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U.N. CUTS INDIA'S 2025 GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.3% FROM 6.6%, IN LINE WITH SLOWING GLOBAL GROWTH



The U.N.'s mid-year update of its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 report has projected global growth to slow to 2.4% in calendar year 2025

MAY 16, 2025

UNITED NATIONS (TIP): The United Nations has lowered its growth projections for India for this year and the next, to 6.3% and 6.4%, respectively. These are both 0.3 percentage points lower than its earlier projections. This is also in line with the slower growth projected for the global economy due to heightened trade tensions and with policy uncertainty.

The U.N.'s mid-year update of its World Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 report released on Friday (May 16, 2025) has projected global growth to slow to 2.4% in calendar year 2025 and to 2.5% in 2026, both of which are lower by 0.4 percentage points than the projections made in January.

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Trump wraps up Mideast tour with a visit to interfaith place of worship

President Donald Trump arrived in the United Arab Emirates Thursday, May 15, for the last leg of his first major foreign trip.

MAY 16, 2025

ABU DHABI (TIP): U.S. President Donald Trump wrapped up a Mideast tour in the United Arab Emirates with a breakfast for business leaders and a visit to an interfaith place of worship named for the Abraham Accords he negotiated.

As part of the accords, the UAE and some other countries in the Middle East recognized Israel. Mr. Trump then left Abu Dhabi after his visit to the Abraham Family House.

During his visit to the region, violence flared in the West Bank, with more than 120 people being killed in Gaza.

Trump says the U.S. and Iran have 'sort of' agreed on the terms for a nuclear deal.

President Donald Trump arrived in the United Arab Emirates Thursday, May 15, for the last leg of his first major foreign trip. Air Force One was given a fighter jet escort into the country's airspace, just as Saudi Arabia and Qatar

CONTD ON PAGE 38



U.S. President Donald J Trump tours the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (R) and Dr. Yousef Al-Obaidi, Director-General of the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Center (SZGMC) and Ameena Alhammedi (L), Acting Director of Culture and Knowledge Department of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre, May 15, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Photo Credit: Getty Images

U.S. Supreme Court could block Trump's birthright citizenship order but limit nationwide injunctions



The justices heard arguments in the Trump administration's emergency appeals over lower court orders that have kept the citizenship restrictions on hold across the country.

The U.S. top court debates Trump's birthright citizenship restrictions, nationwide injunctions, and potential impact on immigration laws

MAY 16, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The U.S. Supreme Court seemed intent on Thursday, May 15, 2025, on maintaining a block on President Donald Trump's restrictions on birthright citizenship while looking for a way to scale back nationwide court orders.

It was unclear what such a decision might look like, but a majority of the court expressed concerns about what would happen if the Trump administration were allowed, even temporarily, to deny citizenship to children born to people who are in the United States illegally.

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Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra designated India's Ambassador to Romania

MAY 15, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, currently India's Ambassador to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, has been designated Ambassador to Romania. He is expected to take charge in mid-July.

Dr. Mohapatra is a 2000 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. He was posted as the Ambassador of India to Guatemala in December 2021. His earlier postings have been Minister (Commerce), Embassy of India, Washington, July 2019-2021; Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, 2017-2019; Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of India, New York, 2014-2017; Counsellor, Embassy of India, Dhaka, 2013-2014; First Secretary, Embassy of



Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra in his office in Guatemala City

CONTD ON PAGE 38



NJ Transit strike begins, halting all trains across N.J.

MAY 15, 2025

NEWARK, NJ (TIP): NJ Transit engineers announced late Thursday, May 15 evening, that contract negotiations between the union and the transit agency failed to reach an agreement and that the union was going on strike. NJ Transit and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen had been negotiating up until the deadline.

CONTD ON PAGE 38

The Strike would strand 350 K Riders



Andy Singh

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COMMENT

Trump's Middle East Foray and the Redefinition of U.S. Foreign Policy

By Indrajit Saluja



President Donald Trump's recent tour of the Middle East in May 2025 has laid bare the contours of a new U.S. foreign policy-one that unapologetically prioritizes economic interests over traditional diplomatic alliances or democratic advocacy. By focusing his attention on Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Trump signaled not only a departure from the post-WWII American posture of promoting liberal values but also a reconfiguration of geopolitical strategies that places commerce, investment, and military sales at the core of Washington's engagement with the region.

This shift is neither accidental nor without precedent. It is, in fact, the natural evolution of Trump's "America First" doctrine-now manifesting itself in the international arena as an aggressive pursuit of economic partnerships designed to bolster domestic growth, secure American industry, and entrench U.S. commercial dominance. But while this transactional approach may yield impressive short-term gains in terms of trade and defense contracts, it also raises critical questions about the ethical and strategic costs of abandoning the values that once underpinned American diplomacy.

Trump's visit was not one of symbolic diplomacy or subtle statesmanship; it was a high-stakes business tour dressed in presidential protocol. In Riyadh, the President clinched a staggering \$600 billion investment package alongside a \$142 billion defense deal-underscoring Saudi Arabia's continued strategic importance to Washington, particularly in the defense and energy sectors.

From Qatar came the announcement of a historic order: 210 Boeing jets, the largest in the company's history, followed by a bold pledge of \$1.2 trillion in U.S.-bound investment. The UAE also made its presence felt, committing over \$200 billion in agreements that focus heavily on emerging sectors like artificial intelligence and clean energy-sectors where the U.S. sees both economic opportunity and global leadership potential.

What ties these agreements together is their emphasis on mutual benefit rooted in material exchange. The old model of foreign aid and conditional diplomacy has been replaced by high-value contracts and quid pro quo partnerships, transforming America's role in the Middle East from that of ideological leader to commercial broker.

At home, the economic dividends are not insignificant. Trump has made job creation and industrial rejuvenation the cornerstone of his presidency, and these agreements-especially those in

aerospace, defense, and tech-may well create or sustain hundreds of thousands of American jobs. The optics of revitalizing U.S. manufacturing through foreign capital inflows play directly into Trump's political narrative ahead of the 2026 midterms and a likely 2028 successor race.

But the implications abroad are more complex.

By cementing deeper economic ties with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE, Washington is doubling down on its Gulf alliances, even as its traditional partners-such as Turkey, Egypt, and even Israel-navigate their own recalibrations of foreign policy. This selective partnership risks fragmenting the region's delicate balance of power. It also signals to allies and adversaries alike that U.S. favor can now be secured through economic alignment, not necessarily shared values.

foreign entanglements with self-sustaining economic relationships. But such logic may prove short-sighted. Economic partnerships, unlike alliances built on shared democratic ideals or security frameworks, are inherently fragile. They can be renegotiated, revoked, or redirected. Should another global power-say China or Russia-offer more attractive terms to these same Gulf nations, what is to stop them from pivoting away from Washington?

Moreover, in conflating economic might with diplomatic strength, the U.S. risks alienating parts of the world where democratic aspirations remain unfulfilled or under siege. In these places, America's past support of free media, judicial independence, and civic rights was seen not only as desirable but essential. The new model offers no such hope. It offers capital, contracts, and arms-but little in the way of moral or



Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani and US President Donald Trump at their bilateral meeting in Riyadh on May 21

Perhaps the most alarming aspect of this strategy is its implicit disinterest in the democratic credentials of America's partners. Saudi Arabia remains mired in controversy over human rights violations, the silencing of dissent, and the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Qatar and the UAE have also been scrutinized for labor abuses and restrictions on civil liberties. By rewarding these governments with massive economic deals without demanding reforms, the U.S. undermines its moral authority and sends a chilling message: economic utility now trumps ethical governance.

The Gulf nations still hold considerable sway over global energy markets. With closer trade integration, the U.S. could find itself increasingly entangled in oil diplomacy that pits short-term pricing stability against long-term climate commitments. Moreover, if economic leverage becomes the primary currency of bilateral relations, these countries may also gain undue influence over U.S. policy decisions-particularly in times of global energy crises or military conflicts.

There is no denying that Trump's approach has a clear logic: replace costly

ideological solidarity.

Trump's Middle East gambit is a clear indicator of where American foreign policy is headed under his renewed leadership: toward a future where financial transactions eclipse political transformations, and where statecraft becomes synonymous with deal-making. It is a bold vision, but it is also a risky one.

In the immediate term, the optics and economics may favor Trump. With hundreds of billions flowing into U.S. industries, he can rightfully claim to have reinvigorated key sectors of the American economy. But if this economic surge comes at the expense of America's global credibility, diplomatic trustworthiness, or ethical standing, it may leave a far more dangerous legacy.

America's greatest strength has never been merely its GDP or its military-it has been its ideals. Those ideals may not always win wars or balance budgets, but they inspire, they lead, and they endure. In treating foreign policy as a balance sheet, President Trump may be winning deals-but he may also be writing off the very values that once made American leadership worth following.

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INDIAN-ORIGIN STUDENT DIES AFTER FALLING FROM BALCONY DURING BAHAMAS TRIP



Gaurav Jaisingh, tragically died after falling from a hotel balcony during a senior class trip to the Bahamas

MAY 14, 2025

WALTHAM, MA (TIP): A Bentley University senior, Gaurav Jaisingh, tragically died after falling from a hotel balcony during a senior class trip to the Bahamas, just days before his scheduled graduation.

Bentley University is a private institution located in Waltham, Massachusetts, approximately 10 miles west of downtown Boston.

The incident occurred around 10 p.m. local time on Sunday, May 11, at the Atlantis Paradise Island Resort and Casino. Jaisingh was in his hotel room with roommates when he accidentally fell from an upper-level balcony. He was found unresponsive on a lower floor and succumbed to his injuries while being transported to the hospital.

Originally from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, Jaisingh was pursuing a bachelor's degree in finance with a minor in computer information systems. He had recently completed a summer internship at FactSet and was actively involved in various student organizations, including the professional business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi and the South Asian Students Association.

Bentley University described his death as an "enormous tragedy" and extended its deepest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones. The university is providing support resources to community members affected by this loss.

Local authorities in the Bahamas are continuing to investigate the incident, which is believed to have been accidental.

This heartbreaking event has cast a somber shadow over Bentley University's upcoming commencement ceremony, scheduled for May 17, 2025. Fellow students have expressed shock and sorrow over the loss of their classmate, remembering him as a bright and ambitious individual.

Indian-origin Scholar Badar Khan Suri Released from Immigration Detention

MAY 14, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Badar Khan Suri, an Indian postdoctoral fellow at Georgetown University, has been released from U.S. immigration detention following a ruling by U.S. District Judge Patricia Tolliver Giles that his prolonged detention likely violated constitutional protections. Suri was arrested in March 2025 amid a crackdown on foreign students accused of supporting Hamas or promoting antisemitism.

Suri's J-1 visa had been revoked by the Department of Homeland Security, citing pro-Palestinian social media posts and familial connections—specifically, a father-in-law who once served as an advisor to Hamas. Despite no direct evidence linking Suri to any criminal activity, federal agents detained him, sparking outrage among civil rights groups and the academic community.

Judge Giles ordered Suri's release on personal recognizance, stating that political speech—even by non-citizens—is protected under the First Amendment. She found the government's justification for his detention lacking and



Badar Khan Suri, arrested in March 2025 amid a crackdown on foreign students accused of supporting Hamas or promoting antisemitism, has been released from Immigration detention, following judicial intervention

emphasized that Suri posed no threat to the community.

Speaking to media after his release, a visibly emotional Suri said, "Justice delayed is justice denied. It took two months, but I'm extremely thankful that finally I'm free." He described his arrest as "Kafkaesque," recounting how masked, plainclothed officers apprehended him outside his apartment without explanation.

"They made a subhuman out of me. They took me from one center to another, not letting my family know, not letting me know that I have attorneys," he said.

Suri also expressed empathy for others still in detention: "I feel bad for the students who are still inside." A scholar of global conflict and religious relations, he added, "I've studied conflict around the world and have sympathies for Jews and Arabs. I thank Jewish people and rabbis who came out in support of me," AP quoted him as saying.

Suri, who came to the U.S. in 2022 for a fellowship at Georgetown's Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, is married to a U.S. citizen and is father to three children. While he is now reunited with his family in Virginia, deportation proceedings against him remain pending.

His legal team has vowed to fight the case, calling his detention retaliatory and unconstitutional. The outcome may set important precedents for academic freedom and the rights of international scholars in the United States.

Indian-origin techie Vishnu Irigireddy among 3 killed in tragic climbing accident in US



Vishnu, 48, a resident of Seattle, was attempting to climb North Early Winters Spire area of the Cascades along with his three friends, Tim Nguyen, Oleksander Martynenko, and Anton Tselykh, on Saturday, May 10, when the accident happened.

MAY 15, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP) : Indian-origin techie Vishnu Irigireddy was among the three persons killed in a tragic climbing accident in Washington state's North Cascades Range of western North America.

Vishnu, 48, a resident of Seattle, was attempting to climb North Early Winters Spire area of the Cascades along with his three friends, Tim Nguyen, 63, Oleksander Martynenko, 36 and Anton Tselykh, 38, on Saturday when the accident happened, NBC News reported.

The group noticed a storm coming and started to retreat when at some point during their descent, the team's anchor point failed and sent the group plunging 200 feet down, Climbing website reported.

Tselykh, the sole surviving climber, miraculously survived the dangerous fall and drove 64 kilometers to inform the authorities about the accident that killed his three friends.

Vishnu's friends and family describe him as an experienced climber "who found joy and purpose in nature." "Originally from India and a proud member of Seattle's vibrant tech and cultural community, Vishnu built a life that reflected his values—integrity, compassion, and a relentless pursuit of growth," a note by family and friends on remembr.com website said. According to a notice for his cremation ceremony, to be held on Thursday, his friends and family would be making donations to two non-profits to honor Vishnu, who they said had "developed an intense passion for mountaineering and climbing throughout his life."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indo-Canadian Punjabi businessman shot dead in Mississauga; assailants fired 15 rounds



Harjit Singh Dhadha was shot dead near the intersection of Telford Way and Derry Road in Mississauga

MAY 15, 2025

MISSISSAUGA (TIP) : A 50-year-old Punjabi businessman was shot dead outside his office in Mississauga, Canada, officials said on Thursday, May 15.

According to sources, Harjit Singh Dhadha was shot dead near the intersection of Telford Way and Derry Road. The incident has sent shockwaves through the local community, marking the sixth murder in the city since the beginning of the year. The Peel Regional Police have yet to officially confirm the victim's identity.

According to eyewitness accounts, Dhadha was near his car when unidentified assailants, believed to have been lying in wait, approached and fired 15-16 rounds before fleeing the scene. People in the parking lot ran for cover during the gunfire. An eyewitness said the gunmen exited a parked car, fired several shots at close range, and fled in the same vehicle.

A nearby law firm employee reported that a stray bullet entered their office and hit an empty chair—just moments after he had stood up, narrowly avoiding injury.

Dhadha was rushed to the hospital in critical condition but later succumbed to his injuries.

Police spokesperson Michael Stafford confirmed that the case has been handed over to investigators and that nearby CCTV footage is being reviewed in an effort to identify the suspects.

Dhadha, originally from Bajpur district in Uttarakhand, had migrated to Canada nearly 30 years ago. He went on to become a prominent businessman in the trucking services industry.

Close associates, speaking on condition of anonymity, revealed that Dhadha had recently received threats from Indian phone numbers. The threats had deeply unsettled him, and Peel Police had reportedly issued prior warnings concerning his safety.

Indian American lawmaker J.J. Singh secures \$55 million in tuition relief for Virginia students



Virginia Assembly's Indian American Delegate J.J. Singh's proposal to provide \$55 million in tuition relief for students at Virginia's public universities and community colleges has been signed into law.

MAY 12, 2025

RICHMOND, VA (TIP): Virginia Assembly's Indian American Delegate J.J. Singh's proposal to provide \$55 million in tuition relief for students at Virginia's public universities and community colleges has been signed into law.

The measure included in the final state budget released last week with

bipartisan support is aimed at easing the financial burden on college students and their families.

"Now, more than ever, we need to invest in our next generation and ensure every Virginia student can achieve the American dream," Singh, who represents Southeastern Loudoun County, posted on X.

Singh who was sworn in earlier this

year after winning a closely watched special election, pointed to the steep rise in tuition costs as a critical issue facing families across the Commonwealth.

"When I went to the University of Virginia, tuition, room, and board cost just \$15,000 per year; now it's over \$40,000," Singh wrote. "The rise in tuition is an epidemic plaguing the entire Commonwealth, and the country, for that matter. Students and families can't afford it. For any parents who can help, they have to choose whether to help their children or fund their own retirement."

The \$55 million in tuition relief will be directed toward Virginia's public universities and community colleges, with the aim of reducing student debt and making higher education more accessible.

"As elected officials, we have a duty to invest in the future of our Commonwealth, and no investment is more important than the education of the next generation," Singh stated.

Singh, the son of Indian immigrants and the first turbaned Sikh to serve in the U.S. Peace Corps, previously worked in the Obama administration's Office of Management and Budget. His focus on affordability and access has resonated with voters and colleagues alike during his first term in office.

INDIAN AMERICAN EXECUTIVE URVASHI SHIVDASANI JOINS R/GA AS GLOBAL CFO



Urvashi Shivdasani has joined creative agency R/GA as its new Global Chief Financial Officer.

MAY 14, 2024

NEW YORK (TIP): Urvashi Shivdasani, an Indian American finance executive with over two decades of cross-industry expertise has joined creative agency R/GA as its new Global Chief Financial Officer.

"Exciting news: I've joined R/GA as Global Chief Financial Officer. After an unforgettable chapter at Huge, I'm energized to bring my experience and passion to a dynamic and innovative company," she posted on LinkedIn.

"The timing couldn't be better - R/GA is forging a bold path as an independent agency, and I'm thrilled to help shape what comes next in this new intelligence age. Let's build something extraordinary!"

Shivdasani will partner closely with Global CEO Robin Forbes and the global leadership team to evolve the agency's financial strategy and help drive the implementation and success of a more flexible and output-oriented commercial agency model, the agency announced.

Her appointment marks the first global C-suite hire since R/GA's return to independence as a privately owned company following the new partnership between R/GA's management and private equity firm Truelink Capital.

Shivdasani, the announcement stated, will play a crucial role in strategically implementing R/GA's newly established \$50 million Innovation Fund.

"Urvashi's extensive experience and strategic acumen will be invaluable as we chart R/GA's course as an independent agency and activate a new commercial model based on outcomes and not hours," said Forbes. "Her track record of driving financial success and operational excellence will be critical as we continue to invest in innovation and new ways of working."

"I'm thrilled to join R/GA at this pivotal moment in its history," said Shivdasani. "The agency's commitment to innovation and its bold vision for the future was an incredibly compelling opportunity, and one I can't wait to be involved in. I look forward to partnering with Robin and the leadership team to continue to build a growth organization for the long term that drives creativity and innovation for our clients"

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American technology executive Srisu Subrahmanyam named new CEO of Repairify



Srisu Subrahmanyam has been named new CEO of Repairify

MAY 13, 2025

DALLAS, TX (TIP): Repairify, a Texas-based major automotive technology and intelligence solutions brand working to revolutionize vehicle care, has appointed Indian American Srisu Subrahmanyam as its chief executive officer.

Repairify hopes to add value to its services under the stewardship of Subrahmanyam, "a high-impact, customer-focused senior executive with global experience across public and private companies in diverse industries," according to a company release.

"He has a proven track record of leading large-scale business transformations, driving operational excellence, and accelerating growth in international markets," said the company, which made headlines in the field of auto glass and collision repair last year.

He most recently served as executive vice president of operations and president, services and international markets at Openlane, one of the world's largest digital, used vehicle marketplaces and technology providers. He focused on achieving growth through the implementation of technology and automation and led the digital transformation of Openlane after the sale of Adesa US to Carvana.

"As a longtime customer of asTech and BlueDriver, I've experienced the real-world value Repairify brings through its advanced diagnostics and calibration solutions," Subrahmanyam said. "I'm excited to lead this next chapter - through product innovation, operational excellence, and a renewed focus on solving our customers' problems - to drive growth and deliver even greater value."

He previously was the global vice president of engineering at Ingram Micro, chief operating officer of BrightPoint Americas, and leadership positions with Orchard Group and Career Education Corporation.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Two Indian-origin Students from Cleveland State University Die in Pennsylvania Crash

MAY 13, 2025

CLEVELAND, OH (TIP): Two Indian students from Cleveland State University tragically lost their lives in a car crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Lancaster County on the morning of Saturday, May 10, 2025.



23-year-old Saurav Prabhakar and 20-year-old Manav Patel, both residents of Cleveland, Ohio tragically lost their lives in a car crash on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Lancaster County on the morning of Saturday, May 10, 2025.

The victims have been identified as 23-year-old Saurav Prabhakar and 20-year-old Manav Patel, both residents of Cleveland, Ohio. According to the Lancaster County Coroner's Office, the crash occurred around 7:51 a.m. near mile marker 286 eastbound in East Cocalico Township.

Emergency responders arrived to find the vehicle engulfed in flames. Prabhakar, who was driving, and Patel, the passenger, were pronounced dead at the scene shortly after 8:30 a.m.

Investigators said the car left the roadway, struck a tree, and then collided with a bridge. Both students lived at the same address on East 13th Street in Cleveland, Ohio.

Their bodies were transported to the Lancaster County Forensic Center for autopsies, which confirmed they died from multiple traumatic injuries. The coroner's office ruled both deaths accidental.

Originally from India, Prabhakar and Patel were pursuing higher education at Cleveland State University. The university and the broader Indian student community have expressed deep grief over the tragic loss.

AIA Awards recognize and honor the younger generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent



They addressed the gathering. From Left to Right: Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma, National President Gobind Munjal, Lifetime Achievement Awardee and Past National President Dr Nirmal Mattoo, and Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar

MAY 3, 2025

NEW YORK CITY: The Association of Indians in America (AIA) Medical Council Awards Gala, revived after a gap of 15 years, was held on May 3rd at the iconic Cipriani 42nd Street, an Italian Renaissance-inspired masterpiece with marble columns, soaring ceilings, inlaid floors, and spectacular chandeliers which make it a unique and special event space. An ultimate experience in beauty and elegance, AIA could not have found a better place in New York for its historic event.

The purpose of organizing this Medical Council Awards Gala. According to AIA National President Gobind Munjal who has led AIA for the last more than 3 years, is to recognize and honor the second generation of Physicians and Surgeons of Indian descent, who have excelled in their career, academics and profession, as the first generation has already made a mark and earned their recognition".



National President Gobind Munjal presenting the Award to Honorees along with the Introducer. From Left to Right: Dr Deepak Bhatt, Dr Shuvendu Sen, Dr Chethan Sathya, Dr Latha Chandran

Mr. Munjal, pointing to the unique feature of this gala, said:

"This AIA Medical Council Awards Gala is of major historical importance, as younger members of AIA are taking leadership roles and organizing this event, while we, the senior members, are supporting them. You will be glad to know that 50% of the people attending this Gala were from the younger generation. This will make young professionals interested in taking leadership roles, thereby expanding its membership and longevity of the organization".

Mr. Munjal continued:

"This Medical Council Gala's tremendous success has excited a lot of next generation people and they have expressed interest in getting involved and becoming members. We will be having these Galas every 2 years or so. Our major future plan is to make these next generation people as members and get them involved and slowly prepare them to take over and start leading the organization. For that purpose, we are starting to revamp our website to suit their requirements.



Honorees with National President and Medical Council Chair and 4 Vice Chairs. From Left to Right: Gala Vice Chair Dr Atul Kukar, Honoree Dr Deepak Bhatt, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honoree Dr Shuvendu Sen, Honoree Dr Chethan Sathya, Honoree Dr Latha Chandran, President Gobind Munjal, Past National President Dr Buddhadev Manvar, and Gala Vice Chairs; Dr Pallavi Manvar-Singh, Dr Pratichi Goenka, Dr Aprajita Mattoo

AIA (The Association of Indians in America) is growing with new members and more active participation by the next generation. Since the times have changed, so are the needs of the Indian Community. The present leadership of AIA is actively pursuing the next generation's participation in order to address those changing needs. We are extremely excited that the younger members of AIA are now taking the leadership roles and have worked tirelessly to make this Medical Council Awards Celebrations a sold-out event.



Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Past National President Dr Nirmal Mattoo. From Left to Right: Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma, Lifetime Achievement Awardee Dr Nirmal Mattoo, Mrs Tina Mattoo, National President Gobind Munjal

"I would like to thank the medical council chair Dr Dolly Manvar and all the 4 vice chairs of next generation; Dr Atul Kukar, Dr Pallavi Manvar Singh, Dr Aprajita Mattoo and Dr Pratichi Goenka for their commitment and hard work in making this Medical Council Awards Gala a huge success."

With the banquet room full to capacity, the guests, young and old, dressed in their best, conversed and interacted, with the DJ Kucha music magic filling the air. There was excitement, and an enjoyable feeling of comfort, too.

Chair Board of Trustees Dr Samin Sharma in his remarks, said that in his past 15 years of association with AIA, this Gala is the best he has ever seen. He also remarked that for the first time we have seen in any organization so many people from the younger generation attending the Gala, which is remarkable. He mentioned that AIA needs to pick a charity, through which the donations can be channeled in order to reach to the needy people in India. He said he has set aside an amount of \$100,000 towards this cause.

Then came the time to celebrate honorees and a word from Mr. Gobind Munjal, the President of the AIA.

Mr. Munjal welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence to celebrate the occasion, honoring some of the finest representatives of Indo-American community. "They are role models for everyone and an exceptional source of pride and joy for the Indian American Diaspora worldwide", said Mr. Munjal.

AIA Medical Council Honorees included Dr. Deepak Bhatt, Dr. Latha

CONTD ON PAGE 7

CONTD FROM PAGE 6



Honorees with National President Gobind Munjal and Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar
L to R: Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, Honorees; Dr. Deepak Bhatt, Dr. Shuvendu Sen, Dr. Chethan Sathya, Dr. Latha Chandran, and President Gobind Munjal

Chandran, Dr. Chethan Sathya, and Dr. Shuvendu Sen. Each Honoree had their own unique quality and from diverse background. Dr Deepak Bhatt is a researcher, Dr Latha Chandran is an Educator, Dr Chethan Sathya is into Public Health and Gun



National President Gobind Munjal with Past National Presidents and Advisors.
From L to R: National President Gobind Munjal, Past National Presidents; Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Dr. Narinder M. Kukar, and Dr. Buddhadev Manvar

Violence Prevention and Dr Shuvendu Sen is an Author and has written books of acclaim.

Dr. Nirmal Mattoo, Past National President of the AIA was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award. Dr Mattoo has also been a past Chairman Board of Trustees of AIA and Co Editor of the book Ananya, A Portrait of India published by AIA. Dr. Mattoo is the Chairman of the Indo American Arts Council. He is also the President of the Mattoo Center of India Studies at State University of New York. It is our honor to present the lifetime achievement award to Dr Nirmal Mattoo.

DJ Kucha regaled the audience with the choicest musical compositions while the guests set ablaze the dance floor with their ecstatic movements.

ABOUT AIA

Association of Indians in America (AIA) is the oldest non-profit national organization founded in 1967. At that time, the vision and the purpose of AIA was to help unite, support and preserve rights of the small number of Indian immigrants that came to America (currently over 4.8 million), and assisting them in their transition into American culture while preserving their Indian heritage.

Our motto is: **INDIAN HERITAGE, AMERICAN COMMITMENT**



Medical Council Committee:
From L to R: Gala Vice Chair Pratichi Goenka, VC Dr Atul Kukar, National President Gobind Munjal, VC Dr. Pallavi Manvar-Singh, Gala Chair Dr Dolly Manvar, and VC Dr. Aparajita Mattoo.



Section of the gathering at the Medical Council Awards Gala

IT WAS THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF AIA THAT

- Indians were enumerated as a separate and distinct category in the US Census in 1980.
- The First ever Public event of "Diwali" Celebration organized by AIA took place at the Iconic South Street Seaport in New York City in 1987, and has continued since then.
- In October 2003, Diwali at the behest of AIA was started and celebrated in the white House.
- Now Diwali is recognized as a holiday in New York and many other States.
- AIA initiated Honor Banquet in 1973 followed by Medical Council Awards in 1974. Many of our honorees included Nobel Laureates, Leading artists; Physicians and academicians.
- A unique program called Project India was initiated in 1973. The Association raised more than 15 million dollars fund for disbursements for medical equipment, Midwest floods in 1993 and Florida floods in USA, Latur Earthquake Maharashtra 1993 & Tsunami 2004 in India.
- AIDS prevention and treatment; Project India is an ongoing activity for more than 50 years.



Dance Floor is set aflame with the ecstatic moves of the dancers and the exciting DJ Kucha music.

- In the Year 1997, on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, Association of Indians in America (AIA) published an academic, culturally rich, and scholarly written book, in association with India Study Center of stony Brook University titled "Ananya: A Portrait of India" which has received critical and popular acclaim.
- In 2018, AIA celebrated its 50th Anniversary in New York at a Gala Dinner in Garden city Hotel
- During Covid 2020-2022, Association contributed hundreds of Oxygenators to different hospitals in India across the country and renovated and built 2 schools in Kerala and Rajasthan, India.
- On May 6th 2023, AIA celebrated 75th anniversary of India's Independence at an Honor Banquet at Terrace on the Park in Flushing Meadow, New York attended by dignitaries like Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and NYC Mayor Eric Adams
- The above are a few of the initiatives and achievements of the AIA. The Association is planning many more projects, and with the arrival on the scene of our next generation, it is hoped to not only maximize the number of projects but also increase their funding, quality and diversity.

China reroutes trade while Washington plays catch-up



By Deepanshu Mohan

For China, the idea is not to win the trade war by returning to old terms, but to make the war irrelevant by building new coalitions and supply chains that dilute US leverage.

"While Washington and Beijing pause their economic hostilities, America's allies are left to reassess their own positions amid a shifting balance of trade power. For allies like Japan and the EU, the tariff rollback offers temporary relief but exposes vulnerabilities in their trade-dependent economies. The reset fails to address China's growing regional influence via RCEP, which now accounts for 30 per cent of global GDP. The EU, exporting over €500 billion euros to the US annually, faces strain from disrupted Chinese imports. Both remain wary of China's trade diversion tactics, which bolster ASEAN economies at their expense."

On the face of it, the May 2025 "total reset" in US-China trade relations might appear as a historic de-escalation of one of the most contentious economic confrontations in modern geopolitics. In reality, it may amount to little more than diplomatic show business, as US President Donald Trump often likes to point out. From Beijing's vantage point, this reset is unlikely to significantly rewire the global trade architecture or alter China's strategic calculus. If anything, it reinforces a critical trend observed in previous trade conflicts: trade usually finds new channels.

The 90-day suspension of 24 per cent points worth of US tariffs, bringing the effective rate down from a peak of 245 per cent to 10 per cent, may read like détente. China's reciprocal moderation of its retaliatory tariffs, previously reaching 125 per cent, adds to the narrative of reconciliation.

But under the surface, not much has changed. Neither side has abandoned its zero-sum lens. Both are maneuvering within a relationship marked by interdependence and mutual suspicion. Such resets tend to adjust only tactics not objectives.

To interpret this reset as a fundamental change is to ignore the very structure of US-China trade relations, which have evolved beyond bilateral quirks into a systemic economic interlock.

Pre-2025, bilateral trade volumes surpassed \$600 billion annually, with a US

goods trade deficit of \$295 billion. Such figures are the outcome of decades of integrated supply chains and comparative advantage. A 90-day tariff rollback does not unwind them, nor does it address core ideological clashes around China's state capitalism, intellectual property enforcement or industrial subsidies.

From Beijing's perspective, the real measure of the "reset" is its marginal utility in reducing near-term economic pain, not a gateway to restored trade normalcy, and even that is debatable. For a while, China has been battered by the cumulative effects of Trump's tariffs, but the country has proven adept at absorbing external shocks. It has turned to monetary tools, slashed interest rates and funneled liquidity into its banking system, even as exports continued rising in April, driven largely by trade redirection.

It is difficult to assess the reset without revisiting the Trump-era tariff policy that preceded it. The rationale was to force structural reforms in China's economic behavior by inflicting economic pain through extreme tariffs. The cost, however, has been largely borne by American households and producers. The Tax Foundation estimates a 1.3-per cent hit to long-run US GDP.

Moreover, even as the US sought to punish China, its own exporters, especially in agriculture, suffered \$27 billion in retaliatory losses between 2018 and 2019 alone. In scaling up these tariffs in 2025, Trump did more than revive a failed strategy; he escalated a cycle that inflicted widespread collateral damage. While the Geneva talks may validate that this pressure forced Beijing to the table, they equally underscore the limitations of using blunt-force tariffs to negotiate complex systemic issues.

China, for its part, never engaged in a purely retaliatory tit-for-tat. It leaned into diversionary strategies, using third-party states to maintain trade continuity, and deepened regional integration through initiatives like the RCEP.

Nowhere is this adaptation more evident than in Vietnam. During the 2018-2019 trade war, Vietnamese exports to the US surged from \$47.58 billion to \$136.6 billion by 2024. A closer inspection reveals a more intricate picture. Roughly 16 per cent of these exports were, in fact, rerouted Chinese goods, using Vietnam as an intermediary to circumvent tariffs. The irony is that China, while ostensibly under siege, leveraged its own regional supply networks to retain market access.

This pattern has only deepened in the current trade climate. China understood that while direct trade could be throttled, the architecture of global commerce would inevitably recalibrate and, often, to its benefit.

Also, this diversion does not represent a net loss for global trade. Rather, it reflects its re-routing. When Trump weaponized tariffs to contain China, he did not so much dam the river as force it into new



No decoupling: Despite the tariffs, the US-China basic trade baskets have remained intact.

Photo credit: Reuters

tributaries. And in doing so, he ceded leverage to emerging markets, expanded the influence of China's supply-side diplomacy and created conditions where bilateral punishment had global spillover effects.

Despite the tariffs and counter-measures, the basic trade baskets between the US and China have remained relatively intact. China remains the US' second-largest export market and the US remains China's top destination. The notion of a "decoupling" is a political fantasy; economically, it is infeasible.

The Geneva talks did not produce a new framework, nor did they introduce mechanisms for long-term stability. They merely bought time. The temporary tariff suspension is less about reversing policy and more about acknowledging mutual economic pain.

For China, this is not a strategic retreat. It is a pragmatic pause. Its leadership likely sees this reset as a reprieve to consolidate alternative routes through ASEAN, Africa or the Global South. The idea is not to win the trade war by returning to old terms, but to make the war irrelevant by building new coalitions and supply chains that dilute US leverage.

While Washington and Beijing pause their economic hostilities, America's allies are left to reassess their own positions amid a shifting balance of trade power. For allies like Japan and the EU, the tariff rollback offers temporary relief but exposes vulnerabilities in their trade-dependent economies. The reset fails to address China's growing regional influence via RCEP, which now accounts for 30 per cent of global GDP. The EU, exporting over 500 billion euros to the US annually, faces strain from disrupted Chinese imports. Both remain wary of China's trade diversion tactics, which bolster ASEAN economies at their expense.

Conversely, countries hostile to the US seize opportunities amid the chaos.

Russia, redirecting 47 per cent of its \$62.4 billion in 2024 oil exports to China, leverages Beijing's pivot to non-Western markets, reducing its reliance on European buyers post-Ukraine sanctions. Iran, with \$20 billion in covert trade with China, exploits tariff-driven gaps to funnel oil through proxies like Malaysia, evading US sanctions.

India, nominally US-aligned but non-aligned in practice, navigates a dual-edged sword. India's trade deficit with China widened to a record \$99.2 billion in 2024-25, underscoring its reliance on Chinese imports for critical components, even as trade dynamics with the US continue to evolve. The reset offers breathing room but leaves it balancing US pressure against China's economic pull.

Ultimately, the fiasco amplifies global trade's fragmentation, forcing allies to hedge and adversaries to exploit, with no clear winners beyond the architects of rerouted commerce.

The US-China reset of 2025 temporarily halts a downward spiral but fails to resolve the fundamental disconnects that have driven bilateral friction. More crucially, it fails to reshape the broader world trade order in any meaningful way. Trade, once disrupted, simply recalibrates.

China understands this better than most. Its resilience in the face of tariffs, its ability to reroute trade through Vietnam and Southeast Asia and its structural reliance on interdependence over confrontation - they all point to a state that is less interested in fighting back than in flowing around obstacles.

So, in the real game of geoeconomics, it's not about who resets the board, it's about who learns to play the game differently. From Beijing's view, it seems the game has already moved beyond Washington's rules.

(Deepanshu Mohan is Dean, OP Jindal Global University)

Dangerous fallout of Op Sindoor: Social media warriors join ranks of useful idiots



By Yashwant Deshmukh and Sutanu Guru

The manner in which social media Frankenstein monsters have trolled Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his daughter is beyond the pale of any civilized society.

"BUT OPERATION SINDOOR HAS REVEALED YET ANOTHER CATEGORY OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE UNWITTINGLY JOINED THE RANKS OF THE ENEMY WITHIN AND USEFUL IDIOTS. THEY ARE SOCIAL MEDIA WARRIORS WHO FLAUNT PATRIOTISM AND NATIONALISM AT THE DROP OF A HAT. IN THEIR MINDS, THEIR JOB IS TO EXPOSE THE ENEMY WITHIN AND THE USEFUL IDIOTS AND PROTECT "BHARAT MATA". BUT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE BECOME USEFUL IDIOTS AND THE ENEMY WITHIN.

WHAT OUR ADVERSARIES WANT IS A DIVIDED AND FRACTURED SOCIETY, RIFE WITH MISTRUST, HATE AND BIGOTRY. THE SO-CALLED NATIONALIST SOCIAL MEDIA WARRIORS ARE DOING EXACTLY THAT."

Unhinged and toxic digital and social media warriors are a menace. Worse, they are unwittingly pushing the agenda of India's adversaries. The barbaric terror attack at Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 when 26 people, including 25 tourists, were slaughtered in front of their families, the media has gone ballistic with incendiary rhetoric. The outrage and the anger have been genuine. The reaction of citizens in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor has been cathartic.

But in the entire process, the authors were reminded of two things as they saw madness unfold on social media platforms. The first relates to the "enemy within". In almost all democracies, there is a fifth column that abuses free speech rights to undermine national interests. The second is the category of "useful idiots", a term coined by early 20th century Marxists to describe naïve and brainwashed people who undermine national interest while chasing utopia.

Normally, it is quite easy to identify both the enemy within and the useful idiots. The enemy within habitually blames the Indian state for every problem that confronts India as a nation and society. Many in this category detest India for reasons best known to them. The enemy within blames India and largely absolves Pakistan after every horrific terror attack.

The useful idiots spring to life every time India exercises its legitimate right to retaliate and punish, as it did with Operation Sindoor. The moment precision strikes destroyed nine terror camps on May 7, these useful idiots

(along with the enemy within) started chanting "De-escalate."

Democracies have to live with this. And most citizens have enough common sense not to be swayed by this nonsense.

But Operation Sindoor has revealed yet another category of people who have unwittingly joined the ranks of the enemy within and useful idiots. They are social media warriors who flaunt patriotism and nationalism at the drop of a hat. In their minds, their job is to expose the enemy within and the useful idiots and protect "Bharat Mata". But they themselves have become useful idiots and the enemy within.

What our adversaries want is a divided and fractured society, rife with mistrust, hate and bigotry. The so-called nationalist social media warriors are doing exactly that.

Nothing illustrates this better than how this unhinged gang has treated Himanshi Narwal (widow of Lieutenant Vinay Narwal who was killed by terrorists at Pahalgam) and Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary of India. So disgraceful has been the manner in which social media Frankenstein monsters have trolled and abused the two is that it is beyond the pale of any civilized society.

All that Himanshi Narwal, a 22-year-old newly married woman who was tragically widowed, did was ask fellow Indians not to target entire communities in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack. Till she said this, Himanshi had been elevated by these nationalistic social media warriors to the status of Mother India. Suddenly, they started



Loyalty questioned: Vikram Misri was swamped by vile abuse online while he was working round the clock handling the fallout of Operation Sindoor as India's top diplomat.

Photo credit: PTI

abusing her, questioned her loyalty to India and even spun crazy conspiracy theories about how she had been indoctrinated during her days as a student in JNU.

People in charge of psychological and information warfare in Islamabad and Beijing must have been chortling with glee with the behavior of these 'patriots'. They would have been even more pleased when the same bunch pounced upon Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and his family for no rhyme or reason.

Some useful idiot made an "earth-shaking" discovery that the daughter of Vikram Misri was a 'liberal'; and worse, had advocated for Rohingyas in London. That Vikram Misri is a Kashmiri Pandit triggered these unhinged social media warriors even more. His entire family was trashed; his loyalty to India was questioned and the abuses hurled at him and his daughter were sickening.

All this was happening when Misri was working round the clock behind the scenes and also briefing the media on the positions adopted by India and the actions taken by it. Imagine what he must be going through. Here, he is working round the clock handling the fallout of Operation Sindoor as India's top diplomat and there he is being swamped by vile abuse, coming in torrents.

The blokes at the ISI must be praying that more such 'nationalist' social media warriors emerge in India.

This breed has now truly become a Frankenstein monster. There is no way of knowing how many ISI and Chinese intelligence bots have infiltrated these nationalistic groups. There is no way of knowing who the next target will be. All that is known for sure is that such behavior is deepening the fault lines in the Indian society. And, that the only beneficiaries will be adversaries of

India.

The worst part is the herd mentality of these groups and their complete blindness and inability to even consider common sense as an option.

About a decade and a half ago, these nationalists did play a positive role in exposing the enemy within and the useful idiots on social media when the narrative in India was overwhelmingly dominated by the deracinated "Left-Liberal" ecosystem.

But that era is gone and the political parties, which created these 'IT Cells' and amassed this army of social media warriors, must urgently do a rethink. This kind of behavior doesn't help them politically even as it damages India.

India is on its way to becoming a \$5-trillion economy by 2027 and a \$10-trillion one by 2034. The most important factor that could derail this process is a potential collapse of trust between the Hindu and Muslim communities. And, this is where the 'nationalist' warriors pose the biggest menace.

Almost all Indians, including Muslims, unhesitatingly blamed Pakistan and its Islamist terrorist after Pahalgam. But our social media warriors were busy blaming Indian Muslims. Sure, there are bigoted Muslims, just as there are bigoted Hindus. But they don't represent the communities. And, there is no way for India to reach the \$10-trillion economy without the active participation of 250 million Muslims.

How can one be so dangerously and foolishly blind?

(Yashwant Deshmukh is Founder-Director, CVoter research foundation and Sutanu Guru is the Executive Director)

Decoding America's Sudden Ceasefire Push Between India and Pakistan



By Dave Makkar

"Ultimately, America's intervention reflected a pragmatic blend of nuclear risk management, geopolitical rivalry with China, and economic foresight. By acting decisively, the U.S. not only helped stabilize a volatile region but also reinforced its soft power, blocked adversarial diplomatic moves by Beijing or Moscow, and upheld the credibility of its global defense alliances."

The Trump administration's urgency in brokering a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in May 2025 was primarily driven by the imminent threat of nuclear escalation following a major terrorist attack in Indian-administered Kashmir. However, the unexpected performance of Chinese-made J-10C jets against India's French-made Rafale fighters during the conflict also carried serious strategic implications particularly for U.S. interests in the Indo-Pacific region.

PRIMARY REASONS FOR U.S. URGENCY IN SECURING THE CEASEFIRE

1. NUCLEAR FLASHPOINT: RISK OF ESCALATION

India and Pakistan are long-standing nuclear-armed rivals. Any military confrontation—such as the 2019 Balakot airstrike and subsequent aerial skirmishes—raises the specter of nuclear war. In April 2025, after a terrorist attack in Kashmir killed 26 civilians, India launched retaliatory airstrikes. Pakistan responded by downing Indian aircraft and conducting its own strikes. Tensions peaked when India targeted Pakistan's Nur Khan Air Base, located near its nuclear command center—triggering fears of a nuclear exchange. The Trump administration, led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President JD Vance, acted swiftly to de-escalate the crisis, leading to a ceasefire announcement on May 10.

2. INTELLIGENCE WARNINGS OF IMMINENT CRISIS

U.S. intelligence may have detected signs of imminent military escalation—such as troop movements or intelligence chatter about further terrorist plots—necessitating urgent diplomatic intervention to avert full-scale war.

3. GLOBAL STABILITY AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS

A prolonged conflict between two nuclear powers risked destabilizing the broader South Asian region. Spillover effects could impact Afghanistan, Iran, and even areas within China's strategic orbit. For the U.S., preventing further destabilization was vital to maintaining global order and protecting its broader security agenda.

4. PROTECTING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- **India as a Counterbalance to China:** India plays a central role in America's Indo-Pacific strategy. A protracted war would divert India's resources away from countering China and could weaken U.S.-India defense and economic cooperation.
- **Pakistan's Influence in Afghanistan:** Despite rocky relations, Pakistan remains influential in regional counterterrorism efforts and Afghanistan's stability. U.S. diplomacy aimed to preserve leverage with both



News 18 flashes the news of the ceasefire

5. MITIGATING GLOBAL ECONOMIC FALLOUT

- **Energy and Trade Routes:** South Asia's proximity to vital maritime lanes—including the Strait of Hormuz—means regional conflict could disrupt oil supplies, spike prices, and hamper global trade.
- **Economic Interests in India:** With significant American investments in India's tech, defense, and manufacturing sectors (e.g., semiconductors), the U.S. had strong economic incentives to maintain regional stability.

6. COUNTERTERRORISM CONCERNS

- **Militant Networks in Pakistan:** The U.S. has consistently pressured Pakistan to crack down on groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. A ceasefire could allow Islamabad to refocus on dismantling these threats.
- **Preventing Radicalization:** Escalation could fuel extremism, creating operational spaces for groups like ISIS-K and al-Qaeda.

7. COUNTERING CHINA'S EXPANDING INFLUENCE

- **Belt and Road Watchdog:** China has heavily invested in Pakistan through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and is eager to play a larger diplomatic role in South Asia. U.S. mediation helped reassert American diplomatic leadership while countering China's regional ambitions.
- **Avoiding a China-Russia Mediation Bloc:** Allowing China or Russia to step

in as peace brokers would have diminished U.S. influence in the region and altered the diplomatic balance.

8. BROADER GEOPOLITICAL PRIORITIES

- **Focus on Ukraine and Taiwan:** With the U.S. already stretched thin managing tensions in Eastern Europe and East Asia, resolving the South Asian crisis quickly helped avoid a third major theater of conflict.
- **Quad Alliance Stability:** A stable India is critical for the continued coherence of the Quad (U.S., India, Japan, Australia), which serves as a counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific.

9. STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF J-10C PERFORMANCE

During the aerial engagements, Pakistan reportedly used Chinese-made J-10C jets equipped with PL-15 long-range air-to-air missiles to down Indian Rafale jets. This marked the first real-world combat use of the J-10C, giving China valuable battlefield data on its weapons platforms.

10. BROADER MILITARY AND TECHNOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Perception of Chinese Military Technology:** The success of the J-10C against Western aircraft could reshape global perceptions of Chinese military capabilities, particularly in air power.
- **Impact on Taiwan and Regional Security:** Taiwan's military planners are likely to take note of these developments, especially as China aims to be ready for a possible invasion of Taiwan by 2027.
- **Arms Market Dynamics:** The J-10C's performance could boost Chinese

military exports, challenging U.S. dominance in the arms market and raising concerns for U.S. allies who rely on aircraft like the F-16, F/A-18, or F-35.

11. PRESERVING U.S. ARMS MARKET LEADERSHIP

The U.S. has vested interests in maintaining the global credibility of its defense technology. The perceived success of the J-10C—and the involvement of Pakistani F-16s (ironically U.S.-supplied)—could influence future arms procurement decisions in countries like Taiwan, Indonesia, and the UAE. A shift toward Chinese systems would weaken U.S. defense partnerships and economic leverage.

While the immediate trigger for the U.S.-brokered ceasefire was the urgent need to prevent nuclear escalation between India and Pakistan, deeper geopolitical and strategic considerations were at play. The strong battlefield showing of Chinese J-10C fighters added urgency and complexity to Washington's calculus, as it signaled a possible shift in global military balance and regional security dynamics—especially for Taiwan and U.S. allies in Asia.

Ultimately, America's intervention reflected a pragmatic blend of nuclear risk management, geopolitical rivalry with China, and economic foresight. By acting decisively, the U.S. not only helped stabilize a volatile region but also reinforced its soft power, blocked adversarial diplomatic moves by Beijing or Moscow, and upheld the credibility of its global defense alliances.

(Compiled by Dave Makkar from various sources across the internet)



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HEALTH IS WEALTH

GOPIO PLANS TO LAUNCH GOPIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAPTER IN CONNECTICUT



Moment of Silence for Pahalgam Victims



GOPIO-CT Group assembled to plant GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GICC) - Connecticut Chapter

MAY 14, 2025

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): GOPIO International organized a Dinner/Meeting with GOPIO-CT officials and Indian Diaspora businesspeople to plan the launch of GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) - Connecticut Chapter. It was attended by GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, President Prakash Shah, General Secretary Siddharth Jain, Intl. Coordinator Raj Vangapaty, Associate Secretary Sunil Robert Vuppala and GOPIO-CT President Mahesh Jhangiani and his team, the meeting started with a

moment of silence for the victims of Pahalgam. Earlier GOPIO International had unequivocally condemned the terrorist action in Pahalgam. Attended by 25 participants, it was decided to officially launch chapter in the Summer. Hotelier and businessman Ravi Nichani of Stamford will lead this effort in Connecticut.

Currently, there are over 4 million small and medium businesses and professional practitioners among the Indian Diaspora. GCCI chapters would help to network

them locally and globally, which will greatly benefit them. As a connected society, this will help the small and medium businesses among the Diaspora and their counterparts in India.

GOPIO requests businesses and/or professional practitioners to take the initiative to such launches in all major cities and towns with Diaspora population. If interested open GCCI Chapter in your city or town, please call at 203-561-6187 or send an email to gopio@optonline.net.

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Tubi CEO Anjali Sud to be Honored by Pace University

MAY 15, 2025

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Anjali Sud will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, and will speak at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems Graduate Ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 20. Sud is CEO of Tubi, America's most watched free TV and movie streaming service. Under Sud's leadership the company has exhibited exciting growth and momentum, scaling to over 97 million monthly active viewers, expanding globally and solidifying its position as a major entertainment destination.

Prior to Tubi, Sud served as CEO of Vimeo, the global online video platform. During her six-year tenure, she took the company public and established Vimeo as the home for video creators and professionals worldwide, building a community of over 300 million users. Before that, she held various positions in e-commerce and media at Amazon and Time Warner.

Sud has been featured in Fortune's 40 under 40, The Hollywood Reporter's Most Powerful Women in Entertainment, Bloomberg's Ones to



Anjali Sud will receive a Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, and will speak at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems Graduate Ceremony

Watch, and CNBC's Changemakers. She is a designated Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum and a Henry Crown Fellow at the Aspen Institute. She serves on the board of directors of Dolby Laboratories, SiriusXM, and as Chair of the board of Change.org. Anjali grew up in Flint, Michigan, and lives in New York City with her husband and two young sons.

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Shabana Azmi appeals to the Indian diaspora to support CRY & children's issues

MAY 10, 2025

NEW YORK (TIP): CRY America's 2025 Gala series was held across 6 cities with legendary actress Shabana Azmi appealing to the guests to do "our duty as a society to support organizations like CRY that work at the grassroots with projects that make transformative changes in the lives of children". The evenings were an amalgam of glamor and generosity, with a cocktail hour, hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment, dinner, donor appreciation, pledge session, Bollywood music and dancing. An online auction with paintings donated by Indian artists, designer outfits & jewelry added interest to the event. The CRY Galas raised \$1.4 million which will be directed towards ensuring children's rights to a happy, healthy & educated life.

Guest Speakers included NYC's Celebrity Chef Vikas Khanna in New York, Subrat Tripathy from L&T Technologies leadership team in Houston, Nakul Duggal, Qualcomm's Group General Manager in San Diego, MR Rangaswami, founder of Indiaspora in the Bay Area and Sanjeev Sehgal, VP Caliber Collision in Austin. They spoke about their conviction that the Indian diaspora had the choice and resources to support organizations like CRY America that give children a better future. Shefali Sunderlal, CRY America's CEO, talked about the 'multiplier effect' that these programs have, not only irreversibly transforming the lives of children in CRY supported Projects, but also lifting communities out of cycles of disenfranchisement.

CRY's Project Partner Lalithamma spoke about her work in the villages of Telangana district, Andhra Pradesh and shared stories of children whose life trajectories had been completely changed. Kalpana was pulled out of school to work as a vegetable seller to support her family. But due to the efforts of Project PORD, she was able to finish her schooling and now works as an engineer at a reputable company. Mahesh, too, had to drop out of school and work as a farm laborer. Project PORD intervened and he was not only able to finish his studies, he now works at a national bank and mentors other children who are in the same situation as he was.

Thank you to our event sponsors Laxmi, SBI, GDB International, Guru Krupa, Parikh Worldwide Media, TV Asia, Dallas Venture Capital, MSR Communities, Morgan Stanley, Allstate Foundation, Alice, Minx Events, Merlin, Vantive, Cellpay, Meena Datt Radio, Texas Inpatient Consultants, Alphabet Club, Children's Lighthouse, L&T Technology Solutions, Simran Patel Real Estate, Taproot Solutions, RockNGrill, Prime



Shabana Azmi addresses the gathering



Shabana Azmi with CRY's Project Partner Lalithamma



A view of the gathering

Dental, Shiva Jewelers, Trinity Texas Realty, Genpiper Solutions, DB World Foods, Marc Robinson Jewelers, among others.

CRY America thanks its Gala Committees, generous donors, project partners, media, volunteers & staff for their ongoing commitment towards turning children's dreams into reality.

ABOUT CRY AMERICA:

CRY, Child Rights and You America Inc (CRY America) is a 501c3 non-profit driven by its vision of a

just world in which all children have equal opportunities to develop to their full potential and realize their dreams. With the support of over 35,000 donors and 2,000 volunteers, CRY America has impacted the lives of 825,000 children living across 5,000 villages and slums through support to 111 Projects in India and the USA.

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

Arya Samaj of Long Island (ASLI) organizes a Bhajan Sandhya in commemoration of Mother's Day

Vocalist Gita Setia honored with ASLI Empowered Women Award



The organizers, the guests, and the artists at the Arya Samaj of Long Island Bhajan Sandhya on May 10.

MAY 11, 2025

JERICHO, NY (TIP): Arya Samaj of Long Island (ASLI) organized a gala evening of Bhajans in commemoration of Mother's Day, at Cotillion, Jericho on Saturday, May 10.

While the Long Islander vocalist Gita Setia sang soulful Bhajans, renowned artists from India -Supriyo Dutta - a vocalist, Aarchik Banerjee, a Tabla player, and Sangeet Mishra on Sarangi added to creating an extremely pleasing musical evening of Bhajans.

The Bhajan Sandhya was very well coordinated by Anju Sharma.

Smt. Purnima Desai, President and



Artists and ASLI officials display their citations at the Arya Samaj of Long Island Bhajan Sandhya on May 10.

Founder of Sriniketan Foundation, New York, a passionate promoter of Indian Classical music and dances, addressed the gathering and also sang a few Bhajans.

Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead, NY presented citations to the artists and officials of the Arya Samaj of Long Island.

AAPI Legislative Day Highlights Healthcare, Insurance, Immigration Issues on Capitol Hill



MAY 11, 2025

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) presented to the United States lawmakers some of the major concerns of the Indian-American community, particularly those affecting the physicians fraternity during the annual Legislative Day on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., on May 7-8, 2025.

Dr. Satheesh Kathula, President of AAPI said, "Healthcare continues to be the center of the nation's focus, especially with changes in policies on Immigration, Medicare/Medicaid, and Medical Education. AAPI's annual Legislative Day has become a vital part of AAPI's growing influence and has its united voice heard in the corridors of power."

"AAPI has been seeking to collectively shape the best health care for the people of US, with the physician at the helm, caring for the medically underserved as we have done for several decades when physicians of Indian origin came to the US in larger numbers," said Dr. Deepak Kumar, Chair of AAPI Legislative Affairs Committee.

Dr. Kathula along with other AAPI leaders presented before the lawmakers, key issues that affect the delivery of healthcare in the issues in the US. "Fixing Medicare reimbursement cuts, reforming prior authorization processes, addressing scope of practice concerns, fast-tracking green cards for H-1B visa holders, securing equitable Telemedicine payments, and proposing amendments to the Stark Law" were some of the issues AAPI highlighted in their meetings with the lawmakers.

Attended by several Congressmen and Senators from both the major political parties, the event held at the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC had dozens of AAPI members from across the nation, who during the interactive sessions with the lawmakers shared their concerns with the current healthcare delivery system and for the need to bring about the much-needed changes.

In a show of support for AAPI, Indian American House members, Reps. Ami Bera, D-California, Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Illinois, Rep. Suhas Subramanyam, D-Virginia, and Sri Thanedar, D-Michigan were among those who addressed the AAPI delegates and listened to their concerns and promised support.



Some of the other lawmakers who addressed Legislative Day included: Rep. Rich McCormick from GA; Rep. Frank Mrvan from Indiana, and Rep. Dave Taylor from OH. AAPI delegates met with Sen. John Boozman from AR, Sen. Bernie Moreno (OH), and Sen. Jon Ossoff from GA. All of them expressed their appreciation for AAPI for their advocacy and contributions to the US healthcare and promised to take on the issues affecting the healthcare system and work toward creating an efficient system that serves the needs of the patients and physicians.

AAPI addressed critical issues for physicians before lawmakers. The legislators responded positively, and we are encouraged by the momentum. AAPI's advocacy on these critical topics will remain ongoing," Dr. Vidya Kora, Co-Chair of AAPI Legislative Affairs Committee.

AAPI's lobbying efforts on some of the issues affecting the broader Indian American community, particularly in the context of the Indo-Pak tensions, sought

the support from the lawmakers to stand with India as it works with the larger world community to root out terrorism from the face of the earth.

"AAPI is once again in the forefront in bringing many burning health care issues facing the community at large and bringing this to the Capitol and to the US Congress," said Dr. Sudhir Parikh, Co-Chair of AAPI Legislative Affairs Committee. Dr. Parikh expressed appreciation to all "AAPI colleagues who attended this event and ensured that our concerns and needs are heard by our lawmakers and ensure that they act on them."

"AAPI Legislative Day has been a flagship annual event that rekindles and renews our energy in bringing up the issues that we need to bring to the attention of national policy makers and leaders of the US Congress on Capitol Hill," said Dr. Amit Chakrabarty, president-elect of AAPI. "AAPI continues to discover her potential to be a player in shaping the healthcare of each patient with a focus on health maintenance rather than disease intervention."

"It is a tradition for nearly four decades, which has brought many important transformations in National Healthcare policies that have helped Physicians of Indian Origin. Now, it is the need of the day to renew our friendship with new leadership and brief the Congressional leadership on issues that are important to us," Dr. Hetal Gor, AAPI BOT Chair-Elect, said.

Dr. Meher Medavaram, Vice President of AAPI said pointed out: "The US is currently experiencing a physician shortage, which will be exacerbated by retiring baby boomers, affecting thousands of patients' access to a physician, and ultimately the health care they need. In advocating for critical reforms in healthcare, AAPI's role has come to be recognized as vital among members and among lawmakers."

AAPI members told the lawmakers how important it was to increase the number of residency positions to address the upcoming physician shortage. This includes providing opportunities for all qualified doctors of Indian origin to secure residency slots and the opportunity to become fully trained to practice medicine.

Dr. Soumya Neravetla, Treasurer-Elect of AAPI said, "Through Legislative Day, we are building a strong foundation for future advocacy and legislative successes at both the federal and state level. The presence of several lawmakers from both parties is a testament to the strength of AAPI's reputation as strong leaders, with our physicians proudly serving as health care providers in all 50 states."

The AAPI delegation also met with His Excellency Vinay Kwatra, the Indian Ambassador to the U.S., to brief him on AAPI's initiatives in India and explore avenues for future collaboration with the Indian government. They took this opportunity to strongly condemn the recent terrorist attacks in Pahalgam, extending our deepest condolences to the families of the victims and reaffirming our full support to the Indian government in its efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The growing influence of doctors of Indian heritage is evident, as increasingly physicians of Indian origin hold critical positions in healthcare, academic, research, and administrative positions across the nation. With their hard work, dedication, compassion, and skills, they have thus carved an enviable niche in the American medical community.

"To be a player in crafting the delivery of health care most efficiently and to strive for equality in health globally, the annual Legislative Day was a perfect way to impact Healthcare policy and programs most effectively. Come and join us on Capitol Hill,"



Dr. Kathula said.

Dr. Kathula expressed his heartfelt thanks go to the Legislative Committee, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, and all AAPI members and leaders who traveled from across the country to participate in and contribute to the success of this important event.

"Your dedication and commitment continue to strengthen our voice on Capitol Hill," Dr. Kathula said. "We had a very fruitful discussion, and we are very hopeful that Congress will act on the issues raised in our white paper," Dr. Kathula, summarized the daylong event and the impact it has for the future of the growing Indian American community, healthcare providers and the healthcare delivery. For more information on AAPI and its programs and initiatives, please visit: www.aapiusa.org

(Based on a press release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

Tanishq Opens Seventh U.S. Store in Santa Clara, Showcasing Indian Heritage in the Heart of Silicon Valley



The Tanishq store is all decorated before the inauguration

MAY 15, 2025

SANTA CLARA, CA (TIP) : Tanishq, India's most trusted fine jewelry brand, has expanded its U.S. presence with the opening of its flagship store in Santa Clara, California. Located at 3406 El Camino Real, the spacious 5,100 sq. ft. showroom, the brand's largest in the country-opened its doors on March 18 and celebrated its Bay Area debut with a vibrant grand opening on May 8.

The celebration featured a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, ribbon cutting, and a soulful musical performance, giving guests a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage and modern elegance that define the

brand. Santa Clara Mayor Lisa M. Gillmor joined community leaders, families, and jewelry enthusiasts from across the region-underscoring Tanishq's deepening connection with the South Asian diaspora and beyond.

Nestled in Silicon Valley's thriving and diverse South Asian community, Santa Clara was a natural choice for Tanishq's newest U.S. home. With growing demand for high-quality craftsmanship rooted in heritage, the Bay Area welcomed Tanishq's signature blend of tradition and innovation. Inside the new showroom, guests can explore thousands of intricately crafted gold and diamond pieces-ideal for celebrating weddings, festivals, family milestones, and everyday elegance. Signature collections such as Rhythms of Rain, Tales of Mystique, and Enchanted Trails offer timeless designs that speak to both generational memories and modern sensibilities.



The inner view of the store

"Opening our flagship store in Santa Clara marks an exciting chapter in our U.S. journey," said Amrit Pal Singh, Business Head - North America, Titan Company Limited. "The Bay Area houses a dynamic South Asian community that values culture, innovation, and design-core to everything we do. We're proud to bring our heritage of craftsmanship to California and look forward to becoming part of the local story-offering jewelry that bridges tradition with modern elegance."

With its newest store, Tanishq reaffirms its commitment to serving the South Asian diaspora while welcoming all who appreciate the elegance of Indian fine jewelry. Each Tanishq store across the U.S. offers a luxurious, culturally immersive experience that honors the past, celebrates the present, and inspires future generations.

ABOUT TANISHQ

Tanishq, India's most beloved jewelry brand from the TATA Group, has been redefining luxury jewelry for over two decades by seamlessly blending tradition with contemporary style. With more than 400 retail stores across India, North America, the Middle East, and the Far East, Tanishq has become a global symbol of elegance and craftsmanship. In the U.S., Tanishq continues its rapid expansion, now with seven stores open in New Jersey, Houston, Dallas, Chicago, and more recently, Seattle, Atlanta & Santa Clara. For more information visit Tanishq.com.

Vidya Jyoti's "Vibrant India" Cultural Festival Illuminates Chicago with Rich Traditions, Colorful Performances, and Community Spirit

MAY 6, 2025

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): There are some events that entertain, others that inspire and then there are those rare, radiant moments, where joy and purpose run together in harmony. April 27, 2025 on a Sunday afternoon, Vidya Jyoti Global Education Opportunity Foundation hosted the Vibrant India Cultural Festival at Ashton Place in Chicago, Illinois.

From the moment the guests stepped through the doors, they were swept into a celebration of Indian heritage, creativity, and most importantly: hope. The festival, free and open to the public, pulsed with color and life. It was hosted with charm and energy by two MC's Neha Sobti and Priyanka Parekh, who guided the audience through an unforgettable journey. The show opened with an upbeat hip hop performance blending rhythm and youthfulness. As the day unfolded, the stage bloomed with a variety of dances: elegant ballet, vibrant Garba, classical Indian sequences, and children twirling in joyful abandon. Groups such as Suhani Dance Academy, Ghunguru School, and Four Stars Dance Group left audiences spellbound.

the heart of it all was Vidya Jyoti's powerful purpose: to educate underprivileged children across India, the U.S., and Haiti. The founder Pratibha Jairath spoke passionately, presenting stories of transformation. One such story was of Radhika, an orphaned child who, because of Vidya Jyoti's support, is now scoring over 80% (A grade) in school. "We are not just giving money," said Pratibha, her voice thick with emotion. "We are giving dignity. We are building futures."

Then came the two fashion walks, a



Community champions honored

moment where grace met pride. Dressed in stunning saris, lehengas, and Indo-western fusion wear, participants of all ages took to the runway in two dynamic segments. The fashionistas for the evening were: Swati Kukian, Suparna Dutta, Shree Guruswamy, Shraddha Marathe, Shalaka Sawant, Sara Bongale, Sakshi Sharma, Renuka, Pika Munshi, Nidhi Mishra, Neelam Aloor, Manisha Pandit, Kitkat Shah, Falguni Sukhadia, Fal Rana, Deepti Gupta, Bharathi Devathi, Alli Dhanaraj.

In the Title Walk, finalists were judged not only on style, but voice and purpose. When Rihanna Tandon and Archana Pantraffan stepped forward as winners, their poise and eloquence gave everyone chills. The judges Sanskriti Sharma, Sushma Bhanot, and Archana Agarwal beamed with pride.

A moving highlight of the afternoon was the recognition of community champions by Pratibha Jairath and co-founder Madhu Uppal. With the support of Mayor John Leash of Aurora and Alderwoman Shweta Baid, Vidya Jyoti presented Plaques to Vidya Jyoti sponsors, Sunil Shah, Pinky Dinesh Thakkar, Sudhir Agarwal, Brij Sharma, Dr. Ashok Mehta, Bill Lyon, Ramesh Mehra, Dr.

Bhupinder Beri. Plaques were also presented to Prem Sharma, Urmil Chawla for their vision and leadership, and to Anita Beri & Sarita Sood for their dedication to Vidya Jyoti.

Recognitions and tokens of appreciation were presented to community heroes; the people whose silent efforts light the path for others. The honorees included Ramesh Malhan, Vipin Wadhwa, Balbeer Kaur, Pramila Malhotra, Anu Malhotra, Ram Saini, Anita Rawal Subhash Pandey, Anurag Misra, Jayanti Oza, Atul Wahi, Rosey Bhasin, Krishna Chitturi, Nikhil Shah and Uma Kartiki. Their highlights were also presented on a video screen as they were called, by Vidya Jyoti's technical director Shivam Viswanathan.

Around the hall, food and shopping booths added flavor and flair to the event. Guests nibbled on savory chaats, sweets, and home-style meals. The effort of vendor booths was coordinated by a team led by Anita Beri, Sarita Sood, Shree Gurusamy, Alka Sood and Preeti Chawla. Colorful stalls offered handwoven jewelry, textiles, and gifts with their own story.

Advisory Board member Dr. Bhupinder

Beri echoed the emotions in his powerful appeal, "We are fortunate because someone once invested in our education. For just \$30 a month or a dollar a day, we can offer a child that same gift. Let's make giving a habit, not a moment." Ashok Potdar, a dedicated and passionate director of organization, reminded the audience that "Knowledge is the only wealth that cannot be stolen." The room fell silent, then rose to applause. Another passionate advisory member, Ramesh Mehra had another powerful appeal to help folks understand the mission of Vidya Jyoti.

The two raffle draws, including a grand prize of \$250, kept the energy high throughout. It was time for the final performance, a full-on Garba circle that united young and old, like the community had become one beating heart, dancing together.

As the event drew to a close, Pratibha took the mic one last time. Her words were soft but strong. "Vidya Jyoti started with a dream in India. Today, we are helping schools in the U.S., in Haiti, and beyond. Because when we educate a child, we educate generations."

"This was more than a cultural event. It was a radiant expression of humanity's best. Vidya Jyoti is not just teaching children they are awakening possibilities" said by Suresh Bodiwala, Chairman of Asian Media USA

Vidya Jyoti, through this colorful and impactful celebration, reaffirmed its mission: to educate, empower, and inspire through unity and cultural pride. For more information, sponsor a child or to get involved, visit www.vidya-jyoti.com.

(Photograph and Press release by Asian Media USA)

Anita Anand scripts history as six South Asians join Mark Carney's new Council of Ministers



By Prabhjot Singh



Mark Carney's Council of Ministers

For 25 members of the House of Commons of South Asian descent, the swearing in of the new Council of Ministers headed by banker-turned-politician Mark Carney marked a new beginning.

The community could not have asked for more, as six of its members—four as Cabinet Ministers and two as Secretaries of State—have been inducted into Carney's new Council of Ministers.

Prime Minister Carney has also tried to maintain gender equity by naming 14 men and an equal number of women in his Cabinet, excluding himself. Six of his Secretaries of State are men, and the remaining four are women. Besides Anita Anand, Ruby Sahota is the other woman of South Asian descent to figure in the new Council of Ministers.

Mark Carney preferred Anita Anand as Minister of Foreign Affairs to her predecessor Melanie Joly, who has now been named as Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for Canada Economic Development for the Quebec regions, and Registrar General.

Maninder Sidhu, on elevation as Cabinet Minister, becomes Minister of International Trade.

Ruby Sahota will be Secretary of State for combating crime, and Randeep Serai has been named Secretary of State for International Development.

Other than Anita Anand, Mark Carney named five other South Asians, including Gary Anandasangaree, Shafqat Ali, Maninder Sidhu, Ruby Sahota and Randeep Serai in his new Council of Ministers. Ruby Sahota and Randeep Serai would not sit in Cabinet meetings but would hold charge as Secretaries of State in different departments.

Shafqat Amanat Ali was born into a Punjabi Muslim family in Lahore, to noted classical singer, Ustad Amanat Ali Khan and his wife Almas Amanat Ali Khan, on 26 February 1965, making him the seventh generation of the Patiala Gharana, which was founded in the mid-late 19th century by his great-

grandfather. He has made a name in the Real Estate industry in the Greater Toronto Area.

Anita Anand has been the toast of ceremonies, for she continues to be in the top echelons of Canadian politics.

58-year-old lawyer, academician and accomplished politician, Anita Anand has been going through her most eventful year of her career. She was the first Hindu to become a federal minister in Canada when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau named her the first woman Defense Minister of the country. Later in her previous term, she was also the President of the Treasury Board and the Transport Minister.

After Deepak Obhrai, the longest-serving Member of the House of Commons representing the Canadian Hindu Community, Anita Anand has been holding the fort for the present without ever getting involved in partisan politics. Deepak Obhrai represented Alberta in the House of Commons for seven successive terms.

Incidentally, the new Canadian Prime Minister was elected from a riding in Nepean, in the capital city of Ottawa, after the candidature of another sitting Hindu MP, Chandra Arya, was revoked.

In December last year, when internal strife started rocking the minority Liberal Government, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau offered to quit both as Leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister of Canada.

Anita Anand was considered one of the front runners as a replacement for Justin Trudeau. She, however, preferred to stay aloof. Instead, she announced that she would prefer to go back to academics and take a break from politics.

Chandra Arya was among the first to announce his candidature for the Liberal Party leadership. The election committee of the Liberal Party, however, did not proceed with his candidature on technical grounds.

Since Mark Carney holds Anita Anand in high esteem, he reportedly persuaded Anita Anand to change her mind and

contest again. She agreed and returned to retain her seat in the House of Commons to become the Foreign Minister.

MORE ABOUT ANITA ANAND



Suave, sober and assertive Anita Anand has done Canada's South Asian community proud. On Wednesday, May 14, she was sworn in as Canada's first Hindu Foreign Minister to add yet another feather to her distinct cap

Anita Anand was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Oakville in 2019. She was re-elected in 2021. She served most recently as Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry and has previously served as Minister of Transport and Internal Trade, President of the Treasury Board, Minister of National Defense, and Minister of Public Services and Procurement.

As Minister of Public Services and Procurement, Anita led contract negotiations to secure vaccines, personal protective equipment, and rapid tests for Canadians during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Later, as Minister of National Defense, she spearheaded initiatives to tackle sexual misconduct and bring about cultural change in the Canadian Armed Forces. She also led

Canada's efforts to provide military aid and personnel to train Ukrainian soldiers following Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.

As President of the Treasury Board, Anita spearheaded a government-wide spending review and worked to reduce red tape for small businesses and entrepreneurs. Her time at Transport Canada yielded Canada's first-ever high-speed rail project and historic progress in eliminating interprovincial trade barriers.

In her latest portfolio, Anita has been focused intently on protecting Canadian workers and industries in the face of President Trump's unjustified trade war.

Anita is a scholar, lawyer, researcher, and mother of four children. Born and raised in rural Nova Scotia, she moved to Ontario in 1985. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Political Studies from Queen's University, a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Jurisprudence from the University of Oxford, a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University, and a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto. She was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1994.

Anita and her husband, John, raised their four children in Oakville. She is a devoted leader with a proven record of service. In her Oakville community, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Lighthouse Foundation for Grieving Children, Oakville Hospital Foundation, and Oakville Hydro Electricity Distribution Inc.

Incidentally, it is the 75th anniversary of South Asians in Canadian politics. In 1950 Giani Naranjan Singh Grewal had made a triumphant entry in Canadian politics when he was elected as a member of the Mission City Council in British Columbia. Since then, the community has come a long way.

Anita Anand's appointment also becomes significant as Canada's relations with India are far from cordial. Both India and Canada have to discard acrimony to restore the bonhomie that the two nations once enjoyed.

For the immigrant community, the most important portfolio is that of the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. Mark Carney has named Lena Metlege Diab as the new Minister of immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. The immigrants would be looking forward to new and favorable changes in the immigration policies after several radical changes were made in the last six months of the previous Liberal government.

(Prabhjot Singh is a Toronto-based award-winning independent journalist. He was celebrated by AIPS, the international body of sports journalists, for covering ten Olympics, at its centennial celebrations held at UNESCO Centre in Paris during the 2024 Olympic Games. Besides, he has written extensively about business and the financial markets, the health industry, the public and private sectors, and aviation. He has worked as a political reporter besides covering Sikh and Punjab politics. He is particularly interested in Indian Diaspora and Sikh Diaspora in particular. His work has also appeared in various international and national newspapers, magazines, and journals. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

India calls for UN watch over Pak nuke arsenal

SRINAGAR (TIP)

Pakistan's nuclear arsenal should be under the surveillance of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Defence minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday May 15, following a four-day conflict between Islamabad and New Delhi last week.

Pakistan did not immediately respond to Singh's comments, which came as the nuclear-armed rivals ended their worst military conflict in nearly three decades with a ceasefire announcement.

"I wanted to raise this question for the world: are nuclear weapons safe in the hands of a rogue and irresponsible nation?" Singh told troops at a base in Srinagar. "I believe that Pakistan's atomic weapons should be brought under the surveillance of the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," Singh added.

The latest conflict between India and Pakistan had sparked global concerns that it could spiral into a full-blown war.

Fighting began when India launched strikes on May 7 against "terrorist camps" in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir following an April attack on tourists at Pahalgam in which 26 people were killed.

India has blamed Pakistan for backing the militants who were behind the attack - the deadliest on civilians in Kashmir in decades. Pakistan denies the charge.

Four days of intense tit-for-tat drone, missile and artillery exchanges ensued, leaving nearly 70 people, including dozens of civilians, dead on both sides.

Not on the table

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear



The Union Minister for Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh visits Badami Bagh Cantt at Srinagar, in Jammu and Kashmir on May 15, 2025.

powers and members of the IAEA, which regulates the use of nuclear weapons.

India has developed nuclear weapons since the 1990s in the form of intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles. Long-range missiles are currently being tested, according to experts. Pakistan has developed short- and intermediate-range ground-to-ground and air-to-ground nuclear missiles that can carry warheads.

Pakistani ministers have repeatedly said the nuclear option was not on the table. They also stressed on Saturday that its nuclear governmental body was not summoned at any point in the recent conflict.

Pakistani military spokesman Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told reporters on Sunday that escalating conflict between "rival nuclear powers" was "inconceivable and sheer stupidity".

"That conflict can lead to the peril of 1.6 billion people, so in reality there is no space for war between India and Pakistan," Chaudhry said.

In a speech this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said: "India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail."

India had earlier denied targeting Pakistan's nuclear installations during the brief conflict.

"We have not hit Kirana Hills," Indian Air Marshal AK Bharti told reporters on

Sunday, referring to a vast rocky mountain range where, according to Indian media reports, Pakistan stores its nuclear arsenal.

Fearing further escalation, global leaders had urged restraint from the arch-enemies with US President Donald Trump announcing the surprise truce.

The ceasefire has held since the weekend, following initial claims of violations from both sides.

In a statement, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan Thursday said these "irresponsible remarks reveal his profound insecurity and frustration" regarding Pakistan's effective defence.

"Pakistan's conventional capabilities are adequate to deter India, without the self-imposed 'nuclear blackmail' that New Delhi suffers," Khan said.

"The comments of India's Defence Minister also show his sheer ignorance of the mandate and responsibilities of a specialised agency of the United Nations like the IAEA," the spokesperson said.

Earlier, speaking to the troops, Rajnath said Operation Sindoor showed India's capability to take bold decisions.

"Operation Sindoor was a commitment demonstrated by India of not just carrying out defence, but taking bold decisions whenever needed. It was a dream of every soldier that we will reach every terrorist hideout and destroy them. Terrorists killed Indians based on their religion, we killed them for their deeds. It was our dharma to eliminate them. Our forces gave right direction to their anger and took revenge for Pahalgam with great courage & discretion," he said.

Three terrorists eliminated in security op at J&K's awantipora

Three terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Nader area of Jammu and Kashmir's Awantipora, the Indian Army said on Thursday, May 15, adding that the identity of the terrorists is being ascertained. The Chinar Corps shared a post on their official 'X' handle stating, "Three hardcore terrorists have been eliminated in the ongoing Operation at Nader, Awantipora. Identity of terrorists is being ascertained". On the basis of special intelligence input, a joint operation was launched by Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in the Nader area of J-K's Tral in Awantipora in the morning hours of Thursday.

Suspicious activity was observed by the troops and on being challenged, the terrorists opened heavy fire on the forces and a fierce gunfight ensued.

Strictly bilateral exchange with Pak on terror, says EAM Jaishankar

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's relations and dealings with Pakistan will be "strictly bilateral", which is a national consensus for many years and there is "absolutely no change" in that consensus, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday, May 15.

Interacting with reporters on the sidelines of an event here, he also said the UN Security Council had underlined the need to hold the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack accountable, and on May 7 morning, "we held them accountable through the Operation Sindoor".

India carried out precision strikes on terror infrastructure early on May 7 following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Pakistani actions were strongly responded to by the Indian side.

The hostilities ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions following talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of both sides on May 10.



"PAKISTAN HAS A LIST OF TERRORISTS, WHO NEED TO BE HANDED OVER. THEY HAVE TO SHUT DOWN TERRORIST INFRASTRUCTURE, THEY KNOW WHAT TO DO"

"To me things are fairly clear. So, let me take this opportunity to spell out our

position. One, where Pakistan is concerned, our relations, our dealings with them will be bilateral, and strictly bilateral.

"That is a national consensus for many years, and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral," Jaishankar said.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made it "very clear" that any talks with Pakistan will be only on terror.

"...Pakistan has a list of terrorists, who need to be handed over. They have to shut down terrorist infrastructure, they know what to do," the external affairs minister said.

Jaishankar said New Delhi is "prepared to discuss" with Islamabad what is to be done on terrorism.

On the Kashmir issue, he said, "Only thing that remains to be discussed on Kashmir, is vacation of illegally occupied Indian territory in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, we are open to discuss it with Pakistan...the government position is very, very clear."

Indus pact on hold, Govt plans monthly flushing of Salal and Baglihar dams

With the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) in abeyance and the government having already carried out the first flushing exercise at Baglihar and Salal — its two run-of-the-river hydroelectric projects on the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir — the Central Water Commission (CWC) has now recommended that such flushing become a monthly routine, it is learned. As first reported by The Indian Express on May 4, NHPC and the Jammu & Kashmir administration have begun flushing the Salal and Baglihar reservoirs to clear out sediment that hinders power output. This is the first such exercise since Salal was built in 1987 and Baglihar in 2008-09, after Pakistan's repeated objections under the IWT had previously blocked these works. Sources said the flushing that began in early May removed just over 7.5 million cubic metres (MCM) of sediment from the 690 MW Salal and 900 MW Baglihar reservoirs. "The CWC has now recommended that forced flushing be carried out monthly for both projects, and an SOP will be issued shortly," a senior official said.

Prez asks SC on assent to Bills: Can court impose timelines to decide?

NEW DELHI (TIP)

IN A reference to the Supreme Court, President Droupadi Murmu has posed 14 crucial questions over the top court's April 8 verdict that fixed timelines for Governors and the President to act on Bills passed by state Assemblies.

Seeking the Supreme Court's opinion under Article 143(1), Murmu sought to know whether the actions of the Governors and President are justiciable and whether such timelines can be imposed on them in the absence of any such provision in the Constitution.

The reference pointed out that "there are conflicting judgments of the Supreme Court as to whether the assent of the President of India under Article 201 of the Constitution of India is justiciable or not".

Under Article 145 (3), when the President makes a reference for the court's opinion, it is placed before a five-judge bench. In the Ayodhya dispute, the apex court, citing pendency of the case, had declined to answer the question referred to it on whether a temple existed below the disputed structure.

Article 143 (1), which was invoked by the President to seek the court's opinion,



says that "if at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon".

On April 8, the Supreme Court had set a timeline for Governors to act on pending Bills, and for the first time, prescribed that the President should

take a decision on the Bills reserved for consideration by the Governor within three months from the date on which such reference is received. Under Article 201 of the Constitution, no timeframe has been set for a Presidential decision.

The top court had said that "in case of any delay beyond this period, appropriate reasons would have to be recorded and conveyed" to the state concerned.

The court, in its ruling, declared the action of Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi as illegal and erroneous in reserving 10 Bills for consideration of the President in November 2023 after they had already been reconsidered by the Assembly.

In her reference to the Supreme Court, President Murmu sought to know: "Is the exercise of constitutional discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India justiciable? In the absence of a constitutionally prescribed timeline and the manner of exercise of powers by the President, can timelines be imposed and the manner of exercise be prescribed through judicial orders for the exercise of discretion by the President under Article 201 of the Constitution of India?"

India ramps up efforts at UNSC to tag TRF as global terror group

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India is urging the United Nations to designate The Resistance Front (TRF), a Lashkar-e-Toiba offshoot believed to be behind the dastardly terror attack in Pahalgam, as a terrorist group under the UN Security Council 1267 sanctions regime.

A fresh dossier will be submitted with new evidence pointing to Pakistan's involvement in supporting terrorism. The evidence will highlight TRF's role in the Pahalgam attack.

A technical team carrying all relevant material is in New York to press the UN Security Council sanctions committee. The UNSC 1267 Sanctions Committee will meet this week over the matter. Pakistan, a non-permanent member of the UNSC, has been protecting TRF at the council with support from China. The 1267 Sanctions Committee, was established under a UNSC resolution in 1999. The committee decides on sanctions and travel bans for individuals and entities associated with terror organisations and ensures the enforcement of measures under UNSC resolutions 1267 (1999), 1889 (2011), and 2253 (2015).

Meanwhile, the Indian technical team had the first set of meetings with other UN committee on counter terrorism. The team met with Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov of the UN

Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

Voronkov and Gherman condoled the deaths in the Pahalgam terror attack. The discussions with the Indian delegation focused on collaboration with CTED and UNOCT within their respective mandates, particularly in support of implementing key Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

India, Pak agree to ease tensions

India and Pakistan have agreed to continue with "confidence-building measures" that include reducing the alertness level of the two militaries which in turn is expected to further "cool down" existing tensions.

The Indian Army said on Thursday, May 15, as per the understanding arrived between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) on both sides on May 10, "it has been decided to continue the confidence-building measures so as to reduce the alertness level".

Meanwhile, Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar told his parliament that the country's military had agreed to extend a ceasefire with India until May 18.

Turkiye firm loses permit to operate at Indian airports

NEW DELHI (TIP)

The Centre has revoked the security clearance of Turkish firm Celebi Airport Services, citing national security concerns.

The development comes against the backdrop of Turkiye supporting Pakistan during the recent hostilities between the two countries.

"In the exercise of power conferred upon the Director General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the security clearance in respect of Celebi Airport Services India Pvt Ltd is hereby revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security," an official order by Joint Director, BCAS, Sunila Yadav, read.

The company had been operating in India for more than a decade at key gateway airports such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kannur, Goa (GOX), Ahmedabad and Chennai where it provides a range of services, including ramp, passenger and cargo handling, bridge operations and lounge management.

As per the Turkish firm's website, the company has around 7,800 employees in India.

Even though India and Pakistan, after engaging for four days, agreed to pause firing and shelling at the border on May 10, social media remained abuzz and enraged with Turkiye's unconditional



support for Pakistan.

During a media briefing, the Indian armed forces had said Pakistan used advanced weaponry, including drones and missiles, provided by Turkiye and China to attack India. The drones were of Turkish origin, while the missiles had been supplied by China.

Air Marshal AK Bharti had even shown the footage of the remains of a Chinese PL-15 missile launched by Pakistan but shot down by the Indian forces. Since then, calls for boycotting Turkish goods and tourism surfaced across the country, with online travel platforms such as EaseMyTrip, Cox & Kings and Ixigo issuing advisories against visiting these countries, while suspending all their travel packages to both nations.

Additionally, Indian travel brand — Go Homestays — has ended its partnership with Turkish Airlines, accusing the airline of supporting a nation unfriendly towards India. *Source: TNS*

India in history this Week

MAY 16 TO MAY 22

16 MAY



2014 The demise of Indian industrialist Rustomji Homaji Modi.

1911 Construction of Tallah Water Tank in Calcutta (now Kolkata) completed. It was called the world's largest overhead water tank at that time.

1960 Start of international telex service between India and UK.

1975 Sikkim was incorporated into the Indian Union as the 22nd state.

1996 Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as the tenth Prime Minister of India.

2008 The Supreme Court rejected the decision of the Kolkata High Court to ban the 27% OBC quota in postgraduate courses of central educational institutions.

17 MAY

1769 The East India Company imposed a variety of restrictions on weavers to ruin Bengal's textile industry.

1918 Birth of India's famous industrialist and top member of Tata group, Russian Modi.



1987 Sunil Gavaskar retired from Test cricket.

2007 The fourth round of the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue commenced in Rawalpindi.

2010 Promoting the country's oldest traditional sports, Kabaddi, the Punjab government announced the hosting of the Kabaddi World Cup next month.

2014 The death of CP Krishnan Nair, the famous hotel industrialist of India and founder of the 'Hotel Leela Group'.

1865 Celebration of World Communication Day started.

2018 BS Yeddyurappa took the oath of office of Chief Minister of Karnataka for the third time.

1980 A record of standing for 33 hours on one leg was set by VS Kumar Anand.

1995 The Restricted Area Permit (RAP) was abolished by the three northeastern states of the country.

1999 He was resigned from his post by Congress President Sonia Gandhi. But it was rejected by the Congress Committee of which the CWC also says.

18 MAY

1912 The first Indian feature length film Sri

Pundalik was released.

1974 India became a nuclear power country with its first underground atomic bomb test in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The trial was named 'Smiling Buddha'.

2008 Indian-origin writer Indra Sinha was awarded the Commonwealth Award in 2008 for her book Animal People.

1914 Tenth Governor of Reserve Bank of India Jagannathan was born.

1933 HD Deve Gowda, the twelfth Prime Minister of India, was born.



1966 India's famous botanist Panchanan Maheshwari died.

1974 Pokhran Nuclear Blast Day

19 MAY

1913 Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy was born, who later became the President of the country.

1954 The National Film Board was formed by the government in the country.

1969 Andhra Pradesh came under a terrible storm which took 608 lives. Not only this, around 20000 people were rendered homeless in this storm.

1971 The first naval submarine station was built at Visakhapatnam.

1980 TN Raina died when he was General of India.

1992 Tennis player Leander Paes was awarded the Arjuna Award.



1993 The government had decided to link the power with Indian Airlines.

1904 One of the first industrialists of India, Jamsetji Nusrawanji Tata was killed.

1910 Nathuram Godse, who killed Mahatma Gandhi and added a black chapter to the pages of Indian history, was born.

20 MAY

1900 Famous poet Sumitranandan Pant of Hindi world was born on this day.

1918 Piru Singh, a valiant soldier of the Indian Army who was instrumental in the 1947 Indo-Pak war, was born.

1929 Rajkumar Shukla died. He was a freedom fighter and one of the prominent people of Champaran

Satyagraha.

1932 Vipin Chandra Pal, leader of the Garam Dal in India and the father of revolutionary ideas, passed away.

1957 T. Prakasam died. He was a famous freedom fighter and the first Chief Minister of Andhra State.

1972 Famous poet of Brajbhas Gaya Prasad Shukla 'Sanehi' dies

2012 Renowned anthropologist and feminist scholar Leela Dubey died.

2011 Mountaineer Premlata Agarwal of Jharkhand created a new history in mountaineering, having the distinction of being the oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain peak.

2011 Prime Minister Manmohan Singh dedicated the oil refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh to the country at a cost of thousands of crores. It is a world class project with the efforts of Bharat Petroleum Limited, Oman Oil Company and Government of Madhya Pradesh.

21 MAY

1960 Indian actor Mohanlal Vishwanath Nair was born.

2006 Attack on Congress rally in Srinagar on 21 May. 1971: Famous director, script writer Aditya Chopra was born.

1991 Former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi died in a suicide attack in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

1994 Sushmita Sen won the title in the 43rd Miss Universe competition held in Manila.



22 MAY

1772 Raja Rammohun Roy, one of the socio-religious reformers, was born on this day in 1772. He started the Brahma Samaj movement and raised his voice against evils like child marriage and sati system.



1987 The heartbreaking Hashimpura massacre took place on this day in 1987, in which 19 jawans of Uttar Pradesh were tried for murder.

1963 India's first glider Rohini took off.

1984 Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to conquer Everest, the world's highest peak.

1988 India successfully tested the indigenously developed intercontinental ballistic missile Agni.

1936 Foundation stone of India's first stadium Brabourne Stadium in Bombay

1949 West Germany formally came into existence after adopting the constitution.

2010 Air India Express Boeing 737 crashed while landing in Mangalore. In which 158 people died.

MAESTRO AMJAD ALI KHAN WITH SONS PERFORMS SAROD TRILOGY

BY MABEL PAIS

Sarod Maestro AMJAD ALI KHAN accompanied by his two sons, AMAAN ALI BANGASH and AYAAN ALI BANGASH will perform the 'Sarod Trilogy' on Friday May 30, 2025 at New York University's Skirball Center, 566 LaGuardia Place, Manhattan. The performance starts at 8 pm. Doors open at 7 pm. This is a World Music Institute presentation.

Recognized by 'Songlines' magazine as "one of the 20th Century's greatest masters of the sarod", he has not only preserved the sarod's legacy but has also enhanced the instrument with new dimensions by skillfully blending innovation with a deep respect for tradition. For this performance, he will be accompanied by his two sons, Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash, who carry forward the family's extraordinary musical legacy.

When AMJAD ALI KHAN gave his first recital of Sarod at age 6, it was the beginning of yet another glorious chapter in the history of Indian classical music. Taught by his father Haafiz Ali Khan, Amjad Ali Khan was born to the illustrious Bangash lineage rooted in the Senia Bangash School of music. Today he shoulders the sixth generation of inheritance in this legendary lineage.

The world saw the Sarod being given a new and yet timeless interpretation by Amjad Ali Khan. Khan is one of the few maestros who consider his audience to be the soul of his motivation. He once said, "There is no essential difference between classical and popular music. Music is music. I want to communicate with the listener who finds Indian classical music remote."

He is a recipient of the UNESCO Award, Padma Vibhushan (Highest Indian civilian award), Unicef's National Ambassadorship, The Crystal Award by the World Economic Forum and Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of York in 1997, England, Delhi University in 1998, Rabindra Bharati University in 2007, Kolkata and the Vishva Bharti (Deshikottam) in Shantiniketan in 2001. He has represented India in the first World Arts Summit in Venice in 1991, received Honorary Citizenship to several US States and Cities. April 20th, 1984 was declared as Amjad Ali Khan Day in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1995, Mr. Khan awarded the Gandhi UNESCO Medal in Paris for his composition Bapukauns. In 2003, the maestro received "Commander of the Order of Arts and letters" by the French Government and the Fukuoka Cultural grand prize in Japan in 2004.

He has been a regular performer at the Carnegie Hall, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall, Kennedy Center, House of Commons, Theater Dela ville, Musee Guimet, ESPLANADE in



left to right - Amaan Ali Bangash, Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan Ali Bangash

Credit: Courtesy, worldmusicinstitute.org

Singapore, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Chicago Symphony Center, Palais beaux-arts, Mozart Hall in Frankfurt, St. James Palace and the Opera House in Australia.

In his case, the term 'beauty of the Ragas' acquires a special meaning as he has to his credit the distinction of having created many new Ragas. It is love for music and his belief in his music that has enabled him to interpret traditional notions of music for a new refreshing way, reiterating the challenge of innovation and yet respecting the timelessness of tradition.

Two books have been written on him: the first titled, 'The world of Amjad Ali Khan' by UBS Publishers in 1995 and the second, 'Abba-God's Greatest Gift to us' by his sons, Amaan and Ayaan published by Roli Books-Lustre Publications in 2002. A documentary on Mr. Khan called 'Strings for Freedom' won the Bengal Film Journalist Association Award and was also screened at the Ankara Film Festival in 1996.

He is married to wife Suhbhalakshmi Khan, a great exponent of the Indian classical dance, Bharatnatyam. They have two sons: Amaan Ali Bangash and Ayaan Ali Bangash. He is a living example of a man who practices integration of love and music in his life. Learn more at sarod.com.

Watch the trio perform - youtu.be/Dv5hdYNiPLU

AMAAN ALI BANGASH is the older son and belongs to the seventh generation in an unbroken chain of the Senia Bangash School. He was

initiated by his father into the fine art of Sarod playing and gave his first public performance at age eight. Amaan's musical style is marked by its precision in tunefulness, bold and resonant strokes, along with tradition and continuity of Indian Classical Music. Amaan's performances have evoked creditable applause.

Today, Amaan is considered one of the finest Sarod players in the world and has obtained a very special place for himself among music enthusiasts across continents. He is an inspiration for the younger generation of musicians. He continues to enchant audiences with his virtuosity, sheer brilliance and charismatic stage presence. Learn more at amaanalibangash.com.

AYAAN ALI BANGASH represents the seventh generation of a musical lineage known as the Senia Bangash School. The younger son and disciple of the Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan stepped into the world of music and the Sarod, at a very early age, with confidence, clarity, consistency and technical mastery all of which he learnt on his father's knee. Ayaan gave his solo debut when he was eight years old and since then has been performing concerts in India and abroad.

He along with his older brother Amaan has assisted his illustrious father at concerts all over the world. Over the years today, Ayaan has carved out a special niche for himself in the world of music. His approach, vision and versatility make him an icon for the youth in the music industry. His contribution in making

the Sarod a cross-over instrument in a variety of genres has projected him as an artist of high repute. Learn more at ayaanalibangash.com.

MASTERS OF INDIAN MUSIC

The MASTERS OF INDIAN MUSIC series of the World Music Institute presents legends from the two primary forms of Indian classical music: the Northern Indian tradition of Hindustani classical music and the Southern Indian tradition of Carnatic Indian classical music.

WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE

World Music Institute (WMI), founded in 1985 has served as one of the leading presenters of world music and dance within the United States. WMI is committed to presenting the best in traditional and contemporary music and dance from around the world; to enrich lives through the arts, promote awareness and appreciation for the world's rich cultural traditions, and encourage cross-cultural dialogue and exchange. WMI presents at venues throughout the city and depends on both public and private funding to accomplish its mission. Learn more at worldmusicinstitute.org.

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

SPRING INTO MUSIC TO CELEBRATE GOV KEAN'S MILESTONE BIRTHDAY AND MORE

BY MABEL PAIS

The curtain rises on an unforgettable evening when cultural, social and business leaders will join the NJ Symphony for a timeless allure celebrating the extraordinary legacy of Governor Thomas H. Kean on his 90th birthday (details below).

PROGRAM

Spring into Music Gala & Auction

WHAT: Gala, Auction & Celebration of Gov Kean's 90th Birthday

WHEN: Thursday, May 29

6:00 pm: Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction

7:30 pm: Private Concert & Gala Dinner

WHERE: Pleasantdale Chateau in West Orange

757 Eagle Rock Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052

(973) 731-5600

EVENT DETAILS

Download the event details, reservation form and advertising information at njsymphony.org/assets/doc/NJ-Symphony-Spring-Gala-Sponsorship-Brochure-021025-eafb94a437.pdf.



Governor Thomas H. Kean

Credit: njsymphony.org

Governor Thomas H. Kean, a visionary leader whose lifelong commitment to education, culture, and public

service has profoundly shaped New Jersey and beyond. Throughout his distinguished career - as Governor, educator, and statesman - Gov. Kean has championed the belief that the arts are essential to a thriving society. Under his leadership, New Jersey became a national model for arts education, with initiatives that integrated music, theater, and visual arts into schools across the state.

Join the New Jersey Symphony at this special event as they celebrate Governor Kean's milestone birthday and his profound impact on the arts in the state at the annual spring fundraiser! You will also be immersed into the world of the legendary opera 'Carmen' and transported to 19th-century Seville for a dazzling night of music, flair, and philanthropy.

This unforgettable evening is the perfect way to celebrate the arrival of spring while providing critical funding to the Symphony's expansive educational offerings. Your support helps build the next generation of listeners and musicians.

Net proceeds will support the artistic and educational programs of the Symphony. Donor support sparks exciting possibilities and opens new pathways to success and access to the arts for the youth and communities the New Jersey Symphony serves.

ONLINE AUCTION

May 19-29!

Bid on fabulous items - from restaurant gift cards to vacation getaways - all while supporting music education and community outreach. Interested in donating to the auction? NJ Symphony welcomes goods, services, unique experiences, art, wine and spirits, vacation home rentals, and more. You can even purchase a gift card to support a local business and donate it!

For more information, please contact Jesse Goodale, manager of special events, at 973.735.1729 or events@njsymphony.org.

DONATIONS

Your generous support directly benefits the Symphony's education and community engagement programs, which bring music into classrooms, provide hands-on learning experiences for students, and make live music accessible to all.

Donate at [one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/browse/donation\(details:item/1\)](https://one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/browse/donation(details:item/1))

Donate an auction item at one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/donate-item?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=The%20Spring%20into%20Music%20Gala%20%26%20Auction%20is%20this%20month!&utm_

[one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/ticketing\(details:ticketing-summary\)](https://one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/ticketing(details:ticketing-summary))

TICKETS

To purchase a ticket or a ticket package, visit [one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/ticketing\(details:ticketing-summary\)](https://one.bidpal.net/springintomusic/ticketing(details:ticketing-summary)).

Next Gen (ages 21-40) tickets have a discounted price.

DRESS CODE: Festive Cocktail

Gala sponsors and supporters will enjoy benefits including:

Reception: Savor a lavish cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres, open bar, music and a few dazzling surprises.

Concert & Dinner: Enjoy a private musical performance by members of the New Jersey Symphony and students of the New Jersey Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Online & Silent Auction: The auction offers fabulous items-from restaurant gift cards to vacation getaways.

ACCOMMODATION

A limited number of rooms are available for overnight stays at the Chateau, sold separately. Inquire directly with the chateau for pricing.

Pleasantdale Chateau

Learn more at pleasantdale.com

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY

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.

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

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NJYC PRESENTS 'SING INTO SPRING' ANNUAL CONCERT



(left) Dr. William Linthicum-Blackhorse and NJYC with Director Trish Joyce.

Credit: whartonarts.org

BY MABEL PAIS

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), a program of Wharton Arts, will present 'Sing into Spring' on May 18 at 4:00 p.m. at Ridge Performing Arts Center located at 68 South Finley Avenue in Basking Ridge. The annual spring concert featuring all five NJYC choirs offers a vibrant, moving, and culturally rich program that reflects both the diversity of music and the depth of the choristers' growth throughout the season.

NJYC's Founder and Director Trish Joyce said, "Audiences will hear music from across centuries and continents, from traditional spirituals and folk songs to contemporary works by living composers. Highlights include 'Kuwa Furaha' by Jim Papoulis, inspired by his work with children in Africa, where joy is expressed through rhythmic clapping and reaching to the sky. 'The Beat of a Different Drum' by Sarah Quartel invites singers and audiences alike to celebrate individuality and embrace what makes

them unique, while 'Family Tree' by Stephen Hatfield poetically links generations through lullaby and memory. The concert also features spirited folk tunes such as the whimsical Scottish tale of Aiken Drum, the American railroad ballad 'Nine Hundred Miles,' and the hopeful Georgia Sea Islands spiritual, 'Yonder Come Day.' A barbershop-style rendition of 'I'm Gonna Live Till I Die' adds upbeat energy, while beautiful lyrical selections like 'By Night' by Elaine Hagenberg and 'Stars Tonight' by Judith Herrington provide moments of beauty and reflection."

The 'Sing into Spring' concert will showcase the world premiere of 'Long Ago Back East,' a new work by Dr. William Linthicum-Blackhorse. Commissioned by Wharton Arts with the generous support of the American Composers' Forum and Chorus America's 2024 Dale Warland Singers Commission Grant, the piece is scored for treble voices, flute, strings, and piano.

The choral piece honors the legacy of Nora Thompson Dean, one of the last native speakers and indigenous culture-bearers of the Lenape (Unami dialect) language before her death in 1984. Nora Thompson Dean was asked to officially represent the Delaware Nation and give a traditional smudging ceremony while speaking the Unami-Lenape language when the State of Oklahoma officially recognized the contributions of the Lenape people with the opening of the Delaware Room in the state capitol building in 1972. The Delaware Nation of Oklahoma is comprised of the descendants of those who marched the Delaware Trail of Tears and remained in the Oklahoma Indian Territory. New Jersey was once part of the homelands to the Lenape Native American Indian people, also known as the Delaware Tribe.

Dr. William Linthicum-Blackhorse (b.1989) is a multi-ethnic music composer in North America that has been actively

commissioned, writing music for ensembles and performers across the globe. He said, "Our elders, from all communities, teach us their important traditions, morals, and values so that we can pass along that knowledge to future generations and do our best to live our lives according to their teachings. This music gives tribute to one of those elders in a beautiful, meaningful way and who better to deliver the message than the children of tomorrow." Learn more at linthicumblackhorse.com.

'Sing into Spring' also serves as a tribute to NJYC's graduating seniors, many of whom have sung with NJYC for up to 12 years. They will be honored and recognized by the number of years that they have been a part of the program as well as the universities that they will attend in the fall. Their musical journey culminates with a performance of 'Homage' by Z. Randall Stroope - a piece based on the composer's father's poetry and written in memory of lost loved ones. Graduating seniors will also be honored through senior boards, a beloved tradition displaying each chorister's photo and personal reflections on their time at NJYC in the concert hall lobby. These tributes give the audience a glimpse into the personal growth, friendships, and transformative power of music choristers experience at NJYC. The concert will conclude with 'Blessing' by Katie Moran Bart, sung by the entire chorus and alumni who are invited to join in a final, heartfelt farewell.

TICKETS

Tickets to the concert are available at NJYC.org. Adults pay full price. Students & Seniors get discounts with valid ID.

HONORING AAPI HERITAGE MONTH ON TRANSNATIONAL ADOPTION

BY MABEL PAIS

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month join the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) for this month's 'Standing in Solidarity' series to discuss transnational adoption and its effect on identity, acculturation, family ties and more. There will be a film to watch, access given to those who register in advance of a virtual panel discussion held virtually.

TOPIC: BLENDED FAMILIES: ADOPTING NEW IDENTITIES

WHEN: May 19, 2025 at 7 pm

WHERE: Virtual

Some children are born from their parents' hearts, and the adoptive family's race or ethnic background may be different from their child's. In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, 'Standing in Solidarity' discusses transnational adoption and its effect on identity, acculturation, family ties and more.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Registration is required to participate.



A transnational family

Credit: njpac.org

REGISTRATION

Registration is required to receive access to the film prior to the panel discussion. Register at njpac.org/event/blended-families-adopting-new-identities/#register.

Watch the film 'First Person Plural' in advance at home.

Join the panel for a virtual panel discussion on Mon, May 19, at 7PM.

FILM

The PSEG Social Impact film is 'First Person Plural,' a documentary produced by Deann Borshay Liem who was adopted by a white family from an orphanage in Korea. The film tells the story of her startling revelation that she was not who everybody thought she was, and how she navigated relationships with her biological and adoptive

families. A link to the film will be emailed one week in advance of the event to registrants.

PANELISTS & MODERATOR

Moderator

Jong Song Nee, Attorney and Founder of Convergent Law.

Panelists

DEANN BORSHAY LIEM, Emmy Award-winning documentarian known for films that explore war, memory, family and identity including 'First Person Plural.'

KIMBERLY MCKEE, Associate Professor, School of Interdisciplinary Studies at Grand Valley State University in M.I., and author of Adoption Fantasies: The Fetishization of Asian Adoptees from Girlhood to Womanhood.

AMBER REED, Co-Executive Director of AAPI New Jersey, a nonprofit advancing the rights, representation and well-being of the state's more than one million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

JOY LIEBERTHAL RHO, a licensed clinical social worker and Co-Founder of IAMADOPTTEE.org, an online mental health and wellness resource for the intercountry adoptee community.

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

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Jackie Shroff and Anil Kapoor to reunite for SRK's King

The iconic 'Ram Lakhan' duo, Jackie Shroff and Anil Kapoor, are set to reunite on the big screen in Shah Rukh Khan's highly anticipated action thriller, 'King'. The film, which is scheduled to begin filming on May 20, marks the first collaboration of the legendary trio, Shah Rukh, Shroff, and Kapoor, since their 1995 blockbuster 'Trimurti'.

While details of Jackie Shroff's role remain under wraps, his addition to the cast has added to the excitement around the film. Anil Kapoor has been confirmed to play Shah Rukh's handler and mentor, guiding his character through a gritty, high-stakes narrative. The film, headlined by Shah Rukh Khan, will see him in a never-before-seen avatar.

"Siddharth Anand narrated the basic world of King to Jackie Shroff along with his character arc, and the actor took no time to come on board the film. Jackie is all excited to embark on this action-packed journey with Shah Rukh Khan and the team. Jackie feels that Shah Rukh Khan is the most accomplished and large-hearted producer of Indian Cinema, and is looking forward to be on the sets on King," a source told Pinkvilla.

"King has one of the largest ensembles for a feature film in modern times, as every character has been cast to perfection with actors who fit the bill to the T. Apart from this ensemble, King will also feature some more actors to play relatively small but important roles in the film," the source added.

Directed by filmmaker Siddharth Anand, 'King' will feature a star-studded ensemble including Deepika Padukone, Abhishek Bachchan, Suhana Khan, Arshad Warsi, and Abhay Verma. The makers of the film are aiming for a 100-day shoot schedule across multiple locations, starting in Mumbai before heading to Europe for a major international leg.

Set for a theatrical release between October and December 2026, the film will have an exciting collaboration between Sachin-Jigar, who will compose the songs, and Anirudh Ravichander, who will handle the background score.

Sitaare Zameen Par: Aamir Khan's film is a slam dunk of emotions

The much-awaited trailer of Aamir Khan's 'Sitaare Zameen Par', a spiritual sequel to the 2007 film Taare Zameen Par, was released on May 13. 18 years after the original film, Sitaare Zameen Par promises another heartwarming and joyful story, with a few new twists.

In the three-minute trailer, Aamir Khan plays a basketball coach to a team of specially-abled children, setting the stage for an inspiring and entertaining narrative laced with emotion and humour. Genelia Deshmukh stars as his love interest in the drama.

Sharing the trailer on social media, the official Instagram handle of Aamir's production channel captioned, "1 Tingu Basketball Coach, 10 Toofani SITAARE aur unki journey. Watch #SitaareZameenPar #SabkaApnaApnaNormal, 20th June Only In Theatres. Trailer Out Now (sic)."

The film that carries the tagline "Sabka Apna Apna Normal", which champions inclusivity and aims to resonate deeply with audiences.

Besides Aamir and Genelia, Sitaare



Zameen Par introduces a team of debutants: Aroush Datta, Gopi Krishna Varma, Samvit Desai, Vedant Sharma, Ayush Bhansali, Ashish Pendse, Rishi Shahani, Rishabh Jain, Naman Mishra, and Simran Mangeshkar.

Directed by RS Prasanna, popular for his film Shubh Mangal

Saavdhan, Sitaare Zameen Par has been made under the banner of Aamir Khan Productions. The songs are composed by Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy and the lyrics are penned by Amitabh Bhattacharya.

Sitaare Zameen Par is set to release in theatres on June 20, 2025.

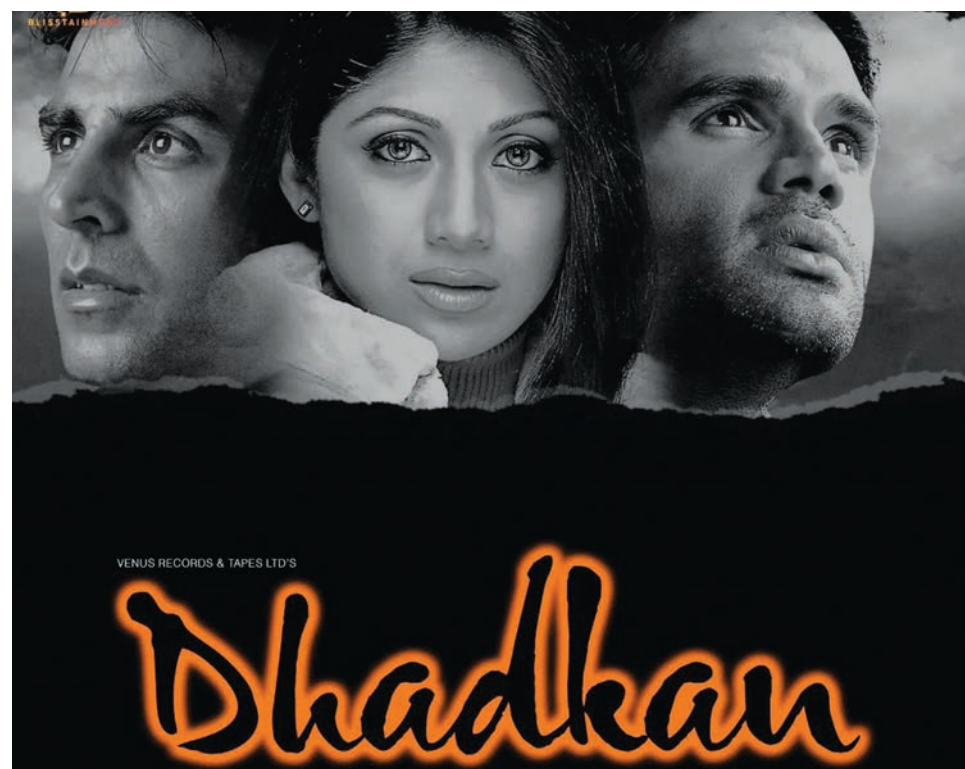
Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Shilpa Shetty's Dhadkan to re-release in theatres

The popular romantic film 'Dhadkan', starring Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty and Shilpa Shetty, is all set to re-release in cinemas on May 23. The film originally came out on August 11, 2000, and is now being brought back as part of a special celebration of iconic Bollywood movies.

Directed by Dharmesh Darshan, 'Dhadkan' is a love story filled with emotion, drama, and heartbreak. Shilpa Shetty plays Anjali, a woman in love with Dev played by Suniel Shetty. But her family forces her to marry Ram, played by Akshay Kumar, a kind and successful man. Years later, Dev returns into her life, but by then, Anjali has started loving her husband. The story becomes a complicated love triangle that touched the hearts of many when it first released.

'Dhadkan' was a big hit at the box office, earning around Rs 26 crore worldwide. Its music was a major highlight, with unforgettable songs composed by Nadeem-Shravan and lyrics by Sameer. The soundtrack became the second highest-selling album of 2000, just after 'Mohabbatein'. Songs like 'Dil Ne Yeh Kaha Hai Dil Se' and 'Tum Dil Ki Dhadkan Mein' are still loved today.

Now, the movie will return to theatres in a digitally remastered format, making the viewing experience even better. The re-release will take place in selected



theatres across India

Along with the main leads, 'Dhadkan' also featured veteran actors like Sharmila Tagore, Parmeet Sethi, Kiran Kumar, Sushma Seth, and Manjeet Kullar, who added depth to the emotional story.

On the work front, Suniel Shetty was last seen in Netflix's romantic-comedy

'Nadaaniyan' with Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor. He will next appear in the action film 'Kesari Veer', alongside Sooraj Pancholi and Vivek Oberoi. Akshay Kumar recently acted in 'Kesari: Chapter 2' and will soon be seen in the horror-comedy 'Bhooth Bangla' with Wamiqa Gabbi, Tabu, and Paresh Rawal.

Blake Lively 'threatened' Taylor Swift with private texts: Justin Baldoni

Blake Lively has reportedly threatened her best friend, pop superstar Taylor Swift, with the release of private text messages unless Swift publicly supports her claims against co-star Justin Baldoni, according to a new court filing. Swift's legal team is now working to keep her distance from the escalating legal battle.

Legal documents obtained by Page Six reveal that Lively's attorney, Michael Gottlieb of Willkie Farr, allegedly contacted Swift's legal representatives with a demand. The filing claims that Gottlieb urged Swift to issue a public statement in support of Lively, implying that failure to do so would result in the release of personal and private text messages in Lively's possession.

However, Gottlieb has strongly denied these allegations. In a statement on behalf of Lively's team, he said: "We unequivocally deny all of these so-called allegations, which are cowardly sourced to supposed anonymous individuals and are completely untethered from reality. Justin Baldoni's team is attempting to cause damage without any supporting evidence."

Baldoni's production company, Wayfarer Studios, maintains that they received the information from a highly credible source. The actor also alleged that Lively had asked Swift to delete their message history. According to Baldoni's legal team, Swift's attorney responded in writing, calling the alleged threat "inappropriate" and "extortionate," and requested that Lively's team cease all such communications.

Baldoni's lawyers are now pushing for



access to the private exchanges, claiming that Swift is a key witness in the case. While the specific contents of the messages remain unclear, the documents note that Lively allegedly compared Swift and her husband to Game of Thrones characters while suggesting creative changes to a rooftop scene in 'It Ends With Us'.

Swift's team has previously denied

any involvement in the film or the ongoing dispute, aside from granting permission for her song My Tears Ricochet to be used in the movie.

The controversy stems from a lawsuit filed in December 2024, in which Blake Lively accused Justin Baldoni of sexual harassment, along with additional abuse claims and allegations of a targeted smear campaign.



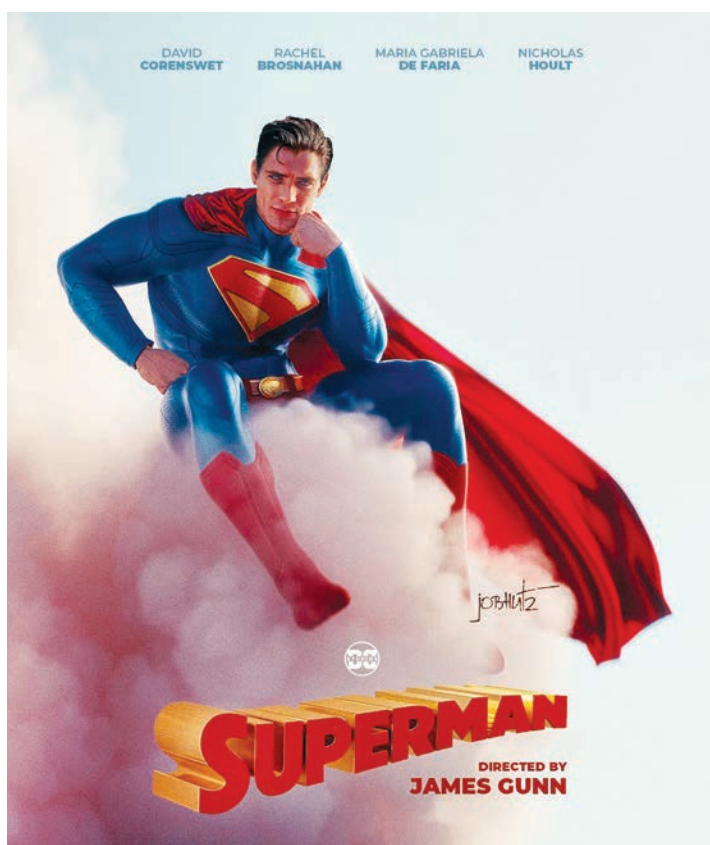
Jennifer Lopez suffers injury during rehearsals

Jennifer Lopez suffered facial injuries recently during the rehearsals of the American Music Awards 2025. The singer ended up with a black eye and a cut on the bridge of her nose. She posted an update regarding her injury along with a photo of the doctor, who stitched her up. Lopez will host the music awards for the second time, scheduled to take place on May 26. She shared a series of pictures talking about the injury that she suffered almost a week ago. In one of the photos, she is seen holding an ice pack on her eye. "So this happened... (sic)," she wrote on her Instagram Story.

Another selfie showed that she suffered a cut on the bridge of her nose and had to get stitches. She posted the photo with the caption, "during @amas rehearsals (sic)."

The third post is her latest photo with the doctor who tended to her injuries. In the photo, her injuries seem to have healed. "Thank you for stitching me up Dr. Diamond. A week later and a whole lotta ice, I'm good as new (sic)," she posted.

The American Music Awards (AMA) will take place on May 26. While she has performed at the award show several times in the past, this is the second time she would be hosting the event.



Superman: James Gunn ready to make Man of Steel the focal point again

The trailer of James Gunn-directed 'Superman' is out, just days after teasing the Man of Steel's battle in the Comic-Con footage, where he appeared blood-soaked and lifeless as his dog Krypto took the spotlight. On May 14, DC's official YouTube channel shared a nearly three-minute trailer showing David Corenswet's Superman being interviewed after his heroic acts are questioned. This time, Superman is in deep trouble after acting as a representative for the United States to stop a full-scale war. The trailer begins with Lois Lane, played by Rachel Brosnahan finally meeting Superman eye-to-eye for an interview, where she says he has come under a lot of fire. Superman replies that he stopped a war.

The trailer shows Superman in the middle of a battlefield, having entered a country illegally without consulting the President or anyone else, intending only to do good. The following chaos includes Superman falling hard and being saved by fellow citizens. Nicholas Hoult is introduced as the film's antagonist, Lex Luthor.

This is the first film from the franchise since Zack Snyder's Man of Steel (2013) and officially kicks off Gunn and Peter Safran's new DC Universe, previously titled Superman: Legacy. The trailer features Krypto the Superdog, who rescues an injured Superman and drags him to the Fortress of Solitude. The film also stars Skyler Gisondo as Jimmy Olsen, Anthony Carrigan as Metamorpho, Isabela Merced as Hawkgirl, Edi Gathegi as Mister Terrific, and Nathan Fillion as Guy Gardner. Brosnahan said she has always loved Lois Lane and described her as smart, ambitious, and funny. She praised James Gunn and expressed excitement about the role.

James Gunn's 'Superman' will launch a new DC Universe, separate from the DC Extended Universe where Henry Cavill played Superman and Zack Snyder was the leading creative force. The film also stars Edi Gathegi, Anthony Carrigan, Nathan Fillion, Isabela Merced, Skyler Gisondo, Sara Sampaio, Mara Gabriela de Fara, Wendell Pierce, Alan Tudyk, Pruitt Taylor Vince, and Neva Howell.

AN ISRAELI WOMAN ON HER WAY TO GIVE BIRTH WAS KILLED IN A WEST BANK ATTACK

15 MAY 2025

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL (TIP): Tzeela Gez was on her way to the hospital to bring new life into this world when hers was suddenly cut short.

As her husband drove their car through the winding roads of the occupied West Bank late Wednesday, a Palestinian attacker shot at them. Within hours, Gez, nine months pregnant, was dead. Doctors barely saved the life of the baby, who is in serious but stable condition.

Israel says it is trying to prevent such attacks by waging a monthslong crackdown on West Bank militants that intensified earlier this year. But the escalating offensive, which has killed hundreds of Palestinians over 19 months, displaced tens of thousands and caused widespread destruction, has ultimately not snuffed out attacks.

And the latest bloodshed is only likely to fuel a cycle of violence that has persisted for decades between Israelis and Palestinians. Israel has pledged to find the attacker, who fled the scene, and the military chief of staff, who visited the area Thursday, told troops that the broader operation would continue alongside the manhunt.

"We will use all the tools at our disposal and reach the murderers in order to hold them accountable," Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir said, according to a statement from the military, which said it had sealed Palestinian villages in the area of the attack and set up checkpoints.

The shooting, especially because the victim was a pregnant mother with three other children, has the potential to ignite vigilante violence against Palestinians by radical Jewish settlers. They regularly storm Palestinian towns and villages, burning and damaging property, in response to such attacks. Marauding settlers are rarely held to account for their actions and Palestinians are left to pick up the pieces of the destruction with little recourse to compensation or assistance from Israeli authorities.

Gez, 37, and her husband Hananel, were residents of Bruchin, a settlement of some 2,900 in the northern West Bank. She worked as a therapist and on her Facebook page, shared developments in her professional life as well as her thoughts on the war in Gaza, the fallen Israeli soldiers and the hostages still held by Hamas. Meital Ben Yosef, head of the settlement's local council, told Israeli Army radio that Gez was "all mother. A mother in her essence."

"A couple of parents were driving to the happiest moment that a parent can experience and the wife is killed on the way. It's a horrific incident," she said. Abu Obeida, spokesman for Hamas' armed wing, praised the attack as "heroic" in a video statement Wednesday but stopped short of saying the militant group was behind it. (AP)

Israeli strikes kill 70 in Gaza, including 22 children, after Netanyahu refuses to halt 'offensive'

15 MAY 2025

DEIR AL-BALAH (TIP): Israeli airstrikes pounded northern and southern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 70 people, including almost two dozen children, according to hospitals and health officials, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there was "no way" he would halt Israel's offensive in the Palestinian territory before Hamas is defeated.

At least 50 people, including 22 children, were killed in strikes around Jabaliya in northern Gaza alone, according to hospitals and Gaza's Health Ministry.

The strikes came after Hamas on Monday released an Israeli-American hostage, a gesture that some thought could lay the groundwork for a ceasefire, and as US President Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia during a multi-day trip to Gulf countries.

Israel's military refused to comment on the strikes. It warned Jabaliya residents to evacuate late Tuesday, citing militant infrastructure in the area, including rocket launchers.

In Jabaliya, rescue workers smashed through collapsed concrete slabs using hand tools, lit by the light of cellphones, to remove children's bodies.

In comments released by Netanyahu's office Tuesday, the prime minister said Israeli forces were days away from a promised escalation of force and would enter Gaza "with great strength to complete the mission...It means destroying Hamas."

There had been widespread hope that



Trump's visit to the Middle East could usher in a ceasefire deal or renewal of humanitarian aid to Gaza. An Israeli blockade of the territory is now in its third month.

The war began when Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people in a 2023 intrusion into southern Israel. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 52,928 Palestinians, many of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were combatants. Almost 3,000 have been killed since Israel broke a ceasefire on March 18, the ministry said.

Israel's offensive has obliterated vast swathes of Gaza's urban landscape and displaced 90% of the population, often multiple times.

Israeli media reported that one target in

a strike on a hospital in Khan Younis on Tuesday was Mohammed Sinwar, younger brother of the late Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who was killed by Israeli forces last October.

The military would not comment beyond saying it had targeted a Hamas "command and control center" which it said was located beneath the European Hospital.

Mohammed Sinwar is believed to be Hamas' top military leader in Gaza. Israel has tried to assassinate him multiple times over the past decades.

A senior health official in Gaza said Wednesday that ambulances were no longer able to reach the hospital due to damage from the strike, which had also forced the facility to suspend surgical operations. (AP)

Ukraine's Zelenskyy arrives in Turkey for peace talks with Russia, Putin skips meeting

15 MAY 2025

ISTANBUL (TIP): A low-ranking Russian delegation arrived in Istanbul for peace talks with Ukraine, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Thursday, while a Ukrainian delegation led by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and including other senior government figures landed in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was not part of the Moscow delegation, according to a list released by the Kremlin Wednesday night, prompting criticism from Western officials that the Kremlin isn't serious about the peace effort.

Vladimir Medinsky, an aide to Putin, will lead the Russian team that will also include three other senior officials, the Kremlin said. Putin also appointed four lower-level officials as "experts" for the talks.

Earlier this week, Zelenskyy challenged the Russian leader to meet in person in Turkey to talk about ending the more than three-year war. Zelenskyy said he would travel to Ankara to meet with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and wait for Putin.

Also in the Ukrainian delegation are



Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha, and the head of the Ukrainian presidential office Andriy Yermak, the official said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity for security reasons as the team had not yet arrived in Ankara.

"Now, after three years of immense suffering, there is finally a window of opportunity," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said at a NATO meeting taking place separately in Turkey. "The talks in Istanbul hopefully may open a new chapter."

But Zelenskyy will sit at the table only with Putin, Ukraine's presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said.

Details about whether, when and where the Ukrainian delegation might meet their Russian counterparts are still unclear but is expected to be clarified after Zelenskyy and Erdogan meet, according to a Ukrainian official who requested anonymity to speak openly about the day's plan.

Tass said that the talks were to take place in a presidential office on the Bosphorus. (AFP)

China says ready to 'expand practical cooperation' with Russian army

15 MAY 2025

BEIJING (TIP): China said Thursday it was ready to "expand practical cooperation" with the Russian army, after President Xi Jinping's recent visit to Moscow for a lavish World War II Victory Day parade.

The two countries have drawn closer in recent years, including since Moscow launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Xi's trip to Russia last week drew ire from Kyiv's allies, who have accused Beijing of giving Moscow economic and political cover to wage a war of aggression. Beijing says it is a neutral party to the conflict and has made indefatigable efforts for peace.

On Thursday, in response to a question linked to Xi's visit asking how China would promote military-to-military ties with Russia, the defence ministry said the relationship was "operating at a high level."

"The Chinese military stands ready to work with the Russian side to further deepen strategic mutual trust, step up strategic communication, and expand practical cooperation," defence ministry



spokesman Jiang Bin said in a response posted to social media platform WeChat.

The moves would "enrich the content of China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era", Jiang said.

He added that they would also "contribute to maintaining and strengthening global strategic stability."

After a lengthy meeting with President

Vladimir Putin on his trip, Xi said China's ties with Russia brought "positive energy" to a turbulent world. He added that both nations stood firm against "hegemonic bullying" -- an apparent swipe at the United States.

Putin, for his part, told reporters he and Xi had held "traditionally warm, friendly" talks and addressed the Chinese leader as his "dear friend." (AFP)



THAILAND COPS ARREST MAN FOR SMUGGLING 'CRITICALLY ENDANGERED' BABY ORANGUTANS

15 MAY 2025

BANGKOK (TIP): Thai police have arrested a man suspected of smuggling two baby orangutans into the kingdom, they said Thursday, in a case linked to an international wildlife trafficking network.

The 47-year-old suspect was detained on Wednesday evening at a petrol station in a residential district of Bangkok while preparing to hand over the animals to a customer, police said in a statement.

Two infant orangutans -- one about a year old, the other just one month -- were found in a plastic basket wearing diapers, with a feeding bottle beside them, according to photos released by police.

The arrest followed a joint investigation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Orangutans, native to Borneo and Sumatra, are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List and protected under the CITES treaty, and are among the most trafficked primates in the world.

Thai police said the apes were believed to have been sold for around 300,000 baht each (\$8,900).

The man was charged with "illegal possession of protected wildlife" under Thai law and faces up to four years in prison.

The orangutans, named Christopher and Stefan, were handed over to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation for health checks and care to help "rehabilitate their condition."

Police said the suspect admitted he was hired to deliver the animals, but did not disclose the payment amount.

"We are investigating the larger network," Kasidach Charoenlap, a police officer with the Central Investigation Bureau, who was part of the investigation told AFP.

Thailand is a major transit hub for wildlife smugglers, who often sell highly prized endangered creatures on the lucrative black market in China, Vietnam and Taiwan. (AFP)

Poland votes for new president on May 18 as worries grow about its future

15 MAY 2025

WARSAW (TIP): A war next door in Ukraine. Migration pressure at borders. Russian sabotage across the region. Doubts about the US commitment to Europe's security.

In Poland's presidential election Sunday, security looms large. So do questions about the country's strength as a democracy and its place in the European Union. One of the new president's most important tasks will be maintaining strong ties with the United States, widely seen as essential to the survival of a country in an increasingly volatile neighborhood.

A CROWDED FIELD, A LIKELY RUNOFF

Voters in this Central European nation of 38 million people will cast ballots to replace conservative incumbent Andrzej Duda, whose second and final five-year term ends in August.

With 13 candidates, a decisive first-round victory is unlikely. Some have appeared unserious or extreme, expressing openly pro-Putin or antisemitic views. A televised debate this week dragged on for nearly four hours. There are calls to raise the threshold to qualify for the race.

A runoff on June 1 is widely expected, with polls pointing to a likely showdown between Rafal Trzaskowski, the liberal mayor of Warsaw, and Karol Nawrocki, a conservative historian backed by the Law and Justice party, which governed Poland from 2015 to 2023.

Poland's geography gives the election added importance. Bordering Russia's



Kaliningrad exclave, Belarus and war-torn Ukraine -- as well as several Western allies -- Poland occupies a critical position along NATO's eastern flank and serves as a key logistics hub for military aid to Ukraine.

Fears are rising that if Russia prevails in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, it could target other countries that freed themselves from Moscow's control some 35 years ago. Against that backdrop, the election will shape Warsaw's foreign policy at a moment of mounting strain on trans-Atlantic unity and European defense.

Both leading candidates support continued US military engagement in Europe. Trzaskowski puts greater emphasis on deepening ties with the European Union, while Nawrocki is more skeptical of Brussels and promotes a

nationalist agenda.

When Law and Justice held power, it repeatedly clashed with EU institutions over judicial independence, media freedom and migration.

WHY THE PRESIDENCY MATTERS

While Poland is a parliamentary democracy, the presidency wields significant influence. The president serves as commander-in-chief, holds veto power, shapes foreign policy and plays a symbolic role in national discourse.

Under Duda, the office largely advanced the conservative agenda of Law and Justice. Since Prime Minister Donald Tusk's centrist coalition came to power in late 2023, Duda has blocked key reforms aimed at restoring judicial independence and repairing relations with the EU. (AP)



SRI LANKA TO MONITOR BUS DRIVERS WITH AI AFTER WORST CRASH IN DECADES

14 MAY 2025

COLOMBO (TIP): Sri Lanka will use artificial intelligence to monitor bus drivers and make seat belts mandatory on public transport, a government minister said on Wednesday, after the country's worst bus crash in two decades killed 23 people.

The South Asian nation, which records an average of 3,000 road fatalities annually, has some of the most dangerous roads in the world.

Buses are to be equipped with driver monitoring systems from next year, while seat belts will become compulsory on public transport from June, Transport Minister Bimal Rathnayake told reporters in Colombo.

It came after an overcrowded bus carrying dozens of Buddhist pilgrims plummeted into a precipice on Sunday.

The changes are aimed at "educating motorists to develop a better driving culture and improving safety standards", Rathnayake said.

"We are going to make AI-backed driver observation systems mandatory on all buses from next year, and we will expand them to all long-distance trucks as well."

The minister said the cause of Sunday's crash in the tea-growing mountainous region of Kotmale was still being investigated, but that two more passengers had died, raising the toll to 23.

Fifty-four passengers were admitted to hospital, Rathnayake said, adding that preliminary inquiries had found no immediate indication of driver error.

Another driver had reported a problem with the bus's steering wheel the day before, but managers said it was attended to.

Sunday's crash off a cliffside road was the deadliest recorded in Sri Lanka since April 2005.

The state-owned bus was carrying around 77 passengers -- about 20 more than its capacity.

In March 2021, 13 passengers and the driver of a privately owned bus died when the vehicle crashed into a precipice in Passara, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) east of the site of Sunday's crash. (AFP)

IAEA rejects 'radiation leak' rumours at Pakistan nuclear sites after clash with India

15 MAY 2025

VIENNA / ISLAMABAD (TIP): The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday confirmed that no radiation leak or release has occurred from any nuclear facility in Pakistan, following speculation that Indian airstrikes under 'Operation Sindoor' may have targeted sensitive installations.

"Based on information available to the IAEA, there has been no radiation leak or release from any nuclear facility in Pakistan," a spokesperson for the agency said in a statement issued in response to queries.

The IAEA's clarification comes days after unverified claims circulated on social media suggesting that India's armed forces had struck Kirana Hills, an area in Pakistan reported to house nuclear infrastructure.

These allegations emerged after India launched coordinated military strikes on May 7 in response to the April terror attack in J&K's Pahalgam, that killed 26 civilians, including a Nepali national.

Notably, India has rejected claims that it targeted nuclear sites.

Air Marshal AK Bharti, Director



General of Air Operations, told reporters on May 12, "We have not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there."

When asked about the location, he added, "Thank you for telling us that Kirana Hills houses some nuclear installation, we did not know about it."

India's strikes targeted airbases in Sargodha and Nur Khan, as well as other military sites across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, damaging radar systems, communication facilities, and airfields, according to Indian officials.

Meanwhile, Union Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that Pakistan's nuclear weapons should be brought under the supervision of the IAEA as they are not safe in such a rogue nation.

The defence minister's comments came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India would not tolerate "nuclear blackmail" by Pakistan and would punish cross-border terrorism strongly.

Similarly, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed US President Donald Trump's comments suggesting that Washington had helped avert a nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan.

He said India's military operations were "in the conventional domain" and rejected suggestions of a nuclear escalation.

Trump had earlier claimed, "We stopped a nuclear conflict. I think it could have been a bad nuclear war. Millions of people could have been killed."

Tensions between India and Pakistan began to de-escalate following an understanding on the cessation of hostilities reached on May 10. (AFP)

Bangladesh's interim government strips former ruling party of registration, barring it from polls

13 MAY 2025

DHAKA (TIP): Bangladesh's Election Commission has cancelled the registration of the former ruling party of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, preventing it from participating in the next national election, which is expected to be held by June next year.

The decision on Monday came hours after the country's interim government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus issued an official notification banning the Awami League party and its affiliated bodies from conducting activities online and elsewhere.

Monday's formal notification from the Ministry of Home Affairs was issued two days after the interim Cabinet decided to ban all activities of the party under the country's Anti-Terrorism Act until a special tribunal concludes a trial for the party and its leaders.

In the notification, the government said it outlawed all activities "including any kind of publication, media, online and social media" as well as "any kind of campaign, procession, meeting, gathering (or) conference until the trial of the leaders and activists ... is completed."

It said the decision was effective immediately.

Separately, the Election Commission said Monday it would not allow the Hasina-led party to contest the next election. Political parties must be registered with the Election Commission to take part in elections.

A government adviser said Monday that anyone who posts comments online in support of the Awami League party would face arrest.

On Sunday, the Awami League accused the interim government of "stoking division" and trampling on "democratic norms" by banning its activities. It said in a statement that the ban "stoked division within society, strangled democratic norms, fueled ongoing pogrom against dissenters and strangled inclusivity, all undemocratic steps."

The Awami League is one of two major parties in Bangladesh, which has a fractious parliamentary democracy with a violent history of coups and political assassination.

Hasina, the daughter of Bangladesh's independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, fled the country on Aug. 5 last year and has been in exile in India since then along with many senior party colleagues and former Cabinet ministers and lawmakers. They have been accused of killing protesters during an uprising against Hasina's 15-year rule in July-August last year.

The United Nations human rights office said in a report in February that up to 1,400 people may have been killed during three weeks of anti-Hasina protests. The Awami League, which led a nine-month war against Pakistan for independence in 1971, has been under severe pressure since Hasina's ouster. (AP)

Military ops against India was designed under supervision of Nawaz Sharif, claims Pak minister

14 MAY 2025

LAHORE (TIP): A senior leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Wednesday claimed that the military operation against India was designed under the supervision of the party president Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz, the former three-time premier and elder brother of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, had congratulated Pakistan's civil and military leadership soon after the two countries reached an understanding on Saturday to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

"The whole operation against India was designed under the supervision of former prime minister and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif," Pakistan's Punjab province Information Minister Azma Bukhari claimed.

She said Nawaz is not a leader of "a, b, c, d type", rather his work speaks for himself.

"It was Nawaz Sharif who made Pakistan a nuclear power and now designed the whole operation against India," the minister claimed.

India carried out precision strikes under 'Operation Sindoor' on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10.

Nawaz had been advocating for a diplomatic solution to the rising tensions with India.

"Pakistan is a peace-loving country and prefers peace, but also knows how to defend itself," Nawaz said in a post on X on Saturday.

"Thanks be to Allah Almighty for making Pakistan proud. I congratulate the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shahbaz Sharif, the Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Sindhu, and the armed forces of Pakistan," he said.

Nawaz was the prime minister of Pakistan during the Kargil war of 1999. (PTI)

Sikh History This Week

MAY 16 TO MAY 22

16th May

1765 Sikhs assembled at Amritsar and passed a Gurmatta to regain more territories, occupy Lahore and strike coins in the name of their gurus as a symbol of the sovereignty of the Khalsa.

Lahna Singh, Gujjar Singh, and Sobha Singh occupied Lahore and divided the city into three administrative zones under each Sardar. Silver rupee was struck from Lahore mint.

Misl Bhangian, one of the twelve Sikh Misls, was organized by Sardar Chhaju Singh of Panjwar Dist. Amritsar. Sardar Hari Singh and Bhuma Singh, etc., the leaders of this Misl captured Lahore in 1765. This Misl also ruled over Ambala, Ferozpur and Amritsar (See description below for details on Sikh Misls).



1848 Maharani Jindan was imprisoned in the fort at Benaras.

17th May



1762 Jassa Singh Ahluwalia defeats Jain Khan.

1783 Baba Dyal Ji, the Nirankari leader, was born. NIRANKARI: a particular branch of GurSikh faith, established by Bhai Dayal Singh Ji. A Saehajdhari Sikh resident of Peshwar, GurSahai Ji, had a son named RamSahai Ji who married Ladhaki, daughter of Vasakha Singh (treasurer for the tenth Guru). Bhai Dayal Singh was born from this marriage on 15 Vaisakh sunmat 1840 (1783).

1973 US Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion.

The United States Government recognized Sikh Dharma as a religion, granting them the privileges and protection enjoyed by other churches in America.

18th May

1711 Battle of Batala between Baba Banda Singh



Bahadur and followers of Saekhul Hind.

19th May

1919: The British regime acknowledged right of the Sikhs to wear their religious sword and removed all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib. A long agitation against restrictions on Kirpan Sahib was successfully concluded. This agitation saw hundreds of Sikhs in Jails. However, upon its conclusion all restrictions on Kirpan Sahib (specifically in armed forces) were removed all over British India and Burma. Kirpan Sahib is the second Kakaar, out of a total of five Kakaars, mandated for GurSikh's attire. Others include Kaes (unshorn hair), Kanga (comb), Kasha (underwear), and Kadha (bangle).

1940 A meeting of all Sikh parties was held in Amritsar, to explore the issue of Sikh sovereignty and a sub-committee was set-up to explore the matter.

20th May



1606 The Mughal royal decree to apprehend Guru Arjan Dev Ji was announced.

1704 Anandpur Sahib was attacked unprovoked by the combined forces of neighbouring Hindus Rajas.

1912 Kahan Singh began compiling Mahan-Kosh, a Sikh Encyclopedia. KAHAN SINGH: is among the noted learned Sikh scholars. He was born on Bhado Wadi 10th sunmat 1918 (1861) in village Sabaj Banaera, Patiala, to father Bhai Narayan Singh and mother Mata Har Kaur Ji. As a child Kahan Singh was very active and thereby extremely close to his parents. He learned Gurmukhi from Bhai Bhup Singh. He was initiated to read Sri Guru Granth Sahib at the age of five by his father. At seven years of age, he was fluent in reciting Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Subsequently, Kahan Singh was sent to Delhi for Sanskrit education. He studies initially from Bawa Kalyan Das then Pandit Sri Dhar, Bansi Dhar,

Bhai Vir Singh, Bhai Ram Singh, and Bawa Parmanand. He studied poetry from Bhai Bhagwan Singh Dughu. Subsequently, he learned music from Mahant of Gurusar Maharaj, Gaja Singh. At 20 yrs. he started learning Pharsi and english. By the age of 22, Bhai Kahan Singh had accomplished the basic necessary for understanding and analyzing Sikh literature.

1922 Harnam Singh Mehdiapur is assaulted by Chakarvartis of Kishan Singh Gargaj group.

1923 Ralla and Dittu of Kaulgarh were murdered.

1930 Akali Jatha left Peshawar to help the Pathans.

Akali Jatha, led by Master Tara Singh, left for Peshawar to help the Pathan followers of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, who had been fired upon in Kissa Khwani Bazar. Tara Singh was arrested in Lahore and incarcerated in Gujrat jail. The Akali volunteers were not permitted to proceed beyond Dina in Jhelum, where they were lathi charged till every one of them became unconscious.

21st May

1920 The Akali, a Punjabi daily newspaper, started publication.

1921 The militant Akalis held a meeting and deputed Bela Singh and Ganda Singh to murder J.W. Bowring in Lahore. J.W. Bowring was was Police Captain during the Nankana Sahib massacre. Akalis were convinced that he had conspired and aided Mahant Narayan Dass in carrying of the Nanakana Sahib massacre. Since then, he had been moved to Lahore. Unfortunately the plan foiled by a government agent, Sadhu Singh, who has poised as a staunch Akali supported and worked with Akali newspaper. Both were arrested at the Lahore railway station on May 23, 1921 and tried under Babbar Akali Conspiracy Trial No. 1.

1923 Second declaration of the Babbar Akalis owning the Kaulgarh murders was issued in Babbar Akali Doaba newspaper.

1924 Viryam Singh Babbar hanged until death.

1924 5th Shahidi Jatha of 500 valiant Akali Satyagrahies courted arrest on reaching Jaito.

22nd May



1710 Baba Gurbakhash Singh (Banda Bahadur) killed Wajir Khan in Chapud-Chidhi and destroyed Sirhind. Then he established his capital at Mukhlas. Until 1720 everything was conducted from this capital.

1960 Punjabi Suba Convention was held at Amritsar. It was attended by Dr. Kitchlew, K.G. Jodh, Zaheer Qurashi and leaders of Socialist and Swatantra Parties.

Beware of early signs of ageing; keep your skin happy, healthy

Dull, tired skin, with fine lines and wrinkles despite your best efforts? These are signs of ageing that become apparent over time. A healthy and happy skin not just about the products you apply, it's also about the habits you adopt.

Multiple factors contribute to skin issues and premature aging. Genetics, environmental stressors, and lifestyle choices all play a role. Exposure to UV rays from the sun speeds up the breakdown of collagen and elastin, the proteins that keep skin firm and elastic. Additionally, poor dietary choices, lack of hydration, and insufficient sleep can lead to skin problems such as dryness, dullness, and the formation of fine lines.

By making some lifestyle adjustments you can combat these issues and maintain radiant, youthful skin. Here's how:

Drink ample water

Adequate hydration helps to maintain skin's elasticity and suppleness. Drinking plenty of water aids in keeping your skin hydrated from the inside out, flushing out toxins and promoting a healthy complexion.

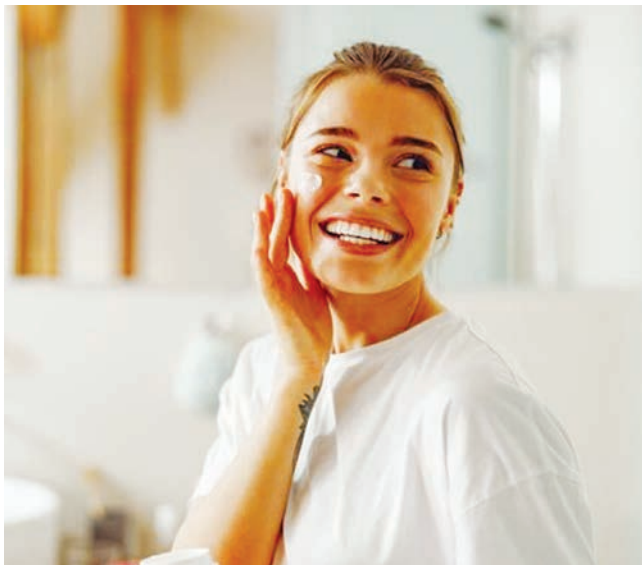
Aim to drink at least eight glasses of water a day, and consider including hydrating foods like cucumbers and oranges into your diet.

Make nutrition a priority

A balanced diet rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and healthy fats supports skin health and combats oxidative stress that can lead to aging. Foods high in vitamins C and E, such as berries and nuts, help protect the skin from sun damage and promote collagen production. Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish and flaxseeds can also help maintain skin hydration and reduce inflammation.

Never ignore a good sleep

Quality sleep is vital for skin repair and regeneration. During deep sleep, the body produces growth hormones that help repair damaged cells and regenerate skin. Aim for 7-9 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night to allow your skin to recover and



maintain its youthful appearance.

Protect yourself from heat

Consistent use of sunscreen is one of the most effective ways to prevent premature aging. UV rays from the sun can cause sunspots, wrinkles, and loss of elasticity. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 daily, even on cloudy days, and reapply every two hours when exposed to sunlight.

Move that body

Regular physical activity boosts circulation and enhances the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the skin. Exercise also helps reduce stress, which can negatively impact skin health. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise most days of the week to promote a healthy complexion and overall well-being.

Stay stress free

Chronic stress can contribute to skin issues such as acne, eczema, and premature ageing. Practice stress-reducing activities like meditation, yoga, or deep breathing exercises. Managing stress effectively helps maintain hormonal balance and supports a clearer, more youthful complexion.

FOOD CORNER



Indian chicken curry

Ingredients

2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, 2 teaspoons salt, ½ cup cooking oil, 1 ½ cups chopped onion, 1 tablespoon minced garlic, 1 ½ teaspoons minced fresh ginger root, 1 tablespoon curry powder, 1 teaspoon ground cumin, 1 teaspoon ground turmeric, 1 teaspoon ground coriander, 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, 1 tablespoon water, 1 (15 ounce) can crushed tomatoes, 1 cup plain yogurt, 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro, 1 teaspoon salt, ½ cup water, 1 teaspoon garam masala, 1 tablespoon chopped fresh cilantro, 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Directions

- Sprinkle the chicken breasts with 2 teaspoons salt. Heat oil in a large skillet over high heat; partially cook the chicken in the hot oil in batches until completely browned on all sides. Transfer browned chicken breasts to a plate and set aside.
- Reduce the heat to medium and add onion, garlic, and ginger to the oil remaining in the skillet. Cook and stir until onion turns soft and translucent, 5 to 8 minutes. Stir curry powder, cumin, turmeric, coriander, cayenne, and 1 tablespoon of water into the onion mixture; allow to heat together for about 1 minute while stirring.
- Add tomatoes, yogurt, 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro, and 1 teaspoon salt to the mixture; stir to combine. Return chicken breast to the skillet along with any juices on the plate. Pour in ½ cup water and bring to a boil, turning the chicken to coat with the sauce. Sprinkle garam masala and 1 tablespoon cilantro over the chicken. Cover the skillet and simmer until chicken breasts are no longer pink in the center and the juices run clear, about 20 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 165 degrees F (74 degrees C). Drizzle with lemon juice to serve.
- Drizzle with lemon juice to serve.



Ways to boost hair growth and thickness

Healthy hair growth is a common goal, whether you're recovering from hair thinning, dealing with hair loss, or simply want longer, thicker locks. Hair growth depends on many factors including genetics, nutrition, scalp health, and sometimes medical treatments. Here's a comprehensive guide to the ultimate hair growing tips based on the latest scientific evidence.

Your scalp is the foundation for hair growth. A clean, well-nourished scalp supports strong follicles and healthy strands.

Regular scalp massages may increase blood flow, delivering oxygen and nutrients to hair follicles, promoting thicker hair growth. Using gentle, sulfate-free shampoos and avoiding harsh chemical buildup helps maintain scalp health.

Consider adding essential oils like rosemary or



lavender oil, which have shown potential to stimulate hair growth by improving circulation and follicle nourishment.

Nutrition plays a critical role in hair health. Hair is primarily made of protein, so adequate intake is essential.

Protein: Include lean meats, eggs, dairy, legumes, nuts, and soy products to provide the building blocks for hair.

Iron: Iron deficiency is a well-known cause of hair loss. Eating iron-rich foods like spinach, beans, nuts, and fortified cereals can help prevent thinning hair.

Vitamin C: Helps your body absorb iron better. Combine

iron-rich foods with vitamin C sources such as oranges, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Omega-3 Fatty Acids: Found in fish oil and flaxseeds, omega-3s reduce inflammation and may improve hair density.

No transplant, no stitches: The eye surgery giving patients a second chance at sight

In a country where the shortage of donor corneas often stands between a patient and restored vision, an innovative eye surgery developed in India is offering new hope.

Known as Pinhole Pupilloplasty (PPP), the technique is changing the way ophthalmologists treat patients with severe corneal conditions, without the need for corneal transplants or lengthy recovery periods.

Corneal transplants are required when the cornea, the clear, dome-shaped surface that covers the front of the eye, becomes damaged or diseased to the point where it affects vision or causes pain.

Injuries from trauma, infections (like herpes simplex or fungal keratitis), keratoconus etc., would need corneal transplants.

Pioneered by Dr. Amar Agarwal, Chairman of Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, this groundbreaking procedure has not only found takers across India but is also gaining recognition on the global stage.

In fact, the eye surgery earned Dr. Agarwal an international award at the ASCRS Film Festival in Los Angeles.

The technique, now widely practiced in several countries, has been credited with restoring sight where traditional methods fall short.

"Some patients have very high astigmatism that cannot be corrected with usual methods, and toric intraocular lenses only work up to a certain level. This gave me the idea to create a pinhole effect in the pupil itself, which led to the first Pinhole Pupilloplasty," Dr. Agarwal told IndiaToday.in.

In traditional cases of corneal scarring, eye doctors often recommend a corneal transplant - a procedure



that relies heavily on donor tissue, involves a long healing period, and carries the risk of graft rejection.

The pinhole pupilloplasty method uses stitches to change the shape of the pupil without needing a donor cornea, and patients recover much faster compared to traditional surgery.

The principle is simple: by reducing the size of the pupil to about 1-1.5 mm, similar to the tip of a pin, incoming light is focused more effectively onto the retina, bypassing irregularities in the cornea.

The result? Sharper vision with reduced glare, especially for patients with complex eye issues like corneal scars, keratoconus, or radial keratotomy complications.

Source: India Today



Working more than 52 hours per week could alter brain structure: Study

Spending too much time at work may not just exhaust your body, it could also be affecting your brain. A new study has found that working over 52 hours a week may lead to changes in the brain's structure, especially in areas responsible for managing emotions, memory, and decision-making.

The findings, published in the journal Occupational & Environmental Medicine, suggest that overwork could potentially impact a person's mental and emotional well-being in the long run.

Researchers from Yonsei University in South Korea found that people who worked too much showed clear changes in parts of the brain that help with decision-making and handling emotions.

Researchers looked at healthcare workers who often work long hours, comparing brain scans of those working standard hours with those putting in 52 hours or more per week.

The final analysis looked at 110 workers, most of whom were doctors or worked in healthcare.

Out of these, 32 people worked long hours every week, while 78 worked normal hours.

They found that people working longer hours had noticeable changes in certain parts of the brain that help with focus, emotional control, memory, and problem-solving.

One of the key areas affected was the middle frontal gyrus, a part of the brain linked to working memory and language processing.

In fact, this area was 19% larger in people who worked long hours. Other affected areas included the superior frontal gyrus, which plays a role in decision-making and planning, and the insula, which helps us process emotions and stay aware of ourselves and our surroundings.

The study adds to a growing body of evidence that overwork doesn't just increase the risk of heart disease, diabetes, and mental health problems, it may also lead to physical changes in the brain.

While it's not yet clear whether these changes are harmful or the brain's way of adapting to constant stress, the researchers said that the findings are a wake-up call.

Women are at higher risk of lung disease

Women are about 50% more likely than men to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a serious lung condition, even if they have never smoked or smoked less than men, according to new research published in BMJ Open Respiratory Research.

COPD is a group of chronic lung diseases, including emphysema and bronchitis, often caused by long-term smoking, air pollution and lung irritants. The condition makes a person hard to breathe.

However, the large US-based study challenges the long-held belief that smoking alone explains why more women now suffer from COPD.

Researchers analysed data from the 2020 National Health Interview Survey, which included over 23,000 adults aged 40 and above. The survey looked at smoking habits, use of tobacco products, and whether participants had been diagnosed with COPD.

Interestingly, women reported smoking less than men. They smoked fewer cigarettes per day (18 vs. 22), were less likely to have started smoking before age 15 (19% vs. 28%), and were also less likely to have used other tobacco products like cigars or smokeless tobacco.

Yet, COPD was more common among women (nearly 8%) than men (6.5%).

Even among those who had never smoked, women were still twice as likely to have COPD compared to men - 3% vs. 1.5%. Among people who had ever smoked, 16% of women had COPD, compared to 11.5% of men.

After adjusting for other factors such as age and



smoking exposure, researchers found that women had a 47% higher risk of developing COPD. Among non-smokers, women were 62% more likely to be diagnosed with COPD than male non-smokers.

The study relied on self-reported information and didn't include possible influences like hormonal changes, environmental pollution, or workplace exposure, which may affect COPD risk. However, the authors argue that the findings suggest smoking alone doesn't fully explain the higher rates of COPD in women.

"If women were simply more sensitive to tobacco smoke, we wouldn't see such high COPD rates among those who never smoked," the researchers noted.

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OpenAI's flagship GPT 4.1 model is now available on ChatGPT

OpenAI has officially rolled out its new GPT-4.1 series, including GPT-4.1, GPT-4.1 mini, and GPT-4.1 nano, to ChatGPT users. The company says that the new models bring notable upgrades in coding, instruction following, and long-context comprehension. "These models outperform GPT-4o and GPT-4o mini across the board, with major gains in coding and instruction following," OpenAI wrote on its blog post.

Access to these models on ChatGPT will only be available to paying users. In a post shared on X (formerly Twitter) on May 14, OpenAI confirmed that its latest flagship model, GPT-4.1, is now live on ChatGPT. The announcement follows a broader launch of the GPT 4.1 family on OpenAI's API platform a month ago, where developers can already integrate and test the three versions -- full, mini, and nano. However, with the latest update, the models are now available to all ChatGPT users, except free users.

OpenAI claims that the GPT-4.1 significantly outperforms its predecessor GPT-4o in areas like coding and instruction following. The model is designed with a larger context window, which supports up to 1 million tokens. This means that it can process and retain more information at once. It also comes with a knowledge cutoff of June 2024. GPT-4o's knowledge cutoff is October 2023.

OpenAI has shared benchmarks on its official blog post, that claims that the GPT-4.1 shows a 21 per cent absolute improvement over GPT-4o in software engineering tasks and is 10.5 per cent better in instruction following. OpenAI says the model is now much better at maintaining coherent conversations across multiple turns, making it more effective for real-world applications such as writing assistance, software development, and customer support. "While benchmarks provide valuable insights, we trained these models with a focus on real-world utility. Close collaboration and partnership with the developer community enabled us to optimise these models for the tasks that matter most to their applications," OpenAI says. The mini and nano variants are scaled-down versions aimed at offering high performance with lower cost and latency. GPT-4.1 mini is reported to reduce latency by nearly half while costing 83 per cent less than GPT-4o.

Meta working on making Ray-Ban AI glasses smarter, extended Live AI and Face Detect coming

Meta appears to have some big ambitions for its next generation of smart glasses, which it has created in collaboration with Ray-Ban. The company reportedly wants to make its AI glasses more intelligent with features like face detection and allow more time for Live AI. According to a report by The Information, the company is working on two pairs of smart glasses, internally codenamed Aperol and Bellini, which will offer hands-free AI assistants and more smart features.

According to the report, Meta is working on to release its next generation of smart glasses in 2026 and for that, the company is discussing software called "super-sensing" vision. The new software would allow the AI smart glasses to scan and read the surroundings for better assistance. The upcoming glasses are also said to offer extended hours of Live AI functionality, which is currently available for just 30 minutes. The feature allows users to interact with Meta AI in real-time interaction with voice commands.

The report suggests that the future aim for Meta's AI glasses is to allow the wearable to observe, understand, and even remember a user's environment—functioning almost like a visual memory aid. This functionality could include features like identifying familiar objects such as house keys, your car, or even the faces of people nearby. With anticipated features like facial recognition, the AI could potentially identify individuals and display their names based on previously stored information.

While the idea of a camera-powered memory assistant looks promising and futuristic, it also revives old concerns around privacy and surveillance. Reports suggest that Meta's internal discussions include whether to keep the standard camera indicator—currently a blinking LED—active when facial recognition is in use. The company reportedly does not want to turn off this indicator, and disabling this signal during super-sensing mode could raise questions about transparency, especially since bystanders may be unaware they are being scanned. Although the Meta could possibly give the users control over when and how to use the face-tracking feature.

Beyond glasses, Meta's roadmap appears to include a wider family of AI-powered wearables. According to reports, Meta's



Meta is reportedly working on next-gen smart glasses with Ray-Ban for launch in 2026. With the new smart glasses, Meta is likely to integrate advanced AI features like facial recognition.

plans to include facial recognition technology could also extend to other devices, such as AI-equipped earphones with cameras—as the company plans to expand and interconnect its ecosystem.

Meanwhile, Meta's Ray-Ban glasses have been launched in India at Rs 29,900. The devices are slated to hit stores on 19 May. The smart AI wearable features an ultra-wide 12-megapixel camera and a five-mic system. It allows users to take high-quality photos and videos and can instantly share them on social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

Saturn's largest moon, Titan, is a world both familiar and alien and the mysteries just keep getting better.

Cloaked in a thick, yellowish haze, Titan is the only place in our solar system besides Earth where rain falls from the sky and fills lakes and rivers.

But on Titan, the rain is not water—it's liquid methane and ethane, hydrocarbons that are gases on Earth but behave as chilly liquids in Titan's frigid environment.

Recent observations by NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, along with images from the Keck II telescope, have provided the first evidence of cloud convection in Titan's northern hemisphere, over an area dotted with lakes and seas.

These clouds, made of methane, form much like water clouds on Earth: methane evaporates from Titan's surface, rises, cools, and condenses into clouds, which sometimes unleash oily methane rain onto the icy ground.

This methane rain feeds Titan's lakes

It rains on Saturn's moon Titan. But it's not water falling from the sky



and rivers, mostly found near its North Pole, where the landscape is shaped by cycles of evaporation and rainfall.

Titan's weather is driven by a methane cycle that mirrors Earth's water cycle. Methane clouds form, rain falls, and the liquid gathers in lakes and seas before

evaporating again. Unlike Earth, where water is the key ingredient for life and weather, Titan's atmosphere and surface are dominated by methane and ethane. The surface temperature is a bone-chilling -179C, so water is frozen as hard as rock, while methane flows freely.

Scientists are fascinated by Titan's complex chemistry. Webb's recent observations even detected a molecule called the methyl radical (CH), providing a glimpse into the ongoing chemical reactions in Titan's atmosphere.

These reactions, driven by sunlight and Saturn's magnetic field, break apart methane and build more complex organic molecules—some of the building blocks of life. Titan's methane is slowly lost to space, so scientists believe there must be underground reservoirs or processes that replenish it, keeping the rain and lakes going.

India's overseas borrowing surges to five-year high

In a strong signal of rising investment in India's private sector, manufacturing and finance companies received approval to raise a record \$11 billion through external commercial borrowings (ECBs) in March 2025. This marks the highest monthly ECB inflow in more than five years, according to data released by RBI.

Of the total amount, about \$8.3 billion was approved through the automatic route, while nearly \$2.7 billion was approved through the approval route. The surge in ECBs highlights the growing confidence in India's economic prospects and its ability to attract foreign capital.

Several prominent companies were among the top recipients of ECB approvals in March. Yuzhan Technology (India), a subsidiary of Taiwan's Foxconn Group, received approval to raise \$220 million for working capital needs. Established in late 2023, Yuzhan focuses on the manufacturing of computer, electronic, and optical products. JSW Steel received approval to raise \$900 million to refinance an earlier ECB, while ONGC Videsh and MRPL each received approval to raise \$450 million and \$500 million, respectively, for similar refinancing purposes. Power Finance Corporation received approval to raise \$250 million for onlending, and IndianOil received approval to raise \$400 million for refinancing an earlier ECB.

Other companies that received approval to borrow included Tata Semiconductor, which secured approval to raise \$625 million for a new project, and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India, which received approval for \$511 million. JSW Neo received approval to raise \$675 million for investment in an overseas joint venture, while Hero Fincorp and Nissan Renault Financial Services received approval for \$250



million and \$233 million, respectively, for onlending. For the full fiscal year, total ECB proposals amounted to \$61.8 billion, a significant increase from the \$49 billion raised in FY24. Nearly half of the approvals were for ECBs by financial services companies.

The top 10 recipients of ECB approvals in FY25 include major companies such as Reliance Industries, Power Finance Corporation, and JSW Steel. Reliance Industries, for instance, received approval to raise two loans: nearly \$3 billion for refinancing earlier ECBs, and another \$1 billion for the local sourcing of capital goods. Both loans have maturities ranging from 5 to 12 years.

Others include ONGC Videsh, which received approval for \$800 million, and companies like Muthoot Finance,

Shriram Finance, IIFL Finance, and Tata Capital, which were approved for \$750 million each for onlending purposes.

India Inc raises a record \$61 billion via ECBs in FY25, NBFCs lead way

Fund raising by Indian companies through overseas loans jumped to the highest on record in FY25, led by non-bank lenders that borrowed beyond home amid a slowdown in lending by local banks. Data published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Wednesday showed that external commercial borrowing (ECB) registrations by companies, including non-banking finance companies, stood at more than \$11 billion in March. This took the total number to \$61 billion for FY25, compared with \$49 billion a year ago.

Source: TOI and Economic Times

Indian firms pledge \$6.8 bn in FDI; nearly \$6 mn in Turkiye, Azerbaijan

Four Indian entities committed foreign direct investments (FDI) worth nearly USD 6 million in Azerbaijan and Turkiye, accounting for a small part of the total USD 6.8 billion overseas investments proposed by Indian companies in April, according to the latest Reserve Bank data. India's outbound FDI increased by nearly 90 per cent annually to USD 6.8 billion in April, led by Tata Communications, Life Insurance Company and JSW Neo Energy, according to the data.

India's outward FDI stood at about USD 3.59 billion in April 2024 and USD 5.9 billion in March. Among the investments, two Indian entities — Omega Plasto Ltd and Rama Pure Water Pvt Ltd — have committed equity investments in the 'wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels' segment in Turkiye through joint ventures, as per the data released by the Reserve Bank of India on Wednesday. Axiro Semiconductor Pvt Ltd has committed funds in Turkiye's manufacturing space through a wholly-owned subsidiary. Together, the three entities' total commitment is around USD 0.28 million.

The data showed that Project Aslan has committed an amount of USD 5.6 million in Azerbaijan's agriculture and mining sectors.

Tata Communications Limited has committed USD 1.12 billion, including a guarantee of little over USD 1 billion and equity of USD 88.77 million, in the Netherlands, the data showed. The investment is being made through a joint venture, Tata Communications Netherlands BV, in transport, storage and communications services. JSW Neo Energy's financial commitment stood at USD 720.6 million through its wholly-owned subsidiary O2 Power Midco Holdings PTE in Singapore towards electricity, gas and water.

Markets end higher as inflation cools to 6-year low in April

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher on Wednesday, April 15, as retail inflation eased to a nearly six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April, creating enough room for the RBI to go for another rate cut in the June monetary policy review.

A cooling US April inflation data and a pause in global trade tensions added to the positive trend in the equity markets, traders said.

In a highly volatile trade, the 30-share BSE benchmark gauge Sensex climbed 182.34 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 81,330.56. The gauge hit a high of 81,691.87 and a low of 80,910.03.

The NSE Nifty rose 88.55 points or 0.36 per cent to 24,666.90.

From the Sensex firms, Tata Steel,



Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services and Bharti Airtel were the major gainers.

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel climbed nearly 1 per cent after it posted about a five-fold jump in consolidated net

profit to Rs 11,022 crore in the March 2025 quarter, mainly due to the tariff hike impact and one-time gain on tax benefits.

However, Asian Paints, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC and Power Grid were among the laggards.

Tata Motors dipped over 1 per cent after the firm reported a 51 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 8,556 crore for the March quarter, hit by lower volumes and operating leverage.

Meanwhile, the retail inflation eased to a nearly six-year low of 3.16 per cent in April, mainly due to subdued prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, and other protein-rich items, creating enough room for the Reserve Bank to go for another round of rate cuts in the June monetary policy review.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation was 3.34 per cent in March and 4.83 per cent in April 2024. It was 3.15 per cent in July 2019.

The wholesale price inflation dropped to a 13-month low of 0.85 per cent in April, with softening in prices of food articles, fuel and manufactured products, with experts projecting further easing in the data for next month, government data showed on Wednesday.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled higher while Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended lower. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 476.86 crore, according to exchange data.

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - MAY 19, 2025 TO MAY 25, 2025

By Chirag Daruwalla - Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



BEJAN DARUWALLA AND CHIRAG DARUWALLA

ARIES



Ganesha says this week is the time for new beginnings. You will be full of energy and enthusiasm, which will help you succeed in your work. This week is favorable for creativity and new ideas. Your social life will also see warmth. Spending time with friends and family will give you mental relief. You will also feel the desire to help them, which will strengthen the relationship. However, keep in mind that it is important to take care of your health. Do not ignore small symptoms, and make it a habit to exercise regularly. This will increase your confidence, and you will be able to perform better in every aspect of life. In terms of love, you will value deep communication with your partner. Conversation will bring you closer to each other. If you are single, then this is the time to start a new relationship. In summary, this week is the time for new opportunities and relationships for you. Move forward with a positive attitude, and whatever you do, do it with all your heart.

TAURUS



Ganesha says this week, the circumstances are going to be quite positive. It is time to balance your personal and professional life. This week will allow you to recognize and use your inner strength. On the professional front, your ideas and efforts will be appreciated, which will increase your confidence. Collaboration with team members will help in achieving better results. You may get a chance to work on an important project, where your hard work will pay off. In personal life, there will be a sense of dedication and trust in relationships. Spending time with your partner will be important to understand your feelings. Doing an activity together with the family will establish a cordial relationship. This week, it is important to focus on health. Regular exercise and a balanced diet will help maintain your energy levels. Spending some time alone will be beneficial for mental peace. Use time properly and move forward towards your goals. Remember, stability and patience will be your biggest helpers.

GEMINI



Ganesha says this week, you will feel a deep connection with the world around you. Your natural curiosity and ability to communicate will help you gain new

knowledge. Spending time with family and friends will bring happiness and satisfaction to the mind. You will also feel motivated to participate in social events, where your ideas and suggestions will be appreciated. In the work sphere, you will get the opportunity to showcase your abilities. You may get many positive responses due to your hard work and dedication. Focus on new projects to develop your thinking ability. Be health conscious. Taking some time out for exercise will be beneficial for your mental and physical health. Practicing yoga or meditation will bring mental peace. Remember, your thoughts and communication will be important for you this week. Be ready to take advantage of many opportunities. Keep disappointments away and trust your intuition.

CANCER



Ganesha says this week will bring new energy to you. You will feel positive changes in the circumstances around you. Time spent with family will bring you happiness, and you can build deeper relationships with your loved ones. Your mental health will be good this week, giving you more clarity in tasks. There may be some challenges in work life, but your intelligence and sensitivity will show you the right path. In terms of the economy, it is necessary to pay attention to your expenses. Making a plan for savings can be beneficial. In social life, you can make new friends, which can open the door to a new opportunity for you. It is important to be health-conscious. By taking a balanced diet and doing yoga or exercise, you will be able to maintain your energy. The most important message of this week is - maintain the emotional balance within you and enjoy every moment of life.

LEO



Ganesha says this week, new possibilities and opportunities will open up in various fields. Your self-confidence and warm personality will spread all around, due to which people will be attracted to you. At the workplace, your ideas and suggestions will prove to be very important, so do not miss sharing your ideas. In personal life, spending time with family will be pleasant for you. Plan a trip somewhere or organize small gatherings, and this will give you mental peace. This week, there will be newness in your love relationship as well and enjoy a special moment with your partner. In terms of health, regular exercise and meditation will keep you full of energy. Pay attention to your health during this period, so that you can remain mentally and physically healthy. The message is that this week, recognize your favorable opportunities and adopt them properly, so that there is no hindrance to your progress. Move forward with positivity and self-

confidence.

VIRGO



Ganesha says his week will bring new possibilities and opportunities for you. You will be very active in terms of work, and you will also get the fruits of your hard work. During this time, use your creativity, as it will provide you with new ideas and perspectives. Your relationships will become warmer. There will be harmony in the family, and mutual understanding will increase. A sense of friendship and cooperation will increase which will help you in complex situations. In terms of health, try to organize your routine a bit. Yoga and meditation will keep you mentally and physically stable. Whatever decision you make this week, take it thoughtfully. Your awareness and discretion will help you choose the right path. Keep moving towards your goals, and maintain a positive attitude.

LIBRA



Ganesha says this week is a time of balance and harmony. Your social life will be active, and there will be opportunities to make new relationships. Time spent with your friends and family will give you mental peace. Your creativity will be at its peak, so if you have worked on an art or writing project, this is the best time to complete it. At work, collaborating with colleagues will help you achieve big goals. Make sure you do not rush into making decisions that can have long-term effects on you. Trust your intuition and take steps thoughtfully. In terms of health, it is important to take some peace and relaxation. Yoga or meditation can help improve your mental health. Overall, this week is suitable for you for growth and relationships. Move forward, full of positivity and creativity.

SCORPIO



Ganesha says this week is an encouraging time. Positive changes can come in your general life. Your hard work and dedication are likely to be rewarded in the workplace. Relations with colleagues will improve, which will also improve teamwork. There will be an atmosphere of joy in family matters as well. Spend time with your loved ones, it will be beneficial for your mental health. Due to your infectious zodiac sign, you will inspire people around you and spread positive energy. Romantic life is also expected to improve. For those who are single, there is a possibility of a new relationship. People will be attracted to you due to your charismatic personality. Keep in mind that it is important to keep the mind calm this week. Yoga and meditation will help you stay balanced. Try to take time to pay attention to any

basic problem and solve it. Thus, this week is full of momentum for you, so do not miss out on taking advantage of the opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS



Ganesha says this week, you will get many positive opportunities, which will increase your confidence. You will be in a position to touch new heights in both personal and professional life. Your relationship with colleagues at the workplace will become stronger, and if you are working on a new project, your efforts will be successful. This week is also suitable for travel. If you are planning a long journey, then this is a good time for it. During the journey, you will get a chance to share new experiences, and it will expand your perspective. Your social life will also be bustling. Spending time with friends and family will make you happy. You may get an opportunity to participate in a festival or function, which will open the way for you to create new networks. In terms of health, pay attention to your mental health. Do some meditation and yoga, which will restore your energy, and you will be even more focused. This week is about maintaining balance for you, so do not forget to strike a proper balance between work and rest. In short, this week is full of possibilities for you. Move forward with positivity and enthusiasm and keep moving towards your goals.

CAPRICORN



Ganesha says this week, you will experience positive changes in your professional life. The hard work and efforts you have put in will start yielding results, which will increase your confidence. Communicating with colleagues will be important; with their help, you will be able to solve many problems. In personal life, there is a good opportunity to spend time with family and friends. This time will help in strengthening your relationships further. If there is an old dispute going on, try to resolve it. This time is very suitable for your patience and understanding. Be health conscious. Focus on regular exercise and a balanced diet. Take the help of meditation or yoga to reduce mental stress. In financial matters, do not consider any new investment. Focus on existing expenses and avoid unnecessary expenses. This is the time to be patient. Be ready to embrace new possibilities this week. Your ambition and responsibility can take you to new heights. Move forward and keep moving towards your dreams.

AQUARIUS



Ganesha says this week, you will be full of new ideas and creativity. You will be active in your

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : MAY 19 TO MAY 25 BY VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 19

Ganesha says your merited gratitude and accolades will be bestowed upon you today. This is a very profitable time to make real estate investments. Speculating, however, is harmful and is to be avoided. You'll be satisfied with the amicable resolution of the legal difficulties that have been bugging you. The happiness of your spouse and children will both be significant sources. Your parents' health will deteriorate as a result of your stress, and you'll be troubled by the rising cost of healthcare for your family.

MAY 20

Ganesha says you will have some fantastic possibilities today, but you must seize them before others do. Profits from prior investments will accrue. It's a great time to do things you like and that make you feel happy. A long-distance excursion for fun or a pilgrimage is likely. Your health will continue to be excellent, but you'll start to worry about an elderly family member's well-being. During this time, you'll make a lot of worthwhile new friends and contacts.

MAY 21

Ganesha says although you have great talent and enjoy taking on challenges, you need to rein in your tendency to rule outright, overspend, and occasionally act destructively. You will benefit financially and physically on this day. You will experience great gains because of your high energy. Real estate speculation will result in substantial profits. Both work and pleasure trips will take place far from home. Children need to focus more on their careers. Health will be more or less fine notwithstanding some initial problems.

MAY 22

Ganesha says new opportunities and hope are promised for the future. Your successes will be proportionate to your efforts, but we'll undoubtedly have luck on our side. Your creativity will be at an all-time high, and your imagination and abilities will work wonders for you. Your relationships with those in positions of authority will open up the best prospects for you. Do not engage in rash speculation as sudden gains and losses are anticipated. Children will bring good news.

MAY 23

Ganesha says you are effective and truthful, but you need to restrain your tendency to occasionally act enviously and stubbornly. Your investments will result in new profits today, and you'll spend more on luxuries and other creature comforts. Pleasant romantic entanglements will occur, and there will be excellent opportunities to form a marriage alliance. You will become moved by religious impulses, leading you to travel on a pilgrimage. Expect to receive gifts and delights in kind and in cash, but you may be surprised by some unforeseen costs.

MAY 24

Ganesha says in order to gain from your plans, you should start early. Long-term gains will be attained as a result of your efforts during this time. Time when investing in real estate is advantageous. Your priority list will include romance. A new arrival also appears to be a possibility. As you take a job with more responsibility and position, your financial situation will get better. The entire family's spirits will rise if some exciting news comes in from distant relatives. It will be fun to travel and journey.



VEDIC ASTROLOGER NASTUR BEJAN DARUWALLA

MAY 25

Ganesha says at work, more responsibilities are asked of you. This would make you popular with your employer and help you receive incentives. Working on fresh concepts would help you earn more money. The spouse is predicted to reveal some exciting information. For some people, long-distance travel, possibly even abroad, might be extremely enjoyable and fulfilling. You should learn to control your impulsive, vengeful, and occasionally grumpy behavior.

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social life and will get the opportunity to increase your knowledge by meeting new people. Your friends and family will support your ideas, so do not miss any chance to connect with them. At this time, your mental health is important. Adequate rest and meditation will be beneficial for you. Attending a yoga or meditation session will help calm your mind. In the field of business, your efforts will be appreciated but be a little patient. Avoid confrontational situations and move forward in a spirit of cooperation. Your ideas have good prospects in business plans, but they may take time to implement. Emotionally, this week is all about improving relationships and increasing mutual understanding. Talk openly with your loved ones and share your ideas. This will deepen your relationships. Overall, this week is a time of new opportunities, creative ventures, and strengthening relationships. Take care of your mental and emotional health and focus on the positive aspects.

PISCES



Ganesha says this week indicates a new beginning for you. This is the time for self-exploration and emotional growth. You will feel inspired to recognize and manifest your creativity. Interest in some art or hobby may increase, which will also positively affect your mental health. Your relationships with family and friends will become stronger. Some important conversations can deepen your close relationships. Participating in social events will give you new knowledge and experience, which can prove beneficial for you in the future. In the field of career, this week

can bring opportunities for you. If you have started working on a new project, it can be fruitful for you. With hard work and dedication, you will be able to achieve your goals. In terms of health, practice meditation and yoga to reduce stress. Expressing your emotions will bring mental peace. The flow of positivity and creativity throughout the week will bring joy and enthusiasm to

your life. Listen to your inner voice and keep walking on your path!

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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World Famous Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla



Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

Hindu Goddesses: The feminine source of power in the universe

This article explores the central role of the feminine divine in Hindu theology and cosmology. Unlike many religious systems that emphasize a male-centric deity, Hinduism presents a robust and multidimensional concept of Shakti - the cosmic feminine power - embodied in a multitude of goddesses. These deities are not mere consorts to male gods but independent, supreme forces who create, preserve, and dissolve the universe. This article examines the theological, philosophical, and cultural significance of major Hindu goddesses and how they symbolize various aspects of life, spirituality, and cosmic principles.

The Primacy of the Divine Feminine

In Hinduism, the feminine is not subordinate to the masculine; it is its equal and often its source. This is reflected in the concept of Shakti, which means "power" or "energy." All cosmic activity - creation, preservation, destruction, illusion, and liberation - is carried out by Shakti. In her numerous manifestations, Shakti reveals the multifaceted nature of the divine feminine, from nurturing mother to fierce warrior, from learned goddess of wisdom to embodiment of sensuality and wealth.

Shakti is not just the consort of a male god; she is the active principle without which divinity itself remains inert. In Shaivism, without Shakti, Shiva is shava - a corpse.

The Concept of Shakti

In Samkhya and Tantric traditions, the universe is composed of two eternal realities: Purusha (pure consciousness) and Prakriti (primordial matter or energy). Shakti is Prakriti - the animating energy of the universe.

In Shaktism, Shakti is the Supreme Brahman - the formless, eternal, unchanging reality - manifesting as countless forms of goddesses. The masculine forms (Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma) are seen as passive or potential forces, whereas Shakti is the dynamic, manifest force of creation.

The Tridevi: Saraswati, Lakshmi, and Parvati

Saraswati - The Goddess of Knowledge and Wisdom

Saraswati is the embodiment of jnana (knowledge), speech (Vak), and learning. Her association with the Vedas makes her the patroness of sacred knowledge and intellectual refinement.

- Iconography: Dressed in white, seated on a lotus or swan, she holds a veena, Vedas, and a rosary.
- Attributes: Clarity, purity, truth, and intellect.
- Festivals: Vasant Panchami is



dedicated to her worship, especially by students and scholars.

Lakshmi - The Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity

Lakshmi symbolizes abundance, beauty, fertility, and well-being. She represents both material and spiritual wealth, emphasizing that true prosperity includes inner virtues.

- Iconography: Standing on a lotus, flanked by elephants, pouring gold coins.
- Dual Forms: Sri Lakshmi (spiritual wealth) and Bhū Devi (earth goddess).
- Festivals: Worshipped during Diwali, particularly on Lakshmi Puja.

Parvati - The Goddess of Power and Transformation

Parvati, in her gentle and fierce aspects, is the cosmic feminine energy behind Shiva. She is also the mother of Ganesha and Kartikeya.

- Iconography: Often depicted with Shiva, as a family woman or a yogini.
- Fierce Forms: Durga, Kali, and Chamunda.
- Attributes: Strength, devotion, transformation, and balance.

Durga: The Supreme Protector

Durga is a composite of all godly powers, created to destroy the demon Mahishasura. She epitomizes the divine feminine as warrior and savior.

- Iconography: Ten-armed, riding a lion, carrying weapons from all gods.

- Textual Reference: Devi Mahatmya (Markandeya Purana).
- Festival: Celebrated as Navaratri and Durga Puja, particularly in eastern India.

Durga symbolizes the triumph of Dharma (righteousness) over Adharma (chaos and evil).

Kali: Time, Death, and Liberation

Kali is the most intense form of feminine power. She is not just the destroyer of evil but the destroyer of ego, time, and illusion.

- Iconography: Naked, dark-skinned, garlanded with skulls, tongue protruding.
- Philosophical Meaning: Kali represents the end of all material illusion, revealing the absolute truth.
- Tantric Significance: Considered the highest of the Mahavidyas - the ten great wisdom goddesses.

Kali's terrifying form is symbolic of the power needed to destroy ego and ignorance, leading the soul toward liberation.

Shakti Peethas: Sacred Seats of Feminine Power

The Shakti Peethas are ancient temples spread across India and beyond, each believed to be a location where parts of Sati's body fell when Lord Shiva wandered in grief.

- Kamakhya (Assam) - Yoni of the goddess.
- Kalighat (West Bengal) - Right toe.
- Jwalamukhi (Himachal Pradesh) - Tongue.
- Vaishno Devi (Jammu) - Composite

goddess.

- Meenakshi Temple (Madurai) - Eyes of the goddess.

These are not only spiritual centers but also places of deep tantric significance, drawing thousands of pilgrims annually.

Feminine Archetypes in Epics and Puranas

Sita (Ramayana)

- Embodiment of loyalty, endurance, and purity.
- Her life illustrates the struggles and dharma of womanhood.

Draupadi (Mahabharata)

- Fiery and righteous, she becomes the catalyst for the great war of Kurukshetra.
- Represents shakti as moral force and retribution.

Radha (Bhagavata Purana)

- Symbolizes divine love and longing (bhakti).
- Her devotion to Krishna transcends societal norms, revealing the soul's love for the Divine.

Rituals and Festivals Honoring the Goddess

- Navaratri: Nine nights of goddess worship in various forms.
- Vasant Panchami: Saraswati's day, celebrated with music and yellow offerings.
- Diwali: Lakshmi is invoked for prosperity and light.
- Ambubachi Mela (Kamakhya): Celebrates the menstruation of the goddess, a rare acknowledgment of female biology in religion.

These festivals show the integration of the feminine into social and cosmic rhythms.

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Trump wraps up Mideast...

offered on the first stops of his Mideast trip. Mr. Trump was greeted by UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and later headed to the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque - among the largest mosques in the world. He also attended a state dinner at the presidential palace in Abu Dhabi.

The U.S. President walked out of the palace with Sheik Mohammed after dinner. They shook hands, and then Mr. Trump stepped into his limousine.

(Source: AP)

U.N. cuts India's 2025...

IMF's April Outlook projects India to become fourth largest economy in 2025.

For India, as well, the data is based on calendar years rather than financial years, which is what India uses. The report also noted that, despite uncertainties on account of trade and tariff discussions, India can remain reasonably resilient.

"Despite a projected moderation, India remains one of the fastest-growing large economies, supported by resilient consumption and government spending," the report noted.

The report also noted that "robust services exports" will also support economic growth. This is in line with the latest government data as well. According to data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday, while India's merchandise trade deficit widened in April, so did its services trade surplus - basically meaning that services exports were extending their lead over services imports.

"While looming United States tariffs weigh on merchandise exports, currently exempt sectors such as pharmaceuticals, electronics, semiconductors, energy, and copper could limit the economic impact, though these exemptions may not be permanent," it added.

World Bank lowers India's FY26 growth forecast to 6.3%

The report further said that unemployment in India "remains largely stable amid steady economic conditions" but highlighted persistent gender disparities in employment and the need for greater inclusivity in workforce participation.

"In India, inflation is projected to slow from 4.9% in 2024 to 4.3% in 2025, staying within the central bank's target range," the report added.

On global growth, the United Nations portrayed a dismal picture, saying that the global growth outlook "has deteriorated significantly" since the January 2025 forecast.

"Sweeping United States tariff announcements and counter-announcements, along with heightened policy uncertainty have eroded global growth prospects, already weaker than the pre-pandemic trend due to high debt levels, sluggish productivity growth and geopolitical tensions," it said.

Fitch cuts India growth estimates by 10 bps to 6.4% amid escalations in global trade war

It further said that declining consumer and business confidence, increased financial market volatility, and potential disruptions in manufacturing and

supply chains are weighing on economies worldwide.

U.S. Supreme Court could...

The justices heard arguments in the Trump administration's emergency appeals over lower court orders that have kept the citizenship restrictions on hold across the country.

Nationwide injunctions have emerged as an important check on Mr. Trump's efforts to remake the government and a source of mounting frustration to the Republican president and his allies.

Judges have issued 40 nationwide injunctions since Mr. Trump began his second term in January, Solicitor General D. John Sauer told the court at the start of more than two hours of arguments.

Birthright citizenship is among several issues, many related to immigration, that the administration has asked the court to address on an emergency basis.

The justices also are considering the Trump administration's pleas to end humanitarian parole for more than 500,000 people from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela and to strip other temporary legal protections from another 350,000 Venezuelans. The administration remains locked in legal battles over its efforts to swiftly deport people accused of being gang members to a prison in El Salvador under an 18th century wartime law called the Alien Enemies Act.

Mr. Trump signed an executive order on the first day of his second term that would deny citizenship to children who are born to people who are in the country illegally or temporarily.

The order conflicts with a Supreme Court decision from 1898 that held that the Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment made citizens of all children born on U.S. soil, with narrow exceptions that are not at issue in this case.

States, immigrants and rights group sued almost immediately, and lower courts quickly barred enforcement of the order while the lawsuits proceed.

The current fight is over the rules that apply while the lawsuits go forward.

The court's liberal justices seemed firmly in support of the lower court rulings that found the changes to citizenship that Mr. Trump wants to make would upset the settled understanding of birthright citizenship that has existed for more than 125 years.

Birthright citizenship is an odd case to use to scale back nationwide injunctions, Justice Elena Kagan said. "Every court has ruled against you," she told Sauer.

If the government wins on today's arguments, it could still enforce the order against people who haven't sued, Kagan said. "All of those individuals are going to win. And the ones who can't afford to go to court, they're the ones who are going to lose," she said.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson described the administration's approach as "catch me if you can," forcing everyone to file suit to get "the government to stop violating people's rights."

Several conservative justices who might be open to limiting nationwide injunctions also wanted to know the practical effects of such a decision as well as how quickly the court could

reach a final decision on the Trump executive order.

Is Trump's order on birthright citizenship constitutional? | Explained

Justice Brett Kavanaugh pressed Sauer with a series of questions about how the federal government might enforce Mr. Trump's order.

"What do hospitals do with a newborn? What do states do with a newborn?" he said.

Sauer said they wouldn't necessarily do anything different, but the government might figure out ways to reject documentation with "the wrong designation of citizenship."

Kavanaugh continued to push for clearer answers, pointing out that the executive order gave the government only about 30 days to develop a policy. "You think they can get it together in time?" he said.

The Trump administration, like the Biden administration before it, has complained that judges are overreaching by issuing orders that apply to everyone instead of just the parties before the court.

Picking up on that theme, Justice Samuel Alito said he meant no disrespect to the nation's district judges when he opined that they sometimes suffer from an "occupational disease which is the disease of thinking that I am right and I can do whatever I want'."

But Justice Sonia Sotomayor was among several justices who raised the confusing patchwork of rules that would result if the court orders were narrowed and new restrictions on citizenship could temporarily take effect in more than half the country.

Some children might be "stateless," Sotomayor said, because they'd be denied citizenship in the U.S. as well as the countries their parents fled to avoid persecution.

22 States sue to stop Trump's order blocking birthright citizenship

New Jersey Solicitor General Jeremy Feigenbaum, representing 22 states that sued, said citizenship could "turn on and off" for children crossing the Delaware River between Camden, New Jersey, where affected children would be citizens, and Philadelphia, where they wouldn't be. Pennsylvania is not part of the lawsuit.

One possible solution for the court might be to find a way to replace nationwide injunctions with certification of a class action, a lawsuit in which individuals serve as representatives of a much larger group of similarly situated people.

Such a case could be filed and acted upon quickly and might even apply nationwide.

But under questioning from Justice Amy Coney Barrett and others, Sauer said the Trump administration could well oppose such a lawsuit or potentially try to slow down class actions.

Supreme Court arguments over emergency appeals are rare. The justices almost always deal with the underlying substance of a dispute.

But the administration didn't ask the court to take on the larger issue now and, if the court sides with the administration over nationwide injunctions, it's unclear how long inconsistent rules on citizenship would apply to children born in the United States.

A decision is expected by the end of June. (Agencies)



Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra...

India, Dhaka, 2011-2013; First Secretary, Embassy of India, Budapest, 2007-2011; Under Secretary handling relations with Bangladesh in Ministry of External Affairs, 2006-2007; Third Secretary / Second Secretary, Embassy of India, Berlin, 2002-2006.

Dr. Mohapatra holds a master's in veterinary science (M.V.Sc.) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management (PGDIBM).

He is married to Mrs. Jyotirmayee Mohapatra, and they have two children, Ms. Suhani Mohapatra and Rohan Mohapatra. Ambassador Mohapatra likes reading and travelling.

NJ Transit strike begins,...

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen announced the move shortly after 11 p.m. Thursday.

The primary demand of NJ Transit train engineers is fair compensation, including a wage increase that would bring their salaries on par with those of engineers at other major railroads. Specifically, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) is seeking a contract that would raise the average annual salary of a train engineer from \$135,000 to at least \$190,000, while NJ Transit has offered a raise that would bring the average to \$172,000. The union also wants the agreement to include fair working conditions and pay.

The transit agency's chief executive, Kris Kolluri, has repeatedly said that it cannot afford the pay increases the union is demanding.

The union said they would get back to the negotiating table on Sunday morning and pick up where they left off.

The Golden Triangle, a popular tourist circuit in India, encompasses three of the country's most iconic cities: Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. This triangular journey, marked by roughly equidistant points on the Indian map, promises a rich tapestry of history, culture, and architectural marvels. Spanning the northern plains of India, this route provides a comprehensive glimpse into the nation's regal past, colonial influences, and diverse heritage.

Starting in Delhi, the nation's capital, travelers are introduced to a city that is a melting pot of eras. Ancient landmarks like the Qutub Minar and Red Fort, representing India's rich historical past, coexist with modern infrastructures and establishments, reflecting the city's rapid growth and cosmopolitan spirit. Delhi, with its bustling markets such as Chandni Chowk, sprawling gardens like the Lodhi Gardens, and impressive boulevards around India Gate, paints a picture of vibrant colors, historical significance, and evolving modernity.

A short drive southeast leads to Agra, the city that houses the world-renowned Taj Mahal. This monument, an epitome of love built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his beloved wife Mumtaz, stands as a testament to the grandeur of the Mughal era. But the city isn't just about this iconic marble mausoleum. The Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the nearby Fatehpur Sikri, the erstwhile Mughal capital, further showcase the architectural and historical richness of the region.

The final vertex of the triangle, Jaipur, is the vibrant capital of the desert state of Rajasthan. Often referred to as the 'Pink City' due to the dominant color scheme of its buildings, Jaipur is a mesmerizing blend of palatial structures, royal heritage, and bustling bazaars. The Amber Fort, City Palace, and Jantar Mantar observatory are just a few of the many attractions that beckon visitors. The city's colorful festivals, traditional handicrafts, and folk performances offer a delightful insight into Rajasthani culture and traditions, rounding off the Golden Triangle experience with a flourish of color and charisma.

Taj Mahal

One of the seven wonders of the world, Taj Mahal is located on the banks of River Yamuna in Agra. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial for his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It also houses the tomb of Shah Jahan himself. Constructed entirely out of white marble in the 17th century, Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful monuments in the world. Every year visitors numbering more than the entire population of Agra pass through the magnificent gates to catch a glimpse of this breathtaking monument!

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Taj Mahal stands for the Crown of Palaces in the Persian language. The tomb is laid out in a rectangular shape and can be approached through a massive gateway which has an arch and alcoves on either side of it. There are water channels and fountains in the entrance which makes

Golden Triangle: India's popular tourist circuit



the monument even more spectacular. The reflection of this majestic spectacle in the Yamuna is almost poetic in its perfection!

Covering an area of approximately 42

Acres, the construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631 and it took 17 years before it was completed in 1648! It was constructed using white marble obtained from

Makrana in Rajasthan.

Qutub Minar

Qutub Minar is a minaret or a victory tower located in Qutub complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Delhi's Mehrauli area. With the height of 72.5 metres (238 ft), Qutub Minar is the second tallest monument of Delhi. Its construction was started in 1192 by Qutub Ud-Din-Aibak, founder of Delhi Sultanate after he defeated the last Hindu Ruler of Delhi. He constructed the basement, after which the construction was taken over by his son-in-law and successor Iltutmish who constructed three additional stories. The fourth and fifth storeys were built by Firoz Shah Tuglak.

Jaipur

The magnificent City Palace in Jaipur is one of the most famous tourist attractions located in the old part of the city. Built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh during the years 1729 to 1732, the vast complex of the palace occupied one-seventh of the walled city. In fact, it was once the seat of the Maharaja of Jaipur. The palace is divided into a series of courtyards, buildings and gardens including the Chandra Mahal and the Mubarak Mahal. The museum showcases various unique handcrafted products and other things that belong to the royal heritage of the City Palace.

Amer Fort

Cradled on the top of a hill near Jaipur lies the Amer Fort, one of the most magnificent palaces in India. Also commonly known as the Amber Fort, this majestic building with its maze-like passages and serpentine staircases is an architectural masterpiece and with significant importance in Indian history. Only 11 kilometres away from Jaipur, Amer Fort is clad in pink and yellow sandstone and is a part of an extensive complex. Built by one of the most trusted generals of Akbar, Maharaja Man Singh I in the year 1592, Amer Fort served as the main residence of the Rajput Rulers.

Hawa Mahal

The massive edifice of Hawa Mahal stands at the intersection of the main road in Jaipur, Badi Chaupad and was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh in the year 1799. Hawa Mahal derives its name from its unique structure, which is a mesh of small windows that allowed cool wind to enter the palace and hence kept the palace comfortable during the hot summer months. The main reason behind the palace's construction was to allow the women of the royal house to observe the festivities on the streets whilst being unseen from the outside as was the custom of the land. It is located right on the edge of the City Palace Jaipur and extends right to the 'zenana'.

History This Week MAY 16 - 22

MAY 16



May 16, 1862 - During the American Civil War, Union General Benjamin Butler, military governor of New Orleans, issued his "Woman Order" declaring that any Southern woman showing disrespect for Union soldiers or the U.S. would be regarded as a woman of the town, or prostitute. This and other controversial acts by Butler set the stage for his dismissal as military governor in December 1862.

MAY 17

May 17, 1792 - Two dozen merchants and brokers established the New York Stock Exchange. In good weather they operated under a buttonwood tree on Wall Street. In bad weather they moved inside to a coffeehouse to conduct business.



May 17, 1875 - The first Kentucky Derby horse race took place at Churchill Downs in Louisville.

May 17, 1954 - In *Brown v. Board of Education*, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that segregation of public schools "solely on the basis of race" denies black children "equal educational opportunity" even though "physical facilities and other 'tangible' factors may have been equal. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Thurgood Marshall had argued the case before the Court. He went to become the first African American appointed to the Supreme Court.

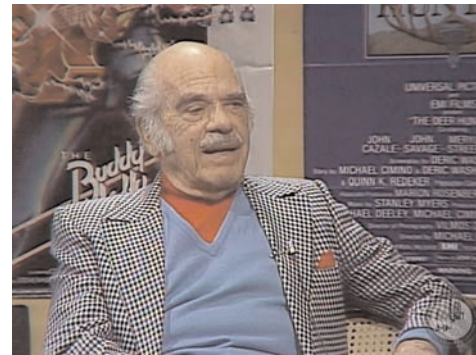
MAY 18

May 18, 1804 - Napoleon Bonaparte became Emperor of France, snatching the crown from the hands of Pope Pius VII during the actual coronation ceremony, and then crowning himself.

May 18, 1980 - Mount St. Helens volcano erupted in southwestern Washington State spewing steam and ash over 11 miles into the sky. This was the first major eruption since 1857.

May 18, 1998 - In one of the biggest antitrust lawsuits of the 20th century,

American software giant Microsoft Corporation was sued by the U.S. Federal government and 20 state governments charging the company with using unfair tactics to crush competition and restrict choices for consumers. The lawsuits alleged Microsoft used illegal practices to deny personal computer owners the benefits of a free and competitive market and also alleged Microsoft extended its monopoly on operating systems to "develop a chokehold" on the Internet browser software market.



Birthday - Hollywood director Frank Capra (1897-1991) was born in Palermo, Sicily. His quintessential American films were affectionate portrayals of the common man and examined the strengths and foibles of American democracy. Best known for *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939), *It Happened One Night* (1934) and *You Can't Take It with You* (1938).

Birthday - Pope John Paul II (1920-2005) was born (as Karol Wojtyła) in Wadowice, Poland. In 1978, he became 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first non-Italian elected in 456 years and the first Polish Pope.

MAY 19

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.



Birthday - Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969) was born in the central Vietnamese village of Kim Lien (as Nguyen That Thanh). In 1930, he organized the Indo-Chinese Communist party and later adopted the name Ho Chi Minh, meaning "he who enlightens." In 1945, he proclaimed the independence of Vietnam and served as president of North Vietnam from 1945 to 1969. He led the longest and most costly war during the 20th Century against the French and later the Americans. On April 29, 1975, six years after his death, the last Americans left South Vietnam. The next

day the city of Saigon was renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Birthday - Black nationalist and civil rights activist Malcolm X (1925-1965) was born in Omaha, Nebraska (as Malcolm Little). While in prison he adopted the Islamic religion and after his release in 1952, changed his name to Malcolm X and worked for the Nation of Islam. He later made a pilgrimage to Mecca and became an orthodox Muslim. He was assassinated while addressing a meeting in the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem on February 21, 1965.

Birthday - African American playwright Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1965) was born in Chicago, Illinois. She is best known for *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959) a play dealing with prejudice and black pride. The play was the first stage production written by a black woman to appear on Broadway. She died of cancer at the age of 34. A book of her writings entitled *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black* was published posthumously.

MAY 20

May 20, 325 A.D. - The Council of Nicaea, the first ecumenical council of Catholic Church was called by Constantine I, first Christian Emperor of the Roman Empire. With nearly 300 bishops in attendance at Nicaea in Asia Minor, the council condemned Arianism which denied Christ's divinity, formulated the Nicene Creed and fixed the date of Easter.

May 20, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act opening millions of acres of government owned land in the West to "homesteaders" who could acquire up to 160 acres by living on the land and cultivating it for five years, paying just \$1.25 per acre.

May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the *Spirit of St. Louis* attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.



May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.

Birthday - Founder of modern Zionism Theodore Herzl (1860-1904) was born in Budapest, Hungary. He advocated the establishment of a new land for the Jews rather than assimilation into various,

historically anti-Semitic, countries and cultures.

MAY 21

May 21, 1881 - The American Red Cross was founded by Clara Barton. The organization today provides volunteer disaster relief in the U.S. and abroad. Community services include collecting and distributing donated blood, and teaching health and safety classes.

May 21, 1991 - Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in the midst of a re-election campaign, killed by a bomb hidden in a bouquet of flowers. He had served as prime minister from 1984 to 1989, succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984.

Birthday - Russian physicist and human rights activist Andrei Sakharov (1921-1989) was born in Moscow. Although he helped construct the first atomic and hydrogen bombs for Soviet Russia, he later denounced the Soviet government and was exiled from 1980 to 1986. He was instrumental in formulating the political reform concept called perestroika and in encouraging glasnost (openness) in restrictive communist countries.

MAY 22

May 22, 1972 - President Richard Nixon became the first American president to visit Moscow. Four days later, Nixon and Soviet Russia's leader Leonid Brezhnev signed a pact pledging to freeze nuclear arsenals at current levels.

May 22, 1947 - Congress approved the Truman Doctrine, assuring U.S. support for Greece and Turkey to prevent the spread of Communism.

Birthday - German composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883) was born in Leipzig, Germany. He made revolutionary changes in the structure of opera and is best known for *The Ring of the Nibelung*, a series of operas based on old German myths which include: *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walkure*, *Siegfried*, and *Götterdämmerung*.

Birthday - Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) was born at Edinburgh, Scotland. He was also deeply interested in and lectured on spiritualism.



Birthday - Laurence Olivier (1907-1989) was born in Dorking, England. Considered one of the most influential actors of the 20th Century, he was honored with nine Academy Award nominations, three Oscars, five Emmy awards, and a host of other awards. His repertoire included most of the major Shakespearean roles, and films such as *The Entertainer*, *Rebecca*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Boys from Brazil*, *Marathon Man* and *Wuthering Heights*. He was knighted in 1947 and made a peer of the throne in 1970.

ERA OVER AS VIRAT KOHLI RETIRES FROM TEST

India's batting stalwart Virat Kohli has retired from the longest format of the game.

Kohli retires from Tests having scored 9230 runs from his 123 Tests, with 30 Test centuries and 31 fifties and many other memorable innings across a superb career.

The decision comes after Rohit Sharma made a surprising announcement to call time on his career in the longest format of the game last week.

Kohli took to social media to reveal the news.

"It's been 14 years since I first wore the baggy blue in Test cricket. Honestly, I never imagined the journey this format would take me on. It's tested me, shaped me, and taught me lessons I'll carry for life," the post read.

"There's something deeply personal about playing in whites. The quiet grind, the long days, the small moments that no one sees but that stay with you forever.

"As I step away from this format, it's not easy — but it feels right. I've given it everything I had, and it's given me back so much more than I could've hoped for.

"I'm walking away with a heart full of gratitude — for the game, for the people I shared the field with, and for every single person who made me feel seen along the way.

"I'll always look back at my Test career with a smile. #269, signing off.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) thanked Kohli for his contributions to Indian cricket, having 'redefined the standards of excellence, leadership, and commitment'.

"Virat Kohli's name will be remembered alongside the finest ever to have graced Test cricket," BCCI President Roger Binny stated.

"What set him apart was not just his hunger for runs, but his commitment to excellence in the toughest format of the game.

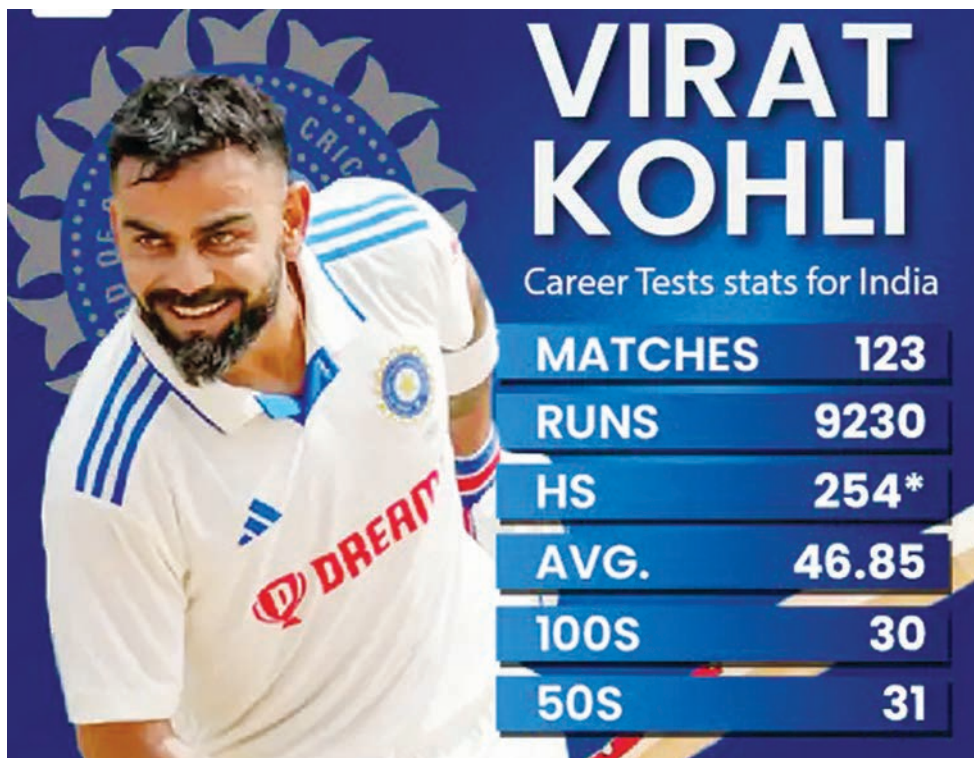
"His leadership marked a shift in how India competed overseas—with aggression, belief, and a refusal to settle for second best. He inspired a generation to take pride in the whites, and his impact on Indian cricket will be felt for decades to come."

Having made his debut against the West Indies in 2011, Kohli cemented his place in the Test setup later in that year during the tour of Australia.

While other batters struggled as India failed to pick up the pace, Kohli improved each game and signed off with a brilliant 116, his first-ever Test hundred in Adelaide.

Kohli subsequently captained India in the red-ball format, securing 40 wins from his 68 Tests, making him the most successful Indian Men's captain in Tests, in terms of wins.

He hangs up his spikes as the fourth-most successful Test captain overall, behind Graeme Smith (53 wins), Ricky



Ponting (48 wins), and Steve Waugh (41 wins).

Kohli's 30 Test centuries make him the fourth-most successful India batter, behind Sachin Tendulkar (51 hundreds), Rahul Dravid (36), and Sunil Gavaskar (34). Kohli also made seven Test double hundreds, the most ever by an Indian.

Kohli also has the most Test hundreds

by an Indian captain, with Gavaskar (11 centuries) way behind his 20 tons.

Kohli has already retired from the T20I format last year after India won the T20 World Cup.

He last featured for India in the ODI format in the Champions Trophy this year, a tournament the Men in Blue won under Rohit Sharma's leadership.

Neeraj Chopra aims to join 90m club in Doha

A great many elements must align for a 90-metre throw in men's javelin. On a breezy evening in Paris last year, Neeraj Chopra gave it everything in a bid to breach that elusive mark—especially after Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem became only the second Asian to surpass the coveted distance. Battling a groin injury, Neeraj appeared to push a touch too hard, registering just one legal throw out of six in the Olympic final. He ultimately won silver with a best effort of 89.45 metres.

Since Neeraj launched a personal best of 89.94 metres at the Stockholm Diamond League in 2022, anticipation around a 90-metre throw from the Olympic medallist has only intensified. Though widely regarded as the most consistent javelin thrower over the last two Olympic cycles, Neeraj himself acknowledged the importance of surpassing the 90-metre barrier after finishing runner-up in the Paris Olympic final—where Arshad claimed gold with a record-breaking 92.97 metres. As the 2025 season gets underway, Neeraj, as ever, has left no stone unturned in his pursuit of excellence.

The 27-year-old heads into this World Championship year looking fitter and fresher than he has in some time. Following the end of last season, Neeraj made significant changes to his set-up, beginning work with the legendary Jan Zelezny—the world record holder—in search of a fresh perspective and direction.

FC Barcelona continue dominance to lift La Liga title

Hansi Flick-led FC Barcelona side clinched their 28th La Liga title as they defeated the Espanyol team 2-0 on Thursday, May 15, with two games remaining in the competition.

This win marked the completion of the domestic treble for the Barcelona team. Earlier, they won the Copa del Rey (April) and the Spanish Super Cup (January) titles.

With this victory, FC Barcelona has 85 points in 36 games in the 2024-25 season. The defending champions, Real Madrid, are in second place with 78 points in 36 matches of the tournament.

Speaking of the clash, Espanyol dominated the first half of the game as a lot of chances were made by Urko Gonzalez and Javi Puado, but they were unable to convert them into a goal.

Espanyol put up a strong defence in front of visitors in the first half, however, ter Stegen and Co managed to take a lead in the second half. Lamine Yamal scored a goal in the 53rd minute, whereas Fermin Lopez consolidated FC Barcelona's lead in the injury time.



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh combatting avoidable blindness in children.

"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MD. I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This 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.