation accident in a decade, did not return a request for comment. ICAO was not immediately available for comment.

India's civil aviation ministry said on Thursday that investigators downloaded flight recorder data around two weeks after the crash.

Previously, safety experts had questioned a lack of information about the probe, including the status of the combined black box unit recovered on June 13, along with a second set that was found on June 16.



Questions were also raised on whether the recorders would be read in India or in the U.S. since the National Transportation Safety Board is participating in the investigation. The Indian government held only one press conference on the incident, and no questions were taken.

Under international rules known throughout the industry by their legal name "Annex 13," the decision of where to read flight recorders should be made immediately in case the evidence obtained could avert future tragedies.

Earlier this week, an Indian aviation ministry official who declined to be named said the department has been "following all the ICAO protocols." The official added that media representatives have made updates on important events. Most air crashes are caused by multiple factors, with a preliminary report expected about 30 days after the accident. *Source: Reuters*

Govt won't restore Indus Waters Treaty, plans other projects

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is not afraid of Pakistan's empty threats on the abeyance of the Indus Waters Treaty and the pact will not be restored, the government said on Thursday, June 26.

Reacting to the former Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's threats of war if India refused to renegotiate IWT abeyance, Jal Shakti Minister CR Paatil said, "Water will not go anywhere. The treaty will not be renegotiated. What Bhutto says is up to him." He added India would benefit hugely from plans underway to utilise excess waters from the western rivers — Indus, Jhelum and Chenab — which was previously allocated to Pakistan under the treaty.

He acknowledged that the Indian government had received several requests from Pakistan (at least four) to re-consider the suspension of the treaty. "Writing letters is natural, but letters will not determine outcomes. Home Minister Amit Shah has already clarified that the treaty will never be restored," said Paatil.

He said India was working to utilise the waters of the western tributaries of the Indus but it was not in the national interest to divulge specific details of the project right now.

The Tribune has learnt that the Centre was moving ahead with five projects on the western rivers, which were



previously stalled due to the IWT.

These include the Tulbul Navigation Project, which was designed to navigate the Jhelum river during the lean winter months. J&K CM Omar Abdullah has called for the revival of this project.

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) is working on a detailed project report for the Tulbul plan. Official sources said the DPR would take a year, after which the Centre will decide whether to go ahead with the revival of the project. The Kishanganga hydroelectric power project diverts water from the Kishanganga river to a power plant in the Jhelum river basin, is complete, said sources.

The government is speeding up the construction of the Ratle hydroelectric power project on Chenab. This project is designed as a run-of-river scheme with an installed capacity of 850 MW.

Source: TNS

India to boost drone capabilities amid growing threats from China, Pakistan

NEW DELHI (TIP)

In a bid to strengthen its defence against rising drone threats, the government has approved emergency purchases of Remotely Piloted Aerial Vehicles (RPVs) worth Rs 2,000 crore, a Defence Ministry statement said on Thursday, June 26.

The decision comes over a month after Pakistan launched a barrage of drones to attack Indian military and civilian targets

during the conflict in the aftermath of India's Operation Sindoor precision strikes on Pakistani terror infrastructure in response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The funds will be used to equip the Army with advanced technologies, including Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDDIS), to detect and neutralise hostile drone threats.

The growing use of drones in warfare has raised concerns, especially with reports indicating that China is building a massive drone force estimated at around one million units.

On the other hand, Pakistan has also reportedly acquired over 50,000 drones from China and Turkey, which could possibly be used for surveillance and combat missions against India.

To meet these challenges, India is investing in RPVs, loitering munitions, and combat drones for various military applications. These systems will enhance India's surveillance and strike capabilities along sensitive border areas.

The government is also promoting domestic drone manufacturing to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers. India's private defence manufacturers are also developing drone solutions for both defence and civilian use, including surveillance and infrastructure monitoring.

With growing tensions along its borders, India's efforts to modernise and expand its drone capabilities mark a crucial step in safeguarding national security.



India in history this Week

JUNE 27 TO JULY 3

27 JUNE

1839 Maharaj Ranjit Singh, the founder of the Sikh Empire, died.

1838 Nationalist author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay was born

1939 Music composer RD Burman, who gave music in more than 300 films, was born.

1964 PT Usha, who was known worldwide by the name of Udanpari, was born.

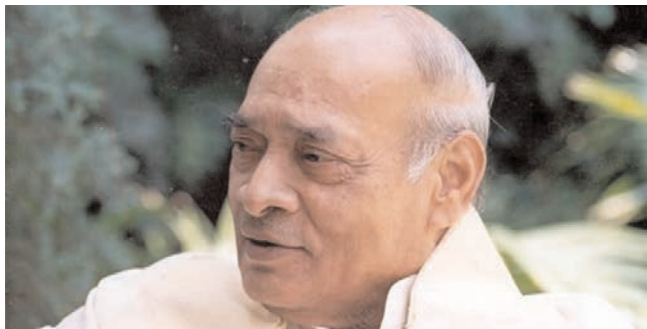
1964 Teen Murti Bhawan was made Nehru Museum.



2008 Former Army Chief field marshal Sam Manekshaw, who played a key role in the Indian Army's victory against Pakistan in the 1971 war, died.

28 JUNE

1921 Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, who had knowledge of 17 languages, was born.



1975 In the backdrop of anti-government protests during the Emergency in India, the Center implemented the most rigorous press censorship since Independence.



1986 Agreement with Mizo National Front, Lal Denga becomes Chief Minister of Mizoram.

1986 The Central Government also enacted a law to provide maternity leave to unmarried girls.

1996 India opened its mission in Palestinian-controlled Gaza City.

29 JUNE

1757 Mir Jafar succeeded the Nawab of Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.

1888 The first (known) recording of classical music was made.

2005 Composite 10-year agreement between India and the United States.

1893 Indian scientist and statistician Prashant Chandra Mahalanobis was born.

30 JUNE

1914 Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, was arrested for the first time in 1914 while agitating for the rights of Indians in South Africa.

1947 The members of the Boundary Commission for the partition of Bengal and Punjab were announced in 1947 after the partition of India.

2008 Ravikant, Uma Shankar Chaudhary and Vimal Chandra Pandey were jointly conferred with the Navlakhan Award of Jnanpith in 2008.

2008 Indian journalist Anisuddin Aziz was awarded the New Business of the Year Award of International Association of Book Keepers (IAB) in 2008.

1903 Indian politician and member of Lok Sabha Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava was born.

1911 Indian litterateur Nagarjuna was born.

1934 India's famous scientist C.N. R. Rao was born.

1917 India's famous veteran politician, industrialist, educationist and thinker Dada Bhai Naoroji died.



1953 Jana Sangh founder Shyamaprasad Mukherjee died while imprisoned in Kashmir.

01 JULY

1852 A stamp named 'Sindh Dak' was issued by the Chief Commissioner of Sindh, Sir Bertlefore, for use only in the state of Sindh and on the Mumbai Karachi route.

1862 Inauguration of Calcutta High Court.

1879 Postcard debut in India.

1955 The Imperial Bank of India was nationalized and named the State Bank of India.

1964 Establishment of Industrial Development Bank of India

1975 The then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced a 20-point program.

1991 The Warsaw Pact was dissolved.

2006 Chess player Parimarjan Negi became the youngest second grandmaster.

2017 Goods and Services Tax (GST) was introduced as a significant reform of the economy in India.



1938 The famous flute player Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia was born on this day.

1882 The second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr.

Bidhan Chandra Rai was born on this day. His birthday is celebrated as Doctor's Day in the country.

02 JULY

1934 Asit Bhattacharya, one of the great revolutionaries of India, died.



1940 The British government arrested Subhas Chandra Bose on 2 July 1940 AD for inciting rebellion.

1948 Famous Janakavi Alok Dhanwa was born.

2004 The Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan held mutual talks in Jakarta.



2004 Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus station was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

1916 Geological Survey of India was established.

03 JULY

1972 Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi and Pakistan's JU Bhutto had a disarmament agreement on Kashmir.

2018 A part of the Gokhale Road overbridge fell near Andheri station in Mumbai.

1661 Portugal gifted Bombay to the British King Charles II.

1996 Rajkumar, actor of Hindi films passed away.



1760 The Maratha army occupied Delhi.

1979 Construction of the famous Vidyasagar bridge in Kolkata, called the second Howrah Bridge, began.

2005 Mahesh Bhupathi and Mary Pierce won the Wimbledon mixed pair title.



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

Annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath begins in Odisha's Puri

The annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and his siblings, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra, began in Odisha's temple town of Puri on Friday, June 27, morning with the three deities embarking on their journey to the Sri Gundicha Temple for a nine-day sojourn.

After the rituals like mangal arati, abakash, tadap lagi, mailum, rosa homa, suryapuja, and offering of Gopal bhog to the deities, the servitors of the temple began the process of carrying the three deities from the temple to the decorated chariots placed on the Bada Danda or Grand Road. After Gajapati Dibyasingha Deb of the erstwhile Puri royal family did the ceremonial sweeping of the chariots, tens of thousands of devotees pulled chariots Nandighosa, Taladhwaja, and Darpadalan at 4pm.

The rituals leading up to the yatra included the Snana Purnima, wherein the deities were bathed with 108 pitchers of sanctified water, followed by a 15-day Anavasara period of seclusion. The Sri Gundicha Temple was cleaned and sanctified on June 26 during the Gundicha Marjana ritual for the deities' arrival.

Over a million devotees from across India and abroad gathered along the Bada Danda to witness the journey of the deities to the Gundicha Temple, their maternal home. Each chariot, constructed annually using five types of wood and standing 45 feet tall, is completed in just 58 days. The chariots, weighing over 200 tons, will carry the deities on their three-km journey to the Gundicha Temple, where they will reside for a week before returning on July 4 during the Bahuda Yatra.

The Odisha government has deployed over 10,000 security personnel and 275 AI-powered cameras across Puri to ensure an incident-free Rath Yatra. Puri police superintendent Vinit Agrawal said that three unauthorised drones were intercepted on Friday. The Indian Railways operated 365 special trains connecting Puri to states such as West Bengal and Bihar, and the state government deployed 800 buses for the devotees.

Each year, the sacred coastal town of Puri in Odisha transforms into a vibrant sea of faith, music, chants, and color, as it hosts one of the world's most iconic and grandest spiritual festivals - the Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath. This colossal event, rooted in millennia of tradition, draws millions of pilgrims, devotees, tourists, and spiritual seekers from across the globe to witness the majestic journey of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra from their abode in the Jagannath Temple to their garden palace at the Gundicha Temple.

Origins Steeped in Antiquity

The word "Jagannath" means "Lord of the Universe," and Lord Jagannath is considered a form of Lord Vishnu or his avatar, Krishna. The Rath Yatra, believed to date back to as early as the 12th century, is one of the oldest chariot festivals in India and is mentioned in several ancient scriptures including the Skanda Purana, Padma Purana, and



Brahma Purana.

According to mythology, this Yatra commemorates the annual visit of Lord Jagannath, accompanied by his elder brother Balabhadra and sister Subhadra, to their aunt's home - the Gundicha Temple, located around 3 km from the main temple. It is said that Lord Jagannath wished to honor the devotion of Queen Gundicha, the wife of King Indradyumna, who had built the original Jagannath temple. This ritualized visit, now observed as the Rath Yatra, symbolizes not just a divine homecoming but also universal accessibility - as during this festival, the gods come out of their sanctum to meet their devotees, breaking barriers of caste, creed, and religion.

The Spectacle of the Chariots

The main highlight of the Rath Yatra is the construction and pulling of three colossal wooden chariots, each towering over 40 feet and built anew every year by skilled artisans using sacred wood such as phassi and dhausa. The chariots are:

- Nandighosha (Jagannath's chariot): 16 wheels, adorned in red and yellow canopies.
- Taladhwaja (Balabhadra's chariot): 14 wheels, decorated in red and green.
- Darpadalana or Padmadhwaja (Subhadra's chariot): 12 wheels, covered in red and black.

The making of the chariots begins on Akshaya Tritiya, and the entire process is considered a divine duty performed by hereditary carpenters known as Maharana.

Once completed, these majestic chariots are pulled through the grand avenue - Bada Danda, by thousands of devotees chanting "Jai Jagannath!" and singing devotional hymns. The act of pulling the ropes is considered an immensely auspicious deed, believed to cleanse one's sins and grant liberation.

Rituals and Symbolism

The Rath Yatra is not just a physical procession but a deeply symbolic spiritual journey. It includes:

- Snana Purnima (Ceremonial Bathing): The deities are bathed with 108 pitchers of water and then fall ill (symbolically) for 15 days, known as Anavasara, when they are not seen by devotees.
- Netrotsava (Divine Rejuvenation): The night before the Yatra, the deities' eyes are ritually "re-painted," marking their rejuvenation.
- Pahandi Bije: The dramatic procession in which the deities are carried out of the temple in a rhythmic, swaying motion accompanied by music and chants.
- Chhera Pahanra (Sweeping the Chariots): The Gajapati King of Puri performs the ritual of sweeping the chariots with a golden broom - a symbolic gesture emphasizing humility and the belief that all are equal in the eyes of the Lord.
- Stay at Gundicha Temple: The deities stay for seven days, during which they are worshipped in a different manner.
- Bahuda Yatra (Return Journey): After a week, the return Yatra begins, culminating in Suna Besha, when the deities are adorned with gold ornaments.

Beyond Religion - A Celebration of Cultural Unity

Though the Rath Yatra is rooted in Vaishnavite Hinduism, its spirit is strikingly inclusive. In Odisha and especially Puri, Lord Jagannath is not just a deity but a way of life - encompassing elements from tribal traditions, Buddhist symbolism, and Shaivite philosophies. Lord Jagannath's iconography, with his large round eyes and unfinished limbs, is believed to have

originated from tribal wooden deities, thus reflecting India's pluralistic spiritual ethos.

The event has inspired similar chariot festivals in cities like Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Delhi, and even international cities such as London, New York, and Sydney, organized by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), spreading the message of universal love, peace, and devotion.

Pilgrimage, Devotion, and the Sea of Humanity

For the pilgrims, walking barefoot for days to reach Puri is an act of penance and love. The air becomes electric with the sound of conches, mridangas, kirtans, and the devoted cries of "Hari Bol." The city swells with lakhs of visitors, yet the fervor is one of divine coordination and spiritual fervency. Volunteers, NGOs, and temple authorities work tirelessly to provide food (Mahaprasad), water, shelter, and sanitation for the devotees - a feat of social management and faith-based coordination.

A Living Festival, A Breathing Faith

To witness the Rath Yatra is not merely to see a religious procession - it is to stand in the midst of a moving, pulsating faith, alive for over a thousand years. It is to experience divinity breaking free of temple walls and mingling with the masses, reminding humanity that the Supreme is not confined to sanctums but walks the roads of the faithful.

As the ropes tighten, the drums beat, and the wheels of the colossal chariots begin to roll, there arises a single, united chant from countless lips:

"Jai Jagannath!"

And in that moment, time pauses - as the Lord of the Universe rides again amidst His people.



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NEW YORK CHAPTER – PROJECT INDIA (TAX ID: 23-7192936)



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WITNESS MARTIN AMINI'S SIDE-SPLITTING COMEDY THAT BREAKS STEREOTYPES



Martin Amini. Credit: martinamini.com.

BY MABEL PAIS

MARTIN AMINI, comedian, performs his side-splitting comedy as part of his 'THE LOVE WORLD TOUR' at the Victoria Theater of the New Jersey Performing Center (NJPAC) on Sunday, June 29, 2025 at 8 pm.

Head Over to the Victoria Theater for a

night of side-splitting comedy that transcends borders and breaks stereotypes (and offers a possible soulmate connection!). Martin Amini isn't just a comedian — he's a cultural cartographer mapping the hilarious landscape of human experience.

Born to an Iranian father and a Bolivian mother, Martin transforms his multicultural heritage and hits the comedy jackpot. With razor-sharp wit, he navigates the complex terrain of identity, relationships, and the beautifully messy world of modern love.

But his shows are more than just jokes — they are a whole interactive experience that might just turn into you meeting your soulmate. Martin occasionally plays cupid, turning his stand-up set into an unexpected matchmaking adventure. But whether you're single, coupled or somewhere in between, his comedic insights will have you nodding, laughing and maybe even finding love.

As the founder of 'Room 808' in Washington, DC, a vibrant comedian-run comedy club located in Washington D.C., and worldwide tours under his belt, Martin Amini brings a global perspective to local humor. His comedy is a bridge — connecting cultures, experiences and hearts one punchline at

a time. Learn more about Martin Amini at martinamini.com.

This extraordinary night of comedy when Amini takes the stage is part of the 'Prudential North to Shore Festival.'

TICKETS

For tickets to witness Martin Amini, visit njpac.org/event/martin-amini.

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. Programs and events are held in three of the state's most iconic cities: Each June in Asbury Park and Newark, with extended year-long programming in Atlantic City. The 'Prudential North to Shore Festival' brings hundreds of thousands of arts lovers together every summer, for 650+ events at more than 250 venues, for an over-the-top showcase of Jersey excellence.

Inspired by Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy's vision of a celebration worthy of the Garden State's legacy of innovation and excellence in the arts, Prudential North

to Shore is "the festival only Jersey can handle." For the latest updates and new concert listings, visit northtoshore.com.

THE NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER (NJPAC)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in downtown Newark, New Jersey, is among the largest performing arts centers in the United States. It is the artistic, cultural, educational and civic center of New Jersey — where great performances and events enhance and transform lives every day.

As New Jersey's anchor cultural institution, NJPAC brings diverse 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 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.

NJYC EMBARKS ON 2025 EUROPEAN TOUR

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, comprising 30 choristers from its premier ensembles, Coriste directed by Trish Joyce and Camerata directed by Dan Malloy, will tour Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands, June 27-July 6.

The tour includes performances in historic and iconic venues, including Bonn Cathedral, a mid-day prayer service at Cologne Cathedral, the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres (a moving World War I tribute), Bruges Cathedral, and the Westerkerk in Amsterdam. Two of the concerts will feature collaborative performances with local choirs, offering a rich opportunity for cultural exchange through music.

In addition to their performances, the high school choristers will immerse themselves in the culture and history of the region with visits to the Beethoven Haus, Cologne Chocolate Museum, the European Parliament in Belgium, Bruges' Volkskundemuseum (Folk Museum), St. Bavo Church — including a demonstration on the historic Christian Müller organ played by Mendelssohn, Handel, and Mozart — walking tours, a chocolate demonstration and tasting, a windmill visit, clog-making demonstration, and scenic boat rides.

"This tour is a tremendous opportunity for our singers to experience Europe's rich cultural history while sharing their music in some of the world's most inspiring spaces," said Trish Joyce, Founder and Director of NJYC. "We are thrilled to



NJYC on European Tour.

Credit: whartonarts.org.

introduce our choristers to the people and places that have shaped centuries of music, and to engage in meaningful musical exchanges with our European hosts."

The NJYC ensembles will perform a diverse repertoire spanning from early choral works by Giuseppe Pitoni and Lodovico Viadana to contemporary pieces by Abbie Betinis, Elaine Hagenberg, Matti Hyökki, Stephen Leek, and Adam Podd, among others.

AUDITIONS FOR 2025-2026 SEASON

Auditions for the NJYC 2025-26 season are still open. In addition to the two touring high school ensembles, Primo

Coro for boys and girls in grades 3-5; Sola Voce for girls in grades 6-8; and Cor Amici, a new ensemble for boys in grades 6-8, are accepting applicants. To schedule an audition and learn more about NJYC's programs, visit NJYC.org.

WHARTON ARTS - NEW JERSEY YOUTH CHORUS

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

The 5 ensembles of the New Jersey Youth Chorus, an auditioned choral ensemble program for students in grades

3-12, encourage a love and appreciation of choral music while nurturing personal growth and creative development.

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

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

NJ SYMPHONY HONORS INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH 'PATRIOTIC FAVORITES'

BY MABEL PAIS

With Independence Day on the horizon, enjoy patriotic tunes and American favorites played by brass musicians of the New Jersey Symphony.

WHAT: Chamber Music After Hours
WHEN: Wednesday, July 2, 2025 @ 6 PM

WHERE: Provost Square Plaza
151 Bay Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302
COST: Free

CONCERT INFORMATION

New Jersey Symphony Chamber



NJ Symphony brass musicians

Photo : njsymphony.org

Players

John Dent - trumpet
Angela Gosse - trumpet
Andrea Menousek - horn
Levi Boylan - trombone
Wesley Krygsman - tuba

Duration: 1 hour

Programs and artists are subject to change.

TICKETS

This is a free concert. A ticket is not required for this general admission event. There is limited seating available, so attendees should bring their own chairs, if possible.

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

ENJOY A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER SOIREE WHILE SUPPORTING THE ARTS

BY MABEL PAIS

The Summer Soirée at Fair Haven, New Jersey, is the perfect opportunity to support the arts while enjoying a beautiful summer night with friends. Members of the New Jersey Symphony Chamber Players will be performing live, providing the perfect soundtrack for the evening. There will also be delicious food and drinks catered by Via 45, so you can



Fair Lawn Lake view

Photo : njsymphony.org

enjoy a bite while you take in the music and views of the Navesink River.

WHAT: NJ Symphony Monmouth County Council Summer Fundraiser

WHEN: Thursday, July 10, 2025

WHERE: The Bernard and Christina McSherry Residence

52 Gillespie Avenue, Fair Haven, NJ 07704

TICKETS

For tickets and more information, contact Jesse Goodale, Manager of Special Events, at 973.735.1729 or events@njsymphony.org. Please reference Summer Soirée.

WITNESS AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC WITH ALLISON LOGGINS-HULL



Allison Loggins-Hull performs with NJ Symphony Chamber Players

Photo : njsymphony.org

BY MABEL PAIS

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: Chamber Music After Hours
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.

TICKETS

This is a free concert. A ticket is not required for this general admission event. There is limited seating available, so attendees should bring their own chairs, if possible.

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

INDULGE IN CLASSICAL FAVORITES: TCHAIKOVSKY, BEETHOVEN & MORE WITH NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

BY MABEL PAIS

Enjoy a delightful summer evening of orchestral favorites featuring works from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Ludwig van Beethoven and more! Conducted by New Jersey Symphony Colton Conducting Fellow Gregory D. McDaniel. This preview of the 2025-26 season delivers a lineup of beloved works one should not miss!

Classical Favorites: Tchaikovsky, Beethoven and More! will be presented in NJPAC's Victoria Theater on July 9, 2025 at 7 pm.

WHAT: CLASSICAL FAVORITES
WHEN: Wednesday, July 9, 2025
WHERE: Victoria Theater, NJPAC
1 Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

CONCERT INFORMATION

CLASSICAL FAVORITES: TCHAIKOVSKY, BEETHOVEN & MORE!

Gregory D. McDaniel conductor

New Jersey Symphony

Ludwig van Beethoven Selection from Symphony No. 5

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky 'Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture'

Gabriel Fauré Pavane

Felix Mendelssohn 'The Hebrides' (Fingal's Cave)

Béla Bartók 'Romanian Folk Dances'

Jean Sibelius 'Finlandia'

Duration: 1 hour



Gregory D. McDaniel, conductor

Photo : njsymphony.org

RSVP

RSVP is required to attend. RSVP at my.njsymphony.org/23220/23221

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.

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.

CONNECT WITH NJ SYMPHONY

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

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



Govinda announces big-screen comeback with Duniyadari

Actor Govinda is set to make his long-awaited return to the silver screen. After staying away from cinema for a few years, the veteran actor has begun preparations for his upcoming film titled 'Duniyadari'. The popular 90s Bollywood star shared a glimpse of the rehearsals for the film on his Instagram handle. In the video, he could be seen dancing gracefully to what appears to be the song's signature step. Captioning the video, the actor wrote, "Doing rehearsal for my forthcoming film Duniyadari." While more details about the film are still under wraps, the actor's return has sparked excitement among fans.

Meanwhile, an old controversy surrounding Govinda has also resurfaced. His earlier claim about being offered the lead role in James Cameron's 'Avatar' is once again making headlines. The issue came up during a recent appearance by Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, on Uorfi Javed's YouTube channel.

Son of Sardaar 2: Ajay Devgn unveils new poster with star-studded cast

Ajay Devgn is set to return to the big screen in his iconic turban-clad avatar with 'Son of Sardaar 2', officially titled 'The Return of the Sardaar'. The actor unveiled a brand-new poster of the much-awaited sequel on social media, announcing that the film will hit cinemas on 25th July 2025.

Sharing the poster, Ajay Devgn wrote, "Yeh family photo nahi Yeh hone wale dhamaake ki warning hai #SonOfSardaar2 in cinemas this 25th of July! #SardaarIsBack #SOS2."

Earlier, the actor had shared a teaser poster featuring him in a turban, with the caption, "The Return of the Sardaar #SOS2 in cinemas near you on 25th July. #SardaarIsBack #SonOfSardaar2," tagging Mrunal Thakur, Jio Studios, Devgn Films, and T-Series. Mrunal Thakur, who plays the female lead in the film, had also given fans a glimpse from the set by posting a clapboard photo with the caption, "SCENE 49 SHOT 5 TAKE 1 ACTION!"

Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, 'Son of Sardaar 2' is backed by Jio Studios, Devgn Films, and T-Series. The film promises a mix of action, comedy, and high-spirited drama, continuing the story from the 2012 blockbuster 'Son of Sardaar'. The original film starred Ajay Devgn as Jassi and Sanjay Dutt as Billu. In the sequel, Dutt returns as Don, while



Sanjay Mishra joins the cast in a role replacing Ravi Kishan's character from initially intended for Vijay Raaz, the first film.

Aamir's Sitaare Zameen Par surpasses his Taare Zameen Par

Aamir Khan's coming-of-age sports comedy Sitaare Zameen Par, a spiritual sequel to his 2007 directorial debut Taare Zameen Par, is slowly and surely inching towards the Rs 100 crore mark. In the process, the RS Prasanna film has not only surpassed the lifetime domestic box office collection of his 2017 Hindi directorial debut Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, but also that of Taare Zameen Par.

On June 25, Sitaare Zameen Par added another Rs 7.25 crore to its total earnings. Over the weekend, the film amassed Rs 20.2 crore and Rs 27.25 crore on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

As per industry tracker Sacnilk, the current domestic box office collection of Sitaare Zameen Par stands at Rs 82.40 crore. Thus, it has now breached the Rs 80 crore mark and is just Rs 20 crore shy of making it to the Rs 100 crore club. With its slow and steady trajectory, the film has surpassed a number of other related films by a fair margin.

Earlier this week, it already surpassed the lifetime domestic earnings of Aamir's

previous film, Advait Chandan's Laal Singh Chaddha (2022), which earned only Rs 61.36 crore. Over the opening weekend itself, Sitaare Zameen Par also surpassed the lifetime earnings of Prasanna's 2017 Hindi directorial debut Shubh Mangal Saavdhan, which earned Rs 42.79 crore.

That romantic comedy, produced by Aanand L Rai's Color Yellow Productions and Eros International, starred Ayushmann Khurrana and Bhumi Pednekar. An official Hindi remake of his 2013 Tamil directorial debut Kalyana Samayal Saadham, it revolved around the theme of erectile dysfunction. A sequel, Shubh Mangal Zyada Saavdhan was also made in 2020, which wasn't helmed by Prasanna, but by the first film's writer Hitesh Kewalya.

Sitaare Zameen Par has also surpassed the lifetime earnings of its spiritual predecessor Taare Zameen Par, which starred Darsheel Safary, Tisco Chopra, and Aamir, and revolved around the theme of dyslexia. Also backed by Aamir Khan Productions, it had earned Rs 62.95 crore back when it released in 2007.



Colin Jost couldn't stop wife Scarlett Johansson from kissing Jonathan Bailey at Jurassic World Rebirth premiere

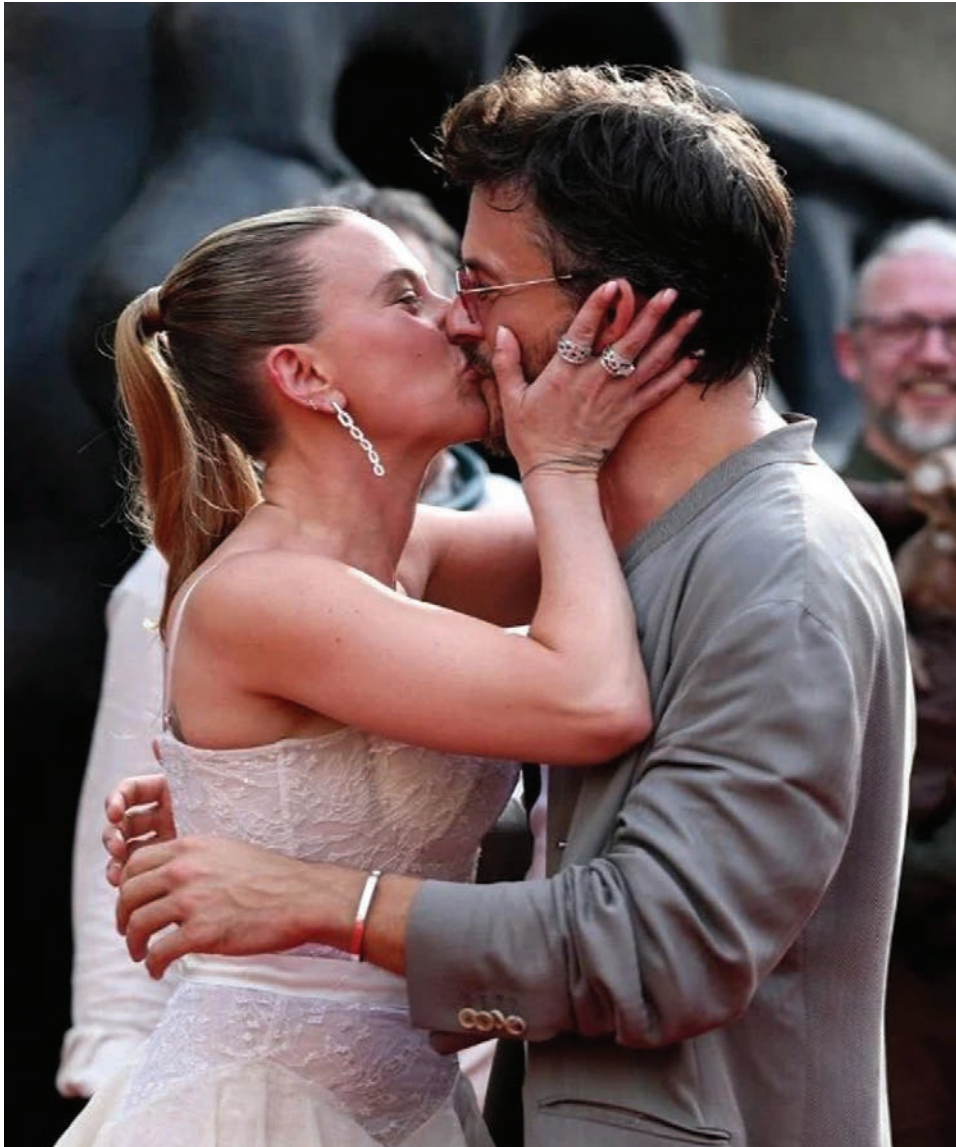
Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Bailey shared a playful red carpet moment again, and this time, her husband, Colin Jost, was right there to witness it. The friendly kiss happened during the Jurassic World Rebirth premiere in New York City on Monday, June 23, just days after the duo made headlines for a similar smooch in London.

At the New York event, Johansson cupped Bailey's cheeks and gave him a light kiss, sharing a moment of fun between co-stars. The two later posed arm-in-arm for photos. Bailey is openly gay and in a relationship, as per Page Six.

Johansson's husband, Saturday Night Live star Colin Jost, was also present. The couple, who tied the knot in 2020, were seen holding hands and chatting warmly on the red carpet. The pair share a 3-year-old son, Cosmo, and Johansson is also mom to 10-year-old Rose from her previous relationship with Romain Dauriac.

At the New York premiere, Scarlett Johansson and Jonathan Bailey showed off their playful friendship with smiles, laughter, and a friendly kiss. The two co-stars seemed completely at ease, joking and posing together for the cameras. Their natural chemistry drew plenty of attention as they embraced warmly and chatted between photos.

Bailey's long-standing friendship with Johansson has been on full display during the Jurassic World Rebirth press tour. Less than a week earlier, during the London premiere, the pair shared a similar kiss on the carpet.



They held hands and exchanged laughs while fans and photographers captured the fun moment. Co-star Rupert Friend was even spotted smiling in the background as the playful kiss happened.



Tom Cruise reunites with Brad Pitt at F1: The Movie premiere in London

It was a reunion after more than two decades! Hollywood stars Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt reunited at the premiere of the latter's upcoming film, F1. The film was screened at London's Leicester Square where Tom Cruise reached to cheer for the film. Starring Brad Pitt in the lead, the film is directed by Joseph Kosinski who also helm Cruise's Top Gun: Maverick.

In a viral video, Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt are seen happy to see each other. The two shared a warm hug as Pitt welcomed Cruise. The Two also posed for pictures together, looking handsome as ever.

Reacting to it, the internet cheered loudly for the two and dubbed them 'legends.'

One user took to the comment section and wrote, "These are clearly my two favourite actors. No politics, just acting!" "Tom seems like he did not want to steal the spotlight and was humble towards Brad," pointed out another.

One more commented, "The two last Hollywood stars."

Someone also wrote, "Need to do a movie together....."



Hugh Jackman, Deborra-Lee Furness officially finalise divorce

Actor Hugh Jackman and his estranged wife Deborra-Lee Furness finalised their divorce, confirmed multiple US news outlets. Their divorce was finalised just one month after she filed it to formally end their decades-long marriage, as per E! News.

Deborra-Lee Furness and Hugh Jackman were married for 27 years. They had two children together--daughter Ava and son Oscar.

According to online court records from New York's Suffolk County Supreme Court, the divorce judgment was officially filed on June 12. It was later uploaded to the court's official website on June 23. As reported by People magazine, the case is now listed as "disposed" on the website, meaning it has been officially closed.

Deborra was the one to approach authorities in New York and officially filed for divorce from him, as per the documents obtained by the outlet.

In the divorce petition filed in New York, dated May 23, she mentioned that the terms of their divorce had already been settled, which most likely fast-forwarded the procedure.

Deborra-Lee Furness' lawyer, Elena Karabatos, filed legal documents requesting that her health care coverage continue and a medical child support order be issued, as per records shared by the Daily Mail. The attorney also completed the New York State child support registry form, a proposed divorce judgment, and the official certificate of dissolution.

Hugh Jackman, 56, and Deborra-

Lee Furness, 69, had announced their separation back in September 2023 via a joint statement shared with E! News.

It said, "Our journey now is shifting, and we have decided to separate to pursue our individual growth."

The couple tied the knot in 1996. They met on the set of an Australian television series and fell in love.

Hugh and Deborra had shared that their family would remain their "highest priority" despite the separation. Requesting privacy as they adjusted to this new phase in their lives, they also added, "We greatly appreciate your understanding in respecting our privacy as our family navigates this transition in all of our lives."

BESPOKE BASH FOR A BILLIONAIRE: JEFF BEZOS WEDS LAUREN SÁNCHEZ IN LAVISH VENICE CEREMONY

28 JUN 2025

VENICE (TIP): The sky itself is no limit for billionaire Jeff Bezos and fiancée Lauren Sánchez, who have traveled into space — and expectations were about as high ahead of their wedding in Venice on Friday.

One of the world's most enchanting cities as backdrop? Check.

Star-studded guestlist and tabloid buzz? Of course.

Local flavor? You bet.

And then, time to tie the knot. The couple held their wedding ceremony Friday night, and Sánchez posted to Instagram a photo of herself beaming in a white gown as she stood alongside a tuxedo-clad Bezos, the world's fourth-richest man.

It was the second day of events spread across the Italian lagoon city, which added complexity to what would have been a massive logistical undertaking even on dry land.

Dozens of private jets had flocked to Venice's airport, and yachts pulled into the city's famed waterways. Athletes, celebrities, influencers and business leaders converged to revel in extravagance that was as much a testament to the couple's love as to their extraordinary wealth.

The heady hoopla recalled the 2014 wedding in Venice of actor George Clooney to human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin, when adoring crowds lined the canals and hundreds of well-wishers gathered outside City Hall.

Not so for these nuptials, which became a lightning rod for small, colorful protests. But any desire to dampen the prevailing fever pitch hadn't materialized as of Friday. Instead, the glitterati were partying, and the paparazzi jostling for glimpses of the gilded gala.

And the bride wore a classic mermaid-line gown, featuring Dolce & Gabbana's signature Italian lace. A traditional tulle-and-lace veil completed her look.

"Not just a gown, a piece of poetry," she wrote on Instagram, where her name now appears as Lauren Sánchez Bezos.

Venice is famed for its network of canals, where gondoliers croon for lovestruck couples and even ambulances are aquatic. But water transport of everything from bouquets to guests makes Venice among the world's most challenging cities for a party, according to Jack Ezon, CEO of Embark Beyond, a luxury travel advisory and destination event service.

"It's a very tight-knit community; everyone there knows everyone, and you need to work with the right people," said Ezon, whose company has put on a dozen high-end events in Venice. "There's very tight control, especially on movement there with boats." (AP)

Driven to starvation, Sudanese people eat weeds and plants to survive as war rages

28 JUN 2025

CAIRO (TIP): With Sudan in the grips of war and millions struggling to find enough to eat, many are turning to weeds and wild plants to quiet their pangs of hunger. They boil the plants in water with salt because, simply, there is nothing else.

Grateful for the lifeline it offered, a 60-year-old retired school teacher penned a love poem about a plant called Khadija Koro. It was "a balm for us that spread through the spaces of fear," he wrote, and kept him and many others from starving.

A.H., who spoke on the condition his full name not be used, because he feared retribution from the warring parties for speaking to the press, is one of 24.6 million people in Sudan facing acute food insecurity —nearly half the population, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. Aid workers say the war spiked market prices, limited aid delivery, and shrunk agricultural lands in a country that was once a breadbasket of the world.

Sudan plunged into war in April 2023 when simmering tensions between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary the Rapid Support Forces escalated to fighting in the capital Khartoum and spread across the country, killing over 20,000 people, displacing nearly 13 million people, and pushing many to the brink of famine in what aid workers deemed the world's largest hunger crisis.

Food insecurity is especially bad in areas in the Kordofan region, the Nuba Mountains, and Darfur, where El Fasher



and Zamzam camp are inaccessible to the Norwegian Refugee Council, said Mathilde Vu, an aid worker with the group based in Port Sudan. Some people survive on just one meal a day, which is mainly millet porridge. In North Darfur, some people even sucked on coal to ease their hunger.

On Friday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the Sudanese military leader Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan and asked him for a week-long ceasefire in El Fasher to allow aid delivery. Burhan agreed to that request, according to an army statement, but it's unknown whether the RSF would agree to that truce.

A.H. said aid distribution often provided slight relief. His wife in

children live in Obeid and also struggle to secure enough food due to high prices in the market.

His poem continued: "You were a world that sends love into the barren time. You were a woman woven from threads of the sun. You were the sandalwood and the jasmine and a revelation of green, glowing and longing."

Fighting restricted travel, worsening food insecurity

Sudanese agricultural minister Abu Bakr al-Bashari told Al-Hadath news channel in April that there are no indicators of famine in the country, but there is shortage of food supplies in areas controlled by the paramilitary forces, known as RSF. (AP)

Swedish criminal who helped inspire 'Stockholm syndrome' theory dies: Report

27 JUN 2025

STOCKHOLM (TIP): Clark Olofsson, who is one of the two criminals involved in the kidnapping and bank robbery during the year 1973 in Swedish capital, which gave rise to the expression "Stockholm syndrome," has died at the age of 78 following a lengthy illness, the BBC reports quoting his family.

During the six-day siege, Olofsson's hostages not only began to sympathise with him and his accomplice, but defended their actions while growing hostile to the police outside.

The incident lends its name to a theorised psychological condition whereby kidnap victims develop affections for their captor, BBC said.

According to the report, the notorious bank siege was instigated by one Jan-Erik Olsson. After seizing three women and a man hostage, he demanded Olofsson, who he had previously befriended in prison, be brought to the bank from jail.



Swedish authorities agreed to his demand, and Olofsson, a repeated offender who spent much of his life in prison, entered the bank, which was surrounded by police.

Years later, in an interview with the Aftonbladet newspaper, he claimed he was asked to work as an inside man to keep the captives safe in exchange for a reduced sentence, but accused officials of not honouring the agreement.

Olofsson persuaded one of the hostages, Kristin Enmark, to speak to the Swedish prime minister on the phone on behalf of the robbers.

She begged to be allowed to leave the bank in a getaway car with the kidnapers, telling him: "I fully trust Clark and the robber... They haven't done a thing to us."

She went on: "On the contrary, they have been very nice... Believe it or not but we've had a really nice time here."

Over the course of several phone calls, Enmark (23) said she feared her captors would be harmed by police and repeatedly defended their actions.

The hostage situation ended after six days when police officers broke through the roof and used tear gas to subdue the pair.

Speaking on the BBC's Sideways podcast in 2021, Enmark rubbished the concept of Stockholm syndrome, saying: "It's a way of blaming the victim. I did what I could to survive."

In 1977, Paul Martinsen directed a Docudrama Clark. And according to BBC, in 2022, actor Bill Skarsgård portrayed him in the Netflix drama series Clark. (Agencies)

Israel allegedly drugs flour bags distributed as aid to Palestinians; at least 62 killed today in Gaza

28 JUN 2025

GAZA STRIP (TIP):

Gaza's Government Media Office (GMO) on Friday confirmed reports regarding narcotic pills of the type "Oxycodone" being found in flour bags distributed as aid to starving Palestinians by the US-backed and Israeli military-operated Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

Expressing its "deep concern and condemnation" over the discovery of narcotic pills inside flour bags, the Media Office further raised fears regarding the possibility of such substances being ground into the flour, which the Palestinians have consumed.

"We have so far documented four testimonies from citizens who found these pills inside flour bags. More serious is the possibility that some of these narcotic substances were deliberately ground or dissolved in the flour itself, which raises the scope of the crime and transforms it into a serious attack directly targeting public health," said the statement published by the Media Office on Telegram.

"We hold the Israeli occupation fully responsible for this heinous crime of spreading addiction and destroying the Palestinian social fabric from within, as part of a systematic policy that constitutes an extension of the genocide it is waging against our Palestinian people," it added.

"The Israeli occupation's use of drugs as a soft weapon in a dirty war against



civilians, and its exploitation of the blockade to smuggle these substances as 'aid and assistance', constitute a war crime and a grave violation of international humanitarian law," the statement said.

Meanwhile, at least 62 Palestinians were killed by Israel on Friday including at least 10 who were shot dead while waiting to receive aid at the distribution sites of the GHF in southern Gaza.

The GHF started operations in May this year, after Israel announced it would partially lift a three-month-long blockade of humanitarian assistance and allow limited aid inside the war-ravaged territory, where the UN has

flagged a famine-like situation.

Rights groups and the UN have refused to cooperate with the GHF, slamming it as a "death trap" for Palestinians and accusing it of aiding Israel in its genocidal war on Gaza.

According to Gaza's health ministry, Israel has killed more than 549 Palestinians at aid distribution sites since the GHF began operations last month.

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, called the GHF an "abomination" that has put Palestinians' lives at risk, while a spokesman for the UN human rights office, Thameen Al-Kheetan, condemned the "weaponisation of food" in the territory. (Agencies)

6.1-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE HITS OFF SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

28 JUN 2025

MANILA (TIP): A magnitude-6.1 earthquake struck deep off the coast of the southern Philippines on Saturday, the United States Geological Survey said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which the USGS reported occurred at a depth of 101 kilometres (63 miles) about 70 kilometres from the nearest areas of Davao Occidental province.

"The shake was not that strong, but the tables and computers here at the office shook for (about five seconds)," Marlawin Fuentes, a provincial rescuer from the tiny island of Sarangani, told AFP.

No tsunami alert was triggered. Quakes are a near-daily occurrence in the Philippines, which is situated on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin. Most are too weak to be felt by humans, but strong and destructive ones come at random with no technology available to predict when and where they might strike. (AFP)

CHINESE FLIGHT MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING AT NANJING AIRPORT FOLLOWING 'AIRCRAFT MALFUNCTION'

28 JUN 2025

BEIJING (TIP): A Chinese domestic flight made an emergency landing on Friday after experiencing an 'aircraft malfunction', with passengers reporting loud noises and a foul smell in the plane.

A Shandong Airlines flight from Qingdao to Shanghai experienced an aircraft malfunction and the crew diverted to an airport in Nanjing after handling the situation in accordance with procedures to ensure passenger safety, the airline said in a social media post.

Flight SC4667 was forced to make an emergency landing in Nanjing, it said.

"All affected passengers have been properly accommodated, and another aircraft has been dispatched to operate subsequent flights," the post said. A user claiming to have been on board the flight said in a social media post that something appeared to have been sucked into the aircraft's left engine while it was cruising, Hong Kong-based 'South China Morning Post' reported on Saturday.

"Terrifying", the user wrote. There were a few loud bangs, then the plane started shaking side to side by about 10 degrees, with a burnt smell that lasted for five to 10 minutes.

The captain then announced the emergency landing in Nanjing, and the entire process was 'very smooth', the user said, adding: Thumbs up to the Shandong Airlines pilots, the post said. (PTI)

'Shocking' COP30 lodging costs heap pressure on Brazil's host city Belem

27 JUN 2025

RIO DE JANEIRO (TIP): "Belem is ready," Brazilian officials have insisted ahead of the COP30 gathering in November -- but eye-watering lodging costs in the northern city have panicked many would-be attendees.

President President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has personally championed the symbolic choice of holding the major UN climate conference in the Amazon. And with months to go before the November 10-21 meeting, work is in full swing, AFP journalists witnessed recently.

But members of national delegations, civil society, and the media have been faced with a major dilemma: how to find a room at a decent price?

"I've never seen anything quite like the situation unfolding in Belem. The soaring accommodation prices, which mean it will now cost thousands of dollars a night for even basic rooms," Mariana Paoli, with the NGO Christian Aid, told AFP.

The steep rates are "not just shocking, it is exclusionary," said Paoli, a Brazilian who has attended several UN climate summits before.

"Delegates from across the Global South, particularly grassroots activists, Indigenous leaders, and civil society groups, already face immense barriers to



participation... Now, they're being priced out entirely." In recent months, AFP has seen hotels offering rooms at \$1,200 a night. On short-term rental platform Airbnb, some rates were even higher.

With a total of 50,000 people expected to attend, Claudio Angelo of the Brazilian Climate Observatory collective warned that delegations are mulling cutting back on the number of attendees.

"Everybody's concerned because at this point, five months to the date, everybody should have hotels and no one has," he told AFP in Bonn, Germany, where technical negotiations have been

held over the past two weeks.

Brazil is no stranger to hosting major events, particularly in Rio de Janeiro. After the 2016 Olympic Games and last year's G20 summit, Rio will host a summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies next month.

Some have speculated about a possible last-minute move to a large city, maybe Rio. COP30 chief Ana Toni, while sharing concerns over the lodging, ruled out any last-minute relocation to a larger city. "Let's be very very clear, it's all happening in Belem," she told AFP in Bonn. (AFP)

MALAYSIA ARRESTS 36 BANGLADESHIS FOR TRYING TO IMPORT IS TERROR

JUN 28, 2025

MALAYASIA (TIP): The Malaysian Royal Police arrested 36 Bangladesh nationals this week on charges of being involved in a "radical militant movement" founded on extremist beliefs and terror ideology. "The Special Branch team's intelligence and coordinated action revealed that this group brought in extremist beliefs based on the Islamic State (IS) ideology into the country," said Malaysian home minister Saifuddin Nasution Ismail in a statement Friday.

The group created recruitment cells within their community, and were embroiled in collecting funds for terror activities, indoctrination and other subversive acts, he said. Five of those arrested are directly incriminated under the Penal Code's Chapter VIA of this country's law, which covers offences relating to terrorism. (TNN)



BANGLADESH RESTORES JAMAAT-E-ISLAMI REGISTRATION

JUN 26, 2025

DHAKA (TIP): The Bangladesh Election Commission has reinstated the registration and symbol - 'daripalla' (weighing scales) - of the hardline Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) party, several leaders of which had been tried and convicted for genocide, rape and other atrocities against civilians during the 1971 Liberation War. With the poll panel's latest decision, JeI will now be able to contest the national election. The commission on Tuesday published a gazette notification to cancel its earlier notification, issued on Oct 28, 2018, that revoked JeI's registration.

HASINA COUNSEL REMOVED

The Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal removed the state-appointed counsel for former PM Hasina, amid a row over his social media post last year demanding for her execution. The tribunal passed the order after advocate Aminul Gani Tipu withdrew from the post citing "conflict of interest".

B'DESH EX-CEC ARRESTED

Former Bangladesh chief election commissioner (CEC) Kazi Habibul Awal was arrested here on Wednesday for "election manipulation" during the Sheikh Hasina regime, days after his predecessor K M Nurul Huda was taken into custody on the same charge. (TNN)

'Very normal': Pakistan confirms China sharing intel on India after Operation Sindoor; says still on alert mode

JUN 27, 2025

LAHORE / NEW DELHI (TIP): Pakistan defence minister Khawaja Asif on Thursday admitted that China was sharing intelligence inputs on India with Islamabad following Operation Sindoor and the heightened tensions that ensued.

In an interview with Arab News, Asif said it was common for friendly nations to share intelligence gathered via satellites or other means and "China also has disputes with India".

"These days, countries that are close to each other do share intelligence. It's very normal if we are sharing any information we have," Asif said. "It's very normal if we are sharing any information that could pose a threat to us or the Chinese, because the Chinese also have issues with India. So I think it's very natural to share intelligence gathered through satellites or



other means," he added.

The defence minister also stated that Pakistan has remained on high alert following the recent "short conflict" with India.

"Pakistan, since our conflict or this short war with India, has been on alert.

We have not lowered our guards. I can confirm that we've maintained this alert status for over a month now," Asif said.

"The conflict is over, there is a ceasefire, and we hope things remain calm," he added.

This comes more than a month after India and Pakistan agreed to an immediate ceasefire following escalated cross-border tensions in the wake of the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor.

While Pakistan accepted the ceasefire without conditions, India has continued to enforce several punitive measures against its neighbour.

The ceasefire resulted from direct engagement between Indian and Pakistani officials, with Islamabad agreeing to terms with "no preconditions, no postconditions, and no links to other issues." (TOI)

Tibetans face up to uncertain future as Dalai Lama turns 90

27 JUN 2025

DEHRADUN (TIP): Tibetans in exile celebrate the 90th birthday of spiritual leader the Dalai Lama next week, an occasion overshadowed by uncertainty about the future of the role and what it means for their movement.

The charismatic Nobel Peace Prize-winning Buddhist -- who Tibetans say is the 14th reincarnation of the 600-year-old post -- will reveal if there will be another Dalai Lama after him.

The inevitable change ahead brings wider concerns for Tibetans over the struggle to keep their identity alive after generations in exile, following a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

There is widespread support among Tibetans in exile for the Dalai Lama role to remain, said Dawa Tashi, once jailed in Tibet for his criticism of Beijing.

The Dalai Lama has said the institution will continue only if there is popular demand. "I strongly believe the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama will continue," said Tashi, of the India-based Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy.

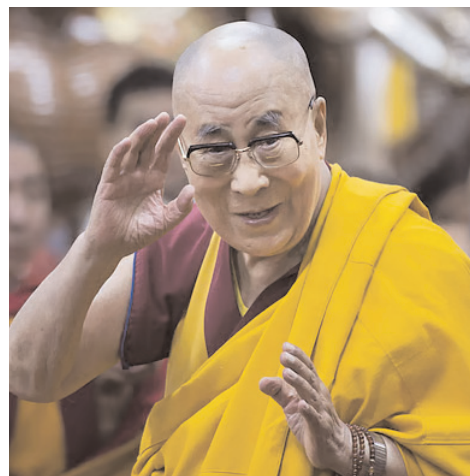
"This hope is not only shared by Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, but by thousands who are connected to the Dalai Lama across the world," he told AFP.

The leader, who turns 90 on July 6, and thousands of other Tibetans have lived in exile in India since Chinese troops crushed the uprising in the Tibetan capital Lhasa.

The Dalai Lama has been lauded by his followers for his tireless campaign for greater autonomy for Tibet, a vast high-altitude plateau in China about the size of South Africa.

"Vested political interests"

The Dalai Lama handed over political authority in 2011 to an exiled government chosen democratically by 130,000 Tibetans globally. At the same time, he warned that



the future of his spiritual post faced an "obvious risk of vested political interests misusing the reincarnation system."

Many Tibetans in exile fear China will name a successor to bolster its control over Tibet.

The Dalai Lama has said that if there is a successor it will come from the "free world" outside China's control.

The Dalai Lama has long said he does not seek full independence for Tibet.

Beijing says the territory is an integral part of China and that the Dalai Lama "has no right to represent the Tibetan people".

Whatever the Dalai Lama decides about his role, "the freedom movement must continue regardless", said Kunga Tashi, a 23-year-old Tibetan software engineer in India's tech hub Bengaluru.

"The Chinese government and even Tibetans still equate the Dalai Lama with the freedom struggle," he said. "And that is why his reincarnation feels like a turning point."

'Continuity of the institution'

The Dalai Lama, recognised worldwide in his red robes and wide smile, lives an austere monastic life in India's Himalayan hill town of McLeod Ganj. He has said he wants to live until 113.

Penpa Tsering, the sikyong or head of the government which is also based in McLeod Ganj, said that senior Buddhist elders, or lamas, will meet the Dalai Lama on July 2.

The same day they will open the grand meeting of religious leaders, during which a video message by the Dalai Lama will be broadcast.

No details of its message have been released.

The Dalai Lama's translator of nearly four decades, Thupten Jinpa, believes that "the continuity of the institution will remain", meaning that, in time, there "will be a new Dalai Lama".

"Today, many young Tibetans prioritise personal success over collective struggle," said Geshema Tenzin Kunsel, a nun in her 50s from Dolma Ling Nunnery, near McLeod Ganj.

"In his absence, I fear what our future might look like."

'Shape our own destiny'

Tibetans who spoke to AFP say they will keep up their campaign no matter what happens in the coming weeks.

"While we haven't yet achieved our goal of returning to a free Tibet, we've come further than anyone could have imagined -- and that's because of His Holiness (the Dalai Lama)," said Sonam Topgyal, 26, a university student in New Delhi.

Nepal-based Sakina Batt, 35, a former civil servant with the Tibetan administration, is part of Tibet's minority Muslim population.

She too believes that the reincarnation process should "continue as it has for generations, preserving its sacred tradition without interruption".

But she also said that it depended on the people, not just one leader.

"The future of Tibetans depends on unity and resilience," she said. "It's ultimately up to us to shape our own destiny." (AFP)



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Steps you must follow daily for a glowing skin

Everyone wants a clear face, free of blemishes and dark spots. We all desire beautiful, naturally glowing skin without makeup. Many resort to various market creams, but you can achieve a clear complexion without them. Healthy skin isn't about surface creams; it's about inner care. Pollution, stress, lack of sleep, and bad eating habits damage our skin. Let's explore how to achieve a natural glow... We're often outdoors, exposed to pollution and makeup, which can damage our skin and cause various problems. Use a gentle, sulfate-free face wash every morning and night. This protects your skin, prevents damage, and helps avoid blackheads.

Exfoliate 2-3 times a week

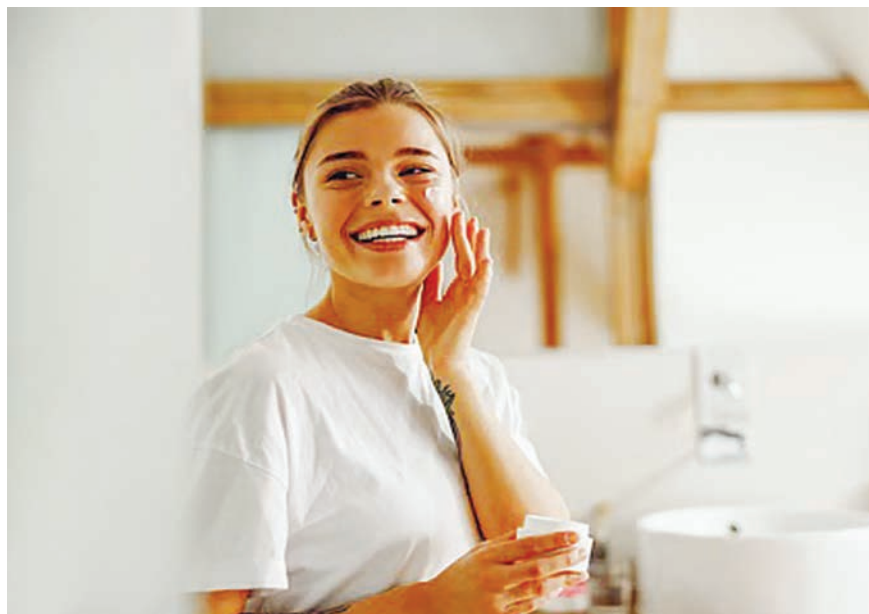
Dead skin cells make your face look dull. Use a gentle exfoliator to remove them, revealing brighter skin and a natural glow. Avoid harsh scrubbing.

For healthy skin, maintain balanced hydration. Drink at least 2-3 liters of water daily and use hydrating serums. This keeps skin plump and moisturized, preventing dryness and dullness.

Vitamin C serum is essential

Vitamin C serum brightens skin, reduces wrinkles, blemishes, and uneven skin tone. It acts as an antioxidant, protecting your skin. Apply it every morning after toner.

Dry weather and air conditioning can dry out your skin. Use a regular, non-greasy moisturizer twice daily to keep it soft and



hydrated. This also reduces signs of aging and helps you look younger.

Daily SPF 30+ sunscreen

Apply sunscreen daily, even in cool weather. UV radiation damages skin, causing sunburn and premature aging. SPF 30 or higher protects your skin.

External care is important, but internal care is crucial too. A diet rich in fruits, vegetables, nuts, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins promotes naturally glowing skin. Foods like avocado, almonds, watermelon, and berries are beneficial.

Prioritize sleep

Lack of sleep leads to fatigue, dark circles, and dull skin. 7-8 hours of quality sleep rejuvenates your skin. During sleep, the body

and skin repair themselves; it's a natural recharge time.

Manage stress

Stress releases hormones that can cause skin problems. Meditation, pranayama, and yoga promote mental peace. Dedicate at least 10 minutes daily to mindful activities to reduce negative impacts on your skin. Regular yoga and meditation bring peace of mind. Listening to music and talking to loved ones can also reduce stress.

Even with the best products, inconsistency hinders results. Follow a proper skincare routine daily and be patient. Frequent product changes prevent desired outcomes. Consistent, patient adherence yields the results you envision.

Paneer butter masala

Ingredients

2 tbsp butter + 1 tbsp oil, 1 bay leaf, 2-3 green cardamoms, 1 small cinnamon stick, 3-4 cloves, 1.5 cups chopped tomatoes (or 3 large tomatoes, pureed), 1 medium onion, chopped (optional, for slightly thicker gravy), 1 tbsp ginger-garlic paste, 1 tsp red chili powder (Kashmiri, for color), 1 tsp coriander powder, 1/2 tsp cumin powder, Salt to taste, 1 tsp sugar (optional, balances tomato tang), 1/2 cup fresh cream, 1 tbsp kasuri methi (dried fenugreek leaves), Water as needed, 200-250g paneer, cut into cubes, (Optional: lightly sauté in butter or keep as is)

Preparation Steps

- Heat butter and oil in a pan. Add whole spices: bay leaf, cardamom, cloves, cinnamon.
- Add chopped onions (if using) and sauté until translucent.
- Add ginger-garlic paste; cook until raw aroma fades.
- Add tomato puree and cook for 7-10 minutes on medium heat, until oil starts separating.
- Add red chili powder, coriander powder, cumin powder, and salt. Stir well.
- Once cooked, remove whole spices (optional) and blend the gravy until smooth using a hand blender or traditional mixer.
- Return the blended mixture to the pan.
- Add 1/2 cup cream and a little water to adjust thickness.
- Crush kasuri methi between palms and stir it in.
- Add sugar if needed.
- Let the gravy simmer for 3-4 minutes on low flame.
- Add paneer cubes to the gravy. Let them soak in for 3-5 minutes.
- Optional: Garnish with more cream or a small blob of butter and fresh coriander



Things Korean women eat to stay young for years



Fermentation: The Ageless Alchemy of Kimchi

Ask any Korean woman about her must-have for longevity, and she's likely to name kimchi. This fermented cabbage dish is more than a national treasure; it's a potent cocktail of probiotics, antioxidants, and vitamins A, B, and C. These help balance gut health - now widely recognized as a cornerstone of glowing skin and immunity.

Seaweed and Broth: The Marine Fountain of Youth

Korean women begin consuming seaweed soup (miyeok-guk) as early as childhood - and many continue the habit into old age. This dark green, nutrient-rich sea vegetable is packed with iodine, calcium, and antioxidants that detoxify the blood and promote thyroid health, hair growth, and skin elasticity. Bone broth, another regular feature in Korean homes, is rich in collagen, amino acids, and gelatin - nutrients known to restore the skin's youthful bounce and support joint health.

Soy Magic: Hormonal Balance Through Tofu

While the West is only recently discovering the wonders of soy, Korean kitchens have embraced it for centuries. From tofu in stews to doenjang jjigae (soybean paste stew), soy-based foods are a powerhouse of isoflavones - plant-based compounds that mimic estrogen, helping women, especially those in mid-life, maintain hormonal balance and youthful skin texture.

Simplicity in Sides: The Power of Banchan

No Korean meal is complete without an assortment of side dishes, or banchan. These include lightly seasoned vegetables (namul) like spinach, radish, bean sprouts, and bracken fern. Rich in fiber, folate, and vitamins, they're not just delicious - they form the nutritional base of a balanced, anti-aging diet.

Rather than indulging in meat-heavy, processed meals, Korean women often eat a rainbow of vegetables daily, prepared in a way that retains their integrity and nutrient profile.

Magnesium & vitamin D: Powerful duo that helps boost gut health

A healthy gut is fundamental to overall well-being as it plays a crucial role in digestion, nutrient absorption, and the immune system, as well as in promoting mental health. The gut microbiome significantly impacts physical health, mood, and mental clarity. An imbalance in gut health can contribute to digestive disorders, food intolerance, fatigue, mood issues, skin problems, sleep disturbance and autoimmune diseases. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to keep your gut in good shape.

Eating right is one of the effective ways to maintain and boost gut health. Fermented foods, probiotics, prebiotics, and foods rich in fibre are gut-friendly foods that should be a part of your diet. Essential nutrients like magnesium and vitamin D can also support your gut and overall health in many ways. Keep reading as we discuss the power of this duo for optimal gut health.

Magnesium and vitamin D for gut health

Magnesium is an essential mineral that assists in numerous bodily functions, including digestion. It may also activate digestive enzymes that facilitate the breakdown of food components, enhancing overall nutrient absorption.

Studies suggest that magnesium may impact the diversity of the microbiota. Some animal studies also indicate that magnesium deficiency can result in decreased levels of beneficial bacteria, leading to compromised gut health and increased inflammation.

Additionally, its anti-inflammatory properties can alleviate conditions like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and other digestive disturbances.

Similarly, vitamin D is another vital nutrient that helps maintain the balance of gut bacteria. Adequate vitamin D levels support a diverse microbiome, which is vital for digestion and overall health.

Vitamin D is integral to the immune system, enhancing the gut's ability to fend off harmful bacteria and viruses. Research has indicated that sufficient



levels of vitamin D may reduce inflammation in the gut, potentially lowering the risk of various inflammatory bowel diseases.

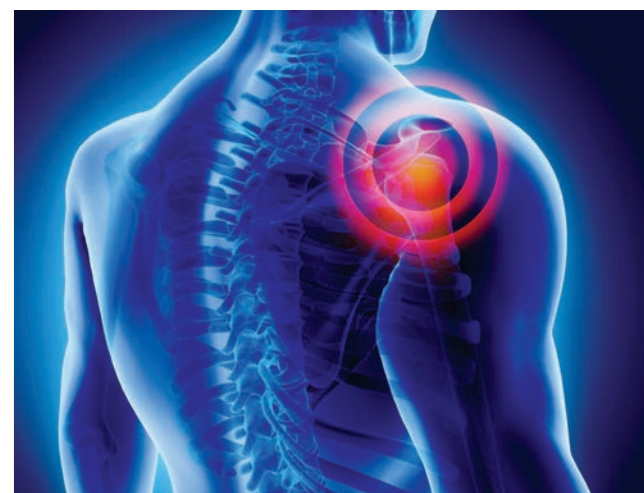
According to health experts, most individuals with gut issues are found to be magnesium and vitamin D deficient.

Food sources and supplementation

Magnesium rich foods include pumpkin seeds, dark chocolate, nuts, seeds, whole grains, bananas, leafy greens and fatty fish.

Sunlight is the best source of vitamin D. Some food sources are mushrooms, egg yolks and certain fishes.

Several foods naturally contain magnesium and vitamin D. However, deficiencies of magnesium and vitamin D are quite common. Therefore, you must get your levels checked and include supplements in your diet as prescribed.



USC researchers new AI implant promises drug-free relief for chronic pain

A groundbreaking wireless implant promises real-time, personalised pain relief using AI and ultrasound power, no batteries, no wires, and no opioids. Designed by University of Southern California (USC) and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) engineers, it reads brain signals, adapts on the fly, and bends naturally with your spine.

This groundbreaking device, detailed in Nature Electronics, represents a significant leap forward in pain therapy. While current spinal cord stimulators can be unwieldy and are hard-wired to batteries, the new device is designed to bend and twist with movement and is powered by a wearable ultrasound transmitter without the need for a battery.

It also harnesses machine learning algorithms to customise treatment for each patient. The work was led by Zohrab A. Kaprielian Fellow in Engineering Qifa Zhou, who is also a professor of ophthalmology at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

At the heart of this innovation is its wireless power supply, eliminating the need for bulky batteries and complex wired interfaces that often require repeated surgeries.

The UIWI stimulator receives its energy from an external, wearable ultrasound transmitter (WUT).

Ultrasound offers a safe, effective, non-invasive method for deep-tissue penetration. The device converts mechanical waves into electrical signals through a phenomenon called the piezoelectric effect.

The core of the UIWI stimulator is a miniaturised piezoelectric element made from lead zirconate titanate (PZT), a highly efficient material for converting incoming ultrasound energy into the electrical power needed for stimulation.

"What truly sets this device apart is its wireless, smart and self-adaptive capability for pain management," Zhou said.

Source: ANI

Bloated after meals? Add these foods with natural digestive enzymes to your diet

Bloating, indigestion, acidity, and feeling heavy after meals - these are some of the problems we have all been dealing with frequently. Agree? Soon after you eat a delicious meal, you feel like a balloon about to pop. Not fun. This requires a serious solution. While wrong sleeping patterns, intake of more unhealthy rich/junk foods, less hydration and following no fixed routine for daily meals, are the major contributors to one facing problems with proper digestion, maintaining a balanced lifestyle is one of the most challenging tasks in today's fast-paced lives.

Here are some digestion-boosting foods

Pineapple

It contains an enzyme called Bromelain, which breaks down tough proteins in simpler forms that are easily absorbed by the body.

Kiwi

The fruit is rich in an enzyme called Actinidin, which eases the digestion of meat & dairy products.

Papaya - Packed with an enzyme called Papain, papaya supports post-meal protein breakdown, which ultimately helps in easier digestion.

Honey

These are full of enzymes like amylase and protease,



which are extremely beneficial in the digestion process.

Ginger

It contains an enzyme called Zingibain that boosts protein digestion and nutrient absorption in the body.

Hence, adding these easily available foods to the daily diet will become a cost-effective and healthy process for digestion.

Source: NDTV

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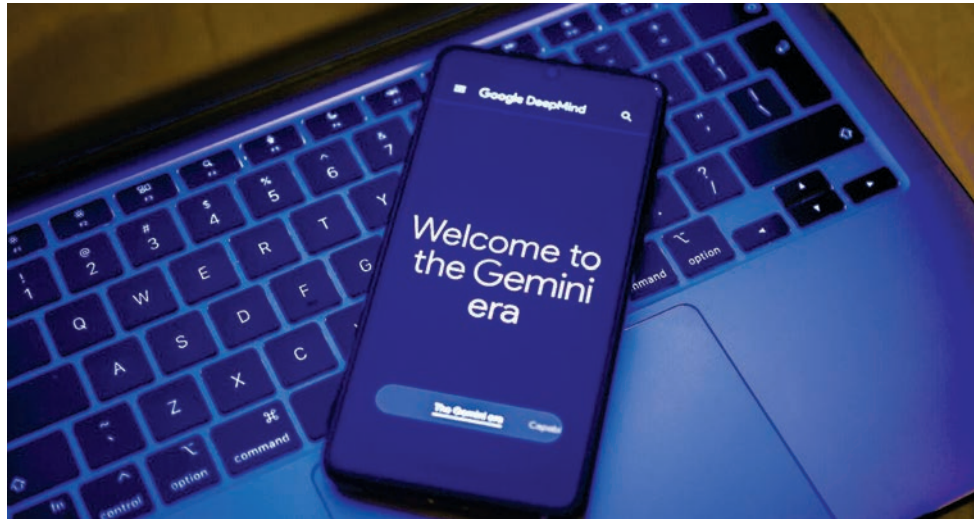
Google launches Gemma 3n, multimodal Open Source AI model that runs on just 2GB RAM without internet

Google has announced the full launch of its latest on-device AI model, Gemma 3n, which was first announced in May 2025. The AI model brings advanced multimodal capabilities, including audio, image, video and text processing, to smartphones and edge devices with limited memory and no internet connection. With this release, developers can now deploy AI features that used to require powerful cloud infrastructure, directly on phones and low-power devices.

At the heart of Gemma 3n is a new architecture called MatFormer, short for Matryoshka Transformer. Google explains that much like Russian nesting dolls, the model includes smaller, fully-functional sub-models inside larger ones. This design makes it easy for developers to scale performance based on available hardware. For example, Gemma 3n is available in two versions: E2B, which operates on as little as 2GB of memory, and E4B, which requires about 3GB.

Despite having 5 to 8 billion raw parameters, both models perform like much smaller models in terms of resource use. This efficiency comes from innovations like Per-Layer Embeddings (PLE), which shift some of the workload from the phone's graphics processor to its central processor, freeing up valuable memory.

Gemma 3n also introduces KV Cache Sharing, which significantly speeds up how quickly the model processes long audio and video inputs. Google says this



improves response times by up to two times, making real-time applications like voice assistants or video analysis much faster and more practical on mobile devices.

For speech-based features, Gemma 3n includes a built-in audio encoder adapted from Google's Universal Speech Model. This allows it to perform tasks like speech-to-text and language translation directly on a phone. Early tests have shown especially strong results when translating between English and European languages like Spanish, French, Italian, and Portuguese.

The visual side of Gemma 3n is powered by MobileNet-V5, Google's new lightweight vision encoder. This system can handle video streams up to 60 frames per second on devices like the Google Pixel, enabling smooth real-time video

analysis. Despite being smaller and faster, it outperforms previous vision models in both speed and accuracy.

Developers can access Gemma 3n via popular tools like Hugging Face Transformers, Ollama, MLX, llama.cpp and others. Google has also launched the "Gemma 3n Impact Challenge," inviting developers to create applications using the model's offline capabilities. Winners will share a \$150,000 prize pool.

Importantly, the model can operate entirely offline, meaning it doesn't need an internet connection to work. This opens the door for AI-powered apps in remote areas or privacy-sensitive situations where cloud-based models aren't viable. With support for over 140 languages and the ability to understand content in 35, Gemma 3n sets a new standard for efficient, accessible on-device AI.

Google's new Gemini AI can power robots and make them work without internet

Google DeepMind has launched a new version of its Gemini Robotics AI model that allows robots to operate entirely without internet access. Called Gemini Robotics On-Device, the system is designed to power robots in real-world settings where speed, autonomy, and privacy are crucial. This update marks a significant shift from earlier models that relied on cloud connectivity. By enabling robots to process information and make decisions on the device itself, Google hopes to make robotics more practical in offline environments such as remote areas, secure facilities, and latency-sensitive situations.

"It's small and efficient enough to run directly on a robot," said Carolina Parada, head of robotics at Google DeepMind, in a statement to The Verge. "I would think about it as a starter model or as a model for applications that just have poor connectivity."

Despite being a smaller variant, the on-device version holds its own. "We're actually quite surprised at how strong this on-device model is," Parada added. Gemini Robotics On-Device brings several new features to the table. The model can carry out tasks straight out of the box and learn new ones from as few as 50 to 100 demonstrations. The model was initially trained using Google's ALOHA robot, but it has since been successfully adapted for use with other robotic systems.

Google is giving Gemini AI more control over your Android apps

Google is preparing to roll out a major change to how its Gemini AI assistant works with Android smartphones, according to a report by Android Authority. Starting July 7, Gemini will be able to interact more directly with core apps like Phone, Messages, WhatsApp, and other utility apps, regardless of whether a setting called "Gemini Apps Activity" is turned on or off. This update has raised questions among users, especially around privacy and data control.

The news surfaced after some users received an email from Google's Gemini team. The message mentioned that Gemini will "help you use" certain apps from July 7 onwards. However, the email didn't clearly explain what "help you use" means. For instance, users are unsure whether this means Gemini will be able to read or send messages, access contacts, check call logs, or control other personal features on the phone.

Another point of confusion is how to turn this off. While the email says users can disable these features from the "Apps settings page," it does not explain exactly where this page is located or what specific option needs to be turned off. This lack of clarity has left users puzzled, especially since the changes will reportedly be applied even if someone has already disabled Gemini Apps Activity.

Meta AI can now read and summarise your WhatsApp chats privately

WhatsApp will now show you summaries of unread messages created using AI. The feature uses Meta AI to generate short summaries of chats, helping users quickly catch up on unread messages in personal and group chats without scrolling through piles of texts. The feature is currently rolling out to WhatsApp users in the United States, with support for English.

WhatsApp will gradually expand the rollout to more regions and other languages later this year. Private message summaries are also part of Meta's broader plan to integrate artificial intelligence, through Meta AI, more deeply into the WhatsApp experience. Once available in the app, users will be able to ask Meta AI to summarise the content, rather than opening each chat and reading through a long backlog of messages.

Once prompted, Meta AI will then summarise users' messages into bullet points, giving a quick overview of what's going on in the conversation. The feature will be available for both one-on-one and group chats and will be especially useful in high-

traffic conversations where messages accumulate quickly.

The Message Summaries feature is powered by Private Processing. According to Meta this method is designed to ensure that neither Meta nor WhatsApp can see the actual content of the messages or the summaries that are generated. Instead, the AI processes the data without transmitting it to external servers or exposing it to company systems.

According to Meta, the summaries are generated in a privacy-preserving environment. Even Meta's AI models do not retain or learn from the summaries or the messages they process. This means the data is not accessible to Meta or WhatsApp and remains invisible to everyone else in the chat—only the user requesting the summary can see it.

To respect users' preferences, WhatsApp will also not enable the feature by default. It will be released as an optional feature that must be manually turned on. Users will be able to adjust their settings in Advanced Chat Privacy controls and even specify which chats can be included in AI-powered features like this.

Trump's tariff wars deal a blow! US economy shrinks 0.5%

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The US economy shrank by 0.5% on an annual basis in the first quarter of 2025, as President Donald Trump's trade war prompted a rush of imports, disrupting businesses, the commerce department announced on Thursday, June 26.

This unexpected sharp downgrade from an earlier estimate of a 0.2% decline, reflects the economic fallout from Trump's trade policies, which saw American firms scrambling to import goods before tariffs could take effect.

The surge in imports, up by a staggering 37.9%, the fastest pace since 2020, dragged down the GDP by almost 4.7 percentage points, AP reported.

This contraction marks the first quarterly decline in the US economy in three years, reversing the 2.4% growth recorded in the final three months of 2024.

Consumer spending also took a significant hit, slowing to just 0.5% growth, a steep fall from the 4% recorded in the previous quarter and well below earlier government estimates.

A key measure of the economy's underlying strength, grew at an annual rate of 1.9% between January and March. That's a noticeable slowdown from the 2.9% pace seen in the final quarter of 2024. The category includes consumer spending and private investment while excluding more volatile components such as exports, inventories and government spending.

Federal government spending also slumped, falling at a 4.6% annual rate,



the steepest decline since 2022.

How did imports drag down US GDP ?

GDP or the Gross Domestic Product includes only what is produced domestically, not what is imported from foreign lands. Hence, the imports that are reflected in the GDP report as consumer spending or business investments, must be subtracted to avoid inflating figures.

Economists, however, believe the slump may prove short-lived. The import-driven distortion seen in the first quarter is not expected to repeat in the April-to-June period. Many forecasters anticipate a rebound, with second-quarter GDP growth projected to reach 3%, according to a FactSet survey.

The first official estimate of second-quarter GDP is due on 30 July.

US President Donald Trump will

directly control a special "golden share" as part of the national security agreement that cleared the path for Japan's Nippon Steel to acquire US Steel, according to disclosures filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission

As per news agency AP, this unique arrangement allows Trump, or a designee named by him, to veto key decisions involving the American steelmaker, a power that shifts to the treasury and commerce departments only when another individual holds the presidency.

The provision specifically names Trump and stipulates that "at any time when Donald J Trump is serving as President of the United States of America, the written consent of Donald J Trump or President Trump's Designee" is required for certain decisions.

Indicators point to fiscal resilience despite global tensions, says RBI

Key economic indicators point towards resilient economic activity in India across industrial and services sectors amid twin shocks of global trade policy uncertainties and heightened geopolitical tensions, the Reserve Bank's Bulletin has said

An article published in the RBI's June Bulletin said the global economy is in a state of flux. "In this state of elevated global uncertainty, various high-frequency indicators for May 2025 point towards resilient economic activity in India across the industrial and services sectors," it said.

Agriculture showed a broad-based increase in production across most major crops during 2024-25.

Also, the domestic prices situation remains benign, with headline inflation staying below the target for the fourth consecutive month in May.

Financial conditions remained conducive to facilitating an efficient transmission of rate cuts to the credit market, the article on 'State of the Economy' said.

"In this state of elevated global uncertainty, various high-frequency indicators for May 2025 point towards resilient economic activity in India across the industrial and services sectors," the bulletin said.

According to the article, gross inward foreign direct investment (FDI) amounted to USD 8.8 billion in April 2025, higher than USD 5.9 billion in March 2025 and USD 7.2 billion in April 2024.

Manufacturing and business services accounted for nearly half of the gross FDI inflows in April 2025.

The net outward FDI also increased, along with a moderation in repatriation. The net FDI inflows more than doubled year-on-year to USD 3.9 billion in April 2025, it said.

High-frequency food price data for June so far (up to June 20, 2025) shows moderation in rates of pulses, while prices of cereals have risen marginally, it added. Edible oil prices, on the other hand, have firmed up, driven by soybean, sunflower, and mustard oil, while palm and groundnut oil prices moderated. Among the key vegetables, onion prices have recorded further correction, while that of potato and tomato prices increased, it said.

India set to outpace G7 economies in growth: Report

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Global capital can no longer overlook India's structural economic advantages, as the nation is poised to significantly outpace G7 economies in growth, according to a report released on Monday by wealth management firm Equirus.

The report identifies strong macro fundamentals, policy-led capital expenditure, a resurgence in rural consumption, and structural manufacturing shifts as key long-term drivers of India's growth in an uncertain global environment.

"India is no longer the world's fastest-growing economy just on paper -- it is structurally better positioned than most G7 nations. That's a seismic shift," said Mitesh Shah, CEO, Equirus Credence Family Office.

"The global macro regime is shifting. US growth has been revised down sharply, and while India is projected to contribute over 15 per cent to global GDP growth (2025-2030), traditional 60/40 portfolios are breaking down. In this new regime, strategic asset



allocation across geographies and growth cycles isn't optional -- it's the alpha generator," he added.

India is benefiting from structural trends: rural FMCG demand outpacing urban (6 per cent vs 2.8 per cent), policy-led capex rising 17.4 per cent, and Rs 2.5 lakh crore liquidity infusion underway, the report states.

India's contribution to global GDP growth is significantly outpacing Japan (less than 1 per cent) and Germany (just over 1.3 per cent), the report points out.

The report highlights that rural consumption is driving the recovery in

the Indian economy. FMCG demand in rural India grew 6 per cent, outstripping urban markets at 2.8 per cent. The monthly per capita expenditure gap between rural and urban households has narrowed from 84 per cent to 70 per cent over the last decade.

The report challenges the viability of the long-standing 60/40 portfolio strategy, historically seen as the gold standard for diversified investing.

In today's volatile and fragmented global regime, strategic asset allocation is no longer optional -- it is essential for capital preservation and alpha generation, the report states.

The report urges investors to adopt a more dynamic and forward-looking asset allocation approach -- one that spans geographies, sectors, and growth cycles. With India emerging as a structural outperformer, the firm sees the country's multi-engine growth -- driven by rural consumption, capex, and supply chain shifts -- as a compelling opportunity for both capital preservation and long-term alpha generation.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - JUNE 30, 2025 TO JULY 6, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week will bring new energy and enthusiasm for you. This is the right time to achieve your goals. You may face new projects in the workplace, which will require your leadership skills and creativity. The importance of mutual understanding and empathy will increase in personal relationships. Spending time with loved ones will strengthen your relationship. If there is any kind of conflict in the mind regarding an old dispute, then this is the right time to resolve it. This week is indicating to be a little careful in terms of health. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help you. Practicing meditation and yoga will be beneficial for mental health. Financial matters are stable, but it will be beneficial for you to maintain control over expenses. In short, move forward with positivity and confidence this week. Welcome new opportunities and keep in mind that every situation can be converted into a learning opportunity.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week is going to bring positive energy and wonderful opportunities for you. There will be newness in your relationship, which will further strengthen the harmony between you and your close ones. You will get support from colleagues at work, which will accelerate the pace of your progress. This week, your creativity will be at its peak. In terms of health, be a little careful and focus on regular exercise. Spend some time meditating or doing yoga for mental refreshment. In terms of the economy, this is the right time to make some new financial plans or investments. Your dedication and hard work can give you good results. However, do not forget to think carefully before making big decisions. In social life, it is a good time to make new friends. Attend some festivals or social events to increase your network. This week will be full of happiness and new possibilities for you.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week, you will get a chance to face new opportunities. Your social activities will increase, and you will also get the opportunity to make new friends. On the work front, you will have to face challenges by taking advantage of your skills and thoughtfulness. Take care of your mental health; a little relaxation is needed. Consider adopting an old hobby

or interest again, it will give you relief. The atmosphere at home will be good, and spending quality time with family members will bring happiness to you. This week, your communication skills will increase, which will help strengthen your relationships. Keep in mind that you keep your emotions balanced and work patiently. Wait for the right time to implement your plans. This week is a time of new possibilities and experiences for you.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week can bring important opportunities for you in various aspects. This is a good opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. There will be an increase in warmth and love in relationships. At the workplace, you will get the fruits of your hard work and dedication. Collaboration with colleagues can make important projects successful. From an economic point of view, this time can be good, but it is important to avoid unnecessary expenses. You can get good profits from an old investment. In terms of health, you need to pay attention to your routine. Doing yoga and meditation will give mental peace. This is a good time for personal development. It is important to stay motivated to learn new skills and improve yourself. If you feel indecisive in any matter, trust your intuition. This week will be inspiring for self-introspection and improvement.

LEO



Ganesha says this week will be full of energy and creativity for you. You will be able to express your ideas, and your creative projects will attract more attention. Try something new this week, whether it is an art project or a new hobby. Your relationships will also improve, especially if you plan to spend more time with your loved ones. Communicate and share your feelings; this will make your relationships stronger. Pay attention to your health this week. Give priority to regular exercise and a healthy diet. Meditation and yoga will also be beneficial for mental health. Be cautious in financial matters. Try to control expenses and make a plan for savings. Opportunities to make small investments may also come, but make a decision wisely. Overall, this week will bring positive changes for you; just take advantage of the opportunities that come your way.

VIRGO



Ganesha says this week is a time of organization and clarity for you. Your hard work and efforts are now bearing fruit. You may get an opportunity to complete an important project at the workplace, for which you will get a chance to showcase your abilities properly. Do not hesitate to show your talents, as others may come to know about your abilities. In personal

relationships, communication will have an important place. You will be able to express your feelings in a proper way, which will make your relationship stronger. There is a possibility of participating in an exciting experience with your partner, which will bring new energy to your relationship. In terms of health, this week focus on regular exercise and meditation for peace of mind. Small problems may arise, but with positive thinking and proper diet, you can easily overcome them. Take prudent decisions in financial matters. Take thoughtful steps in matters of investment, so that you can be profitable in the future. Spending time with friends and family will give you positivity and happiness. This week summarizes that you will move forward with your hard work and honesty, and its results will be pleasant for you. Have faith in yourself and face every situation.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is a balanced and positive time for you. New opportunities will come in your social and professional life. This is a good opportunity to spend time with friends and family. Express your thoughts clearly and honestly, this will strengthen your relationship. On the professional front, your hard work and dedication will be recognized. If you are thinking of starting a new project, be prepared, as your efforts in this direction may be successful. Keep in mind that it is important to maintain cooperation and communication with team members. In terms of health, focus on regular exercise and a healthy diet. Meditation will be beneficial to maintain mental balance. This week will be full of general freshness and energy. Enjoy it to the fullest. There are signs of meeting an old friend of yours, which will bring good memories and emotions for you. At the end of this week, take some time for your interests and hobbies as well, which will give you mental peace. In this way, this week is a time of possibilities and satisfaction for Libra. Make your decisions thoughtfully and move forward with positivity.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says many new opportunities may come your way this week. Your role in collective work will be important, and your ideas will be respected. Cooperation with your colleagues at the workplace will increase, and you will be in a position to take the lead while working on an important project. There is also a need to maintain balance in personal relationships. You should be careful during conversations, as some differences may arise. But if you deal with problems wisely, you can bring more strength to your relationships. You may get good news in financial matters. There are signs of a new source of income opening up, which will strengthen your financial position. In

terms of health, keep your mental state stable through meditation and yoga. Try to stay away from anxiety and stress. This week will provide you with an opportunity to move towards self-sensitivity and inner peace. Use your energy in the right direction this week and maintain positive thinking. This is a time of growth and progress for you.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week is a time of energy and enthusiasm for you. You are ready to express your creativity to the fullest. There will be clarity in your thinking, and your partners will understand your ideas. There are possibilities of new opportunities in the professional field, so this is the right time to move forward with your plans. There will also be sweetness in personal relationships. You may meet an old friend, who will give you new inspiration. If you are thinking about a special relationship, then this is the right time to express your feelings honestly. In terms of health, do not forget to pay attention to your mental health. Yoga or meditation can help balance your energy. It is important to be cautious in financial matters. Avoid unnecessary expenses and plan your budget. The positivity of this week will open the doors to new possibilities for you. Have faith in yourself and keep moving towards your goals.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says many new opportunities will knock this week. This is the time to focus on your goals and work hard. Your ability and dedication will be appreciated in the workplace, which may indicate promotion. Financial condition is likely to improve, so manage your expenses judiciously. There will be positive changes in your social life as well. You may enjoy reuniting with old friends or family members. This is the right time to strengthen relationships. Mutual understanding and cooperation will increase in personal relationships, which will make your relationship even sweeter. In terms of health, meditation and yoga will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. Take adequate rest to avoid any kind of fatigue or stress. Move forward with confidence and positivity this week. Be ready to face challenges, but try to stay away from negativity. Your hard work and positive thinking will lead you to success.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week, an ocean of new possibilities and opportunities is going to open up for you. You will be known for your creativity and thoughtfulness, and this will impress those close to you. This is the time when you can share your

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : JUNE 30 TO JULY 6 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA



**VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR
BEJAN DARUWALLA**

JUNE 30

Ganesha says, may your day be filled with joy and laughter. Today, you can spend the day jumping because you can do a lot of physical activity, which is a good thing. Both your mental health and your financial stability are at peace today. You and your partner need to make a mark on your work, and you're working day and night with your partner. Verily, one of you is uplifted and the other is well and uplifted. Everything can be fine. So be each other's biggest fans and cheerleaders.

JULY 1

Ganesha says today can be a wonderful day for your personal life, provided you stay focused and don't indulge in daydreaming. You need to be ready for a whole day of fun as you have a lot of plans. Try to be present as much as possible. Your love life is going great. Work on being more expressive and honest. Express your feelings more, it can give positive results for you as Venus is in your favor today. Lots of love and appreciation from family members can make you very happy today. You may experience a positive change in everyone's behavior towards you today, be it your partner, family, or friends, which may make you feel like the happiest person in the world today.

JULY 2

Ganesha says today you can experience a positive change in your life, which can keep you upbeat for the whole day. Today you are doing very well in your life. Consider that the stars are in your favor today. Your wealth and your love life can make people very jealous of the life you are living now. You may learn that whenever you talk about your happiness and your success, even your closest friends may not reflect the same happiness, which shows that they are truly happy for you. Work on being social and present yourself like you own every place you walk into. Don't let others' thoughts get in the way of your confidence today. Today is full of fun for you as you spend your time working and exploring nature.

JULY 3

Ganesha says today you may meet some positive people in your life and this may make you happy as well as motivate you to be the best version of yourself. Your cousins have planned an exciting and wonderful day for you. Your business can go very well for you today. May your loved ones shower you with praise and appreciation for whatever you have done to reach this point today. Everyone is happy about how well your relationship is going which is a positive highlight for

you today.

JULY 4

Ganesha says today you can get success in any work. If you are waiting for a promotion, then you can get good news today itself, so today is a very good day for you. There are indications of profit from speculative activities. May your good fame spread far and wide. May you have a nice day. Your hard work can attract success and also make your boss happy. You can organize your budget by date so that you know where to spend and where to save. Today you can take extra care in managing money. On the financial front, today your stars will shine brightly, so you can get a great deal of property.

JULY 5

Ganesha says today you can try to implement new ideas which can prove to be beneficial for you in the long run. A courageous attitude can get you places. You are likely to do whatever your heart desires. You and your partner can spend quality time with each other today. Today you can also plan for a road trip. If you are unmarried then you can get married soon. May you have an exceptionally good day. You may meet your old friend who may bring back your happy memories.

JULY 6

Ganesha says your health is doing much better than last few days. You can feel like a new person today in a day full of energy and enthusiasm. You and your partner can enjoy your day together. You and your partner may share a lot of feelings today, which may bring you closer and which may help you understand each other. You are likely to take work one step at a time, which may help you stay focused at work. Your focus can help you enjoy the perks of your profession. Today your confidence level can be at its peak.

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CONTD FROM PAGE 42

ideas and establish collaborations with fellow people. Your mental health will remain strong this week, and you will be full of enthusiasm and energy. However, you will need to maintain your inner emotional balance. Paying attention to an old issue will give you mental clarity. Organizing your thoughts and expressing yourself as needed will be important. On the work front, a new source of inspiration will come your way. If you are working on a new project, your efforts to complete it will be successful. Promote communication with people in your network, as it can benefit your professional life. Behave with sensitivity and understanding in your relationships. It is time to strengthen your bonds, taking care of the feelings of your partner or close friend. Time spent with family will bring satisfaction and joy to your life. This week is an excellent chance to understand yourself and take steps towards your dreams. Reveal your artistic side and focus on your purpose.

PISCES

Ganesha says this week will bring many new possibilities and



opportunities for you. Your creativity and sensitivity will be at their peak at this time, allowing you to form deep connections with people around you. This week will infuse new energy into your relationships. If you are single, there is a possibility of meeting someone

special. Do not hesitate to share your heart's feelings. Your hard work and dedication at work will be appreciated by your colleagues and superiors. Your ideas are likely to be recognized at this time. But be patient and do not rush. From a financial point of view, this week is a good time to implement financial plans. Pay attention to your expenses and

take appropriate steps to save. In terms of health, consider doing yoga or meditation to relieve stress. Maintaining your mental health will also be important this week. Overall, this week is a time of positive changes and satisfaction for Pisces people. Listen to your inner voice and move forward with positivity.

|| 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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SAAWA SUMMER ROBOTICS PROGRAM

JULY 14-25, 2025
10:00AM - 2:00PM

**ARYA SAMAJ OF
LONG ISLAND**

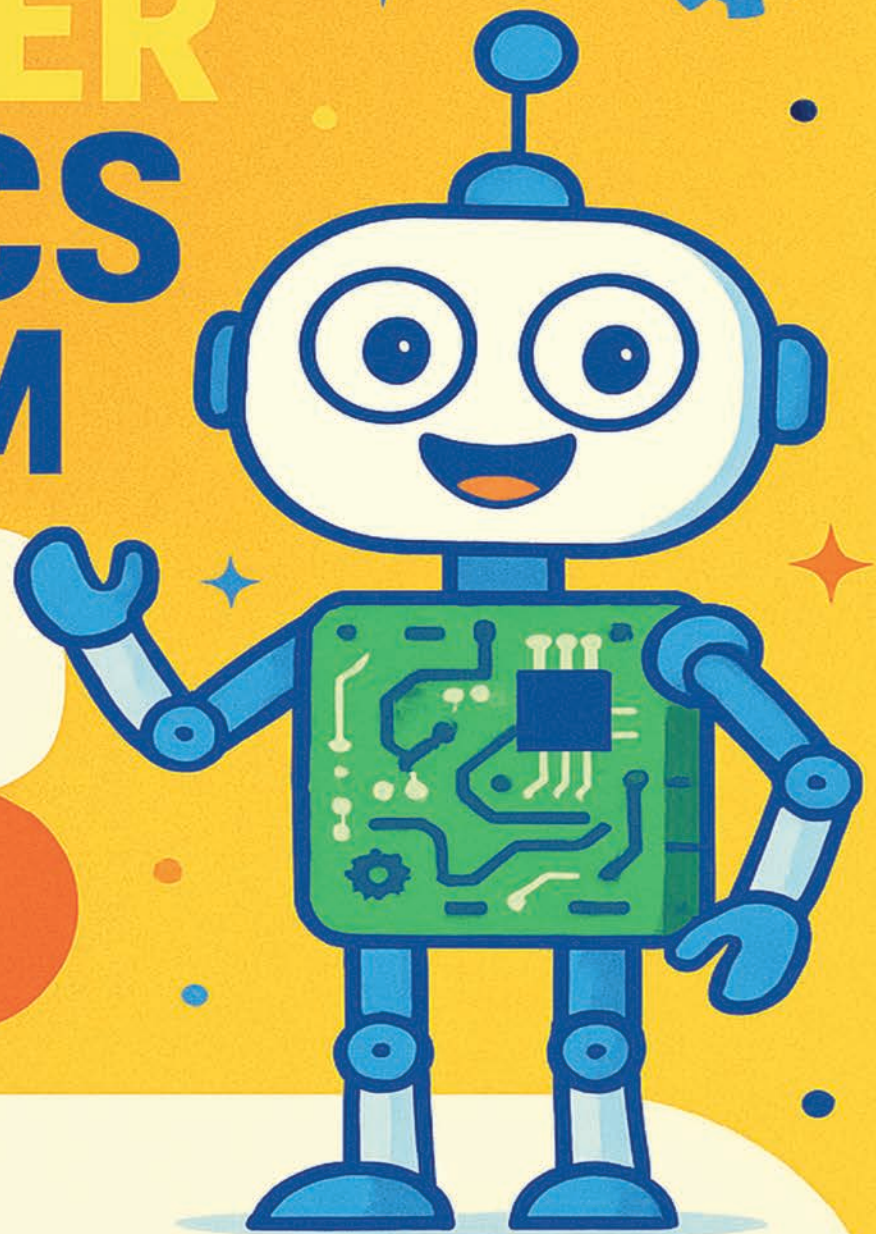
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For further information contact
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Sikh History This Week

JUNE 27 TO JULY 3

27th June

1745 Nawab Zakaria Khan's orders were carried out and Bhai Taru's scalp was removed. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world.



1839 Maharaja Ranjit Singh passed away in Lahore. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the great ruler of Punjab for 40 years, breathed his last at 7 P.M. on this day and thus the most brilliant period of Sikh history came to a close.

28th June



1984 Ujagar Singh, acting President, Akali Dal and Atma Singh, acting President SGPC were arrested from their temporary offices in Sri Guru Ram Das hospital. These arrests were conducted to sabotage the Akali Dal meeting announced for Jun. 29, 1984.

1996 Kamaljit Singh Sandhu's body found in a canal. He was one of the seven convicts in the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Boeing on August 23, 1984.

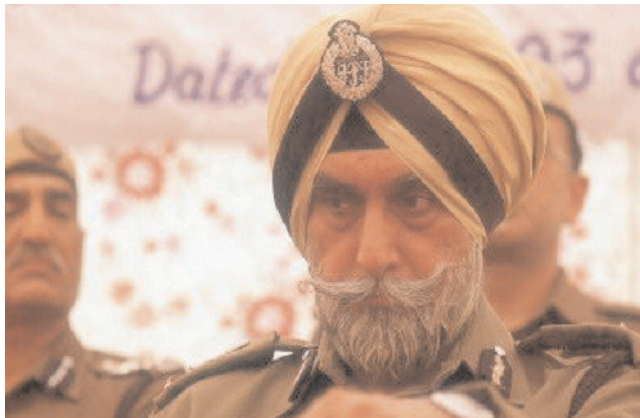
29th June

1924: 7th and 8th Sahidhi Jathas of 500 Akali Satyagrahis each, under the leadership of Karmveer Sardar Pratap Singh of Kuradpur (Jalandhar) and Sardar Man Singh Hunboo (Shakhupuraa) respectively, courted arrests upon reaching Jaito.



1984 First meeting of Akali Dal in Darbar Sahib,

Amritsar, after Operation Bluestar. This meeting strongly condemned the attack and its resulting destruction, innocents killed.



K.P.S. Gill became the new Director General of Police in Punjab.

30th June



1813 Raja Karam Singh became Maharaja of Patiala. Raja Karam succeeded Maharaja Sahib Singh at the age of 15. He helped the British in the conflict with the Gorkhas and was rewarded with 16 parganas (district sub-divisions) in Simla Hills as gifts.

1984 Indian government presents its inquiry finding into the operation Bluestar in form of a White paper. Then Governor of Punjab, B.D. Panday resigns.

1989 Babbar Khalsa International Conference, Montreal. Babbar Khalsa organization in Canada held its first conference in Montreal to commemorate the Sikh martyrs who laid their lives for the cause of the Sikh nation. The devout Babbars urged Sikhs to observe memories of their courage annually. About 500 Sikhs attended the conference.

1st July

1745 Martyrdom day of Bhai Taru Singh Ji, in



Lahore. Bhai Taru Singh left his mortal remains. On Harbhagat Naranjania's complaint, Bhai Taru Singh of his village was arrested and accused of providing rations to the Sikhs. Bhai Taru Singh admitted the facts. Nawab Zakaria Khan ordered the removal of his scalp. Bhai Taru Singh said that the Governor would suffer as much torture. And Bhai Taru would take Zakaria Khan along with him to the other world. The Nawab's orders were carried out on June 27, 1745. The same day Zakaria Khan's urinary system stopped functioning, putting him in great pain. The Qazi addressed Bhai Taru Singh Oh Kafir, what have you done? The Nawab can't urinate. He is in great pain. Bhai Taru Singh told him to take his shoe and beat it on Zakaria's head to make him urinate. On the fifth day of shoe beating, Zakaria Khan died on July 1, 1745. On hearing of that the same day Bhai Taru Singh left his mortal remains.

1918 Maharaja Ranjit Singh conquered Kashmir and combined it with Sikh State.

1983 By now Indian Government had given gallantry awards to over 50 policemen for killing Sikhs. This was done to boost the morale of the policemen as well as create terror among Sikhs.

1984 Regional Conference at Kamloops.

The attack on the Golden Temple by the Indian army struck the Sikh world like a thunderbolt. All shades of Canadian Sikhs came together at the desecration of the supreme emblem of their faith. Because of the shortage of time, the Sikh institution's executives decided to take the Canadian Sikhs into immediate confidence on the kind of action required. This was done by holding regional conferences at Kamloops and Toronto. The Kamloops conference was attended by representatives of all Sikh Societies from Western. While the Toronto Conference was attended by the societies of the eastern region. The Calgary Sikh Society, which was not on good terms with the federation, provided unqualified support for any action the Federation recommended.

2nd July

1978

Reorganisation Of The Sikh Students Federation. Amrik Singh elected the President of All India Sikh Federation.

The Sikh Students Federation was reorganized in response to the Amritsar massacre in which Nirankaris kill 13 Gursikhs who protested their provocations against



the Sikh faith. Since the elected official, while ruling Punjab, continually bowed before the Central (Hindu) Government and refused to ban the activities of this gang of bohemians. While simultaneously they addressed various Sikh congregations and spoke against the Nirankaris so that the Sikh masses should not become furious against them for their indifferent (or pro-Nirankari) attitude. Thus this became the starting point of the new phase of the struggle of the Sikh nation. The lead was given by the Sikh Youth under the guidance of the Sikh intelligentsia. They had to fight various platforms: the Hindus, the Communists and some of the pseudo-Akalis, who loved their office more than their nation.

Sacred sojourn in the Himalayas: The timeless journey of Amarnath Yatra

High in the Himalayan ranges of Jammu & Kashmir, nestled at an altitude of nearly 3,888 meters (12,756 feet), lies a cave of ice and silence — a sacred space where spirituality meets nature in its most sublime form. The Amarnath Yatra is more than a pilgrimage. It is a test of faith, endurance, devotion, and inner awakening, attracting lakhs of devotees from across India and the world. Amarnath Yatra will start on July 3, 2025, and end on August 9, 2025. This year Shri Amarnathji Yatra is 38 days long.

A Journey Etched in Faith

Every year, between June and August, thousands of devotees embark on the Amarnath Yatra to seek blessings of Lord Shiva, manifested in the form of a naturally occurring ice Lingam deep within the Amarnath Cave. As the moon waxes and wanes, so too does the size of the ice stalagmite - a phenomenon that many believe is divine.

The pilgrimage, spanning treacherous terrain and weather extremes, has earned a reputation not just for its religious significance but also for the remarkable physical and spiritual transformation it brings to the yatri (pilgrims).

The Route: Steps Toward the Divine

There are two primary routes to reach the Amarnath shrine:

Pahalgam Route (Traditional)

- Length: Approx. 45 km (one way)
- Key Stops: Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Sheshnag, Panchtarni, Amarnath Cave
- Considered more scenic, with views of alpine meadows, glacier-fed streams, and snow-capped peaks. This route requires a longer duration but offers ample opportunity for spiritual introspection.

Baltal Route (Shorter & Steeper)

- Length: Approx. 14 km (one way)
- Favored by younger or more experienced trekkers, this route is steep but can be completed within a day. Helicopter services are also available on this route for those unable to trek, but this year, there is no helicopter service due to security reasons following the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22 in which 26 people were killed.

Preparation: Physical, Mental, Spiritual

The high-altitude trek demands strong physical endurance and mental resilience. Pilgrims are advised to undergo medical checkups and start preparing weeks in advance with brisk



walking, breathing exercises, and yoga.

The journey tests the limits of the body but elevates the spirit. Along the route, one witnesses heartwarming sights - strangers helping each other, volunteers offering free food and shelter (langars), and the air echoing with chants of "Har Har Mahadev!" and "Bum Bum Bhole!"

The Ice Lingam: A Miracle of Nature

Inside the 130-foot-high Amarnath Cave, lies the holy Shiva Lingam, formed naturally from the freezing of water droplets. Flanked by smaller ice formations believed to represent Mata Parvati and Lord Ganesha, this ice Lingam is a mesmerizing marvel - a symbol of eternal, formless divinity.

Devotees wait for hours for darshan, often moved to tears upon beholding the icy deity. The spiritual vibrations inside the cave are palpable, as if time slows down in the presence of the divine.

Security: A High-Priority Mission

Given the geopolitical sensitivity of the region, the Amarnath Yatra is one of the most secure pilgrimages in India. The entire route is fortified with the presence of the Indian Army, CRPF, and Jammu & Kashmir Police. Medical camps, oxygen booths, and rescue stations are placed at regular intervals to ensure the safety of pilgrims. In recent years, technological advancements such as RFID tracking, online registration, and GPS mapping have further improved the logistics of the yatra.

The Legend and History of Amarnath

The sanctity of the Amarnath Cave is

woven into the mystical fabric of Hindu mythology and oral tradition. To truly understand the spiritual gravity of this yatra, one must journey back not only through geography, but through time - into the very heart of a divine love story and cosmic revelation.

The Immortal Tale: Amar Katha

According to Hindu lore, Goddess Parvati, consort of Lord Shiva, once asked him why he wore a garland of skulls. Shiva replied that each skull symbolized one of her previous births - as she had taken many incarnations and died, yet he remained the eternal, unchanged one.

This led Parvati to question the secret of immortality (Amar Tatva). Moved by her deep desire to understand this divine mystery, Shiva agreed to reveal the secret - but only in the most secluded and sacred place, where no living being could overhear.

Thus began their celestial journey. Shiva first left behind Nandi, his bull, at Pahalgam. At Chandanwari, he discarded the crescent moon from his matted hair. He released the five elements (Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Sky) at Panchatarani, and finally, he entered the Amarnath Cave, accompanied only by Parvati.

Before beginning his narration, Shiva created Rudra, a fiery being, and instructed him to eliminate every living creature nearby - including birds, insects, and animals - to ensure absolute secrecy. Then, inside the cave, he began revealing the Amar Katha - the profound secret of eternal life.

Unbeknownst to them, a pair of

pigeons had hidden in the cave and overheard the entire story. Having absorbed the divine truth, they too became immortal - and many pilgrims to this day report sightings of two pigeons near the cave, even in the freezing temperatures and high altitude. These pigeons are considered sacred symbols of the yatra's divine legacy.

Historical Mentions and Rediscovery

The earliest recorded reference to the Amarnath Cave dates back to Rajatarangini, the 12th-century historical chronicle written by Kalhana, which mentions pilgrimages to sacred Himalayan sites. While it is likely that locals and ascetics knew of the cave for centuries, organized pilgrimage in its modern form became prominent much later.

In popular accounts, it is said that the cave was rediscovered by a Muslim shepherd named Buta Malik in the 15th century. Legend has it that a wandering sage gave young Buta a bag of coal, which miraculously turned into gold upon reaching home. When he rushed back to thank the sage, the man had vanished - and in his place stood the entrance to the sacred cave of Amarnath. Malik is believed to have shared this discovery with locals, and the cave has since become a prominent site of pilgrimage.

To this day, the descendants of Buta Malik are traditionally accorded a share in the offerings made by devotees at the shrine, signifying the syncretic spirit of the region and the shared guardianship of sacred space.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Indian-origin Zohran Mamdani, 33, wins Democratic race for New York Mayor polls

The primary winner will go on to face incumbent Adams, a Democrat who decided to run as an independent amid a public uproar over his indictment on corruption charges and the subsequent abandonment of the case by Trump's Justice Department.

Republican Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the Guardian Angels, will be on the ballot in the fall's general election. There is also a possibility that Cuomo runs on the November ballot.

The mayoral primary's two leading candidates - one a fresh-faced progressive and the other an older moderate - could be stand-ins for the larger Democratic Party's ideological divide, though Cuomo's scandal-scarred past adds a unique tinge to the narrative.

(With inputs from Agencies)

Very big deal coming, says Trump

Trump also said the US was "starting to open up China" also.

"Things that never really could have happened, and the relationship with every country has been very good," Trump said without elaborating on details of the deal signed with China.

Trump's comments on the deal with India came as Indian chief negotiator Rajesh Agarwal reached Washington to resume talks as the deadline to finalize the issue looms. Trump had suspended reciprocal tariffs until July 9. Once the deadline ends, a 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on India would kick in.

Back in India, the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said a trade

agreement with the US should not be politically driven or one-sided and India should protect its farmers, digital ecosystem and policy space.

The economic think tank on Friday, June 27, said the more likely outcome of the negotiations could be a limited trade pact styled after the US-UK trade deal announced on May 8.

GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said, "A trade deal with the US must not be politically driven...it must protect our farmers, digital ecosystem and sovereign regulatory space."

The Ax-4 crew had docked their Dragon C-213 spacecraft with the ISS at about 4.15 pm IST on June 26, and entered the space station about two hours later to meet up with the seven residents of the station who form part of Expedition-73.

"The Ax-4 and Exp 73 crews are now living and working together aboard the orbital outpost and preparing for new space research and the departure of a cargo ship," the ISS official handle posted in the wee hours of Saturday.

The Ax-4 mission was launched on June 25 from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida by a Falcon-9 rocket, which had propelled the Dragon spacecraft into orbit for a 28-hour journey to reach the ISS. The mission is being executed jointly by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, a US government agency, SpaceX and Axiom Space, both of which are private space technology firms.

Shubhanshu Shukla and his Axiom-4 crew launch into intensive space research

Shukla, an Indian Air Force fighter

pilot and test pilot who goes by the call-sign 'Shux', was the pilot of the Dragon spacecraft as it orbited the Earth several times to meet up with the ISS at an altitude of about 420 kms and at a speed of over 26,000 kmph.

Other members of the crew include the mission commander, Peggy Whitson, among US' most experienced astronauts and commander of Axiom-2, and mission specialists S?awosz Uzna?ski-Wi?niewski, a scientist from Poland and Tibor Kapu, an engineer from Hungary.

The crew will undertake around 60 scientific studies and activities covering a wide range of topics such as medical support for diabetic astronauts, effects of microgravity on the brain and body, and the collection of vital health data.

The impact of space travel on joints, blood flow, stem cells, cancer growth, and radiation exposure are other areas of research. This is expected to enhance global knowledge in human research, Earth observation, biological and material sciences.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has an expansive programme on space research, including proposed manned missions and launching a space station, is focusing on advancing microgravity research aboard the ISS to enhance understanding of biological processes in microgravity and develop strategies for long-duration space missions.

Shukla's research agenda includes investigating physical and cognitive impact of computer screens in microgravity, studying growth, metabolism and genetics of three

microalgae strains in microgravity as compared to that on Earth and comparing growth, cellular responses and biochemistry of two cyano-bacteria strains in microgravity.

Also, on his schedule are identifying pathways of skeletal muscle dysfunction in microgravity and exploring therapies, examining spaceflight impacts on six crop seed varieties, investigating the impacts of spaceflight on germination and growth of crop seeds and identifying molecular mechanisms of resilience in extreme environments. His experience in manned space flight would be an important element in the research, planning and execution of the programme.

Punjab cadre IPS officer Parag Jain to head R&AW, played key role in Op Sindoor

Jain is a 1989-batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre.

He will succeed Ravi Sinha, who completes his tenure on June 30.

Sinha is a 1988 batch IPS officer of Chhattisgarh cadre.

Jain is currently heading the Aviation Research Centre, which played a vital role during 'Operation Sindoor' by collecting intelligence on the Pakistani armed forces.

Jain has previously served as Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Chandigarh, and has represented India in Canada and Sri Lanka.

He has also been posted in Jammu and Kashmir, where he played an important role in the Centre's counter-terrorism strategy in the strife-torn Union Territory.

Continued from page 22

GOPIO and Indian Consulate Celebrate International Day of Yoga 2025 Hosted by Happy Life Yoga Guru and Filmmaker Tirlok Malik

Speakers included Professor Indrajit Saluja (Chief Editor, The Indian Panorama), Indu Jaiswal (Chairperson, Indian American Forum), Beena Kothari (President, GOPIO New York & AIA NY), Giving Back Foundation Founder and CEO Meera Gandhi (gave her greetings via a message), Lotus in the MUD Founder Parveen Chopra, Vegan Ambassador Anil Narang, Dr. Renee Mehrra (South Asian Broadcast Journalist), Young Filmmaker Sneha Jain and Neha Lohia (gave her greetings via a message). Each speaker shared their mantra, which was very valuable.

Participants joined across the globe notably from USA, Canada, African Continent, India, Mexico, New Zealand, etc. including Global Peace Secretariat Founder and Social Activist Kumu Gupta, AIA National President Gobind Munjal, GOPIO Woman's Council Co-Chair Jayashri Chintalapudi and GOPIO Life Member and community leader from New Zealand Suman Kapoor.

The event was energetic, knowledgeable, inspiring, and celebratory. Tirlok Malik, Emmy-nominated filmmaker and Happy Life Yoga speaker (no mats needed!), hosted the session and interacted with all the prominent speakers on the panel to discover their mantras for happiness.

He led so many laughs and let other speakers lead a laughter session; there was much laughter. Emphasizing Yoga's growing importance in today's

world, Malik explains his vision behind Happy Life Yoga as "a way of living inspired by the wisdom of Ayurveda, Yoga, and Indian Philosophy."

This interactive global workshop encouraged loving yourself, eating right, thinking right, and moving right. It's your responsibility to take care of your happiness and health using the tools shared by Malik and other speakers. Tirlok Malik has conducted over 100 Happy Life Yoga workshops in five years.

Bhavya Gupta (Founding Member of GOPIO Manhattan) and Shivender Sofat (President & Founding Member of GOPIO Manhattan) have been organizing IDY every year since past four years with support from Consulate General of India, Happy Life Yoga and various organizations locally.

GOPIO International Secretary Siddharth Jain (Founding Member of GOPIO Manhattan) gave a vote of thanks to all the speakers and the audience. He ended the session leading a laughter session. GOPIO-Manhattan, in accordance with its mission to serve the larger society and those in need, has taken several initiatives since its founding in 2020.

GOPIO-Manhattan, in accordance with its mission to serve the larger society and those in need, has taken several initiatives since its founding in 2020. A Community Feeding is organized by the Chapter providing a vegetarian lunch for the homeless and needy at Tomkins Square Park in Manhattan on the last Monday of every month. The chapter appeals to the community to support the initiative by being a volunteer and/or a sponsor.

Get to the Point

#1

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Kaas Plateau & Panchgani: Maharashtra's blossoming hill retreats

Imagine walking through a natural canvas painted with thousands of wildflowers — delicate orchids, fiery red balsams, buttery yellow smithia, and rare blues of the *Utricularia*, all set against rolling green hills under a monsoon-kissed sky. Welcome to Kaas Plateau, Maharashtra's own Valley of Flowers, and the nearby colonial-era hill station of Panchgani — a duo that promises both tranquility and spectacle in the heart of the Western Ghats.

Kaas Plateau: The Valley of Flowers of the Sahyadris

A UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site since 2012, the Kaas Plateau (Kaas Pathar) is a lateritic plateau located at 1,200 meters above sea level. For most of the year, it looks like any other highland, but come late August through September, it transforms into a carpet of wildflowers, drawing botanists, photographers, and nature lovers from across the country.

Panchgani: Colonial Charm Meets Tabletop Vistas

Set at an altitude of 1,334 meters, Panchgani derives its name from the five hills surrounding it. A former British summer retreat, Panchgani today is known for its boarding schools, strawberry farms, and mist-laden viewpoints.

Nearby Attractions Around Kaas Plateau & Panchgani

The Satara and Panchgani region is a treasure trove of ecological diversity, monsoon-fed beauty, and cultural history. Here's a detailed guide to the best places to visit around Kaas Plateau and Panchgani, perfect for a multi-day getaway.

Kaas Lake (3 km from Kaas Plateau)

A tranquil artificial lake built for water conservation, Kaas Lake is surrounded by undulating hills and forest patches. Often overlooked by tourists, it's an ideal spot to relax after exploring the plateau.

Highlights:

- Peaceful ambience
- Ideal for photography and birdwatching
- Sunset point with reflection views

Thoseghar Waterfalls (24 km from Kaas)

A collection of cascading waterfalls ranging from 15 to 200 meters in height, Thoseghar is one of the most spectacular sights during monsoon. The falls tumble into deep gorges surrounded by thick forests and mist.

- Best time: July to October
- Facilities: Viewing platform, small food stalls
- Nearby: Chalkewadi Windmill Plateau

Chalkewadi Windmill Farm

One of the largest windmill farms in



Asia, this plateau-like area is dotted with dozens of giant windmills, offering a surreal landscape and cool breezes. It's perfect for a quick stopover while heading to or from Thoseghar.

Experience:

- Windmill-lined roads

- Panoramic valley views
- Great for monsoon photography

Sajjangad Fort

A sacred hill fort that houses the Samadhi of Sant Samarth Ramdas, spiritual mentor of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. The fort is now a pilgrimage

site and a serene place for reflection and light trekking.

Key Highlights

- Moderate climb with well-maintained steps
- Free food (prasadalay) served to visitors
- Spiritual ambience with chanting and bhajans

Bamnoli Village & Shivsagar Lake

A quaint village on the banks of Shivsagar Lake, formed by the backwaters of the Koyna Dam. It serves as a boating point to reach Tapola and Vasota Fort (by special permission).

Activities:

- Motorboat rides through misty valleys
- Birdwatching (kingfishers, herons)
- Gateway to Vasota Fort jungle trek

Vasota Fort & Nageshwar Cave

An offbeat adventure destination, Vasota Fort is hidden deep within the Koyna Wildlife Sanctuary. Accessible only by a boat ride and a 6 km trek through the jungle, it's perfect for experienced trekkers and nature lovers.

Permit Required: Forest permission from Satara forest office

Why Visit:

- Dense forest trail
- Panoramic view from the ruined fort
- Nageshwar cave temple en route

Mahabaleshwar

One of Maharashtra's most famous hill stations, Mahabaleshwar offers cool climate, lush greenery, and colonial charm.

Must-Visit Spots:

- Arthur's Seat - Queen of viewpoints, with deep valley vistas
- Venna Lake - Boating, horse riding, and street food
- Pratapgad Fort - Historic 17th-century fort built by Shivaji Maharaj
- Old Mahabaleshwar Temple - Ancient Shiva temple and source of five rivers

Tapola - The Mini Kashmir of the West

Located at the confluence of the Koyna and Solshi rivers, Tapola is a hidden gem perfect for a quiet weekend. Often called "Mini Kashmir" for its serene lake and shikara-like boat rides.

What to Do:

- Kayaking, boating, water scooter rides
- Farm stays and camping
- Visit strawberry farms and organic gardens

History This Week

JUNE 27 - JULY 03

JUNE 27



Birthdays - American musician Mildred J. Hill (1859-1916) was born in Louisville, Kentucky. She composed the melody for what is now the world's most often sung song, Happy Birthday to You.

JUNE 28

June 28, 1862 - During the American Civil War, the siege of the Confederate city of Vicksburg began as Admiral David Farragut succeeded in taking a fleet past the Mississippi River stronghold. The siege continued over a year.



June 28, 1914 - Archduke Francis Ferdinand, Crown Prince of Austria and his wife were assassinated at Sarajevo, touching off a conflict between the Austro-Hungarian government and Serbia that escalated into World War I.

June 28, 1919 - The signing of the Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I. According to the terms, Germany was assessed sole blame for the war, forced give up Alsace-Lorraine and overseas colonies, and pay reparations of \$15 Billion. The treaty also prohibited German rearmament.

Birthdays - Flemish painter and diplomat Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) was born in Siegen, Westphalia, Germany. Regarded as the greatest of Flemish painters, he was considered the master artist of his day. He was also skilled in science and politics and spoke seven languages. Among his masterpieces; Le Coup de Lance and The Descent from the Cross.

Birthdays - Philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) was born in Geneva, Switzerland. His book The Social Contract stated that no laws are binding unless agreed upon by the people, a concept that deeply affected the French. In his novel Emile he challenged harsh child-rearing methods of his day and argued that young people should be

given freedom to enjoy sunlight, exercise and play. "Man is born free," he wrote in The Social Contract, "and everywhere he is in chains."

Birthdays - German-American physicist Maria Goeppert Mayer (1906-1972) was born in Kattowitz, Germany. She participated in the secret Manhattan Project, the building of the first atomic bomb. She later became the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize, sharing the 1963 prize for physics for works explaining atomic nuclei, known as the nuclear shell theory.

JUNE 29

June 29, 1972 - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that capital punishment was a violation of the Eighth Amendment prohibiting "cruel and unusual punishment." The decision spared the lives of 600 individuals then sitting on death row. Four years later, in another ruling, the Court reversed itself and determined the death penalty was not cruel and unusual punishment. On October 4, 1976, the ban was lifted on the death penalty in cases involving murder.



Birthdays - Social worker Julia Lathrop (1858-1932) was born in Rockford, Illinois. She fought to establish child labor laws and was instrumental in establishing the first juvenile court in the U.S. In 1912, President Taft named her to head the newly created Children's Bureau. In 1925, she became a member of the Child Welfare Committee of the League of Nations.

Birthdays - American surgeon William Mayo (1861-1939) was born in LeSeuer, Minnesota. He was one of the Mayo brothers, pioneers of the concept of the group clinic, bringing together specialists from a number of medical fields to better perform diagnoses and treatment. The Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, became an internationally known medical center.

JUNE 30

June 30, 1971 - The 26th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was enacted, granting the right to vote in all federal, state and local elections to American citizens 18 years or older. The U.S. thus gained an additional 11 million voters. The minimum voting age in most states had been 21.

June 30, 1997 - In Hong Kong, the flag of the British Crown Colony was officially lowered at midnight and replaced by a new flag representing China's sovereignty and the official transfer of power.

JULY 1



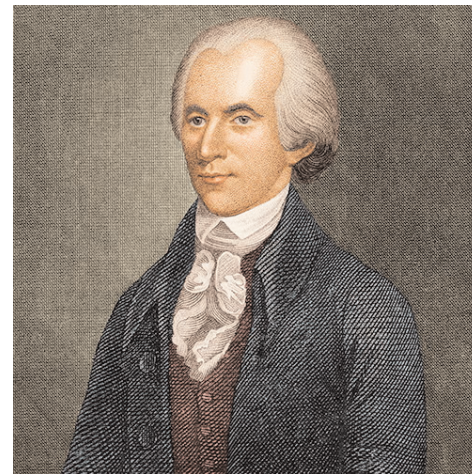
July 1st - Canada Day, a national holiday in Canada, formerly known as Dominion Day, commemorating the confederation of Upper and Lower Canada and some of the Maritime Provinces into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.

July 1, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of \$600-\$10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over \$10,000. Also on this day, the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

July 1, 1863 - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

July 1, 1893 - President Grover Cleveland underwent secret cancer surgery aboard a yacht owned by his friend, Commodore E.C. Benedict. The surgery was performed on a cancerous growth in his mouth. The entire left side of his jaw was removed along with a small portion of his soft palate. A second, smaller operation was performed on July 17th. Cleveland was then fitted with a rubber prosthesis which he wore until his death in 1908. The secrecy was intended to prevent panic among the public during the economic depression of 1893.

JULY 2



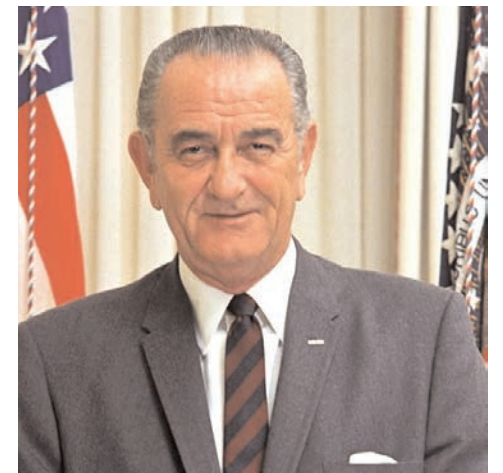
July 2, 1776 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

July 2, 1788 - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American

government.

July 2, 1881 - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington, D.C. He died on September 19th.

July 2, 1917 - A race riot occurred in St. Louis, Missouri, resulting in an estimated 75 African Americans killed and hundreds injured. To protest the violence against blacks, W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson later led a silent march down Fifth Avenue in New York.



July 2, 1964 - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership and in voter registration. The Act allowed for cutoff of Federal funds in places where discrimination remained.

Birthdays - The first African American on the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by President Johnson, he began his 24-year career on the High Court in 1967.

JULY 3



July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 3, 1976 - The raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner. The jet had been en route from Tel Aviv to Paris when it was hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas. Three hostages, seven hijackers and twenty Ugandan soldiers were killed during the rescue.

July 3, 1988 - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

0-1 down, India face the Bumrah question ahead of Edgbaston Test

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Will Jasprit Bumrah play in the second Test at Edgbaston? That is the biggest question facing the Indian team management as it looks to draw parity against England after losing the series opener from a commanding position at Leeds.

In his media interaction post the five-wicket loss on day five, head coach Gautam Gambhir made it clear that there will be no change in the workload of injury-prone pace spearhead Bumrah, who is slated to play three out of five Tests in the English summer.

With the first Test ending on June 24 and the next beginning on July 2, there is enough time for Bumrah to recover but only he knows best about his body.

Bumrah, the only bowler who consistently posed a challenge for the English batters, took a five-wicket haul in the first innings and delivered an overall 44.4 overs in the match.

A pace attack without Bumrah makes the opposition's task significantly easier and increases the Indian team's headache, over deciding which of the two remaining Tests its trump card could be a part of.

The management, thus, would have had a much easier decision to make had Shubman Gill and Co gone to Birmingham 1-0 up.

"That is a tough call indeed for the team management. He should ideally play when the series is alive but the management knows best on how to manage his workload," former India chief selector MSK Prasad told PTI.

A BCCI source added: "Bumrah has close to a week's gap between first and second Tests. So the decision rests with



chief selector Ajit Agarkar, Gautam Gambhir and Shubman Gill. They might assess him a day before the Test, and take a final call."

There is only a three-day gap between second and third Test, scheduled at Lord's from July 10-14; therefore, Bumrah is certain not to feature in both the games.

"We won't change the plans," said Gambhir on Tuesday when asked

whether the team management will push Bumrah to play four Tests.

"For us to manage his workload is more important because there's a lot of cricket going forward and we know what he brings on the table as well. Before he came on the tour, it was already decided that he's going to play three Test matches."

Edgbaston or Lord's? Gambhir and Co clearly have a tough call to make.



Jofra Archer

England add Jofra Archer to squad for second Test against India

Four years after his last Test, Jofra Archer has been named in England's squad for the second Test against India that starts from July 2 in Birmingham. The fast bowlers, whose career was stalled by recurrent elbow injuries and stress fractures, made his first-class return for Sussex last week against Durham, where he bowled 18 overs and picked a wicket and told reporters that he "felt all right."

"I've been playing for a year, and bowling for two years, including the build-up, so everything is fine. Now it's a different challenge, because I know my body can hold up to it. The mental part of the game [will be tough]. Over the next couple of days, I'm going to have to battle a bit with it, but it's all good. It's a new challenge, and I'll keep trucking along," he would say.

Whether he would be an automatic choice in the eleven that faces India is a different question after England's seamer rallied back after a torrid first day in Leeds on a surface that hardly offered them any assistance. Some of pundits like Michael Vaughan opined that he should not be rushed back into the eleven, even though that would bolster England's firepower. Apart from Josh Tongue, intermittently, none had nudged 140kph and when the surface was flat, they missed the sheer pace of someone like Archer and Mark Wood, who is likely to feature in the fifth Test.

England Men's Test Squad:

Ben Stokes (Durham) – Captain, Jofra Archer (Sussex), Shoaib Bashir (Somerset), Jacob Bethell (Warwickshire), Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Brydon Carse (Durham), Sam Cook (Essex), Zak Crawley (Kent), Ben Duckett (Nottinghamshire), Jamie Overton (Surrey), Ollie Pope (Surrey), Joe Root (Yorkshire), Jamie Smith (Surrey), Josh Tongue (Nottinghamshire) and Chris Woakes (Warwickshire).

Wimbledon: Now or never for Djokovic?

LONDON (TIP)

With a heavily strapped right knee, Novak Djokovic competed in and reached the final of Wimbledon last year. This was just a few weeks after he underwent surgery to repair a torn medial meniscus. He played on one fit leg and still managed to get through to the final without much of a challenge. Then came the straight-set loss to Carlos Alcaraz.

In many ways, that run to the final at Wimbledon, the most prestigious of all the Grand Slams, gives an indicator of how the tournament could shape up this year in the men's singles event. In Alcaraz and Djokovic, there are, arguably, only two players wholly comfortable with the nuances of playing on grass.



With the ball staying low and zipping through on the bounce, playing at Wimbledon just weeks after the high-bounce-and-slow-ball clay season ends is

considered one of the most difficult transitions in the sport. But it is in this turnaround where Djokovic may find his best – and possibly last – shot at winning a 25th Grand Slam title.

Djokovic is all that remains of the golden era of men's tennis. But at the French Open earlier this month, he gave a first great indicator that the end is probably near for him too.

As he walked off Court Philippe-Chatrier after a semi-final defeat against Jannik Sinner, Djokovic paused, acknowledged the crowd and touched the red clay surface before walking out. He later mentioned that "it could have been the last match" he ever played at the Parisian major. If that was indeed the last time, he left as the greatest Grand Slam player in the Open Era.



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"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses, and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

Peter J McDonnell, MD Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins



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In 2018 Prasanth, Sushanth and Nisanth were diagnosed and treated for Prematurity Retinopathy. An illness in premature babies which can cause blindness.

Luckily through GEMROP an initiative funded by EFA to screen premature babies throughout hospitals in India, the triplets were able to receive an expensive surgery free of charge. The boys are now the age of 4 with perfect vision.